TREE PLANTING COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE CONTRACT
CONVERSE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

321 Brownfield Road
Douglas, WY 82633
307-358-6735

Landowner Name:_____

Mailing Address:_____

Physical Address of Planting:_____

Phone:_____

Tax ID (Social Security Number):_____

This Conservation Plan has been devised to accommodate the needs of the landowner and to provide conservation benefits for Converse County's Natural Resources. Converse County Conservation District has established a cost-share program to assist landowners who are interested in establishing windbreaks for conservation. The program provides 50% cost-share, up to a maximum of **$20,000.00** per landowner. All projects must meet the minimum standards and requirements of the program to qualify for cost-share dollars.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT CAREFULLY.

Converse County Conservation Project Conditions:

A. Landowner must own a **minimum of 4 acres** where planting is to be established. All projects must encompass at least ½ acre of protected area. (H X L) divided by 43,560 = area
B. Physical planting site MUST be in Converse County.
C. All planting sites must be prepared prior to planting season.
D. Livestock must be excluded from planting site after completion.
E. All leeward rows (inside row) of the windbreak must be a minimum of 100 ft. from the windward side of any building. It also needs to be located a safe distance (85 ft.) from driveways and roads to avoid excessive snow accumulation, end whip and prevent hindering of visibility on roads. Windbreaks planted near and parallel to public roads will be at least 200 ft. from the centerline of the road to the leeward row.
F. All plantings must be installed in a feasible location to meet conservation objectives with a minimum of 3 rows of trees unless otherwise called for in the windbreak design.
G. It is the landowner's responsibility to contact utility companies to have the area marked prior to planting. Call 2 working days before you dig - Buried Utility Location Service 1-800-849-2476 or 1-800-348-1030.

H. **The district will only cost-share on seedling trees and supplies sold on the District's tree order form as well as drip system supplies purchased elsewhere. Receipts for drip system supplies must be turned in to the district for cost-share reimbursement.**

I. Tree planting equipment (tree planter & weed barrier machine) are available for use free of charge to those who have ordered their trees and weed barrier from the District. Otherwise, the tree planting equipment can be rented by the landowner for $10.00 per day per machine.

J. The landowner must sign a use permit for each piece of equipment used.

K. Equipment is available on a first come/first serve basis.

L. Board members or their immediate family cannot apply for cost-share.

M. The District will not cost-share on a planting that has been or will be cost-shared by another agency.

N. Once accepted into a Converse County Conservation District cost-share, landowners can only reapply every four years and new applicants will be given precedent.

O. Weed barrier must be used in all cost-share windbreaks.

GUIDELINES:

1. **All initial costs** associated with this conservation practice are the responsibility of the landowner. **Reimbursement** of cost-shared expenses will be distributed **only after inspection of the completed project** by district or NRCS personnel.
2. All site preparation is the responsibility of the landowner and must be completed prior to the arrival of the trees in the spring.
3. All project maintenance is the responsibility of the landowner.
4. Landowner must annually replace any trees or shrubs that are dead, weakened, or not growing properly at landowner's expense.
5. Landowner must pull weeds from cut opening in the weed barrier around each tree at least twice per growing season.
6. Livestock must be kept out of tree planting areas until trees are old enough to resist damage. All fencing related to the project area must be maintained by the landowner.
7. All necessary fencing must be installed prior to project completion and subsequent cost-share reimbursement.
8. Landowner must ensure that tree watering systems are in working order. Trees must be watered within 12 hours of planting and watered deeply 2 days per week throughout the growing season for 5 years.
9. Weed barrier must be checked regularly for loose spots and integrity.
10. Landowner must maintain 95% survival on trees and shrubs for the first 3 years and continue to maintain conservation practice for 10 years.
11. Landowner must protect all trees and shrubs from insect and wildlife damage.
12. Windbreak projects must be completed by July 1st to be eligible for payment.

LANDOWNER:

I agree with all of the conditions and guidelines mentioned in the project plan and related forms. I further agree to the implementation of the planned conservation practice on lands specified in the conservation plan. I also certify that these lands are owned by me. I agree to maintain this practice for at least 10 years following completion of the project. I agree to refund all or part of the cost-share assistance paid to me, as determined in this plan, if I neglect or destroy the practice prior to the practice lifespan as mentioned above, or if I relinquish ownership and control of the land to another party and the new owner does not agree in writing to assume the maintenance responsibility of the conservation practice for the remainder of its specified lifespan. I have read and understand all guidelines and deadlines associated with this practice and I agree to the terms and conditions of this contract.

Landowner Signature:_____Date:_____

District Manager Signature:_____Date:_____

Project Approval Date:_____

Supervisor Signature:_____

Supervisor Signature:_____

Supervisor Signature:_____

Project Completed & Reimbursement Approval_____

Supervisor Signature:_____

Supervisor Signature:_____

Supervisor Signature:_____