NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

HIGH PLAINS CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

INTERIM SPECIFICATION

CROSS WIND TRAP STRIPS

CODE 589C

This Interim Specification provides additional criteria for planning and application of Cross Wind Trap Strips 589C, to provide food and cover for wildlife on eligible lands enrolled in the High Plains Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program in Kit Carson, Phillips, Sedgwick, Yuma and parts of Logan Counties, in Northeastern Colorado.

Refer to the Colorado Cross Wind Trap Strips 589C, Conservation Practice Standard for General Criteria applicable to all purposes. Complete a Colorado Cross Wind Trap Strips 589C, Conservation Practice Job Sheet, to record Specifications for each field or treatment unit.

Additional Criteria Applicable to the High Plains Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

TRAP STRIPS

Number of Trap Strips
Plan and install 10 to 15 cross wind trap strips per 160 acres. Proportionately fewer trap strips are required for fields with 80 to 159 acres.

Width of Trap Strips
Trap strips designed for this purpose will cover approximately 20 to 30 percent of the entire field. The minimum and maximum widths are 45 and 60 feet, respectively.

Forty-five foot wide trap strips are appropriate only for systems consisting of 12 to 15 trap strips per 160 acres, or for fields that are between 80 and 159 acres in size.

Sixty-foot wide trap strips are appropriate only for systems consisting of 10 to 12 trap strips per 160 acres.

Orientation of Trap Strips
Orient cross wind trap strips as near as possible to perpendicular, to the prevailing wind erosion direction. Alternate trap strips with erosion susceptible crop strips in a recurring pattern, equally spaced, across the entire field.

Vegetative Cover
Develop trap strip seed mixes for vegetative cover establishment according to table below. Use the Colorado Plant Materials Technical Note No. 59, Table 5, for species-specific seeding rates included in the mix. Complete a CO-ECS-5, Grass Seeding Planned and Applied Worksheet, for each field or treatment unit.

Applicable Range Sites: Loamy Plains (67B, 72), Clayey Plains (67B), Siltstone Plains (67B) and Loamy Slopes (67B, 72)

Surface Soil Textures: loam, silt loam, clay loam, clay, fine sandy loam, very fine sandy loam

Common Name	Height	Neutral pH, non-calcareous percent of seed mix	High pH, calcareous † percent of seed mix
Western wheatgrass	mid	10 to 20	5 to 20
Switchgrass	tall	40 to 50	10 to 20
Big bluestem	tall	10 to 20	20 to 30
Green needlegrass	mid	0 to 20	10 to 15
Sideoats grama	mid	0 to 10	5 to 10
Yellow indiangrass	tall	10 to 20	20 to 30
Little bluestem	mid	0 to 20	10 to 20
Blue grama	short	0 to 10	5 to 10
Maximilian sunflower			0 to 10
Adapted legumes ‡		3 to 10	
Adapted native shrubs §		0 to 10 ¶	0 to 5 ¶

† High pH / calcareous soils must have a pH ≥ 7.9 and calcium carbonate ($CaCO_3$) ≥ 15 percent in the top twelve inches as stated in the published soil survey. On-site soils investigations are acceptable for determining application of the High pH, calcareous seed mix.

‡ Purple prairieclover, White prairieclover, Cicer milkvetch or Dryland alfalfa

§ Fourwing saltbush or Winterfat

¶ Shrubs are in addition to the 100% Seed Mix and are seeded at set rates. Refer to Colorado Plant Materials Technical Note No. 59, Table 5, for species-specific seeding rates.

EROSION SUSCEPTIBLE STRIPS

Erosion susceptible strip orientation shall not result in an angle of deviation that exceeds 45 degrees during the management period(s) when wind erosion should occur. The angle of deviation is the angle between an imaginary line perpendicular to the long dimension of the erosion susceptible strip and the prevailing wind erosion direction.

Measure the effective width of erosion susceptible strips along the prevailing wind erosion direction for periods when wind erosion should occur. The effective width of erosion susceptible strips is the unsheltered distance used to predict wind erosion, and shall not exceed the distance required to maintain soil erosion below the soil loss tolerance “T”.

When the orientation of erosion susceptible strips deviates from perpendicular to the prevailing wind erosion direction, correspondingly decrease the effective width of erosion susceptible strips to meet the soil loss tolerance “T”.

Determine the width and appropriate unsheltered distance for erosion susceptible strips using current approved wind erosion prediction technology. Calculations shall account for the effects of other practices in the conservation management system.