United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Wetland Enhancement (659)

Wetland enhancement is the rehabilitation or reestablishment of a degraded wetland, and/or the modification of an existing wetland to favor specific wetland functions.

Practice Information

This practice applies on any degraded or nondegraded existing wetland where the objective is specifically to enhance selected wetland functions. This practice is not used on degraded wetlands when the soils, hydrology, vegetative community, and biological habitat are returned to original conditions or where a wetland is created on a site that historically was not a wetland.

The purpose of this practice is to provide specific wetland conditions 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).

Native vegetative species should be used in the enhancement whenever possible.

Manipulation of water levels can be used to control unwanted vegetation. Haying or grazing can also be used to manage vegetation.

Common Associated Practices

Wetland Enhancement (659) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as: Dike (356), Structure for Water Control (587), Fence (382), Fish Passage (396), and Use Exclusion (472).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.