

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**FSA** Farm Service  
Agency Online



## Tennessee Job Sheet Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) CP11 – Trees Already Established



In General Signup 33, program applicants must select the desired practice from a list of practices. The type of cover to be established earns points in a method or ranking called the Environmental Benefit Index (EBI). The purpose of the CP11 practice is to maintain a stand of trees in a timber planting previously established on cropland as practice CP-3 or CP-3A to enhance environmental benefits. This practice is available only through a re-offer of expiring or expired program acres. Existing tree stands shall NOT be offered as CP3 or 3A.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

Existing tree areas available as a practice option for the CRP earn one of the following ranking point categories:

- 10 points – N1a-solid stand of pines or non-mast producing hardwood species.
- 20 points – N1a- solid stand of a single hard mast-producing species.
- 30 points – N1a- mixed stand (2 species) of hardwoods best suited for wildlife.
- 50 points – N1a – mixed stand (3 or more species) of hardwoods best suited for wildlife.
- 50 points – N1a -Pine/softwood established at, or thinned, to provide 10 to 20 percent openings of native herbaceous plants and/or shrub planting or natural regeneration best suited for wildlife.

Wildlife habitat on areas in existing trees can be enhanced through the following practice options (there is a maximum point score of 20 points for this ranking category):

- 20 points – N1b Wildlife water development (where water is a limiting factor for wildlife)\*
- 5 points – N1b Annual or permanent food plot (10% of a field up to 5 acres in size)

\* Available water cannot be present within a 1320 foot radius of the approximate center of the fields offered and the producer must be willing to create a wildlife watering facility without cost share.

### SPECIFICATIONS

The following specifications are required and will be specified in the conservation plan as part of the CRP contract.

1. Planned openings shall be either established to an approved 50 point mixture from CP4D (50 point native grass mixture only) or allowed to naturally regenerate (slopes of 12% or less).
2. Openings shall be a minimum of 10% up to a maximum 20% of practice acres. For fields larger than 20 acres, openings shall be a minimum 2 acres in size up to a maximum of 5 acres. For fields less than 20 acres, openings will be on the percentage basis. Openings may be established as field perimeters not to exceed an average width 30 feet.
3. Thinning, if required, must be completed within 3 years of contract date. Trees must be removed from the site.
4. The participant shall ensure an adequate approved forest and opening cover is maintained to control erosion for the CRP-1 period.
5. At least one management practice in the mid-contract period will be required to be performed for pine stands with planned openings. Options for the openings include strip disking, strip herbiciding, legume interseeding, or prescribed burning. A prescribed burn may be conducted in the pine timber. Hardwood contracts do not require a mid-management treatment to be performed.
6. Firebreaks must be established prior to burning as required in the conservation plan. The breaks will not be constructed closer than 2 feet from the existing trees. Openings which include shrubs or other fire-sensitive species will be protected during the burning.