

## Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM19 – Wildlife corridors



### Enhancement Description

Wildlife corridors are linear strips of vegetation that connect two or more patches of suitable wildlife habitat. Participants will establish vegetative corridors as described below.

**Land Use Applicability:** Cropland, pastureland, rangeland and forestland.

### Benefits

Corridors connect habitats providing additional life requisites (e.g., feeding, nesting, roosting, escape cover, etc.) as well as interaction among local populations for

reproduction or other social behaviors. Fragmentation of habitat with resultant loss of connectivity threatens the continued existence of fish and wildlife populations.

### Criteria

1. Continuity –corridors must be uninterrupted strips (i.e., no roads, vegetative or physical barriers, etc.) connecting 2 or more patches of suitable habitat. Wildlife friendly fencing is not considered a barrier. Suitable habitat may consist of grasslands, rangelands, forests, wetlands, shrubby areas, or natural substrates suitable for use by wildlife species adapted to the landscape and site conditions and conforming to the composition and quality criteria below.
2. Composition - corridor vegetation must be suited to natural site conditions, consistent with the larger natural landscape context, and appropriate for the kinds of wildlife present, hence native vegetation is highly preferred. Vegetation in the “patches of suitable habitat” (above) must also meet these criteria.
3. Quality – invasive exotic vegetation must be controlled
4. Dimension –the average width must be  $\geq 30$  feet with no section  $< 20$  feet wide. Since context is so important no one size fits all conditions, however wider corridors are better and irregular boundaries (or borders) are preferred over straight.

### Operation and Maintenance

Management activities must be conducted as necessary to ensure the corridor functions as the planned habitat.

### Documentation Requirements

1. Map showing location of wildlife corridors connecting suitable habitats with required dimensions
2. Brief descriptions of the habitats to be connected
3. Description of the vegetation composition

## Indiana CSP Enhancement Supplemental Information

### **ANM19 - Wildlife Corridors:**

- “Suitable wildlife habitat” = areas of vegetation that can provide food or cover, and are not cropped, harvested, mowed, hayed, grazed or disturbed in a manner that would restrict use by wildlife. Areas containing Fescue, Smooth Brome or Reed Canarygrass, or areas dominated by invasive exotic vegetation (see list below), are not considered “suitable wildlife habitat”.
- “Native vegetation is highly preferred” means that all Species and rates will be selected from:
  1. the appropriate [CSP Wildlife Plant Species](#) tables  
<http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CSP/csp2010/2010%20CSP%20Wildlife%20Plant%20Species.doc> or,
  2. the [IN Seed Calculator](#)  
[http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/IN/IN\\_NRCS\\_Seeding\\_Calculator\\_\(2010\).xls](http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/references/public/IN/IN_NRCS_Seeding_Calculator_(2010).xls) (Required: check “Yes” for wildlife-friendly species).
- “Invasive exotic vegetation” includes: Asian Bush Honeysuckle, Tree of Heaven, Autumn Olive, Glossy Buckthorn, Multi-flora Rose, Japanese Honeysuckle, Periwinkle, Reed Canarygrass, Sericea lespedeza, Phragmites, Kudzu, Purple Loosestrife, Garlic Mustard, Japanese knotweed, Quackgrass, and Johnsongrass.