

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
MONTANA CONSERVATION PRACTICE JOB SHEET

FIREBREAK (FEET)

CODE 394A--Open Area

LANDOWNER	FIELD / MANAGEMENT UNIT	DATE
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	CONTRACT ITEM NUMBER	LENGTH (FEET) JOB CLASS

PURPOSE

- Reduce the spread of wildfire

FIREBREAK SPECIFICATIONS

FIREBREAK DURATION: Permanent (MINIMUM OF ONE YEAR)

1. **FIREBREAK IS LOCATED AROUND:** Idle croplands
 Open areas (RANGELAND--CROPLAND--PASTURELAND)

- TREATMENT:** BARE MINERAL SOIL* BURNED VEGETATION
 CHEMICAL BURNBACK GRAZING
 MOWING / CLIPPING LOW VEGETATION
 OTHER _____

*Also see SPECIFICATIONS for water erosion control practices.

A. IDLE CROPLAND FIREBREAKS

- TYPE:** SINGLE BARE GROUND STRIP
 TWO BARE GROUND STRIPS AND A MOWED AREA
 ONE BARE GROUND STRIP AND A MOWED AREA

SINGLE BARE GROUND STRIP WIDTH _____ FEET
(MINIMUM 50 FEET / MAXIMUM 200 FEET)

TWO BARE GROUND STRIPS AND A MOWED AREA STRIP WIDTH _____ FEET
(MINIMUM 50 FEET / MAXIMUM 200 FEET)

ONE BARE GROUND STRIP AND A MOWED AREA STRIP WIDTH _____ FEET
(MINIMUM 100 FEET / MAXIMUM 150 FEET)

MT394-JS2

A. IDLE CROPLAND FIREBREAKS -- CONTINUED

If two bare ground strips are used:

- Then the mowed area will separate the two bare strips.

If one bare ground strip is used:

- Then the mowed area will be located between the bare ground strip and the field.

TYPE: IDLE CROPLAND FIREBREAK ADJACENT TO HOMES, BARNES, BUILDINGS, ETC.
STRIP WIDTH = 250 FEET

B. OPEN AREA FIREBREAKS (RANGELAND—CROPLAND—PASTURELAND)

LAND COVER TYPE: CROPLAND RANGELAND WITH SHRUBS
 PASTURELAND RANGELAND WITHOUT SHRUBS

HEIGHT OF UNCUT/UNGRAZED VEGETATION ON WINDWARD SIDE: _____ FEET
 X 5

BARE GROUND FIREBREAK WIDTH: (5 FEET MINIMUM) _____ FEET

TYPE: SINGLE BARE GROUND STRIP
 BARE GROUND STRIP AND ANOTHER TREATMENT

SINGLE BARE GROUND STRIP WIDTH _____ FEET
(MINIMUM 5 FEET/MAXIMUM 30 FEET)

BARE GROUND STRIP AND ANOTHER TREATMENT STRIP WIDTH _____ FEET
(MINIMUM 30 FEET/MAXIMUM 100 FEET)

Bare area firebreaks must be completely free of vegetation. Wind and water erosion is controlled.

For areas where wind erosion is a problem, a barrier of un-mowed vegetation five feet wide may be retained on the windward side(s) of each bare ground strip.

For areas where water erosion is a problem, dispose runoff water by rolling the grade, out-sloping the firebreak or installing water bars based on the slope and rock fragments.

Where a bare ground firebreak is used in conjunction with a prescribed burn and there is no need to maintain the firebreak in future years. All disturbed areas must be seeded down using specifications satisfying either the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section IV—Practice Standards and Specifications: Critical Area Planting – Code 342; Range Planting – Code 550; or, Pasture and Hayland Planting – Code 512.

Where opportunities exist for establishing fire-retarding vegetation, plant an adapted species of grass or other vegetation which produces low volumes of herbage. Mowing or grazing can be used to avoid a build-up of dead litter.

WATER BARS

LOCATION	ROCK FRAGMENTS		SPACING
	(%) – TOP 12" OF SOIL	SLOPE (%)	
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

VEGETATIVE SEEDING

LOCATION	SPECIES	SEEDING RATE (PLS)	ACRES	TOTAL SEED
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

JOB SKETCH

Attached Plan Map YES NO

ATTACHED SPECIFICATIONS

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Critical Area Planting – Code 342 | <input type="checkbox"/> | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO |
| Pasture and Hayland Planting – Code 512 | <input type="checkbox"/> | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO |
| Range Seeding – Code 550 | <input type="checkbox"/> | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO |

ADDITIONAL NOTES

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

- Noxious weeds, by state law, must be controlled.
- Inspect and maintain erosion control practices annually to insure proper functioning.
- Inspect firebreaks periodically to insure that vegetation is controlled at the most opportune time.
- Mow or graze vegetative firebreaks 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 firebreak.
- Access by vehicles or people will be controlled to prevent damage to the firebreak.
- Bare ground firebreaks which are no longer needed will be stabilized or reseeded to control weeds and erosion.
- Burned, grazed, and mowed/clipped strips will be re-clipped if the vegetation re-grows and achieves more than approximately eight inches in height.

APPROVALS:

NRCS Conservationist

JOB APPROVAL AUTHORITY

Date

Producer

Date

Installation Certification:

Land Cover Type: _____

Type Firebreak Installed: _____

Firebreak Width Installed: _____ FEET ADEQUATE _____

Numbers of Water Bars Installed: _____ ADEQUATE _____

Spacing Between Water Bars Installed: _____ FEET ADEQUATE _____

Species Seeded: _____

Seeding Rate (PLS): _____ POUNDS/ACRE ADEQUATE _____

Acres Seeded: _____ 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