

\_\_\_\_\_  
Farm Bill Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contract Number

**Purpose:** To restore or enhance the desired native plant community which is consistent with the ecological site description, and which provides the most suitable habitat for the LPC and other wildlife species. Specifically, it may be used for the purpose of: 1) Removing undesirable post-settlement conifers such as juniper, Eastern red cedar or deciduous species such as mesquite and black locust which have encroached into habitats being restored for LPC habitat, 2) Improving the diversity of habitat to create a mosaic of irregular shaped grassland openings based on LPC home range, or to provide a release to allow for the native grass and forb community to be expressed.

**I. NRCS will:**

- Assist producers with a strategy for the treatment of brush consistent with NRCS Conservation Practice Standards and Specification: Brush Management Code 314.
- Prepare a brush management strategy that will support other practices in creating the desired habitat conditions of the lesser prairie-chicken and that meets the Conservation Measures outlined in the Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC) Initiative Biological Opinion providing ESA predictability.
  - Timing of treatment<sup>a</sup> (check one);
    - no restriction
    - prohibited March 1<sup>st</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Identify large brush (> 5 ft tall) that will be felled on plan map or Job Sheet
  - Evaluate the site's potential for soil erosion and invasion of undesirable species
  - Identify on plan map the practice extent that avoids other special resources
- Provide a copy of the brush management strategy on the appropriate Job Sheet and plan map for guidance on implementation.
- Identify and plan other supporting conservation practices (Critical Area Planting, Woody Residue Treatment, etc.) as needed and in accordance with the LPCI Biological Opinion.
- Certify practice meets standards and implementation specifications.<sup>b</sup>

**II. Participant will:**

- Implement brush treatment measures within the time constraints identified above and specified on the Brush Management Job Sheet.
- Minimize soil and vegetation disturbances and avoid disturbing soil in areas with a high potential for soil erosion.
- Fell large brush as identified in plan map and/or Job Sheet.
- Minimize or avoid unintentional damage to non-target plants.
- Implement brush management in accordance with Job Sheet strategy and specifications provided by NRCS.
- Confine treatment to the areas identified on the plan map.
- Notify NRCS upon completion of brush treatment.
- Defer livestock grazing following treatment until \_\_\_\_\_.

**Continued on Back**

- Regularly monitor site after implementation to ensure erosion and invasive weed issues are addressed quickly.
- Provide required maintenance to ensure the function of the practice as designed.

*a should a lek be discovered within ½ mile of project area, implementation shall not occur from March 1<sup>st</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup>.*  
*b any payment will only be processed upon practice certification by NRCS personnel.*

I understand the requirements of the practice, and my questions concerning the practice have been answered. I further understand that a failure to adhere to the above requirements may jeopardize any and all payments and ESA predictabilities provided by the LPCI Biological Opinion.

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Participant Signature

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Date