

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION GUIDE
WETLAND RESTORATION**

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657– STEP 1. INITIAL EVALUATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine the landowner's desire to restore wetland(s). The landowner needs to be interviewed to determine the purpose and need of this action. The need for action should address a resource concern(s) for which the NRCS has authority to act upon. The purpose can be defined with the objectives of the landowner.

Determine what type of wetland the landowner desires to restore.

657 STEP 2. INVESTIGATIONS, SURVEYS, AND INVENTORIES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine the feasibility of wetland restoration on the site. Hydrologic investigation will be required to determine if adequate water is available to restore the wetland to its native hydrological regime. This step includes identifying all needed clearances and permits including section 404 permit, cultural resources, utilities, and water rights. Do not proceed with planning until water rights for wetland restoration are assured in writing.

657 – STEP 3. PRACTICE DESIGN

The purpose of this step is to plan the wetland restoration project, incorporating the objectives of the NRCS and the landowner. A record will be developed of the completed actions taken. All required deliverables for the design, installation, and compliance are found on the New Mexico Statement of Work. This document will be followed to successfully complete the project.

Restoring a wetland may require the installation of fencing (382), Tree and Shrub Establishment (612) etc. The appropriate standard should be consulted when developing the site specific specification for the job. To establish hydrophytic vegetation planting zones will need to be established for species or groups of species with like hydrologic needs ranging from upland plants to those that thrive in open water. Plantings will be protected from wildlife, livestock, and fire. A list of appropriate plant species will be supplied to the landowner. The list shall specify the quantity and type of plant material (seed, dormant cutting, bare root stock, etc) to be planted.

The landowner will provide the contractor the appropriate specifications, job sheets, and statement of work. Excess materials will not be provided to the landowner or the contractor. Standards are to assist the planner with the design of the practice. Specifications are to assist the landowner/contractor with the implementation of the practice.

657 – STEP 4. INSTALLATION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to document all variations from the specifications. As built drawings and technical notes are used to document variances from the practice design.

657 – STEP 5. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to assure the proper management and maintenance is carried out for the life of the practice. (See operation and maintenance in the practice standard 657 and other practice standards used such as 612, 382, etc.)

657 – STEP 6. COMPLIANCE OR SPOT CHECKING

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine that all work has been completed to the standards required by the NRCS.

All specifications, drawings (including as built), job sheets should be filed in the case file.