Practice: 644 - Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

Scenario # 1 **Monitoring, Management**

Scenario Description: **Louisiana**

Setting is any lands with the potential to provide wetland wildlife habitat and that potential is not currently being captured. The identified wetland wildlife habitat limiting factors can be restored, enhanced or created, with the application of this practice alone, or in combination with other supporting and facilitating practices. Monitoring will be used to determine if the conservation system meets or exceeds the minimum quality criteria for the targeted wildlife. Management will be implemented based on the findings of the habitat assessment and monitoring.Wetland wildlife habitat management and monitoring needed to treat the resource concerns may require training, no qualitative data assessment, no water quality monitoring and is medium in complexity and intensity. Examples of prescribed monitoring, include but are not limited to: photo points taken, documentation of annual management, remote cameras, documenting wildlife sightings, documenting location and presence of invasive species and condition of vegetative and structural treatments and occurance of damage to habitat. The planner will specify locations and identify the methods to the customer who will implement the monitoring and management plan. Facilitating practices may include but not limited to: 314, 315, 327, 342, 380, 384, 390, 391, 422, 472, 490, 511, 528, 550, 612, 647, 650, 654, 660, 666.

Before Practice Situation:

Existing degraded plant conditions and resulting inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife have resulting in low use of the area by target and associated wetland wildlife species.

After Practice Situation:

Based on the results of a State-approved upland wildlife habitat assessment process, the application of wetland wildlife habitat management efforts and prescribed monitoring have been implemented. With the application of this practice alone, or in combination with other supporting and facilitating practices, the inadequate wetland wildlife habitat conditions have addressed. Monitoring has maximized the benefits of the needed upland wildlife habitat treatment efforts.

Scenario Feature Measure:

Acres Managed and Monitored.

Scenario Typical Size:	100	Acre	Unit Cost	$4.21

Cost Category	Component Name	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Cost
Equip./Install.	All terrain vehicles, ATV	0.5	Hour	$25.66	$12.83
Equip./Install.	Satellite imagery, aerial photography, infrared	100	Acre	$0.12	$12.00
Labor	Specialist Labor	3	Hour	$75.80	$227.40
Mobilization	Mobilization, Specialist Labor	1	Hour	$78.06	$78.06
Mobilization	Mobilization, small equipment	1	Each	$91.12	$91.12
				Total Cost:	$421.41

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Scenario # 2 **Close Risers by Nov.1-Feb.15**

Scenario Description: **Louisiana**

This scenario addresses inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife on cropland and/or moist soil areas. The resource concern is addressed by providing shallow water habitat for wildlife such as shorebirds, waterfowl, wading birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and other species that require shallow water for at least part of their life cycle. Sites are flooded up to a depth of 18" with an average depth of 9". Water is provided by placing boards in risers of water control structures by November 1 to catch precipitation. Removal of boards after February 15 allows area to drain. Associated practices are P.C. 587, Structure for Water Control and P.C. 356, Dikes.

Before Practice Situation:

There is inadequate habitat to provide optimum resting, nesting, and feeding habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife (amphibians, reptiles, mammals, invertebrates, etc.).

After Practice Situation:

A single or series of shallow water areas that are managed per standard and specification. Water levels are regulated to maintain temporary wildlife habitat. Water control structures are closed by November 1 and held through February 15 to catch rainfall. Depths are based on actual rainfall for that year; based on climatic data, assume enough rainfall to average 6-8 inches. The producer manages the timing and duration of water required for different species of waterfowl/shorebirds. This management will benefit wildlife while minimizing nutrient export and aquifer depletion. Flooded sites vary from mudflats to water depths of 18" with an average depth of 9". The hydrologic conditions of ponding and saturation (frequency, depth, duration, timing) provides optimum seasonal habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife (amphibians, reptiles, mammals, invertebrates, etc.). If needed and dikes or water control structures are not currently present on the fields planned to be flooded, these practices may be planned for the same fields and cost shared under Structure for Water Control (587) and Dike (356). Depending on local conditions, other Conservation Practices may also be required.

Scenario Feature Measure:

Scenario Typical Size:	15	Acre	Unit Cost	$11.13

Cost Category	Component Name	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Cost
Labor	General Labor	6	Hour	$18.57	$111.42
Mobilization	Mobilization, General labor	3	Hour	$18.52	$55.56
				Total Cost:	$166.98

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Scenario # 3 **Mottled Duck Habitat, wetland component-activity #5**

Scenario Description: **Louisiana**

Used on adjacent grassland and wetland components to manipulate water levels to provide nesting and brooding habitat for mottled ducks and wintering habitat for other water birds through specific management objectives.

Before Practice Situation:

Currently these agricultural fields do not provide habitat for waterfowl/shorebirds. Grassland and wetland components are typically not managed adequately to provide suitable nesting and brooding habitat for mottled ducks.

After Practice Situation:

Wetland components are managed so that shallow water habitat is available from February 1 through July 31, with no more than 50% of the area covered by tall, emergent vegetation.

Scenario Feature Measure:

Scenario Typical Size:	250	Acre	Unit Cost	$10.02

Cost Category	Component Name	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Cost
Labor	General Labor	120	Hour	$18.57	$2,228.40
Mobilization	Mobilization, General labor	15	Hour	$18.52	$277.80
				Total Cost:	$2,506.20