

## CRP Management Activity Recommendations Summary of August 30, 2012 Meeting

### Attendees:

Bill Powell – NCFS      John Isenhour – NCWRC      Susan Woodall – FSA      Don Riley – NRCS  
Bill Pickens – NCFS      Mark Jones – NCWRC      Tim Jones – FSA      Robert Horton – NRCS  
Phil Wallace – NCFS      Kendall Smith – USFWS

### **CP1 – Establishment of Permanent Introduced Grasses & Legumes:**

#### Current Criteria

- **EBI Subfactor N1a – Cover**
  - 10 points = existing stand of 1 to 3 species or planting new stand of 2 to 3 species of an introduced grass
  - 40 points = existing stand or planting mixture of at least 3 introduced grasses and at least 1 forb or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area
- **Management Activity**
  - Light strip disk following contours across 50% of the stand once during years 1-3 of the contract and once during years 4-8 of the contract. Light strip disking should be completed between February 15<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup>, planting a temporary cover on the disked strips is optional.
  - Prescribe burn on at least 50% of the stand once during years 1-3 of the contract and once during years 4-8 of the contract. Prescribed burn should be completed between October and March.

#### Recommendation

- **Management Activity**
  - **Subfactor N1a 10 point offers:** Disk a minimum of 50% of the CRP acreage following contours three (3) times during the CRP contract (i.e. – disk in years 2, 4, & 6). Disking should be planned in a manner that ensures all acreage is disked at least once during the contract. Spot herbicide treatment for hardwood control of entire CRP acreage will be planned once during the contract prior to year 8.
  - **Subfactor N1a 50 point offers:** Disk 50% of CRP acreage annually on a rotational basis following contours so that entire acreage is disked once every other year. Disking will begin in year 2 of the contract and will continue through year 8. Spot herbicide treatment for hardwood control of entire CRP acreage will be planned once during the contract prior to year 8.

## CP2 – Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses:

### Current Criteria

- **EBI Subfactor N1a – Cover**
  - - 20 points = existing stand (minimum 1 to 3 species) or planting new mixed stand (minimum of 3 species) of at least 2 native grass species and at least 1 forb or legume species beneficial to wildlife
    - 50 points = existing stand or planting mixed stand (minimum of 5 species) of at least 3 native grasses and at least 1 shrub, forb or legume species best suited for wildlife in the area
- **Management Activity**
  - Light strip disk following contours across 50% of the stand once during years 1-3 of the contract and once during years 4-8 of the contract. Light strip disking should be completed between February 15<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup>, planting a temporary cover on the disked strips is optional.
  - Prescribe burn on at least 50% of the stand once during years 1-3 of the contract and once during years 4-8 of the contract. Prescribed burn should be completed between October and March.

### Recommendation

- **Management Activity (For All CP2 Offers)**
  - Prescribe burn entire stand three (3) times during the contract. Prescribed burn should be completed between October and March. Spot herbicide treatment for hardwood control of entire CRP acreage will be planned once during the contract prior to year 8.

**OR**

- Light disk following contours across entire stand three (3) times during the contract. Disking should be completed between February 15<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup>, planting a temporary cover on the disked areas is optional. Spot herbicide treatment for hardwood control of entire CRP acreage will be planned once during the contract prior to year 8.

*\*\*\*Disking option should only be used when (a) burning is not feasible or (b) when disking is needed to enhance plant species composition (i.e. – dense stands of switchgrass).\*\*\**

## CP3 – Tree Planting:

### Current Criteria

- **EBI Subfactor N1a – Cover (Southern Pines)**
  - 10 points = solid stand of pines planted at more than 550 trees per acre
  - 50 points = solid stand of pines planted at a rate of 500 to 550 trees per acre with 10-20% openings managed to CP4d standards.
- **Management Activity**
  - See 2-CRP NC Exhibit 11, NC pages 12 and 12.1

### Recommendation

#### CP3 OFFERS REQUIRING TREE ESTABLISHMENT

- **EBI Subfactor N1a – Cover (Southern Pines)**
  - 10 points = solid stand of pines planted at a rate not to exceed 450 trees per acre.
  - 50 points = solid stand of pines planted at a rate not to exceed 450 trees per acre with 10-20% openings managed to CP4d standards.

**\*\*\*NC is currently operating under this guidance\*\*\***

- **Management Activity**
  - **Subfactor N1a 10 point offers:** Install/layout firebreaks prior to planting and disk three (3) times during the CRP contract (i.e. – disk in years 2, 4, & 6). Spot herbicide treatment of the firebreak can be planned once during the contract prior to year 8 if needed to control vegetation.
  - **Subfactor N1a 50 point offers:** Install/layout firebreaks and disk three (3) times during the CRP contract (i.e. – disk in years 2, 4, & 6). Spot herbicide treatment of the firebreak can be planned once during the contract prior to year 8 if needed to control vegetation **AND** wildlife openings will be disked or burned three (3) times during the CRP contract. Spot herbicide treatment for hardwood control will be planned once during the contract prior to year 8 for all openings.

## CP3 – Tree Planting (continued):

### CP3 OFFERS WITH ALREADY ESTABLISHED TREES

#### Recommendation

- **Management Activity**
  - **Subfactor N1a 10 point offers:** Thin entire contracted acreage to a basal area equal to 70-80% of the Site Index on the site.  
*\*\*\*Thinning must be completed by end of year three (3) of contract. \*\*\**
  - **Subfactor N1a 50 point offers:** Disk firebreaks three (3) times during the CRP contract (i.e. – disk in years 2, 4, & 6). Spot herbicide treatment of the firebreak can be planned once during the contract prior to year 8 if needed to control vegetation. Wildlife openings will be disked or burned three (3) times during the CRP contract. Spot herbicide treatment for hardwood control will be planned once during the contract prior to year 8 for all openings.

#### OR

- Thin entire contracted acreage to a basal area equal to 50-70% of Site Index on the site AND burn the entire contracted acreage at least two (2) times during the contract prior to year 8.  
*\*\*\*Thinning must be completed by end of year three (3) of contract. \*\*\**

## CP3A – Hardwood Tree Planting:

#### Recommendation

- Continue to allow alternative management options other than burning for longleaf under CP3A. This will help differentiate CP36 from CP3A to staff and participants without restricting opportunity to participate in program if burning is infeasible.

## **CP4D – Permanent Wildlife Habitat, Noneasement:**

### **Current Criteria**

- **EBI Subfactor N1a – Cover**
  - - 40 points = existing or planting mixed stand (minimum of 4 species) of grasses, trees, shrubs, forbs or legumes planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited for various wildlife species in the area
    - 50 points = existing or planting mixed stand (minimum of 5 species) of predominantly native species including grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs, or trees planted in mixes, blocks, or strips best suited to provide wildlife habitat
- **Management Activity**
  - See 2-CRP NC Exhibit 11, NC page 25

### **CP4D OFFERS WITH GRASSES AND FORBS**

#### **Recommendation**

- **Management Activity (For All CP4D Offers)**
  - Prescribe burn entire acreage three (3) times for 10 year contracts and four (4) times for 15 year contracts. Spot herbicide treatment for hardwood control of entire CRP acreage will be planned once during the contract prior to year 8 for 10 year contracts and twice prior to year 14 for 15 year contracts.

**OR**

- Disk entire acreage three (3) times for 10 year contracts and four (4) times for 15 year contracts. Disking should be completed between February 15<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup>, planting a temporary cover on the disked areas is optional. Spot herbicide treatment for hardwood control of entire CRP acreage will be planned once during the contract prior to year 8 for 10 year contracts and twice prior to year 14 for 15 year contracts.

## **CP4D – Permanent Wildlife Habitat, Noneasement (continued):**

### **CP4D OFFERS WITH SHRUBS AND TREES**

#### **Recommendation**

- **Management Activity (For All CP4D Offers)**
  - If trees, shrubs and plants are fire tolerant, prescribe burn entire acreage three (3) times for 10 year contracts and four (4) times for 15 year contracts. Spot herbicide treatment for hardwood control of entire CRP acreage will be planned once during the contract prior to year 8 for 10 year contracts and twice prior to year 14 for 15 year contracts.
  - OR**
  - If trees, shrubs and plants are fire intolerant or if NRCS consultation with NCFS determines that burning is prohibited by local ordinance or is not practical due to extreme hazard to life or property, spot herbicide treatment for hardwood control of entire CRP acreage will be planned three (3) times for 10 year contracts and four (4) times for 15 year contracts.

## CP33 – Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds:

### Current Criteria

- **Management Activity**
  - One of the following management activities shall be performed during the life of the contract but no later than year 8.
    - Every year through 8<sup>th</sup> year:
      - Disk 30-50% of buffer in strips or blocks every year
      - OR
      - Prescribed burn 30-50% of buffer in rotation

### Recommendation

- **Management Activity**
  - Disk or Burn 30-50% of buffer in strips or blocks annually in rotation through year eight (8) of the contract. Disking/burning should be planned in a manner that ensures all acreage receives disturbance during the contract. *\*\*\*It is recommended that disturbance occur on 50% of acreage annually for most fertile sites in order to control woody competition. \*\*\**

**AND**

- Spot herbicide treatment for hardwood control of entire CRP acreage will be planned once during the contract prior to year 8.

## **CP36 – Longleaf Pine Establishment:**

### **Current Criteria**

- **Management Activity**

- The following management activities should be performed during the life of the contract but no later than year 8 for 10 year contracts and year 12 for 15 year contracts:
  - disk firebreaks AND
    - 1st – 3rd year – 1st Prescribed Burn
    - 4th – 8th year – 2nd Prescribed Burn
    - 10th – 12th year – 3rd Prescribed Burn.

**Note:** For LIMITED documented exceptions when NRCS and/or NCFS determine that burning is prohibited by local ordinance, or is not practical due to extreme hazard to life or property, disk unplanted space between every 4th and 5th rows on the same schedule as burning.

### **Recommendation**

- **Management Activity**

- The following management activities should be performed during the life of the contract but no later than year 8 for 10 year contracts and year 12 for 15 year contracts:
  - Disk firebreaks AND
    - 1st – 4th year – 1st Prescribed Burn
    - 5th – 8th year – 2nd Prescribed Burn
    - 10th – 12th year – 3rd Prescribed Burn.