CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds

CRP Mid Contract Management Options

Name: _

Field(s):__

- Apply MCM in contract years 3 and 6 to all acres for CP33.
- See your conservation plan and aerial photo for areas to be treated.
- Refer to Iowa MCM Job Sheet for more information.
- A combination of MCM options may be used on the same acres to achieve the planned result.
- Native forbs must be used when interseeding a CP33.
- Use the table below to schedule your MCM activity(ies)
- Managed haying or grazing is not authorized on CP33.



MCM Option Descriptions

Tillage

Use a tillage tool such as a disk to break the sod and stir the soil surface to a shallow depth not to exceed 4 inches leaving <u>50% residue and 50% bare ground</u>. This may require a minimum of 2-3 passes. Complete tillage from October 1 to May 14 or August 2 to September 30, outside of the primary nesting season. Mowing or burning may be needed prior to tillage if equipment is not heavy enough to penetrate existing sod. To protect soil, water, and wildlife resources, management activities will be applied to no more than 1/3 of the CRP contract acres in any year. Apply management to a different 1/3 of the contract acres in subsequent years until all of the contract acres have received management. Rotate the tilled areas, either blocks within the field or strips across the field. When tilling in strips, alternate tilled strips that are less than 75' wide with an area twice the size of the tilled strip across the field on the contour/ cross-slope. Repeat the process in successive years until entire field has been tilled. Follow NRCS Early Successional Habitat Management Standard (647).

Interseeding

Interseed native forbs such as partridge pea, black-eyed

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susan or other wildflowers into the existing grass stand. Prior to interseeding, the existing vegetation must be weakened. For CRP, the stand may be weakened with tillage or prescribed fire. To protect soil, water, and wildlife resources, management activities will be applied to no more than 1/3 of the CRP contract acres in any year. Apply management to a different 1/3 of the contract acres in subsequent years until all of the contract acres have received management. Follow guidance for seedbed preparation, seeding operation and seeding dates in the Seed Stand Improvement section of the Conservation Cover (327) Job Sheet and refer to the attached seeding plan. Apply 1/4 seeding rate for MCM interseeding. For introduced forbs the rate will be 1/4 of the pure stand seeding rate in pounds/ac. Native forbs will be seeded at a minimum rate of 10 seeds/square foot. When using a forb mix, reduce species rates accordingly to achieve a total of 1/4 of the full rate. Follow NRCS Conservation Cover (327) standard.

Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning must be done **according to a burn plan.** Complete burning over 3 years by applying to 1/3 of the acres in each scheduled year or the entire contract acres in one year, based on the burn plan. Optimal dates for burning based on the plant community are as follows:

- Cool Season Grasses, March 1 April 15
- Warm Season Grasses, April 1 May 14
- Forbs, September 1 February 1

Follow NRCS Prescribed Burning (338) standard and refer to the attached Prescribed Burning Job Sheet for further information. Fire is an inappropriate management tool for organic soils such as peat and mucky soil types.

Notes: