

Fact Sheet



United States
Department of
Agriculture

CP 38E Colorado Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse SAFE Program

Purpose

The goal of the Colorado Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse Program (CPSTP) is to improve nesting and brood rearing cover for Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse (PSTG) populations through the re-enrollment and enhancement of existing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) fields that serve as critical habitat for the bird's population in the state of Colorado.

Total acres for the program are: 5,000

Sign-Up Time Frame

The program sign-up will take place at the local FSA offices, and it will run on a continuous basis.

This means that eligible land may be enrolled at any time until the program acreage goal is met.

Eligible Land and Practices

To be eligible for this practice the land must be located within the following counties: Logan, Morgan, and Weld and the be located in the SAFE designated area.

In addition, the land must meet the basic CRP eligibility requirements.

Applicable CRP Practices Include:

CP 10 (Vegetative Cover-Grass-Already Established)
CP12 (Wildlife Food Plots)

The minimum size for a food plot is 1/4 of an acre and the maximum size is 5% of the acreage enrolled.

Rental Rates

Rental rates are based on three predominant soils on land offered for enrollment. FSA bases the rental rates on the average value of dry land cash rent for the past three years, and adjusts rates to reflect the relative productivity of soils with each county.

Cost-Share Payments

CCC will pay up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of establishing a permanent cover.

Contracts

The effective date of the CRP contract is the first of the month following the month of approval. In certain circumstances, procedures may defer the effective date for up to six months.

Contracts cannot be less than ten years, and they cannot be more than fifteen years.

Additional Practice Requirements

Each existing CRP grass stand eligible for enrollment might be subject to a conservation plan that may require light tillage, interseeding with approved forbs and grasses or prescribed burning to protect or enhance existing PSTG as a condition of tract eligibility.

Managed grazing is authorized if only with concurrence of a NRCS wildlife biologist and NRCS range conservationist. Managed grazing can only be conducted 1 out of 5 years, and grazing activity must be conducted outside the primary nesting season of March 15th through July 15th.

Wildlife watering facilities and tree plantings are **not** authorized.

Midcontract management activities are authorized.

Cooperating Agencies

- Centennial Conservation District
- Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW)
- Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- Morgan County Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)
- South Platte Conservation District
- West Greeley Conservation District