

Guide for Toolkit CPO's for CRP Continuous Conservation Practice CP22

Conservation maps will be created for every contract showing all the area that is enrolled in CRP. **Practices** that are planned for the whole field do not have to be shown on the map, but must have a schedule showing field number, acres and date practice is to be applied below the applicable practice narrative. Practices that will be applied to only parts of a field(s) **MUST** be indicated on the conservation map showing the specific location of the practice. In addition a schedule showing field number, acres and date practice is to be applied will follow the applicable practice narrative that also includes a statement indicating the practice is shown on the map. **This statement may need to be added to the narrative if the practice is normally a whole field practice.** Codes for eligible cost-share rates are shown in parentheses, (), immediately following applicable narratives.

Practices to include in all contracts for all fields:

Practice Code 327, Conservation Cover:

CRP1 Maintenance: This land as indicated on the conservation map is in the Conservation Reserve Program. This conservation plan, developed in coordination with the participant, describes the schedule of operations and conservation practices required to solve the identified natural resource concern. For CRP, the cost-share agreement is this conservation plan. Cost-share approvals will be issued only according to this conservation plan based on percent of cost, not to exceed the approved rate per unit of measure for the practice to be implemented. FSA will include non-cost-shared practices or components on the proper form, as required. Routine maintenance will be carried out as follows: Appropriate cover as required by the planned conservation practice will be maintained for life of the contract. Pest (undesirable vegetation, noxious weeds, insects, rodents, etc.) that pose a threat to existing cover or may adversely impact other landowners will be controlled, as needed based on NRCS and COC joint recommendations. CRP cover maintenance is the participant's responsibility. Participants shall maintain practices, according to the conservation plan without additional cost-share throughout the CRP-1 period. If practices fail because of a natural disaster or other reason(s), the participant must notify the local FSA Office immediately. The FSA County Committee, or designee, will review the circumstances of the failure and may authorize additional cost-share for re-establishment within policy guidelines. Certain modifications may be made to this conservation plan if determined to be in the best interest of CRP and upon approval by the FSA County Committee. Periodic or annual mowing for cosmetic purposes or generic weed control is **prohibited**. The primary nesting period for wildlife in Mississippi is April 1 through August 15 each year, CRP contract acreage may not be disturbed during this nesting period.

Practice Code 472, Access Control:

CRP2B Use exclusion: The area enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program as indicated on the conservation map shall not be harvested or grazed by domestic livestock including managed harvesting or routine grazing during the life of the contract/easement. Excessive use of fertilizers, pesticides, or other chemicals, and non-essential vehicular traffic should be avoided.

Practices to include in all contracts for all fields (cont.):

Practice Code 644, Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management:

CRP4 Mid-Contract Management: Control exotic invasive species that pose a threat to the approved cover established on the area enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program as indicated on the conservation map or may adversely impact other landowners in the area. Exotic invasive species include such species as kudzu, cogon grass, Chinese privet, Chinese tallow tree, and tropical soda apple. Clear-mowing will not be allowed as a management activity. However, mowing may be allowed as needed to prepare sites for necessary herbicide applications, strip-disking, or prescribed fire (disking fire breaks). Current recommended herbicides and methods will be applied to achieve control of undesirable species. Follow all label directions and restrictions relating to rates, timing and setbacks to insure control while reducing the possibilities of the pesticides polluting surface and ground waters. Follow all MCES and MAFES pesticide application guides, identify pests properly, select proper methods, calibrate application equipment and store and dispose of containers in a safe manner. Chemicals used must be federally, state, and locally registered. Refer to attached job sheet, MS-CRP-05. Management activities will not be done during the primary nesting season of April 1 through August 15. This practice may be eligible for cost-share as determined needed and feasible. However, all mid-contract management practices are subject to contract lifetime maximums. (If cost-share is planned in the contract then additional mid-contract management narratives in addition to this narrative will be required as appropriate from practices such as P.C.'s 314, 315, 338, and/or 647.)

Practices to use for new enrollment as appropriate for vegetative cover/practices:

(Tree/Shrub related covers/practices - Use as Appropriate)

Practice Code 391, Riparian Forest Buffer:

CRP2A CP22 - This field(s) and/or subfield(s) will be planted to a mixture of tree species suitable to the site and purpose of the buffer. A minimum of 35' is **required** to be established to hardwoods. A mixture of hardwoods, shrubs, and/or pines, as appropriate according to the soils and hydrology of the area, may comprise the remaining buffer area. If an herbaceous area is needed on the outside edge of the buffer, it will be established to perennial grasses and forbs. NRCS/MFC, as appropriate, will determine species mix, planting method, and number of seedlings per acre. A survival check will be conducted to determine if there is adequate stocking. Site preparation, as determined by NRCS, will be used to promote seedling establishment. See attached job/specification sheet(s) and reforestation map for details. This practice may be eligible for cost-share as determined needed and feasible. (391-MS-RFBH; 391-MS-RFBP; as appropriate)

CRP23 CP22 – Establish Grasses and/or Legumes: The outside edge of the buffer will have a minimum width of 20' established to a mixture of grasses, legumes and/or forbs as shown on the attached specification sheet [MS-CRP-02 (SSE) or MS-CRP-CP22-01 (JS/SS)]. Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled during establishment. This practice may be eligible for cost-share as determined needed and feasible. (391-MS-RFBG)

Practices to use for new enrollment as appropriate for vegetative cover/practices (cont.):

(Tree/Shrub related covers/practices - Use as Appropriate cont.)

Practice Code 490, Tree/Shrub Site Preparation:

CRP T/S-SP Tree/Shrub Site Preparation: Land will be prepared for establishing woody species by controlling weeds, removing slash and debris, or otherwise altering the site conditions to favor tree establishment by planting and/or natural regeneration. Proper site preparation will enhance survival and growth of seedlings and improve planter access. Site preparation will be conducted by burning, mechanical or chemical means as determined appropriate for site conditions. Selected methods will be conducted according to specifications developed or approved by the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) (See the attached MFC Forest Prescription Plan.), NRCS (See attached specifications sheet, MS-ECS-612-01(JS/SS or ESS), OR other designated representative as appropriate. Also refer to attached conservation map for details. (490-MS-HVY; 490-MS-MOW; 490-MS-DISK; 490-MS-SUB; 490-MS-CHEMOPEN; 490-MS-CHEMBAND; 490-MS-CHEMAIR; 490-MS-CHOP; 490-MS-PESP as appropriate)

(Zone 3 Perennial Grass covers/practices - Use As Appropriate)

Practice Code 315, Herbaceous Weed Control:

CRP16 Site Preparation: Site prep will be based on site conditions. Treatments may include but are not limited to burning, bush hogging, herbicides, etc. Competition control during cover establishment is essential. Appropriate site preparation and pre-emergent (and sometimes post-emergent) weed control are required to successfully establish native vegetation. Convert Bermuda grass, fescue, Johnson grass, and/or other invasive non-native grasses (total kill) to native vegetation by using approved chemicals to prepare area for planting native grasses, legumes, forbs, shrubs and/or trees. Current recommended herbicides and methods will be applied to achieve control of undesirable species. Follow all label directions and restrictions relating to rates, timing and setbacks to insure control while reducing the possibilities of the pesticides polluting surface and ground waters. Follow all MCES and MAFES pesticide application guides, identify pests properly, select proper methods, calibrate application equipment and store and dispose of containers in a safe manner. Chemicals used must be federally, state, and locally registered. This practice may be eligible for cost-share as determined needed and feasible. Refer to attached specification sheet MS-CRP-02(SS or SSE). (315-MS-GSPF)

Practice to use for re-enrollment only as appropriate for vegetative cover/practices:

391 Riparian Forest Buffer

CRP1 - CP22 - Riparian Forest Buffer - Re-enroll CRP contracts: An adequate stand of desirable vegetation currently exists and will be maintained for the life of the contract. Refer to the "CP22 Plot Sheet 100th Acre Plots". Areas will be protected from fire. Maintenance activities will not be done during the primary nesting season of April 1 through August 15.

Optional practices (as needed):

Practice Code 315, Herbaceous Weed Control:

CRP1 Mid-Contract Management: Kudzu has been identified in this field. Spot control this exotic invasive species that poses a threat to the planned cover established on the area enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program as indicated on the conservation map. This species may also adversely impact other landowners in the area. Current recommended herbicides and methods will be applied to achieve control of undesirable species. Follow all label directions and restrictions relating to rates, timing and setbacks to insure control while reducing the possibilities of the pesticides polluting surface and ground waters. Follow all MCES and MAFES pesticide application guides, identify pests properly, select proper methods, calibrate application equipment and store and dispose of containers in a safe manner. Chemicals used must be federally, state, and locally registered. Refer to attached job sheet, MS-ECS-315-02(JS/SS). Management activities will not be done during the primary nesting season of April 1 through August 15. This practice may be eligible for cost-share as determined needed and feasible. However, all mid-contract management practices are subject to contract lifetime maximums. (315-MS-CIS)

CRP2 Mid-Contract Management: Cogon grass has been identified in this field. Spot control this exotic invasive species that poses a threat to the planned cover established on the area enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program as indicated on the conservation map. This species may also adversely impact other landowners in the area. Current recommended herbicides and methods will be applied to achieve control of undesirable species. Follow all label directions and restrictions relating to rates, timing and setbacks to insure control while reducing the possibilities of the pesticides polluting surface and ground waters. Follow all MCES and MAFES pesticide application guides, identify pests properly, select proper methods, calibrate application equipment and store and dispose of containers in a safe manner. Chemicals used must be federally, state, and locally registered. Management activities will not be done during the primary nesting season of April 1 through August 15. This practice may be eligible for cost-share as determined needed and feasible. However, all mid-contract management practices are subject to contract lifetime maximums. (315-MS-CIS)

CRP3 Mid-Contract Management: An invasive herbaceous plant species has been identified in this field. Spot control this exotic invasive species that poses a threat to the planned cover established on the area enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program as indicated on the conservation map. This species may also adversely impact other landowners in the area. Current recommended herbicides and methods will be applied to achieve control of undesirable species. Follow all label directions and restrictions relating to rates, timing and setbacks to insure control while reducing the possibilities of the pesticides polluting surface and ground waters. Follow all MCES and MAFES pesticide application guides, identify pests properly, select proper methods, calibrate application equipment and store and dispose of containers in a safe manner. Chemicals used must be federally, state, and locally registered. Management activities will not be done during the primary nesting season of April 1 through August 15. This practice may be eligible for cost-share as determined needed and feasible. However, all mid-contract management practices are subject to contract lifetime maximums. (315-MS-CIS)

Optional practices (as needed) (cont.):

(Use as appropriate for management of Zone 3 only)

Practice Code 314, Brush Management:

CRP18 Mid-Contract Management: Spot control of woody exotic invasive species that pose a threat to the approved cover established on the area enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program as indicated on the conservation map or may adversely impact other landowners in the area. Exotic invasive species include such species as Chinese privet and Chinese tallow tree. Clear-mowing will not be allowed as a management activity. However, mowing may be allowed as needed to prepare sites for necessary herbicide applications. Current recommended herbicides will be applied to achieve control of undesirable species. Follow all label directions and restrictions relating to rates, timing and setbacks to insure control while reducing the possibilities of the pesticides polluting surface and ground waters. Follow all MCES and MAFES pesticide application guides, identify pests properly, select proper methods, calibrate application equipment and store and dispose of containers in a safe manner. Chemicals used must be federally, state, and locally registered. Management activities will not be done during the primary nesting season of April 1 through August 15. This practice may be eligible for cost-share as determined needed and feasible. However, all mid-contract management practices are subject to contract lifetime maximums. (314-MS-GQVM)

CRP21 Mid-Contract Management: Grassland Quality Vegetative Management: Control of invasive or undesirable hardwood vegetation on grasslands by applying recommended herbicides to release and improve species diversity of highly desirable vegetation to benefit wildlife. Current recommended herbicides and methods will be applied to achieve control of undesirable species. Follow all label directions and restrictions relating to rates, timing and setbacks to insure control while reducing the possibilities of the pesticides polluting surface and ground waters. Follow all MCES and MAFES pesticide application guides, identify pests properly, select proper methods, calibrate application equipment and store and dispose of containers in a safe manner. Refer to attached job sheet, MS-ECS-314-01(JS). Management activities will not be done during the primary nesting season of April 1 through August 15. This practice may be eligible for cost-share as determined needed and feasible. However, all mid-contract management practices are subject to contract lifetime maximums. (314-MS-GQVM)

Practice Code 647, Early Successional Habitat Development/Management:

CRP20 Mid-Contract Management - Light strip disking: Lightly disk 1/3 of each grassland field each year continuing this three year rotation throughout the life of the contract. Follow NRCS job sheet MS-ECS-645-09 for methods; objectives; frequency; soil loss considerations, such as cover disturbance, strip placement, and strip width; and co-ordination with other management activities. Management activities will not be done during the primary nesting season of April 1 through August 15. This practice may be eligible for cost-share as determined needed and feasible. However, all mid-contract management practices are subject to contract lifetime maximums. (647-MS-SD)

Optional practices (as needed) (cont.):

(Use as appropriate for management of Unrestricted and Restricted Areas)

Practice Code 391, Riparian Forest Buffer:

CRP3 Mid-contract management – Commercial Thinning Unrestricted Area: As the buffer matures, periodic harvesting (forest stand improvement) of some of the trees becomes an important activity for maintaining plant health and buffer function. Harvesting should be planned in a manner that maintains the intended purpose of the buffer. Any removal of tree and shrub products shall be conducted in compliance with Mississippi's Best Management Practices for Forestry. The CRP participant(s) may make commercial use of forest biomass resulting from customary forest stand improvement activities, such as thinning. Thinning may be conducted anytime, including during the primary nesting season of April 1st through August 15th. Thinned stands may be thinned utilizing a third row, fourth row, or fifth row thinning method. This thinning method automatically removes every third, fourth, or fifth row from the planted stand and also removes the cull trees from the remaining rows. In a fourth or fifth row thinning, more trees in the leave rows will have to be removed. These stands will be thinned back to a basal area of between 40 – 90 ft²/acre depending on the participant(s) objectives. Consult with the Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) County Forester or other registered forester for details on the thinning operation.

CRP3A Mid-contract management – Commercial Thinning Unrestricted Area: If the cover is damaged or destroyed during thinning, the appropriate cover must be re-established at the CRP participant's expense. When thinning slash is not to be dumped or piled on CRP acreage, although slash may be burned or otherwise managed with traditionally accepted forestry practices including but not limited to; scattering across the thinned area, chipping and removing, or mulching. Forest harvest trails and landings should be located before timber is thinned. Special consideration is required for the placement of all trails and landings. This management practice will help prevent soil erosion by locating roads, landings, and main skid trails away from streams and if possible they should be placed on well drained soils. Landings should be located on high, dry, level areas when possible. Include water bars as needed upon completion of the management activity if needed. Establish vegetation on abandoned forest trails and landings to improve wildlife habitat and control erosion. This practice is **NOT** eligible for cost-share. Contact local FSA office for additional information.

Optional practices (as needed) (cont.):

(Use as appropriate for management of Unrestricted and Restricted Areas)

Practice Code 391, Riparian Forest Buffer (cont.):

CRP5 Mid-contract management – Commercial Thinning 35-Foot Restrictrd Area: For all riparian forest buffers, the area extending a minimum average distance of 35 feet, measured horizontally on a line perpendicular to the watercourse/body will be designated as a restricted area. Occasional removal of some tree and shrub products such as high value trees is permitted. Partial harvest is allowed. However, for purposes of moderating water temperatures and providing detritus and large woody debris, riparian forest buffer management must maintain a minimum of 50 percent canopy cover. Individual stem treatment with herbicides to control undesired invasive species and release desirable regeneration is allowed. All forest harvesting operations shall be in compliance with Mississippi's Best Management Practices for Forestry. In the restricted area vegetation, undergrowth, forest floor, duff layer, and leaf litter shall remain undisturbed except for removal of trees that represent a hazard to streambank stability and individual trees of high economic value. Also logging and other overland equipment shall be excluded from this area, except for stream crossings and stabilization work. For unstable areas, streambank protection measures will be planned and conducted as needed in accordance with the standard for Streambank and Shoreline Protection (Code 580). Felling and skidding of trees shall be directed away from the watercourse or water body. Skidding will be done in a manner to prevent creation of ephemeral channels perpendicular to the stream. Activities conducted within these restricted areas will meet the following guidelines.

CRP5A Mid-contract management – Commercial Thinning 35-Foot Restrictrd Area: Activities Not Allowed In the 35-Foot Restricted Area during and after thinning: Roads (except perpendicular stream crossings. Minimize the number of stream or drain crossing points. Cross streams and drains only at a right angle. Never use a stream or drain channel as a skid trail or road.); Excessive rutting (Avoid rutting through streams or drains.); Log decks or landings; Blocking the flow of water through a stream or drain channel; Damage to streambank. (Harvest of any stems on the edge of a stream channel should be accomplished in such a manner as to minimize impact to the stream bank.). If the cover is damaged or destroyed during thinning, the appropriate cover must be re-established at the CRP participant's expense. This practice is **NOT** eligible for cost-share. Contact local FSA office for additional information.