

Conservation Reserve Program Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands CP31 August 2013

Planning Requirements

1. Review in field, document resource inventory information, and prepare CPA-52.
 - a) Note potential technical issues for site prep and tree planting, such as plow pans, water table, flooding frequency, erosion hazard, etc. that the North Carolina Forest Service (NCFS) should know.
 - b) A wildlife biologist should provide input to insure that species selection fulfills wildlife and wetland purposes of CP31 (CRP2-Exhibit 11, A). The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Forestry Technical Assistance Request form DOES NOT cover CP31. NRCS coordinates the CP31 practice specification parameters with Farm Service Agency (FSA), NCFS, appropriate biologists, and the Participant.
2. Plan Conservation Cover (Code 327) for all enrolled acres.
3. Plan Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612) and Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) and other practices necessary for cover establishment.
 - a) A mix of hardwood trees that includes a minimum of three mast producing species is required. At least one tree species in the mix must produce hard mast (e.g. acorns, nuts). Bald cypress does not count as a mast producing tree. Up to 20% of the tree species may be bald cypress, a combination of bald cypress and shrubs, or just shrub species.
 - b) Tree species selected for planting must be quality bare root or containerized stock adapted to the CRP fields. Natural regeneration and planting of tree seeds/nuts is not allowed.
 - c) Plan Firebreaks (Code 394) a minimum of 10 feet wide in locations needed to protect CRP trees. Consult FSA on how firebreak areas are to be accounted for in the plan and supporting documents.
4. Plan applicable CRP management requirements (below).
5. Use North Carolina Practice Job Sheets (from the eFOTG, Section IV) to furnish specifications for establishing the required vegetation, the maintenance requirements (below), and management specifications (below). The applicable CRP maintenance and management requirements can be inserted in the "Additional Specifications and Notes" section of the Tree/Shrub Establishment job sheet.
6. Sample Narratives for the Conservation Plan:
 - a) 327-CRP Narrative: Forest cover will be established and maintained in the fields shown on the plan map to conserve soil, water and wildlife resources. The vegetation will be maintained and managed according to requirements of a Conservation Reserve Program contract, administered by the Farm Service Agency. Specifications for establishment, maintenance, and management of the conservation cover are provided in the attached job sheets and the CRP contract.



- b) 612-CRP Narrative: In order to satisfy the requirements of the Conservation Reserve Program contract, trees will be established, maintained, and managed in the fields shown on the plan map according to the attached Tree/Shrub Establishment job sheet and additional specifications to be furnished by the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources.
 - c) 394-CRP Narrative: In order to satisfy the requirements of the Conservation Reserve Program contract and protect property, firebreaks will be established and maintained in the fields shown on the plan map according to the attached Firebreak job sheet.
7. Include the cover establishment and management practice(s) in the Contract Support Document.
 8. ALL Maintenance and Management activities required to meet CRP Program Policy will be included in the Conservation Plan. Maintenance activities are NOT cost sharable, but should still be included in both the Conservation Plan and Schedule of Operations. Modifications to the Conservation Plan will be completed as instructed in the CRP Modifications and Revisions Guidance document.

Minimum Management Requirements (Refer to Par. 428 of 2-CRP)

1. Manage planned firebreaks (minimum 10 ft. wide) by disking during the 3rd, 6th and 8th year of a 10 year contract between February 15th and April 15th. Schedule additional firebreak disking in years 10 and 13 of a 15 year contract.

*****NOTE*****

- Spot herbicide treatment for hardwood “weed” control of entire CRP acreage may be needed during the contract. If needed, the activity should be planned prior to year 8.
- Management activities are eligible for cost share assistance. Cost share is limited to 50% of eligible cost up to \$50.00 per acre per year, not to exceed:
 - \$100 per acre for the life of a 10 year contract.
 - \$125 per acre for the life of a contract in excess of 10 years.

Maintenance Requirements (refer to Par. 427 of 2-CRP):

1. Proper maintenance of the required cover for the duration of the contract is the participant’s responsibility. Cost share assistance is NOT available for maintenance activities outlined in the conservation plan.
2. Control state and federal-listed noxious weeds, undesirable vegetation, insects, rodents, etc. that pose threats to existing cover, or adversely impact other landowners in the area.
3. Periodic mowing and mowing for cosmetic purposes is **prohibited** at all times. Annual mowing of CRP for generic weed control is **prohibited**. Beyond the primary nesting season, occasional mowing for control of weeds, insects, or pests is permissible if included in the conservation plan. **Participant should consult with FSA concerning allowable mowing prior to officially offering acres for enrollment.**
4. Plan applicable CRP maintenance activities under such practice standards as Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645), Early Successional Habitat Development & Management (Code 647), Firebreak (Code 394), and Prescribed Burning (Code 338) and include them on the Schedule of Operations as NON-COST SHARED PRACTICES.