

Common Wildlife Conservation Practices

Wildlife conservation practices are made to improve wildlife habitat, soil health, and mutually benefit producers and the wildlife in their local area. The Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) wildlife biologists work with private landowners to provide technical support and advice on fish and wildlife habitat development and restoration. This includes managing fish and wildlife populations and restoring streams and wetlands. Below are common practices that are implemented via NRCS’ conservation programs to conserve wildlife.



Conservation Cover (327)

- Reduces sheet, rill, and wind erosion and sediment
- Reduces ground and surface water quality degradation by nutrients and surface water quality degradation by sediment
- Reduces emissions of particulate matter (PM) (PM precursors and greenhouse gases)
- Enhances wildlife, pollinator, and beneficial organism habitat
- Improve soil health



Riparian and Herbaceous Cover (390)

- Provides or improves food and cover for fish, wildlife, and livestock
- Improves and maintains water quality
- Establishes and maintains habitat corridors
- Reduces erosion and improves stability to stream banks and shorelines
- Increases net carbon storage in biomass and soil
- Enhances pollen, nectar, and nesting habitat for pollinators
- Restores, improves, or maintains the desired plant communities



Restoration of Rare or Declining Habitat (643)

- Restores the physical conditions and/or unique plant community on sites that partially support or once supported a rare or declining natural community
- This practice addresses resource concerns of a degraded plant condition and/or inadequate wildlife habitat



Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)

- Maintains, develops, or improves wetland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, fur-bearers, or other wetland dependent or associated flora and fauna





Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

- This practice treats upland wildlife habitat concerns identified during the conservation planning process that enable movement, or provide shelter, cover, food in proper amounts, locations and times to sustain wild animals that inhabit uplands during a portion of their life cycle



Early Successional Habitat Development (647)

- Provides habitat for species requiring early successional habitat for all or part of their life cycle.



Range Planting (550)

- Restores a plant community similar to the ecological site description
- Provides or improves forages for livestock
- Provides or improves forage, browse, or cover for wildlife
- Reduces erosion by wind and/or water
- Improves water quality and quantity
- Increases carbon sequestration



Structure for Wildlife (649)

- Enhance or sustain non-domesticated wildlife
- Modify existing structures that pose a hazard to wildlife



Wetland Restoration (657)

- Restores wetland function value, habitat, diversity, and capacity to a close approximation of the pre-disturbance conditions
- Conditions conducive to hydric soil maintenance
- Wetland hydrology (dominant water source, hydroperiod, and hydrodynamics)
- Native hydrophytic vegetation (including the removal of undesired species, and/or seeding or planting of desired species)
- Original fish and wildlife habitats

