

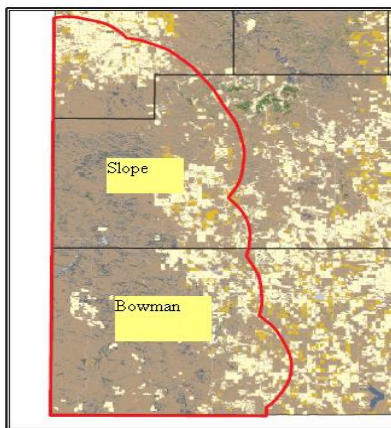


# State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) CP38 Southwest North Dakota Sagebrush Restoration (ver 10/07)

## Purpose

The purpose of the project is to restore cropland to sage grouse breeding and nesting habitat in order to maintain or increase populations of sage grouse.

Up to 1,000 acres of cropland will be enrolled in CRP in order to meet the project goal. Cropland may be enrolled in Bowman, Slope and Golden Valley Counties within the designated area outlined in red on the map below.



The cover may include either native or already established grasses, legumes, and forbs. Seed mixes will include big sagebrush seed. Food plots of alfalfa or other forbs may also be established.

## CRP Contract

CRP applications will be accepted on a continuous basis until the 1,000-acre allocation is reached. Applications will be accepted at the local Farm Service Agency office.

The CRP contracts may be for a 10 to 15 year period.

## Cropland Eligibility

In addition to being in the designated area, cropland must have been cropped or considered cropped in four of the years 1996 through 2001. Years that the land was enrolled in CRP are considered cropped. Land that has expired from CRP or land that is in the final year of an existing CRP contract may be enrolled in the SAFE project.

## Program Benefits

CRP program participants will receive annual rental payments. Rates are established for each type of soil in a county. The per-acre rental rates will be based on the three predominant soils within the offered area.

FSA will reimburse participants up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing perennial cover.

In addition, a practice incentive payment (PIP) equal to 40 percent of the cost to establish cover and a signup incentive payment (SIP) equal to \$100 per acre may be available in some cases from FSA. The SIP and PIP are one-time payments.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will also provide incentives for landowners who allow public access through the Department's Private Land Open To Sportsman (PLOTS) program. They will also provide cost share to establish food plots.

## Cover Establishment

Cover should be seeded within 12 months of the CRP contracts effective date.

Participants required to complete cover management activities that are site specific and ensure:

- Plant diversity
- Wildlife benefits
- Protection of soil and water resources.

Management of cover will be required once for ten-year contracts and twice for 15-year contracts. The cover management activity for a ten-year contract must be completed before the eighth year of the contract. Cost share may be available for these activities.

Managed haying and prescribed burning will not be authorized on the enrolled acreage with the exception of food plot acreage.

Managed grazing will be allowed three years after the cover has been seeded.

