

Wetland Enhancement

Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet

659



Definition

The rehabilitation or re-establishment of a degraded wetland, and/or the modification of an existing wetland, which augments specific site conditions for specific species or purposes; possibly at the expense of other functions and other species

Purpose

To provide specific wetland conditions to favor specific wetland functions and targeted species by hydrologic enhancement (depth duration and season of inundation, and/or duration and season of soil saturation) and/or vegetative enhancement (including the removal of undesired species, and/or seeding or planting of desired species).

Conditions Where Practice Applies

This practice applies on any degraded or non-degraded existing wetland where the objective is specifically to enhance selected wetland functions.

Criteria

Document the soil, hydrology and vegetative characteristics existing on the site and the contributing watershed before restoration of the site begins. Restore soil, hydrology, vegetation and habitat conditions of the wetland that previously existed on the site to the extent practical. Include a plan for control of invasive species, noxious plant species, nuisance species and exotic species during the establishment and maintenance of the practice. Do not adversely affect adjacent properties or other waters.

Conservation Management System

Wetland wildlife habitat management may be a component of a conservation management system that addresses wetland concerns.

Specifications

The design of the wetland is site-specific and meets the landowner's objective. The design will meet targeted wetland functions. Generally, a design with low maintenance components is preferable over a restoration with pumps and other high maintenance components.

Operation and Maintenance

O&M will consist of an operation and maintenance plan that describes the timing and duration of flooding, vegetation management where necessary, and any other mechanical, chemical or maintenance treatments. The following actions shall be carried out to ensure that this practice functions as intended throughout its expected life. These actions include normal repetitive activities in the application and use of the practice (operation), and repair and upkeep of the practice (maintenance):

- Document the O&M requirements in the appropriate section of the Wetland Development and Management Job Sheet.
- Any use of fertilizers, mechanical treatments, prescribed burning, pesticides and other chemicals shall assure that the intended purpose of the wetland shall not be compromised.
- Management actions shall maintain vegetation, and control undesirable vegetation. Biological control of undesirable plant species and pests (e.g., using predator or parasitic species) shall be implemented where available and feasible. Management of water depth and duration may be utilized to control unwanted vegetation.
- Haying or grazing shall be used as appropriate to manage vegetation. Minimize disturbance to ground nesting species, especially during the primary nesting season.
- The depth of accumulated sediment should be measured and the accumulations removed when the planned project objectives are jeopardized.
- Timing and level setting of water control structures is required for the establishment of desired hydrologic conditions, for management of vegetation and for optimum wildlife and fish use.
- The embankments and structures on the site shall be inspected at least annually and after major storm events. Immediately repair any damage.

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659

<i>Landowner:</i>	<i>Farm #:</i>
<i>Field(s):</i>	<i>Tract #:</i>
<i>Acres:</i>	<i>Date:</i>

Purpose (Check all that apply):			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat	Species: _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Hydric Soils Present:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Use Code 646, 657, or 659)	<input type="checkbox"/> No (Use Code 646, 656, 658)

Wetland Standards Used (Check all that apply):	<input type="checkbox"/> 644	<input type="checkbox"/> 646	<input type="checkbox"/> 657	<input type="checkbox"/> 658	<input type="checkbox"/> 659
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Wetland Information

Water Source (See engineering design for details):		
<input type="checkbox"/> Diversion (Code 362)	<input type="checkbox"/> Pond	<input type="checkbox"/> Pumping Plant (Code 533)
<input type="checkbox"/> Well (Code 642)	<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water	<input type="checkbox"/> Dikes
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Control Structure	Number: _____	Type/Size: _____

Wetland Enhancement (Briefly describe how planned enhancement will be achieved and identify potential adverse effects):

Vegetative Plantings:			
Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390)	acres: _____	what year? _____	
Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 338)	acres: _____	what year? _____	
Critical Area Planting (Code 342)	acres: _____	what year? _____	
Other:	acres: _____	what year? _____	
<i>Species:</i>	<i>Rate:</i>	<i>Species:</i>	<i>Rate:</i>

Fencing (if needed: Code 382)	Type: _____	Feet: _____
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