

## Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT06 - Renovation of a Windbreak, Shelter Belt or Hedgerow for Wildlife Habitat



### Renovation of a Windbreak, Shelter Belt or Hedgerow for Wildlife Habitat

This enhancement is for the renovation of existing sites that are declining in vigor, need additional woody plants (trees or shrubs) or otherwise no longer provide wildlife habitat benefits. Existing rows of woody plants may be thinned, removed or replaced with new plantings. Existing woody plants may be pruned, either branches or roots or both, to improve windbreak function, health and vigor.

### Land Use Applicability

This enhancement is applicable on cropland and pasture land.

### Benefits

Renovation restores the function of existing windbreaks, shelterbelts or hedgerows to provide wildlife habitat benefits as well as other benefits such as reduced wind erosion, pesticide drift, mitigation of odor and noise and controlled snow deposition. Species composition may be upgraded by adding trees or shrubs that produce wildlife food and shelter as well as wood products and visual quality, such as spring blossoms or fall colors. Woody species threatened by pests such as emerald ash borer can be replaced with more resilient species that provide wildlife habitat benefits.

### Criteria

- Identification of wildlife species to be benefited by the renovation.
- Develop a plan for new trees and/or shrubs that will provide the desired habitat and windbreak or shelter belt functions.
- Removal of dead or dying trees that do not provide the desired habitat unless habitat for cavity nesting wildlife is desired.
- Removal of other trees or invasives that do not provide the desired habitat.
- Replacement of removed trees by planting new trees or shrubs that will provide the desired habitat while serving the required windbreak or shelter belt function.
- Pruning or thinning of less desirable trees to encourage the growth of trees that will provide wildlife habitat and windbreak or shelter belt functions.

### Documentation Requirements

- Brief written description of the tasks completed with dates and any receipts for planting stock, herbicides, etc.
- Delineations on a map or aerial photo of renovated windbreak

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## Conservation Stewardship Program Utah Supplemental Information

Wildlife species that would benefit from renovation:

**Wildlife species to benefit:** California quail, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, Swainson's hawk, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, mourning dove, barn owl, great horned owl, black-chinned hummingbird, downy woodpecker, northern flicker, western kingbird, western scrub jay, black-billed magpie, American crow, black-capped chickadee, house wren, American robin, European starling, cedar waxwing, dark-eyed junco, brown-headed cowbird, house finch, pine siskin, lesser goldfinch, American goldfinch, house sparrow, big brown bat, little brown myotis, western small-footed myotis, deer mouse, red fox, coyote, northern raccoon, striped skunk, western spotted skunk, mule deer.

Windbreak species that are needed to accomplish this:

**Windbreak species to provide wildlife benefit (add at least one species from each group in the appropriate row):** **Conifers:** Rocky Mountain juniper, Utah juniper, pinyon pine, ponderosa pine, Colorado blue spruce; **Deciduous trees:** black cottonwood, Fremont cottonwood, narrowleaf cottonwood, Douglas' hawthorn, Gambel's oak; **Food-bearing shrubs:** silver buffaloberry, chokecherry, golden currant, Wood's rose, Utah serviceberry, skunkbush sumac, common snowberry