

**Practice: 657 - Wetland Restoration**

**Scenario: #1 - Riverine Levee Removal and Floodplain Features**

**Scenario Description:**

A Riverine HGM tract on a large floodplain is to be restored. It has been converted to agricultural production by surface ditching and clearing of woody vegetation. The size of the tract is 100 acres. The wetland extent is 60 acres, and 40 acres are adjacent non-wetland. Resource Concerns are: 4-SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION - Organic matter depletion, 11- WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters, 12 - WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Pesticides transported to surface and ground waters, 16 - WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excessive sediment in surface waters, 18 - DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Undesirable plant productivity and health, 19 - DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION, Inadequate structure and composition, 22- INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE - Habitat degradation.

**Before Situation:**

A levee prevents floodwater from entering the tract. The original cover was forest. The site is drained by surface ditches which collect surface water and direct it to the river through a flap gate structure. The site has been completely cleared, and no suitable adjacent seedwall exists for natural regeneration of forest species. The lateral connectivity between the channel and floodplain has been altered by construction of levees along the reach.

**After Situation:**

The hydrology of the site is restored with the installation of ditch plugs, and the excavation of macrotopographic features with an average depth of 6" over 30% of the wetland area. Excavated spoil is placed adjacent to the features on the wetland and adjacent non-wetland area with a maximum depth of 24 inches. The levee has been breached at the upstream and downstream ends of the tract reach, restoring dynamic stream flooding. The breach length is 150 feet long at both locations. Both the wetland and non-wetland areas are planted with a Bottomland Hardwood species mix. The levee breaches are armored with rock riprap. Facilitating practices include Grade Stabilization Structure and Tree and Shrub Planting. Restoration of hydrology and plant community functions will improve the WATER QUALITY and DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION concerns listed above. The hydrologic and vegetative practices will address the SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION and INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE concerns.

**Scenario Feature Measure:** Acres of Tract

**Scenario Unit:** Acre

**Scenario Typical Size:** 100

**Scenario Cost:** \$32,488.45

**Scenario Cost/Unit:** \$324.88

**Cost Details (by category):**

Component Name	ID	Component Description	Unit	Price (\$/unit)	Quantity	Cost
<b>Equipment/Installation</b>						
Excavation, Common Earth, side cast, small equipment	48	Bulk excavation and side casting of common earth with hydraulic excavator with less than 1 CY capacity. Includes equipment and labor.	Cubic yard	\$1.88	16520	\$31,057.60
<b>Mobilization</b>						
Mobilization, large equipment	1140	Equipment >150HP or typical weights greater than 30,000 pounds or loads requiring over width or over length permits.	Each	\$476.95	3	\$1,430.85

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**Scenario: #3 - Estuarine Fringe Levee Removal**

**Scenario Description:**

An Estuarine Fringe HGM landscape is to be restored. The wetland is subject to tidally induced water level fluctuations. The tract size is 120 acres, and the wetland area is 100 acres. Resource Concerns are: 4-SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION - Organic matter depletion, 11- WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters, 12 - WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Pesticides transported to surface and ground waters, 16 - WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excessive sediment in surface waters, 18 - DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Undesirable plant productivity and health, 19 - DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION, Inadequate structure and composition, 22- INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE - Habitat degradation.

**Before Situation:**

The wetland has been converted to agricultural production by construction of a dike to prevent tidal flows. The dike has a culvert with a flapgate to allow surface water to flow out, but prevents tide water from entering. The dike is 7 feet high above the current marsh surface. The dike has side slopes of 3:1, with a 12 foot top. A suitable seedbank exists for natural regeneration of the original plant community. The soils are organic, and loss of hydrology has caused the land surface to subside 3 feet due to aerobic decomposition of organic matter (mineralization).

**After Situation:**

The dike has been breached in 4 locations, corresponding to the number of original inlet channels. The breach locations have 8 foot long steel sheet pile Structures for Water Control installed to prevent tidal surges from causing serious erosion on the subsided land surface. The original flap gate culvert has been removed. The dike is 4 feet higher than the weir crests, so the excavations are 4 feet by 8 feet long, with 3:1 side slopes. The culvert has been removed and salvaged by the landowner. Facilitating practices are Structure for Water Control. Restoration of hydrology and plant community functions will improve the WATER QUALITY and DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION concerns listed above. The hydrologic and vegetative practices will address the SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION and INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE concerns.

**Scenario Feature Measure:** Acres of Tract

**Scenario Unit:** Acre

**Scenario Typical Size:** 120

**Scenario Cost:** \$1,964.77

**Scenario Cost/Unit:** \$16.37

**Cost Details (by category):**

Component Name	ID	Component Description	Unit	Price (\$/unit)	Quantity	Cost
<b>Equipment/Installation</b>						
Excavation, Common Earth, side cast, small equipment	48	Bulk excavation and side casting of common earth with hydraulic excavator with less than 1 CY capacity. Includes equipment and labor.	Cubic yard	\$1.88	284	\$533.92
<b>Mobilization</b>						
Mobilization, large equipment	1140	Equipment >150HP or typical weights greater than 30,000 pounds or loads requiring over width or over length permits.	Each	\$476.95	3	\$1,430.85

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**Scenario: #4 - Riverine Channel and Floodplain Restoration**

**Scenario Description:**

A Riverine HGM landscape on a small stream on a low stream order riparian landscape has been converted to agricultural production. The stream channel has degraded. The reach is 1500 feet in length, and the tract size is 15 acres. The wetland area is 10 acres. Resource Concerns are: 4-SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION - Organic matter depletion, 11- WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters, 12 - WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Pesticides transported to surface and ground waters, 16 - WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION - Excessive sediment in surface waters, 18 - DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Undesirable plant productivity and health, 19 - DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION, Inadequate structure and composition, 22- INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE - Habitat degradation.

**Before Situation:**

Channel incision has broken the lateral connectivity between the stream and floodplain. The conversion to cropland was accompanied by filling and leveling of backswamp, side channel, and oxbow features which formerly ponded water or exposed the floodplain groundwater table. The site no longer has access to floodwater or water surface profile supported groundwater. No suitable seed bank exists for natural regeneration of the original hydrophytic plant community, either in the channel, or on the floodplain.

**After Situation:**

The hydrology of the site is restored by the installation of a series of rock check structures to raise the stream water surface profile. Floodplain macrotopographic features replicating the original side channels, oxbows, and backswamps are constructed by excavation. Spoil is placed adjacent to the excavations to replicate natural depositional features. The average depth of the excavated features is 2 feet, and the surface area of the excavations is 25% of the tract size. The eroding stream bank is stabilized with soil bio-engineering features, and fish habitat improvement measures are installed in the channel. The tract is seeded to appropriate hydrophytic and upland vegetation, both woody and herbaceous. Facilitating practices are Streambank and Shoreline protection, Structure for Water Control, Conservation Cover, Tree/Shrub Establishment, and Stream Habitat Improvement and Management. Restoration of hydrology and plant community functions will improve the WATER QUALITY and DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION concerns listed above. The hydrologic and vegetative practices will address the SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION and INADEQUATE HABITAT FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE concerns.

**Scenario Feature Measure:** Acres of Tract

**Scenario Unit:** Acre

**Scenario Typical Size:** 15

**Scenario Cost:** \$6,640.90

**Scenario Cost/Unit:** \$442.73

**Cost Details (by category):**

Component Name	ID	Component Description	Unit	Price (\$/unit)	Quantity	Cost
<b>Equipment/Installation</b>						
Excavation, Common Earth, side cast, small equipment	48	Bulk excavation and side casting of common earth with hydraulic excavator with less than 1 CY capacity. Includes equipment and labor.	Cubic yard	\$1.88	3025	\$5,687.00
<b>Mobilization</b>						
Mobilization, large equipment	1140	Equipment >150HP or typical weights greater than 30,000 pounds or loads requiring over width or over length permits.	Each	\$476.95	2	\$953.90