

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS**

WETLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

(Ac.)

CODE 644

REQUIRED FORMS

The planner can use either of the following:

- 1) The SD-CPA-19, Wildlife Habitat Quality Rating Worksheet (WHAG), Existing (Benchmark) and Planned Rating, or
- 2) SD-CPA-26, Wildlife Habitat Management.

If desired, the planner is also allowed to use both forms on the same plan.

OPTIONAL DOCUMENTS

Habitat Evaluation Procedures.

Wetland Functional Assessment.

PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

Identify species group on SD-CPA-19 or other documentation.

If using the SD-CPA-19, then provide at least the minimum habitat requirements to attain a quality criteria rating (SD-CPA-19) of at least 0.5 for the wetland habitat element. Persons who desire abundant wildlife populations should plan to develop more habitat than the minimum 0.5 quality criteria. The wetland habitat element change from the existing condition to the planned condition is rated on the SD-CPA-19. The planned conservation practice that facilitates the change in the WHAG rating must be included in the conservation plan along with the rating change.

For example: Use the wetland worksheet – Existing wetland management is cultivated throughout the growing season and/or a hydrological manipulation (FW) exists. Planned wetland management is for wildlife, wetland will have at least a 25-foot contiguous vegetative buffer and the hydrological manipulation will be restored. The existing wetland rating is 0.2 and the planned wetland rating is 1.0. The conservation plan would include the Conservation Practice Standards Wetland Restoration (657), and/or Range Planting (550), Conservation Cover (327), Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitat (643), and Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645).

If using the SD-CPA-26, then document existing habitat conditions and existing management factors impacting habitat conditions.

In all instances, delineate existing and planned habitat elements required for the desired wildlife on the conservation plan map.

PERFORMANCE

Annually review the condition of all required habitat elements and plan or adjust management to achieve or maintain suitable conditions.