



# Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

*Retaining, developing, or managing  
wetland habitat for wetland wildlife*

*Lifespan of Practice: 1 year*

**Tennessee Implementation  
Requirements No. TN-644**



## PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

This practice will maintain, develop, or improve wetland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, fur-bearers, or other wetland dependent or associated flora and fauna on or adjacent to wetlands, rivers, lakes and other water bodies where wetland associated wildlife habitat can be managed. This job sheet must be used in conjunction with the 644 Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management conservation practice standard.

The Tennessee Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Procedure (WHEP)(Section IV, FOTG Tools) for wetlands will be used to determine habitat limiting factors.

Application of this practice shall remove or reduce limiting factor(s) in their order of significance, as indicated by results of the WHEP.

The following elements shall be addressed when assessing existing and planned wetland wildlife habitat. Not all elements may apply to every habitat type.

**Food** – types of food, quantity, quality, distribution and seasonal availability;

**Cover** – types of cover (nesting and roosting, brood rearing, travel corridors, escape cover and winter protection) quantity, quality and distribution;

**Water** – quantity, quality, accessibility, seasonal availability and depth;

**Interspersion and Connectivity** – distance and connection to food sources, cover and water.

Plan management to minimize negative impacts to wildlife. Management practices and activities shall not disturb cover during the primary nesting period for grassland species (April 15 – August 15). NRCS biologists may allow for periodic burning, disking, selected herbicide techniques, selected mechanical removal or mowing when necessary to maintain the health of the practice.

Plans shall include the following as appropriate:

- goals and objectives including targeted species;
- site plan map with food sources, wetland type(s) and any important wetland resources identified;
- habitat requirements and/or habitat limiting factors for selected species;
- baseline and target plant communities and means of establishment;
- planting rates, species, planting dates and locations of supplemental food plots (if applicable);
- required depth of water during the different seasons;
- types and sizes of structures required;
- any required permits or compatible use documentation including CPA-52 or similar environmental evaluation documentation.

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

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).



Water Sources and Structures

Considerations

Diversion

Required permits

Pond/reservoir

Utilities notified

Well with pump

Impacts on upstream and downstream landowners

Pump

Impacts on Threatened and Endangered species

Water control structure

Impacts to cultural resources

Surface water runoff

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Management Activities

- Slow drawdown starting on or around: (rate and date) \_\_\_\_\_
- Leave drained over summer allowing moist soil plants to grow
- Allow shallow water area to gradually refill; start refilling on: (rate and date) \_\_\_\_\_
- Maintain shall water over winter. Vary water depth from year to year: (depths) \_\_\_\_\_
- Disk at the start of the growing season as necessary to stimulate annuals: (date) \_\_\_\_\_
- Prescribed burning: (date) \_\_\_\_\_
- No active management (natural water regime)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Site-specific Operation and Maintenance and Additional Notes:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Landowner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Conservation Planner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_