



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E644A

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Managing Flood-Irrigated Landscapes for Wildlife

Conservation Practice 644: Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed), Crop (Perennial), Pasture

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 Year

Enhancement Description

Developing and implementing a conservation plan that supports maintenance of flood-irrigation in key landscapes to provide important foraging habitat for local breeding and migratory waterfowl and waterbirds.

Criteria

- Develop a conservation plan for the targeted species suite.
- As identified in the conservation plan, flood-irrigation will be applied in an amount and at a time to meet the targeted wildlife need.
- States will apply general criteria from the NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644) and additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office
- Targeted species must be listed on the State Wildlife Action Plan or as State Endangered, State Threatened, State Sensitive (or similar designation).
- Appropriate locations for this enhancement will be provided by the NRCS State Office (NRCS State Office will base locations on current distribution of the targeted species and potential expansion into adjacent habitat for the target species. Other agencies

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(e.g. State Department of Fish and Game, USFWS) and organizations (e.g. Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy) will provide input to NRCS concerning instances where the enhancement is used to provide habitat outside of the current distribution of the target species.)

- Use of fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals shall not compromise the intended purpose of this practice.
- Use criteria in other NRCS Conservation Practice Standards to facilitate the management of wetland wildlife habitat as appropriate for the site.
- Depending on site conditions, facilitative practices may be used to implement this enhancement. The NRCS Conservation Practice Standards may include, but are not limited to: Dam, Diversion (Code 348), Diversion (Code 362), Fence (Code 382), Field Border (Code 386), Filter Strip (code 393), Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410), Irrigation Canal or Lateral (Code 320), Irrigation Field Ditch (Code 388), Irrigation Pipeline (Code 430), Irrigation Storage Reservoir (Code 436), Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (Code 443), Irrigation Water Management (Code 449), Nutrient Management (Code 590), Pumping Plant (Code 533), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390), Shallow Water Development and Management (Code 646), Stream Crossing (code 578), Structure for Water Control (Code 587), and Wetland Enhancement (Code 659).
- A Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) specific to wildlife habitat within a flood-irrigated landscape on perennial cropland or pasture must be used to show that implementation of the Enhancement will improve wildlife habitat value from fair (planning criteria = 0.5) to good (planning criteria greater than or equal to 0.6).



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements:

Participant Will:

- Prior to implementation, meet with NRCS to review results of the wildlife habitat assessment conducted by NRCS, and discuss range of management alternatives that would improve wildlife habitat conditions.
- Prior to implementation, meet with NRCS to obtain and review the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan.
- During implementation, follow the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan.
- During implementation, maintain field log to include:
 - Date/time of each field visit and observed water levels or percent holding capacity and average water depths;
 - Digital photographs documenting the habitat provided
- After implementation, provide the field log to NRCS for review to verify enhancement was implemented to meet criteria.

NRCS will:

- As needed, provide additional technical assistance to the participant.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain state NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, assess habitat condition using the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide to calculate current WHEG score and anticipated WHEG score after implementation of Enhancement; **Existing WHEG score = _____ Planned Post Implementation WHEG score = _____**
- Prior to implementation, review results of the wildlife habitat evaluation with participant, and discuss range of management alternatives that would improve wildlife habitat conditions
- Prior to implementation, develop a Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for targeted suite of species.
- Prior to implementation, review and explain the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan to the participant.
- After implementation, reassess habitat condition using Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide; **Post Implementation WHEG score = _____**



- After implementation, review field log to verify enhancement was implemented to meet criteria.

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NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date



United States Department of Agriculture

**IOWA SUPPLEMENT TO
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

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Additional Criteria for Iowa

- Contact the Iowa NRCS, State Resource Conservationist, for the appropriate Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG). Kevin.McCall@usda.gov or Phone: 515-284-4262.