# CRP Mid Contract Management
## Iowa Job Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Des Moines, Iowa
July 2010

**Name:**_____

**See attached aerial photo for areas to be treated.**

**Fields(s):**_____

**Tract:**_____

### Purpose
Mid contract management (MCM) will be conducted on certain Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practices. The purpose of MCM is to manage established plant communities in order to maintain an early successional stage. Management will:

- Increase plant community species and structural diversity.
- Provide wildlife habitat for those species that use early successional stage vegetative habitat.
- Provide habitat for declining species.
- Remove duff and control woody vegetation.

### Where it applies
- MCM applies to the listed CRP practices.
- CRP contracts beginning with 26th CRP sign-up are required to include an MCM component in the Conservation Plan of Operations (CPO).
- CRP contracts prior to 26th sign-up are not required to do MCM, but participants may voluntarily request to revise their CPO to include MCM.
- MCM activities must be completed before year 7 of a 10 year contract and before year 10 of a 15 year contract.
- MCM, voluntary or required, is cost shared by FSA at a 50 percent rate..
- CRP contracts used for biomass are not required to perform MCM. Biomass contracts follow CPO.
- Apply to the vegetative cover, but not to areas planted to trees or shrubs that may have been established at participants own expense to enhance erosion control, water quality, wildlife, and other types of cover, unless required by the District Forester or NRCS.
- MCM must not be performed during the CRP nesting or brood rearing season, May 15-August 1.
- Fall disking should not be done after September 30.

### Mid Contract Management (MCM) Guidance
- Eligible MCM options include: burning, spraying, disking, and interseeding.
- Managed haying or grazing with 25 percent rental rate payment reduction may be used to reduce duff prior to spraying, disking, or interseeding MCM options. Request this option from the local FSA office prior to use.
- Time periods for managed haying and grazing
  - For Managed Haying (August 2 to September 30)
  - For Managed Grazing Split Option
    (**Early:** April 1 to May 14)
    (**Late:** August 2 to September 30)
- NRCS standards and specifications (327, 338, 595, 647) will be used to apply MCM options.
- **Interseeding**. According to NRCS FOTG (327) Conservation Cover standard, interseeding requires that existing vegetation be weakened prior to interseeding. For CRP, the stand may be weakened by disking, prescribed fire or chemical application prior to the interseeding operation.
  - IF the stand was hayed or grazed, this also meets the criteria that stand be weakened prior to interseeding.
- Time periods for CRP interseeding of introduced forbs and legumes (August 2 to September 30) (March 1 to May 15)
- Time periods for CRP interseeding of native forbs and legumes (April 15 to July 1)

## MCM Options

Participants must choose **ONE** MCM option from those listed under their CRP practice.

MCM will be applied to 1/3 of the contract acreage in the years listed, except for the following:

- Burning may be applied to a portion **OR** the entire contract, based on the burn plan.
- For contracts of 20 acres or less, MCM may be applied to the entire contract in the chosen year.
- For CP-33, MCM is applied to all acres twice during the contract. All acres will be treated both in contract years 3 and 6.

* For CP 9, 23, 23A, 27, 37, 38A and CREP, MCM is required for the wetland and buffer unless the area is inundated by water during the prescribed timeframe for conducting MCM activities.

**CP1 (Introduced Grasses) and CP2 (Native Grasses)** – MCM will be applied in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract.
- Eligible MCM options (**Choose one**)

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Disk** | | |
| | **Disk & Interseed** | | |
| | **Spray** | | |
| | **Spray and Interseed** | | |
| | **Burn** | | |
| | **Burn and Interseed** | | |
| | **Interseed Only*** | | |

* See Interseeding on page 1.

**CP33 (Upland Habitat Buffers)** – MCM will be applied to all acres during **both** contract years 3 and 6.
Eligible MCM options (**choose one**) Note: Only native forbs are to be used for interseeding on CP33.

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Disk** | | |
| | **Disk & Interseed** | | |
| | **Burn** | | |
| | **Burn & Interseed** | | |

**CP10 (Existing Grasses--Introduced or Native)** – MCM will be applied in years 1, 3, and 5 of the contract.
*All grasses*– eligible MCM options (**Choose one.**)

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Disk & Interseed** | | |
| | **Spray** | | |
| | **Spray and Interseed** | | |
| | **Burn** | | |
| | **Burn and Interseed** | | |
| | **Interseed Only*** | | |

* See Interseeding on page 1.

**CP4B and CP4D (Permanent Wildlife Habitat)** – For 10-year contracts, MCM will be applied in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract. For contracts over 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9. Apply to the vegetative cover but not to areas planted to trees or shrubs unless required by the District Forester or NRCS. (Choose one.)

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Disk** | | |
| | **Disk & Interseed** | | |
| | **Spray** | | |
| | **Spray and Interseed** | | |
| | **Burn** | | |
| | **Burn and Interseed** | | |
| | **Interseed Only*** | | |

* See Interseeding on page 1

**CP25 (Prairie Restoration)** –
For 10-year contracts MCM will be applied in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract. For contracts over 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9.
Eligible MCM options (**choose one**)
Note: Managed haying or grazing is not allowed on CP25.
Only natives can be used for interseeding on CP 25

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Disk** | | |
| | **Disk & Interseed** | | |
| | **Burn** | | |
| | **Burn & Interseed** | | |

**CP3, 3A, 11 (Trees – Trees Already Established)** – MCM is Tree Thinning, as determined by the District Forester.

***CP23 (Wetland Restoration) Re-enrollment and extension(REX)-15 years including the buffer and associated practices** – MCM will be applied in years 1, 2, and 3, and again in years 7, 8, and 9.

*All Grasses* – Options (**choose one**)

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Disk** | | |
| | **Disk & Interseed** | | |
| | **Burn** | | |
| | **Burn & Interseed** | | |

Fire is an inappropriate tool for organic soils. You must check with NRCS before burning.

***CP9 (Shallow Water Area for Wildlife) including the buffer** – MCM will be applied in year 5 of the contract. Options (**choose one**)

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Disk** | | |
| | **Disk & Interseed** | | |
| | **Burn** | | |
| | **Burn & Interseed** | | |

Fire is an inappropriate tool for organic soils. You must check with NRCS before burning.

***CP23, CP23A (Wetland Restoration) and *CP37 (Duck Nesting Habitat) including the buffer** – For 10-year contracts MCM will be applied in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract. For contracts over 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9.

*All Grasses* – Options (**choose one**)

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Disk** | | |
| | **Disk & Interseed** | | |
| | **Burn** | | |
| | **Burn & Interseed** | | |

Fire is an inappropriate tool for organic soils. You must check with NRCS before burning.

***CP27, CP28 (Farmable Wetland Program)** – For 10-year contracts MCM will be applied in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract. For contracts over 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9.

*All grasses* – Options (**choose one**)

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Disk** | | |
| | **Disk & Interseed** | | |
| | **Burn** | | |
| | **Burn & Interseed** | | |

Fire is an inappropriate tool for organic soils. You must check with NRCS before burning.

**CP31 (Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands)** – MCM is thinning, if needed, at direction of Forest Service or NRCS.

**REX Re-enrollments (Existing Practices) – 10 years :** MCM will be applied in years 1, 3, and 5.

*All Grasses* – Options (**choose one**)

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Disk** | | |
| | **Disk & Interseed** | | |
| | **Spray** | | |
| | **Spray and Interseed** | | |
| | **Burn** | | |
| | **Burn and Interseed** | | |
| | **Interseed Only*** | | |

• Interseeding Only applies to CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D and CP10.
*See Interseeding on page 1.

*Trees Already Established* – MCM is Tree Thinning, as determined by the District Forester.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**REX Extensions – (Existing Practices)** – contract extensions may be modified to include voluntary MCM which must be implemented before the start of the last 3 years of the contract.

*All Grasses* – Options (**choose one**)

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Disk** | | |
| | **Disk & Interseed** | | |
| | **Spray** | | |
| | **Spray and Interseed** | | |
| | **Burn** | | |
| | **Burn and Interseed** | | |
| | **Interseed Only*** | | |

• Interseeding only applies to CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D and CP10. * See Interseeding on page 1.

*Trees Already Established* – MCM is Tree Thinning, as determined by the District Forester.

**CP32 (Expired Hardwood Planting on Marginal Pastureland)** MCM will be tree thinning if needed as directed by the State Forester or NRCS.

**CP22 (Riparian Buffer)** MCM will be tree thinning if needed as directed b the State Forester or NRCS.

***CP23 (CREP-including the buffer)** —For contract more than 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5,7, and 9. Fire is an inappropriate tool for organic soils. You must check with NRCS before burning.

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Disk** | | |
| | **Disk & Interseed** | | |
| | **Burn** | | |
| | **Burn & Interseed** | | |

**CP21 (Filter Strip)**—MCM will be applied in years 4, 5 and 6 of the contract. For contracts more than 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5, 7 and 9.
Fire is an inappropriate tool for organic soils. You must check with NRCS before burning.

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Disk & Interseed** | | |
| | **Burn** | | |
| | **Burn & Interseed** | | |

**CP29 (Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Habitat Buffer)**–For 10 year contracts apply MCM in years 4,5, and 6 of contract. For contracts more than 12 years in length apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9 of contact.

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Disk** | | |
| | **Disk & Interseed** | | |
| | **Burn** | | |
| | **Burn & Interseed** | | |

**CP30 (Marginal Pastureland Wetland Buffer)**–For 10 year contracts apply MCM in years 4,5, and 6 of contract. For contracts more than 12 years in length apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9 of contact.

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Disk** | | |
| | **Disk & Interseed** | | |
| | **Burn** | | |
| | **Burn & Interseed** | | |

Fire is an inappropriate tool for organic soils. You must check with NRCS before burning.

**Note:**

- Spraying has been removed from options associated with wetland practices and water quality practices.
- When spraying vegetation, treatment should be applied at the lowest label rate.
- Spraying natives forbs and grasses, whether interseeding or not, should only be done in narrow strips, less than 2 feet wide, interspersed with much wider non-sprayed strips.
- Spraying products such as glycophoshate at rates that do not kill but only suppress vegetation as a form of chemical mowing is not recommended by NRCS staff since this practice tends to produce herbicide resistant weed species.
- A written Burn Plan that meets the technical specifications of the Iowa NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 338 - Prescribed Burning must be developed at participant expense prior to conducting a burn.
- USDA no longer develops the actual burn plan in Iowa.
- USDA is *not responsible* for liability associated with burning CRP cover.

***CP 38B (Wetland Restoration, Wetland Restoration Non Flood Plains, Duck Nesting Habitat, and Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife)** – For 10-year contracts MCM will be applied in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract. For contracts over 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9 of the contract.

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Disk | | |
| | Disk & Interseed | | |
| | Burn | | |
| | Burn & Interseed | | |

Fire is an inappropriate tool for organic soils. You must check with NRCS before burning.

**CP 38C (Hardwood Tree Planting, Bottomland Timber Establishment on Wetlands)** – MCM will be thinning if needed at direction of the District Forester or NRCS.

**CP 38E (Establishment of Permanent Native Grass, Permanent Wildlife Habitat Corridors-noneasement, Permanent Wildlife Habitat noneasement)** – For 10-year contracts MCM will be applied in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract. For contracts over 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9 of the contract. Apply to the vegetative cover but not to areas planted to trees or shrubs unless required by District Forester or NRCS.

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Disk | | |
| | Disk & Interseed | | |
| | Spray | | |
| | Spray and Interseed | | |
| | Burn | | |
| | Burn and Interseed | | |
| | Interseed Only* | | |

* See Interseeding on page 1.

**CP 38E (Vegetative Cover-Native Grass Already Established)** – MCM will be applied in years 1, 3, and 5 of the contract.

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Disk | | |
| | Disk & Interseed | | |
| | Spray | | |
| | Spray and Interseed | | |
| | Burn | | |
| | Burn and Interseed | | |
| | Interseed Only* | | |

* See Interseeding on page 1.

**CP 38E (Rare and Declining Habitats)** – For 10-year contracts MCM will be applied in years 4, 5, and 6 of the contract. For contracts over 12 years in length, apply MCM in years 5, 7, and 9 of the contract.
Managed Haying and Grazing is not allowed. Natives must be used to interseed.

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Disk | | |
| | Disk & Interseed | | |
| | Burn | | |
| | Burn & Interseed | | |

**CP 38E (Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds)** – MCM will be applied in **both** years 3 and 6 of the contract. Natives must be used to interseed.

| | MCM Options | Field # | Acres |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Disk | | |
| | Disk & Interseed | | |
| | Burn | | |
| | Burn & Interseed | | |

NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Helping People Help the Land**

**www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov**