

Wetland Restoration under WRP

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

657



DEFINITION

Restoring a drained or degraded wetland to natural historic conditions as much as practicable.

PURPOSE

The wetland and upland components of the easement area will be restored to historical conditions as much as practicable.

HOW WRP WORKS

NRCS will work cooperatively with the property owners, the local Soil and Water Conservation District, the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service and other conservation partners to restore native plant communities and hydrology that provide original and/or improved conditions to benefit wetland dependent wildlife. NRCS is committed to working with the owners throughout the life of the easement with the goal of ensuring that the wetland functions are restored. The owners will be provided the opportunity to fully participate in the restoration and maintenance proposal for the easement. NRCS is the final authority

regarding the use of WRP funds and easement areas.

WHERE PRACTICE IS USED

This restoration work is performed on a permanent WRP easement located along the floodplain of a river. The site is now (or was) mostly bottomland hardwoods with existing overflow areas, sloughs, and natural drains with historical stands of cypress and tupelo. The natural hydrology has been altered by an existing network of access roads. Some or all of the natural bottomland hardwood ecosystem has been altered due to past clear cutting and high-grading timber harvest.



OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives of restoration are to allow the vegetation to return to mature bottomland hardwood forest and to restore the natural hydrology of

the floodplain by removing blockages at road crossings, to re-establish beds and banks of sloughs and drainages, and to reconnect these flowages to the river. Any existing cutover flats will be enhanced by creating potholes for habitat diversity.



STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

All restoration activities will be surveyed onsite, designed and installed to meet NRCS Standards and Specifications.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Joint annual field reviews between NRCS and the owners will be performed to monitor restoration progress and needs.

See also Job Sheet 587, *Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife* and Indiana Biology Technical Note No. 1, *Using Micro and Macro-topography in Wetland Restoration*.