Natural Resources Conservation Service
Conservation Practice Standard

UPLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT
(Ac.)
CODE 645

DEFINITION

Creating, restoring, maintaining or enhancing areas for food, cover, and water for upland wildlife and species which use upland habitat for a portion of their life cycle.

PURPOSE

- Provide a variety of food for the desired kinds of wildlife species;
- Provide a variety of cover types for the desired kinds of wildlife species, examples include nesting, fawning, loafing, resting, escape, travel lanes, and thermal;
- Provide drinking water for the desired kinds of wildlife species.
- Arrange habitat elements in proper amounts and locations to benefit desired species.
- Manage the wildlife habitat to achieve a viable wildlife population within the species home range.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On all landscapes that are suitable for the kinds of wildlife habitat that are needed within the range of the desired species or the natural community under consideration.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to all Purposes

Habitat development and management necessary, to achieve the purpose(s), shall be based on a wildlife habitat appraisal or suitable habitat evaluation. The appraisal or evaluation procedure shall be used to determine a habitat suitability for either individual fields, home range areas, habitat type or natural community as well as to provide an overall evaluation for the entire property or operating unit.

Habitat Appraisal or Habitat Evaluation. The evaluation will result in a quality rating or habitat suitability index (hsi). This will consider the type, amount, and distribution of habitat elements required. The quality rating or hsi will be compared to the quality criteria in Section III of the FOTG.

If the evaluation indicates a level below the acceptable quality, alternatives will be recommended that will result in the necessary changes in habitat elements or their management to bring the rating up to the minimal acceptable or above.

If the evaluation is at the minimum or above, alternatives will be recommended that will result in the necessary management to preserve, maintain or improve the existing habitat in its present state or toward optimum conditions.

Habitat Elements. The following habitat elements will be considered when assessing wildlife habitat. Not all may apply to every habitat type.

1. Food
   a. Type
   b. Amount
2. Cover
   a. Type
   b. Amount
3. Water
   a. Quality
   b. Quantity
   c. Accessibility
   d. Seasonal availability

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

4. Interspersion and Distance to

   a. Crops
   b. Grasses and or legumes
   c. Shrubs
   d. Trees
   e. Water
   f. Openings

5. Migration

   a. Routes
   b. Season of use
   c. Corridors

Development and Management of Wildlife Habitat. As indicated by the wildlife habitat evaluation, certain habitat elements may be weak or missing. For the desired species, identify the types, amount, and distribution of habitat elements and management actions necessary to achieve the management objectives.

The amount and kinds of habitat elements planned, their location and management shall be identified in a management plan.

The use of native plant materials shall be encouraged.

Vegetative manipulations to restore plant and/or animal diversity shall be accomplished by management/maintenance practices, such as prescribed burning or mechanical, biological or chemical methods, or a combination of the four. Where feasible, light stripdisking or prescribed burning shall be utilized instead of mowing.

Management measures shall be provided to control invasive species and noxious weeds. To protect forbs and legumes that benefit native pollinators and other wildlife and provide insect food sources for grassland nesting birds, spraying or other control of noxious weeds shall be done on a “spot” basis.

CONSIDERATIONS

Wildlife population control (hunting to reduce numbers), which is the responsibility of state and federal wildlife agencies and the landowner may be necessary to protect and maintain certain habitats.

Consider that manipulations of habitat may impact more than the desired kinds of wildlife. These possible effects shall be evaluated and taken into consideration during the planning process.

This practice may be used to promote the conservation of declining species, including threatened and endangered species. Refer to Practice Code 643.

Consider the problems of habitat fragmentation when using this practice, create large blocks of habitat verses increased edge which leads to predation and parasitism by some species such as cowbirds. However, increased edge is recommended for bobwhite quail.

Consider habitat linkages and habitat corridors when developing upland wildlife habitat.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for this practice shall be prepared for each site. Plans and specifications shall be recorded using approved specifications sheets, technical notes, job sheets, or narrative documentation in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation. Contact an NRCS biologist for assistance.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The purpose of operation, maintenance, and management is to insure that the practice functions as intended over time.

A plan for operation and maintenance of upland wildlife habitat at a minimum shall include monitoring and management of structural and vegetative measures.

Timing of management/maintenance practices will avoid the primary period when upland wildlife are nesting, fawning, etc., and will allow the establishment, development, and management of upland vegetation for the intended purpose. In Mississippi, this primary period is from April 1 to October 1.

Biological control of undesirable plant species and pests (e.g., using predator or parasitic species) shall be implemented where available and feasible.

Recommended Wildlife Plantings

Plant Species, Seeding Rates, Dates, and Fertilizer Rates.

Plant	Unit	Units/Acre 3/	Seeding Dates	Minimum Fertilizer Rate 1/
Alfalfa	Lb.	15	Sep-Nov	0-120-120
*Bahiagrass 9/	Lb.	15-25	Sep-Nov 15 Mar-Jun	65-65-65
Barley	Lb.	80	Sep-Nov	65-65-65
*Birdsfoot trefoil 5/	Lb.	6	Apr-May Sep-Oct	0-60-60
Chufa	Lb.	50 (30)	May-Jul	52-52-52
Clover 5/				
Alyce	Lb.	20	May-June	0-60-60
Arrowleaf	Lb.	10	Sep-Nov 15	0-60-60
Ball	Lb.	3	Sep-Oct	0-60-60
*Carolina	Lb.	10	Sep-Nov 15	0-60-60
Crimson	Lb.	20	Sep-Nov 15	0-60-60
Red	Lb.	8	Sep-Oct	0-60-60
Subterranean	Lb.	15	Aug 25-Oct 15	0-60-60
*White	Lb.	3	Sep-Nov 15	0-60-60
Corn	Lb.	15	Mar-May	65-65-65
Cowpeas	Lb.	20 (10)	May-Jul	0-60-60
*Dallisgrass 6/	Lb.	10 (PLS)	Feb 15-May	65-65-65
Egyptian Wheat	Lb.	10	Apr-Jun 1	39-39-39
*Florida Beggarweed	Lb.	5	Mar-May	0-60-60
Grain Sorghum	Lb.	20 (10)	May-June	52-52-52
Joint Vetch 5/	Lb.	10	Mar-Jun	0-60-60
*Lathco Flat Pea 5/	Lb.	30 8/	Apr-May Sep-Oct	40-80-80
Lespedeza 5/				
Common	Lb.	30	Mar-May	0-60-60
Kobe	Lb.	30	Mar-May	0-60-60
Korean	Lb.	30	Mar-May	0-60-60
Shrub (japonica, bicolor, thunbergii)	Plants	8000	Nov.-Mar	0-60-60
	Lb.	15 (5)	Apr-May	0-60-60
*Lovegrass	Lb.	5	Mar-Jun	65-65-65
Millet				
Browntop	Lb.	20 (10)	May-Aug	39-39-39
Japanese	Lb.	20 (10)	Jun-Aug	39-39-39
Proso	Lb.	20 (10)	May-Aug	39-39-39
Foxtail	Lb.	20	May-Aug	39-39-39
Oats	Lb.	96	Sep-Nov	52-52-52
*Orchard Grass	Lb.	20 (10)	Sep-Nov	65-65-65
Partridge Pea	Lb.	15	Mar-May	0-60-60
Reseeding Soybeans 5/	Lb.	25 (10)	Apr-June	0-60-60
Rice	Lb.	80	Apr 15-Jun 15	120-0-0
Rye	Lb.	80	Sep-Nov	39-39-39
Ryegrass	Lb.	30	Sep-Nov	39-39-39
Soybeans 5/	Lb.	40	May-Jun	0-60-60
Sorghum (Sudan)	Lb.	20 (10)	May-Jun	52-52-52
*Sunflower (perennial)	Lb.	20 (10)	Apr-Jun	39-39-39
Sunflower	Lb.	20 (10)	Apr-Jun	39-39-39
*Switchgrass 6/	Lb.	5 (PLS)	Dec-Feb	0-0-0 7/
Vetch 5/	Lb.	30	Sep-Nov	0-60-60
Wheat	Lb.	80	Sep-Nov	52-52-52
Plant	Unit	Units/Acre 3/	Seeding Dates	Minimum Fertilizer Rate 1/
Wild Winter Peas 5/	Lb.	40	Sep-Nov	0-60-60

Trees and Shrubs				
*American Plum	Plants	70-350	Dec-Mar	0
*Autumn Olive 9/	Plants	70-350	Dec-Mar	0
*Black Cherry	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Black Gum	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Black Walnut	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Chinese Chestnut	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Crabapple	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Cypress	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Dogwood	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Green Ash	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Hackberry	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Hazlenut	Plants	70-350	Dec-Mar	0
*Hickory	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Honey Locust	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Pecan 2/	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Persimmon	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Pine				
*Loblolly	Plants	70-700	Dec-Mar	0
*Slash	Plants	70-700	Dec-Mar	0
*Longleaf	Plants	70-700	Dec-Mar	0
Oak 4/				
*Cherry Bark	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Chinkapin	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Live	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Northern Red	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Nuttall	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Overcup	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Pin	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Sawtooth	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Scarlet	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Shumard	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Southern Red	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Swamp White	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Swamp Chestnut	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Water	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*White	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Willow	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Red Mulberry	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Sweetgum	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0
*Yellow Poplar	Plants	70-200	Dec-Mar	0

*Perennial

1/ Fertilizer rates are pounds of actual N, P_2O_5 and K_2O respectively.
2/ No commercial varieties of pecan planted in an orchard fashion are allowed under CRP.
3/ For combination plantings of grasses and legumes, reduce planting rates accordingly. Number in parenthesis (5) is row-planting rate.
4/ For direct seeding plant 1300-1500 acorns/acre, Jan-Dec.
5/ Legume seed will be inoculated with proper inoculant.
6/ Pure live seed (PLS).
7/ Apply 65-65-65 per acre during second year.
8/ Since flatpea is slow to germinate plant in combination with 8-10 lbs ryegrass or browntop millet for spring planting.
9/ This plant has an invasive nature. Caution should be exercised when using this plant.

NOTE: Planting rates or spacing may vary for listed species depending on intended wildlife uses (cover vs. food). Also there are other plants not listed that are desirable for wildlife. Contact an NRCS biologist for assistance.