NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS

SHALLOW WATER MANAGEMENT FOR WILDLIFE

1. Scope

The planner will work within the following specifications when implementing this practice.

2. Location

The location of the shallow water area shall be as shown on the construction plans and as staked in the field.

3. Waterfowl Ecology

Agricultural land that is managed for native, hydrophytic plant growth is attractive and can provide nutrients for migrating waterfowl. Plant nutrients are concentrated in the bodies of macroinvertebrates. They are essential in the life cycle history and reproduction of waterfowl. Egg laying females must have an adequate amount of protein supplied by macroinvertebrates during migration in order to reproduce.

4. Hydrophytic Vegetation

Hydrophytic vegetation captures energy from the sun and provides energy and nutrients for macroinvertebrate production. Where water control is an option, manipulation of water levels can enhance vegetation and improve the vegetation for the target waterfowl, amphibians, and reptiles.

5. Aesthetics

Shallow water development will change the vegetation, the appearance, and the wildlife use of the project area. Buffer plantings can add to the aesthetic value of the development and should be considered as part of the project in the conservation plan. Whenever possible, native plants will be used. Increased wildlife and waterfowl usage should be considered as a positive aesthetic value by most landowners. Potential problems should also be considered in the planning process. These can include increased wetness in non-project areas, mosquito production and control methods, and wildlife/human interactions.