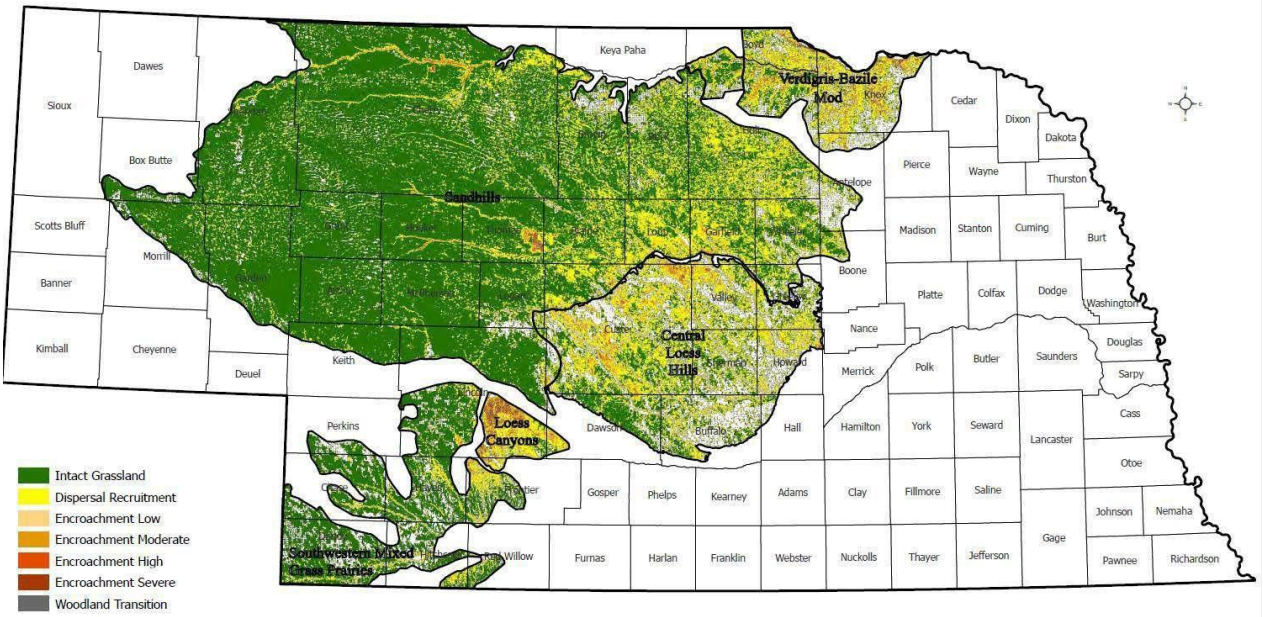
RCPP 3835

Growing and Expanding Nebraska's Grassland Cores

Application and Contract Packet

Rangeland Tree Encroachment Vulnerability



Growing and Expanding Nebraska's Grassland Cores

Application Packet and Contract Packet

Purpose: This application package and associated contract are designed to streamline the implementation of projects funded through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) titled *"Growing and Expanding Nebraska's Grassland Cores"*, awarded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (RWBJV). This multi-year collaboration brings together public, private, and non-profit partners to combat woody encroachment. Through this RCPP, the RWBJV partnership will deliver $18.8 million in NRCS funding to producers to implement sustainable management practices on at least 90,000 acres of grassland cores identified under NRCS's Great Plains Grassland Initiative (GPGI). The following RCPP Land Management Practices will be implemented in alignment with Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) practice scenarios:

- **314 – Brush Management**
- **338 – Prescribed Burning**
- **528 – Grazing Management (Deferment)**
- **595 – Pest Management Conservation System**

Application Overview: This program is available statewide with a continuous application period, focusing on the Great Plains Grassland Initiative (GPGI) priority areas plus the Central Loess Hills. All grassland tracts identified in the Farm Service Agency (FSA) Common Land Unit (CLU) have been analyzed and categorized by canopy cover:

- **Tier I:** <10% tree cover; priority tracts requiring a single treatment.
- **Tier II:** 65–90% herbaceous cover; requires two treatments.
- **Tier III:** <65% grassland cover; batched semi-annually (June 30 and December 30) to utilize remaining funds.

The Grassland Tier data layer is available through the online mapping portal, which lead partners will use to complete applications and contracts.

Contract Elements:
Each participant contract will include:

- RCPP 3835 Application (pages 6-9 of this document) - The application collects essential information to ensure planned practices will compliance with the 2018 Farm Bill's payment eligibility, conservation compliance, National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), and other federal, state, and local regulations.
- RCPP 3835 Contract (pages 8-13 of this document)
- CPA-52 - A condensed NRCS CPA-52 Environmental Evaluation Worksheet will be completed with the applicant to document resource concerns and desired outcomes.
- Portal Maps - The mapping portal provides maps and data for planned practices.

Once contract elements are complete, the RWBJV RCPP Coordinator submits the packet to NRCS for review. If eligible and compliant, NRCS notifies the RWBJV RCPP Coordinator that

the contract may be obligated and commence work. **No activities may begin until NRCS completes these steps.**

Site Visit & Verification:
Lead partners will verify Tier status, delineate treatment acres using ocular measurements per NRCS Brush Management Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications, and document habitat conditions (presence of wetlands, growth stage/type/height of deciduous trees, etc.) and cultural resources. The partner inputs this information into the portal, which generates reports outlining cost-share estimates and conservation measures to avoid/minimize impacts to Threatened & Endangered Species (T&E) and Cultural Resources (CRs).

Special Considerations:

- Self-certified Historically Underserved participants meeting NRCS criteria will be elevated to Tier I, provided follow-up treatments occur through prescribed fire or a pest management conservation system.
- Tracts adjacent to recent woody encroachment projects (within 5 years) will also be elevated to Tier I with follow-up treatments.
    - The RCPP online mapping portal includes a data layer that displays projects implemented within the last five years. Lead partners are permitted to add adjacent projects to the portal, provided that physical evidence exists and is documented in their file to ensure transparency and accuracy in project representation. Acceptable examples of physical evidence include a complete burn plan, a brush management plan, tree removal invoice, etc. This process allows all partners to review and screen projects to confirm eligibility. Importantly, projects must be entered into the portal in order to be referenced and to elevate neighboring project sites for consideration.

The portal produces resource assessments, maps, and conservation measures consistent with NRCS programmatic agreements with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). These reports become part of the application package and guide contractors on implementation details (acres, type of practice, conservation measures, project deadline, etc.)

Cost-Share Overview: Cost-share through the RCPP will not exceed the "High Priority Practice" rates defined by the 2025 fiscal year EQIP payment schedule.

Practice payment scenarios and cost-share levels are updated annually. The total RCPP cost-share for each contract will be based on the rates in effect at the time of contract obligation.

Cost-Share Requirements:

- **Brush Management (314)**
    - Participants must provide 25% of actual costs.
    - The lead partner will assist participants who plan to hire work in obtaining at least three bids to ensure compliance with RWBJV Procurement Policy and Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) grant requirements. This process enables partners to leverage NET grant funds to supplement compensation for the participant.
    - If bids are below the RCPP cost-share rate, participants will be reimbursed up to 75% of the lowest bid.

- Partners may contribute additional cost-share when bids exceed the RCPP rate.
- Participants who opt out of bidding and choose to perform the work themselves will be reimbursed at the RCPP cost-share rate.
- Georeferenced Before and After photo points of the landscape:
    - Minimum of two photo points per ¼ section / 160 acres. Additional documentation may be necessary on more diverse project designs.
    - Photo points should be representative of the entire practice area.
    - Photo points with identification landmarks are encouraged.
    - In general, a single applied practice photo should capture both the removed brush and if possible, the slash pile technique.
    - Applied practice photos will align with the location and cardinal direction of the landscape condition photos prior to brush removal.

- **Prescribed Burning (338)**
    - If prescribed burning is planned, burn plans must align with NRCS Prescribed Burning Conservation Practice Standards and Specifications and should be developed after initial mechanical treatment has been completed.
    - Document the Deferment Start and End Dates.
    - A technical note referencing a site visit confirming ungrazed forage.
    - A Prescribed Burning Preliminary Assessment must be completed as part of application package prior to cutting if RX Fire is the desired follow-up treatment.

Practice Certification		
NRCS prescribed burns will be certified by an individual with Level 1 JAA or higher.		
This practice has been applied as designed.		
Signature Owner/Operator		*Date*
NRCS Prescribed Burns: This prescribed burn was installed according to NRCS Standards and Specifications and meets the objective(s) of Conservation Practice Standard - Prescribed Burning (338). Completed and signed satisfactory documents obtained for certification include: ☐ "NE-ECS-72 - Prescribed Burn Plan" or equivalent ☐ Copy of 24-hour Hourly Weather Forecast ☐ "Prescribed Burn Go/No-Go Checklist" or equivalent ☐ "Prescribed Burn Crew Roster" or equivalent ☐ "Prescribed Burn Weather Record" or equivalent ☐ Copy of Burn Permit		

- **Pest Management Conservation System (595)**
    - Client will document the applied PAMS strategies implemented including the month and year of application
    - Document the total extent of the applied practice in acres
    - Recommended that the conservation planner complete and document a site visit to confirm the client's PAMs strategies implemented match field conditions.

- Pest Management Conservation System will be completed each year for two growing seasons after completion of mechanical removal to ensure tracts are 100% tree-free.

Prevention	**Keeping pest populations from infesting a site or field.** Examples: Maintain the health and vigor of desirable herbaceous plants. Utilize prescribed fire within the context of historical frequency of occurrence.
Avoidance	**Practiced when pest populations already exist but the impact of the pest on the site can be avoided.** Examples: Elimination of pest seedlings. Eliminate bird perch locations to limit seed concentrations. Utilize prescribed fire in areas with existing seed exposure and recruitment. Mow or cut pests to prevent reaching seed producing age and maturity.
Monitoring	**Tracking and identifying pest recruitment and populations through survey or scouting.** Examples: Annual on-site visual survey to inventory and designate phases of woody encroachment. Ocular observation can be facilitated through patterned transects through land unit, aerially with aircraft or drones, or long term with GIS tools such as the Rangeland Analysis Platform (RAP).
Suppression	**Elimination of any pest as detected through monitoring at the time of detection.** The goal is to not suppress woody encroachment but rather eliminate it to the point of no pest species present in intact grasslands with no seed deposition or recruitment taking place.

- **Grazing Management (528, Deferment - Full Year)**
  - Document the Deferment Start and End Dates
  - A technical note referencing a site visit confirming ungrazed forage.
- **Prescribed Burning, Grazing Deferment (Full Year), and Pest Management Conservation System:**
  - The bidding requirement and 25% contribution do not apply and will be reimbursed according to RCPP the current practice payment rates.

All practices must be completed to NRCS standards and specifications outlined in Appendix A. The budget table will detail contributions from RCPP, participants, and partners.

Completion & Payment:

- Upon project completion, the lead partner will certify compliance with NRCS standards and specifications before issuing cost-share to participant.
- Document the treatment Month and Year
- Georeferenced before-and-after photo documentation is required using a phone (grant precise location permission in the camera app settings) or GPS enabled camera.
- The RWBJV RCPP Coordinator will process invoices and certification, including photo evidence, and work with the Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) for payment.
- Participants must submit a completed W-9 and invoices to receive payment.

RCPP 3835 Application

Name:	RWBJV Partner:
Address:	Application Date:
	County:
	Tier Class:
	Practices:
Email:	

Eligibility Requirements:
To participate, participants must have their farm records established with the **Farm Service Agency (FSA)** and meet the eligibility criteria outlined below. If records are not current, participants should contact their local FSA office to update them. NRCS will verify participant eligibility of the following criteria during application review.

Eligibility Criteria	**Required FSA Subsidiary Status**
AD-1026	Certified OR
	COC Exemption OR
	Good Faith Determination
Conservation Compliance – Farm/Tract (FTE)	In Compliance OR
	Reinstated
Farm Operating Plan Information (CCC-902)	Determined

Participants should complete the appropriate section of the table below based on their application type.

Individual	Entity (Corporation, Limited Partnership, Trust, Estate, etc.)		Joint Operation (General Partnership, Joint Venture)	
Name:	Name:		Name:	
Last four digits of Social Security Number:	Last four digits of Tax ID Number:		Last four digits of Tax ID Number:	
	Does Participant have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the entity?		Does Participant have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the joint operation?	
	Yes	No	Yes	No

Check all applicable boxes in the table below for participants who qualify under one or more of the following categories. If none apply, leave the table blank. *(Optional)*

Participant Legal Name	Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher	Beginning Farmer or Rancher	Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher	Veteran Farmer or Rancher	Veteran Discharge Date

Participant Agreement:
By initialing and signing below, the participant agrees to the following:

_____Participate in the identified program with Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, subject to NRCS approval.

_____Do not start any financially assisted conservation practice or engage reimbursable services before this application and contract are executed. Starting work prior to approval will make the practice ineligible for financial assistance.

_____If participant is not the landowner, participant must obtain the landowner's concurrence to complete the practices in the proposed contract (Appendix B).

_____File all required eligibility documentation, including Highly Erodible Land Conservation/Wetland Conservation (Form 1026).

_____Complete conservation practices in accordance with NRCS specifications, implementation requirements, and program standards. No payment will be made for practices that do not meet these requirements.

_____Follow all identified conservation measures to ensure environmental compliance.

_____Do not accept duplicate cost-share for practices funded by other USDA programs on the same land. Disclose any USDA cost-share received for work under this contract.

_____Understand that cost-share will only be made for completed practices. No partial or incomplete payments will be issued.

List any known items of historical or cultural significance located on the land included in this application:

Participant Signature **Date**

Partner Signature **Date**

RCPP 3835 Contract

Participant Agreement
Participant XX for Grassland Enhancement

Participant Agreement: This Participant Agreement is effective as of **[Date]**, between **[Participant Name]** (hereinafter "Participant"), the **Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (RWBJV)**, and **[Partners]**.

Purpose: The purpose of this Agreement is to control woody invasive species and improve grassland habitat (hereinafter "Project").

Project Location: This Project will be conducted on land located in **[County], Nebraska**, described as follows:
Legal Description: _____

Scope: The Project will enhance approximately **[Number of Acres]** of grasslands.

_____

Term of Agreement: Agreement will be considered initiated with signature of RCPP Coordinator, with the associated benchmarks and timelines outlined in the table below.

Agreement Elements: Project components include:

Conservation Practice:	Acres:	Expected Completion Date (Month/Year):
Brush Management*		
Grazing Management		
Prescribed Burning		
Pest Management**		

*Brush Management will be completed within 18 months of project initiation
**Pest Management will be completed each year for 2 years (growing seasons) subsequent to the completion of Brush Management

Participant Responsibilities:
The Participant agrees to the following terms:

- **Authority & Rights:**
  - Participant, with authority over land management decisions, warrants that no outstanding rights interfere with this agreement.
  - Participant retains all rights to control trespass and remains responsible for taxes, assessments, and damage claims.
- **Ownership Changes:**
  - Participant will notify RWBJV and the lead partner of any pending ownership changes.
  - This Agreement remains in effect for the described land for its full term, regardless of ownership changes.
- **Landowner Concurrence:**

    - If the Participant is not the landowner, written concurrence from the landowner is required to allow project activities (Appendix B).
- **Funding & Procurement:**
    - Participant agrees to provide partial funding as outlined in this agreement.
    - Participant will work with lead partner(s) to secure bids for work completed.
- **Compliance & Standards:**
    - All conservation measures outlined in the application must be followed.
    - All work must meet NRCS standards and specifications for the practices defined in the associated maps and contract.
- **Documentation:**
    - Participant shall provide photographic documentation of the practice area before and after implementation. These images will verify completion of practices for payment requests.

Partner Responsibilities:
The lead partner(s) agree to the following terms:

- **Liability & Jurisdiction:**
    - Assume no liability for damage or injury other than that caused by their own gross negligence.
    - Do not assume jurisdiction over the premises under this agreement.
- **Technical & Financial Support:**
    - Provide technical assistance to ensure successful completion of the project.
    - Provide funding for the project as outlined in this agreement.
- **Compliance & Standards:**
    - Work with the participant to ensure all conservation measures outlined in the application are followed.
    - Collaborate with the participant and contractors to ensure all work meets NRCS standards and specifications for the outlined practices.
- **Procurement & Documentation:**
    - Assist the participant in securing bids for hired work in compliance with procurement requirements.
    - Help collect photographic documentation of completed work for reimbursement purposes.

Planning Acknowledgement: This RCPP application has been developed in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications and follows the NRCS Implementation Requirement documents outlined in Appendix A.

Alternative planning documents may be used if they address all criteria specified in the NRCS standards and specifications found in the Implementation Requirements provided in the supplemental documents in Appendix A.

Minimal Implementation Requirements by Practice:
Brush Management:

- Brush management will be designed to achieve the desired plant community based on species composition, structure, density, and canopy (or foliar) cover or height. It will be applied to control target woody species while protecting desired species.

- This will be accomplished through mechanical removal, prescribed burning, and/or follow-up surveillance and control using a Pest Management Control System.
- Mulching and/or cutting will be the primary removal method. Trees must be cut as close to ground level as possible. All cut trees must be piled at least 100 feet from any structure, road, or fence. Piled trees will be burned by the participant when conditions are safe.
- In areas inaccessible by machinery, hand cutting may be required to ensure all eastern red cedars are removed, including those within fence lines.
- All removal work must be completed within 18 months of contract obligation.

Prescribed Burning:

- Prescribed burning is encouraged as a tool to control eastern red cedar and stimulate native plant growth.
- Do not conduct prescribed burning without an approved burn plan and appropriate permits.
- Burn plans must be prepared by certified individuals per Nebraska's Policy for Participation in Prescribed Burns (Nebraska General Manual Title NE 190 Part NE413).
- Burns should be timed to maximize safety and benefits for desirable plant species.
- Prescribed burning may complement project activities; however, implementation is the participant's responsibility. Agencies/organizations are not responsible for conducting burns. Prior notification of the lead partner(s) is encouraged before burning.

Grazing Management:

- Prescribed grazing requires complete livestock deferment before implementing prescribed fire.
- No grazing is permitted during the deferment period to allow plant recovery and maintain adequate fuel loads for burning.
- Participant must maintain records confirming livestock exclusion throughout the deferment period.

Pest Management Conservation System:

- May be implemented as a standalone practice or combined with prescribed fire to maintain tree-free conditions post-mechanical removal.
- Must follow University of Nebraska–Lincoln standards.
- Participant will use mechanical treatments to remove mature trees missed during initial removal or germinated from residual seed sources.
- Work will follow Prevention, Avoidance, Monitoring, and Suppression (PAMS) strategies as outlined for Practice 595 in Appendix A.
- Participant must maintain records of all activities to ensure effectiveness and prevent reinfestation.

Budget Narrative:

A) **Brush Management:**

Acres x Practice Payment Scenario Rate $0,000.00
Acres x Practice Payment Scenario Rate $0,000.00
Acres x Practice Payment Scenario Rate $0,000.00
Total Costs $0,000.00

B) **Prescribed Burning:**

Acres x Rx fire scenario rate.....$0,000.00
Acres x Rx fire scenario rate.....$0,000.00
Total Costs $0,000.00

C) **Grazing Management:**

Acres x deferment rate $ $0,000.00
Total Costs $0,000.00

D) **Pest Management Conservation System:**

Acres x management rate $.....$0,000.00
Total Costs $0,000.00

Total Estimated Project Costs $00,000.00

An adjusted budget table with actual costs may be added to this Agreement via an addendum or modification, if necessary. The total cost of the Project is estimated to be $00,000.00

Budget Table:

Description	**Participant** +	**RWBJV RCPP** *	**Partner** **	**Partner** ***	**Partner** ^	**Partner** ^^	**Total**
Brush Management							
Prescribed Burning							
Grazing Management							
Pest Management Conservation System							
Total							

+ The Participant's cash contribution is 25% of the brush management activities.
** Rainwater Basin Joint Venture funds are provided through RCPP 3835 – Growing and Expanding Nebraska's Grassland Cores.*
*** Partner contributions are provided for XXXX.*
**** Partner contributions are provided for XXXX.*
^ Partner contributions are provided for XXXX.
^^ Partner contributions are provided for XXXX.

Payment Process:
Once all parties agree the Project has been completed to their satisfaction:

- The participant will pay for materials/labor upon receipt of the invoice for the total cost outlined in this Agreement.
- The lead partner will generate invoices for the participant to submit to funding partners for their contributions.

Spatial Information Sharing: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, permission must be obtained from the Participant before any personal information can be released.

Participant consent is requested to allow sharing of spatial information about this project solely with conservation cooperators providing technical or financial assistance for the restoration, enhancement, or management of fish and wildlife habitat.

☐ I, the Participant, consent to having spatial information about this project shared with other conservation cooperators.

☐ I, the Participant, do NOT consent to having any spatial information about this project shared with other conservation cooperators.

Compliance Elements for RCPP AFA:

Adding or Removing Practices/Acres

- If a participant wants to add a practice, add acres, or remove acres, they must submit an entirely new application.

Contract Cancellation

- If a participant cancels a contract:
  - No partial payments will be made.
  - The contract will be terminated at no expense to the participant or partners.

Contract Transferability

- Contracts stay with the land and are transferable if:
  - Land is sold or transferred into a new ownership entity (LLC, corporation, etc.).
  - The participant becomes deceased or incapacitated.

Overlap with Other Farm Bill Programs

- The same practices in this contract cannot be applied for on the same land footprint under a different Farm Bill contract (e.g., CRP, CSP, EQIP).

Practice Completion Timeline

- All practices must be completed within 18 months of the contract obligation date.
- If not completed by that date, the contract will be cancelled, except for follow-up prescribed fire treatments.

Cost-Sharing & Reimbursement Guidelines:

Shared Responsibility

- Project costs will be shared between the partners and the Participant.
- Partners are encouraged to provide technical and financial assistance for projects that maintain grassland and wetland habitats in the Rainwater Basin region.

Inspection & Approval

- After work completion:
  - Partners (X, X, X, X, X) and the Participant will inspect the work.
  - If all parties agree the work meets expectations, RWBJV will reimburse the Participant upon receipt of invoices, as outlined in this Exhibit.

Payment to Contractors

- Participants are responsible for paying any contractor(s) for work completed on the project.

Modifications

- Any work may be modified with mutual agreement of all parties.
- An adjusted budget table with actual costs will be added to the Agreement via addendum or modification, if necessary.

Acknowledgment

- Signing the contract confirms:
  - Funding commitments
  - Adherence to compliance elements previously outlined.

_____ _____

XXXXX, Participant
Address
Phone

Date

_____ _____

Laura Rubeck, RCPP Coordinator
2550 N Diers Ave Suite G, Grand Island, NE 68803
Phone: (402) 276-4982.

Date

_____ _____

XXXXX, Partner
Address
Phone

Date

_____ _____

XXXXX, Partner
Address
Phone

Date

Appendix A Conservation Practices, Payment Scenarios, and support documents outlining NRCS Standards and Specifications

Conservation Practices and Practice Codes	Practice Scenarios	Description	Unit Cost	Practice Standards	Guidance Document	Implementation Requirements
314 Brush Management	Scenario 3 Mechanical and Chemical Control, Low Infestation	This scenario will be used when treating low level brush encroachment which corresponds to 5-20% canopy cover or a density of 26-150 plants/acre.	$58.37/ Acre	CPS 314	314 Guidance Document	IR 314
	Scenario 5 Mechanical and Chemical Control, Heavy Infestation	This scenario will be used when treating high levels of brush encroachment which corresponds to 51-70% canopy cover or a density of 371-500 plants/acre.	$393.69/ Acre			
	Scenario 6 Chemical Control, Upland Areas	This practice is for the implementation of brush management on range, pasture or native pasture to reduce undesirable brush in uplands, and other areas not in, or directly adjacent to, streams, ponds, or wetlands. The typical method of control uses aerial or broadcast application of herbicides to control undesirable plants.	$23.06/ Acre			
	Scenario 7 Chemical Control, Riparian Area	This practice is for the implementation of brush management on range, pasture or native pasture to reduce undesirable brush in uplands, and other areas not in, or directly adjacent to, streams, ponds, or wetlands. The typical method of control uses aerial or broadcast application of herbicides to control undesirable plants.	$329.07/ Acre			
	Scenario 8 Chemical, Foliar Spot Treatment	Apply foliar chemical brush management techniques (aerial fixed wing or ground rig) on isolated upland areas within an 80-acre planning unit (not directly adjacent to streams, ponds or wetlands) associated with rangeland (may include grazed forest, pasture, or other land uses) to control undesirable deciduous species to improve ecological/range site conditions	$38.78/ Acre			
	Scenario 38 Mechanical and Chemical, Medium Infestation	This scenario will be used when treating medium levels of brush encroachment which corresponds to 21-50% canopy cover or a density of 151-370 plants/acre.	$140.38/ Acre			
	Scenario 78 Mechanical and Chemical, Severe Infestation	The practice requires the felling and potential piling of trees and brush using a mechanical cutter, chopper, or other light equipment, and applying herbicide to cut stump resprouting tree/brush species, as necessary, to improve ecological site conditions. Brush density has met or exceeded severe infestation (averaging 45% or greater canopy depending upon species) levels based on ecological site potential as determined by state specific criteria	$606.31/ Acre			
	Scenario 276 Mechanical, Hand Tools	Removal of brush using hand tools such as axes, shovels, hoes, rippers, brush pullers and including chainsaws to remove or cut off woody plants at or below the root collar. Typical area is moderate rolling to gently sloping and consists of moderately deep to deep soils that have strands of woody and non-herbaceous species that are in the early invasion phase. Typical unit is 80 acres. This scenario will be used when treating very low (ultra-low) levels of Eastern red cedar encroachment which corresponds to 2- 5% canopy or a density of 15-25 plants/acre	$64.08/ Acre			

Conservation Practices and Practice Codes	Practice Scenarios	Description	Unit Cost	Practice Standards	Guidance Document	Implementation Requirements
338 Prescribed Burning	Scenario 66 Level Terrain, Volatile or woody fuels	Applying a prescribed burn according to designed burn plan and NRCS Prescribed Burning (338) standard and specifications to control undesirable species, improve wildlife habitat, improve plant productivity and/or quality, facilitate grazing distribution and maintain ecological processes. Class II Size of area: ≤100 acres Vegetation: non-volatile fuels Or Low Complexity Rating Terrain: ≤15% slope	$13.69/ Acre	CPS 338	338 Guidance Document	IR 338
	Scenario PR 66 Level Terrain, Volatile or woody fuels Priority Rate	Class III Size of area: >100 acres Vegetation: non-volatile fuels & restricted volatile fuels Or Medium Complexity Rating Terrain: ≤25% slope	$16.43/ Acre			
	Scenario 68 Steep Terrain, Volatile or Woody fuels	Class IV Size of area: >100 acres Vegetation: volatile & non-volatile fuels Or High Complexity Rating Terrain: ≤25% slope Class V Size of area: no restrictions Vegetation: no restrictions Or High Complexity Rating Terrain: no restrictions	$21.47/ Acre			
	Scenario 69 Growing Season Prescribed Burning	Applying prescribed burning during the growing season which removes a portion of the current year's grazeable forage. Burning during the active growing season can reduce invasive plant occurrence and seed production (on both herbaceous and woody plant species). Implementing growing season burning also reduces the volume of acres that are typically burned in the spring and thus spreads out smoke emissions over more seasons. This scenario should only be used to specifically target prescribed fire objectives (e.g., hardwood sapling control, promote forb diversity, etc.) that will be implemented during the primary summer growing season (~June – mid-September) and is designed to provide forgone income for longer rest periods from grazing and incentive prescribed fire implementation during less common seasons.	$33.70/ Acre			

Conservation Practices and Practice Codes	Practice Scenarios	Description	Unit Cost	Practice Standards	Guidance Document	Implementation Requirements
528 Grazing Management	Scenario 8 Livestock Deferment (FI)	Defer livestock grazing for a 12-month period to allow for regrowth and recovery to occur on a 40-acre grazed range unit where a plant or animal resource concerns exist. Complete livestock exclusion is required during the specified time period. Deferment may be necessary on whole units or portions of units as determined by appropriate assessment.	$45.55/Acre	CPS 528	528 Guidance Document	IR 528
528 Grazing Management	Scenario 39 Livestock Deferment (FI) High Production Sites	12- month livestock deferment for high productive This Scenario is only available in the following counties: Antelope, Boone, and Knox.	$59.02/Acre			
595 Pest Management Conservation System	Scenario 194 Plant Health PAMS (acs) Low labor only	PAMS activities with low labor costs will be implemented on a large-scale crop or grassland production area. Planned Prevention (resistant cultivar selection, pest habitat removal, etc.), Avoidance (IWM for disease avoidance, change in rotation to avoid problem spots, etc.), and Monitoring (Degree Day monitoring, field scouting, etc.) activities have been implemented to help meet the minimum criteria for the identified resource concerns (i.e., Plant Pest Pressure).	$14.99/Acre	CPS 595	595 Guidance Document	IR 595

Conservation Practices and Practice Codes	Practice Scenarios	Description	Unit Cost	Practice Standards	Guidance Document	Implementation Requirements
383 Fuel Break	Scenario 1 Mechanical and Chemical Application	A practice to help facilitate complex Rx fires where heavy treed areas are near the planned firebreak locations. A strip or appropriately sized block of land on which the vegetation, debris, and litter have been reduced and/or modified to control or diminish the spread of fire. This scenario is to be used in one of two circumstances. First, where the removal of excessive woody fuel loads is necessary to facilitate a prescribed burn (i.e. dense Eastern red cedar on the perimeter of a burn area). Second, within a forested community (i.e. ponderosa pine) where dense understory is removed and overstory is thinned to the extent that crown-to-crown fire spread is unlikely.	$1,651.14/Acre	CPS 383		
	Scenario 52 Mechanical and Chemical Application, Steep Slopes	This scenario is to be used in one of two circumstances **where steep slopes or other features exist which cause inaccessibility by equipment**. First, where the removal of excessive woody fuel loads is necessary to facilitate a prescribed burn (i.e. dense Eastern red cedar on the perimeter of a burn area). Second, within a forested community (i.e. ponderosa pine) where dense understory is removed and overstory is thinned to the extent that crown-to-crown fire spread is unlikely.	$2,568.03/Acre			
394 Firebreak	Scenario 2 Vegetation with Brush Hog, 30 Feet	A permanent or temporary strip of ground cleared to bare soil or planted with fire-resistant vegetation meant to stop the spread of fire. This scenario should be used to help facilitate low complexity fires Standard mowed firebreaks on level terrain. This should be the most common constructed firebreak scenario for rangeland settings when existing or natural features such as roads, or bare crop field edges are not applicable or planned to be taken advantage of. As a rule of thumb, firebreak width should be 10x the height of the vegetation to be burned.	$0.15/Foot	CPS 394	394 Guidance Document	
	Scenario 6 Vegetation, 5 to 45% Slope	This scenario should be used to help facilitate medium to high complexity fires. Same concept as scenario 2 but assumed installation will require a little more leg work and potential implementation costs given more challenging terrain.	$0.89/Foot			
	Scenario 3 Bare Soil, Bladed, Disked, <=15% slopes	This scenario should be used to help facilitate low complexity fires. Standard tilled, disked, or scraped firebreaks down to bare mineral soil. This scenario is far more invasive to the landscape than a mowed firebreak but it's appropriate for specific areas that need access improved and will be maintained appropriately overtime.	$0.13/Foot			
	Scenario 15 Bare Soil, Bladed or Disked >= 30 Feet	This scenario should be used to help facilitate medium to high complexity fires. Same concept as scenario 3 but assumed installation will require more leg work and potential implementation costs given more challenging terrain.	$3.75/Foot			

Appendix B. Landowner Concurrence Form to Complete Conservation Activities

This form is used for the participant to obtain written documentation of landowner concurrence for the purpose of completing conservation activities on land they lease.

Applicant Name:	**Landowner Name:**	**Date Prepared:**
Application No.	**Farm Name (opt):**	
Conservation Activity:	**Farm No. & Tract No.**	**Field Nos.**
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		

Landowner Concurrence

By signing this form, I, the landowner, hereby agree that the above-named applicant, if awarded a contract with the Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF), has permission to install and maintain conservation activities on the land identified. I understand that I am not a party to any contract between NCF and the applicant to install or maintain the above listed activities.

Landowner Signature: _____ **Print Name:** _____ **Date**: _____