

Landowner Wetland Assessment Tool

Landowner's Name(s): _____ Site Visit Date: _____

County: _____ Legal Description of Site: _____

Date (Month/Year) the Wetland was Restored: _____

Check which Management Objective Best Fits this Site:

_____ Promote Livestock Production and Maintain Existing Plant Community

_____ Promote Moist-Soil-Dominated Plant Communities and Seed Production

Desirable Wetland Conditions:

Percent of open water (*when present*): $\geq 50\%$

Percent of site in moist-soil plants: $\geq 30\%$

Percent of site in reed canarygrass: $\leq 5\%$

Percent of the site in river bulrush/cattail: $\leq 10\%$

Current Conditions:

% of open water on the site's wetland: _____

% of the site's wetland in this Plant Community: _____

% of the site's wetland in this Plant Community: _____

% of the site's wetland in this Plant Community: _____

Stocking Rates & Grazing Strategies

This property includes _____ Wetland Acres and _____ Upland Acres for a total of _____ Acres.

Based on the wetland/upland acre ratio and 80% utilization for a 3.5 month grazing period from April 1st to July 15th, the base recommendation for grazing on this conservation easement is _____ cow-calf pairs.

This stocking rate is based on grazing cow-calf pairs. If you are grazing other age/size classes of cattle, please adjust accordingly.

If the moist-soil plant community is larger, you may consider reducing the number of cow-calf pairs you graze on this site. If reed canarygrass and/or cattails/river bulrush stands comprise a larger percentage of the property, you may consider increasing the number of cow-calf pairs you graze on this site, and graze as early as new growth is palatable.

If you are planning to have a prescribed burn conducted on your property the following spring, please be sure to pull all cattle from grazing by June 15th to ensure there is enough fuel to carry the fire next spring.

Growth of native cool-season plants begins about April 1 and continues until about June 15. Native warm-season plants begin growth about May 15 and continue until about August 15. Green up of cool-season plants may occur in September and October if adequate moisture is available.

Many RWB wetlands that are grazed using rotational stocking can support 1 to 1.5 animal units of grazing per acre per month, beginning in early May and continuing through mid-July when cattle might be removed to allow seed development of annual plant species. If continuous stocking is used, stocking rates might need to be reduced 40 percent.

Management Actions

<i>Check All That Apply</i>	Type of Management	Target Species to Manage	Recommended Treatment Dates
	Grazing		
	Tree Removal		
	Herbicide Treatment		
	Prescribed Fire		

Target Species Key: RCG = Reed Canarygrass, BR = River Bulrush, CT = Cattail, Phrag = Phragmites, SB = Smooth Brome/Cheatgrass, KBG = Kentucky Bluegrass

Other Management Recommendations: _____

Site Monitoring

The stocking rate and management recommendations provided in this plan are only meant to serve as a baseline and should be adapted as necessary to adjust to weather conditions and the impact of management.

The only way to evaluate success or failure is through monitoring. The site should be reviewed annually to ensure management is producing the desired results. If the results are not as hoped, adjust the stocking rate or implement other management tools. You should not hesitate to identify problems and make changes in management to try to achieve your management objective.

A resource professional from a partnering agency can, upon request, conduct annual monitoring to assess the general condition of this property and make management recommendations, but wetlands are a very dynamic ecosystem. Please notify staff if you feel that management strategies on your site should be updated to address undesirable species on your property.

If you would like assistance in adapting your management strategies, please contact the RWBJV Wetland Habitat Specialist, the USFWS Private Lands Biologist, your local NGPC Private Lands Biologist, or the NRCS Team Leader:

RWBJV
 Cortney Schaefer
Cortney_Schaefer@fws.gov
 308-385-8618

USFWS
 Laurel Badura
laurel_badura@fws.gov
 308-440-1388

NGPC
[See Attached Map](#)

For NRCS Easements:
NRCS
 Kristi Schleif
Kristi.Schleif@usda.gov
 402-747-2111 Ext 3