

Climate-Smart Practices and Limitations

Climate-Smart practices under this grant shall be limited to the following practices:

NRCS Practice Code	Practice Name
314	Brush Management
315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment
338	Prescribed Burning
342	Critical Area Planting
378	Pond
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation
381	Silvopasture
382	Fence
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover
391	Riparian Forest Buffer
402	Dam
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting
449	Irrigation Water Management
512	Pasture and Hay Planting
516	Livestock Pipeline
528	Prescribed Grazing
550	Range Planting
561	Heavy Use Area
574	Spring Development
578	Stream Crossing
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
642	Water Well
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
647	Early Successional Habitat Development Management

All practices applied under this grant will follow NRCS practice standards. Practices named below will include a combination of current NRCS practice standards in addition to any standards developed by NRCS over the course of the project period that are determined to meet the needs of bison management as a climate-smart practice, understanding those additions would require a modification to the grant.

Practice Name	Alternative Practice Standards
Improvement of Buffalo Habitat	Improving buffalo habitat by modifying pasture infrastructure to depict natural behavior of the buffalo. This may include modifying internal fence, water, and/or winter feed grounds. Outcome is higher biodiversity, productivity, and rangeland health, higher carbon sequestration and storage, lower greenhouse gas emissions. Documentation will be accomplished through biological surveys pre- and post- practice, and measurement of additional abiotic factors

	<p>(temperature, precipitation, soil, water, etc.) pre- and post- practice. In addition, modeling tools to predict carbon sequestration rates, GHG emissions, and amount of stored carbon will be developed and utilized where appropriate. Further documentation will be refined in Year 1 of the project.</p>
<p>Creation of Buffalo Habitat</p>	<p>Creating buffalo habitat by modifying pasture infrastructure on sites capable of growing native plants and subject to grazing by native herbivores. Considerations to the natural behavior of the buffalo will lead infrastructure development. This may include modifying/creating internal fence, water, and/or winter feed grounds to allow buffalo to behave as close to their natural behaviors as possible. Outcome is higher biodiversity, productivity, and rangeland health, higher carbon sequestration and storage, lower greenhouse gas emissions. Documentation will be accomplished through biological surveys pre- and post- practice, and measurement of additional abiotic factors (temperature, precipitation, soil, water, etc.) pre- and post- practice. In addition, modeling tools to predict carbon sequestration rates, GHG emissions, and amount of stored carbon will be developed and utilized where appropriate. Further documentation will be refined in Year 1.</p>
<p>Native Pasture Planting</p>	<p>The seeding and establishment of native plant species for the improvement of rangeland health for buffalo restoration. Consideration to the regional preferred species for buffalo restoration throughout the 4 different ITBC regions will be made. Current surveys are underway with ITBC Member Tribes and research will be implemented to determine distinct species desired based upon data obtained. A seedbank with native seeds preferred for buffalo restoration will be established in each region for ITBC Member Tribe use. Outcome is higher biodiversity, productivity, and rangeland health, higher carbon sequestration and storage, lower greenhouse gas emissions. Documentation will be accomplished through biological surveys pre- and post- practice, and measurement of additional abiotic factors (temperature, precipitation, soil, water, etc.) pre- and post- practice. In addition, modeling tools to predict</p>

	<p>carbon sequestration rates, GHG emissions, and amount of stored carbon will be developed and utilized where appropriate. Further documentation will be refined in Year 1.</p>
<p>Mechanical Control of Invasive Plants</p>	<p>The management or removal of invasive plants through mechanical control. Removal of undesirable invasive and/or noxious plants will help create a desired plant community for buffalo restoration. Outcomes will be improved forage accessibility, wildlife habitat, manage/reduce fuel loads, higher biodiversity, productivity, and rangeland health, higher carbon sequestration and storage, lower greenhouse gas emissions. Documentation will be accomplished through biological surveys pre- and post- practice, and measurement of additional abiotic factors (temperature, precipitation, soil, water, etc.) pre- and post- practice. In addition, modeling tools to predict carbon sequestration rates, GHG emissions, and amount of stored carbon will be developed and utilized where appropriate. Further documentation will be refined in Year 1.</p>
<p>Increasing Connectivity of Buffalo Herds</p>	<p>Increasing the connectivity of buffalo herds through corridors. Assessments of Tribal buffalo herds and lands will be conducted to determine the possibility of connecting herds and establishing contiguous habitat for buffalo throughout the nation. Outcomes are higher plant and animal diversity, natural wildlife movement with changing seasons, increased genetic flow between herds, improved forage accessibility and rangeland health, higher carbon sequestration and storage, lower greenhouse gas emissions. Documentation will be accomplished through biological surveys pre- and post-practice, and measurement of additional abiotic factors (temperature, precipitation, soil, water, etc.) pre- and post- practice. In addition, modeling tools to predict carbon sequestration rates, GHG emissions, and amount of stored carbon will be developed and utilized where appropriate. Further documentation will be refined in Year 1.</p>