

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management...

creating, restoring, maintaining, or enhancing areas for food, cover, and water for upland wildlife and species which use upland habitat for a portion of their life cycle.



Wildlife habitat, photo courtesy USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Purposes

This conservation practice may be applied as part of a system to accomplish one or more of the following resource management objectives:

- To provide food for the desired wildlife species**
- To provide a variety of cover types for the desired wildlife species.**

Benefits

Planting perennial ground cover such as grasses, shrubs, and trees can reduce soil erosion, filter runoff, and increase infiltration. Carefully planned wildlife habitat can add value and beauty to the landscape.

Applications

This practice applies on all landscapes that are suitable for the types of wildlife habitat that are needed within the range of the desired species or the natural community under consideration.

Design and Installation

Upland wildlife habitat management can include structural or vegetative measures to improve food and cover for the desired species of wildlife. Vegetative improvements can involve creating food plots, planting warm or cool season grasses or legumes, forbs, trees or other woody vegetation depending on the desired target wildlife species. Vegetative species planted shall be suitable for the planned purpose, soils, climate, and site conditions. An NRCS conservationist can assist with site-specific seeding recommendations for all habitat elements.

Maintenance

Protect plantings from grazing livestock and undesirable vegetation. Weed management measures should be used on a spot basis if invasive species and noxious plants threaten the intended purpose of the practice.

Relative Cost

Installation low ●●○○○ high

Maintenance low ●●○○○ high

For Additional Information...

Visit the Indiana NRCS office online at <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/> to see the Indiana Job Sheets for (645) Food Plot or (645) Brush Pile or the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) standard for (645) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, or contact your local USDA-NRCS office

Local USDA-NRCS contact information