

Planning Guidance for CRP Sign-Up 43 in Idaho

March 2012

Evaluating and Documenting Existing Stands

Purpose:

- Evaluate existing cover to determine if seeding is necessary to meet offered CP cover class.
- Minimize disturbance on healthy stands with diverse communities providing wildlife habitat
- Reduce costs of seedbed preparation, seed, planting where possible.

Tools:

- CRP Field Assessment Worksheet
- ID-CPA-021 Ocular Estimates
- Plant Materials Technical Notes
- Soil Survey
- Ecological Site Descriptions
- Plant Guides and Plant Keys

Guidelines for Counting Existing Species as Meeting Cover Requirements for all CP offers

- Each individual species should be present on greater than half of offered acres.
- Individual grass species should compose a minimum of 10% composition by weight.
- All perennial forbs which are not listed on the state noxious weed list may be counted toward percent composition requirements as a group. Biennials, such as yellow sweetclover, can only be counted in a group.
- Native shrubs that have re-established on the site contribute to the diversity of the stand. Shrubs may be counted toward composition requirements for CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP25, and CP42 (flowering, see pollinator list).
- No individual species should be greater than 50% composition by weight.

CP1 Introduced Grasses Forbs/Legume

10 pt – Existing Stand 1-3 Species

- Can be a monoculture with single species greater than 50% composition by weight.
- Can count existing native or introduced species with at least 10% composition by weight.

40 pt- Existing Stand 4 Species

- Stand must include 3 perennial grasses and 1 forb/legume.
- Each grass species should comprise 10-30% composition by weight at a minimum.
- Perennial forbs should comprise of 5-15% composition by weight at a minimum.
- Above guidelines apply.

CP2 Native Grasses Forbs/Legumes

20 pt - Existing Stand 1-3 Species

- Can be a monoculture of native grass species greater than 50% composition by weight.
- Can count existing native grass species with at least 10% composition by weight.
- Can count perennial forbs as a group with 5-15% composition by weight.
- Can count shrubs as a group with 5-15% composition by weight.
- Above guidelines apply.

50 pt – Existing Stand 5 Species

- Must include 3 species of native grass and at least one forb/legume or shrub.
- Existing stand must include 5 species.
- Grass species should range between 10-30% composition by weight.
- Perennial forbs as a group should range between 5-15% composition by weight.
- Shrubs as a group should range between 5-15% composition by weight.
- Above guidelines apply.

CP4B and CP4D – Permanent Wildlife Habitat**40 pt – Existing Stand 4 Species**

- Stand must include mixture of 4 species of grasses, trees, shrubs, or forbs/legumes.
- Grass species may be native or introduced
- Can count grass species with at least 10% composition by weight.
- Can count perennial forbs individually or as a group with 5-15% composition by weight.
- Can count shrubs individually or as a group with 5-15% composition by weight.
- Wildlife conservation plan must be developed with producer.
- Above guidelines apply.

50 pt – Existing Stand 5 Species

- Stand must include mixture of 5 species of predominately native grasses, trees, shrubs, or forbs/legumes.
- Only native grass species may be counted toward requirements.
- Can count native grass species with at least 10% composition by weight.
- Can count perennial forbs individually or as a group with 5-15% composition by weight.
- Can count shrubs individually or as a group with 5-15% composition by weight
- Wildlife conservation plan must be developed with producer.
- Above guidelines apply.

CP25 – Rare and Declining Habitat Restoration**50 pt – Existing Stand**

- Existing stand should be based upon reference state in the ecological site description.
- Existing stand must meet minimum quality criteria 60% similarity with upward trend.
- Refer to Conservation Practice Standard 643 Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats.
- Request assistance from Rangeland Mgmt. Specialist

Guidelines for Developing Seeding Plans

The goals for developing a seeding plan are to improve existing stands or to establish new stands that meet or exceed the minimum requirements for selected CP cover class. Wildlife habitat is an expected benefit for CRP plantings. Considerations for wildlife should be made regarding timing and method of seedbed preparation, planting, and species selection.

Seedbed preparation is an important component of establishing a new seeding. Providing a firm, weed free seed bed that is free from competition can increase the odds of a successful establishment. If multiple years or a combination of chemical and mechanical treatment for seedbed preparation is necessary, be sure to include details in seeding specification. Temporary cover is also permitted to assist with control of weeds and reduce erosion prior to permanent planting.

Determining Percentage of Acreage to Plant:

- Established stand must meet the minimum requirements for offered CP cover class.
- A suitable mixture of grasses, forbs, and/or shrubs that will meet minimum CP cover class requirements should be seeded throughout the planning unit on approximately **70%** of offered acres.
- Strip seeding or mosaic patterns are allowed.
- Inter-seeding (seeding into existing stand) is not recommended.
- In situations where multiple species are present, but will not adequately meet offered CP requirements, a smaller percentage of the planning unit may be planted with consultation of Area and/or State office staff.

ID-CPA-025 Seeding and Planting Plan:

- Prepare ID-CPA-025 that meets CP cover class requirements.
- Present alternative seed mixes and planting plans to producer for their consideration.
- Seeding rates for individual species should come from Plant Materials Tech Notes.
- Be prepared to provide additional assistance to producers if a recommended species is not available.
- Recommend species best suited for wildlife
- Provide detailed guidance to producer on seedbed preparation, purchasing seed mix, and calibration of equipment.

References for Developing Seeding Plans:

- Approved Plant list for Idaho CRP 9-2010
- 327 Conservation Cover Standard and Specification
- Plant Materials Technical Notes:
 - o [Tech. Note 2A](#) Plants for Pollinators in the Intermountain West
 - o [Tech. Note 2B](#) Plants for Pollinators in the Inland Northwest
 - o [Tech. Note 7](#) Mixing Seed With Rice Hulls
 - o [Tech. Note 10](#) Pasture and Range Seedings, Planning-Installation-Evaluation
 - o [Tech. Note 24](#) Grass, Grass-Like, Forb, Legume and Woody Species for the Intermountain West
 - o [Tech. Note 19](#) Calibrating a Seed Drill for Conservation Plantings
 - o [Tech. Note 33](#) Plant and Seed Vendors for Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Eastern Washington, Wyoming
 - o [Tech. Note 50](#) Conservation Shrubs and Trees for the Intermountain West

Species Best Suited for Wildlife

Wildlife habitat benefits are a desired outcome of the CRP program. In collaboration with IDFG, USFWS, NRCS, and FSA a list of species has been identified as best suited for wildlife habitat. This list does not include introduced rhizomatous grasses or crested wheatgrass. Species approved for planting include:

- Native Perennial Grasses
- Perennial Forbs
- Native Shrubs/Trees
- And the following Introduced Grasses
 - o Tall Wheatgrass
 - o Russian Wildrye
 - o Altai Wildrye
 - o Orchardgrass
 - o Meadow Brome
 - o Timothy
 - o Siberian Wheatgrass

Seeding plans may include species on the Approved Plant List for Idaho CRP 9-2010 that are not best suited for wildlife if site conditions will limit establishment of desirable species. Species such as intermediate, pubescent or crested wheatgrass should not comprise of more than 10% of seed mix.

CP1 Introduced Grasses Forbs/Legume

10 pt – Planted Stand 2-3 Species

- Can't be planted as a monoculture.
- Can use native or introduced grasses.
- No individual species should comprise greater than 50% composition by weight when established.

40 pt- Planted Stand 4 Species

- Stand must include 3 perennial grasses and 1 forb/legume.
- Each grass species should comprise 10-30% composition by weight when established.
- Perennial forbs should comprise a minimum of 5-15% composition by weight when established.
- Planned establishment of no species greater than 50% composition by weight.
- Planted species should be on "Best Suited for Wildlife" list above.

CP2 Native Grasses Forbs/Legumes

20 pt - Planted Stand 3 Species

- Stand must include 3 native perennial grasses and 1 forb/legume.
- Each grass species should comprise 10-30% composition by weight when established.
- Perennial forbs should comprise a minimum of 5-15% composition by weight when established.
- Planned establishment of no species greater than 50% composition by weight.

50 pt – Planted Stand 5 Species

- Must include 3 species of native grass and at least one forb/legume or shrub.
- New stand must include 5 species.
- Individual grass species should range between 10-30% composition by weight when established.
- Perennial forbs as a group should comprise a minimum of 5-15% composition by weight when established.
- Shrubs, if planted, as a group should range between 5-15% composition by weight when established.
- Planned establishment of no species greater than 50% composition by weight.

CP4B and CP4D – Permanent Wildlife Habitat

40 pt – Planted Stand 4 Species

- Stand must include mixture of 4 species of grasses, trees, shrubs, or forbs/legumes.
- Grass species may be native or introduced and
- Wildlife conservation plan must be developed with producer.
- Planned establishment of no species greater than 50% composition by weight.

50 pt – Planted Stand 5 Species

- Stand must include mixture of 5 species of predominately native grasses, trees, shrubs, or forbs/legumes.
- Only native grass species may be counted toward requirements.
- Wildlife conservation plan must be developed with producer.
- Planned establishment of no species greater than 50% composition by weight.

CP25 – Rare and Declining Habitat Restoration

50 pt – Planted Stand

- Planted stand should be based upon reference state in the ecological site description.
- Planted stand should move community toward minimum quality criteria of 60% similarity.
- Refer to Conservation Practice Standard 643 Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats.
- Request assistance from Rangeland Mgmt. Specialist

Guidelines for Determining Stand Establishment

The guidance for evaluation of stand establishment is found in Plant Materials Tech Note #12.

- [Tech. Note 12](#) Guidelines for Determining Stand Establishment on Pasture, Range and Conservation Seedings
- Seedlings should be evaluated when grasses are at least in the 3-4 leaf stage allowing for identification.
- The composition of establishment should be representative of seed mix planted at the site.
- Stand is established when approximately 70% of planted species are established. The established stand must meet CP cover class requirements.

	Seeding/Planting Plan - Specification for use with Idaho Conservation Practice Standards 327, 342, 512, and 550	ID-CPA-025 Idaho				
Natural Resources Conservation Service		March 2010				
Producer: CRP Bob Field Office: Little town Practice Standard: 327	Contract: LY Soil/Ecol. Site/FSG: all	CIN: 11 MLRA: 0-3% Field No: 1 PPT: 10-14*				
(1) Mechanical Seedbed Prep. (describe tillage implements and dates of operations). Producer should notify NRCS of dates of operations. Provide a firm weed-free seedbed (mechanically or chemically) that ensures good seed contact with mineral soil and ample soil moisture to uniformly facilitate seedling emergence. Seedbed Firmness Rule-of-thumb: a person's footprint will be no deeper than 1/2 inch. Existing cover must be eliminated by cultivation or herbicides. Double disking, fallow, then chemical weed control may be needed to prepare the ground before planting.						
(2) Chemical Seedbed Preparation (describe chemical, application rates and dates). Producer should notify NRCS of dates of operations. Application of Herbicide/Insecticide and no fertilizer as part of seedbed preparation may be needed. Use chemicals, if needed, to ensure a good weed free seed bed before planting, where it increases the likelihood of a successful planting. This method, depending upon the situation in the field, may assist in seedbed firmness by avoiding extra tillage.						
(3) Seeding Operation (describe)		Acres to be seeded: 10.0				
Drill (type) or Broadcast: Regular grain drill Fertilizer (rates/kind): N/A Irrigation (rates/kind): N/A Planned Seeding Date: Spring plant before 5/15 or Dormant plant after 10/20	Spacing: 6-10" Depth: 1/8"-1/4"					
Conservation cover seed mix will be as shown below. Cover mix will be seeded with a regular grain drill. If an air seeder is used, then seed 1.5 - 2.0 times the recommended seed rate, then roller pack. Seeding/drilling includes drill & labor. Includes fertilizer & chemical control. Rice hulls should be used as a carrier of the seed through conventional drills due to varying seed size. Rule of thumb for rice hulls is to set the drill for seeding 40 LBS of barley per acre. For proper seed distribution, refer to your owners manual. Inoculate legume seed.						
(4) Management Recommendations and Establishment Protection (describe): Clip in mid to late June for weed control during seedling establishment year. An additional clippings may be needed to help control annual weed competition. This should be done before weeds go to seed. Be sure the mowing operation spreads the residue evenly to avoid a windrow on top of new plants and killing them. Spot treatment of areas with chemical weed control when needed. Replanting due to inadequate stands must be done. Pest (weeds, grasshoppers, rabbits, rodents, ect.) control will be undertaken when pests are determined to be detrimental to the plantings.						
Permanent Vegetation Seeding Rates						
Species	Release	Full PLS Rate Lbs/Ac	% of Mix Planned	PLS Rate/Ac	Acres	Lbs PLS needed
Siberian wheatgrass	Vavilov II	6.0	25%	1.50	10.0	15.0
big bluegrass	Sherman	2.0	25%	0.50	10.0	5.0
Russian wildrye	Bozolsky II	6.0	25%	1.50	10.0	15.0
crested wheatgrass	Nordan	5.0	5%	0.25	10.0	2.5
western yarrow	Eagle	0.5	10%	0.05	10.0	0.5
Alfalfa- yellow flowered	Don	5.0	10%	0.50	10.0	5.0
					10.0	
					10.0	
					10.0	
Rice Hulls	(1 bushel/acre or 9 lbs/acre)	9.0			10.0	
		TOTAL	100%			
Planner: _____ I have reviewed this plan and agree to install as designed. Cooperator: _____						

For Full PLS rate refer to tables in PM Tech note 24.

% of planned mix should add to 100% for species.