

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Landowner _____



Definition

This practice is used to establish wildlife habitat on land previously established to hardwood trees in marginal pastureland.

Purpose

Establishing an approved native grass, forb and/or shrub cover within 10 to 20 percent open areas will create or enhance wildlife habitat.

Where used

Hardwood Tree Planting on Marginal Pastureland is used on land previously retired from agricultural production that has already been established in hardwood trees. This practice does not apply to plantings for timber production or to critical area plantings.

Conservation Management System

Hardwood Tree Planting on Marginal Pastureland is usually all that is required to meet the requirements of a Conservation Management System. There may be other resource concerns present that could require other practices to also be installed to meet program requirements. In addition, wildlife

practices can be installed to enhance the wildlife benefit of the cover that will result from

this practice. Refer to the Permanent Wildlife Habitat (CP4B/D) Job Sheet for more information about establishing and maintaining permanent native grass, forb and /or shrub cover.



Wildlife

This practice is well suited for wildlife food and habitat. The composition of the tree stand will affect what type of wildlife will utilize these acres. Supplementing the tree planting with other wildlife practices or plantings will further enhance the cover.

Planning Considerations

1. Consider the long term use objectives in enhancement of, or management of vegetative cover species.
2. Consider the needs of wildlife species.

3. Consider existing wildlife habitat on land areas surrounding the field being established permanent vegetation cover.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS MN Conservation Practice Standard Wildlife Upland Habitat Management, Code 645; Wetland Wildlife Habitat Establishment, Code 644 and Tree and Shrub Establishment, Code 612.

Required Management Activities

Thinnings are required to manage the wildlife habitat areas. Thinnings remove trees that are overcrowded, suppressed, damaged or diseased. Refer to the publication *Conservation Reserve Program Forest Management Activities* for more information on mid-contract management requirements for CRP contracts.

Management Considerations

Manipulate the tree stand to favor important wildlife species to ensure that the effects on wildlife species will be beneficial, depending upon the nature of the prescribed management and the habitat requirements of the resident wildlife.

Preserve wildlife trees (snags). Wildlife trees serve many wildlife functions including: foraging sites for probers and gleaners, cavities for roosting and nesting of both primary and secondary users, hunting and song perches, and shelter.

Manipulation of habitat may impact more than the desired kinds of wildlife. These possible effects should be evaluated and taken into consideration during the planning process.

Many wildlife species prosper at some stage of plant succession before climax. Others are dependent on climax communities. Knowledge of the local plant communities, plant species successional stages, and associated animals is essential.

Nutrients

Nutrients are not required for trees already established. However, if management goals provide that there are going to be openings in the tree stand established to herbaceous material some fertilizer or lime may be needed.

Use of Pesticides

Only those pesticides which are labeled for the specific use will be recommended. University and Extension publications and specific label

instructions will be used for guidance on herbicide selection and use.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Prevent animal damage and browse by rodents, mice, rabbits, deer, gophers and other wildlife which adversely affect woody vegetative cover.

2. Prevent disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season for wildlife as established by FSA.

3. Control all noxious weeds as identified by state and local laws, by: a) treating with chemicals per label directions, or b) spot mow before seed heads form. When possible delay use of control measures until after August 1st to protect nesting wildlife. Spot treatment on problem areas may be authorized by FSA during the primary nesting season.

4. Protect the areas from haying and grazing. Fences may need to be constructed and maintained to exclude livestock throughout all 12 months of each year.

5. Replace dead trees and shrubs as necessary, and control undesirable vegetative competition to promote a fully functional tree planting. Control weed and grass competition around trees and shrubs for a minimum of 2 to 4 feet using cultivation, mulch, or chemical control measures. Mechanical cultivation needs to be kept shallow to avoid damaging tree and shrub root systems.

6. Periodically inspect for rilling, gulying, and concentrated flow erosion. Repair disturbed areas and re-vegetate areas that may need to have permanent cover.

7. Avoid direct spray applications and spray drift when applying herbicides on adjacent cropland.

8. Control insects and diseases damaging the vegetation. If you use pesticide to treat a problem read and follow label directions carefully.

9. Do not apply animal/livestock waste or municipal and industrial waste.

10. Do not use the planted area for field roads, turn areas, or other uses that will damage or destroy the vegetation.

11. Prune trees, as necessary, to remove dead or damaged branches, maintain a single leader

and upright form.

**Expired Hardwood Tree Planting on Marginal Pastureland
Conservation Practice Specifications**

CP32

Landowner _____ FSA Contract Number _____

Prepared By _____ Planned Application Date _____

Tract Number(s) _____ Field Number(s) _____ Total Acres _____

Total Acres _____ x cost/acre _____ = Project Cost Estimate x Cost Share Rate _____ = Estimated
Cost Share Amount: _____

Additional Operation and Maintenance _____

Required Mid-contract Management Activities

Contract year of activity

- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5

Purpose

- Establishing approved grass, forb and/or shrub cover

Planned Management Activity _____

An aerial view, or if needed an aerial photo of the area can be shown below. Other relevant information, such as complementary practices, and adjacent field or tract conditions including structures and crop type, and additional specifications may be included.

Additional Specifications and Notes

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