

Environmental Quality Incentives Program WILDLIFE HABITAT OPPORTUNITIES



Wildlife habitat on non-industrial forestlands and working lands

Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), NRCS can help private landowners manage existing cropland, forestland and pasture to best meet wildlife habitat needs, or establish new wildlife habitat areas. Wildlife habitat management on New York's private lands can help improve important existing habitats in addition to establishing new habitats to address wildlife needs.

Current habitat conditions on your land will be evaluated by NRCS to determine a plan that best suits your property. Plans with the largest impact on wildlife habitat will be prioritized for funding.

Current Farm Bill— A Win for Wildlife

Increased wildlife funding: The 2018 Farm Bill increases the funds dedicated to wildlife habitat practices from a minimum of 5 percent to a minimum of 10 percent of total EQIP funds. This has dramatically increased the amount of funding available for New York farmers and landowners to create wildlife habitat for a diverse mix of species. Habitat improvement efforts can focus on uplands, wetlands, associated agricultural lands, nonindustrial forestlands, and stream habitat improvements, among others.

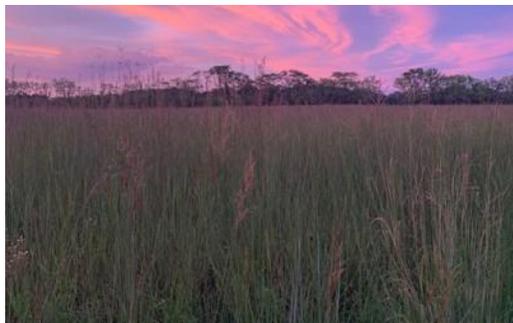


- Restore or release desired vegetative cover to protect soils, control erosion, reduce sediment, improve water quality, or enhance hydrology.
- Maintain, modify, or enhance fish and wildlife habitat.
- Improve forage accessibility, quality, and quantity for livestock and wildlife.

Brush Management (Code 314)

The management or removal of woody (non-herbaceous plants including those that are invasive and noxious).

- Create the desired plant community consistent with the ecological site or a desired state within the site description.
- Manage fuel loads to achieve desired conditions.
- Pervasive plant species are controlled to a desired level of treatment that will ultimately contribute to creation or maintenance of an ecological site description "steady state" addressing the need for forage, wildlife habitat, and/or water quality.



Wildlife Habitat Planting (Code 420)

Establishing herbaceous wildlife habitat by planting seeds or plants can provide essential wildlife food and cover. These plantings are particularly valuable when converting cropland or pastureland to dedicated wildlife habitat.



Structures for Wildlife (Code 649)

Artificial wildlife structures are constructed and applied to the land, to provide loafing, escape, nesting, rearing, roosting, perching and/or basking habitat, when the natural habitat structures are lacking. These artificial structures are typically installed to provide temporary missing habitat until more permanent natural habitat can be established.



WILDLIFE RELATED NRCS CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Practice Code	Practice Name	Brief Description
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	Establishing/maintaining herbaceous cover adapted to riparian area conditions
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	Establishing/maintaining trees or shrubs adapted to riparian area conditions
396	Aquatic Organism Passage	Modification or removal of barriers that restrict or impede movement of aquatic organisms
420	Wildlife Habitat Plantings	Wildlife Habitat Planting will be planned and applied when establishing herbaceous vegetation or shrubs for wildlife
422	Hedgerow Planting	Establishing strips of dense vegetation (typically woody)
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	Treating areas to improve site conditions for establishing trees and/or shrubs
580	Streambank & Shoreline Protection	Stabilizing and protecting banks of streams or constructed channels, and shorelines of lakes or reservoirs
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	Establishing woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, by direct seeding, and/or through natural regeneration
643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities	Reestablishment of abiotic and biotic conditions necessary to support rare or declining natural assemblages of native plants and animals
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Retaining, developing or managing wetland habitat for wetland wildlife; covers the decision making on management needs and monitoring their success
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Retaining, developing or managing wetland habitat for upland wildlife; covers the decision making on management needs and monitoring their success
646	Shallow Water Development and Management	Inundating lands to provide habitat for fish and/or wildlife; mostly applies to flooded cropland and not managed wetlands
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	Managing plant succession to develop and maintain early successional habitat for wildlife
649	Structures for Wildlife	To provide structures, in proper amounts, locations and seasons to: Enhance or sustain non-domesticated wildlife; or Modify existing structures that pose a hazard to wildlife.
657	Wetland Restoration	Returning a wetland to a close approximation of its original condition as it existed prior to disturbance on a former or degraded wetland site

Contact Your Local NRCS Field Office for More Information:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center>



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