CCRP Practice

CP23 Wetland Restoration

Expiring CRP sites with Existing Vegetation

The purpose of the practice is to restore the functions and values of converted wetland ecosystems that are entirely within the 100-year floodplain.

Eligible sites are defined as those cropped wetlands which have been manipulated, either entirely or partially, and which meet CRP cropland eligibility requirements, along with the associated upland buffer areas. All hydric soils, as identified on the county hydric soils list, which have been cropped and meet CRP requirements are eligible for restoration. For soil complexes that are listed as having hydric soil components an in-field review will determine the extent of each site eligible as a cropped wetland. The following matrix gives general hydric soil criteria, refer to the county hydric soils list for specific information:

SYMBOL	CRITERIA	TYPICAL LANDSCAPE LOCATION
1	Organic soils	Sites may be depressional or non-depressional (county specific).
2B2, 2B3	Saturation	Sites typically non-depressional - flats, drainage ways, bogs, seeps. May include small depressional inclusions.
3	Ponded	Sites are depressional.
4	Flooding	Sites frequently flooded for long - very long duration.

The degree of restoration will be defined by the landowner after technical consultation with USDA. The goal of wetland restoration projects is to restore the original hydrology of the site. Practice feasibility, economic cost, off-site limitations along with other considerations may limit the extent of hydrology that can be restored. When NRCS determines that the existing level of restoration (including existing vegetation) meets the requirements of practice standard 657, Wetland Restoration, no additional implementation activity is required. Participants are still required to meet the cover requirements for the associated upland buffer.

Initial wetland restoration feasibility assessments must be completed by a qualified individual and must consider avoiding impacts to adjacent properties, utilities, or other infrastructures unless approvals, permits, or consents are attainable. This assessment must include an evaluation of the depth, width and extent of the existing drainage system and its impact on the site's hydric soils. Floodplain restorations must be evaluated to insure that the flood storage area is not reduced or adversely impacted through the placement of fill, dikes, levees, or embankments.

Wetland acreage eligibility will be determined independent of USDA wetland determinations or the FWS National Wetland Inventory although these sources should be used as references when

determining eligibility. Eligible areas will typically be considered as Farmed Wetlands (FW), Wetlands Farmed Under Natural conditions (W) or Prior Converted Cropland (PC). The CP-23 practice may also enroll a buffer limited to a ratio of 3 acres of buffer to 1 acre of restored wetland. The entire practice area including the buffer area may not extend beyond the 100-year floodplain.

Wetlands will be restored using the NRCS Practice Standard Wetland Restoration, Code 657. Seeding mixes for the wetland zone, when needed, can be found in the 657 standard. Buffer areas for sites developed under a grassland ecosystem will be seeded according to NRCS Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645 or Restoration of Declining Habitats Code 643, with a mixed stand of a minimum of 5 native species consisting of at least 3 grasses, and 1 forb. Buffer areas for sites under a woodland ecosystem will use NRCS Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment, Code 612. When restoring woodland ecosystems, plant hard mast species along with other species suitable for the wet nature of the site. As appropriate the NRCS Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Code 645, as above, may also be included in a woodland ecosystem planting. Native ecosystems can be determined by the soil survey or by the native vegetation maps (TRYGG or Marshner maps).

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Documentation of Eligibility and Suitability for Wetland Restoration — **CP23** Version 4/07

APPLICANT: _____ COUNTY: _____ **Resource Concerns for Eligibility Restoration of Wetlands**

FSA TRACT NO.: _____ FSA FIELD NO.: _____

Practice Eligibility (Need and feasibility):

1. Restorable cropped wetland acres are located inside the 100-year flood plain?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. The area offered includes hydric soils, altered or manipulated wetlands or prior converted cropland? (Additional map documentation must identify each eligible site).

☐ Yes ☐ No

Ineligible Practice:

☐ Offered acres are not located inside the 100-year floodplain.

☐ Offered acres are not cropped wetlands

Site Suitability (from site visit)

Document whether native vegetation is herbaceous or woodland.

Notes:

_____

Unsuitable Site:

☐ The entire offered acres are not within the 100-year flood plain.

Extent of eligible area:

Size of restored wetland _____ acres

Buffer Area*: _____ feet

***Will not exceed 3:1 buffer to wetland ratio**

Total Size of practice area _____ acres