Project Proposal for the Pennsylvania Priority Grasslands Project

This document will be reviewed by PA-Grasslands Project professionals to decide which projects are selected for funding. If the project is selected for funding, this document will be signed by the landowner and the coordinating wildlife biologist. This document includes the implementation project plan, maintenance plan to be carried out by the landowner, and landowner agreement details.

Coordinating Wildlife Biologist:

Name: Emma Keele

Application Prepared for (landowner or property manager(s)):

Contact name(s): Jeff Payne (Somerset County Conservancy president)

Mailing address: Somerset County Conservancy, P.O. Box 241 Somerset, PA 15501

Property Information:

Property address:

Kimberly Run Natural Area, 174 Craig Road Somerset, PA 15501

Coordinates for project (Latitude and Longitude in decimal degrees):

39.988386, -79.0331987

Implementation Project Plan

Coordinating wildlife biologist - describe the project and how the requested funding will be used. For each grassland project area, describe the existing relevant site conditions and outline the plan. Provide as many details as possible (e.g., current vegetation, planned practice(s), stand #, acres, estimated timeline). This plan will be used when selecting projects for funding, to communicate the plan with the landowner, and will be included in scopes of work for contractors.

Somerset County Conservancy (SCC) is interested in restoring 48 acres (stands 5&6) and enhancing 54.5 acres (stands 1, 3, 4) of grassland on their Kimberly Run Natural Area (KRNA) property (102.5-acre project area total). SCC coordinates with the local PGC game warden (Sgt. Travis Anderson) to Rx burn their fields when possible (last burn Sept 2024). SCC management goals are: 1) remove invasive shrubs and black locust (all stands), 2) replant stand 6 with native grass/forb mix (most invasive woody pressure), and 3) replant half of field 5 with short grass/forb mix to target grassland bird species that require short grass height. All fields (besides stand 6) have a mowed trail along the perimeter that is used as fire break. The project was selected for funding in January 2026.

Individual Stand Descriptions and Plan

Stand 1 (35.2 ac) – enhancement

Stand 1 has a slight rise/hill in the middle of the field (5% average slope). The three dominant soil groups are 39% Berks-Welkert channery silt 8-15% slopes, 30% Berks-Weikert channery silt loams 3-8% slopes, and Cavode silt loam 3-8% slopes. About 23.7 ac of this field (photo 1) was burned in Sept 2024 by PGC and has about 90% cover of big bluestem and 10% cover of switch grass. The other 11.5 ac of this field (black hatched areas in map) are dominated by goldenrod and was not burned. During the site visit in Oct 2024, we saw an immature Northern Harrier in this field. This is the highest-quality grassland at Kimberly Run (~5% cover invasive shrubs < 4ft tall, autumn olive, multiflora rose).

There was a PGC hit for Northern Harrier from the PNDI review. The PGC clearance letter states that all work in this field must be completed between Sept 1 to April 14 to reduce nesting impact.

Management plans for this field include:

1) Spot treat with foliar spray (backpack sprayer) any small (<4 ft) unwanted shrubs or trees. Triclopyr (1.5 quarts/acre) for autumn olive and milestone (7 oz/acre) for black locust. This will happen in Aug 2025 and June 2026.

Stand 3 (8.1 ac) - enhancement

Stand 3 is a mostly flat field (3% average slope) and the 2 dominant soil groups are Wharton silt loam 3-8% slopes and Cavode silt loam 3-8% slopes. This field (photo 2) used to be choked with autumn olive, but SCC members have significantly reduced the cover of autumn olive. This field has ~5% cover of autumn olive (5-8 ft tall) and honeysuckle (< 4ft tall), some (≤ 10 stems) black locust (8 ft tall), ~80% cover goldenrod monoculture and 20% cover big bluestem (3-4 ft tall). The big bluestem strip was disked and planted a couple years ago. This field has maybe 3-4 clumps (~50 seed heads) of common teasel in the SE section of the field (close to hwy).

Management plans for this field include:

1) Spot treat common teasel rosettes (foliar with backpack sprayer, 2,4-D (1 lb ae/ac)). This can happen anytime above freezing temps till May 1, 2025.
2) Spot mow common teasel seed heads before maturing (with small mower or weed whacker). July 31, 2025 till before seed maturation in late summer 2025.
3) Spot foliar treat small (< 4ft) invasive shrubs with triclopyr (1.5 quarts/acre) for autumn olive and milestone (7 oz/acre) for black locust. August 2025.

Stand 4 (11.2 ac) – enhancement

Stand 4 is a mostly flat field (4% average slope) and the 2 dominant soil groups are 70% Ernest silt loam 3-8% slopes and 20% Cookport loam 3-8% slopes. This field (photo 3) was burned in Sept 2024 by PGC. This field is roughly divided into three sections, the two outer sections have tall and dense warm season grasses (80% big bluestem, 10% Indian grass, 10% switch grass). These two sections burned well in Sept 2024. The middle strip is a goldenrod monoculture and did not burn at all. There are some (≤ 10 clumps) of grey dogwood in the SE corner. About 5% of the field has autumn olive (< 6ft tall).

Management plans for this field include:

1) Spot foliar treat small (< 4ft) invasive shrubs with triclopyr (1.5 quarts/acre) for autumn olive and milestone (7 oz/acre) for black locust. August 2025.

Stand 5 (36.4 ac) – restoration (past strip mine)

Stand 5 was strip mined in the past and has a rise/hill in the middle (east, north, northwest and west facing aspects). There is an 8% average slope across the whole field. The 3 dominant soil groups are 35% Wharton silt loam 3-8% slopes, 34% Udorthents, mine spoil, 8-25% slopes, and 18% Cavode silt loam 0-3% slopes. This field (photo 4) was burned in Sept 2024 by PGC, about 50% of area burned. This field has about 50-60% cover of autumn olive (5-8 ft tall, some top-killed from recent Rx burn). There is also about 5% cover of black locust, the largest trees are about 8-12 in DBH and 20 ft tall. There are also a handful of pine trees. This field is dominated by big-blue stem (burned about 1 month before site visit).

Management plans include splitting this field into two sections.

Unplanted section (21.4 acres, unhatched area)

1) Cut-stump treat invasive shrubs and black locust outside of mulching area. Triclopyr (1.5 quarts/acre) for autumn olive. Milestone (7 oz/acre) for black locust. August 2025.
2) Create brush piles with felled black locust (8-12” DBH). August 2025.

Planted section (15 acres, hatched area)

1) Forestry mulch unwanted shrubs and trees <8” DBH and chainsaw large black locust. March to April 15, 2025. Main target species are autumn olive and black locust. Mulch to ground level.
2) Create brush piles with felled black locust (8-12” DBH). March to April 15, 2025.
3) Mow herbaceous vegetation. Purpose is to thin and suppress dominant big bluestem. Late April/May 2025.
4) First herbicide application to suppress big bluestem. Imazapic and glyphosate (11-32 oz/acre). 15 ac in Stand 5 will be fully replanted. Stand 5 is a reclaimed strip mine area and is currently dominated by big bluestem and ~50% autumn olive. Goal is to convert 15 ac of this 36.4 acre field to shorter native grasses and forbs. July 2025.
5) Light disk to suppress big bluestem when it is flowering. Mid Aug 2025.
6) First foliar treatment to stump resprouts where mulched in spring 2025. Triclopyr (1.5 quarts/acre) for autumn olive. Milestone (7 oz/acre) for black locust. August 2025.
7) Second herbicide application. Imazapic and glyphosate (11-32 oz/acre). Two weeks before planting.
8) Plant native grass and forbs. No-till seed drill. Seed mix will be ~40% grasses and 60% forbs. Include winter wheat cover crop. Nov 2025 to Feb 2026.
9) First mow during establishment period. Late-June 2026
10) Second mow during establishment period. Late-July 2026.
11) Third mow during establishment period. Late-August 2026.
12) Second foliar treatment for stump resprouts where cut in spring 2025. Triclopyr (1.5 quarts/acre). Main target species: autumn olive, multiflora rose, honey suckle, black locust, hawthorn. June 2026.

Stand 6 (11.5 ac) – restoration

This stand is a mostly flat field (6% average slope) and the 2 dominant soil groups are 55% Ernest silt loam 3-8% slopes and Udorthents mine spoil 8-25% slopes. field (photo 5) has the heaviest infestation of invasive shrubs and will require the most woody removal. There is about 50-60% cover of invasive shrubs (autumn olive, honeysuckle, 5-12 ft tall). There are also native early-successional trees like hawthorn, black locust, and black gum. Currently there is a shrub

hedge (invasives and natives, 25-30ft wide) that separates the hwy and field (west side). There is an island of mature trees that we will leave in the middle. Just north of this project area we excluded ephemeral wet areas that SCC may build in wetlands in the future (rushes and sedges present). The herbaceous layer is mostly goldenrod and there are some patches of teasel (< 100 seed heads).

Management plans include:

1) Forestry mulch unwanted shrubs and trees <8" DBH and chainsaw large black locust. March to April 15, 2025. Main target species are autumn olive and black locust. Mulch to ground level.
2) Create brush piles with felled black locust (8-12" DBH). March to April 15, 2025.
3) Mow herbaceous vegetation. Purpose is to thin and suppress dominant big bluestem. Late April/May 2025.
4) First herbicide application. Imazapic and glyphosate (11-32 oz/acre). Stand 6 will be fully replanted. Stand 6 has ~70% cover invasive shrubs and goldenrod. Goal is to convert to native grass and forbs. June 2025.
5) Second herbicide application. Imazapic and glyphosate (11-32 oz/acre). Late-July to early-August, 2025.
6) Light disk to suppress big bluestem when it is flowering. Late-Aug to early-Sept, 2025.
7) First foliar treatment to stump resprouts where mulched in spring 2025. Triclopyr (1.5 quarts/acre) for autumn olive. Milestone (7 oz/acre) for black locust. August 2025.
8) Selectively cut-stump treat autumn olive and other invasive shrubs in 30ft wide road hedge and middle tree island (1.3 ac). Triclopyr (1.5 quarts/acre) for autumn olive. Aug 2025.
9) Third herbicide application. Imazapic and glyphosate (11-32 oz/acre). Two weeks before planting.
10) Plant native grass and forbs. No-till seed drill. Seed mix will be ~40% grasses and 60% forbs. Include winter wheat cover crop. Nov 2025 to Feb 2026.
11) Plant 12-ft wide fire breaks around planted areas. PGC mix recommendation: ladino white and red clover, chicory, and oats or wheat. Nov 2025 to Feb 2026.
12) First mow during establishment period. Late-June 2026
13) Second mow during establishment period. Late-July 2026.
14) Third mow during establishment period. Late-August 2026.
15) Second foliar treatment for stump resprouts where cut in spring 2025. Triclopyr (1.5 quarts/acre). Main target species: autumn olive, multiflora rose, honey suckle, black locust, hawthorn. June 2026.

Future management concerns:

If SCC periodically mows (rotates between one-third sections every year) or continues to use periodic Rx burns to manage their fields and prevent autumn olive/woody encroachment, I have no future management concerns.

Overall Implementation Project Plan

This plan may change depending on the weather or if conditions after each practice are different than expected.

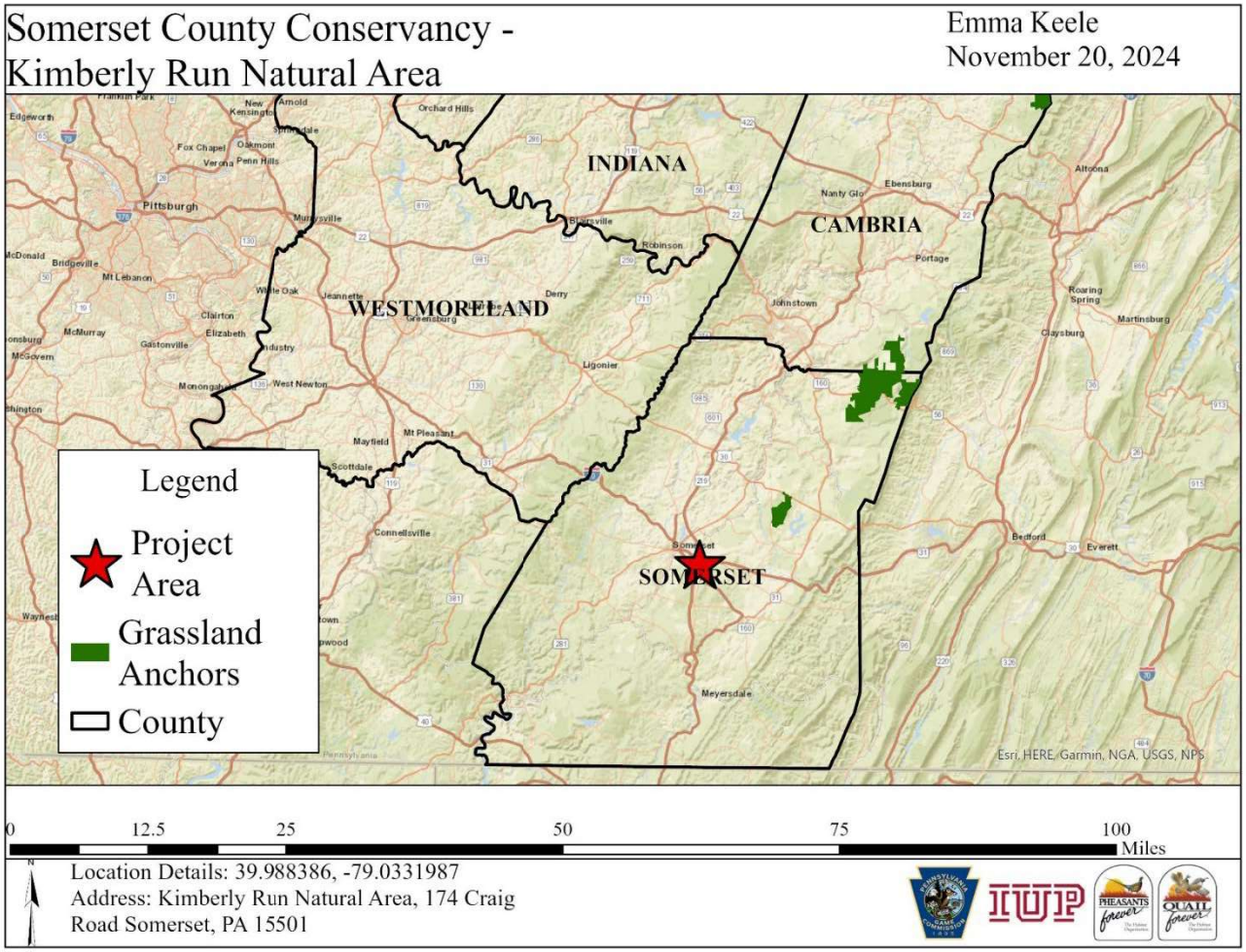
Treatment type	**Stand # (acres)**	**Total acres**	**Estimated timeline**	**Notes**
Forestry mulch unwanted shrubs/trees < 8" DBH and chainsaw large black locust	5 (15 ac) and 6 (11.5 ac)	26.5 ac	March – April 15 2025	Main target species: autumn olive and black locust. Mulch to ground level.
Create brush piles with felled black locust (8-12 inch DBH)	5 (15 ac) and 6 (11.5 ac)	26.5 ac	March – April 15 2025	
Spot treat common teasel rosettes (foliar with backpack sprayer)	3 (2 ac)	2 ac	anytime above freezing temps till May 1 2025	2,4-D (1.0 lb ae/ac)
Mow herbaceous vegetation	5 (15 ac) and 6 (11.5 ac)	26.5 ac	Late April/May 2025	Purpose is to thin and suppress dominant big bluestem in stand 5 (15 ac) and remove dead tall herbaceous vegetation (goldenrod stalks) before first herbicide application to get good chemical-to-plant coverage in stand 6 (11.5 ac).
First herbicide application in stand 6, to suppress goldenrod and kill other weeds (teasel)	6 (11.5 ac)	11.5 ac	June 2025	Imazapic and glyphosate (11-32 oz/acre). Stand 6 will be fully replanted. Stand 6 has ~70% cover invasive shrubs and goldenrod. Goal is to convert to native grass and forbs.

First herbicide application in stand 5, to suppress dominant big bluestem	5 (15 ac)	15 ac	July 2025	Imazapic and glyphosate (11-32 oz/acre). 15 ac in Stand 5 will be fully replanted. Stand 5 is a reclaimed strip mine area and is currently dominated by big bluestem and ~50% autumn olive. Goal is to convert 15 ac of this 36.4 acre field to shorter native grasses and forbs.
second herbicide application in stand 6, to suppress goldenrod and kill other weeds (teasel)	6 (11.5 ac)	11.5 ac	Late July – early Aug 2025	Imazapic and glyphosate (11-32 oz/acre)
Spot mow common teasel seed heads before maturing (small mower or weed whacker)	3 (2 ac)	2 ac	July 31 – before seed maturation 2025	
Light disk in stand 5	5 (15 ac)	15 ac	Mid Aug 2025	Suppress big bluestem when it is flowering
Light disk in stand 6	6 (11.5 ac)	11.5 ac	Late Aug – early Sept 2025	
First foliar-treat stump resprouts where mulched in spring 2025	5 (15 ac) and 6 (11.5 ac)	26.5 ac	Aug 2025	Triclopyr (1.5 quarts/acre) for autumn olive. Milestone (7 oz/acre) for black locust.
Cut-stump treat invasive shrubs and black locust outside of mulching area	5 (21.4 ac)	21.4 ac	Aug 2025	Triclopyr (1.5 quarts/acre) for autumn olive. Milestone (7 oz/acre) for black locust.
Create brush piles with felled black locust (8-12 inch DBH)	5 (21.4 ac)	21.4 ac	Aug 2025	

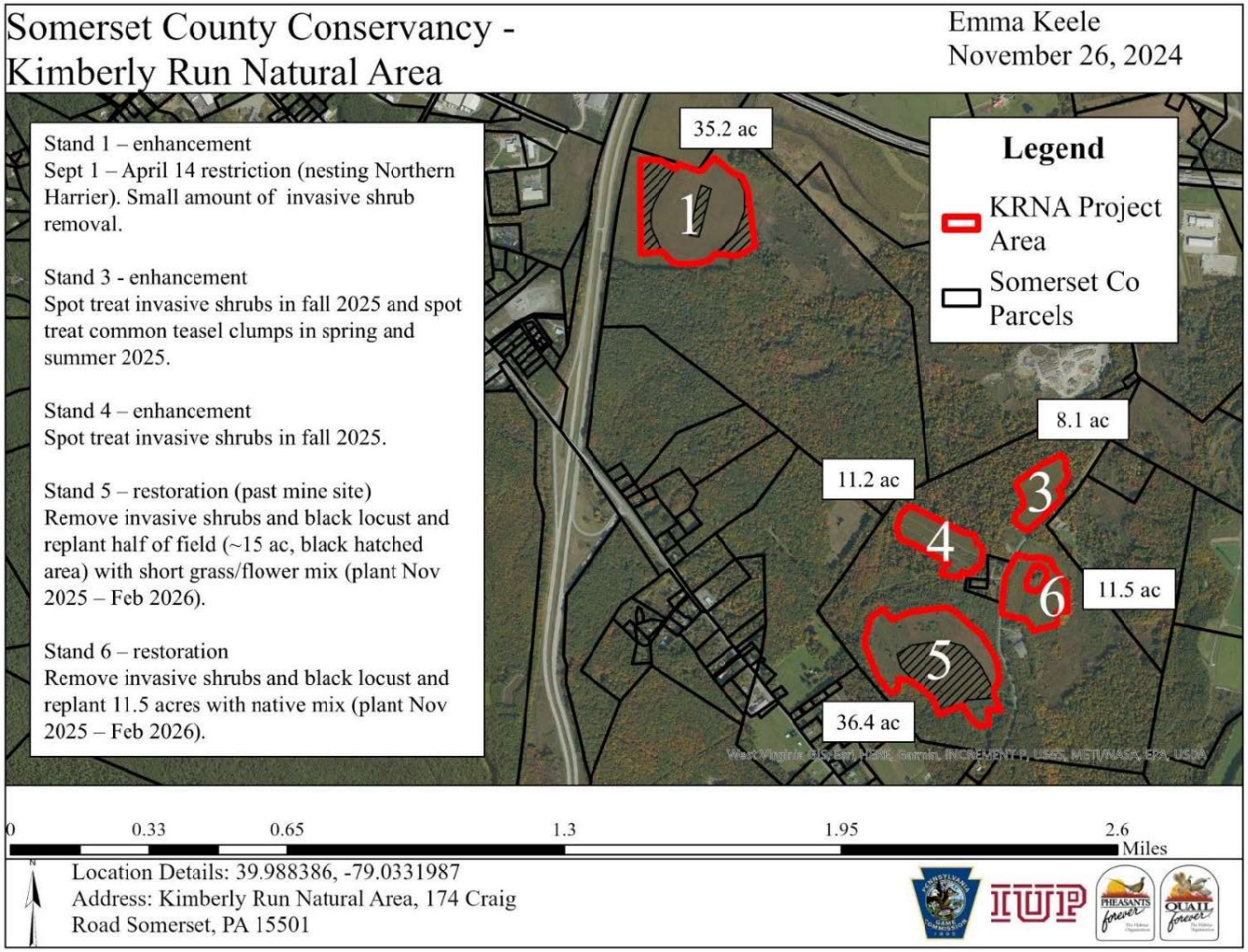
Selectively cut-stump treat autumn olive and other invasive shrubs in 30ft wide road hedge and middle tree island (1.3 ac)	6 (1.3 ac)	1.3 ac	Aug 2025	Triclopyr (1.5 quarts/acre) for autumn olive.
Spot foliar treat invasive shrubs in other fields	1 (4 ac), 3 (2 ac), 4 (2 ac)	8 ac	Aug 2025	Triclopyr (1.5 quarts/acre) for autumn olive. Milestone (7 oz/acre) for black locust. Shrubs are < 4ft tall.
Third herbicide application in stand 6 and second in stand 5	5 (15 ac) and 6 (11.5 ac)	26.5 ac	Two weeks before planting	Imazapic and glyphosate (11-32 oz/acre).
Plant native grass and forbs	5 (15 ac) and 6 (11.5 ac)	26.5 ac	Nov 2025 – Feb 2026	No-till seed drill. Seed mix will be ~40% grasses and 60% forbs. Include winter wheat cover crop.
Plant 12-ft wide fire breaks around planted areas	6	3,874 ft	Nov 2025 – Feb 2026	PGC mix recommendation: ladino white and red clover, chicory, and oats or wheat
First mow during establishment period	5 (15 ac) and 6 (11.5 ac)	26.5	Late-June 2026	
Second mow during establishment period	5 (15 ac) and 6 (11.5 ac)	26.5	Late-July 2026	
Third mow during establishment period	5 (15 ac) and 6 (11.5 ac)	26.5	Late-Aug 2026	
Second foliar-treat stump resprouts where cut in spring 2025	5 (15 ac) and 6 (11.5 ac)	26.5 ac	June 2026	Triclopyr (1.5 quarts/acre). Main target species: autumn olive, multiflora rose, honey suckle, black locust, hawthorn.

Project Maps

Landscape-scale map (zoom out enough to show where the project is in relation to county boundaries and grassland anchors):



Property-scale map, showing property boundary and labeled stand(s) to be managed:



Photos

For every funded project, we need at least one pre-management photo. Paste photo(s) below that capture the pre-management conditions (e.g., coverage or size of invasive shrubs that will be removed, presence of invasive plants, hay/pasture, dense switch grass monoculture, goldenrod monoculture). Think ahead – when taking pre-management photos note the location and direction so post-management photos can be taken from the same vantage point to effectively showcase the change. Note any relevant information (date, brief summary of area) that can help the funding selecting team orientate themselves when looking at the photos. Paste photos below.


Photo 1: Site 1, fields Rx burned in Sept 2024. Immature Northern Harrier spotted during site visit in Oct 2024.


Photo 2: Site 3. Right photo shows patch of common teasel along eastern edge adjacent to highway.

Photo 3: Stand 4. Left photo – right side did not burn (goldenrod) and left side burned (dominant warm season grasses).

Photo 4: Stand 5. Left photo – shrubs are top-killed autumn olive from Rx burn in Sept 2024. Nearest canopy trees with leaves are black locust. Right photo – well-burned section.


Photo 5: Left photo – on the right is the shrub hedge (25-30 ft wide) that separates the hwy from the field (left). Right photo – this field will require the most shrub removal with a forestry mulcher.

10-year Maintenance Plan

After the above Implementation Project Plan is complete (for which the PA-Grasslands Project will cover all costs and hire contractors to complete the work), the landowner is solely responsible to maintain the grassland area(s) for the remainder of the 10-year contract.

General maintenance requirements:

- *After the establishment phase (about 2-3 years after planting), the landowner is not allowed to mow, hay, or disturb the grassland project area(s) vegetation during the primary avian nesting season of April 1 through August 1. Any exceptions (spot treating invasive plants) must be fully written out and signed by the coordinating wildlife biologist and the landowner.*
- *Unless specified by the coordinating wildlife biologist, about one-third of the grassland project area(s) showed be mowed each year and rotated among years.*
- *When mowing or haying, vegetation should be cut no lower than 8 inches tall.*

Specific maintenance plan (developed by the coordinating wildlife biologist):

1. The native planting is planned to occur between Nov 2025 and February 2026.
2. First growing season (summer 2026). The Grasslands grant will cover three establishment mows (late-June, -July, and -August). Late Aug 2026 is the last practice that is in the project plan that the grassland grant will cover. After this practice, the maintenance will be the responsibility of Somerset County Conservancy.
3. Second growing season (summer 2027):
    a. **Monitor woody vegetation:** Starting in late March 2027, monitor all the fields (1, 3, 4, 5, 6) for any unwanted shrubs and trees (autumn olive, multiflora rose, honey suckle, other invasive shrubs, and black locust root). Invasive shrubs start to leaf out generally in late March before native shrubs, so this is an easy time of the year to quickly access their presence. I recommend organizing volunteer workdays in the spring and/or fall to monitor and control invasive and unwanted trees and shrubs. Spring (late March – April) is the best time to hand pull small (<1 inch root collar) shrubs when the soil is most. Fall (Aug and Sept) is the best time to cut and stump treat plants that can't be hand pulled. In brief, triclopyr is a commonly used chemical for cut and stump treating woodys (effective against autumn olive). Milestone is recommended for cut and stump treating black locust because it is especially effective against plants in the Fabaceae family (i.e., legumes). ***Only cutting back woody invasive shrubs without treating with herbicide is not effective and will not kill the plant.*** See recommended resources below for specific guidelines with controlling woody plants (timing, recommended herbicides and rates).
    b. **Monitor herbaceous weeds in planted stands (5 and 6):** Starting in May and June monitor, monitor for biennial weeds like sweetclover (*Melilotus officinalis*),

Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*), and lesser burdock (*Arctium minus*). A list of other common weeds to monitor for can be found in the "Mid-Atlantic Native Meadows – Guidelines for Planning, Preparation, Design, Installation, and Maintenance" by the Xerces Society (Appendix C, pgs 28-29). If there are a lot of these present or other biennial weeds, mow similarly to what was done in growing season one (e.g., late-June, -July, and -August). Mow no lower than 8 inches tall whenever the targeted vegetation gets taller than 12 inches. At minimum, mow all the replanted fields once in August to no lower than 8 inches tall. Rotational mowing of one-third of the fields every year will begin in growing years 3 or 4.

   c. **Start mowing schedule for unplanted stands (1, 3, 4):** Divide fields 1, 3, and 4 into thirds and mow a one-third section each year (rotate every year). No mowing can occur between April 1 and August 1 and mow no less than 8 inches tall.

4. Third growing season (summer 2028):
   a. Follow the same guidance above to monitor and spot treat woody plants. ***Remember***: It is much easier and cost effective to control woody plants when they are young and are just starting to encroach an area.
   b. For planted fields (5 and 6), if there are still a lot of biannual weeds, follow the same mowing recommendations as during the second growing season. If the planted area has become mostly established, start a rotational mowing schedule (NO mowing during: April 1 – Aug 1). See more details in the next bullet. The "Mid-Atlantic Native Meadows – Guidelines for Planning, Preparation, Design, Installation, and Maintenance" by the Xerces Society (see management resources below), pages 21-24, contains good guidance for management during the establishment period (years 1-3 after planting).
   c. Continue rotational mowing for unplanted fields (1, 3, 4).
5. Fourth growing season (summer 2029) and beyond.
   a. Continuously monitor all fields for woody vegetation and treat when detected.
   b. Start mowing schedule for planted fields (5 and 6). Divide fields 5 (planted section) and 6 into thirds and mow a one-third section each year (rotate every year). No mowing can occur between April 1 and August 1 and mow no less than 8 inches tall.
   c. Continue rotational mowing for unplanted fields (1, 3, 4).
   d. Use Prescribed Fire (Rx fire) whenever you can with assistance from the PGC. Do not introduce Rx fire to the planted section of stands 5 and 6 until the 4th growing season post planting to make sure that the field is fully established.
6. Other notes:
   a. Use extra caution when mowing stand 1 due to known Northern Harrier nesting in the past. Following the PNDI Environmental Review (PGC Potential Impact Anticipated), our Grasslands grant is ONLY allowed to do work in Stand 1 from April 14 to September 1.

b. Haying may be done in place of mowing. Although, the same restrictions as mowing apply
    i. Must wait until the 3rd or 4th growing season to start a rotational haying schedule.
    ii. Divide grassland area(s) into thirds and hay one-third each year and rotate which section is hayed each year.
    iii. No haying from April 1 to August 1 (primary bird nesting window).
    iv. No haying native herbaceous vegetation lower than 8" tall.

Management Resources

Weed and Woody Control

Autumn Olive

"Invasive Plant Fact Sheet – Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellate*)" by PennState Extension. URL: https://extension.psu.edu/autumn-olive

"Invasives in Your Woodland: Autumn Olive" by University of Maryland Extension. URL: https://extension.umd.edu/resource/invasives-your-woodland-autumn-olive/

"Control of Autumn Olive, Multiflora Rose, and Tartarian Honeysuckle with Herbicides" by USDA and WVU Extension Service. URL: https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/Agency/WV/Archived_Brushherbicides-2003_160705.pdf

"Invasive Species – Best Control Practices – Autumn Olive" by Michigan Department of Natural Resources. URL: https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/invasive-species/AutumnOliveBCP.pdf

Black Locust

"A WEED REPOT – Black Locust" by Weed Research and Information Center. URL: https://wric.ucdavis.edu/information/crop/natural%20areas/wr_R/Robinia.pdf

Other Weed Management Control (herbaceous and woody)

"Weed Management in CREP Grasslands" by PennState Extension. URL: https://extension.psu.edu/weed-management-in-crep-grasslands

"Weed Control Methods Handbook: Tools & Techniques for Use in Natural Areas" by The Nature Conservancy, Wildland Invasive Species Team. URL: https://www.invasive.org/gist/products/handbook/methods-handbook.pdf

Herbicides

Best management Practices for Wildlands Stewardship. URL: https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/library/publications/herbicidesandwildlife/

CDMS – herbicide label database. URL: https://www.cdms.net/Label-Database

"Herbicide Reference Guide for Landowners". URL: https://www.larimer.org/sites/default/files/uploads/2017/herbicide_.pdf

Grass and Wildflower Management

General Grassland Management

"Renovating native warm-season grass stands for wildlife – A Land Managers Guide" By Purdue Extension. URL: https://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/FNR/FNR-548-W.pdf

"Native Warm-Season Grasses – Identification, Establishment and Management for Wildlife and Forage Production in the Mid-South" by University of Tennessee Extension. URL: https://nbgi.org/download/native-warm-season-grasses-identification-establishment-and-management-for-wildlife-and-forage-production-in-the-mid-south/

Xerces Society Resources – Wildflower Specific Management

"Conservation Cover (327) for Pollinators. Pennsylvania Installation Guide and Job Sheet" URL: https://www.xerces.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/15-025_02_XercesSoc_HabitatInstallGuide_Pennsylvania_ConservationCover327_web.pdf

"Mid-Atlantic Native Meadows – Guidelines for Planning, Preparation, Design, Installation, and Maintenance". URL: https://xerces.org/publications/guidelines/mid-atlantic-native-meadows

"Interseeding Wildflowers to Diversify Grasslands for Pollinators – Guidance for the Great Plains and Midwest Regions". URL: https://xerces.org/publications/guidelines/interseeding-wildflowers-to-diversify-grasslands-for-pollinators

"Maintaining Diverse Stands of Wildflowers Planted for Pollinators – Ongoing Management of Pollinator Habitat". URL: https://xerces.org/publications/guidelines/maintaining-diverse-stands-of-wildflowers-planted-pollinators

"Organic Site Preparation for Wildflower Establishment". URL: https://xerces.org/publications/guidelines/organic-site-preparation-for-wildflower-establishment

Grassland Management for Wildlife

"Warm-Season Grasses and Wildlife" by PennState Extension. URL: https://extension.psu.edu/warm-season-grasses-and-wildlife#:~:text=Warm%2Dseason%20grasses%20grow%20during,switchgrass%20(see%20Table%201).

"Best Management Practices for Nesting Grassland Birds" by Mass Audubon. URL: https://www.massaudubon.org/content/download/19413/file/Best-Management-Practices_Grasslands_2017_web.pdf?inLanguage=eng-US&version=3

Signature Page

Habitat Implementation – The Pennsylvania Game Commission and its partners, Pheasants Forever (PF) and Indiana University of Pennsylvania Research Institute (IUP RI), will work with the landowner to identify the grassland project area, develop a management plan, and will contract and supervise the habitat project implementation.

Cost – The landowner will not be charged for this habitat project. The project will be funded using National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant.

Habitat Protection – The Landowner agrees to maintain the restored grassland habitat according to the provided management plan for 10-years from the date of this agreement for the benefit of grassland dependent species. The Landowner will not purposefully destroy the project area(s), plant trees or shrubs within the project area(s), build any structures within the project area(s), or graze any animals (e.g., cows, horses, goats) within the project area(s). If the Landowner violates this 10-year contract they will be responsible to pay back the amount paid by the grant to the PGC. In rare cases, exceptions to these prohibited activities may be granted by the PGC, PF, or IUP RI. Any exceptions must be described in writing and signed by the Landowner and PGC or its partners.

Monitoring – We require that the Landowner agree to grant access to the property by PGC/PF/IUP RI for monitoring funded project area(s). We may need to conduct monitoring of some of our funded projects and report results to our funders. The Landowner must sign their initials, which indicates that they understand and agree to this statement.

Landowner Initial:

Information Sharing – Funding support for this technical assistance program comes in part from various sources. While we honor/respect landowner privacy, future funding opportunities are enhanced when we can share our success stories with these funders. Would you be willing to grant us permission to share success stories with others?

Do you agree to allow PGC to share the information provided in this application with its close partners and funders?

Yes No (*circle one*)

Landowner Initial:

Landowner Consent – The Landowner agrees to the above conditions and provides consent for the applicant to apply for financial assistance for the proposed activities.

Landowner signature: Date:

Sponsor Biologist – The partner biologist has provided accurate and informed information in this application and agrees to carry out the work described, if funded. A contract will be developed between PGC/PF/IUP RI and the contractor should a project be selected for funding.

Biologist signature: Emma Keele Digitally signed by Emma Keele Date: 2025.02.19 16:12:51 -05'00' Date: