

N1 ~ Wildlife: 10-100 pts

N1a ~ 10-50 pts: Wildlife habitat benefits resulting from covers; diverse native mixes scoring highest. Table 1

Table 1 – Cover Practices (CP) for the N1a Criteria	
	Point Score
CP1 – Permanent introduced grasses and legumes	
Existing stand of one to three species or planting new stand of two to three species of an introduced grass species.	10
Existing stand or planting mixture (minimum of four species) of at least 3 introduced grasses and at least one forb or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.	40
CP2 – Establishment of permanent native grasses and legumes	
Existing stand (minimum of one to three species) or planting mixed stand (minimum of three species) of at least two native grass species and at least one forb or legume species beneficial to wildlife.	20
Existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of five species) of at least three native grasses and at least one shrub, forb, or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area.	50
CP3 – Tree planting (general) 2/	
Southern pines (softwoods) – Solid stand of pines/softwoods (existing, according to state developed standards, or planted at more than 550 trees per acre).	10
Northern conifers (softwoods) – Solid stand of conifers/softwoods (existing, according to state developed standards, or planted at more than 850 trees per acre).	10
Western pines (softwoods) – Solid stand of pines/softwoods (existing, according to state developed standards, or planted at more than 650 trees per acre).	10
Southern pines (softwoods) – Pines/softwoods existing or planted at a rate of 500 to 550 per acre depending upon the site index (state-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.	50
Northern conifers (softwoods) – Conifers/softwoods existing or planted at a rate of 750 to 850 trees per acre depending upon the site index (state-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.	50
Western pines (softwoods) – Pines/softwoods existing or planted at a rate of 550 to 650 per acre depending upon the site index (state-developed standards) with 10 to 20 percent openings managed to a CP4D wildlife cover.	50
CP3A – Hardwood tree planting	
Existing or planting solid stand of nonmast producing hardwood species.	10
Existing or planting solid stand of a single hard mast producing species.	20
Existing or planting mixed stand of two hardwood species best suited for wildlife in the area.	30
Existing or planting mixed stand (three or more species) of hardwood species best suited for wildlife in the area.	50
Existing or planting stand of Longleaf pine or Atlantic white cedar - Planted at rates appropriate for the site index.	50
CP4B - Permanent wildlife habitat (corridors), noneasement	
Existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of four species) of either grasses, trees, shrubs, forbs, or legumes planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited for various wildlife species in the area. A wildlife conservation plan must be developed with the participant.	40

Existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of five species) of either predominantly native species including grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs, or trees planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited to providing wildlife habitat. Only native grasses are authorized. Introduced grasses are not authorized for and cannot be included in cover mixes for 50-point N1a scores for CP4B. A wildlife conservation plan must be developed with the participant.	50
CP4D - Permanent wildlife habitat, noneasement	
Existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of four species) of either grasses, trees, shrubs, forbs, or legumes planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited for various wildlife species in the area. A wildlife conservation plan must be developed with the participant.	40
Existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of five species) of either predominantly native species including grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs, or trees planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited to providing wildlife habitat. Only native grasses are authorized. Introduced grasses are not authorized for and cannot be included in cover mixes for 50-point N1a scores for CP4D. A wildlife conservation plan must be developed with the participant.	50
CP12 –Wildlife food plot <u>3/</u>	
Wildlife food plots are small non-cost-shared plantings in a larger area. Wildlife food plots will never be the predominant cover.	NA
CP25 –Rare and declining habitat restoration <u>4/</u>	
Existing stand or seeding or planting will be best suited for wildlife in the area. Plant species selections will be based upon Ecological Site Description data.	50
CP42 – Pollinator Habitat	
Existing stand or planting of a diverse mix of multiple species suited for pollinators.	50
Footnotes:	
<u>1/</u> Cover that is existing or will be established must accomplish the purpose of the practice.	
<u>2/</u> State Conservationist may revise the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) on planting rate to be consistent with CRP. The opening for southern and western pines must be a minimum of two acres up to a maximum of five acres in size for fields of 20 acres and larger. For smaller fields, the size is based on a percentage. Opening in northern conifers will be one-half to two acres in size. The opening may include buffers on the interior of the field. Field edges (borders) may be used if they are irregular in shape and average 30 feet in width. Natural regeneration of native herbaceous or shrubby vegetation with required maintenance may be permitted within open areas if it is consistent with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) technical standards and the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, and has concurrence from state fish and wildlife service (FWS) or U.S. FWS officials. Open areas of native grasses and/or shrub planting best suited for wildlife in the area is considered CP3 for EBI scoring and contract purposes.	
<u>3/</u> CP12 acres is not included in the weighted average point score. For example, a 50-acre offer with 45 acres planted to CP25 and five acres planted to a wildlife food plot would calculate a weighted average using only the 45 acres of the CP25 planting. This calculates as follows: 45 acres x 50 points (CP 25 EBI score) = 2,250 points. 2,250 points / 45 acres = 50 points.	
<u>4/</u> Technical practice standards for the selected habitat type must meet applicable standards and be approved by FSA at least 30 calendar days before the beginning of the enrollment period.	

N1b ~ 0/5/20 pts: % of acres offered/pollinator habitat/food plot...See **Table 2**

Table 2 - Practices for the N1b Criteria							
Practice	Point Score						
Conversion of at least 51 percent of a primarily monoculture stand to a mixture of native species that provides wildlife benefits.	20						
Establishment of pollinator habitat (CP42) that remains in the location of the CRP-1. The habitat size, shape, and composition must meet the following requirements: Size	20						
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">CRP Acres Offered</th> <th style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">Habitat Size Requirement</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">Less than 10 acres</td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">At least one acre of pollinator habitat. Habitat areas must be at least 0.5 acre.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">10 acres or greater</td> <td style="background-color: #d3d3d3;">At least 10 percent of the acres offered in pollinator habitat. Habitat areas must be at least 0.5 acre.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	CRP Acres Offered	Habitat Size Requirement	Less than 10 acres	At least one acre of pollinator habitat. Habitat areas must be at least 0.5 acre.	10 acres or greater	At least 10 percent of the acres offered in pollinator habitat. Habitat areas must be at least 0.5 acre.	
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Less than 10 acres	At least one acre of pollinator habitat. Habitat areas must be at least 0.5 acre.						
10 acres or greater	At least 10 percent of the acres offered in pollinator habitat. Habitat areas must be at least 0.5 acre.						
Annual or permanent food plot (CP12) that remains in the same location for the contract length, or rotated food plot (CP12) for which the location on the contract is moved during the contract length consistent with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide up to 10 percent of a field, not to exceed 5 acres per field.	5						

N1c ~ 0/30 pts: Wildlife Priority Zone; determined by FSA, $\geq 51\%$ offered land & N1a ≥ 40 pts

N2 ~ Water Quality: 0 - 100 pts

N2a ~ 0/30 pts: Location; $\geq 51\%$ offered acres within approved water quality zone to get 30 pts

N2b ~ 0-25 pts: Groundwater Quality; weighted average soil leach index, determined by FSA

N2c ~ 0-45 pts: Surface Water Quality; potential water erosion in watershed, determined by FSA

N3 ~ Erosion: 0-100 pts; FSA determines using Erodibility Index (EI). **Table 3**

Table 3 - Erodibility Index Points ^{1/}					
EI	Points	EI	Points	EI	Points
4	1	10	22	16	79
5	2	11	29	17	92
6	4	12	37	18	97
7	7	13	46	19	98
8	11	14	56	20	99
9	16	15	67	21+	100
^{1/} EI of less than 4 = 0 points					

N4 ~ Enduring Benefits: 0-50 pts; FSA determines the weighted average score for all practices. **Table 4**

Table 4 - Practices for the N4 Criteria	
Practice	Point Score
New hardwood tree, longleaf pine, and/or Atlantic white cedar plantings (CP3A) and CP25 (Rare and declining habitat restoration) if the plant community is existing or will be established to primarily trees.	50
Existing or enhanced stand of hardwood tree, longleaf pine, and/or Atlantic white cedar plantings (CP3A).	40
New pine/softwood tree (CP3).	30
Rare and declining habitat restoration (CP25) where the plant community is existing or will be established to a primarily grass and/or shrub complex.	25
Existing pine/softwood tree - original contract signed as CP3.	20
CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D.	0

N5 ~ Air Quality-Wind Erosion: 3-45 pts

N5a ~ 0-25 pts: FSA determines based on potential wind erosion.

N5b ~ 0/5 pts: Soil type; $\geq 51\%$ offered acres comprised of soils on FSA list

N5c ~ 0/5 pts: Air Quality Zones; $\geq 51\%$ offered acres in a zone determined by FSA

N5d ~ 3-10 pts: Carbon Sequestration; based on weighted average points per practice. **Table 5**

Table 5 - N5d Air Quality	
Practice	Point Score
CP3 (Tree planting - general), CP3A (Hardwood tree planting), and CP25 (Rare and declining habitat restoration) planted to trees.	10
CP25 (Rare and declining habitat restoration) planted to grass/shrub complexes, and CP42 (Pollinator Habitat).	5
CP4B (Permanent wildlife habitat (corridors), noneasement) and CP4D (Permanent wildlife habitat, noneasement).	4
CP1 (Permanent introduced grasses and legumes) and CP2 (Establishment of permanent native grasses).	3
CP12 (Wildlife food plot).	0

N6 ~ Cost: TBD

N6a ~ TBD: determined after enrollment deadline; offers with lower per ac rates may receive more points.

N6b ~ 0-25 pts: Offers below max rental rate receive points according to table. **Table 6**

Table 6 – N6b Offer Less Than Maximum Payment Rate	
Percent Below Maximum Payment Rate	N6b Points
1	2
2	4
3	6
4	8
5	10
6	12
7	14
8	16
9	18
10	20
11	21
12	22
13	23
14	24
≥ 15	25