

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Minnesota

Landowner _____

Definition

A rehabilitation of a degraded wetland where the soils, hydrology, vegetative community, and biological habitat are returned to the natural condition to the extent practicable.



Purpose

The purpose of this practice is to restore the functions and values of wetland ecosystems that have been devoted to agricultural use.

Where used

On landscapes which once supported the habitat to be restored and managed, including land retired from agricultural production entered in retirement programs.

Wildlife

This practice is well suited for wildlife food, cover and water. Selection of the vegetative plant community within the wetland and associated upland buffer will affect what type of wildlife will utilize these acres. Supplementing the wetland restoration and upland buffer planting with other wildlife practices or plantings may further enhance the cover.

Planning Considerations

1. The landowner shall obtain all necessary local, state and federal permits before restoration.
2. Select plant species and varieties best adapted to the climate and the soils in the field being established to permanent vegetative cover.

3. Consider establishing vegetative buffers on associated uplands to reduce the movement of sediment, and provide nesting cover. Minimum buffer width for wildlife considerations is 100'.
4. Consider the longterm use, objectives and wildlife species to benefit in selection of the vegetative community to be established.
5. Consider linking wetlands by corridors wherever possible to enhance the wetlands use and colonization by flora and fauna.
6. Restoration goals and objectives shall include targeted natural wetland functions for the wetland type and site location.
7. Proper management of the restored area is essential to achieve and maintain the full potential of the site for the desired habitat type, refer to NRCS practice 644 - Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Design specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide practice standard 657 - Wetland Restoration, and Chapter 13 Engineering Field Handbook.

Upland vegetation establishment and management procedures are covered in the standard and specification 645 - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.



Use of Pesticides

Only those pesticides which are labeled for the specific use will be recommended. University and Extension publications and specific label instructions will be used for guidance on herbicide selection and use.

Operation and Maintenance

Operation and maintenance will include but not be limited to the following:

1. Control annual weeds and other competition the year of establishment, with early and timely clipping before seed heads appear, or timely application of herbicides.
2. Prevent disturbance of cover during the primary nesting season for wildlife (May 1 - Aug 1).
3. After the seeding is established control all noxious weeds as identified by state and local laws, by: a) treating with chemicals per label directions, or b) spot mow before seed heads form. Delay control measures until after August 1st to protect nesting wildlife.
4. Protect the acres from unplanned haying and grazing. Fences may need to be constructed and maintained to exclude livestock.
5. Do not use the area for field borders, field roads, or other uses that will damage or destroy the cover.
6. Control rodent infestations that adversely affect the perennial ground cover. Use all chemicals according to label instructions.
7. Manage native grass or grass-legume buffers at least once during the contract to rejuvenate grass quality and vigor. Management should occur within 4-5 years of adequate vegetative establishment. Refer to practice 643- Early Successional Habitat Management for recommendations. Management options include; (1) prescribed burning, (2) mowing with residue removed, or (3) light disking. Management activities should take place prior to May 15 or between August 1 and September 1. No more than 50% of the upland cover should be manipulated in a given year.
8. Maintain water control structures in a safe and effective manner for the duration of the contract.



Practice Specifications Approval and Completion Certification

LANDOWNER/OPERATOR ACKNOWLEDGES:

- a. They have received a copy of the specifications and understand the contents including the scope and location of the practice.
- b. They have obtained all necessary permits and/or rights in advance of practice application, and will comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice.
- c. No changes will be made in the installation of the job without prior concurrence of the NRCS.
- d. Maintenance of the installed work is necessary for proper performance during the life of the practice. The practice life is _____.

I have reviewed all specifications and agree to install as specified:

Landowner/operator name and title (type or print):		
Landowner/operator Signature:		Date:
Landowner/operator name and title (type or print):		
Landowner/operator Signature:		Date:

NRCS Review Only

DESIGN INSTALLATION AND LAYOUT APPROVAL:

Designed By:	Date:	Job Approval Authority (JAA):
Approved By:	Date:	Job Approval Authority (JAA):

RECORD OF COMPLETION AND CHECK OUT CERTIFICATION:

Treated Acres:	Date Completed by Client:	Date Certified:

Certification Statement:

I certify that implementation of this conservation practice is complete, meets criteria for the stated purpose(s), and meets the NRCS conservation practice standard and specifications.

NRCS Signature:	Date:	Job Approval Authority (JAA):