

## SECTION III

### WILDLIFE

#### PLANNING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (RMS)

A resource management system on wildlife land will create, improve, or maintain the soil, water, air, plant and animal resources to achieve sustained wildlife habitats of the highest quality while taking into consideration the objectives of the land user. Waters which are managed for fish, will provide all essential habitat elements and will be protected from degradation.

In planning a Resource Management System (RMS) for areas managed **primarily** for wildlife, habitat is the foundation on which the RMS is built. **Appropriate Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guides (WHEG)** will be used to serve as both procedure and documentation for determining habitat values for planning units. A minimum score of 0.75 is required on the WHEG for wildlife land. If the score is less than the minimum, planners must include items in the plan to bring up the score to meet the minimum. A planned management system that meets the habitat requirements for the planned kinds of wildlife and meets the criteria for managing the soil, water, air, plant and animal resources is essential for the formulation of an RMS.

The minimum quality criteria that must be met on wildlife land for each of the resource concerns is explained in Section III- Quality Criteria of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

- **ESSENTIAL practices** must be included in the wildlife land resource management system regardless of site conditions. Essential practices are required to meet the RMS level of planning.
- **NEEDED practices** are necessary to correct site-specific wildlife land resource concerns. Please note that **NEEDED** practices are no less important than **ESSENTIAL** practices when developing a resource management system.
- **DESIRABLE practices** are applied to enhance the resource base beyond the minimum quality criteria.

The management of wildlife habitat is the foundation on which the wildlife land management system is built.

- **Upland Wildlife Habitat Management or Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management** are **ESSENTIAL** because they combine practices to meet the habitat needs of target wildlife species or groups. They are also needed to insure the habitats have long-term sustainability.
- Wildlife water facility is the second **ESSENTIAL** practice of an RMS.
- Stream Habitat Improvement and Management and Restoration and Management of Declining Habitat – Riparian is **ESSENTIAL** for an RMS on stream corridors and riparian areas.

There are other practices, which may be **NEEDED** to complement the client's production practices and site conditions.

Occasionally, there are **DESIRABLE** practices not required to meet the minimum quality criteria level for a resource management system. These practices may be **DESIRABLE** to the client for enhancement of the resource base or provide for multiple uses.

Resource management systems are developed by adding the **NEEDED** and/or **DESIRABLE** practices to the **ESSENTIAL** ones. The combination of practices meet the quality criteria established for each wildlife land resources (soil, water, air, plant animal, and human) and meet the objectives of the client. When multiple land use is an objective, the needs of each use and the effects of each practice must be considered in the selection and application design of each practice to ensure compatibility.

The following tables show **ESSENTIAL** and **NEEDED** and/or **DESIRABLE** conservation practices applicable to wildlife land. Table 1 shows the **ESSENTIAL** practices for NM. Table 2 shows **NEEDED** and/or **DESIRABLE** practices. There may be additional practices not included on Table 2 that will benefit wildlife land.

**Table 1**

<b>ESSENTIAL WILDLIFE LAND PRACTICES</b>		
<b>Practice Name</b>	<b>Practice Code</b>	<b>Need</b>
<b>Upland Wildlife Habitat Management</b>	645	<b>OR</b>
<b>Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management</b>	644	<b>AND</b>
<b>Wildlife Water Facility</b>	648	<b>AND</b>
<b>Stream Habitat Improvement and Management</b> <i>(If within stream corridor.)</i>	395	<b>AND</b>
<b>Restoration &amp; Management of Declining Habitats</b> <i>(If within stream corridor.)</i>	643	<b>AND</b>
<b>Prescribed Grazing</b> <i>(If livestock use is secondary.)</i>	528A	<b>AND</b>
<b>Conservation Crop Rotation</b> <i>(If within cropland.)</i>	328	<b>AND</b>
<b>Fishpond Management</b> <i>(If within pond or small lake.)</i>	399	

Table 2

<b>NEEDED and/or DESIRABLE Practices</b>	
<b>Practice Name</b>	<b>Practice Code</b>
<b>Brush Management</b>	314
<b>Chiseling and Sub-soiling</b>	324
<b>Conservation Cover</b>	327
<b>Cover Crop</b>	335
<b>Critical Area Planting</b>	342
<b>Fence</b>	382
<b>Firebreak</b>	394
<b>Hedgerow Planting</b>	422
<b>Field Border (Buffer)</b>	386
<b>Pond</b>	378
<b>Grassed Waterway (Buffer)</b>	412
<b>Riparian Forest Buffer</b>	391
<b>Riparian Herbaceous Cover</b>	390
<b>Forest Stand Improvement</b>	666
<b>Irrigation Water Conveyance – (Several)</b>	Many
<b>Shallow water Management for Wildlife</b>	646
<b>Sediment Basin</b>	350
<b>Structure for Water Control</b>	587
<b>Spring Development</b>	574
<b>Use Exclusion</b>	472
<b>Tree/Shrub Establishment</b>	612
<b>Water Well</b>	642
<b>Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (Buffer)</b>	380
<b>Streambank and Shoreline Protection</b>	580
<b>Stream channel stabilization</b>	584
<b>Water Harvesting Catchment</b>	636
<b>Wetland Creation</b>	658
<b>Wetland Enhancement</b>	659
<b>Wetland Restoration</b>	657
<b>Water Well</b>	642
<b>Pipeline</b>	516

SECTION III  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

**RESOURCE SETTING**  
MLRA 048B – Mixed conifer woodland. East fork of the Rio Brazos flows north to south on the east end of this unit with three intermittent streams flowing into it from the west. This is an 830 acre unit devoted exclusively to wildlife. Deer and fish habitat is of primary concern.

**RESOURCE PROBLEMS**  
SOIL: - Excess sediment yield from watershed, on site deposition. Classic gully erosion. Roadbank erosion.  
WATER: - Overland flow, suspended turbidity, oxygen depletion due to excess runoff. .  
AIR: - No significant problem  
PLANT: - Lack of Plant diversity in the community.  
ANIMAL: - Degraded fish habitat – sediment. Lack of water for deer.  
HUMAN - None identified

RMS #1	Practice #	SOIL			WATER		AIR	PLANT			ANIMAL	
		Classic Gully	Road Erosion	Sediment	Over-Land Flow	Dissolved Oxygen	None	Diversity	Plant Health & Vigor	Establishment	Fish Habitat - sediment	Deer water
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	645	+	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	0	+
Stream Habitat Mangt. & Restoration	395	+	+	+	0	+	N/A	+	+	+	+	0
Wildlife Water Facility	648	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	0	+
Grade Stabilization Str.	410	+	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	0		+	0
							N/A					
							N/A					
							N/A					

(+) positive effect (-) negative effect (0) none or negligible effect (F) facilitating practice (n/a) practice not applicable

RMS #2	Practice #	SOIL			WATER		AIR	PLANT			ANIMAL	
		Classic Gully	Road Erosion	Sediment	Over-Land Flow	Dissolved Oxygen	None	Diversity	Plant Health & Vigor	Establishment	Fish Habitat - sediment	Deer water
	645	+	+	+	+	N/A	N/A	+	+	+	0	+
	395	+	+	+	0	+	N/A	+	+	+	+	0
	666	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
	648	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
	410	+	+	+	+	N/A	0	+	0		+	0
	350	+	+	+	+	+		0	0	0	+	0

(+) positive effect    (-) negative effect    (0) none or negligible effect    (F) facilitating practice    (n/a) practice not applicable