



## Conservation Practice Overview

November 2024

### Seasonal Water Management For Wildlife (Code 646)

Seasonal Water Management for Wildlife is the temporary inundation of lands to provide seasonal habitat that meets specific life cycle needs for fish or wildlife.



#### Practice Information

This practice is applied where water can be impounded or regulated by existing or planned diking, excavating, ditching, or flooding. It can also be used to provide refuge habitats for native fish during high-flow periods.

The purpose is to provide habitat for wildlife such as shorebirds, waterfowl, wading birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and other species that require ponded or pooled water for at least a part of their life cycle.

Site selection is important for success of this practice. The site must be capable of supporting surface inundation for an extended period in order to meet habitat needs of the identified species. The water supply must be adequate to maintain water levels at the appropriate depth over the majority of the area during the inundation period. The quality of the water source must also be sufficient to support the species of interest.

Operation and maintenance is very important to ensure that this practice functions as intended throughout its expected life and includes monitoring and management of water levels. Structural components required to implement this practice (e.g., water control structures) should also be monitored and maintained to ensure success. Areas to be inundated that are not used for agricultural production may need to be burned, disked, or otherwise disturbed periodically to set back succession and control the growth of undesirable plants.

#### Common Associated Practices

Seasonal Water Management for Wildlife (646) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Dike and Levee (356) and Structure for Water Control (587).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.