



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
United States Department of Agriculture

**CRP OPERATION & MAINTENANCE JOB SHEET**

CRP PARTICIPANT

CONTRACT NUMBER

TRACT NUMBER

FIELD(S)

CONTRACT AC.

**DEFINITION:** Managing the perennial vegetative and/or woody cover so that it will continue to provide the intended environmental benefits.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Weed control is vital to maintain stand health and vigor. Mowing, spraying and other maintenance activities are required when stand health, vigor, or density degrade below minimum standards.

**WILDLIFE FOOD PLOTS:** Wildlife food plots, if required in the original CRP contract, will be maintained annually for the duration of the contract. Follow your original contract requirements or obtain a current job sheet from your local FSA office.

**WILDLIFE WATERING FACILITY:** Wildlife watering facility, if required in the original contract, will be maintained for the duration of the contract. Follow your original contract requirements or obtain a current job sheet from your local FSA office.

**PRIMARY NESTING SEASON:** The primary nesting season in Washington applicable to operation and maintenance of CRP cover is April 1 through August 1. To minimize any adverse environmental impacts, the Washington State FSA Committee restricts those practices which would significantly disturb the perennial cover. The CRP contract generally prohibits maintenance activities on established CRP stands during this period.

Requests to conduct a maintenance/management activity during the nesting season will only be authorized if they are limited to the spot treatment of the affected area, determined to be the best method and time to improve the stand, and the FSA County Committee, with NRCS/TSP concurrence, approves the action in advance in accordance with spot treatment criteria. Maintenance activities may be conducted outside the primary nesting season without prior approval; however, treatment should be limited to the immediate areas requiring maintenance. Annual mowing of the entire contract, for generic weed control, or for aesthetic purposes is prohibited.

**SPRAYING:** The person using pesticides has the responsibility to follow the label directions and heed all precautions on the label. Some states have restrictions on the use of certain pesticides. Check state and local regulations and consult with your county agent, State Cooperative Extension Specialist, or your local pesticide dealer representative to be sure the intended use is still registered. According to Washington State law, specific kinds and rates of chemical pesticides can only be recommended by

a licensed consultant. Consideration must be given to avoid the destruction of trees, shrubs, legumes, and forbs in the stand. If trees, shrubs, legumes, and/or forbs are destroyed by herbicides, participants may be required to replant without cost sharing.

Noxious weeds must be controlled in accordance with county and state weed laws. Get a specific recommendation from your County Extension Service or your local pesticide dealer for spraying problem weeds.

Consider spot spraying to the extent possible.

**MOWING:** Mowing should generally be done after grasses have gone to seed and shall not be done until after August 1 unless authorized by the FSA County Committee. Do not mow later than October 15 to allow for fall re-growth to provide winter and spring cover for wildlife. The mower height shall be high enough (generally 3-4 inches) to provide protection to the plant crowns while still providing exposure to sunlight. The primary purpose of rotary mowing is to break residue into small pieces allowing for faster deterioration, and allow sunlight to the crowns of the desired perennials. Mowing can also be an effective control of certain weed species and should be considered for those stands that contain trees, shrubs, legumes, and/or forbs to minimize damage due to herbicide drift or accidental direct spraying.

**BURNING:** Due to increased awareness of adverse effects to air quality, NRCS does not recommend burning. Prescribed burning is allowed as a Mid Contract Management activity. Contact your local FSA office for specific requirements.

**GENERAL:** Avoid tillage operations along the edges of the grass that will ridge the soil at the top or undercut it at the bottom of the seeding. If erosion damages portions of the grass stand, repair the damaged area and broadcast seed onto the affected areas. If runoff from the grass area is causing erosion in the cropland below, chiseling at a wide spacing (2 to 3 feet) or sub-soiling of the cropland immediately adjacent to the CRP may be helpful.

Improve thin areas in the stand by broadcasting seed into these areas during the late fall period just before it snows. Alternatively, harrow across the thin areas in late fall to scatter seed from adjoining areas of good grass into the thin areas.

The stand will be maintained by the operator for as long as desired or required by contract. Fertilizing, clipping, spot treatment for erosion control, weed control, reseeding, or other measures are the responsibility of the operator and will be used as needed or required.