

**CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)  
MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS ON ESTABLISHED COVER**

**NEBRASKA CONSERVATION PLANNING SHEET 20E (July 2021)**

Landuser: \_\_\_\_\_ OPID: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CRP Contract No./Revision No. \_\_\_\_\_ Tract No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Field No(s)/Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

**MANAGEMENT IS DESIGNED TO ADDRESS THESE FACTORS IN ESTABLISHED COVER**

1. *Ensure plant diversity and maintain proper vegetative cover.*
2. *Maintain and enhance wildlife benefits provided by the plant community.*
3. *Protect soil and water resources associated with the site.*

**REQUIRED MANAGEMENT AFTER ESTABLISHMENT**

**General Requirements and Restrictions**

Most CRP contracts are required to have a management activity (previously referred to as mid-contract management) included in the approved conservation plan. Management practices are restricted to the time periods listed for individual management practices and shall not be conducted between May 1 and July 15 to protect nesting birds and young wildlife.

- The following CP options are ‘exempt’ from required management regardless of when they were enrolled:
  - CP-5A Field Windbreak Establishment - CP-8A Grass Waterways
  - CP-16A Shelterbelt Establishment - CP-12 Wildlife Food Plots
  - CP-17A Living Snow Fence
- All required management activities must be completed before the end of year 6 for contracts that are 10 years in length and before the end of year 9 for contracts that are 15 years in length.
- Additional management activities beyond the required management may occur prior to year 8 on a 10 year contract and prior to year 13 on a 15 year contract.
- Cost share for management activities is not provided for CRP contracts enrolled in Sign-Up 52 and more recent. This must be taken into consideration when planning management with the producer.
- Management activities may be conducted more frequently than the required minimum provided that the activity is technically justified and not prohibited by 2-CRP. For example, the frequency of grazing used as a management tool is restricted. All additional management activities must be incorporated into the conservation plan.
- CRP contracts enrolled prior to Sign-Up 52 that involved re-enrolled grass likely required either an “upgrade” or management at the beginning of the contract and mid-contract management in the middle of the contract. Those two actions are still required even if those producers adopt the new management requirements and provisions.
- Starting with Sign-Up 52, only one management activity is required to be implemented during the contract period.
- Re-enrolled cover types that do not meet the cover requirements at the beginning of the contract will require an “upgrade” which is not considered management for the purposes of complying with 2-CRP requirements.
- CRP Contracts enrolled during Sign-Up 52 and after may use interseeding as an optional enhancement associated with a management activity such as tillage, burning, grazing, etc. Interseeding is only “required” when needed to maintain or achieve the required cover diversity of the applicable CP options.
- See the “Interseeding” portion of this planning sheet for requirements associated with interseeding on contracts enrolled prior to Sign-Up 52 which may be more complex.
- The use of grazing or haying as a management tool will also reference the appropriate planning sheet (PS-12).
- All management options for CRP contracts containing woody cover (i.e. CP-3A or CP-22) are outlined on Planning Sheet 20D along with proper maintenance needed for tree/shrub cover.
- For instances where a natural disaster (i.e. wildfire, flood, etc.) has accomplished the same effect as management, the scheduled management activity may be waived with proper approval of the FSA County Committee.

**Diversity Considerations**

Initial CRP Seedings to Meet Wildlife Diversity – The seed mixture used to establish the CRP cover can impact the options available for management by allowing a diverse stand to persist longer into the contract period. Criteria such as the number of wildflowers/forbs, the overall seeding rate, and the composition of grasses vs. forbs/legumes are factors. Coordinate with your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office to ensure requirements are addressed. These considerations will also apply to contracts which will have an “upgrade” activity at the beginning of the contract.

**Management Options**

Prior to NRCS developing the CRP conservation plan, the cooperator (producer) shall select, in consultation with the conservation planner, the appropriate management option(s) for the contract by completing the information below. (See additional pages for more details):

If a management practice substitution is needed at a later date, contact NRCS for guidance and requirements.

	<b>TILLAGE</b>
	<b>PRESCRIBED BURNING</b>
	<b>CHEMICAL HERBACEOUS VEGETATION CONTROL</b>
	<b>GRAZING (high stock density may be necessary to qualify as management)</b>
	<b>HAYING (may only apply to diverse stands and payment reduction may be applicable)</b>
	<b>INTERSEEDING* (only used in conjunction with one of the above treatments)</b>

**\*Interseeding following management may be required for contracts enrolled prior to Sign-Up 52 or for circumstances where the cover type does not currently meet requirements including instances where the treatment (i.e. herbicide application) reduces stand diversity.**

**I (We) concur with the selected management option above and the associated provisions for management outlined in Nebraska Conservation Planning Sheet 20F-CRP.**

COOPERATOR (Producer) Signature:		Date:	
COOPERATOR (Producer) Signature:		Date:	
NRCS Representative Signature:		Date:	
FSA Representative Signature:		Date:	

Landuser: \_\_\_\_\_ OPID: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CRP Contract No./Revision No. \_\_\_\_\_ Tract No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Field No(s)/Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

**COVER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

**Tillage Option**

Conservation Practice 647 – Early Successional Habitat Development/Management

- **NOTE:** Tillage is not an acceptable management technique on areas enrolled as CP-42 Pollinator Habitat.
- Tillage may need to be more intensive on sites with aggressive sod-forming grasses such as smooth brome or switchgrass or when excessive residual cover is present.
- Haying, Grazing, or Prescribed Burning may also be useful if applied to remove excess residue prior to tillage. Refer to the appropriate Nebraska Conservation Planning Sheet 12 for Haying or Grazing details.
- Tillage cannot be conducted between May 1<sup>st</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup> to protect nesting birds and young wildlife.
- Tillage will generally not be conducted within 50 feet of field boundaries along state and county improved roads and highways to avoid obstructing vision; or next to field boundaries with adjacent landowners to avoid annual weeds growing in proximity to adjacent crops, pasture, farmsteads, etc.
- Tillage will generally not be conducted in waterways, within 20 feet of streams or other permanent waterbodies, on extremely sandy sites, slopes greater than 20% and areas with high risk of noxious weed colonization. A minimum level of residue of 30% will be maintained on slopes greater than 9% and within 100 feet of streams or other permanent waterbodies.
- Tillage will be conducted on the contour and periodic strips of undisturbed vegetation (20’ wide or greater) will be required to prevent excessive erosion (See FOTG- Section IV (647) Early Successional Habitat Development/Management for specifications).
- Tilling wide strips (100 feet or wider) within a field is desired for wildlife habitat.
- \*Interseeding is only required when the producer desires additional wildlife benefits or when the minimum requirements of the CP practice are not met at the time of management. (See Interseeding Option section on page 9 for details on contracts enrolled prior to Sign-Up 52.)

*Time Frame for Tillage:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Field/Acres:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Identify on a plan map the acres to receive management and additional details for implementing the practice.**

**MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION:**

**I (We) certify that the management provisions outlined in Conservation Planning Sheet 20E-CRP have been met. Document the management type, acres and date completed below and sign and date to certify completion.**

Management Completed:	Acres:	Date Completed:
Tillage		
Other:		

COOPERATOR (Producer) Signature:		Date:	
COOPERATOR (Producer) Signature:		Date:	
NRCS Representative Signature:		Date:	

Landuser: \_\_\_\_\_ OPID: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CRP Contract No./Revision No. \_\_\_\_\_ Tract No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Field No(s)/Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

**COVER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

**Prescribed Burning Option**

Conservation Practice 647 – Early Successional Habitat Development/Management  
used in conjunction with Conservation Practice 338 – Prescribed Burning

- NOTE: Areas enrolled as CP-42 Pollinator Habitat larger than one acre can only have the burn applied to 50% of the acres in a given year unless the CP-42 is associated with a larger CRP contract (i.e. with a CP-2 in General Sign-Up).
- This management option may not be appropriate on extremely sandy sites or where safety risks exist.
- A prescribed burn plan that complies with state and local laws/regulations and the FOTG standard for Prescribed Burning (338) must be developed prior to the burn. In addition, a burn permit issued by local authorities must be obtained by the landowner prior to conducting the prescribed burn.
- Landowners are liable for any damage and are responsible for confining prescribed burns to their own land.
- The timing of the prescribed burn will influence the way it impacts the existing plant community. For example, burning in late April may be useful to suppress invading cool-season grasses. Applying a prescribed burn during late summer/early fall may increase forb abundance and stress invading broadleaf trees.
- \*Interseeding is only required when the producer desires additional wildlife benefits or when the minimum requirements of the CP practice are not met at the time of management. (See Interseeding Option section on page 9 for details on contracts enrolled prior to Sign-Up 52.)

*Time Frame for Prescribed Burning:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Field/Acres:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Identify on a plan map the acres to receive management and additional details for implementing the practice. Copies of the burn plan (as applied) and burn permit must be provided at the time of certification.**

**MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION:**

**I (We) certify that the management provisions outlined in Conservation Planning Sheet 20E-CRP have been met. Document the management type, acres and date completed below and sign and date to certify completion.**

Management Completed:	Acres:	Date Completed:
Prescribed Burning		
Other:		

COOPERATOR (Producer) Signature:		Date:	
COOPERATOR (Producer) Signature:		Date:	
NRCS Representative Signature:		Date:	

Landuser: \_\_\_\_\_ OPID: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CRP Contract No./Revision No. \_\_\_\_\_ Tract No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Field No(s)/Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

**COVER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

**Chemical Herbaceous Vegetation Control Option**

Conservation Practice 647 – Early Successional Habitat Development/Management used in conjunction with Conservation Practice 315 – Herbaceous Weed Treatment

- **NOTE:** Herbicide use on CP-42 Pollinator Habitat is limited to spot spraying of invasive plants or the use of ‘grass selective’ herbicides to reduce excessive grass cover that is inhibiting growth of wildflowers.
- Chemical Herbaceous Vegetation Control includes using burn-down herbicides to eradicate undesired cover (e.g. smooth brome) or suppress existing cover (chemical mowing) to allow for increased plant diversity. Herbicide label direction must be followed.
- Refer to the Nebraska WIN-PST Hazard Rating Quick Reference Guide for Commonly Used CRP Pesticides for parameters for using various herbicides and any necessary mitigation requirements.
- This option is not to be used for the purpose of noxious weed control or weed control during establishment.
- Excessive residue may need to be removed prior to chemical application using techniques such as haying, grazing, or prescribed burning. Refer to the appropriate Nebraska Conservation Planning Sheets for applicable requirements.
- \*Interseeding is only required when the producer desires additional wildlife benefits or when the minimum requirements of the CP practice are not met at the time of management. (See Interseeding Option section on page 9 for details on contracts enrolled prior to Sign-Up 52.)

*Time Frame for Application:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Field/Acres:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Identify on a plan map the acres to receive management and additional details for implementing the practice.**

**MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION:**

**I (We) certify that the management provisions outlined in Conservation Planning Sheet 20E-CRP have been met. Document the management type, acres and date completed below and sign and date to certify completion.**

Management Completed:	Acres:	Date Completed:
Chemical Herbaceous Vegetation Control		
Other:		

COOPERATOR (Producer) Signature:		Date:	
COOPERATOR (Producer) Signature:		Date:	
NRCS Representative Signature:		Date:	

Landuser: \_\_\_\_\_ OPID: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CRP Contract No./Revision No. \_\_\_\_\_ Tract No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Field No(s)/Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

**COVER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

**Grazing**

Conservation Practice 647 – Early Successional Habitat Development/Management  
used in conjunction with Conservation Practice 528 – Prescribed Grazing

Grazing may be used as “management” when applied appropriately to meet certain requirements.

- For “Whole Field” or “Block” contract acres (areas larger than 10 acres), consider the applicability of these factors:
  - Existing stand of vegetation contains a moderate diversity of plants (10 or more) represented throughout the stand
  - Broadleaf plants (collectively) represent a substantial component (25% or more) of the stand relative to grass cover.
  - Bunchgrass species are present and aggressive sod-forming species comprise a relatively small portion of the overall composition (25% or less by cover) which includes species such as smooth brome, reed canarygrass, switchgrass, etc.
- Contracts that meet these requirements above may use grazing as management to “maintain” the stand diversity provided that no grazing event exceeds 60 days and minimum grazing heights on Planning Sheet 12M apply.
- Contracts that DO NOT meet the above requirements must use “disturbance grazing” to be considered as management with high stock densities and shorter duration grazing events (i.e. 30 days) to increase diversity and reduce plant litter.
- For linear buffers (other than for “blocks” of CP-43 noted below), grazing may be used as management regardless of stand diversity for a period not to exceed 60 days.
- Grazing under emergency provisions may occur October 1-October 31, March 1-April 30 or July 16-September 15.
- Areas enrolled as CP-42 Pollinator Habitat and CP-43 Prairie Strips which exist in “blocks” of 10 acres or larger may only have 50% of those acres grazed for management in any given year. These grazing events cannot exceed 30 days.
- All grazing used for the purpose of “management” must occur outside the primary nesting season (May 1 – July 15).
- Grazing used to fulfill “management” requirements can only be used a maximum of once during a 10 year contract and up to two times for a 15 year contract. No payment reduction applies for grazing used for management.
- Use the appropriate Planning Sheet 12 for grazing in combination with this planning sheet to apply the practice.
- \*Interseeding is only required when the producer desires additional wildlife benefits or when the minimum requirements of the CP practice are not met at the time of management. (See Interseeding Option section on page 9 for details on contracts enrolled prior to Sign-Up 52.)

Time Frame for Grazing: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Field/Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

**Identify on a plan map the acres to receive management and additional details for implementing the practice.**

**MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION:**

**I (We) certify that the management provisions outlined in Conservation Planning Sheet 20E-CRP have been met. Document the management type, acres and date completed below and sign and date to certify completion.**

Management Completed:	Acres:	Date Completed:
Incidental Grazing		
Other:		

COOPERATOR (Producer) Signature:	Date:	
COOPERATOR (Producer) Signature:	Date:	
NRCS Representative Signature:	Date:	

Landuser: \_\_\_\_\_ OPID: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CRP Contract No./Revision No. \_\_\_\_\_ Tract No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Field No(s)/Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

**COVER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

**Haying Option**

Conservation Practice 647 – Early Successional Habitat Development/Management  
used in conjunction with Conservation Practice 511 Forage Harvest Management

Haying may be used as “management” when applied appropriately to meet certain requirements.

- For “Whole Field” or “Block” contract acres, the site must meet the following requirements in order to allow haying as a “stand-alone” management activity. (Areas significantly wider than 100 feet and/or larger than 1 acre.)
  - Existing stand of vegetation contains a moderate diversity of plants (10 or more) represented throughout the stand
  - Broadleaf plants (collectively) represent a substantial component (25% or more) of the stand relative to grass cover.
  - Bunchgrass species are present and aggressive sod-forming species comprise a relatively small portion of the overall composition (25% or less by cover) which includes species such as smooth brome, reed canarygrass, switchgrass, etc.
- For linear buffer practices, haying may be used as management regardless of stand diversity. Attempt to hay buffers in ‘segments’ instead of splitting the buffer in linear fashion to avoid narrow strips (< 20’) of remaining habitat.
- All haying used for management must only occur on 50% of the contract acres in any given year.
- Use the appropriate Planning Sheet 12 for haying in combination with this planning sheet to apply the practice.
- Haying under emergency provisions may only occur between March 1 and April 30 or July 16 and August 31.
- Note: Haying may be useful as “site prep” prior to applying another management practice (i.e. herbicide use).
- Mowing of vegetation instead of haying is not acceptable as management since the operation increases the amount of plant litter which suppresses growing vegetation. Mowing during the dormant season may be useful in wetland plant communities to create ‘patterns’ of structural diversity where a desired plant community already exists.
- A 25% payment reduction applies even when haying is used to accomplish management (except for Emergency).
- \*Interseeding is only required when the producer desires additional wildlife benefits or when the minimum requirements of the CP practice are not met at the time of management. (See Interseeding Option section on page 9 for details on contracts enrolled prior to Sign-Up 52.)

Time Frame for Haying: \_\_\_\_\_

Field/Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

**Identify on a plan map the acres to receive management and additional details for implementing the practice.**

**MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION:**

**I (We) certify that the management provisions outlined in Conservation Planning Sheet 20E-CRP have been met. Document the management type, acres and date completed below and sign and date to certify completion.**

Management Completed:	Acres:	Date Completed:
Haying		
Other:		

COOPERATOR (Producer) Signature:		Date:	
COOPERATOR (Producer) Signature:		Date:	
NRCS Representative Signature:		Date:	

Landuser: \_\_\_\_\_ OPID: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CRP Contract No./Revision No. \_\_\_\_\_ Tract No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Field No(s)/Acres: \_\_\_\_\_

**COVER MANAGEMENT OPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS**

**Interseeding Option**

Conservation Practice 647 – Early Successional Habitat Development/Management

- Interseeding following a management technique to set back plant succession should be reserved for producers wanting additional diversity or for stands which have degraded and no longer meet the minimum requirements of the CP option.  
 NOTE: Interseeding on contracts enrolled prior to Sign-Up 52 is still required following a management treatment unless the following conditions are present:
  - Existing stand of vegetation contains a moderate diversity of plants (10 or more) represented throughout the stand
  - Broadleaf plants (collectively) represent a substantial component (25% or more) of the stand relative to grass cover.
  - Bunchgrass species are present and aggressive sod-forming species comprise a relatively small portion of the overall composition (25% or less by cover) which includes species such as smooth brome, reed canarygrass, switchgrass, etc.
- When interseeding is to be applied, NRCS will provide details on the Herbaceous Vegetation Seeding Design Worksheet.
- The management technique(s) used must adequately suppress existing vegetation to the extent that the interseeded legumes/forbs can adequately establish. This may require a combination of treatments when practices are used which provide for limited disturbance to the existing grass stand (i.e. standard grazing methods, haying, etc.).
- Broadcast seeding is only allowed if additional management (tillage, disturbance grazing, etc.) is done prior to seeding to create adequate bare ground and the seeding rates are doubled.
- Appropriate legumes/forbs for the CP option will be included in all seed mixtures (i.e. only native species for CP-25, appropriate bloom period diversity for CP-42, etc.)

*Time Frame for Interseeding:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Field/Acres:* \_\_\_\_\_

**Identify on a plan map the acres to receive management and additional details for implementing the practice.**

**MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION:**

**I (We) certify that the management provisions outlined in Conservation Planning Sheet 20E-CRP have been met. Document the management type, acres and date completed below and sign and date to certify completion.**

Management Completed:	Acres:	Date Completed:
Interseeding	_____	_____
Other:	_____	_____

COOPERATOR (Producer) Signature:	_____	Date:	_____
COOPERATOR (Producer) Signature:	_____	Date:	_____
NRCS Representative Signature:	_____	Date:	_____