

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet

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Definition

Retaining, developing or managing wetland habitat for wetland wildlife.

Purpose

To maintain, develop, or improve wetland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, furbearers, or other wetland dependent or associated flora and fauna. This practice is used for accounting purposes and must be included in a wetland plan in order to document and quantify habitat improvements for wildlife.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

This practice applies on or adjacent to wetlands, rivers, lakes and other water bodies where wetland associated wildlife habitat can be managed. This practice is applicable to natural wetlands and/or water bodies as well as wetlands that may have been previously restored, Virginia Conservation Practice Standard *Wetland Restoration* (Code 657); enhanced, *Wetland Enhancement* (Code 659); or created, *Wetland Creation* (Code 658). This practice does not apply to managing ponds or other areas for fish habitat (refer to *Fishpond Management* (Code 399) or to tidal wetlands or stream systems.

Criteria

Use the wildlife habitat evaluation worksheet to identify habitat limiting factors in the planning area. Identify wildlife species management goals and objectives. Apply the practice alone or in combination with other practices to meet the defined objectives. Use native plant species wherever possible and control invasive species at the beginning of the project and throughout the life of the site.

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.

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<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)
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Wetland Standards Used (check all that apply): 644 646 657 658 659

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: _____

Vegetative Plantings:

Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390)	acres: _____	what year? _____
Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)	acres: _____	what year? _____
Critical Area Planting (Code 342)	acres: _____	what year? _____
Other:	acres: _____	what year? _____
<i>Species:</i>	<i>Rate:</i>	<i>Species:</i>

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

<input type="checkbox"/> Slow drawdown starting on or around: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Leave drained over summer for moist soil plants to grow.
<input type="checkbox"/> Allow shallow water area to gradually refill for migration, start refilling on: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Maintain shallow water over winter. Vary water depth from year to year.
<input type="checkbox"/> Disk at the start of the growing season as necessary to stimulate annuals.
<input type="checkbox"/> No active management (natural water regime).

Vegetation Management:

Early Successional Habitat Development (Code 647)	acres: _____	What year? _____
Prescribed Burning (Code 338)	acres: _____	What year? _____

