

**Wetland Enhancement**...the modification or rehabilitation of an existing or degraded wetland, where specific functions and/or values are modified for the purpose of meeting specific project objectives.



Wetland, photo courtesy USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

## **Purposes**

The purpose of this practice is to modify the hydrologic condition, hydrophytic plant communities, and/or other biological habitat components of a wetland for the purpose of favoring specific wetland functions or values.

## **Benefits**

A functioning wetland can provide habitat for wildlife and waterfowl. In addition, vegetation in wetlands can help filter nutrients, chemicals, and sediment from water before water enters the ground water supply.

## Applications

This practice applies on any degraded or existing wetland where the objective is to specifically enhance a selected wetland function(s) and/or value(s). Where hydrology enhancement is involved, this practice is applicable only if modifying drainage and/or artificial flooding can achieve project objectives. This practice is not appropriate for sites containing hazardous materials.

## Design and Installation

Wetland enhancement involves improving a particular function or value of a wetland to meet specific project goals or objectives. These goals and objectives should be designed to minimize adverse impacts to wetland functions that are not specifically targeted for improvement. In addition, any modifications to the existing drainage system should not adversely impact upstream, downstream, or adjacent landowners.

Wetland enhancement can include building small structures to add water or regulate water levels in an existing wetland. It can also involve plugging subsurface and surface drains and tiles. Native wetland vegetation plantings can also be included if plant populations need to be supplemented. Consult an NRCS conservationist for site-specific assistance.

## Maintenance

Intakes and outlets should be kept clean and free of debris. Any pipes or structures used in this practice should be inspected regularly and repaired as needed. If vegetative planting is involved, replanting may be needed until a good stand is established.

## Relative Cost

**Installation**                      low   ● ● ● ○ ○                      high

**Maintenance**                      low   ● ● ● ○ ○                      high

## For Additional Information...

Visit the Indiana NRCS office online at <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/>, see the Indiana Job Sheet or the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) standard for (659) Wetland Enhancement, or contact your local USDA-NRCS office

*Local USDA-NRCS contact information*