

CRP MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT: CONTINUED MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

Grassland fields need to be managed so that grasses do not crowd out the forbs and legumes over time. If no disturbance occurs the composition of grassland communities will change over several years through normal plant succession. Also, the amount of bare ground declines, litter accumulates and overall vegetation density increases. These changes may lead to a decline in habitat value for many desirable wildlife species.

PURPOSE

Although CRP rules require the application of mid-contract management activities, specific vegetation management activities may not be needed at this time in some cases. When the condition of the vegetation meets the practice purposes and goal of mid-contract management, no specific action will be required. In these situations, the requirement is to continue managing the land as it has been and monitor the vegetation to see that the favorable conditions persist.

Situations which might dictate this approach include:

- Desirable forbs and grasses are well distributed throughout the CRP field and a disturbance of the existing cover would have a negative impact on existing vegetation. A site evaluation must be documented by NRCS to support this.
- The field cover is required for an endangered or threatened species which is determined to be present on this site. NRCS must document that this species is present on the site.
- Managed or emergency haying or grazing has previously been conducted on this field and it is determined that those activities have served the same purpose as MCM practices. A site evaluation must be made and documented by NRCS.
- Small sites where existing cover meets original practice objectives and MCM activities would be infeasible or provide insignificant benefits to wildlife.



In rare situations where the stand is not acceptable but there are circumstances which dictate that no mid-contract management practices are feasible, a request for waiver of MCM requirements may be filed with your local FSA County Committee.

APPLICABILITY

This activity applies to all CRP practices.

SPECIFICATIONS

- Evaluate the proposed site to determine that a MCM practice is not needed or will negatively impact the site for reasons outlined in the previous section.
- Document why specific MCM action is not being taken at this time; document on a field by field basis.
- Determine and document on a field by field basis, what future monitoring and/or management activities are needed by the participant to maintain the quality of the cover.

Continued Monitoring and Management

Landowner:				
Farm No.:		Tract No.:		Acres:
CRP Field Number	Reason No Action Needed at This Time	Document the Condition of the Existing Cover	Future Monitoring and Management Activities	

Mid-Contract Management cost-share payment for this practice is not available.

Cost-share Payment Limitations for all MCM activities are:

- \$50.00 per acre per year
- \$100.00 per acre total for the life of the contract

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is responsible for administering the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CRP policy requires that starting with Signup 26, participants must perform management activities that maintain or enhance the quality of conservation cover for wildlife benefits.

The FSA has requested the assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and/or other partners to conduct an on-site assessment of the conservation cover. NRCS and/or the partners have evaluated the condition and density of the stand; the grass/forb species present; and have recommended this MCM practice to the FSA and the participant. FSA and NRCS representatives will meet with the participant and discuss the MCM options available and the appropriate incentive payments if applicable.

Signing this MCM Job Sheet is considered an addendum to the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO). No modification of the CPO will be necessary.

SIGNATURES

NRCS Representative	Date
FSA Representative	Date
I understand the plan and specifications and agree to perform this practice accordingly.	
Participant	Date

AD-862 Control Number: