



Shallow Water Areas for Wildlife

Michigan CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

CRP – CP9

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

June 2014



Photo Courtesy of USDA NRCS

WHAT IS A SHALLOW WATER AREA FOR WILDLIFE?

Shallow water areas for wildlife are enhanced or created open water wetlands which average 6" to 18" in depth for the majority of the year. The purpose of shallow water developments is to provide habitat for water-dependent wildlife such as migratory shorebirds, waterfowl, reptiles, amphibians and aquatic mammals.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for this practice with the Conservation Reserve Program, the land must have a cropping history (4 out of 6 years from 2008 - 2013). Further, the site must be technically and economically suitable for a shallow water development.

CRP POLICY

For CRP, the shallow water development must have a minimum of 6" and a maximum of 18" average depth of water for the majority of the year.

An upland buffer at least 20 ft. wide, and up to 120 ft. wide must also be enrolled and planted to native grasses and wildflowers, non-native wildlife friendly grasses and legumes (timothy, redtop, orchard grass, clover, &/or alfalfa), &/or Native trees.

For CRP, The total acreage of all CP9 water areas plus buffers can not exceed 10 acres, and all CP9s must be on one contract.

CRP Shallow Water Developments will be established according to the Wetland Creation (658) and/or

Wetland Enhancement (659) standards in the local Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). All construction and seeding must be completed within 12 months of contract effective date of CRP-1 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.

For CRP in Michigan, **Native Grasses & Wildflowers** (Big &/or Little Bluestem, Indiangrass, Canada Wild Rye, Switchgrass, etc.) **will be encouraged**. At a minimum, **only** wildlife friendly Non-Native grasses & legumes (timothy, redtop, orchard grass, clover, &/or alfalfa) or Native trees are authorized.

CONSTRUCTION

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 6 to 18 inches of water for the majority of the year.** Topsoil will be re-spread over excavated areas in the pool to provide a seed source for vegetation.

Spillway: A structure such as a drop pipe may need to be installed to ensure the water is safely controlled.

BUFFER PLANTING

It is very important to plant the vegetation into a weed-free, firm seedbed. Weed control efforts should begin prior to planting. Use herbicides or tillage 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 Michigan State University (MSU) Extension Agent for specific herbicides to use. **Apply all herbicides according to the label.**

Plant the vegetation according to the attached plan/design sheet. Apply lime and fertilizer according to needs determined by a soil test and MSU recommendations.

Use a drill designed for the seed to be planted, or the seed may be broadcast or aerial seeded. For aerial or broadcast seeding, the seedbed must be worked up and firmed with a cultipacker or similar equipment. A carrier such as potash may also be needed to spread the seed evenly. **After seeding, the site must be rolled or cultipacked to ensure proper seed to soil contact.** Regardless of the method, plant the seeds **no deeper than** 1/8 – 1/4 inch.

For trees, plantings using bare-rooted stock and non-rooted cuttings should be completed in the spring after the ground thaws, but no later than June 1; or planted in the fall after October 1 until the ground freezes when soil moisture is adequate. Containerized and balled and burlap stock may be planted between October 1 and June 1 as local soil moisture and weather conditions permit. Direct seeding will be completed from October 1 through April 30 as local soil moisture and weather conditions permit.

For grasses, mow, burn, or apply herbicides as needed to control unwanted vegetation until a ***Final*** Status Review is issued. Mow when competing weeds are taller than the planted vegetation, and at a height above the planted vegetation. **Native grasses will not be mowed lower than 12”, and non-native grasses lower than 4”.**

For trees, until a ***Final*** Status Review is issued, a 3-foot radius around each tree should remain weed-free to maximize tree growth. Fabric weed barriers are very effective at minimizing weed competition, but are not eligible for CRP cost-share. **Mowing is not recommended for weed control for trees.**

For additional information on establishment and maintenance of grasses and trees, see the following NRCS – Michigan Conservation Sheets (available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/> in Section IV): “Tree/Shrub Planting for: Reforestation, Windbreaks, and Wildlife”, “Weed Control for Tree and Shrub Establishment”, “Establishing Cool Season Grasses and Legumes for Conservation Cover”, “Establishing Prairie Grass Buffer Strips”, “Prescribed Burning”, &/or others.

For additional information on herbicide controls, contact your local MSU Extension Agent. **Always apply herbicides according to labeled directions.**

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, 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. **MOWING** is only authorized between Aug 1st and Aug 20th to protect ground-nesting wildlife and to allow re-growth for winter cover. Other maintenance activities or Mid-Contract Management will only be allowed outside the designated dates to protect ground-nesting wildlife. Designated dates are from May 1st to August 1st. If management or maintenance activities are needed within these dates, the FSA County Committee **must** approve the management activity **prior to** the activity occurring.

For Trees, replacement of dead trees and shrubs will occur to ensure at least 80% of the trees are living. The landowner is responsible for replacement costs.

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

REQUIRED MANAGEMENT

If grasses will be planted, all new CRP contracts must have mid-term contract management activities scheduled that are site specific and will ensure plant diversity, wildlife habitat, and protection of soil and water resources. Management activities that will ensure these benefits in buffer grass plantings include prescribed burning (according to an approved burn plan), disking, interseeding of wildflowers or non-native legumes, etc. All management activities must be performed according to NRCS Standards and Specifications as found in the FOTG, and CRP policy. Mid-Contract Management options will be selected by the participant.

OTHER MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

For optimum wildlife habitat, plant a diversity of grasses, wildflowers, legumes, &/or trees. This mixture will provide winter and nesting cover, flowers for pollinating insects, as well as a good seed and insect source for food.

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Shallow Water Area for Wildlife DESIGN WORKSHEET CRP CP9

Landowner: _____ **County:** _____

Farm: _____ Tract: _____ Field(s): _____ **Water Acres:** _____ Date: _____

Buffer Acres: _____

Water Development in Year: (see map and design for specifics)

Plug _____ Feet of Subsurface Drain Tile And Install a Berm to retain surface water

Plug _____ Feet of Surface Drains And Install a Berm to retain surface water

Dugouts / Pushouts = Remove **Cubic Yards of Fill**

Dike Other: _____

BUFFER & BERMS SEEDING

	NATIVE GRASS BUFFER <small>(see map for location)</small>	RATE PLS#/ac	TOTAL = <small>(RATE X Acres)</small>		NON-NATIVE GRASS BUFFER <small>(see map for location)</small>	RATE PLS#/ac	TOTAL = <small>(RATE X Acres)</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>			0.0 Lb.				0.0 Lb.
			0.0 Lb.				0.0 Lb.
			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 Wildflowers include: _____

	TREE BUFFER <small>(see map for location)</small>	TOTAL needed	Spacing (ft.) <small>between rows x within rows</small>	BERMS (if applicable)	RATE	TOTAL = <small>(RATE X Acres)</small>
<input type="checkbox"/>			Shrub spacing X	<input type="checkbox"/>		Lb.
			----- Tree spacing X			Lb.
						Lb.
						Lb.

BEFORE PLANTING:

Herbicide₁ (per label): _____ Dates = _____

Herbicide₂ (per label): _____ Dates = _____

Tillage: _____ Dates = _____

Temporary Seeding: _____

Apply fertilizer and lime according to an approved soil test and MSU recommendations for "establishing native grasses".

Other: _____

PLANTING METHOD in Year:

Tree Planting Method: _____ :

Grass Planting Method: _____

Seeding Dates Natives = _____

Seeding Dates Non-Natives = _____

(If unforeseen circumstances prohibit the planting of the grass by this date, please contact our office as soon as possible)

POST-PLANTING MAINTENANCE for Pest Control

Mowing: BEFORE FINAL STATUS REVIEW = mow high when the weeds are taller than the planted grasses

Herbicide* (per label): Herbicide* (per label): Herbicide* (per label):

Other:*

****NOTE: after the Final Status Review has been issued, other maintenance activities will be conducted outside the primary nesting season (May 1st – August 1st), and weeds will be treated on a “spot” basis only, unless prior approval is granted by the County Committee.**

LOCATION AND LAYOUT SKETCH & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Reset Form