

## CRP COVER MAINTENANCE

- **MAINTENANCE – CRP COVER must be maintained in a manner consistent with CRP Policy and the Field Office Technical Guide. MOWING FOR COSMETIC PURPOSES or GENERIC WEED CONTROL (see the NOTE below) IS PROHIBITED and will result in financial penalties.**

MAINTENANCE OF THE CRP COVER IS REQUIRED IF UNTREATED PESTS (weeds, insects, brush, etc.):

- 1) Pose a threat to existing cover.
- 2) Untreated pests will adversely impact non-CRP acreage.
- 3) The planted cover is no longer providing erosion control – This may require re-establishment of the approved cover.

**UNTIL** a FINAL STATUS REVIEW is received or up to 3 years after planting, maintenance activities should occur as needed to establish the approved cover.

For Grass Plantings, these activities may include mowing, herbicide, prescribed burning, etc.

For Trees, use herbicides or mechanical methods for weed control - mowing is not allowed for weed control within 18" of seedlings.

(see Job Sheets for more information)

Cost-share is available for one weed control application after planting if it is included in the Conservation Plan.

**AFTER** a FINAL STATUS REVIEW is received or 3 years after planting, all **MOWING** maintenance activities (**Mowing is not allowed for maintaining trees – consider spot herbicide application or other mechanical means to control weeds around trees**) may be allowed once per year & **only** if needed to maintain the approved cover, and **only** on the portion of the planting in need of maintenance. Mowing is only allowed between August 1 and August 20 to protect ground-nesting wildlife and to allow adequate re-growth for winter cover.

Introduced Grasses and Legumes WILL NOT be mowed lower than 4 inches.

Warm-Season Grasses and Wildflowers WILL NOT be mowed lower than 12 inches.

**OR**

**AFTER** a FINAL STATUS REVIEW is received or 3 years after planting, all maintenance activities **OTHER THAN MOWING** may be allowed once per year & **only** if needed to maintain the approved cover, and **only** on the portion of the planting in need of maintenance. NON-MOWING Maintenance activities are only allowed between August 1 – April 30 (i.e. - **outside of** the Primary Nesting and Brood-Rearing season) to protect ground-nesting wildlife.

If maintenance is required more than once per year, or during a period other than specified above, the CRP participant must submit a written request to the FSA County Committee (COC) prior to the activity occurring. The FSA COC, in consultation with NRCS or the TSP, may authorize Spot Treatment of specific acreage only if necessary to maintain the intended cover. Maintenance activities occurring outside of the above dates, or more than once per year, without prior written approval WILL RESULT IN FINANCIAL PENALTIES.

**NOTE: Annual Mowing is considered “Mowing for Cosmetic Purposes” and “Generic Weed Control.” If annual mowing is needed to control pests, the FSA COC in consultation with NRCS may require alternative maintenance methods (herbicide spot treatment, prescribed burning, etc.) to ensure CRP Policy is being followed.**

**If CRP cover is damaged by maintenance activities or any prohibited activities, the cover will be re-established at the participant’s expense.**

## CRP MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

- REQUIRED MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT** – CRP Practices consisting of GRASSES (except CP8A) must be **MANAGED** as needed to ensure that the original plant diversity, wildlife habitat, and soil and water protection benefits are present for the life of the contract.

### **Mid-contract management options will be selected by the participant.**

The following management activities are available for management of INTRODUCED GRASSES AND LEGUMES: PRESCRIBED BURNING, DISKING, GRASS-SPECIFIC HERBICIDES, and/or INTERSEEDING INTRODUCED LEGUMES.

The following management activities are available for management of NATIVE GRASSES and WILDFLOWERS: PRESCRIBED BURNING, DISKING, GRASS-SPECIFIC HERBICIDES, and/or INTERSEEDING NATIVE WILDFLOWERS.

### **Cost-Share is available for these activities.**

For detailed information on practice management options, please see the attached practice Program Sheets, Job Sheets, or other attached information.

If CRP cover is damaged by management activities or any other prohibited activities, the cover will be re-established at the participant's expense.

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I have read and understand the **CRP COVER MAINTENANCE and CRP MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT** associated with my CRP contract.

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Participant Signature (Not required)

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Date