

**Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM50 – Control of undesirable woody vegetation in moist soil wetlands for wildlife**



**Enhancement Description**

This enhancement is to remove or manage unwanted woody vegetation within moist soil wetlands in order to encourage growth of native grasses, sedges, herbaceous plants and other desirable vegetation.

**Land Use Applicability**

Cropland, Pastureland, Forestland

**Benefits**

Properly managed moist soil wetlands provide habitat for waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds and other wildlife species. Within these habitats, native vegetation such as annual grasses, sedges and herbaceous plants are capable of producing large quantities of seeds, forage, and invertebrates that are a preferred food source for waterfowl and other wetland dependent wildlife species. Without periodic disturbance, moist soil wetlands may become dominated by undesirable woody vegetation, which will discourage production of more desirable seed producing plants. Control of undesirable woody vegetation may be necessary to return these areas to a more productive condition.

**Conditions Where Enhancement Applies**

This enhancement applies to the following land uses provided USDA wetland conservation compliance (Swampbuster) provisions are met and over 50 percent of the area is dominated by early successional, undesirable woody vegetation:

- Select crop land use acres (i.e., leveed fields), or
- Pasture or Forest land use acres with moist soil wetland habitats.

Note: This enhancement does not apply to native or natural wetlands, such as natural buttonbush or willow sloughs. Furthermore, must not be used to convert natural wetland areas to other wetland types.

**Criteria**

Implement the following:

1. Develop a wildlife habitat management plan for the suite of species targeted.
2. Undesirable woody vegetation will be controlled using herbicides (herbicides should be applied according to label requirements and only herbicides approved for appropriate site conditions should be utilized) or mechanical treatments (disking, shredding, burning, etc.).
3. Following removal of undesirable woody vegetation, the moist soil area should be maintained through water level manipulation and periodic disturbance if necessary.
4. If multiple moist soil areas are present, timing of treatments, periodic disturbances, and flooding regimes should be varied among units.



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2015 Ranking Period 1

*Other considerations:*

Moist soil wetlands do not fulfill all habitat requirements of waterfowl and other wetland dependent species. Shrub/scrub habitats, which are characterized by willow, button bush, and other woody vegetation, provide food resources in the form of invertebrates, as well as thermal roosting cover. Land users should not seek to remove all woody vegetation within areas being managed for waterfowl, but should strive to maintain a portion of their property in this important habitat type.

**Adoption Requirements**

The enhancement is considered adopted when the undesired vegetation on the land use acre is controlled.

**Documentation Requirements**

1. Copy of the wildlife habitat management plan
2. A map delineating the treated area and the acreage
3. Photographic documentation of site conditions before and after treatment.

**References**

Winslow, C. Moist-soil management. Landowners for Wildlife-Private Lands Program. Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Wildlife Division - Private Lands Program  
[http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/publication/34727-moist-soil-management-low-res/moist-soil\\_management\\_low-res.pdf](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/publication/34727-moist-soil-management-low-res/moist-soil_management_low-res.pdf)