

## (657, 658, 659) Wetland Restoration, Creation, Enhancement

### FY 2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program Requirement Sheet

A site- and species-specific wildlife habitat management plan is preferred for all EQIP applications. If no such plan has been approved by the NRCS area biologist or NRCS partner biologist, the conservation planners must follow this requirement sheet to address limiting habitat factors identified in the TN NRCS TN NRCS Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide (WHAG).

**Eligible lands:** Private agricultural land and private nonindustrial forestland needing wetland creation, enhancement, or restoration for wetland habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, other aquatic based wildlife, and neotropical songbirds, through wetland creation/enhancement/restoration.

#### **EQIP Wetland Restoration/Creation/Enhancement Practice Requirements:**

1. Vegetative restoration shall consist of either reforestation and/or natural revegetation of native herbaceous vegetation.
2. Planted trees must be a mixture of at least three (3) species. Tree species selected must be adapted to the site. If identified as an oak site, include at least one oak from the white oak family and one oak from the red oak family.
3. Financial assistance is only eligible for herbaceous plant materials for establishing permanent cover on constructed dikes, spillways, and other structural practices.
4. Complete a wetland determination prior to approval of the contract.
5. Prior converted cropland areas not planned for reforestation may only be managed as moist soil management units of native herbaceous vegetation. No cropping is allowed. Plant no more than 25 percent of the impoundment area to an annual grain (at participant's expense) for flooding each year. See Shallow Water Development and Management standard for details on food plot crops and moist-soil plants.
6. The maximum pool depth of an impoundment area shall be three (3) feet with the exception of borrow ditches. Borrow ditches may not constitute more than five (5) percent of the impoundment area.
7. All water control structures must be closed by October 1 each year, and the project site cannot be drained until after March 1.
8. Shallow excavation areas (i.e. swales or depressions) shall be in an irregular pattern and average 12 inches or less in depth. Maximum depth of a shallow excavation area shall not exceed three (3) feet. Spoil must be safely disposed in a manner to prevent it from causing damage to the wetland or receiving waters.
9. All necessary permits shall be obtained prior to implementation. Permits needed may include those issued by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation – Water Pollution Control (TDEC – WPC), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and/or US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE).
10. Do not hay or graze planted areas for the practice life.
11. Newly constructed dikes shall be broad based with side slopes of at least 6 to 1, and a top width of eight (8) feet.
12. **This practice shall have a cap of \$20,000 unless waived by the ASTC-P in conjunction with the State Biologist and Environmental Engineer.**

References:

BIOLOGY TECHNICAL NOTE NO. TN-6. Riparian Zone Plant Selection. TN-NRCS

PB1800. A Guide for Matching Oak Species with Sites during Restoration of Loess-influenced Bottomlands in the West Gulf Coastal Plain. UT Extension

Follow FY 2017 Approved Seeding Mixtures document for species selection, rates, and mixtures. NRCS area biologist or NRCS partner biologist may approve alternative species, rates, and mixtures.