WHAT IS A WETLAND RESTORATION, NON-FLOODPLAIN?

Wetland Restorations are applicable in areas that used to be wetlands, but have been converted to agricultural uses. Wetlands in Michigan include open water, marsh, meadow, shrub and forested habitats. An important component of wetland restorations is to also restore the upland areas surrounding the wetland to provide a “buffer”. Restoring wetlands and the adjacent upland buffers provides soil erosion protection and water quality enhancement, as well as habitat for a variety of wildlife, especially waterfowl, upland game birds and songbirds.

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 have hydric (wetland) soils that are not located in the 100-year floodplain of a permanent river/stream and are technically and economically suitable for wetland restoration.

Michigan has been allocated 2,600 acres that will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

CRP POLICY

For CRP, the hydrology of the site must be restored. The level of hydrology restoration allowed will be based on the best available evidence of what the original hydrology of the site was like prior to alteration. Vegetation in the wetland area will either be established or allowed to re-vegetate naturally. Neither Wetland Enhancements nor Wetland Creations are eligible under CRP CP23A.

An upland buffer at least 50 ft. wide, and up to 4 times the wetland acres must also be enrolled and planted to NATIVE grasses and wildflowers, &/or NATIVE trees/shrubs.

CRP Wetland Restorations will be established according to the Wetland Restoration (657) standard 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 HIP in Michigan, Native Grasses & Wildflowers (Big &/or Little Bluestem, Indiangrass, Canada Wild Rye, Switchgrass, etc.) will be required. Native trees/shrubs are authorized.

INCENTIVE

Private landowners that implement specific conservation practices and agree to plant native species and/or increase the minimum standard width will receive a Habitat Incentive Payment (HIP) of $150 per acre, in addition to the federal compensation provided under current CRP policy.

RESTORATION OF HYDROLOGY

The hydrology of the site should be completed prior to establishing the vegetation in the buffer.

If surface or sub-surface drainage exists, these must be "plugged" according to the Wetland Restoration (657) standard in the FOTG. Digging, dredging, dug-outs, dikes, etc. are not authorized unless it is documented that the wetland was altered by grading, filling, etc. and these activities are needed to restore the original hydrology. Wetland Enhancements and Wetland Creations are not authorized for CRP CP23A.

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.
PLANTING

It is very important to plant the upland buffer 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 firms 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 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. **Mowing is not recommended for** weed control for trees.

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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.

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

**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. Burning must be in accordance with a prescribed burn plan. See the Conservation Information Sheet "Prescribed Burning" for further information. **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 wetland restoration grass plantings include prescribed burning (according to an approved burn plan), light 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.
# WETLAND RESTORATION, NON-FLOODPLAIN DESIGN WORKSHEET CRP CP23A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landowner:</th>
<th>County:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm:</td>
<td>Tract:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field(s):</td>
<td>Wetland Acres:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffer Acres:</td>
<td>Date:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## HYDROLOGY RESTORATION in Year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORIGINAL HYDROLOGY &amp;/or WETLAND FUNCTIONS WERE ALTERED BY:</th>
<th>AND WILL BE RESTORED BY:</th>
<th>(see the attached map and engineering design for details)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Subsurface Drain Tile</td>
<td>☐ Plugging ____ Feet of Subsurface Drain Tile</td>
<td>☐ And Installing a Berm to retain surface water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Surface Drains</td>
<td>☐ Plugging ____ Feet of Surface Drains</td>
<td>☐ And Installing a Berm to retain surface water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Grading / Leveling / Fill</td>
<td>☐ Removing Cubic Yards of Fill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Traditional Agricultural Activities (Farmed Wetlands)</td>
<td>☐ No Longer Farming</td>
<td>☐ And Seeding the Area to Native Vegetation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Other:</td>
<td>☐ Other:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## WETLAND SEEDING (PLS #/ACRE = PURE LIVE SEED POUNDS PER ACRE)

☐ The wetland will be allowed to re-vegetate naturally

### WET HERBACEOUS MIX (see map for location)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RATE PLS#/ac</th>
<th>TOTAL = (RATE X Acres)</th>
<th>TREE PLANTING (see map for location)</th>
<th>TOTAL needed</th>
<th>Spacing (ft.) between rows x within rows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.0 Lb.</td>
<td>0.0 Lb.</td>
<td>0.0 Lb.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Shrub spacing X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0 Lb.</td>
<td>0.0 Lb.</td>
<td>0.0 Lb.</td>
<td></td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0 Lb.</td>
<td>0.0 Lb.</td>
<td>0.0 Lb.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tree spacing X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NATIVE GRASS BUFFER (see map for location)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RATE PLS#/ac</th>
<th>TOTAL = (RATE X Acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.0 Lb.</td>
<td>0.0 Lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0 Lb.</td>
<td>0.0 Lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0 Lb.</td>
<td>0.0 Lb.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended Wildflowers include:
### TREE BUFFER (see map for location)

**TREE ACRES =**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shrub spacing</th>
<th>Tree spacing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### BERMS (if applicable) (see map for location)

**BERM ACRES =**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>TOTAL = (RATE X Acres)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>Lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>Lb.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>Lb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>Lb.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BEFORE PLANTING:

- **Herbicide_1 (per label):**
  - Dates =

- **Herbicide_2 (per label):**
  - Dates =

- **Tillage:**
  - Dates =

- **Temporary Seeding:**
  - Dates =

- **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

  **AFTER FINAL STATUS REVIEW** = MINIMUM Mowing Height

- **Herbicide* (per label):**
  - Prescribed Burning*: According to an approved plan

- **Other:* 

*NOTE: after the Final Status Review has been issued, MOWING will be conducted between August 1 & 20. Other 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.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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