STATEMENT OF WORK
Shallow Water Development and Management (646)
Louisiana

DESIGN

Deliverables:

Written plans and applicable specifications shall be provided to the client that adequately describes the requirements to implement the practice. Plans implementing Shallow Water Development and Management should include:

a. Practice purpose(s) as identified in the conservation plan (see Shallow Water Development and Management Practice Standard or Jobsheet, page 1).
b. Maps that identify areas/fields that will be either developed or managed as shallow water areas or moist soil units for habitat for wildlife (Toolkit/GIS maps).
c. Guidance for implementing facilitating practices and specifications such as Structures for Water Control (587), Dike (356), Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647), etc.
d. A written narrative depicting the specific management and manipulations used to target the vegetative communities identified as targets throughout the year (e.g., timing of drawdowns, rolling, flooding onset and duration, targeted water levels on specific dates, etc.) (see Shallow Water Development and Management Practice specifications or Jobsheet).
e. Cautions applicable to potential invasion and impacts associated with exotic species.
f. Guidance for operation and maintenance (see Shallow Water Development and Management Practice Standard or Jobsheet).
g. A copy of the Shallow Water Development and Management Jobsheet will be given to the client and a copy must be filed in Part 5 of the NRCS 6-part folder.

See Shallow Water Management for Wildlife Technical Note 83 in eFOTG for considerations

INSTALLATION

Deliverables

a. A pre-implementation meeting should be held with the client to review the Shallow Water Development and Management Plan. Items of particular importance to review with the client:

i. targeted species
ii. ii. designs, location, and sizes of structures, dikes, etc. and current infra-structure (e.g., pumps, levees, etc.) and equipment (tractors, water buffalo, roller, disk, etc.) available to facilitate practice implementation
iii. when, where, and how manipulations (such as rolling, disking, chemical application, etc.) will be used to develop and manage for appropriate habitat (forage, thermal cover, preening, loafing, breeding, nesting, brood-rearing, etc.).

b. If modifications are needed, they should be completed at this time.
c. Finally, advise the client of all applicable federal, state, tribal, and local laws, regulations and NRCS policies (e.g., Clean Water Act – Section 404, Food Security Act, E.O 11990, LA Coastal Management Plan, NEPA compliance, etc.) before practice implementation.

CHECKOUT

Deliverables

- Once a shallow water area is planned, implementation to develop habitat should take place. Once habitat is developed the management plan should be implemented to accommodate the life cycle needs of the target species. At a minimum a Shallow Water Development and

Management Plan should outline specific timelines, equipment, and activities to develop and maintain the planned habitats.

- Records indicating the timing and response to specific manipulations should be kept by the client to aid in future adaptive, site specific management. Receipts outlining costs for pumping, manipulations, and maintenance work should also be kept (if available). Copies of these records should be filed with the Shallow Water Development and Management Plan.
- As-built documentation including extent of practice units applied, drawings, and final quantity.
- If part of a conservation program agreement, certification that the installation meets NRCS Practice standards and specifications is needed.
- All activities associated with implementation of the Shallow Water Development and Management Conservation Practice must be in compliance with applicable permits.

GENERAL GUIDANCE

- Flood area at depth, frequency, and duration to accommodate targeted species needs.
- Schedule and implement manipulations to maintain desired vegetative communities.
- Consider effects of drought or excess moisture and exotic species invasion on planned habitats.
- Consider passive and active management scenarios applicable to targeted species

REFERENCES

- NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG), Section IV, Conservation Practice Standard – Shallow Water Development and Management
- NRCS National Biology Handbook
- NRCS National Biology Manual
- NRCS National Environmental Compliance Handbook
- NRCS Cultural Resources Handbook
- LA Shallow Water Management for Wildlife Technical Note 83