

For: State and County Offices

FY 2012 CRP State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Updated Acreage Allocations

Approved by: Acting Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A Background

On October 8, 2012, the Secretary announced that FSA has approved the allocation of 400,000 acres available to support SAFE. With this announcement, FSA has fully allocated the Secretary’s 1-million-acre initiative to restore grasslands, wetlands, and wildlife that was announced in March.

The Food Security Act of 1985, Section 1231(a), as amended, provides authority to enroll land in CRP through September 30, 2012. No legislation has been enacted to reauthorize or extend this authority.

State Offices are allocated specific acreage amounts and instructed to ensure that their respective allocations are not exceeded.

Notice CRP-715 provided updated acreage allocations for several continuous CRP conservation practices (CP’s) under the 1-million-acre initiative, excluding CP38, SAFE. SAFE requests for additional acres or modifications to existing projects were to be submitted to CEPD no later than **COB June 1, 2012**. Several State Offices have requested SAFE acreage adjustments/increases and/or modifications to SAFE project areas or technical practice descriptions to improve program delivery. Those requests, along with current SAFE enrollment offers loaded into the system, and conservation activity, have been reviewed.

B Purpose

This notice:

- provides updated acreage allocation for CP38, SAFE for each State and Puerto Rico (Exhibit 1)
- serves as the response to all incoming memoranda about SAFE allocations and modifications to existing projects.

Disposal Date	Distribution
February 1, 2013	State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices

Notice CRP-727

1 Overview (Continued)

C Policy

Changes associated with this notice include the following.

- Reducing SAFE acres allocated to certain SAFE projects with limited conservation activity and producer interest and returns those acres to the SAFE national reserve.
- Allocating SAFE acres to new SAFE projects with significant conservation potential and increasing allocations for certain existing SAFE projects based on acreage requests and sufficient justification. Acreage requests for new projects were granted in-full. Given high demand, existing project requests of up to 1,000 acres were granted in-full, and all other existing project requests were allocated approximately 30 percent of their request, but not less than 1,000 acres.
- Providing authority to:
 - Colorado Lesser Prairie Chicken, Shortgrass Prairie, and Western Slope Grouse SAFE projects to expand project boundaries
 - Illinois Grassland/Wetland Habitat Restoration in Prairie Landscapes SAFE to modify project boundaries and technical practice description
 - Kansas Lesser Prairie Chicken SAFE to modify project boundaries
 - Kansas Upland Game Bird SAFE to modify enrollment size requirements, as requested
 - Minnesota Back Forty Pheasant Habitat SAFE to allow managed harvest, routine grazing, and emergency haying and grazing, according to 2-CRP, subparagraph 742 A, if authorized in the approved conservation plan
 - Missouri Sand Grassland Restoration SAFE to modify their technical practice description
 - Montana Sagebrush-Grassland Restoration Area SAFE to expand the project boundaries, modify the eligible CP's, and rename the project Montana Sagebrush-Grassland Restoration Area
 - Nebraska Upland Bird SAFE to modify enrollment size requirements, as requested, and to expand Greater Prairie Chicken in Tallgrass Prairie SAFE project boundaries as requested

Note: Nebraska's request to modify SAFE SIP rates was **not** approved.

Notice CRP-727

1 Overview (Continued)

C Policy (Continued)

- North Dakota Coteau-Drift Prairie Waterbank SAFE to expand project boundaries
- Ohio Pheasant SAFE to expand project boundaries
- Oklahoma Mixed Grass SAFE to expand project boundaries
- Tennessee Bobwhite Habitat Restoration SAFE to modify project area boundaries.
- Requiring State Office to reject CRP-1's for offers loaded into the SAFE web-based system not approved within 6 months of the date the producer signs CRP-2C.
- Advising State Offices that SAFE State Office requests to modify SAFE technical practice descriptions, practice eligibility requirements, or other project administrative procedures to improve SAFE efficiency and effectiveness will be reviewed continuously.
- Informing State Offices that review of requests for additional SAFE acres from the SAFE national reserve is suspended until further notice. State Offices should **not** submit requests for additional SAFE acres from the national reserve until the National Office issues a notice.

D Contact

Direct any questions about allocations to Beverly Preston, CEPD, by e-mail at beverly.preston@wdc.usda.gov.

2 Action

A State Office Action

State Offices **must**:

- provide a copy of this notice to NRCS State Conservationists and State Foresters
- review this notice with NRCS, State Technical Committee, and other conservation partners
- cooperate with SAFE project sponsors and conservation partners to generate data sharing agreements, as needed, to support the required SAFE monitoring programs

Notice CRP-727

2 Action (Continued)

A State Office Action (Continued)

- review updated acreage allocations for each SAFE project in Exhibit 1 and ensure that enrolled acreage does **not** exceed updated acreage allocations
- provide a copy of this notice to County Offices and ensure that County Offices understand the provisions of this notice.

B County Office Action

County Offices shall follow the provisions in this notice.

See Notice CRP-724 for not processing offers and not approving CRP contracts for all signup types after September 30, 2012, because no legislative authority has been enacted to reauthorize or extend authority to enroll land in CRP after September 30, 2012.

FY 2012 CP38, SAFE

The following table provides updated acreage allocation for CP38, SAFE.

State	Project	Original Acreage Allocation	Change in Allocation	Final Allocation
AL	Black Belt Prairie	3,800		3,800
AR	Trees	5,000	1,200	6,200
AR	Grass	7,700	1,000	8,700
AR	Wetlands	3,500	-1,000	2,500
CO	Lesser Prairie Chicken	21,500		21,500
CO	Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse	6,475		6,475
CO	Shortgrass Prairie	11,475		11,475
CO	Western Slope Grouse	12,600		12,600
GA	Restoring Native Pine Savannah	8,800	3,000	11,800
ID	Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse	94,300	11,800	106,100
ID	Western ID Upland Game Bird *New*	-	25,000	25,000
IL	Prairie	15,600		15,600
IL	Spoon River	3,600		3,600
IL	Mercer County	800	1,000	1,800
IL	Sangamon	2,000		2,000
IN	American Woodcock *New*	-	1,000	1,000
IN	Indiana Bat	3,100	1,000	4,100
IN	Henslow's Sparrow	5,075	1,000	6,075
IN	Northern Bobwhite	7,875	1,000	8,875
IN	Ring-Necked Pheasant *New*	-	4,000	4,000
IN	Sedge Wren/ Grasshopper Sparrow	3,050	1,000	4,050
IA	Early Successional/ Neotrop	1,200		1,200
IA	Gaining Ground	36,250	5,900	42,150
IA	Grand River	2,200		2,200
IA	Pheasant Recovery *New*	-	50,000	50,000
KS	Upland Game Birds	30,100	14,800	44,900
KS	Lesser Prairie Chicken	30,000	22,100	52,100
KY	Early Successional/ Bottomland	8,600	3,000	11,600
LA	Bayou Bartholomew	700		700
LA	Gulf Coast Prairies	1,000		1,000
ME	Upland Sandpiper	2,250		2,250
ME	New England Cottontail	-		-
MI	Diverse Grassland	7,500		7,500
MI	Native Pollinators	2,500		2,500
MN	Back Forty Pheasant	33,900	14,800	48,700
MS	Black Bear	2,450		2,450
MS	Black Belt Prairie	5,000		5,000
MS	Bobwhite Quail	9,450	1,000	10,450

FY 2012 CP38, SAFE (Continued)

State	Project	Original Acreage Allocation	Change in Allocation	Final Allocation
MO	Bobwhite Quail	17,650	7,400	25,050
MO	Delta Stewardship *New*	-	6,000	6,000
MO	Nesting Habitat	1,500		1,500
MO	Sand Grassland	3,250	1,800	5,050
MT	Pheasant Winter Cover	15,200	4,400.0	19,600
MT	Prairie Pothole	8,500	5,900.0	14,400
MT	Sagebrush	1,000	1,500	2,500
NE	Tallgrass Prairie	21,450	7,400	28,850
NE	Upland Bird	30,950	22,100	53,050
NJ	Agricultural Heritage	300	150	450
NJ	Grassland	400	350	750
NJ	Raritan-Piedmont	300	250	550
NM	Lesser Prairie Chicken	2,600		2,600
NV	Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement *New*	-	400	400
NY	Grassland	4,900		4,900
NC	Grassland	2,600		2,600
ND	Coteau-Drift Prairie Water	20,000	16,200	36,200
ND	Habitat for Pheasants	18,000	11,800	29,800
ND	Sagebrush Restoration	1,000	1,000	2,000
ND	Tallgrass Prairie	6,090	1,000	7,090
OH	Big Island/ Killdeer	925	1,000	1,925
OH	Grand River/ Mosquito	-		-
OH	Grasslands for Pheasants	6,600	22,100	28,700
OH	Killbuck	-		-
OH	Kitty Todd	200	500	700
OH	LaSuAn Grasslands	1,950	4,400	6,350
OH	Paint Creek	675	1,000	1,675
OH	Western Lake Erie	400	1,000	1,400
OH	Southern Grassland	850	1,000	1,850
OK	Mixed Grass Prairie	15,100		15,100
OR	Heppner Mule Deer	5,500		5,500
PA	Seasonal Pools/ Early Successional	2,600		2,600
PR	Sub-tropical Forest	1,300		1,300
SC	Northern Bobwhite	2,300		2,300
SD	Sagebrush Restoration	500		500
SD	Pheasants	50,200	14,800	65,000
SD	Western SD Grassland Wildlife	18,000	14,800	32,800
TN	Grass	10,000	1,500	11,500
TN	Trees	300		300
TN	Wetlands	400		400

FY 2012 CP38, SAFE (Continued)

State	Project	Original Acreage Allocation	Change in Allocation	Final Allocation
TX	Gulf Coast Prairies	500		500
TX	Mixed Grass	78,400	44,300	122,700
TX	Rio Grande Thornscrub	2,000		2,000
VA	Culpeper Basin	500		500
VA	Longleaf Pine	1,000		1,000
VA	Rare and Declining Habitats	300		300
VA	Riparian Buffer	500		500
WA	Coastal Roosevelt Elk	-		-
WA	Columbia Basin	150		150
WA	Ferruginous Hawk *New*	-	20,000	20,000
WA	Palouse Prairie	728		728
WA	Sage and Sharp-tail Grouse	63,000		63,000
WA	Shrub-steppe	7,322	8,900	16,222
WI	Central WI Grassland	1,000		1,000
WI	Glacial	2,250		2,250
WI	Shortgrass	2,000		2,000
WI	SW Grassland	5,000		5,000
WI	Western prairie	2,500		2,500
WY	NE Wyoming	10,000		10,000
	National Reserve	10,010		24,460
	TOTAL	850,000	385,550	1,250,000