

Dear _____:

You recently enrolled an existing tree stand in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). As part of your offer, you agreed, for the benefit of wildlife, to complete one or both of the following within three years of the effective date of the CRP contract:

1. To thin the existing trees.
2. To create and maintain 15 to 20 percent openings of native herbaceous and/or shrub plantings best suited for wildlife.

Some producers have experienced difficulty in locating contractors to perform the agreed upon thinning. Based on this difficulty, we have authorized relief. Therefore, you may be eligible to:

1. Modify your existing CRP contract to extend the expiration date for 3 years and be allowed up to 6 years from the effective date of that CRP contract to complete the required thinning and/or creation of open areas. Your total overall CRP contract payment will not increase; however, the total remaining payments will be prorated to provide a payment each year of the revised contract including the extended CRP contract period.
2. Terminate all or part of your CRP contract without refund of payments received.

You may continue your CRP contract with no modifications or extension of time to complete the agreed upon thinning and/or creation of open areas for the benefit of wildlife. No other relief is authorized.

The request to modify your CRP contract to extend the expiration date or terminate all or part of the acreage without refund of payments must be completed with all signatures by September 1, 2000. If approved, the CRP contract extension will become effective on October 1, 2000.

I encourage you to contact the Service Center to discuss the options available, answer any questions you may have, and complete the necessary forms.

Sincerely,