

## HABITAT IMPROVEMENT FUNDING

**PURPOSE:** High-quality habitat provides increased benefits to wildlife and hunting and promotes effective conservation. According to HAP hunter surveys, habitat enhancement on HAP enrolled property will help to create a better hunting experience. All HAP properties are eligible for habitat enhancement projects including acres enrolled in Farm Bill related programs. HAP habitat funding can provide extra cost-share beyond contract limits for establishing habitat on new enrollments or help fund required maintenance such as mid-contract management. Improving habitat quality can also lead to an increased annual HAP payment (due to a low-quality rating becoming high-quality on HAP land evaluation sheet).

All projects must be approved by the HAP Coordinator and must be submitted with a project plan, plat map, aerial map and one picture of the existing project area.

### PRIORITY PROJECTS:

#### 1.) Grassland Planting, Management and/or Maintenance

Approved activities: planting, prescribed burn, disking, interseeding, spraying, and limited invasive species treatment (such as thistle, knapweed and goldenrod)

Example: includes new contract plantings or mid-contract management on Farm Bill program lands, warm or cool-season grasses, prairie, switchgrass, or invasive thistle, knapweed and goldenrod

#### 2.) Perennial or Annual Foodplots (Perennial preferred)

Approved activities: spraying, tilling, fertilizing, planting, soil test, seed, herbicide

Example: whitetail forage perennial foodplot, turkey brood rearing cover

#### 3.) Soft-Mast Producing Trees

Approved activities: spraying, planting, fencing and protection, mulch, fertilizer

Example: A mix of apple trees, crabapple, and pear trees to provide soft mast and winter accessible for wildlife (height range 3-5ft)

**TOTAL DNR COST-SHARE: up to \$250/acre**

### REIMBURSEMENT OPTIONS:

- 1.) District coordination—district funds the project and requests reimbursement from DNR
- 2.) Landowner direct—landowner works directly through DNR for reimbursement
- 3.) Partner organization—local conservation organization leads project with DNR reimbursement

\* For additional options contact HAP Coordinator





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**Projects MUST follow only these approved**

**NRCS Conservation Practice Standards listed below:**

<u>Practice Standard Name</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Applicability</u>
Access Control	472	Exclusion of people, vehicles, equipment, etc. from an area.
Brush Management	314	Control of undesirable woody vegetation.
Conservation Cover	327	Establishment of permanent, desirable vegetation.
Critical Area Planting	342	Establishment of permanent vegetation on high risk sites (i.e. – highly erosive sites)
Early Successional Habitat Development and Management	647	Creation, maintenance and/or enhancement of early successional species of plants to produce desired habitat for target wildlife species.
Fire Break	394	Installation or maintenance of an area free from combustible fuel to facilitate a prescribed fire.
Forest Stand Improvement	666	Manipulation of species composition, stand structure and stocking to meet a desired habitat description.
Herbaceous Weed Control	315	Control undesirable herbaceous vegetation.
Prescribed Burning	338	Implementation of controlled burning in order to create desired habitat by manipulating vegetation, controlling level of fuel accumulation, etc.
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	645	Used to treat identified habitat concerns in order to enable movement, or provide shelter, cover, food in proper amounts, etc. for desired species.

\*NOTE: To access copies of individual practice standards, refer to the Michigan eFOTG ([http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg\\_locator.aspx](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx))

**Project planning assistance available from:**

- **DNR HAP Coordinator**
- **DNR Private Lands staff (southwest southern lower by request)**
- **Farm Bill Biologists (if your county is within their coverage area)**
- **Forestry Assistance Foresters (if your county is within their area)**

For questions please contact:

Monique Ferris, DNR HAP Coordinator

New office beginning May 23rd 517-284-4741, Mobile: 517-281-5621

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