UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Natural Resources Conservation Service
WRP COMPATIBLE USE AGREEMENT

County: Chariton	Contract Number: 66642401008ZZ Authorization Number: 2022-01	Expiration Date: December 31, 2027

A. Person Responsible for Agreed-To Activities (Name, Address, & Tel. No.)
Cindy Epperson
317 Floyd Rd
Orrick, MO 64077
816-507-1840

B. Is this authorization assignable to subsequent landowner(s)? YES _X_ NO ___ (NRCS initial Block)

C. Purpose: To permit the landowner or their assigns to perform/conduct the following Compatible Uses for the specified period, frequency and durations:
1) To allow prescribed burning with an approved Burn Plan from NRCS or MDC PLC/Biologist with restrictions on acreages, timing and frequency.
2) To control woody encroachment and plant succession in herbaceous fields by mowing, disking with restrictions on areas to affect and timing.
3) To plant food plots with restrictions to size, distance from other food plots and individual sizes as supplemental foods for wildlife and not for harvest.
4) To use selective herbicides to control noxious weeds and suppress unwanted vegetation as directed by the WET team.
5) To provide levee maintenance by mowing or prescribed burning during certain periods of the year with certain restrictions on mowing /burning frequency.
6) To allow for water level manipulations to provide varying depths and coverage within pools and provide critical water bird and other wetland wildlife seasonal habitat.
7) To allow for hunting and observatory structures under special circumstances.
8) Trails, field roads and levee tops are points of access.
9) Temporary camping and temporary camper/portable structures are allowed on the easement during certain parts of the year and are temporary in nature.

D. Location Description (Attach a copy of map showing approximate area of compatible use.):
T56N R18W S13

Field 1, 2
Total easement Acreage = 180.3
Total Pool Acreage 87.0 (Wetland timber + Marsh)
Total Herbaceous Acreage = 96.0
Total Wooded Acreage 78.6 (54.8 natural regeneration, 7.7 existing, 16.1 wetland timber)

See attached map.

E. Beginning Condition of Site: All restoration is complete. Per monitoring performed in 2021, all fields progressing as planned.

F. Statement of Affect & Compatibility: NRCS issues certain compatible uses to the landowner at their request to maximize benefits to migratory birds, T/E species and other wetland wildlife and to provide outdoor recreational opportunities. The above listed compatible uses have been deemed acceptable by the WET team administrating the easement.

G. Special Conditions. Specifications and Other Details Including Information From Consultation with FWS, CD and State Wildlife Agency.
1) Total herbaceous acreage is 96.0 acres. You may burn up to 33% of the total herbaceous area (31.7 acres) with an NRCS/MDC approved plan in Field(s) 1. Burning will be conducted between the dates of March 1 through April 30 or between the dates of July 15 through September 30 only unless the WET allows a variance with differing dates in writing. Acres mowed, disked or hayed cannot be burned the same calendar year.
2) Total herbaceous acreage is 96 acres. Portions of all herbaceous fields may:
- ...be mowed or disked once annually.
- ....area to be disturbed will be allowed over 33% of the herbaceous area not to exceed 31.7 acres annually. Any changes to this acreage will be authorized by the WET by Addendum.
- ...mowing/disking **may only be implemented** after July 15 to avoid the primary nesting period unless authorized by the WET by Addendum.
- Acres burned or hayed cannot be mowed or disked during the same calendar year.
- The landowner is responsible for the control and eradication of all local, county or state listed noxious plants.

3) Food plots:

- …**may not exceed** 5% of the easement area (9.0 acres).
- …**may not exceed** an individual size greater than 1.8 acres.
- …must be planted at least 100' apart and it's suggested it be rotated annually to create young browse.
- …may only be planted in herbaceous fields. Other fields require approval of the WET. If food plots are planted in non-herbaceous areas or areas planned for natural regeneration to trees and **will not be rotated**.
- …must in no way adversely impact wetland conditions and water level management on the Easement.
- ….**must not be for harvest** and will be left standing as food and structure for wildlife.
- …seed sources are restricted to row crop, cereal grains, millets, buckwheat or other seed sources as identified by the WET in writing.

4) If herbicides are used on food plots or other portions of the Easement, the Landowner must contact the WET prior to any herbicide application. The WET will provide the landowner a WIN-PST report which identifies the approved herbicides for use on the easement area.

5) Levees sides may be mowed once annually for maintenance and levee tops may be mowed twice annually to provide access **but not** between the dates of the primary nesting season of May 1 through July 15 of the year. Levees can also be burned once every three years between March 1 and April 30. All burning will be conducted in accordance with a NRCS or MDC approved burn plan. Landowner is responsible to protect the water control structure(s) during any mowing or burning.

6) Manipulation of water control structures (WCS) must be in accordance with an NRCS provided plan (see attached plan).

7) Hunting and/or observatory structures that exceed the guidelines set forth in the ACEP-WRE Structures and Infrastructure Policy (attached) will be allowed on the easement under the following or similar circumstances:

Because they were established prior to regulation changes limiting blind size, these existing blinds will not be repaired/improved. They will be replaced with blinds that meet the standards set forth in the ACEP-WRE Structure and Infrastructure Policy when removed.

8) Trails, field roads and levee tops are points of access for landowner and NRCS for maintenance, management and monitoring efforts and may be maintained for traversing the easement area.

9)Temporary camping is allowed under the following restrictions and periods:

1) Campers and other portable structures will be allowed with the following restrictions:
   - Placement of Campers/Portable Structures will be restricted to the area shown on the CUA map.
   - Campers/PortableStructures and associated equipment will be allowed on the designated camping area during the months of September through May and will be removed from the Easement during the months of June through August.
   - Trash and other associated debris generated during camping activities must be removed weekly.
   - Firewood may be stored at the camping site.
   - Tractors and associated implements are not covered under this CUA and may only be left on site only for the duration of actual management activity (succession control, maintenance, pumping, etc.).
2) Gravel may be placed on the Easement for camping purposes with the following restrictions:
   - Location of gravel placement must be authorized by the WET and must in no way adversely impact the Easement.
   - Expansion of the camping area is prohibited without prior approval of the WET.
   - Dimension s of the graveled area authorized by this CUA are: 40' x 200'
   - Maintenance of the graveled area will be allowed, not to exceed the dimensions cited above.
   - Removal of trees/timber is prohibited during creation of the graveled site.
   - Gravel placed on the Easement for camping purposes must be from an approved source and shall not exceed "3 inch minus" size.

NRCS retains the right to modify or cancel this compatible use authorization at any time if the NRCS determines that such activities do not further the protection and enhancement objectives of the easement, or that the landowner has failed to comply with specified terms and conditions. The landowner engages in such activities at his/her own risk. This authorization does not vest any right of any kind in the Landowner. This authorization is null and void after the expiration date specified above. By signing this document, the landowner agrees to the terms described above and on referenced documents.

Attachments: Map(s), Wetland Management Plan, MO Structure Policy, WIN-PST Report

GREEN MGH 8/22/2022

This CUA must be signed and returned to:
Wetland Emphasis Team
1100 Morton Parkway
Chillicothe, MO 64601

The CUA is not valid until signed by the landowner and all pertinent NRCS employees/designees. An executed copy will be sent to the Landowner with a written notification of approval.

Recommended (NRCS Signature, Title, Date) Steve Romo DU 5/11/2022

Landowner or Representative (Signature, Date) X Cindy L Epperson 5/20/2022
Date

Approved (NRCS Signature, Title, Date) J HAMILTON Digitally signed by J HAMILTON Date: 2022.08.22 14:20:51 -05'00'

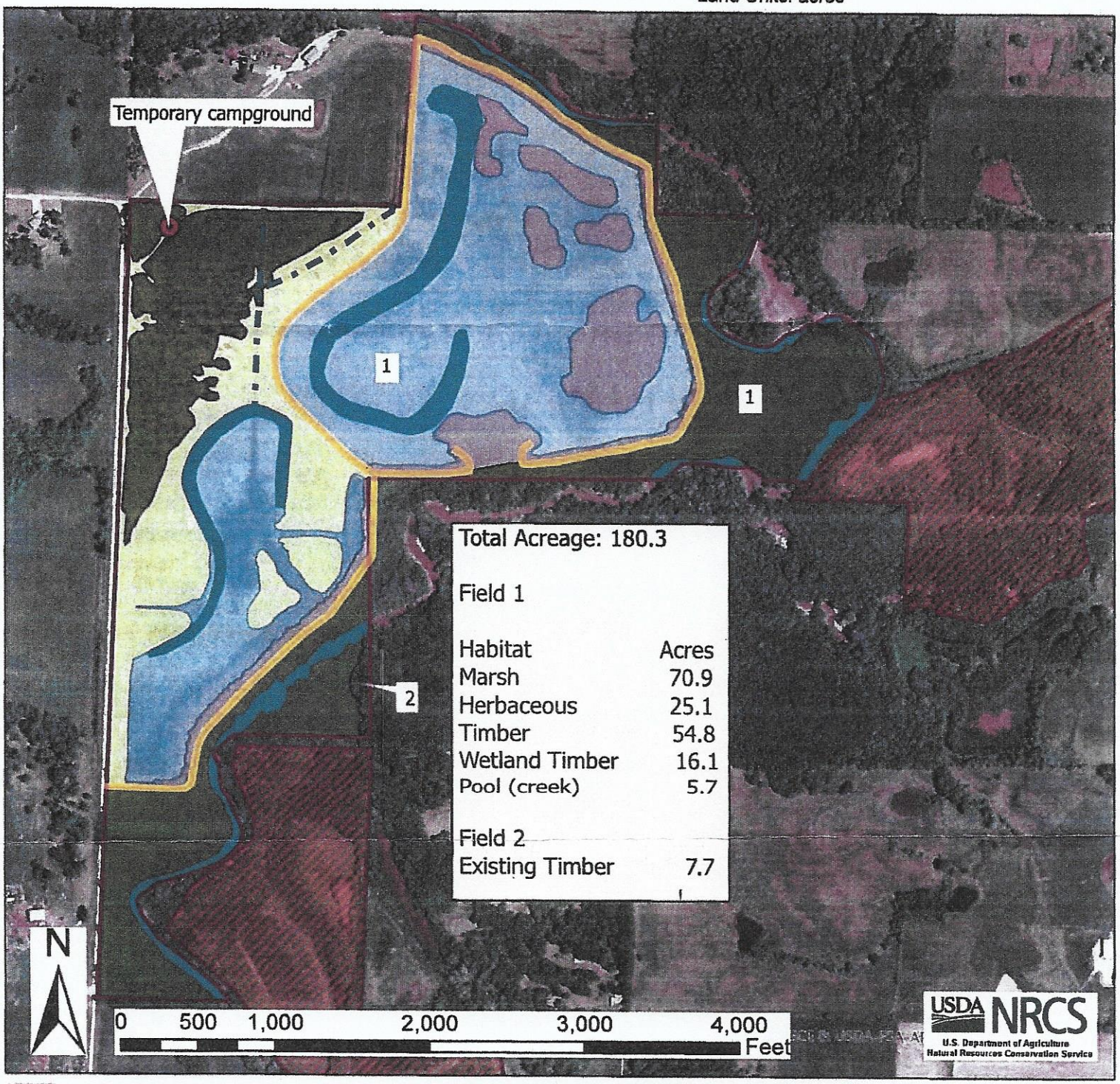
Ver 25.0 (10-2020)

Epperson 08ZZ

Date: 5/5/2022

Customer(s): Cindy Epperson
District: 6
Approximate Acres: 180.3
Legal Description: T56N R18W S13

Field Office: Chillicothe
Agency: USDA-NRCS
Assisted By: Steven Romo DU
State and County: Cha Co. Missouri
Land Units: acres



Separate Easement
MO_Easement_Boundaries
Other (Note)
Existing
Ditch
Borrow
Herbaceous
Pool
Marsh
Timber
Wetland Timber

Soil / Pesticide Interaction Loss Potential and Hazard Rating Report

50001 Armstrong	36050 Zook	36037 Tice
80% L Hydro: C	90% SICL Hydro: C	90% SIL Hydro: C
Chariton County, Missouri: MO041	Chariton County, Missouri: MO041	Chariton County, Missouri: MO041
OM% 2.4 H1 Depth: 5	OM% 4.3 H1 Depth: 4	OM% 2.5 H1 Depth: 20

2,4-D AMINE
Reg No: 1381-103
47.3% 2,4-D, dimethylamine salt

	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard
Leaching	L	L	V	L	L	V	H (w)	L	L
Solution	H	L	L	H	L	L	H	L	L
Adsorbed:	I		V	I		V	I		V

AQUAPRO
Reg No 62719-324
53.8% Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt

	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard
Leaching:	V	V	V	V	V	V	L (w)	V	L
Solution:	H	L	L	H	L	L	H	L	L
Adsorbed:	H		L	H		L	H		L

ROUNDUP HERBICIDE
Reg No: 524-445
41% Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt

	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard
Leaching:	V	V	V	V	V	V	L (w)	V	L
Solution:	H	L	L	H	L	L	H	L	L
Adsorbed:	H		L	H		L	H		L

Soil / Pesticide Interaction Loss Potential and Hazard Rating Report

30227 Winnegan	66004 Dockery	66068 Carlow
90% L Hydro: C	90% SIL Hydro: C	90% SIC Hydro: D
Chariton County, Missouri: MO041	Chariton County, Missouri: MO041	Chariton County, Missouri: MO041
OM% 6 H1 Depth: 2	OM% 1.28 H1 Depth: 10	OM% 2.5 H1 Depth: 9

2,4-D AMINE
Reg No: 1381-103
47.3% 2,4-D, dimethylamine salt

	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard
Leaching:	L	L	V
Solution:	H	L	L
Adsorbed:	I (s)		V

	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard
	H (w)	L	L
	H	L	L
	I		V

	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard
	H (w)	L	L
	H	L	L
	I		V

AQUAPRO
Reg No: 62719-324
53.8% Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt

	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard
Leaching:	V	V	V
Solution:	H	L	L
Adsorbed:	H (s)		L

	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard
	L (w)	V	L
	H	L	L
	H		L

	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard
	L (w)	V	L
	H	L	L
	H		L

ROUNDUP HERBICIDE
Reg No: 524-445
41% Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt

	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard
Leaching:	V	V	V
Solution:	H	L	L
Adsorbed:	H (s)		L

	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard
	L (w)	V	L
	H	L	L
	H		L

	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard
	L (w)	V	L
	H	L	L
	H		L

Soil / Pesticide Interaction Loss Potential and Hazard Rating Report

30073 Gosport
90% SICL Hydro. D
Chariton County, Missouri:
MO041

OM% 1.5 H1 Depth 4

2,4-D AMINE

Reg No: 1381-103

47.3% 2,4-D, dimethylamine salt

	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard
Leaching	L	L	V
Solution:	H	L	L
Adsorbed:	I (s)		V

AQUAPRO

Reg No 62719-324

53.8% Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt

	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard
Leaching:	V	V	V
Solution:	H	L	L
Adsorbed:	H (s)		L

ROUNDUP HERBICIDE

Reg No 524-445

41% Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt

	Loss Potential	Human Hazard	Fish Hazard
Leaching:	V	V	V
Solution:	H	L	L
Adsorbed:	H (s)		L

Soil / Pesticide Interaction Loss Potential and Hazard Rating Report

LEGEND

X -- eXtra high
H -- High
I -- Intermediate
L -- Low
V -- Very low

Conditions that affect ratings:

(none)	-- Broadcast application (default); applied to more than 1/2 the field
b	-- Banded application; applied to 1/2 the field or less
p	-- Spot application; applied to 1/10th of the field or less
(none)	-- Surface applied (default); applied to the soil surface
i	-- Soil incorporated; with light tillage or irrigation
f	-- Foliar application; directed spray at nearly full crop/weed canopy
(none)	-- Standard application rate (default); greater than 1/4 lb/acre
l	-- Low rate of application; 1/10 to 1/4 lb/acre
	-- Ultra Low rate of application; 1/10 lb/acre or less
m	-- There are surface connected macropores (cracks) that go at least 24 inches deep.
w	-- The high water table comes within 24" of the surface during the growing season.
s	-- The field slope is greater than 15%.
<none>	-- Default condition for all climates that have rainfall/irrigation after pesticide application
<dry>	-- Exception for arid climates that have a low probability of rainfall and no irrigation afer pesticide application

SPISP II I-Ratings:

Leaching	-- Soil / Pesticide Interaction Leaching Potential
Solution	-- Soil / Pesticide Interaction Solution Runoff Potential
Adsorbed	-- Soil / Pesticide Interaction Adsorbed Runoff Potential

Pesticide Active Ingredient Rating Report

Active Ingredient Common Name	pH	Solubility in Water (ppm)	Half Life (days)	KOC (mL/g)	Human Toxcicity (ppb)	Fish Toxicity MATC* (ppb)	Fish Toxicity STV (ppb)	SPISP II Pesticde Ratings Leaching	Runoff Solution	Runoff Adsorbed	Exposure Adjusted Toxicity Category Water Human	Water Fish	Sediment Fish
2,4-D AMINE													
47.3% 2,4-D, dimethylamine salt													
Reg No: 00138100103													
PC_Code:		796000	10	20	70.00	22,037.00	440,740.00	I	I	L	L	V	V
Method: Surface Applied													
Area: Broadcast													
Rate: Standard													
AQUAPRO													
53.8% Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt													
Reg No: 06271900324													
PC_Code:		900000	47	24000	700.00	168.00	4,032,000.00	V	H	H	V	L	V
Method: Surface Applied													
Area: Broadcast													
Rate: Standard													
ROUNDUP HERBICIDE													
41% Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt													
Reg No: 00052400445													
PC Code:		900000	47	24000	700.00	168.00	4,032,000.00	V	H	H	V	L	V
Method. Surface Applied													
Area: Broadcast													
Rate: Standard													

LEGEND

X -- eXtra high
H -- High
I -- Intermediate
L -- Low
V -- Very low

Conditions that affect ratings:
(none) -- Broadcast application (default); applied to more than 1/2 the field
b -- Banded application; applied to 1/2 the field or less
p -- Spot application; applied to 1/10 of the field or less

(none) -- Surface applied (default); applied to the soil surface
i -- Soil incorporated; with light tillage or irrigation
f -- Foliar application; directed spray at nearly full crop/weed canopy

(none) -- Standard application rate (default), greater than 1/4 lb/acre
l -- Low rate of application; 1/10 to 1/4 lb/acre
 -- Ultra Low rate of application; 1/10 lb/acre or less

SPISP II P-Ratings:
Leaching -- Pesticide Leaching Potential
Runoff Solution -- Pesticide Solution Runoff Potential
Runoff Adsorbed -- Pesticide Adsorbed Runoff Potential

Soil Sensitivity to Pesticide Loss Rating Report

Chariton County, Missouri: MO041

Musym	Seq	%	Name	Texture	Hydro	Kfactor	Depth	OM%	Leaching	Runoff	
										Solution	Adsorbed
50001	1	80	Armstrong	L	C	0.32	5	2.4	L	H	H
			Slope greater than 15%: False Cracks (macropores) deeper than 24": False High Water Table within 24": False								
36050	1	90	Zook	SICL	C	0.24	4	4.3	L	H	H
			Slope greater than 15%: False Cracks (macropores) deeper than 24": False High Water Table within 24": False								
36037	1	90	Tice	SIL	C	0.37	20	2.5	H (w)	H	H
			Slope greater than 15%: False Cracks (macropores) deeper than 24": False High Water Table within 24": True								
30227	1	90	Winnegan	L	C	0.32	2	6	L	H	H (s)
			Slope greater than 15%: True Cracks (macropores) deeper than 24": False High Water Table within 24": False								
66004	1	90	Dockery	SIL	C	0.37	10	1.28	H (w)	H	H
			Slope greater than 15%: False Cracks (macropores) deeper than 24": False High Water Table within 24": True								
66068	1	90	Carlow	SIC	D	0.28	9	2.5	H (w)	H	H
			Slope greater than 15%: False Cracks (macropores) deeper than 24": False High Water Table within 24": True								
30073	1	90	Gosport	SICL	D	0.28	4	1.5	V	H	H (s)
			Slope greater than 15%: True Cracks (macropores) deeper than 24": False High Water Table within 24": False								

Soil Sensitivity to Pesticide Loss Rating Report

Musym	Seq	%	Name	Texture	Hydro	Kfactor	Depth	OM%	Leaching	Runoff	
										Solution	Adsorbed

LEGEND

H -- High
I -- Intermediate
L -- Low
V -- Very Low

Conditions that affect ratings:
- m -- There are surface connected macropores (cracks) that go at least 24 inches deep.
- w -- The high water table comes within 24" of the surface during the growing season.
- s -- The field slope is greater than 15%.

SPISP II Soil Ratings:
- Leaching -- Soil Leaching Potential
- Runoff - Solution -- Soil Solution Runoff Potential
- Runoff - Adsorbed -- Soil Adsorbed Runoff Potential

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM WETLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

CINDY EPPERSON

CONTRACT #66642401008ZZ CHARITON COUNTY, MISSOURI

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE: To provide quality, diverse wetland habitat with an emphasis on waterfowl use and recreation. You are not obligated to actively manage your wetland. This plan is meant to be a flexible set of guidelines. If you choose to actively manage water depths, the following information is intended to help you optimize plant response in your wetlands for maximum food and cover conditions for wildlife. Adjust dates annually with changing weather patterns to maximize diversity in your wetland.

****This plan pertains to fields that have water control structures in place that allow for seasonal water level manipulation and assumes a full pool going into spring.****

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Staggering your drawdown schedule will result in a much more diverse plant community.
- Shallow water is not a handicap. Puddle ducks do 90% of their foraging in water that is 6" deep or less.
- You can generally expect the following plant responses to drawdown times:
    1. Early drawdown (March 15 – April 30) will typically produce broad leaved plants like annual smartweeds, *Bidens* sp., etc.
    2. Mid-term draw-downs (April 30 – June 15) will typically result in some annual smartweeds, nut sedge, and wild millets.
    3. Late draw-downs (June 15 – August 1) will typically result in a plant response consisting mostly of grasses like wild millet and sprangletop.
- Do not be alarmed at the emergence of persistent wetland vegetation like cattails and river bulrush. The presence of these plants is an indication of a healthy, diverse wetland. Strive to keep the area covered by these species between 15% and 35%. These plants play an important role in the life cycles of migrating waterfowl/waterbirds, as well as resident wetland wildlife, by providing cover and foraging areas.
- Monitor vegetation responses and progression during each growing season and from year to year. This will aid in the early detection of problem vegetation before it gets a foothold.

WATER MANAGEMENT: DRAW-DOWNS

Why manage? Typically, restored wetlands, such as yours, are managed (drained) in order to maximize annual seed producing plants for waterfowl and to maintain an early successional condition.

• Due to the shallow water depths of your wetland, active water management (physical draining) may be unnecessary unless vegetation problems arise.

• Allowing water levels to fluctuate with natural wet/dry cycles as they occur throughout the year helps to insure a diverse plant community. After disturbance, opportunistic wetting of moist soil plants in summer by normal precipitation or supplementary flooding can provide excellent feeding opportunities for shorebirds and early migrants like blue wing teal. If you choose to actively manage water in your pools, consider the following guidelines.

ACTIVE WATER MANAGEMENT—ALL POOLS

- Slowly drain the pool(s) between April 1st and July 31st.
- Consider varying drain times between and within pools.
- Replace all boards in WCS by August 15th to begin catching precipitation.

FALL FLOODING

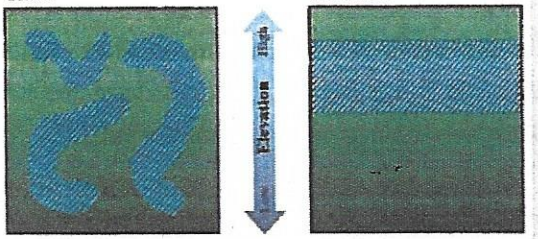
- **Natural flooding**
- Make sure all Water Control Structures (WCS) are closed to begin catching water from rainfall and to provide habitat for migrants.
- **Pumping**
- Timing and rates of pumping will ultimately depend on well/pump output.
- Generally speaking, begin filling the pool(s) September 1st and continue until you reach full pool.
- Try to maximize food resources by incrementally raising water levels as food is consumed by migrating waterfowl, reaching full pool by mid-November in order to coincide with peak Mallard migration.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Aside from providing water, managing the structure (height, thickness, etc.) of your vegetation will be the key to your success in terms of waterfowl use.

1. If conditions allow, mow 30-50% of the pool area. Set mower at the highest setting. Mowing in July will set plants back, resulting in shorter plants at maturity. Generally, annual/moist soil plants will have plenty of time to make seed after cutting. In addition to altering plant height, mowing at this time will also "release" desirable vegetation in the understory, allowing it to grow and make seed.

Mow in a "mosaic" pattern, not in blocks, to better mimic natural landscape features and promote a diversity of vegetation across elevations.



Managing vegetation height will ensure waterfowl can see the water on your wetland from great distances, maximizing use.

2. Mow additional 15-25% of the pool as short as possible (15-25%) in mid-September to maximize water visibility and to provide "pioneering areas" for waterfowl. Be sure to mow openings across all elevations so there will be available pioneering areas that coincide with rising water levels. As stated before, mow in a natural pattern and not in "block" form. Consider leaving undisturbed areas that are well suited to various wind directions to enhance your hunting success.

3. Periodic soil disturbance (disking) is necessary to rejuvenate the natural seed bank. Plan to carry out this activity during Low Water management years. Plant species such as *Aster sp.* or spike rush are good indicators of the need for a disturbance. When performing a soil disturbance, first concentrate on areas of areas undesirable vegetation.

Aster sp.

Spike rush (Eleocharis sp.)

Examples of potentially problematic vegetation:

1. Giant ragweed (horse weed), sunflower, and cocklebur: These plants are not desirable and generally come on during dry times. Control is relatively easy. especially if you have the ability to pump. These species will not tolerate inundation during the growing season, so flood during July or August and hold. Other means of control are disking and/or mowing. Establish a level of tolerance (typically less than 15% coverage) and strive to maintain coverage to that amount.

Giant Ragweed
(Ambrosia trifida)

Wild Sunflower
(Helianthus sp.)

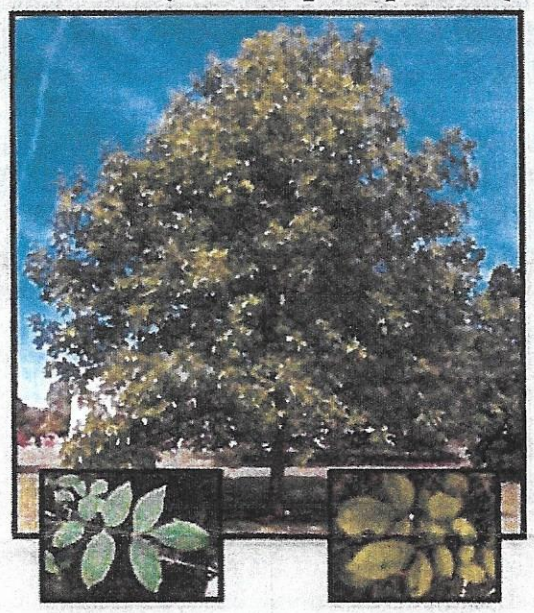
Common Cocklebur
(Xanthium strumarium)

2. Woody invasion: This will be the primary threat to your open marsh habitat and is typically defined as cottonwood, silver maple and/or green ash. Willows and buttonbush are not a great concern, in moderation. Avoid purposefully pulling water down during the fruiting period of these species in late May or early June. All four of these species are wind borne and require fresh mud flats for germination. In the event of an outbreak of trees, attack them early with a disk. If disking does not adequately control the trees, use prescribed burning. Timing of prescribed fire use is critical for success. We can help with this.

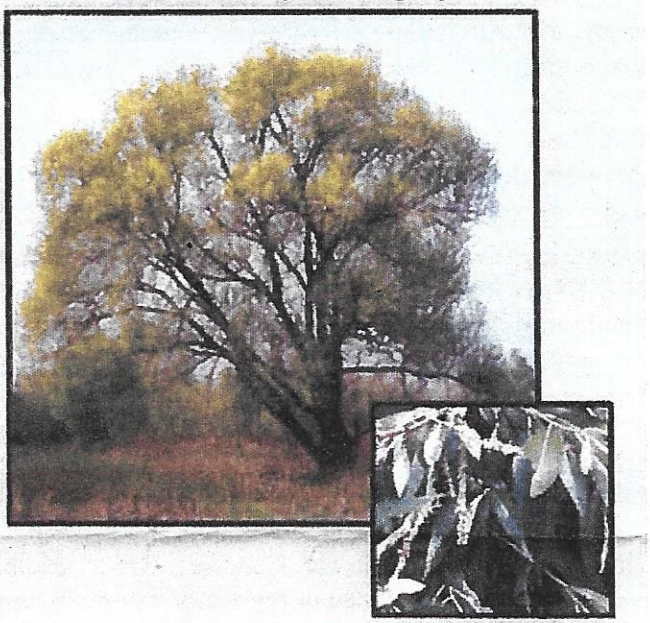
Cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*)

Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*)

Green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*)



Black willow (*Salix nigra*)



3. Cattails, river bulrush, lotus (lily pads). These plants species are not undesirable unless they become dominant. If overabundant they can choke out more desirable seed producing plants and reduce open water. It often is virtually impossible to keep these plants out, so determine a level of tolerance and work to stay within it. 25% coverage of the pool is usually an acceptable level. As levels exceed this, enact controls such as disking. Use chemical treatments only as a last resort.

*Note: These plant species are a natural occurrence in wetlands and provide many benefits to waterfowl and other wildlife during various stages of their life cycle.

4. By making the tract wetter through restoration, the stage is set for Primrose. It is easily recognized by its creeping stems and bright yellow flowers. Primrose will likely first develop in the deeper areas of the pools and spread from there. Once established, it can be difficult to control. If the primrose appears, attack it during the low water management years. Unlike other undesirable plants, chemical control may be the most effective method of control for primrose.

Water Primrose
(Ludwigia peploides)

5. Reed Canary Grass (RCG): RCG is an invasive grass that has little of no wildlife value. If left unchecked, RCG will take over entire fields and prevent native, beneficial wetland plants form becoming established. Typically, a combination of treatments which includes chemical treatment, over a period of 3-5 years will be needed to effectively reduce RCG coverage. Once control over RCG is achieved, Maintenance treatments are recommended annually.

6. Spike Rush: Spike Rush is a plant that resembles grass and has a waxy appearance. It will generally occur on shallow flats after extended periods of inundation and or saturation, but can occur anywhere in the pool. There are many varieties of Spike Rush and some are more aggressive than others. Once established, Spike Rush can be difficult to eradicate and will prevent desirable vegetation form germinating. Strive to keep the area of Spike Rush coverage below 10-15%. If coverage exceeds this level, dry the pool out and disk multiple times. Chemical treatment is an option but can be expensive.

FOOD PLOT TIPS

A carefully managed wetland can provide food and shelter resources for a variety of wetland dependent wildlife. The process of plating a food plot will provide a soil disturbance and can help control patches of undesirable vegetation. Example: Consider winter wheat food plots on upper areas of the pools to:

1. Increase waterfowl use at the water's edge by creating mudflat and by reducing heavy vegetation at the water line.
2. Provide green browse for Canada Geese and White-tailed Deer and spring shorebird habitat.
3. Double as a Dove management area the next fall.
4. Assist in controlling woody vegetation that often occurs at or near the waterline.

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Missouri State Office
601 Business Loop 70 West, Suite 250
Columbia, Missouri 65203

Missouri Bulletin: 440-22-1 Date: October 12, 2021

Subject: PGM – PGM-Agricultural Conservation Easement Program Wetlands Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE) Structure Policy in Missouri

Purpose. To provide guidance for the placement of acceptable hunting blinds and observational platforms, walkways, kiosks for educational purposes and temporary camping facilities on existing ACEP-WRE easements in Missouri.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2022.

Background. Structures present or requested to be established on ACEP-WRE with and without Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) authorization must meet the requirements as set in Title 440 of the Conservation Programs Manual (CPM), Part 528/ACEP-WRE and described in the 2017 version of the ACEP-WRE Warranty Easement Deed. Below are excerpts from the Title 440, CPM, Part 528, that describe structure types and better clarifies ACEP-WRE policies concerning their use on these easements:

1. Hunting blinds that meet the criteria of "undeveloped recreational uses" that are "**Non-Permanent**" in Missouri will not require a Compatible Use Authorization (CUA).
2. Hunting blinds that meet the criteria of "undeveloped recreational uses" that are "**Semi-Permanent**" in Missouri will require a CUA.
3. Structures used in conjunction with "educational" purposes involving observational platforms, walkways, and kiosks may require a CUA.
4. Temporary camping facilities that are seasonal or temporal during the year and in conjunction with certain recreational activities as desired by the landowner of the NRCS easement may require a CUA.

Explanation. The following items are the guidelines to follow within Missouri as per the Title 440 CPM, Part 528, and as outlined in the 2017 version of the ACEP-WRE Warranty Easement Deed.

Hunting Blinds will be allowed on easements that are either "Non-Permanent" or "Semi- Permanent" as determined by NRCS. Electric lines may cross the easement to the blind as a power source but must be buried and marked by post/sign ("Electric Line") and the line will be installed with "Locator Wire" in accordance with the standards and specifications as set by the Farmers Electric Cooperative. The establishment of the buried power line will be by CUA. Final location of the power line will be approved by NRCS. A shut off box will be located off the easement to disable the flow of electricity to assure safe conditions when and if construction or repairs are pending or ongoing. Portable generators are allowed but will be removed at the culmination of the hunting season.

The following are descriptions of acceptable structures:

1. Waterfowl Hunting Blinds:

    a. Non-Permanent waterfowl hunting blinds may be constructed from wood, fiberglass, or metal materials. The structure will accommodate no more than four people, are temporary, non-permanent and can be easily assembled and disassembled and moved without heavy equipment. Waterfowl hunting blinds are restricted to one blind per pooled area, or if pool is larger than 40 acres, no more than one blind per 40 acres of pool area. The structure will not exceed 80 square feet and not exceed the height of 8 feet if located above the ground. These structures are not subject to the CUA process. Additional blinds may be allowed via the CUA process, but at the discretion of NRCS.

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b. Semi-Permanent waterfowl hunting blinds can be constructed from wood, concrete, fiberglass, or metal materials. The structure will not exceed 80 square feet and not exceed the height of 8 feet if located above ground. The structure can be buried or built as an "up-right blind". It may be placed within the easement area except on constructed levees. Blinds buried in "habitat mounds" shall be no taller in elevation than 1 foot above full pool. Structures may require heavy equipment to remove and shall be removed from the easement area with minimal ground disturbance. Waterfowl hunting blinds are restricted to one blind per pooled area, or if pool is larger than 40 acres, no more than one blind per 40 acres of pool area. Additional blinds may be allowed via the CUA process, but at the discretion of NRCS.

c. Missouri requested a waiver to the 80 square feet part of the 2014 ACEP-WRE Farm Bill policy. On March 8, 2017, the NRCS Environmental Protection Division granted this waiver for any blinds that were approved either by CUA or fell within the state generated "Structure Policy" as exhibited in State Bulletin MO-440-14-1 (see attached). These blinds would continue to be utilized until such time when maintenance of the structure is required and at that time the structure will be replaced with one that complies with those parameters stated above in sections a and b or be removed entirely. The following parameters for these blinds are as follows:

1) Blinds of wooden, concrete, metal, or fiberglass construction.
2) In most cases has a roof of similar or wooden materials.
3) In most cases has blind flaps of metal, PVC, or wooden material.
4) Buried or elevated while blind will not exceed 8 feet in height.
5) Dimensions not to exceed 180 square feet (typical 15' x 12').
6) Typically to accommodate four persons and one to two dogs comfortably and safely.

The following will be uploaded in National Easement Staging Tool (NEST):

1) The memorandum requesting the waiver to the NEST agreement record with a document type of 'ACEP-WRE Agreement Exemption waiver.'
2) This waiver with a document type of 'ACEP-WRE Policy Waiver.'
3) A 'Memo to the File' with the reason why the ACEP-WRE Policy Waiver was requested, including the agreement number and a brief description of the situation.

d. The use of natural vegetation as blind material is encouraged; however, removing existing stands of vegetation (wood and/or herbaceous) to the point that the vegetative community is severely depleted or damaged, is not permitted.

2. Deer Hunting Blinds:

a. Non-permanent deer blinds are limited to ground, stilt, and tree stands (with no damage to trees) as well as blinds that are mobile (on wheels or trailer) which includes commercial and/or homemade. The structure will accommodate no more than four people, are temporary, non-permanent and can be easily assembled and disassembled, and moved without heavy equipment. The structure will not exceed 80 square feet and the blind portion of the structure will not exceed the height of 8 feet if located above the ground or structurally elevated. These structures are not subject to the CUA process. There are no limitations on the number of temporary stands on a per acre basis. Additional blinds may be allowed via the CUA process, but at the discretion of NRCS.

b. Semi-permanent deer blinds are limited to ground and stilt blinds and are limited to one per 40 acres of easement size. The blind portion of Semi-Permanent stilt blinds will not exceed 80 square feet and the blind portion of the structure will not exceed 8 feet in height if located above ground or structurally elevated and will accommodate no more than four persons. These structures may require heavy equipment to remove with minimal ground disturbance. Any clearing to establish blinds will need an approved CUA before proceeding.

3. Other Structures and Special Use Areas:

   a. Boardwalks, observational platforms, kiosks, and other signage are allowed on the easement for educational, research, and interpretive purposes. NRCS will compile a CUA not to exceed 10 years.

   b. Temporary camping is allowed on the easement area. Camping facilities will be temporary in nature and must be removed before the end of three consecutive months of use. Camping more than 3 months may be allowed via the CUA process. The use of a gravel pad may be allowed via the CUA process.

Contact. Questions concerning structure types and camping facilities can be directed to Chris Hamilton, Assistant State Conservationist-Water Resources/Easements, at (573) 876-9416 or chris.hamilton@usda.gov.

Scott Edwards
State Conservationist

Attachments (2):
Missouri Bulletin 440-14-1
Waiver Letter