

Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats

Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet

643



Definition

Restoring, conserving, and managing unique or diminishing native terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Criteria

Methods used shall be designed to protect the soil resource from erosion and compaction.

Invasive plant and animal species and noxious weeds shall be controlled. When possible, control will be limited to that necessary to control undesirable species while still protecting habitat that benefit native pollinators and other fish and wildlife species that depend on the site for food, cover, and water.

Undisturbed areas shall be conserved on a sufficient extent of the area to sustain disturbance-intolerant species.

Plant species and seeding rate specifications will be prepared to achieve desired habitat condition. Select species from the Virginia Plant Establishment Guide. Only high quality and ecologically adapted plant materials will be

used. When feasible, only local ecotypes will be used.

Site preparation, planting dates and methods, and plant material care and handling shall optimize vegetation survival and growth.

A pretreatment assessment of the targeted habitat will be documented to provide a baseline for comparison with post-treatment habitat conditions. Goals or success criteria will be established using reference sites for guidance and comparison. Where no such reference site exists, use ecological site description or historic data to establish restoration goals.

Use of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals shall not compromise the intended purpose of this practice

Management practices and activities are not to disturb cover during the primary nesting period (April 15 – August 15). Exceptions could be granted for periodic management when necessary to maintain the health of the plant community or to meet specific requirements of target species.

The practice shall be protected from livestock grazing and trampling to the extent necessary to ensure that it will perform the intended purpose(s).

Note: This summary does not address all requirements and considerations in the VA Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats Conservation Practice Standard (VA-643). Consult the Conservation Practice Standard for further details.

Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats 643

Producer _____	Farm # _____	Tract # _____
Field Office _____	Contract # _____	
Date _____		

Restoration Scenario Selected	
<input type="checkbox"/> Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Seeding	<input type="checkbox"/> Longleaf Pine Establishment
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Shore Native Trees/Shrubs	<input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic White Cedar Restoration
<input type="checkbox"/> Tidal Zone Oyster Reef Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Oyster Reef Restoration
<input type="checkbox"/> Oak Hardwood Restoration	

Plant Materials Information – Refer to VA Plant Establishment Guide and/or the appropriate VA Technical note for the scenario planned.							
Field	Ac	Species/cultivars:	Plants/acre or seeding rate ³ :	Total No.	Kind of stock ¹ :	Planting dates:	Avg. Spacing ² :

Oak Hardwood Restoration Specs				
Field	Total Acres	Tree species	# trees/acre remaining (goal is 10-15 tpa >10"dbh)	GWWA Islands remaining(goal is .25-.5 acre island/10 acre cut)

--	--	--	--	--

Oyster Reef Restoration Specifications

Description of Project (**Attach appropriate boundary maps and Aquaculture Production Plan**):

Existing shell present on site (how many shells thick): _____

Desired thickness: _____

Bushels of oyster shell needed: _____

Cost of oyster shell: _____

Amount of Larvae needed: _____ Cost: _____

Site Preparation (Additional practices should be added to the project as needed for site preparation.)

Remove debris and control competing vegetation. The following method of site preparation is planned: *Mechanical means such as plowing, disking or rototilling,* *Chemical control of vegetation,* *Prescribed burning,* *Hand scalping the area where vegetation is to be planted.*

Apply recommended amendments as needed, including the following: _____ *Tons/Ac. Lime,*
 _____ *lbs/Ac. N-P²O⁵-K²O and prepare a firm seeding bed.*

Additional requirements:

Herbicide application may be necessary:

Field Number	Herbicide used	Application rate	When to apply

Planting Method

Describe techniques used to plant (or refer to the appropriate technical note):

Competition control techniques:

Vegetation Mat-Size _____ # _____
Tree Shelter-Size _____ # _____
Mulch- coverage _____ # _____ Other _____

Additional requirements or special management instructions:

Operation and Maintenance

The treatment area must be inspected periodically and protected from damage so proper function is maintained. Replace dead or dying vegetation to provide adequate plant densities and continue control of competing vegetation to allow proper establishment for at least 2 years. Any use of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals shall not compromise the intended purpose of this practice.

Additional requirements:

Planner Certification

The Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitat planned in this job sheet fulfills minimum requirements of Virginia NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 643.

Signature Title Date

Certification of Practice Completion

The Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitat practice planned in this job sheet has been completed and maintained according to Virginia NRCS specifications (indicate in Practice Specifications any changes to the planned activities and acreage.)

Signature Title Date

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Scale 1"= _____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")

Additional Specifications and Notes:

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer"