

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet

645



Definition

Provide and manage upland habitats and connectivity within the landscape for wildlife.

Criteria

General Criteria Applicable to all Purposes

A Wildlife Habitat Evaluation, approved by the NRCS State Office, shall be used to identify habitat-limiting factors in the planning area.

Application of this practice shall remove or reduce limiting factor(s) as indicated by results of the habitat evaluation.

Application of this practice alone, or in combination with other supporting and facilitating practices, shall result in a conservation system that will meet or exceed fifty percent (50%) of the general wildlife habitat potential for the planned project condition regardless of land use.

Conservation plans developed with wildlife as the primary objective shall meet or exceed seventy-five percent (75%) of the general habitat potential for the planned project condition.

Additional Criteria for Establishing Plants that Enable Movement or Provide Shelter or Food

Plant material specifications shall require the use of native species whenever possible and include only high quality and adapted species. Natural succession may be used to establish the desired vegetative community, where soil quality is high, and a desirable seed source is nearby.

Where planting is required, site preparation, planting dates, and planting methods shall optimize vegetation survival and growth. Introduced/exotic plants species are discouraged. Refer to the Plant Establishment Guide for Virginia.

Additional Criteria for Manipulation of Vegetation to Sustain Desirable Habitat Conditions over Time

Actions needed to sustain desirable wildlife habitat conditions over time include reapplication of this practice at intervals longer than 3 years.

Equipment travel, grazing, haying, and other disturbance to habitat shall be minimized during April 15th – August 15th to avoid disturbing wildlife reproduction activities. Exceptions for establishing habitat-forming vegetation and controlling invasive or unwanted plants may be implemented when these activities are necessary to maintain the health of the plant community.

Regulated noxious weeds and invasive plants shall be controlled.

Note: This summary does not address all requirements and considerations in the VA Upland Wildlife Habitat Management Conservation Practice Standard (VA-645). Consult the Conservation Practice Standard for further details.

General Information	
Client: _____	County: _____
Field Office: _____	Contract #: _____
Farm #: _____	Tract #: _____
Field # and acreage: _____	

Purpose Treating upland wildlife concerns that enable movement, or provide shelter, cover or food, locations, and times to sustain wildlife that inhabit uplands. (check all that apply):

- Provide Shelter
- Provide Cover
- Provide Movement Corridor
- Provide Food

Practice Specifications

(Identify the amounts and kinds of habitat elements, locations (attach map), and management actions necessary to achieve the client's management objectives. Describe the appropriate method, timing, and intensity of management needed to produce the desired habitat conditions and sustain them over time.)

Habitat Evaluation Scores (Attach completed Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Tool)

Landuse Evaluated	Benchmark Score	Planned Score
EX. 1 – Open land/Cropland	35	76

Practice Planned (practice yielding the planned score)	Field Number(s)	Planting requirements (species, density, and dates)	Management	Size

Operation and Maintenance

The following actions shall be carried out to ensure that this practice functions as intended throughout its expected life:

- Evaluate habitat conditions on a regular basis in order to adapt the conservation plan and schedule of implementation.
- Annually inspect and repair structural or vegetative components of this practice.

Additional O&M Instructions:

Planner Certification

The Upland Wildlife Habitat Management practice planned in this job sheet fulfills minimum requirements of Virginia NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 645.

Signature Title Date

Certification of Practice Completion

The Upland Wildlife Habitat Management practice planned in this job sheet has been completed and maintained according to Virginia NRCS specifications (indicate in Practice Specifications if any changes to the planned activities and acreage.)

Signature Title Date

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Scale 1"= ____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2 " by 1/2")

Additional Specifications and Notes:

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”