

North Dakota is a prairie state that is dominated by herbaceous vegetation that can be extremely flammable on a yearly basis. Many rural homeowners find themselves surrounded by highly flammable non-cropland and CRP acres. These areas can become hazardous during dry periods every year.

A vegetative firebreak is a management practice that is designed to create a fuel break between the grassed area and the homesite. This firebreak is different from the traditional bare ground firebreak in that herbaceous and woody vegetation are used to break up the flammable fuels. By using a combination of short grasses and less flammable woody vegetation, landowners can create an area that rural fire departments can use to protect their rural homesite.

While wildfires will always be a fact of life for rural North Dakotans, installing vegetative firebreaks can significantly reduce the fire hazard to rural homeowners.



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VEGETATIVE FIREBREAKS

A cost-shareable practice under the
Multi-Resource Stewardship
Program



Potential for up to 75% cost-share for
approved practices.



Vegetative Firebreak Design

A vegetative firebreak will have the following design to meet cost-share requirements.

Zone 1: a strip of short grass species designed to reduce flame heights. Acceptable species: durar hard fescue, blue gramma, buffalograss, side oats gramma (no greater than 20% in the mix), purple prairieclover (no greater than 10% in the mix), prairie coneflower (no greater than 10% in the mix), cinquefoil or vinca.

Zone 2: A strip of bare ground. (i.e. tilled earth, road, etc.). This zone is meant to eliminate wildfire fuels removing the potential for fire advancement beyond this point.

Zone 3: A minimum 3 row farmstead windbreak consisting of less flammable species. Acceptable species are: green ash,

aspen, cottonwood, boxelder, hackberry, chokecherry, lilac, redosier dogwood, cotoneaster, currant or yucca.

