



SAFE

Oklahoma Continuous Conservation Reserve Program (CCRP) State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Practice CP38E Mixed-Grass Prairie Restoration



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What is CP38E

Conservation Practice 38E,-Habitat Restoration for Northern Bobwhite and Monarch Butterfly Populations in the Mixed-Grass Prairie Region of Oklahoma, is a new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continuous signup practice offered by the USDA Farm Service Agency. The purpose of this practice is to restore mixed-grass prairie type association in Western and Central Oklahoma that will improve the habitat suitability for a number of grassland obligate species. Practice CP38E is part of a national initiative called State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) that targets restoration of vital wildlife habitat.

CP38E's Goal and Benefits

Oklahoma has been approved to enroll 15,100 acres in the SAFE program. Through this practice, participants will improve habitat stability for a number of grassland obligate species. This practice will also indirectly improve water and air quality, reduce soil erosion and provide hunting and nature viewing opportunities.

Which Land is Eligible?

The project boundaries (SAFE area) includes parts of specific hydrological units in Alfalfa, Beaver, Beckham, Blaine, Caddo, Canadian, Carter, Cleveland, Comanche, Cotton, Creek, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Garfield, Garvin, Grady, Grant, Greer, Harmon, Harper, Jackson, Jefferson, Kay, Kingfisher, Kiowa, Logan, Love, Major, McClain, Murray,

Noble, Okfuskee, Oklahoma, Osage, Payne, Pawnee, Roger Mills, Stephens, Tillman, Texas, Washita, Woods, and Woodward Counties. The map to the right provides a more detailed outline of the specific areas approved. For land to be eligible, it must:

- 1) Be located within the SAFE area.
- 2) Have been planted or considered planted by FSA for at least four out of the six years from 2012 to 2017.

What Do I Have to Do?

Landowners or operators, who wish to participate in CP38E, must be willing to enter into a 15-year Conservation Reserve Program Contract with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) , and to plant the offered acreage to native grasses based on the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats Standards and Specifications. The plant species and rates will be determined using current market availabilities and ecological site descriptions for the offered acreage.

Additional requirements may include:

- Planting a diverse mix of at least 8 grasses and 10 forb/legume species.
- Forbs and/or legume will comprise 30-50% of the seed mix.
- At least 60% of the forbs planted will be those considered preferred by the monarch butterfly.
- On soils that would have historically supported shrubs, at least 1% of the acreage will be planted to sand plum.
- Sand plum plantings will be done on 3'-5' spacings with a minimum patch size of 30' x 50' and a maximum size of 120' x 120'. Patches will be separated by at least 200'.

How Do I Enroll?

Landowners or operators may visit or call their local FSA office in order to determine if their land qualifies for this CRP practice. Contact numbers for the counties involved in the eligible SAFE for practice CP38E are available at <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

For notice when a CRP Continuous Signup is available Text OkCounty to 372669. Example: OkPayne

Required Management Activities **Producer Incentives**

Selection of one of the required management activity of prescribed burning, mowing, grazing, strip spraying, or strip disking shall be completed two or three times during the life of the contract based on whether the land is actively cropped or existing permanent cover at the time of enrollment, to maintain the desired plant community. The selected management practice will be completed during specified periods of the contract.

Prescribed burns will only be used after sufficient plant growth has occurred, and a fire is warranted to maintain the desired plant community.

Prescribed mowing heights will not be less than six inches, and half of the field will be left un-mowed during application. Mowing will take place between the dates of February 1 and March 15.

Strip disking maybe used to increase stand diversity and bare ground. Strip disking will be completed between December 1st- March 1st.

Strip Spraying can reduce grass composition and increase forbs. Fields with grass having residue amounts of 5000 lbs/ac shall be evaluated, during their growing season, for signs of dead plant crowns and smothering of grass plants causing stand deterioration. Rotate sprayed areas across the field. Leave an unsprayed strip approximately 30 feet wide along water bodies.

Grazing may be used according to the CRP routine management provisions. Grazing under emergency grazing authorization will be included in the frequency. Annual grazing is not authorized for SAFE. Grazing may be conducted during the primary nesting season at a 50% reduction in stocking rates.

CP38E offers many incentives to establish native mixed-grass prairie. Landowners and/or operators may be eligible to receive the following benefits:

- Up to 50% cost share for establishment of the permanent vegetative cover which includes native grass, forbs, legumes, and shrubs.
- An annual CRP rental payment based on the soil rental rates for the three predominate soils of the offered acreage.

Incentives

Signup incentive payments (SIP's) and practice incentive payments (PIP's) are authorized for new land enrolled through continuous CRP signup into SAFE practices.



Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)



Northern Bobwhite Quail (*Colinus virginianus*)

Oklahoma State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Map



Legend
 I-35
 SAFE Area

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United States Department of Agriculture
 Farm Service Agency
 Oklahoma State Office

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