



United States Department of Agriculture

CRP Mid-Contract Management Options

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Indiana – March 2016 (ver. 1.0)

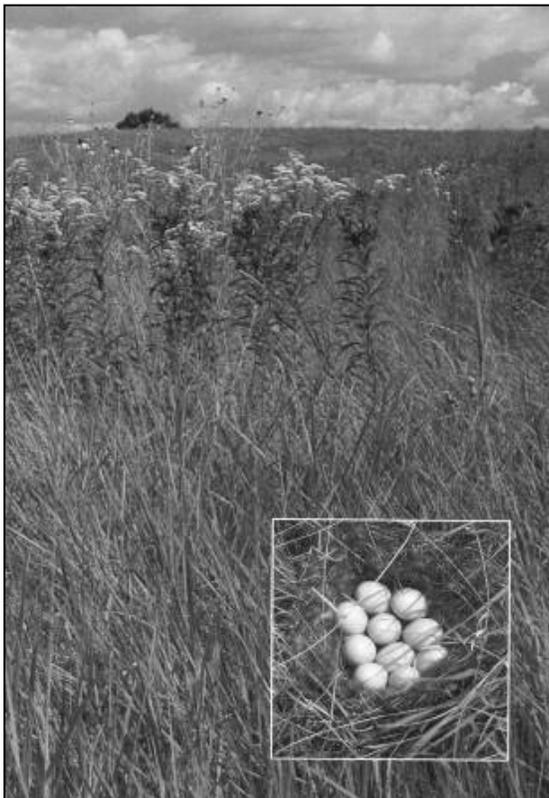
Conservation Reserve Program Job Sheet

PURPOSE

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) policy requires participants to perform a management activity to all CRP practices during the life of the contract. This job sheet gives a brief description of the available options.

The purpose of Mid-Contract Management (MCM) activities is to enhance the wildlife habitat value of the enrolled acres for species such as Northern Bobwhite, pollinators, and others. In grass fields, the perennial grasses tend to crowd out desirable broadleaf plants and litter accumulates. So, a purpose of MCM is to set the perennial grasses back to enable these broadleaf plants to germinate and thrive.

In tree plantings, undesirable vegetation may compete with young trees, or in older plantings, the trees may start to compete with each other and limit growth and wildlife habitat value. So a purpose of MCM is to help improve tree growth and maintain diversity.



Normally, Mid-Contract Management activities are conducted between the 4th and 7th year of the contract. However, on land with existing cover, disturbance activities can begin as soon as technically feasible.

MCM OPTIONS

The following activities apply to all CRP practices

- MCM operations will not be performed from April 1 through August 1 to protect the primary nesting period for ground-nesting bird species.
- For most practices less than 5 acres, the entire acreage can be managed in one year; otherwise, the maximum amount that can be disturbed during any one year is 1/2 of the contract acreage. For maximum habitat value, disturb no more than 1/3 of the contract acreage. See the activity-specific job sheets at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/in/programs/financial/?cid=stelprdb1119594>
- Areas devoted to grass have the following options:
 - Prescribed Burning
 - Strip Disking
 - Strip Spraying
 - Inter-seeding forbs/legumes/pollinator habitat
- Areas devoted to trees have the following options:
 - Inner Seedling Planting (re-enrollments)
 - Inter-seeding forbs/legumes/pollinator habitat
 - Follow-up Weed Control
 - Pruning
 - Thinning (re-enrollments)
- The following environmentally sensitive areas will be avoided:
 - Concentrated flow areas
 - Critical areas
 - Acreage within the first 20 feet of a practice that borders a water resource to avoid water quality resource concerns
 - Other areas where gully erosion is likely
- Grassland fields must be established for a minimum of three years before starting the activity.