

FIREBREAK 394

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

Farm Bill Program\Participant

Farm Bill Program\Contract No.

Purpose: To create or construct an area cleared of brush and trees surrounding an area to aid in control and prevention of wildfires or to be used to conduct a prescribed burn.

Purpose (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prevent the spread of wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/> Control prescribed burns

Layout
Firebreak width:
Firebreak length:
Water bar (No. & Location):
Diversions (No. & Location):
Vegetative cover (Species):
Vegetative cover (Seeding rate and date):

General Considerations:

1. Firebreaks should consist of fire-resistant vegetation, non-flammable materials, bare ground, or a combination of these.
2. Firebreaks must be of sufficient width and length to contain the expected fire. The minimum width is 10 ft.
3. Firebreaks shall be located to minimize risk to the resources being protected, including location on the contour where practicable to minimize risk of soil erosion. Attempt to locate firebreaks near ridge crests and valley bottoms.
4. Back blade firebreaks away from the edge of streams, roads, or gullies.
5. Install water bars and water turnouts at approaches to streams, roads, and gullies to prevent channeling water from firebreaks into these areas. (*Water bars should be located OUTSIDE of the streamside management zone*)
6. Install water bars and/or water turnouts as needed on sloping terrain to prevent water from running down the firebreak with the potential for erosion.
7. Plant species selected for vegetated firebreaks will be noninvasive, comprised of attributes making them capable of retarding fire, and easy to maintain. Consider the selection of plant species that will enhance the needs of wildlife in the area.
8. Mow or graze vegetative firebreaks to avoid a build-up of excess litter and to control weeds.
9. Inspect all firebreaks for woody materials such as dead limbs or blown down trees and remove them from the firebreak.
10. Inspect firebreaks annually and rework bare ground firebreaks as necessary to keep them clear of flammable vegetation.
11. Repair erosion control measures as necessary to ensure proper function.
12. Access by vehicles should be controlled to prevent damage to the firebreak.
13. Existing roads may be used as firebreaks if properly maintained. They should be at least 10 feet wide if used for this purpose.

NRCS will:

Assist participants in preparing a plan for the construction of firebreaks setting the width and length. Information will also be included as to the number of water-bars or diversions needed to prevent erosion of the firebreaks. These specifications will be detailed in the spaces provided on this job sheet.

Assist the participant with the development of plans for supporting practices such as prescribed burning (338), forest stand improvement (666), and tree/shrub site preparation (490).

Measure and certify completed firebreaks.

Participant will:

- _____ Remove trees and shrubs creating an area free of vegetation for 10' firebreaks
- _____ Remove trees and shrubs creating an area free of vegetation for 30' firebreaks, however, herbaceous vegetation is required to be replanted.
- _____ Maintain the open firebreak as specified in the contract by disking, grading or mowing.
- _____ Follow NRCS Standards and Specifications for this practice and other cost shared practices.

****Payment will be made upon completion of the firebreak construction and post-operation check-out by NRCS personnel.**

Participant "Please READ"

I understand the requirements of this 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 associated with this contract.

Participant signature

Date

Examples of firebreaks: bare ground and vegetated in forests and rangelands.



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