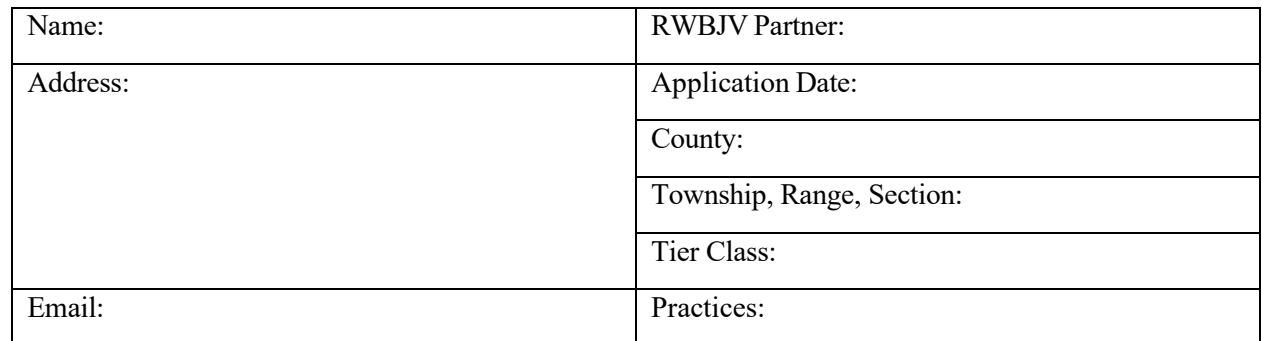


Rangeland Tree Encroachment Vulnerability



Growing and Expanding Nebraska's Grassland Cores

Application Packet and Contract Packet

Purpose: This application package and associated contract is designed to streamline implementing projects that will be funded through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) titled “Growing and Expanding Nebraska's Grassland Cores” awarded by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (RWB JV). This is a multi-year collaboration between public, private, and non-profit partners working together to combat woody encroachment. Through this RCPP, the RWB JV partnership will work with partners to deliver \$18.8 million of NRCS funding to landowners to implement sustainable management on at least 90,000 acres in grassland cores identified as part of NRCS's Great Plains Grassland Initiative (GPGI). The following RCPP Land Management Practices will be implemented consistent with Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) practice scenarios: 314-Brush Management, 338- Prescribed Burning, 528- Grazing Management – Deferment, and 595- Pest Management Conservation System.

Application Overview: This program is available statewide with a continuous application and contracting period. The geographic priorities are the GPGI focus areas. To further prioritize in these large focal geographies all grassland tracts identified in the Farm Service Agencies (FSA) Common Land Unit (CLU) have been analyzed and attributed to described canopy cover level. Tier I tracts have less than 10% tree cover and are the priority. These tracts only require a single treatment. Tier II tracts have between 65% to 90% herbaceous grassland cover and require two treatments. Both Tier I and Tier II tracts can move straight from application and agreement. Tier III tracts have less than 65% grassland cover and will be batched with 6-month batching periods focused on expending any remaining unobligated funds. Batching cutoffs will be June 30 and December 30 annually. The “Grassland Tier” data layer is available through the on-line mapping portal that project partners will use when working with the participant/landowner to complete the application and contract package.

The application portion of the package collects information about the participant/landowner and the proposed project to allow NRCS to verify that 2018 Farm Bill payment eligibility and conservation compliance provisions are met, and that proposed activities comply with National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and other Federal, state, and local laws and regulations. As part of the application, a significantly condensed NRCS CPA-52 - Environmental Evaluation Worksheet will also be completed by the lead partner in collaboration with the applicant/landowner. This document will capture the resource concerns and desired outcomes. A mapping portal has also been developed to support the application and contract package. This tool will provide the needed maps and data for the developing the contracts for Brush Management, Grazing Management, and Pest Management Conservation System. When prescribed burning is the desired follow-up treatment, the burn plans will be developed by landowners and the lead partner(s). Burn plan development can happen during the initial planning phase but will generally be developed after the initial mechanical brush management treatment has occurred. There is no required format, but the plan must contain the elements outlined in the NRCS's Prescribed Burning Conservation Practice Standard (in Appendix A). These elements align with the NRCS standards and specifications and provide the necessary information to streamline securing a burn permit.

The lead partner will be responsible for completing a site visit to verify the Tier status (I,II,III) of the tracts as the initial step in the application. During the site visit, canopy cover will be delineated to reflect acres that will be treated under each practice payment scenario. These delineations will be based on ocular field measurements outlined in the [Brush Management Guidance Document](#) in Appendix A. While on-site, the lead partner will document habitat conditions (presence of wetlands, growth stage/type/height of deciduous trees, etc.) and presence of cultural resources to attribute the required questions in the mapping portal. With this information the portal will provide reports and maps outlining RCPP cost-share, necessary conservation measures to avoid/minimize impacts to Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E Species) and/or Cultural Resources (CRs).

For all tracts where the participant/landowner self-certifies as belonging to a Historically Underserved population segment and meets criteria defined by NRCS, their tracts will be elevated to Tier I status, with the caveat that follow-up control treatments are completed either through prescribed burning or surveillance and cutting through a Pest Management Conservation System.

Tracts adjacent to properties that have had grassland conservation projects to address woody encroachment (in the last 5 years) can also be elevated to a Tier I status but require follow-up treatments. The RCPP on-line mapping portal contains a data layer with projects that have been implemented in the last five years. This allows all partners to screen projects to confirm eligibility. Projects must be in the portal to be referenced and elevate neighboring project sites. If projects are not in the portal, they can be added but will have to have appropriate documentation (i.e. burn plan, partner agreement, etc.).

The RCPP mapping portal is designed to generate resource assessments based on the location of the project. The assessments include project specific information maps describing soils, slope, and Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species habitat distribution. The additional information collected by the lead partner as part of the on-site evaluation will be used to document how practices will be implemented at the location. The portal filters the project location and practice implementation information provided by the lead partner to provide the most restrictive conservation measures necessary to not impact T&E Species and cultural resources (CR). The conservation measures are the same as those outlined in programmatic agreements that NRCS has with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). Following these conservation measures when implementing the conservation practices should eliminate impacts to T&E Species and CRs. The respective report from the mapping portal will be part of the application package. The maps for the different practices can be provided to the contractor to outline how and where each practice should be implemented (acres, type of practice, conservation measures, project deadline, etc.).

The RCPP mapping portal report will also contain estimated cost-share for each of the practice(s) the applicant/landowner wants to pursue. Resources are available in Appendix A to help the lead partner map different areas to ensure the practices will be implemented following the NRCS standards and specifications.

Once these initial inventories have been completed (Participant information, CPA-52, associated maps, practice footprint shape files, practice payment budget estimate) the partner planner will submit the materials to the RWBJV RCPP Coordinator who will then submit the application to NRCS on behalf of the lead partner and the participant/landowner. Once NRCS completes the eligibility check and signs off on the CPA-52, the application package will be returned to the RWBJV RCPP Coordinator for project commencement. If the application is eligible, practice planning follows NRCS standards and specifications, and the necessary conservation measures have been outlined, RWBJV will approve the contract. Project activities cannot start until RWBJV approves the contract.

Contract Overview: Funding through the RCPP is not to exceed the “High Priority Practice” rates as defined by the current fiscal year EQIP practice payment scheduled. The four EQIP practices available for cost-share include 314-Brush Management, 338- Prescribed Burning, 528- Grazing Management – Deferment, and 595- Pest Management Conservation System and control. The practice payment scenarios cost-share levels will be updated each year. For the contract, the total cost-share from the RCPP will be based on the year that the contract was signed. For this RCPP, the participant/landowner is required to provide 25% of the actual costs for the 314 – Brush Management treatments. The lead partner will support the participant/landowner as needed to secure at least three bids for the work, as required under RWBJV Procurement Policy and the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) grant contracts that are providing a majority of the required RCPP leveraged funds. In instances where the participant/ landowner elects to perform the work themselves, the EQIP practice payment rate will be accepted as one of the bids, but two more birds will be required to meet the procurement policy. This provision shall not apply to prescribed burning and grazing deferment as these are incentives to the landowner that are being reimbursed only with the RCPP funds.

If bids come in under the RCPP cost-share rate the participant/landowner will be compensated up to 75% of

the lowest bid rate. Partners can contribute additional cost-share to cover up to 75% of the total cost when bids exceed the RCPP cost-share rate available. The Participant/landowner will be compensated the full amount of the practice payment scenario 338- Prescribed Burning, 528- Grazing Management – Deferment, and 595- Pest Management Conservation System. The payment for the Grazing Management – Deferment will only be made if the Prescribed Burning practice is implemented. The payment for the Pest Management Conservation System will be made once based on-site assessment and verification two years after the initial Brush Management practice is implemented. Tract will be required to be free of invasive woody species for payment.

Once a contract has been approved, the RWBJV RCPP Coordinator will work with the lead partner to move the project to the implementation phase. The contract contains the following information – 1) Participant/landowner and contact information, 2) Legal location and total acres, 3) Duration of the agreement, 4) Total cost of the project and the contributing partners, 5) Participant/landowner responsibilities, 6) Partner responsibilities, 7) Conservation practices required standards 8) Resource concerns and expected outcomes, 9) Budget, 10) Reference to or maps from application, 11) Contract modification elements. All work in the contract will specify and/or reference the NRCS standards and specifications that must be followed as outlined in Appendix A with the budget table outlining RCPP, participant/landowner, and partner contributions. Once the project is completed, the lead partner will work with the Participant to certify that the work is completed to NRCS standards and specifications. Before and after photo points will be a priority. The invoice will then be provided to the RWBJV RCPP Coordinator with a certification with the photos from pre- and post-treatment. The RWBJV RCPP Coordinator will work with the Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF) to process payment to the producer. To process the payment, the Participant must submit a completed “W-9” along with the invoices to facilitate payment by the NCF.

RCPP 3835 Application

To be eligible, participants/landowners must have their farm records established with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and meet specific eligibility criteria shown below. Participants can contact their local FSA office if their records are not current.

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
Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)	This requirement is waived; participants do not need to file AGI

Participants should complete the table below depending on how they are applying (individual, entity, joint operation).

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 the appropriate box(es) in the table below for all Participants who meet the requirements for one or more of the historically underserved categories. If there is none, leave 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

Land units included in this application:

FSA Farm #:_____ FSA Tract #:_____ Legal Description_____

FSA Farm #:_____ FSA Tract #:_____ Legal Description_____

FSA Farm #:_____ FSA Tract #:_____ Legal Description_____

RCPP Mapping Portal and Site Assessment Questions: This information, along with the mapping exercise, will assist NRCS in completing the necessary compliance certification process (NEPA, T&E, CR). The information provided and physical location of the project will generate a set of conservation measures that must be implemented to ensure compliance with programmatic agreements. This approach will streamline review with a goal of being able to go from application package to implementation in eight weeks. Initial to signify agreement.

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

--

Participant Signature

Date _____

Partner Signature

Date _____

***Full application must include on-line portal maps, RCPP 3835 Agreement, and the CPA-52.

RCPP 3835 Agreement

Participant XX for Grassland Enhancement

Overview: This Participant agreement is effective this **Date**, between **Participant** (hereinafter “Participants”), the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (hereinafter “RWBJV”), and **Partners**. The purpose of this Agreement is to **control woody invasive species and improve grassland habitat** (hereinafter “Project”). This Project will be conducted on land owned in **County**, State of Nebraska, described as follows: **Legal Description**. This Project will enhance approximately **acres** of grasslands.

Term of Agreement: The term of this agreement is five-years from date of signature unless extended to complete all practice work and subsequent treatments. Payment for Pest Management Conservation System will run concurrent with the date of the agreement but will only be issued two years after completion of the mechanical removal on tracts that are 100% tree free. This agreement will stay with the land and ensure woody species do not reinvade the treated acres agreement (Date Start: _____ Expiration: _____).

Agreement Elements: Project components include:

- **Brush Management** - _____ acres
- **Prescribed Burning** - _____ acres
- **Grazing Management** - _____ acres
- **Pest Management Conservation System** - _____ acres

Participant:

- **Participant**, with authority over land management decisions, warrants that there are no outstanding rights that interfere with this RCPP 3835 Agreement.
- **Participant/landowner** retains all rights to control trespass and retains all responsibility for taxes, assessments, and damage claims.
- **Participant/landowner** acknowledges that they have or will file all required eligibility information including highly erodible land conservation/wetland conservation (1026) eligibility with the Farm Services Agency.
- **Participant/landowner** will notify the RWBJV and lead partner of pending changes in ownership. A change of ownership of the property shall be subject to the terms of this Agreement. The RCPP 3835 Agreement shall be in effect on the described land for the term of the Agreement.
- The **participant/landowner** agrees not to start any financially assisted conservation practice or activity or engage the reimbursable services of a certified technical service provider before this application and associated contract are executed. The participant understands that starting a practice prior to contract approval causes the practice to be ineligible for program financial assistance.
- If the **participant** is not the landowner, the participant will receive landowner’s concurrence to allow the project to occur on the property (Appendix B).
- **Participant/landowner** agrees to provide partial funding for the project as outlined in this RCPP 3835 Agreement.
- **Participant/landowner** will work with lead partner(s) to secure bids for work to be completed.
- **Participant/landowner** will ensure that all conservation measures outlined in the application will be followed.

Participant (Continued):

- **Participant/landowner** will ensure all work meets the NRCS standards and specifications for the outlined practices as defined in the associated maps and contract. No payment will be made for practices that do not meet these requirements.
- **Participant/landowner** agrees not to receive duplicate payment for practices implemented through another USDA program on the land being enrolled in this contract. Participants will disclose to the NRCS any payment that they have or will receive from other USDA sources for the work performed within this contract.
- **Participant/landowner** acknowledges that payment will only be issued on a reimbursement basis for practices completed up to the extent planned. No partial payments or advance payments will be issued.
- **Participant/landowner** shall provide photographic documentation of the practice area before and after application of the practices. These images will be used to document completion of practices as part of payment request.

Partners listed:

- **Lead partner(s)** assume no liability for damage or injury other than that caused by their own gross negligence, on the above-described acreage.
- **Lead partner(s)** do not assume jurisdiction over the premises by this RCPP 3835 Agreement.
- **Lead partner(s)** agree to provide technical assistance towards completion of the Project.
- **Lead partner(s)** agree to provide funding for the project as outlined in this Agreement.
- **Lead partner(s)** will work with the participant/landowner to ensure that all conservation measures outlined in the application are followed.
- **Lead partner(s)** will work with the participant/landowner and contractors to ensure all work meets the NRCS standards and specifications for the outlined practices.
- **Lead partner(s)** will work with the participant/landowner to secure bids for work completed.
- **Lead partner(s)** will assist the landowner with collecting photographic documentation of work completed to be provided for reimbursement.

Planning Acknowledgement: This RCPP application is developed in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications and therefore follows the NRCS Implementation requirement documents listed and linked in Appendix A. Alternative planning documents will be acceptable if they address all criteria outlined in the NRCS standards and specifications found in the Implementation Requirements outlined in 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. Brush management will be applied in a manner to achieve the desired control of the target woody species and protection of desired species. As part of this contract this will be accomplished by mechanical removal, prescribed burning, and/or follow-up surveillance and control through a Pest Management Control System.
- Mulching and/or cutting will be the primary method of removal. Trees will be removed as close to ground level as possible. All undesirable deciduous species (i.e. Siberian elm, mulberry, black & honey locust, Russian olive, etc.) will need a stump herbicide treatment and must use marking dye to identify where treatment has occurred. Participant/landowner

and planner will determine areas of tree densities and brush pile locations as needed, including maintaining a minimum of 100 ft from any existing structure, road, or fence. When prescribed burning is planned for follow-up treatment, tree piles should be located 300 feet interior or exterior of the planned burn unit boundaries when feasible. Piles that remain within 300 feet of the planned burn unit boundaries will be burned prior to the prescribed burn by the Landowner when it is determined that conditions are safe. Tree piles remaining a safe distance interior of the burn unit can be burned during the operation of the prescribed burn. When prescribed burning will not be used after brush management, brush piles are to be disposed of when conditions are suitable which aids in future site management activities.

- In areas where trees are inaccessible by machinery, hand cutting may be required to ensure all eastern red cedars and any other undesirable deciduous species (i.e. Siberian elm, mulberry, black & honey locust, Russian olive, etc.) are removed within project boundaries. This includes all trees within fence lines.
- All removal work must be completed within eighteen (18) months of the signatures on this RCPP 8385 Agreement.

Prescribed Burning:

- The use of Prescribed Burning is encouraged on the project area as a tool to control eastern red cedar and stimulate native plant growth.
- Prescribed burns must not be conducted without an approved burn plan and appropriate burn permits.
- Specifications for individual prescribed burn management plans will be prepared by certified individuals as described in Nebraska's Policy for Participation in the Planning and Application of Prescribed Burns located in the Nebraska General Manual Title NE 190 Part NE413.
- Prescribed Burning, if utilized, should be timed in a manner to make the burn safer and maximize the benefits for desirable plant species.
- Prescribed Burning may be used to complement the project activities. The decision to use prescribed burning is the responsibility of the Landowner. Prior notification of the lead Partner(s) is encouraged before conducting a prescribed burn on the project area.

Grazing Management:

- The use of Grazing Management shall require deferment of livestock before implementation of prescribed burning. For payment, deferment begins April 1 of the growing season preceding the scheduled prescribed burn and continues through when the prescribed burn is implemented that fall or the following spring.
- No livestock grazing is permitted during this deferment period to allow for plant recovery to ensure adequate vegetative fuel load is maintained for a prescribed burn.
- Participant/landowner shall maintain records confirming the absence of livestock throughout the required deferment period.
- No payments for Grazing Management will be made unless the Prescribed Burning practice is also completed.

Pest Management Conservation System:

- The Pest Management Conservation System may be implemented as a standalone practice on Tier I tracts or in combination with Brush Management and Prescribed Burning on Tier II and III tracts. Implementing this practice and complimentary Prescribed Burning is focused on maintaining a tree free site post mechanical removal through the duration of the RCPP 3835 Agreement to minimize reinfestation of treated acres.

- The participant/landowner will use mechanical treatments to remove any invasive trees that were not impacted by Prescribed Burning, missed during the mechanical removal, or recent germination from residual seed source.
- Work will follow the Prevention, Avoidance, Monitoring, and Suppression (PAMS) strategies as appropriate to address plant pest pressure as outlined for the 595 practice in Appendix A.
- Participant/landowner will maintain records of all activities to ensure continued effectiveness to manage against reinfestation.
- Payment will be made for Pest Management Conservation System two years after the initial Brush Management treatment was completed. Site must be free of all invasive species before payment can be processed.

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 Prescribed Burning scenario rate	\$0,000.00
Acres x Prescribed Burning 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:

+ The Participant's cash contribution is 25% of the brush management Activities.

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

* Rainwater Basin Joint Venture funds are provided through RCPP 8535 – 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.

If all parties agree that the Project has been completed to their satisfaction, the participant will pay for materials/labor upon receipt of invoice for the total cost as outlined in this Agreement. The lead partner will generate invoices for the participant to submit to the funding partners for their contributions to the Project.

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. Therefore, Participant consent is requested to allow for sharing of spatial information about this project solely with conservation cooperators providing technical or financial assistance with 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 wish to have any spatial information about this project shared with other conservation cooperators

To ensure compliance and funding through the RCPP AFA the following elements must be followed.

- If the Participant/landowner wants to add a practice, acres, or remove acres to their contract an entire new application will be required.
- If the Participant/landowner wants to cancel a contract, no partial payments will be made. Contract will be terminated at no expense to the Participant or partners.
- Contracts stay with the land and are transferable if land is sold or transferred into a new ownership vehicle (LLC, corporation, etc.), deceased, or becomes incapacitated.
- With the exception of follow-up Prescribed Burning and Pest Management Conservation System treatments, all practices must be completed within 18 months of contract date. The contract will be cancelled if all practices have not been completed by that date.

The cost of the work will be shared by the partners and the Participant. It is in the interest of all partners to provide technical and financial assistance towards projects which maintain grassland and wetland habitats in the Rainwater Basin region. After the work has been completed, the **partners (X,X,X,X,X)**, and the Participant will inspect the work. If all parties agree the work has been completed to their satisfaction, then the RWBJV, will reimburse the Participant upon receipt of respective invoices, according to this Exhibit. The Participants are responsible for paying any contractors(s) for work completed on the project. Any work to be completed may be modified with the mutual agreement of the aforementioned parties. An adjusted budget table with actual costs will be added to this Agreement via an addendum or modification, if necessary. Signing this contract acknowledges funding commitments and adherence to the compliance elements outlined above.

XXXXX, Participant
Address
Phone

Date

XXXXX, Partner
Address
Phone

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 burn 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 burn 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

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:** _____