

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**  
**INTERIM SPECIFICATION for CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM**

**RANGE SEEDING**

**Issued February 27, 2012**

**CODE 550**

This Interim Specification identifies additional planning requirements for application of Range Seeding, 550, for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Mid-Contract Management.

**SPECIFICATIONS**

C. Methods of Grass Seed Planting

2. Range Interseeding Method

c. Where applicable for CRP Mid-Contract Management

- (1) Participants must consult with NRCS to determine the necessity of mid-contract management activities. They must then request approval for interseeding of CRP acreage from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) prior to interseeding and follow the plan developed by NRCS.
- (2) This management activity may occur on all CRP CP practices but shall not occur until the initial CRP shrub, grass and/or forb cover has had the opportunity to fully establish. Interseeding of CRP lands shall be limited to species not included in the original mix to improve plant diversity.
- (3) Interseeding is not permitted on CRP ground within 120 feet of any stream or other permanent water body. Operations should be conducted in a manner to provide escape for fledglings and adult birds. If unwanted woody vegetation or invasive species exist appropriate control measures/maintenance needs to be implemented.
- (4) Interseeding activities are applicable to sandy ecological sites on the Eastern Plains of Colorado and is permitted only if the "I" factor is greater than 134. Planners must determine if an erosion hazard may exist and take appropriate measures to mitigate the problem, e.g., conduct operations on the contour.
- (5) Only one-third of the field may be interseeded each year during CRP contract years 5, 6, and 7 for fields with 160 or more acres. For fields that are less than 160 acres, the local COC may approve interseeding up to 50% of the acreage based on a technical determination from NRCS.
- (6) Equipment - Appropriate drilling equipment capable of drilling seed into established or disturbed grass stands is required. To effect a long-term change in species composition, interseeding will require some prior light seedbed preparation. a) If a rangeland inter-seeder is used it should be able to prepare a seedbed 14 inches wide by 4-6 inches deep and spaced not more than 42 inches apart if shrubs are seeded. If not, a good seedbed should be prepared for a grass drill and entire strip will be reseeded..
- (7) Management - The seeding will be protected from livestock grazing from the date of seeding for at least two successive growing seasons, or until the seeded plants are established.
- (8) Planting Dates - Interseeding shall not occur between May 15 and July 15 to protect nesting/rearing wildlife. Seeding rates will be in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).
- (9) Seeded area will be done in strips no wider than 120 ft. Area will have 50% ground cover/residue.
- (10) Completion of applicable job sheets and page 2 of this interim specification is required.

**Mid-Contract Management Plan for Interseeding**

The following information when completed with map attached is considered the conservation plan of operations for CRP Mid-Contract Management.

<b>CRP Owner:</b>	_____	<b>CRP Contract #:</b>	_____
<b>Farm Number:</b>	_____	<b>Tract Number:</b>	_____
<b>Field Acres:</b>	_____	<b>Stand Density:</b>	_____
<b>Acres Planned:</b>	_____	<b>CP Practice:</b>	_____
<b>Planned Operation:</b>	_____	<b>Predominant Grass Species:</b>	_____
<b>Planned Start Date:</b>	_____	<b>Planned End Date:</b>	_____
<b>Drill Type:</b>	_____	<b>Disturbance Width:</b>	_____
<b>Species Planned (requires CO-ECS-5):</b>	_____	<b>Disturbance Interval:</b>	_____
<b>FSA Approval and Date:</b>	_____		
<b>Producer Signature and Date:</b>	_____		
<b>Planner Signature and Date:</b>	_____		

**Check-out of CRP Mid-Contract Management plan:**

<b>Acres Manipulated:</b>	_____	<b>Date Started:</b>	_____
<b>Operation Utilized:</b>	_____	<b>Date Completed:</b>	_____
<b>Depth of Operations:</b>	_____	<b>Disturbance Width:</b>	_____
<b>Drill Type:</b>	_____	<b>Disturbance Interval:</b>	_____
<b>Species Seeded (requires CO-ECS-5):</b>	_____	<b>Percent Disturbance:</b>	_____
<b>Certifying Individual &amp; Date:</b>	_____		