

Conservation Cover

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon

327 OR-JS
December 2010

Client: Michael Galassi – NEST# 5404361701MKB



Photo courtesy of NRCS



Photo courtesy of NRCS

Definition

Establishing and maintaining permanent vegetation to protect soil and water resources.

Purposes

Conservation cover may be applied as a part of a resource management system to accomplish one or more of the following:

- Reduce erosion and sedimentation.
- Improve water quality.
- Enhance wildlife habitat.

Where Used

Conservation cover may be used on land to be retired from agricultural production requiring permanent protective cover, and

on working lands needing permanent protective cover.

Resource Management System

Conservation cover is normally established concurrently with other conservation practices as part of a resource management system. These practices may include nutrient and pest management, irrigation water management, mulching, grass waterways, filter strips, diversions and grade stabilization structures.

Practice Specifications

Practice specifications are provided to assure that conservation cover meets the resource needs and producer's objectives. These requirements are recorded on 327 OR-Conservation Cover Specification Sheet.

CONSERVATION COVER SPECIFICATION SHEET

Client: Michael Galassi

Farm/Tract: Farm 1342/Tract 1937

Location: T6N R5W Sec. 14

County/SWCD: Columbia County

Prepared By: C. Reidy

Date: 3/26/2020

DESIGN APPROVAL:

Practice Code	Practice Name	Lead Discipline	Controlling Factor	Units	Job Class				
					1	2	3	4	5
327	Conservation Cover	ESD-Agron	1) Practice Purpose	Purpose	Non-wildlife <input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pollinator <input type="checkbox"/>	All <input type="checkbox"/>	All <input type="checkbox"/>
			2) Precipitation	Inches	Irrigated <input type="checkbox"/>	>18 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<=18 to >=12 <input type="checkbox"/>	<12 <input type="checkbox"/>	All <input type="checkbox"/>

For all controlling factors: Planner will check the box to indicate the JAA level needed for design

Design Approved by: /s/ _____

Date: 3/26/2020

Job Title: State Wetlands Planner**CLIENTS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT:**

The Client acknowledges that:

- a. They have received a copy of the specification and understand the contents and requirements.
- b. The following information must be provided to NRCS by the client before this practice can be certified as applied:
 - Site preparation performed, seeding depth and seeding method, plant species/cultivars used and amounts per acre.
 - Fertilizer(s) applied at or after planting, weed and/or pest control performed.
- c. It shall be the responsibility of the client to obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice.

Accepted by: /s/ _____

Date: [Click here to enter text.](#)**CERTIFICATION:**

I have completed a review of the information provided by the client and certify this practice has been applied.

Certification by: /s/ _____

Date: [Click here to enter text.](#)Job title: [Click here to enter text.](#)

CONSERVATION COVER SPECIFICATION SHEETClient: Michael GalassiDate: 3/19/2020**Purpose (check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduce Erosion and Sedimentation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enhance Wildlife Habitat
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Improve Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

Site Conditions

Soil:	Slope:	%	Slope Aspect:	Effective Rainfall 55_inches
Eilertsen silt loam	0-3		S, N, E	
Natal silty clay loam	0-3		Depression	

Species Mixes

Refer attached Galassi WRE seed mix document for individual seed mixes. Refer to attached map for planting locations for each seed mix.

Seed Mix Summary Table

Seed Mix	Acres
Upland meadow/understory	17.1
Micro high	4.7
Micro low	2.0

CONSERVATION COVER SPECIFICATION SHEET**Establishment Details**

General:

Three seed mixes will be used to seed a total of 23.8 acres of the project area as listed in the table above. Upland areas presently consist of a mixture of introduced pasture grasses and forbs and have been periodically hayed over the years. Existing vegetation within the uplands will be controlled and the area will be seeded to an upland meadow/understory mixture. Trees and shrubs will be planted into the seeding area within six planting blocks. The upland meadow/understory mixture will serve as a nurse crop to the trees and shrubs, provide pollinator habitat, as well as develop into the future forest understory. Reed canarygrass is the predominant plant species within the wetland area. It forms a virtual monoculture across much of the existing wetland. Reed canarygrass cannot be completely controlled at this site, however, establishment of native woody and herbaceous species on micro highs and native wetland emergent species in micro lows will help break up this monoculture and improve the overall vegetative composition and structure of the wetland area. The micro high seed mix will be used to revegetate micro highs, ditch fills, and topsoil stockpile areas. The micro low mixture will be seeded in the micro lows. Site preparation and establishment measures for the establishment of native herbaceous cover are described below.

Site Preparation :

1. 9/2020 – Fall - Biomass reduction – Standing vegetation will be mowed and removed from all seeding areas in the late summer.
2. 9/2020 - Late Summer/Fall herbicide application –The footprints of all seeding areas will be delineated and sprayed with appropriate herbicides per the ORWAC Programmatic Biological Opinion. Herbicides approved for use in wetlands will be used in the micro high and micro low areas.
3. 10/2020 – Late Summer/Fall Disking – After the late summer/fall herbicide application has been applied and herbicide has had time to act, the all seeding areas will be disked twice to break up the existing vegetation.
4. 6/2021 - Spring herbicide application – Once site conditions allow, the treated areas will again be sprayed with an approved herbicide to kill any recently germinated weed seedlings and re-sprouts that survived the initial herbicide treatment. After the herbicide has had time to take effect, microtopographic restoration can take place.
5. 9/2021 - Late Summer/Fall herbicide treatment 2 - the treated areas will again be sprayed with an approved herbicide to kill any recently germinated weed seedlings and re-sprouts that survived the previous treatments.
6. 10/2021 – Late Summer/Fall Harrow – After the Fall herbicide treatment 2 has had time to act, harrow the footprints of all seeding areas to break up large clods and further prepare for seeding and tree/shrub establishment.
7. 6/2022 - Spring herbicide application 2 – Once site conditions allow, the treated areas will again be sprayed with an herbicide approved for use in wetlands to kill any recently germinated weed seedlings and re-sprouts that survived the previous treatments.
8. 9/2022 - Fall herbicide treatment 3 - the treated areas will again be sprayed with an herbicide approved for use in wetlands to kill any recently germinated weed seedlings and re-sprouts that survived the previous treatments.

After seeding native herbaceous species and planting trees/shrubs, spot treat any undesirable weeds as needed until native plantings are well established.

Seedbed:

Seedbed should be weed free prior to any seeding. Prior to seeding the upland meadow/understory areas, the ground should be packed to create a firm seed bed to ensure proper seed depth and to eliminate air spaces which could desiccate newly emerged seedlings. The seed bed is considered firm when a footprint sinks less than ½ inch. Since the micro high and micro low seeding areas will be broadcast seeded, the seedbed surface can be somewhat rough and will not need to be packed prior to seeding.

Seeding Depth:

In the upland meadow/understory areas, seed will be drilled no deeper than 1/8-inch. Additionally, every other seed tube should be pulled such that approximately half the seed lands directly on the soil surface. The micro high and micro low areas will be broadcast seeded. It may be necessary to bulk up the seed mix with a carrier such as ground corn cob or rice hulls to facilitate even distribution of seed.

CONSERVATION COVER SPECIFICATION SHEET

Planting Method:

A no-till drill with at least two seed boxes, one capable of handling large seed (e.g. blue wildrye, Sitka brome) and one capable of handling small seed (e.g. yarrow, Canada goldenrod) will be used to distribute seed in the upland meadow/understory planting areas. Every other seed tube will be removed so that approximately 50% of the seed falls directly on the surface on the ground. The micro high and micro low areas will be broadcast seeded with an ATV drawn or manually propelled broadcast seeder. After seeding, all seeding areas will be packed to facilitate seed-soil contact. Seeding will take place in the fall after the final herbicide treatment and prior to soils becoming waterlogged from fall rains.

Fertilizer: None.

Mulching Required: Yes; No. If Yes see attached 484 OR-Specification, Mulching.

Weed and/or Pest Control Requirements: Refer to Herbaceous Weed Control (315) Chemical/Mechanical job sheets for weed/pest control requirements.

Operation and Maintenance

Management and Maintenance Requirements: During the first year (or two) of establishment, undesirable weeds may become a problem. Seeded areas may need to be mowed and or spot sprayed as necessary to prevent undesirable weeds from producing seed and further competing with the Conservation Cover seedings. Refer to Herbaceous Weed Control (315) job sheet for details. The site will be monitored for noxious weeds or other problematic species. If found, NRCS will assist with the development of a weed management plan.

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