



United States Department of Agriculture

CRP Practice CP9

Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Indiana - March 2016 (ver. 1.1)

Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife Program Job Sheet



Photo Courtesy of MI USDA NRCS

PURPOSE

The purpose of Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife is to provide habitat for water-dependent species such as migratory shorebirds, waterfowl, reptiles, amphibians and aquatic mammals. Shallow water areas are developed, or restored, to an average depth of 6 to 18 inches. The shallow water area is intended to provide water for a majority of the year. This is not a pond development or wetland restoration practice.

WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On fields that meet eligibility requirements for the Conservation Reserve program (CRP) as determined by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

CRP POLICY

For Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife:

- A minimum of six (6) inches, and a maximum of 18 inches average depth of water, will be maintained for a majority of the year.
- An upland buffer at least 20 feet wide, and up to 120 feet wide, is required to protect water quality and provide wildlife habitat.

- The total acreage of all CP9 practices, including buffer areas can not exceed 10 acres per tract. Upland buffers must be planted to either:
 - a) **Native warm season grasses, forbs and legumes** (Big &/or Little Bluestem, Indiangrass, Switchgrass, Canada &/or Virginia Wildrye, etc.)
 - b) **Cool season grasses and legumes** considered wildlife-friendly (Timothy, Orchard grass, Redtop, plus Alfalfa and clovers), or
 - c) **Native trees and shrubs**
- Shallow water areas for wildlife will be established according to the Shallow Water Management for Wildlife (646) Standard in the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG).

CONSTRUCTION

When structural measures are required, the Wetland Restoration (657) Standard will be utilized on sites with hydric soils. On sites with non-hydric soils, the Wetland Creation (658) Standard will be followed.

Permits: Federal, State, or Local regulations may apply to private landowners conducting construction in wetland areas. All necessary permits shall be acquired by the landowner before construction begins.

Excavation or Impoundments: Water pool areas may be formed from excavations, impounding existing drainage ways, or a combination of both. **The pool area will average six (6) to 18 inches of water for the majority of the year.**

WETLAND PLANTING

In most cases, vegetation in the wetland area will be allowed to re-vegetate naturally. When regeneration of a diverse and native plant community is unlikely to occur within three (3) years, a planting plan will be developed.

BUFFER PLANTING

Plant the vegetation according to the attached plan/design sheet. Any changes to these specifications should be approved by NRCS.

All construction and seeding must be completed within 12 months of contract approval to remain in compliance. If circumstances beyond the landowner's control prohibit completion within the first 12 months, the local FSA County Committee may approve an extension to the next construction and planting season.

Grasses and Trees - Site Preparation: It is very important to plant the vegetation into a weed-free seedbed. Weed control efforts should begin prior to planting, and may require multiple applications in both the fall and spring prior to planting. Use herbicides or tillage (however do not use spring tillage for tree planting) to eliminate competing vegetation. If necessary for erosion control, seed a temporary cover. Eliminate the temporary vegetation at planting time with tillage or herbicides.

Contact your local Purdue University Extension Agent for specific herbicides to use. **Apply all herbicides according to the label.**

Lime and Fertilizer (Introduced Grasses): Apply lime and fertilizer according to a recent (less than four years old) soil test for establishment of introduced grasses.

Lime and Fertilizer (Native Grasses): Lime and fertilizer should not be applied to native grasses at establishment unless a current soil test shows phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) are in the deficient range or the pH is 6.1 or less. Do not apply any nitrogen (N) during establishment to minimize weed competition.

SEEDING DATES

Selected species will be planted within the dates in the specification sheet that will be provided for the site.

Seed preparation: Inoculate legume seed before seeding with the proper Rhizobia bacteria specific for the species. Re-inoculate seed if it was pre-

inoculated more than 60 days prior to seeding. Be careful not to blend seed of varying size, shape and weight as this can make calibration of equipment and seeding uniformity difficult.

No-Till seeding: Use a no-till drill to reduce the risk of erosion and possible loss of seedlings. Ensure the drill is designed to handle the seed being planted (especially important for native grasses). Your local Soil and Water Conservation Districts may be able to assist in locating equipment. Set the drill to provide an ideal planting depth of no more than ¼ inch unless otherwise directed. Seeding native grasses deeper than ¼ inch will lead to potential failure. Soils that are too wet or too dry can also cause improper seed placement.

Conventional Seeding: Use a drill with seven (7) inches or less row spacing or a culti-packer seeder, designed for the seed to be planted. The seedbed should be worked to a minimum depth of three (3) inches and firmed before seeding. Grass seed should be drilled uniformly and seeded no more than 1/2 inch deep.

Broadcast Seeding: Seed may be broadcast if completed in a uniform manner. Pre-mixing the seed with 200 lbs. per acre of pelletized lime and utilizing an airflow applicator is also effective. Seedbeds should be worked to a minimum depth of three (3) inches and firmed before seeding. The seedbed should be culti-packed before and after seeding. It is acceptable to see up to ⅓ of the seed on the soil surface. Wind speed should be 15 m.p.h. or less when broadcasting.

Weed Control During Establishment Period: Mow, burn, or apply herbicides as needed to control unwanted vegetation until a ***Final*** Status Review is issued, or for a maximum of 3 years after planting. Mow when competing weeds are taller than the planted vegetation, and at a height above the planted vegetation.

Trees and Shrubs

Planting: Plant trees according to the attached Specifications Sheet.

Bare rooted stock (seedlings) shall not be planted when the soil is frozen or dry and will be planted with the root collars approximately at or slightly below the ground line.

Bare rooted stock shall be planted in the spring after the ground thaws, but no later than June 1;

or planted in the fall using dormant seedlings (usually after November 1). It is important that tree species are randomly planted throughout the site and not planted with like species unless otherwise indicated in the planting plan.

Weed Control During Establishment Period for Trees: For information on herbicide controls, contact a local consultant or Purdue Extension Specialist. Always apply herbicides according to labeled directions.

Weed Control After Establishment Period for Trees: Weed control is also important to ensure survival and maximum growth of the trees after they are planted. Nine (9) ft² around each tree should remain weed-free to maximize tree growth. Mowing is not recommended for weed control for trees.

CRP cost share is authorized for one weed control application within 24 months after planting trees.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Noxious weeds and other undesirable plants, insects, and pests shall be controlled, including such maintenance as necessary to avoid detrimental effects to the surrounding land.

After the Final Status Review or three (3) years (whichever comes first), maintain the planting according to your CRP conservation plan. Maintenance activities are allowed only on a spot basis and only if necessary to maintain stand health, maintain stand diversity, or control pests that will damage the CRP cover or adjacent lands. Burning must be in accordance with a prescribed burn plan. MOWING and other maintenance activities are not allowed between April 1 and August 1 to protect ground-nesting wildlife (i.e. - the Primary Nesting and Brood-Rearing season). If maintenance activities are needed during these times, the FSA County Committee **must** approve the maintenance activity **prior to** the activity occurring. Native grasses will not be mowed lower than 12", and non-native grasses lower than four (4) inches.

Mowing for generic weed control or for cosmetic purposes is prohibited.

Exclude all acres from haying and grazing year round, unless authorized. Fences may need to be constructed and maintained to exclude livestock throughout the entire year.

The contract area cannot be used for field roads or other uses that will damage or destroy the cover.

MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT

Mid-Contract Management (MCM) is required on this practice. If the CRP acres are less than 5 acres, the entire acreage can be managed in a single year; otherwise, the maximum amount that can be disturbed during any one year is ½ of the contract acreage. For maximum habitat value, disturb no more than 1/3 of the contract acreage in any given year.

MCM activities will be avoided on environmentally sensitive areas including:

- a) Concentrated flow areas,
- b) Critical areas,
- c) Within the first 20 feet of a practice that borders a water resource to avoid water quality resource concerns, and
- d) Other areas where gully erosion is likely.

Environmentally sensitive areas will be marked on the plan map to ensure Mid-Contract Management activities are avoided on these areas.

Areas devoted to grass have the following options:

- Prescribed Burning
- Strip Disking
- Strip Spraying
- Inter-seeding/forbs/legumes/pollinator habitat

Areas devoted to trees have the following options:

- Inner Seedling Planting (re-enrollments)
- Inter-seeding forbs/legumes/pollinator habitat
- Follow-up Weed Control
- Pruning
- Thinning (re-enrollments)

MCM activities operations will not be performed from April 1 through August 1 for contracts starting in 2008, to protect the primary nesting period for grassland bird species. It is also recommended, but is not required, to delay MCM activities until after August 15 to reduce the chance of harming fledgling birds and other young wildlife.

MCM activities operations will be performed along field contours, or across the slope, when practical.

CRP Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife (CP-9) SPECIFICATIONS SHEET

Landowner:				County:			
Farm:	Field(s):	Shallow Water Acres:	Buffer Acres:	Grasses:	Firebreak:	Date:	
Tract:				Trees:			
				Shrubs:			

RECOMMENDED SPECIES and SEEDING RATE (PLS #/ac = Pure Live Seed Pounds per Acre)

	NATIVE MIX <small>(see map for location)</small>	RATE PLS#/ac	Total = <small>(Rate X Acres)</small>		NON-NATIVE MIX <small>(see map for location)</small>	RATE PLS#/ac	Total = <small>(Rate X Acres)</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>			0.00 Lb.	<input type="checkbox"/>			0.00 Lb.
			0.00 Lb.				0.00 Lb.
			0.00 Lb.				0.00 Lb.
			0.00 Lb.				0.00 Lb.
			0.00 Lb.				0.00 Lb.

	SHRUBS <small>(see map for location)</small>	RATE No./acre	Total = <small>(Rate X Acres)</small>		TREES <small>(see map for location)</small>	RATE No./acre	Total = <small>(Rate X Acres)</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>			0 No.	<input type="checkbox"/>			0 No.
			0 No.				0 No.
			0 No.				0 No.
			0 No.				0 No.
			0 No.				0 No.
			0 No.				0 No.

	Species/Activity	Rate Lb./acre	Total = <small>(Rate X Acres)</small>
<input type="checkbox"/> Firebreaks:			0.00 Lbs.
			0.00 Lbs.
<input type="checkbox"/> Establish a Bare-Ground Firebreak by disking the Fall & Spring prior to Prescribed Burning Disked areas will be re-seeded after each Prescribed Burn			

Shallow Water Area Vegetation:	<input type="checkbox"/> The Wetland Area will be allowed to revegetate naturally <input type="checkbox"/> The Wetland Area will need to be established according to the attached plan.
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NOTES:

Recommended Wildflowers include:

Dike and Spillway Seeding (acres)

All rates are in Pure Live Seed (PLS)

DIKE GRASS MIX <small>(see map for location)</small>	Rate Lb./acre	TOTAL = <small>(RATE X Acres)</small>	SPILLWAY GRASS MIX <small>(see map for location)</small>	Rate Lb./acre	TOTAL = <small>(RATE X Acres)</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>		0.0 Lb.	<input type="checkbox"/>		0.0 Lb.
		0.0 Lb.			0.0 Lb.
		0.0 Lb.			0.0 Lb.
		0.0 Lb.			0.0 Lb.

Recommended additional wildflowers include:

Site Preparation - BEFORE Planting in Year:

<input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide (per label):	Dates:
<input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide (per label):	Dates:
<input type="checkbox"/> Herbicide (per label):	Dates:
<input type="checkbox"/> Tillage:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prescribed Burning:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Seeding:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
NOTES:	

Planting Year:

<input type="checkbox"/> Planting Method for Grasses:	Date: See Seeding Dates on Page 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Planting Method for Trees and Shrubs:	Date: See Planting Dates on Page 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Planting Method for Firebreak:	Date: See Seeding Dates on Page 2
If unforeseen circumstances prohibit planting by this date, please contact the local NRCS office as soon as possible.	
NOTES:	

Post-Planting Maintenance

Mowing: BEFORE final Status Review, or up to three (3) years after planting, mow to a minimum height of six (6) to eight (8) inches high when the weeds are 12 inches taller than the planted grasses as needed

*AFTER final Status Review, mow to a minimum height of six (6) to eight (8) inches

Herbicide* (per label):

Other:

*NOTE: After the final Status Review has been issued, weed control and other maintenance activities will not occur between April 1 & August 1, and will occur on a "spot" basis only, unless prior approval is granted by the FSA County Committee.

MID-CONTRACT MANAGEMENT - STARTING IN YEAR:

see the attached Mid Contract Management Job Sheet for details

For CRP Mid-contract Management job sheets see:
<http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CRP/crphomepage.html>

Construction in Year:

Plug _____ feet of subsurface drain tile

Plug _____ feet of surface drains Install a dike to retain surface water

Install a dike to retain surface water = _____ cubic yards of fill

Excavation = remove _____ cubic yards of fill

Other:

Additional Information

(Attach maps and designs as necessary)