The following guidance is provided to re-affirm CRP requirements for restoration of hydrology and vegetation on CRP wetland restoration practices CP23, CP23A, CP27 and CP37.

**Restoration of hydrology:**
1. Sites where no hydrologic manipulation is present (wetlands cropped under natural conditions) will be considered to have hydrology restored upon establishment of hydrophytic vegetation. See hydrophytic vegetation criteria below.

2. The goal of CRP is to restore the hydrology to its original pre-manipulation level where possible and practicable. Sites that have pre-existing hydrologic manipulation (ditch, subsurface tile etc.) will require some degree of hydrology restoration depending on the CRP practice being applied\(^1\). Hydrologic manipulation may be determined on a case by case basis to be non-functional in its current condition, or will be rendered non-functional through planned restoration actions.

An exception to hydrology restoration may be considered if physical or legal requirements preclude hydrology restoration. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Adverse impacts would occur to neighboring property
- Adverse impacts would occur to transportation infrastructure such as roads, bridges and railways
- Judicial drainage authorities deny or limit hydrology restoration
- Utility authorities (electric, pipeline etc.) deny or limit hydrology restoration

Landowner desire, as the sole reason not to undertake hydrology restoration, does not meet NRCS practice standards and will result in an ineligible offer.

**Restoration of hydrophytic vegetation:**
Establishment of hydrophytic vegetation on the restored wetland will be achieved either through seeding according to conservation practice standard 657 – Wetland Restoration or through cessation of cropping if best professional judgement determines that an adequate seedbank is present.

**Buffer:**
The amount of adjacent buffer acreage eligible to be enrolled varies based on the CRP practice\(^1\), and is expressed as a ratio of restored wetland. The buffer will be based on hydric soils acreage that is restored, particularly on practices CP23, CP23A and CP37 where the extent of hydrology restoration may be less than fully restored. Hydric soils acreage that is not restored, either due to lack of feasibility or landowner decision, will not be considered in determining the amount of eligible adjacent upland buffer acreage.

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1/ FSA Handbook 2-CRP (Rev. 5)

By CRP policy, “the restoration of wetland hydrology is only required to the extent specified by the producer” on practices CP23, CP23A and CP37. Practice CP27 requires the “restoration of wetland hydrology and vegetation to the maximum extent possible”.

The amount of adjacent upland acres shall not exceed a 3:1 ratio on practice CP23; a 4:1 ratio on practices CP23A and CP27 (CP28); and a 10:1 ratio on practice CP37.