

*If you are considering mowing, prescribed burning, disking, bush hogging, timber removal, or any type of vegetation management, or manipulation of the water levels on your WRP or WRE land, be sure to read and understand the following before you take any action.*

Applies also to easements enrolled under Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

## Compatible Use Agreements (CUA)

### Compatible Use Agreements

WRP and WRE lands may be used for compatible uses, if such use is authorized through a Compatible Use Agreement (CUA). Landowners may request permission for certain activities.

**Any activity that affects vegetation, alters water levels, or alters structures/features constructed for wetland restoration requires a compatible use agreement.**

**Only activities that are consistent with the long-term protection, restoration, and enhancement of the easement area will be authorized.** These agreements will specifically define the activity, method, frequency, timing, intensity and duration of the compatible use, and will be reviewed annually. Some typical compatible uses include:

- Regular prescribed burning (with a prescribed burn plan) and firebreak maintenance.
- Control or removal of exotic/non-native invasive harmful pest plants.
- Pine timber thinning or harvest, in consultation with a professional forester and wildlife manager, **if required to achieve or protect wildlife habitat and wetland function.**
- Mowing or bush hogging **if required to maintain wildlife habitat and wetland functions and values** only in specified areas and at specified times.
- Game or food plots planted with an approved mix of grains such as millet, buckwheat, oats, rye grain, sorghum, sunflowers, or corn (< 50%). Plots may not exceed 5% of the easement area or five acres in size, whichever is smaller. No single food plot can exceed 5 acres in size. Plots may not be created within wetlands.

- Establish native vegetation such as longleaf pine, wiregrass and other native grasses, locally native wildflowers, hardwood trees and shrubs as part of a restoration plan.
- Mowing, for access roads and nature trails, or to manage and maintain structures such as embankments. Access roads or nature trails may not exceed 10 feet in width, or be mowed shorter than three inches in height.
- Moist soil or shallow water management where applicable (easements with existing or installed water control structures as part of restoration)

### Restrictions on Structures

Permanent structures, such as houses, trailers, mobile homes, hunting and fishing lodges, cabins, fishing huts or other similar structures are not allowed on WRE/WRP easements. Hunting stands, duck blinds, or wildlife viewing stands are allowed with certain restrictions. See other side for more details.

### Monitoring the Easements

NRCS will monitor WRP easements through aerial photography annually and by a site visit at least once every three years. Monitoring is necessary to ensure that full wetland functions and values are achieved and maintained, to detect violations, to direct the course of management, and to maintain a good working relationship between the landowner and NRCS.

### Weed Control

Noxious weed control is the responsibility of the landowner. The methods landowners use for controlling weeds must be written in a compatible use authorization prior to weed control activities.

*If you plan to put a hunting stand or blind on your WRE or WRP easement, please read and understand the following before putting up any structure or blind.*

# Hunting Stands or Blinds

## Hunting and Wildlife Stands

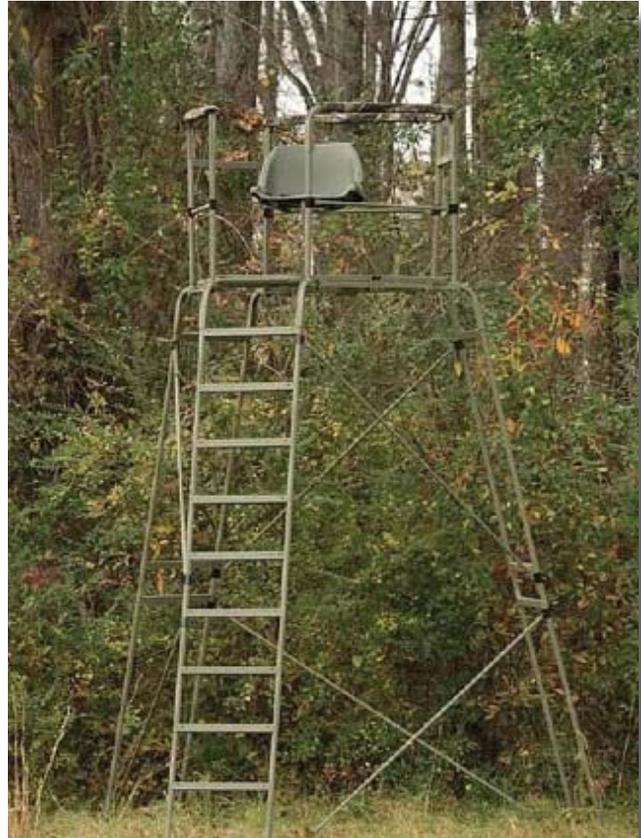
Hunting stands, duck blinds, or wildlife viewing stands are allowed on WRE/WRP easement lands. Permissible structures on South Carolina easements must be rustic and customary, and relatively temporary in nature, constructed with minimal surface disturbance.

Permissible tree stands and hunting blinds:

1. Will not require heavy machinery, such as earth moving equipment, telephone pole drivers, etc. to install.
2. Will be no more than 75 sq. ft. in size.
3. Can be removed from the site upon request with equipment no larger than a pick-up truck or small tractor.
4. Will not use concrete or asphalt to construct footings, foundations, or other supports.
5. May be installed on support posts using hand post hole digging tools. Use of heavy machinery to install or construct stands is prohibited if vegetation outside of the immediate area will be disturbed.
6. May be on the ground (including duck blinds).
7. Will not include permanent utilities such as electricity, heat or television hook-ups.
8. When necessary for safety purposes, bracing will be done with T-posts or other similar support that can be both installed and removed by hand.
9. Do not include houses, trailers, mobile homes, hunting and fishing lodges, cabins, fishing huts or other similar structures.

All hunting blinds that are no longer useable shall be removed from the easement, and no parts will remain to deteriorate on site.

Landowners may install hunting stands/blinds on the easement at their discretion. It is important to not impede NRCS restoration, maintenance,



*Tree stands may be no more than 75 sq.ft, without utilities or concrete, and may remain on site year round. NRCS reserves the right to require the landowner to remove blinds/stands that do not adhere to these guidelines.*

or management efforts including, but not limited to prescribed burns. The landowner will be solely responsible for protecting their hunting stands/blinds. NRCS does not assume any responsibility for protecting or compensating landowners for the loss of hunting structures.

For more information about WRE or WRP contact NRCS at your local USDA Service Center or on the web at [www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov) under Programs.