

A comprehensive review of Farm Bill contributions to wildlife conservation

A comprehensive review was made of scientific literature to determine wildlife responses to conservation programs undertake as part of the 1985 Food Security Act and amendments under the 1990 and 1996 Farm Bills. In general, wildlife responded favorably to the land stewardship programs of USDA, particularly when wildlife needs were addressed in conservation programs. Used in further development of USDA conservation program planning.

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Land of Life—an inspirational DVD featuring America's conservation farmers

This scenic tribute to the Nation's farmers and ranchers for their care of natural resources—in particular wildlife habitat—is ideal to open a meeting or for use in the classroom. A high quality, 9-minute show in DVD format, it was shot in high definition, with original music score and surround sound. Includes a series of extras—a photo gallery of spectacular scenes, landowner interviews, TV spots, a collection of habitat facts, and links to helpful organizations.

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Understanding the Landscape—a series of case studies and expert commentary showing ecosystem interdependencies

A course designed to help conservationists and land managers understand the connectivity of ecological processes to apply resource management principles on managed lands in a more holistic and sustainable manner. Through a series of 17 videotapes—12 lectures and 5 case studies—students are introduced to the components of land management at a landscape scale.

#68-7482-1-789X



MARIS—the multistate aquatic resource information system

A multistate pilot project offers water quality data, populations of fish species, winter kill information, lake depths, and much more information on lakes and streams all over the country from a single point of contact on the Internet. MARIS is a six-State cooperative pilot project that uses a common, Internet-based application to make selected fish population survey data available from Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. These States have developed a statewide fisheries survey database.

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Birds of North America—A subscription for a comprehensive reference for NRCS State Offices

Profiles of characteristics and habitat needs of 700 birds in North America. A set of this "encyclopedia" of birds was purchased and placed into each NRCS State Office.

P.O. 40–7482–2–47



SVAP2: An aquatic assessment tool to check the health of small streams

An updated version of an original stream assessment, the Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP2) is a more accurate tool to help landowners check the health of streams on their property. Conservationists with basic training in aquatic biology or hydrology can use SVAP2 to evaluate the physical condition of and habitat quality of any stream shallow enough to sample without the use of a boat. The assessment is a good first look at up to 16 elements of physical, chemical, and biological conditions of wadeable streams, their riparian areas, and instream habitats.

68-3A75-4-101



The NRCS Corridors Handbook and the Henry's Fork case study

The NRCS Corridors Handbook was developed by Utah State University in partner-ship with the former Watershed Science and WHMI to assist in planning watershed scale wildlife corridor projects in agriculturally dominated landscapes. A case study of the lower Henry's Fork was also prepared to evaluate effectiveness of procedures outlined in the Corridors Handbook. All aspects of the case study are tiered to the methodology and principles detailed in the handbook.

40-7482-1-125



Ecology and management of large wood in world rivers

The proceedings of the conference on Ecology and Management of Large Wood in World Rivers was published by WHMI, the USDA Forest Service, American Fisheries Society, and Oregon State University. It includes chapters describing processes to retain wood in rivers for habitat complexity and river restoration, with application to NRCS field office recommendations for riparian, flood plain, and stream and river habitat.

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NRCS Stream Design Guide, Chapter 1

Staff of the WHMI contributed to developing information and writing chapter 1 of the NRCS Stream Design Guide. The first chapter describes and guides the restoration of ecological processes and functions of streams. Information includes ecological responses of species to adjustment of channels, aquatic dynamics, aquatic habitats and their interaction with riparian habitats, and the importance of disturbance in sustaining aquatic communities.

68-7482-4-192



Restoring flood plain and riparian processes: Willamette River flyover This project produced a computer-based, simulated flyover of the historic Willamette River in the northwestern United States. It can be used to help landowners visualize land use decisions in a watershed.

68-7482-1-786



Reptile and amphibian guidelines for the Northeast, Northwest, and Southeast

Working with the Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, the AWCC has helped complete regionally developed guidelines on reptile and amphibian management for three regions and has plans to complete the series for the entire country.

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Bats and mines

Bats and Mines is a guide to surveying and evaluating abandoned mines for use by bats, with alternatives to mine closure. A continuing partnership between the AWCC and Bat Conservation International has produced a number of publications and other information on bat habitat needs, as well as the value of bats in the ecosystem. The materials show why and how to include the needs of bats in conservation planning. #68-7482-2-18X



Water for wildlife: designing water devices helpful to bats and birds

When bats skim the water to get a drink from a livestock tank at night, they often get killed by wires or obstructions near the tank or get knocked into the water and drown. A cooperative project with Bat Conservation International produced guidelines and materials for safer tanks with escape ramps, without diminishing usefulness for livestock. Included was a user friendly guide *Water for Wildlife—A Handbook for Ranchers and Range Managers*.

68-7482-2-18X



Role of bats in integrated pest management

This publication was cooperatively researched, written, and published through a partnership of the AWCC and Bat Conservation International. *Role of Bats in Integrated Pest Management* demonstrates the value of bats in insect control and offers guidelines on bat habitat.

68-7482-2-18X



Forest management and bats

Bats eat millions of pounds of insects nightly and are just as important to forest health by night as birds are by day. Almost all bats rely on forests for survival. They need basic foraging habitat, water resources, and roosting trees and structures. *Forest Management and Bats*, a 14-page detailed booklet, offers private forest landowners and managers excellent guidelines on bat conservation in forests.

68-7482-2-18X



Rights-of-way for wildlife: guidelines for developing and maximizing wildlife habitat on utility rights-of-way corridors

Utility rights-of-way can be managed as effective wildlife habitat if a few guidelines are followed. The Wildlife Habitat Council cooperated with the AWCC to make recommendations on the use of specific best management practices to utility managers. All vegetative management plans for rights-of-way should include habitat management surveys, plan for control of invasive species, and recommend use of native plant species, according to the guidelines.

68-7482-2-30



Corporate campaign for migratory bird management: technical materials for managing western riparian areas

The Wildlife Habitat Council, in cooperation with the AWCC, produced *Riparian Areas of the Great Basin: A Management Guide for Landowners*. The booklet discusses how nearly all bird species, mostly migratory, found in the Great Basin depend on riparian areas. The Great Basin, centered in Nevada, includes parts of five western States. The booklet points out damaging practices and offers guidelines for improvement.

68-7482-2-45



Our living land: success stories of wildlife conservation on private lands

A colorful 16-page publication with information on the advances private landowners have made in recent years in providing habitat for fish and wildlife. The publication includes successes in establishment of new habitat through USDA conservation programs. Available by calling 1-888-LANDCARE or on the Web at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov and clicking on publications.

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2002 Farm Bill conservation practices and programs for your farm

This attractive, 8-page color foldout ties conservation practices to an overview of the 2002 Farm Bill conservation programs. A program matrix outlines eligibility requirements, type of financial assistance, and producer obligations for eight major USDA conservation programs. This overview was produced by the Wildlife Management Institute with technical help from the WHMI.

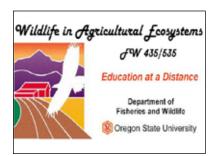
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Wildlife habitat communications materials for field offices

A series of 52 easy-to-use articles in both hard copy and electronic format, with both high- and low-resolution photo and "tidbit" for each article. This was designed for newspaper, newsletter, and handout material for field offices as turn-key wildlife conservation material. Topics include habitat needs for many wildlife species found on agricultural lands. The CD contains wildlife artwork, as well as photographs.

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Wildlife in Agricultural Ecosystems

This long-distance learning course by Oregon State University was introduced in 2002. It features a 28-session videotape series that examines relationships between agricultural production and fish and wildlife. Videotaped lectures by professors from Oregon State University, Utah State University, specialists from the NRCS, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and nonprofit organizations discuss problems, as well as opportunities, for enhancing wildlife populations on farmlands.

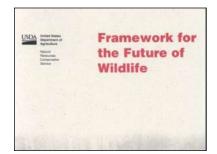
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Managing early successional habitats in the Northeast—a land manager's guide

This guide is meant to help landowners manage grasslands, shrublands, and young forest habitats to address the decline of early successional habitats and wildlife species in the northeastern United States. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department coordinated development of the publication, with review and funding assistance from the WHMI.

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Framework for the Future of Wildlife—and barriers to providing wildlife assistance

This series of reports has guided the former WHMI and the NRCS nationally on wild-life habitat programs and issues. It was distributed to all NRCS State Offices.

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A pocket guide to prairie birds

A shirt-pocket size guide with color photos, habitat, diet, and range information on the most common birds of the Great Plains Prairies, the guide is a convenient, user friendly resource. Developed in partnership with Great Plains State wildlife agencies, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, Texas Prairie Rivers Region Inc., and other private partners, the guide is a resource both for local landowners and residents to learn about prairie bird species.

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PLANTS database: develop plant diagnostic data for all U.S. legumes and grasses

The AWCC is supporting continued development of the widely used PLANTS database of NRCS in a cooperative effort with the Missouri Botanical Garden. The project will provide plant identification and resource management information on all legumes and grasses in the United States.

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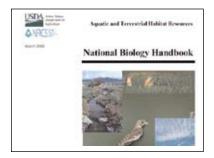


Conservation tillage systems and wildlife—a literature review

This early WHMI project found that conservation tillage systems do offer wildlife habitat. For instance, significantly more species of birds nest in no-till corn fields than in conventionally tilled fields because of food availability, amount and height of cover, and less disturbance. The literature search led to development of Summary—Conservation Tillage Systems and Wildlife, and Conservation Tillage and Terrestrial Wildlife, which are available online at

http://www.whmi.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/literature.html

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National Biology Handbook

The NRCS National Biology Handbook, distributed by NRCS to all field offices, provides comprehensive information on the management and conservation of fish and wildlife habitats on working lands.

68-7482-2-12



Favored food and cover

This handy foldout reference includes highlights of the favored food and cover for wild turkey, northern bobwhite quail, bats, butterflies, bluebirds, and 10 other popular fish and wildlife species in the Midwest. It was produced in 2004 by Midwest State Offices of the NRCS in cooperation with the AWCC.

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Buffers for wildlife publications by State NRCS offices

State Conservationists and directors of State wildlife agencies in Maryland, North Carolina, Illinois, Texas, South Dakota, and Utah brought staff together in facilitated workshops that led to job sheets on specific conservation buffer practices. Participants in this effort facilitated and coordinated by WHMI and the Watershed Science Institute received the Wildlife Management Institute's prestigious *Touchstone Award* for their cooperative efforts in developing useful materials on buffers.

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Gulf Coast CESU

The project established the Gulf Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU). The Gulf Coast CESU is a network of cooperative units established in parts of seven Gulf Coast States to provide research, technical assistance, and education to resource and environmental managers. The AWCC coordinates much of its grants program through cooperative agreements with CESUs across the country.

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Best management practices for shortgrass prairie birds: a landowner's guide

This 33-page booklet by the Colorado Bird Observatory is designed to guide landowners and other conservationists in creating and maintaining habitat for 13 bird species of the shortgrass prairie, birds that are in need of conservation efforts. For each species, there is a brief description of the bird, its nest, eggs, and preferred habitat. There is also information about its breeding season and specific management activities that will contribute to healthy populations.

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North Dakota ecological site descriptions

This project assisted the North Dakota State Office of NRCS in developing ecological site descriptions that included information on fish and wildlife habitat.

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Fish and wildlife database

This project will develop a cataloging system of the most pertinent fish and wildlife information, including technology development projects of NRCS/AWCC, for management on privately owned agricultural lands through a centralized clearinghouse. A business plan and prototype have been developed with the assistance of Iowa State University. The final Fish and Wildlife Database should provide information in much the same style as the PLANTS Database.

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