

If you are considering mowing, haying, grazing or any type of vegetation management, or manipulation of the water levels on your WRP land, be sure to read and understand the following before you take any action.

Compatible Use Permits

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WRP lands may be used for compatible economic uses, if such use is authorized through a Compatible Use Permit. Landowners may request permits for certain activities.

Any activity that affects vegetation or alters water levels requires a compatible use permit.

Only activities that are consistent with the long-term protection and enhancement of the easement area will be authorized. These permits will specifically define the activity, method, frequency, timing, intensity and duration of the compatible use, and will be reviewed annually. Some compatible uses include:

- timber harvest, in consultation with a professional forester and wildlife manager, **if required to achieve or protect wildlife habitat and wetland function.**
- haying or mowing **to maintain wildlife habitat and wetland functions and values** (allowed once annually between July 30th and September 1st).
- grazing according to an NRCS approved plan to maintain wildlife habitat.
- wildlife food plots planted with an approved mix of grains such as millet, buckwheat, corn (< 50%), sorghum or sunflowers. Food plots may not exceed 5% of the easement area or five acres in size, whichever is smaller.
- mowing, for access roads and nature trails, or to manage and maintain structures such as embankments. Access roads or nature trails may not exceed 10 feet in width, or be mowed shorter than three inches in height.

Haying or Grazing WRP Land Due to Drought

A request for grazing or haying WRP easements due to the recent drought will be handled through the Compatible Use Permit process.

Restrictions on Structures

Permanent structures, such as houses, trailers, mobile homes, hunting and fishing lodges, cabins, fishing huts or other similar structures are not allowed on WRP easements. Hunting stands, duck blinds, or wildlife viewing stands are allowed with certain restrictions. See other side for more details.

Monitoring the Easements

NRCS will monitor WRP easements through aerial photography annually and by a site visit at least once every five years. Monitoring is necessary to ensure that full wetland functions and values are achieved and maintained, to detect violations, to direct the course of management, and to maintain a good working relationship between the landowner and NRCS.

Weed Control

Noxious weed control is the responsibility of the landowner. The methods landowners use for controlling weeds must be written in a compatible use authorization prior to weed control activities..

If you plan to put a hunting stand or blind on your WRP easement, please read and understand the following before putting up any structure or blind. This does not apply to Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land.

Hunting Stands or Blinds

Hunting and Wildlife Stands

Hunting stands, duck blinds, or wildlife viewing stands are allowed on WRP easement lands. Permissible structures on Wisconsin easements must be rustic and customary, and relatively temporary in nature, constructed with minimal surface disturbance.

Permissible tree stands and hunting blinds:

1. Will not require heavy machinery, such as earth moving equipment, telephone pole drivers, etc. to install.
2. Will be no more than 75 sq. ft. in size.
3. Can be removed from the site upon request with equipment no larger than a pick-up truck or small tractor.
4. Will not use concrete or asphalt to construct footings, foundations, or other supports.
5. May be installed on support posts using hand post hole digging tools. Use of heavy machinery to install or construct stands is prohibited if vegetation outside of the immediate area will be disturbed.
6. May be on the ground (including duck blinds).
7. Will not include permanent utilities such as electricity, heat or television hook-ups.
8. When necessary for safety purposes, bracing will be done with T-posts or other similar support that can be both installed and removed by hand.
9. Do not include houses, trailers, mobile homes, hunting and fishing lodges, cabins, fishing huts or other similar structures.

All hunting blinds that are no longer useable shall be removed from the easement, and no parts will remain to deteriorate on site.

Landowners may install hunting stands/blinds on the easement at their discretion. It is important to not impede NRCS restoration, maintenance,



Tree stands may be no more than 75 sq.ft, without utilities or concrete, and may remain on site year round. NRCS reserves the right to require the landowner to remove blinds/stands that do not adhere to these guidelines.

or management efforts including, but not limited to prescribed burns. The landowner will be solely responsible for protecting their hunting stands/blinds. NRCS does not assume any responsibility for protecting or compensating landowners for the loss of hunting structures.

For more information about WRP contact NRCS at your local USDA Service Center or on the web at www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov under Programs.