

## Example Operation & Maintenance for Continuous Cover Program

Landowner would sign to the following plan

### **CONSERVATION COVER - OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

I agree to the following for the next 15 years:

- Mowing or herbicide applications shall be used as necessary to control competitive weeds. Mowing should be done when introduced grasses reach 6-8 inches tall and before the weeds develop matured seed. The residue from mowing shall be uniformly distributed or removed as necessary to avoid smothering the new seedlings. Native warm season grasses should be mowed no lower than 7 inches.
- If wildlife habitat enhancement is a purpose, practice maintenance activities shall not disturb cover during the nesting period (May 15 to August 1) for desired wildlife species. Exceptions shall be made to spot treat necessary weed invasions prior to them setting seed.
- Maintenance measures must be adequate to control the establishment and spread of noxious weeds and other invasive species.
- To benefit insect food sources for grassland nesting birds, spray or other means to control noxious weeds shall be done on a "spot basis" to protect forbs and legumes that benefit native pollinators and other wildlife.

### **PRESCRIBED GRAZING - OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

I agree to the following for the next 15 years:

#### Operation

- Prescribed grazing will be applied on a continuing basis throughout the livestock occupation period of all planned grazing units.
- Adaptive management decisions will be made as needed and documented within the plan to ensure that the goals and objectives of the prescribed grazing strategy are met.

#### Maintenance

- Monitoring data and grazing records will be used on a regular basis within the prescribed grazing plan to ensure that objectives are being met, or to make necessary changes in the prescribed grazing plan to meet objectives.
- All facilitating and accelerating conservation practices (e.g., WI NRCS CPSs, Fence (Code 382), Pest Management (Code 595), Brush Management (Code 314), Forage and Biomass Planting (Code 512), etc.) that are needed to effect adequate grazing and/or browsing distribution as planned by this practice standard will be maintained in good working order and operated as intended.