United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Structures for Wildlife (649)

Structures for wildlife are structures installed to replace or modify a missing or deficient wildlife habitat component.

Practice Information

Artificial wildlife structures are constructed and applied to the land, to provide loafing, escape, nesting, rearing, roosting, perching and/or basking habitat, when the natural habitat structures are lacking. These artificial structures are typically installed to provide temporary missing habitat until more permanent natural habitat can be established.

Common examples of structures for wildlife are avian nesting structures, rock piles, brush piles, and rapture perches. The modification of an existing structure (e.g. fences and watering facilities) that poses an immediate danger or threat to at-risk species would also fall under this national conservation practice.

Examples of modifications of existing structures are the addition of fence markers to existing fences, adding or removing wire to facilitate safe passage of wildlife, and adding

wildlife escape ramps to existing water troughs. The application of this practice is limited to non-domesticated species and populations.

Common Associated Practices

Structures for Wildlife (649) is commonly applied as a facilitating practice to Upland Wildlife Management (645) or Wetland Wildlife Management (644). When monitoring and maintenance is required of the installed structure, Access Road (560) is commonly used to support this practice.

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.