

## SECTION III - GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

### Wildlife Land

#### Planning Resource Management Systems (RMS)

Successful resource management on wildlife land is the correct application of a combination of practices that will meet the needs of the total species ecosystem--the soil, water, air, plant, and animal (SWAPA+H) resources--and the objectives of the land user. The land user's objective must be consistent with the potential production capabilities of the resources.

The minimum quality criteria that must be met on wildlife land for each of the resource concerns is explained previously in Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

In planning a RMS for wildlife land (upland, wetland or stream), vegetation management, and water management is the foundation on which the RMS is built. Upland wildlife habitat management, wetland wildlife habitat management and/or stream habitat management are **ESSENTIAL** for habitat management. A plan of how the wildlife is balanced with the plant community and water availability to meet the SWAPA+H resources is the basis of a RMS. Water availability either in succulent plants or free water, food (critical/season or season long), and cover (vegetation and/or topography) are **ESSENTIAL** for a wildlife RMS.

All other practices planned on wildlife land are either to facilitate the application of the vegetative or water management practices and are identified as **FACILITATIVE** practices, or are needed to cause or accelerate changes in the wildlife land ecosystem and are identified as **ADDITIONAL** practices. These practices are planned when necessary to treat specific resource problems to meet the criteria for managing the SWAPA+H resources.

Resource Management Systems include a combination of practices that are:

1. **ESSENTIAL**: The wildlife management practice (upland or wetland) is necessary to successful management of wildlife land and is generally planned in the RMS.
2. **FACILITATIVE**: These practices enhance the management of the wildlife land.
3. **ADDITIONAL**: These practices are planned when necessary to cause or accelerate changes in the wildlife land ecosystem that cannot be achieved through application of wildlife upland or wetland management and facilitating practices. These practices become **ESSENTIAL** when conditions make their application necessary to achieve the quality criteria for the resource, the quality level for wildlife land, and/or the landowner's objective.

A RMS on wildlife land is developed with the landowner through the planning process. A RMS generally includes the **ESSENTIAL** practices plus a combination of **FACILITATIVE** and/or **ADDITIONAL** practices whose combined effects will meet the criteria established for each resource (SWAPA+H). When multiple land use is an objective, the needs of each use and effects of each practice must be considered in the selection, application, and design of each practice to ensure compatibility. The RMS must also meet the quality level of wildlife land. The quality level for wildlife land is defined as; Habitat is rated at 75 percent of potential using the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide and/or appropriate Habitat Model.

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Following is a listing of conservation practices divided into ESSENTIAL, FACILITATIVE, and ADDITIONAL categories. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive. See FOTG Section IV for a complete list of practices and individual practice standards for applicable land uses.

#### ESSENTIAL

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management  
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management  
Stream Habitat Improvement and Management

#### FACILITATIVE

Fence  
Use Exclusion  
Prescribed Grazing  
Water Facility<sup>1</sup>  
Structures for Water Control

#### ADDITIONAL

Pond  
Filter Strips  
Range Planting  
Hedgerow Planting  
Brush Management  
Prescribed Burning<sup>2</sup>  
Wetland Restoration  
Residue Management  
Critical Area Planting  
Tree/Shrub Establishment  
Erosion Control Structures  
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation  
Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment  
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment

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<sup>1</sup> This additional water facilitates management

<sup>2</sup> Burning for wildlife distribution or forage production/ palatability

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#### **Planning Resource Management Systems (RMS)**

The following Guide Sheets give examples of a RMS on wildlife land. Situations are described based on habitat condition and associated problems. Two or three examples are given for each situation. The first example represents the lowest level of management necessary to achieve the planning of a RMS. The second and/or third example represents higher levels of management. As management level increases, the application of some practices become ADDITIONAL to the application of the wildlife management practices. (Example: The ADDITIONAL water development and/or fence to implement an intensive Prescribed Grazing System, Use Exclusion, or Prescribed Burning for Forage Quality, etc.)

The Guide Sheets are to be used as guides only to help understand the thought process used during the planning process and to assess the effects of conservation practices on the considerations and problems associated with the five resources.