NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
MONTANA CONSERVATION PRACTICE JOB SHEET

FUEL BREAK (ACRE)

CODE 383B – STRUCTURES

Landowner	Field/Management Unit	Date

Legal Description	Contract Item Number	Area (Acres)	Job Class

Purpose:

Control or reduce the risk of the spread of fire by treating, removing, or modifying vegetation.

Site Conditions:

Forest Habitat Type (Pfister):_____

Vegetation Type (check those substantially present): ☐ Grass ☐ Shrubs ☐ Trees

Slope:_____Percent (%)

Dominant Height of Understory Vegetation:_____Feet

Fuel Break Specifications:

Fuel Break Location: Around improved properties (homes, buildings, structures)

Type of Fuel Break (check that apply): ☐ Defensible ☐ Survivable

Fuel Break Duration (check that apply): ☐ Permanent

Treatment:

1. Determine defensible or survivable treatment distance (use Chart 1).
2. Use Charts 3, 4, and 5 for separation of live vegetation in treatment zone. Use Chart 2 for treatment of dead woody debris in this zone.
3. Treat cut stumps with herbicide to prevent re-growth. Follow herbicide label directions.
4. Pile and burn or chip all cut and dead woody materials.
5. Annually maintain the vegetation and practice treatments within the fuel break area.

MT383B-JS2
Structures

Treatment Area / Fuel Break Width (check that apply): (see Chart 1 in the Montana Specification)

☐ Defensible space distance_____feet or ☐ Survivable space distance_____feet

Lean, Clean, and Green Space Surrounding Buildings: 30 FEET

Separation Distances between Canopies – Shrubs and Small Trees (see Chart 3 in the Montana Specification)

Percent Slope	Shrub Height	(X)	Separation Distance
☐ 0 to 20%	_____ Feet	X 2 =	_____ Feet
☐ 21 to 40%	_____ Feet	X 4 =	_____ Feet
☐ + 40%	_____ Feet	X 6 =	_____ Feet

Separation Distances between Canopies – Trees (see Chart 4 in the Montana Specification)

Percent Slope	Separation Distance
☐ 0 to 20%	10 Feet
☐ 21 to 40%	20 Feet
☐ + 40%	30 Feet

Separation Distances – Ladder Fuels (see Chart 5 in the Montana Specification)

Ground Fuel Height (x) = _____ Feet

Prune to (3x) = _____ Feet

Dead Fuel Types (check all that apply)	Recommended Practices (see Chart 2 in the Montana Specification) (check all that apply)
☐ Standing dead tree	☐ Remove all standing dead trees
☐ Down dead tree	☐ Remove all dead down trees not imbedded
☐ Dead shrubs	☐ Remove all dead shrubs
☐ Dried grasses and wild flowers	☐ Remove all dried out grasses/wild flowers
☐ Dead needles on ground	☐ Reduce needles to a depth of 2 inches
☐ Dead branches on tree	☐ Remove all dead branches to height of 15 feet
☐ Debris in rain gutters	☐ Remove all debris in rain gutters
☐ Firewood and other combustibles	☐ Locate firewood / combustibles 30 feet from house

Vegetative Seeding for Low Vegetation and Erosion Control
(see Table 1 in the Montana Specification)

Location	Seeding Species	Rate (PLS)	Acres	Total Seed

Operation and Maintenance:

- Noxious weeds, by state law, must be controlled.
- Inspect fuel breaks periodically to insure that vegetation is controlled at the most opportune time.
- Mow or graze vegetative fuel breaks to avoid a build-up of dead litter and to control weeds.
- Inspect for and remove weedy materials such as dead limbs and blown down trees from the fuel break.
- Access by vehicles or people will be controlled to prevent damage to the fuel break.
- Burned, grazed, and mowed/clipped strips will be treated again if the vegetation grows to more than eight (8) inches in height.

Job Sketch:

Attached Plan Map (check) ☐ Yes ☐ No

Additional Specifications and Notes:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

APPROVALS:

NRCS Conservationist	**Job Approval Authority**	**Date**
Producer		**Date**

Installation Certification:

Land Cover Type:_____

Type Fuel Break Installed:_____

Duration of Fuel Break Installed:_____

Fuel Break Area Installed: _____Acres Adequate?_____

Species Seeded:_____

Seeding Rate (PLS): _____lbs./ac. Adequate?_____

Acres Seeded: _____Number Adequate?_____

Defensible Space Distance Treated:_____Feet Adequate?_____

Survivable Space Distance Treated:_____Feet Adequate?_____

Dead Fuels Treated (check): ☐ Yes ☐ No Adequate?_____

Separation Distances
Shrubs Treated: _____Feet Adequate?_____

Separation Distances
Trees Treated: _____Feet Adequate?_____

Separation Distances
Ladder Fuels - Pruned Height:_____Feet Adequate?_____

Lean, Clean, Green Space Treated: _____Feet Adequate?_____

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT:

I hereby certify that this practice has been installed in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications.

_____	_____	_____
NRCS Conservationist	**Job Approval Authority**	**Date**

_____	_____
	Date

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