

American Woodcock Habitat Best Management Practices for the Northeast

Habitat Element	Conservation Practice Name (Units)	Code	Habitat Notes
Spring Courtship Areas (male singing grounds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Trails and Landings • Early Successional Habitat Development/Management • Brush Management (Ac.) • Conservation Cover (Ac.) • Prescribed Grazing (Ac.) 	<p>655</p> <p>647</p> <p>314</p> <p>327</p> <p>528</p>	<p>8 singing grounds ½ acre or larger / 100 acres of woodcock habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest openings with sparse ground cover • Log landings and forest road sides • Pastures, reverting farmland, small hay fields
Nesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Border (Ft.) • Prescribed Forestry (Ac.) • Forest Stand Improvement (Ac.) • Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (Ac.) 	<p>386</p> <p>409</p> <p>666</p> <p>643</p>	<p>Young (seedling, sapling and small pole sized) hardwood types and shrublands 1 to 5⁺ acres adjacent to or near courtship areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Borders • Regenerating hardwood stand 2-15 years after clearcutting • Large sapling/small pole hardwood stand with dense shrub layer • Drier alder sites with stems 10 to 15 feet in height
Feeding/Diurnal Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed Forestry (Ac.) • Forest Stand Improvement (Ac.) • Riparian Forest Buffer (Ac.) • Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (Ac.) 	<p>409</p> <p>666</p> <p>391</p> <p>643</p>	<p>Moist rich soils with abundant earthworms in young deciduous stand and shrublands with ≥10,000 stems/acre and ≥5 acres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abandoned farmland • Riparian ecotones • Palustrine Shrub/Scrub (alder) and Palustrine Forested types from NWI • Preferred forest types aspen, alder/willow, gray/white birch, and pin cherry
Nocturnal Roosting Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Successional Habitat Development/Management • Forest Trails and Landings • Prescribed Grazing (Ac.) • Conservation Cover (Ac.) • Prescribed Burning • Brush Management (Ac.) 	<p>647</p> <p>655</p> <p>622</p> <p>327</p> <p>338</p> <p>314</p>	<p>1 roosting area of 5⁺ acres / 100 acres of woodcock habitat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light to moderately grazed pastures • Recent clearcuts and large log landings • Blueberry barrens or fields • Recently abandoned farmland • Reclaimed gravel pits with some bare ground