Windbreak/Shelterbelt/Living Snow Fence Establishment CP5A/CP16A/17A

Conservation Practice Job Sheet (ver 02/07)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Landowner_____

Definition

Windbreak/shelterbelt planting is establishing and maintaining tree and shrub cover to protect soil and water resources on land retired from agricultural production and provide for wildlife benefits and provide protection from wind and manage snow deposition.

Purpose

Windbreak/shelterbelt planting is used to protect soil resources, control snow deposition, prevent wind damage to farmsteads, provide shelter for livestock, conserve heating and cooling energy, beautify the area, or improve an area for wildlife.

Where used

Windbreak/shelterbelt establishment planting is used on land adjacent to feedlots, farmsteads or open fields in need of protection from the wind. This practice does not apply to plantings for ornamental purposes or Christmas tree production.

Conservation Management System

Windbreak/shelterbelt plantings are often only one of a number of practices that would be required on a management unit to meet the requirements of a Conservation Management System (CMS). There may be other resource concerns present and could require other practice installations to meet program requirements. In addition other wildlife practices can be installed to enhance the wildlife benefit that will result from this practice.

Wildlife

This practice is well suited to provide quality wildlife habitat. Tree species selected for planting will affect what type of wildlife that will benefit from these acres. Supplementing the tree plantings with other wildlife practices, plantings or seeding will further enhance the cover.

Planning Considerations

1. Plantings will be based on a NRCS developed or approved tree-planting plan.

2. Select tree species best adapted to the climate and soils of the area/field being established to trees.

3. Select tree species that meet the wind and snow management objectives for the land.

4. Consider wildlife food and cover requirements.

5. Consider diversity of the actual planted areas in relation to adjacent land uses and cover types.

Specifications

Planting plans and planting activities will be consistent with NRCS requirements. NRCS has technical responsibility for plan development and practice certification. Additional provisions may be entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice standard (380 *Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment*.

Required Management Activities

To ensure continued stand vigor and health, wildlife benefits and plant diversity, management activities are required for this practice. Refer to "*Conservation Reserve Program Forest Management Activities*" for guidance on this requirement.

Management Considerations

On fields with a high potential for erosion, additional efforts may be required to minimize erosion until tree cover establishment. Practices such as cover crops, contour planting, etc. should be considered in the planning process for inclusion into the plan. Noxious and highly competitive weeds may require control to allow establishment of the planting. Mechanical or chemical control methods used must be consistent with erosion control requirements and pesticide label requirements. Manage the tree planting according to DNR planting plan requirements.

Nutrients

Nutrients are not required for tree planting. 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 in those areas.

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, gullying, 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.

12. Under dry conditions consider supplemental watering. Young seedlings require extra water. until roots fully develop. When you water give each tree 5-15 gallons of water.

Contact NRCS representatives for advice concerning critical problems such as planting failure, severe erosion areas, weed infestations etc.

Windbreak/Shelterbelt/Living Snow Fence Conservation Practice Specifications **CP5A/CP16A/17A**

Landowner_____ **FSA Contract Number**_____

Prepared By_____ **Planned Application Date**_____

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

Additional Operation and Maintenance

_____

_____

_____

Required Mid-contract Management Activities

☐ **10-year contract**

Contract year of activity

☐ Year 4

☐ Year 5

☐ Year 6

Planned Management Activity

_____

_____

_____

☐ **15-year contract**

Contract year of activity

☐ Year 4 ☐ Year 7

☐ Year 5 ☐ Year 8

☐ Year 6 ☐ Year 9

Planned Management Activity

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Windbreak/Shelterbelt/Living Snow Fence- Job Sketch or Map CP5A/CP16A/17A

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