



Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

Conservation Practice 644 - Job Sheet

Client: Michael Galassi WRE
NEST # 5404361701MKB



Definition and Purpose

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management is used to maintain, develop, or improve wetland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, furbearers, fish, reptiles, amphibians, or other wetland-dependent flora and fauna.

Where Used

This practice applies on or adjacent to wetlands, rivers, lakes, and other water bodies where wetland associated wildlife habitat can be managed. This practice applies to natural wetlands or water bodies as well as wetlands that may have been previously restored, enhanced, or created.

Planning for Wetland Wildlife

Wetlands provide many ecological functions and societal values, such as, water storage and flood attenuation, nutrient cycling, sediment retention, and fish and wildlife habitat. Wetlands are important habitat to many wildlife species, but habitat suitability for any given species is highly dependent upon the quality, quantity, and interspersions of food, cover, water, and living space required by that species. The timing, depth, duration, frequency, and flow of water in a wetland has a significant influence on these habitat elements. Each species has a daily and seasonal home range within which it is willing to travel to fulfill its life cycle. All of an animal's life requirements for food, cover, water, and space must be available and safely accessible within their home range to maintain or increase its population size.

Generally, two approaches are taken when planning for wetland wildlife. One approach is to benefit as many species as possible on a wetland without managing for a particular species or group of species. This approach is often used when wildlife habitat improvement is a secondary objective of the landowner. Another approach is to target planning towards a single species or group of species (e.g., migratory waterfowl). This approach requires more in-depth knowledge of species life history requirements and is typically taken when wildlife are a primary concern.

With either approach, a habitat evaluation of the planning area must be conducted to determine which habitat factors may be limiting the value or suitability of habitat. A Wetland Functional Assessment or the NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guides can be used to assess habitat variables on wetlands where the purpose is to improve habitat for wetland wildlife in general. If wildlife objectives are more focused, species-specific Habitat Models or Biology Technical Notes can be used to inventory habitat conditions. The habitat evaluation procedure should assess all of the critical habitat elements and attempt to identify the limiting habitat factor. The habitat element that is in least supply often determines the presence, abundance, and/or distribution of wildlife. Also the landscape context, or setting, that the planning area occurs in should be considered when evaluating habitat suitability.

Treatment alternatives are then developed to address the limiting habitat factors identified by the habitat evaluation. This practice can be applied alone or in combination with other conservation practices to remove or reduce the limiting habitat factors and address any other wetland wildlife habitat concerns. At a minimum after implementation of this practice, the planning area is expected to provide adequate habitat to support the life requirements of the targeted species.

Plans and Specifications

The following Specification Sheets, along with the conservation plan and plan map, are used to document existing habitat limitations and identify management actions that are needed to achieve the desired wildlife habitat management objectives.

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Conservation Practice 644 – Specification Sheet

Client:	Michael Galassi	Date:	3/19/2020
Location:	T6N R5W Sec. 14	County/SWCD:	Columbia County
Contract #:	5404361701MKB	Tract/Field:	Tract 1937/Field WET
Planner:	C. Reidy	Acres:	21.8

Management Objective(s): Describe species, wetland type, or wetland condition that is being targeted and the desired outcome.

To restore and maintain wetlands and associated uplands to original conditions to the extent practicable.

Purpose(s) of Practice:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Improve food quantity/quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provide cover/shelter |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manage wetland hydrology for wildlife | <input type="checkbox"/> Improve habitat connectivity/space |

Habitat Evaluation Procedure: List tools or methods used to assess habitat conditions (e.g., Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide, Species-specific Habitat Model, Technical Note, Wetland Functional Assessment, etc.).

Wetland Functional Assessment – HGM judgmental method (completed 17Jan2020).

Existing Habitat Conditions & Limiting Factor(s): Describe current habitat conditions, wetland hydrology, and possible limiting factor(s) in the planning area. Consider the quantity, quality, distribution, and connectivity of food, water, and cover elements needed to meet the life requirements of targeted species throughout the year.

Food: Existing vegetation consists primarily of reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) with a few scattered patches of native sedges. Reed canarygrass is a poor forage for the majority of wildlife species and it outcompetes native wetland vegetation with higher food value. Food is a limiting factor.

Cover/shelter: Existing reed canarygrass provide poor cover/shelter to native wildlife species as it forms dense stands that lay down and form dense thatch that is difficult for the majority of wildlife species (excepting perhaps small mammals) to navigate. Cover/shelter is a limiting factor.

Water/hydrology: The natural hydroperiod of the wetland is reduced due to the presence of a network of drainage ditches. This reduced hydroperiod could affect amphibian recruitment if surface water recedes before larval amphibians are able to morph into terrestrial forms. Hydrology may be a limiting factor for some species.

Space/connectivity: The wetland area is juxtaposed between upland introduced grasslands and upland forest. Non-forested uplands will be planted to native trees, shrubs, and herbs. Space/connectivity is not a limiting factor.

Planned Management Actions: Describe management actions that will be taken to remove or reduce limiting habitat factors and improve each wetland habitat element. Describe details of water management needed to produce the depth and duration of inundation required during different seasons. Document how the desired native plants will be established and maintained. Address any additional management requirements, including noxious weed and invasive plant control, livestock grazing, haying, mowing, burning, etc.

Reed canarygrass will be controlled through chemical and mechanical herbicide treatments to prepare the site for microtopographic and vegetative restoration as well as post planting chemical spot treatments. Ditches will be plugged and filled to restore original hydrology. Microtopography within the reed canarygrass monoculture will be restored by creating a series of micro highs and micro lows to facilitate competitive native vegetation. Micro highs will be seeded to a herbaceous mixture of competitive native plants and also planted to appropriate native shrubs including rose spirea (*Spirea douglasii*), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), Piper's willow (*Salix hookeriana*), cluster rose (*R. pisocarpa*), wild crabapple (*Malus fusca*), twinberry honeysuckle (*Lonicera involucrata*), and/or others. Micro lows will be seeded to a native mixture of emergent marsh species and also are expected to naturally regenerate with wetland species tolerant of long periods of inundation, such as western inflated sedge (*Carex exsiccata*), common spikerush (*Eleocharis palustris*), blunt spikerush (*Eleocharis obtusa*), redroot flatsedge (*Cyperus erythrorhizos*), and others. See also 315, 327, 612, and 657 job sheets.

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Operation and Maintenance: Client agrees to annual monitoring of this practice to determine: 1) if wetland wildlife habitat objectives are being met, 2) if conservation practices are functioning or need repair, and 3) if modifications are needed.

DESIGN APPROVAL:

Practice Code NO.	PRACTICE	LEAD DISCIPLINE	CONTROLLING FACTOR	UNITS	JOB CLASS				
					I	II	III	IV	V
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Mgt	ESD-Aq Bio	1) Needed change to vegetative composition and cover to meet planning criteria	Degree: # of supporting practices required	1 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All <input type="checkbox"/>
Check appropriate Job Class for each Controlling Factor			2) Land uses across which CPS is planned/applied	Number	1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 <input type="checkbox"/>	3 <input type="checkbox"/>	All <input type="checkbox"/>	All <input type="checkbox"/>

Design Approved by:/s/ _____

Job Title: State Wetlands Planner

Design JAA: 1-V/2-V

Date: 3/19/2020

CLIENT'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT:

The Client acknowledges that:

- a. They have received a copy of the specification and understand the contents and requirements.
- b. It shall be the responsibility of the client to obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice.

Accepted by:/s/ _____

Date: _____

CERTIFICATION:

I have completed a review of the information provided by the client or have conducted a site visit and certify this practice has been applied according NRCS standards and specifications.

Certification by:/s/ _____

Date: _____

Job Title: _____

Construction JAA: _____