

Guidance Documents

Resource Management System Guide Sheet

For: UPLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT

STATE: Montana
Date: April 2006

RESOURCE SETTING: This resource area is for “odd areas” specifically managed as wildlife habitat. These include pivot corners, irregular areas between and among crop fields, abandoned homesteads, etc. Soils, slope, annual precipitation, etc. are variable.

IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS: Intensive agricultural practices have reduced wildlife habitat availability and diversity for many wildlife species. Habitat creation, enhancement and management within various “odd areas” may represent the only available opportunities for wildlife to survive. Much of the existing habitat is of poor quality due to uncontrolled livestock grazing, noxious weed infestations or burning practices.

ESSENTIAL PRACTICES: The practice standard considered to be essential to meet a RMS is 645–Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.

RMS OPTIONS:

RMS #1 Upland Wildlife Habitat—surrounded by cropland

645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Habitat protection and maintenance
344	Residue Management, Seasonal *	Provides residue for nesting cover for upland game birds and food for big game
512	Forage and Biomass Planting *	Provides nesting cover
595	Pest Management	Control noxious weeds
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment *	Provides winter cover and travel corridors
590	Nutrient Management	Minimize effect of nutrients to surface and groundwater
328	Conservation Crop Rotation *	Provides food and cover for wildlife
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till *	Provides nesting cover

RMS #2 Upland Wildlife Habitat—surrounded by pasture or hayland

645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Habitat protection and maintenance
382	Fence *	Manage livestock and provide residue for nesting cover
528	Prescribed Grazing *	Use livestock to manage plant communities to meet wildlife needs
643	Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats	Re-establishment of critical habitat for wildlife
511	Forage Harvest Management *	Provides nesting cover

* These practices should be considered on cropland, pasture and hayland adjacent to upland wildlife habitat to complete a wildlife RMS.

EXAMPLE RMS GUIDE SHEET—To be discarded after local guide sheet is developed.