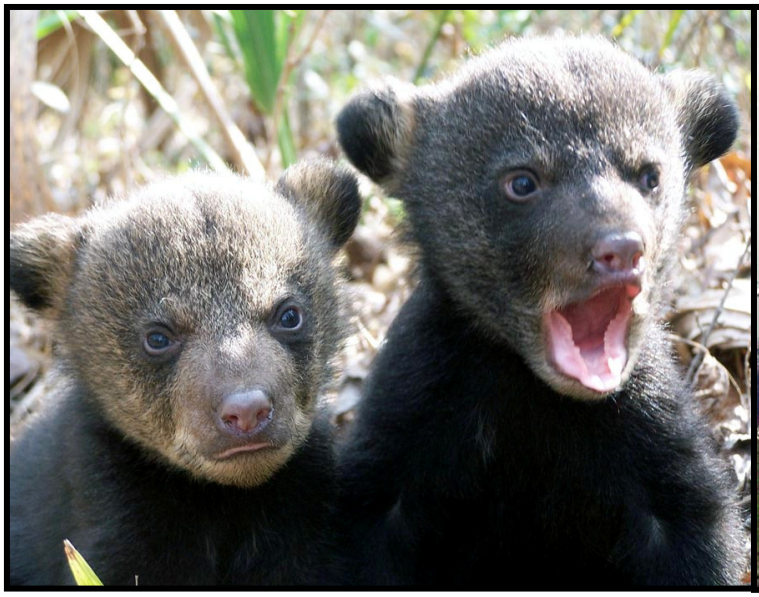
WETLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Conservation Practice Jobsheet *644*

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) **September 2009**

Landowner _____



WHAT IS WETLAND WIDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT
Wetland wildlife habitat management is retaining, developing or managing wetland habitat for wetland wildlife.

PURPOSE
This practice may be applied to maintain, develop, or improve wetland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, fur-bearers, or other wetland dependent or associated flora or fauna

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 applies to natural wetlands and/or water bodies as well as wetlands that may have been previously restored (657), enhanced (659), and created (658).

CONSIDERATIONS
Consider effects management will have on disease vectors such as mosquitoes.

Consider effects on downstream flows or aquifers that would affect other water uses or users.

Consider effects on fish and wildlife habitats that would be associated with the practice.

Establishing vegetative buffers on surrounding uplands can reduce the delivery of sediment and soluble and sediment-attached contaminants carried by runoff and/or wind.

The nutrient and pesticide tolerance of the species planned should be considered where known nutrient and pesticide contamination exists.

Consider effects on temperature of water resources to prevent undesired effects on aquatic and wildlife communities.

Soil disturbance associated with the installation of this practice may increase the potential of invasion by unwanted species.

Adding dead snags, tree trunks or logs can provide structure and cover for wildlife and serve as a carbon source for food chain support.

For discharge wetlands, consider underground upslope water and/or groundwater source availability.

When determining which species to plant, consider microtopography and different hydrology levels.

Consider effects of management actions on compliance with state and federal hunting regulation (e.g., baiting).

Water level draw-downs may increase the potential for turtle mortality.

Consider effects of livestock grazing on runoff, infiltration, wetland vegetation and nesting success.

Adding artificial nesting structures that are appropriate for the region can increase utilization of these areas.

Locating this practice adjacent to existing wetlands and other water bodies will provide connectivity to these cover types.

The improved habitat that results from the installation of this practice may lead to increased crop depredation by wildlife on adjacent cropland.

Consider adjacent wetlands or water bodies that contribute to wetland system complexity and diversity, decrease habitat fragmentation, and maximize use of the site by wetland associated wildlife.

Follow NRCS policy on cultural resources.

PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS

Document how habitat needs will be provided for the desired kinds of wildlife:

- Required depth of water during the different seasons
- Types and sizes of structures required
- Desired native plant species and the means of establishing and maintaining them

Specific information may be provided using appropriate job sheets or written documentation in the conservation plan.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

A plan for operation and maintenance at a minimum should include monitoring and management of structural and vegetative measures.

Haying and livestock grazing plans, if haying or livestock grazing is used as a needed wildlife management tool, will be developed to allow the establishment, development and management of wetland and associated upland vegetation for the intended wetland and/or wildlife purpose.

Biological control of undesirable plant species and pests (e.g., using predator or parasitic species) shall be implemented where available and feasible.

Added water depth and duration may be utilized as a method to control unwanted vegetation (e.g., reed canary grass).

WETLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT MGMT – SPECIFICATIONS SHEET

Landowner/Cooperator _____

Field Office _____

Plan Number _____ **Location** _____

Purpose/Objective of the Practice (Check all that apply)		
	To maintain, develop, or improve wetland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, fur-bearers, or other wetland dependent or associated flora or fauna	
	Other	

Species of Concern:	

Site Conditions	
Document how habitat elements are being addressed:	
Food	
Cover	
Water	
Interspersion and Distance	
Migration (if applicable)	

If applicable, provide a site view of the practice design and application in area below or as an attached diagram. Location of other relevant information and complimentary practices may be included.

Scale 1"=_____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")

Additional Specifications and Notes

_____

_____

_____

Practice Design Certification (To be completed after jobsheet is complete and before practice installation)

By signing below, I certify that:

- the site specific requirements for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the practice on the client's treatment unit, as recorded in this jobsheet, have been prepared in accordance with the 644 Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management Standard and the guidance in the 644 Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management Practice Specification.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Practice Installation Certification (To be completed after practice installation and check out)

By signing below, I certify that:

- The practice has been installed according to the site specific installation requirements

Signature _____ **Date** _____

This practice requires a current Louisiana One Call Dottie Confirmation Number.

Call before you dig, wait 48 hours for the site to be marked, observe the marks and dig with care. The service is free. It's the law! Civil Penalties range up to $25,000 for violations of the "Dig" law.

LA One Call™ Dottie says, Dig Safely. 1.800.272.3020

Failure to notify Louisiana One Call before installing this practice may delay or terminate NRCS assistance.

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