

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
INTERIM SPECIFICATION for CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM
GRAZING LAND MECHANICAL TREATMENT

Issued September 1, 2005

CODE 548

This Interim Specification identifies additional planning requirements for application of Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment 548, for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Mid-Contract Management.

Specifications

1. Maintaining or Enhancing Conservation Reserve Program land (CP-1, CP-2, CP-4D, and CP-10).
The purpose for this management activity is to maintain or enhance the ecological site with primary benefit to soil protection and wildlife.
- A. Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (GLMT) is limited to CRP land that is within the range sites identified in section 1 of the specifications. The primary purposes are to place residue in contact with the soil surface to facilitate organic breakdown, and to slice the root mass to reinvigorate growth.
- B. This management activity shall not occur until the seeding is well established. National CRP procedure requires this activity cannot be performed earlier than the fourth year of the contract. GLMT should be applied between the 5th and 8th year of a ten-year contract. Prior to instituting this activity NRCS must determine the necessity of the practice and develop a plan. Final approval must be granted from FSA before implementation of the NRCS plan.
- C. Area shall not exceed 1/3 of the total field being treated in any one-year period. For fields less than 160 acres, the local COC may approve light tillage on up to 50% of the acreage based on a technical determination from NRCS. Planners must consider the potential for erosion during planning and take appropriate measures to mitigate the problem, e.g., conduct operations on the contour. Consideration must be given to provide escape for fledglings and adult birds.
- D. Haying and/or grazing are not allowable operations for this practice.
- E. The treatment will occur between July 16th and October 13th to avoid the primary nesting season.
- F. Completion of applicable job sheets and page 2 of this interim specification are required.
- G. Treatment alternatives - These operations may be applied prior to and in conjunction with interseeding on the same acres.
 1. Chiseling - Use on stands where plant stands are root bound.
 - Utilize chisels or field cultivators with points (do not use sweeps).
 - Spacing of 18-24 inches is preferred, and depths of 3-5 inches will disturb the root system without uprooting the plants.
 2. Harrowing - Use spring tooth or spike tooth harrows on stands where there is excessive residue accumulation.
 - Implement tool should penetrate 1-2 inches in depth.
 3. Light disking - Use on stands where there is excessive residue accumulation.
 - Tillage depth (ground penetration) shall be at 2- 3 inches.
 - An average of at least 50 percent of the grass stand shall remain undisturbed.

Mid-Contract Management Plan for Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment

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

CRP Owner:	_____	CRP Contract #:	_____
Farm Number:	_____	Tract Number:	_____
Total Acreage:	_____	Field Number:	_____
Acres Planned:	_____	CP Practice:	_____
Planned Operation:	_____	Predominant Grass Species:	_____
Planned Start Date:	_____	Planned End Date:	_____
FSA Approval and Date:	_____		
Producer Signature and Date:	_____		
Planner Signature and Date:	_____		

Check-out of CRP Mid-Contract Management plan:

Acres Manipulated:	_____	Percent Disturbance:	_____
Operation Utilized:	_____	Date Started:	_____
Depth of Operations:	_____	Date Completed:	_____
Certifying Individual & Date:	_____		