

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management...

retaining, developing, or managing habitat for wetland wildlife.



Wetland habitat, photo courtesy USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Purposes

The purpose of this practice is to maintain, develop, or improve habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, fur-bearers, or other wetland-dependent or associated flora and fauna.

Benefits

Proper management of wetland wildlife habitat can increase and maintain desirable foods for waterfowl and other species of wildlife.

Applications

This practice applies on or adjacent to wetlands, rivers, lakes, and other water bodies where wetland associated wildlife habitat can be managed.

Design and Installation

Consult an NRCS conservationist for assistance in developing a site-specific plan to benefit particular species of wildlife. It is important to identify the types, amount, and distribution of habitat elements and the management actions necessary to achieve the management objectives. Depending on the desired purpose, the plan can include the following:

1. Components or structures needed to meet the requirements of the desired species;
2. The required seasonal water depths necessary to provide habitat;
3. Adapted plant species required for reproduction, food, and cover by the target wildlife species. Targeted species may include shorebirds, amphibians and reptiles, waterfowl, fur-bearers, and others.

Maintenance

Maintenance can include measures to ensure the sustainability of the habitat, including the control of unwanted or exotic vegetation. Any use of fertilizers, mechanical treatment, prescribed burning, pesticides or other chemicals should not compromise the intended purpose.

In addition, any embankments or structures on the site should be inspected regularly to assess damage, and needed repairs should be made promptly.

Relative Cost

Installation low ●●●○○ high

Maintenance low ●○○○○ high

For Additional Information...

Visit the Indiana NRCS office online at <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/>, see the Indiana Job Sheet or the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) standard for (644) Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management, or contact your local USDA-NRCS office

Local USDA-NRCS contact information