

## INDIANA CONSERVATION CHOICES

# Wildlife Management Practices

Conservation practices help improve soil health, reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and provide other natural resource benefits.

## INDIANA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

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Are you interested in improving wildlife habitat? Whether you are interested in pollinators, northern bobwhite quail, ducks, or other wildlife species, proper management of your land will help you achieve your goals and interests. Potential habitat areas can provide alternative vegetative cover in areas of your property that may be difficult, or not suitable to farm.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers assistance to implement wildlife-friendly conservation practices on your land. These conservation practices benefit fish and wildlife, while boosting your land's resiliency and production, and can aid in the recovery of wildlife species of concern. In addition to wildlife habitat, these areas provide ecological services including pollination, pest control, and water quality improvements.

The first step is to get a conservation plan to identify your objectives and come up with a series of suggested activities. In essence, your plan is a "road map" to guide you from where you are to where you want to be. It can enable you to make educated decisions for your land, keep you from making costly management mistakes, and possibly help qualify you for financial programs.

This factsheet lists common conservation practices for wildlife habitat. To learn more about including wildlife habitat on your land, visit your local NRCS office. NRCS staff will help you or connect you with a biologist to guide you in making the right choices so that you can protect and improve your land and other resources.



**For more information visit: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/Indiana](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Indiana)**

Practice	Description	Benefits
<p><b>Grass and wildflower plantings</b></p> 	<p>Planting wildlife friendly grasses and wildflowers (forbs) to benefit a variety of wildlife.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Provides habitat for a variety of species including pollinators, Monarchs, northern bobwhite quail, whitetail deer, wild turkey, songbirds etc.</li> <li>» Provides habitat for threatened and endangered species, or species of special concern.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Wetland Restoration</b></p> 	<p>Removing marginal or frequently flooded agricultural land from production, and restoring area to historic ecological conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Provides habitat for a variety of species including waterfowl, shorebirds, herons, pollinators, etc.</li> <li>» Improves water quality and flood retention.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Early Successional Habitat Development &amp; Management</b></p> 	<p>Periodic disturbance to maintain grassland, prairie, and shrub habitat through tree cutting, prescribed burning, strip disking, and more.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Provides needed habitat components for species such as northern bobwhite quail, pheasants, certain songbirds, eastern cottontail rabbits, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Woodland Management</b></p> 	<p>Managing woodlands for wildlife with tree thinning, temporary forest openings, oak regeneration or invasive species control.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Improves habitat by increasing fruit and mast (nuts), improving forest structure, diversity and adequate ground cover and regeneration for forest wildlife including ruffed grouse, deer, wild turkey, woodcock, songbirds, etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Restoration of Rare or Declining Communities</b></p> 	<p>The re-establishment of conditions necessary to support rare habitat communities in Indiana such oak savanna, open woodlands, prairie, and sedge meadows.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Provides habitat for threatened and endangered species, or communities of animals that rely on very specific, high quality habitat types.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Buffers</b></p> 	<p>Planting a habitat strip of trees, shrubs, and/or grasses around fields or bodies of water.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Provides habitat for a variety of species including pollinators, Monarchs, northern bobwhite quail, eastern cottontail rabbits, pheasants, etc.</li> <li>» Increases ecological services for adjacent fields, including pollination services and biological pest control.</li> <li>» Improves water quality in adjacent bodies of water.</li> <li>» Reduces pesticide drift from adjacent fields to reduce impact to beneficial insects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Invasive Species Control</b></p>  <p><small>Source: Three Rivers Park District</small></p>	<p>The removal or reduction of plant species that establish monocultures in habitat situations, reducing biodiversity, and wildlife habitat quality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Removes competition so beneficial vegetation can re-establish.</li> <li>» Creates desired plant community.</li> <li>» Improves wildlife habitat.</li> <li>» Enhances tree regeneration.</li> <li>» Increases tree growth and health.</li> </ul>