



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative MBHI



Activities List



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

MBHI Activities List



Land that previously had a conservation practice or activity applied with financial assistance through the Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative (MBHI) is not eligible for enrollment in MBHI during FY 2014.

All applications for MBHI must meet Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) producer and land eligibility requirements to be eligible for enrollment in MBHI.

MBHI Activities List

Activity 1

Late Season Shallow Water With Manipulation

**Name**

Shorebird Habitat

Duration

May 1 through July 31

Objective

To provide a diverse habitat of shallow water, mud flat, and moist soil habitats to benefit a variety of shorebird species during the mid to late summer migration.

Eligible Site

An eligible site will contain 8 to 18 inches of water on May 1, and be capable of providing the habitat that meets the objective of the activity. The field must not contain more than 25% woody cover.

Required Management

- Structures will remain closed, catching and holding all available precipitation, until July 31.
- Vegetative manipulation of the site will be triggered if after June 15, the site becomes dry with emergent vegetation covering 50% or more, at a height of 6 inches or more. Manipulation by rolling or disking to bring the majority (75% or more) of the vegetation at or below the soil surface. Rolling is the preferred method of manipulation to maintain soil quality.

Activity 2

Extended Late Season Shallow Water With Manipulation

**Name**

Extended Shorebird Habitat

Duration

May 1 through August 31

Objective

To provide a diverse habitat of shallow water, mud flat, and moist soil habitats to benefit a variety of shorebird species for an extended period during the mid to late summer migration.

Eligible Site

An eligible site will contain 8 to 18 inches of water on May 1, and be capable of providing the habitat that meets the objective of the activity. The field must not contain more than 25% woody cover.

Required Management

- Structures will remain closed, catching and holding all available precipitation, until August 31.
- Vegetative manipulation of the site will be triggered if after June 15, the site becomes dry with emergent vegetation covering 50% or more, at a height of 6 inches or more. Additional manipulations will likely be required, triggered by the same conditions, should they occur again. Manipulation by rolling or disking to bring the majority (75% or more) of the vegetation at or below the soil surface. Rolling is the preferred method of manipulation to maintain soil quality.

Activity 3

Close Risers by
November 1 - February 15



Required Management

- Structures for water control affecting eligible sites will be closed by November 1 and remain closed through February 15. While not required, water depths of 6 to 10 inches provide maximum benefit to targeted species. Water depths should not exceed 18 inches for any extended period.
- Manipulation can occur prior to holding water. No large scale (greater than 80%) manipulation is allowed during the water holding period.

MBHI Activities List

Name

Migratory Waterfowl

Duration

November 1 through February 15

Objective

To provide seasonal, shallow water habitat for migratory waterfowl and wading birds.

Eligible Site

The site must be capable of holding an average of 6 to 18 inches of water for the duration of the activity.

Activity 4

Manipulate, Catch Rainfall
October 1 - February 15



Required Management

- Vegetative manipulation by either lightly disking or bush hogging the majority of the contracted acres (50 – 80%) between October 1 and October 31. Manipulation shall not be done in a large, continuous block. Strip disking/ mowing, mosaic patterns, or other irregular patterns is required. No large scale (greater than 80%) manipulation is allowed during the water holding period.
- Structures for water control affecting eligible sites will be closed by November 1 and remain closed through February 15. While not required, water depths of 6 to 10 inches provide maximum benefit to targeted species. Water depths should not exceed 18 inches for an extended period.

Name

Migratory Waterfowl With Manipulation

Duration

October 1 through February 15

Objective

To provide seasonal, shallow water habitat for migratory waterfowl and wading birds where vegetative manipulation may be needed.

Eligible Site

The site must be capable of holding an average of 6 to 18 inches of water for the duration of the activity.

Activity 5

Manage Grassland, Seasonal Wetland



MBHI Activities List

Name

Mottled Duck Habitat System

Duration

Annually applied system

Objective

To create and/or enhance wetland habitat that will lead to improved breeding and brooding habitat for mottled ducks and other water birds that share this habitat.



Eligible Site

- The system must include both a perennial grassland and a seasonal or permanent wetland component, which may include a mixture of agricultural land and non-agricultural wetlands.
- Both the grassland component area and the wetland component area must be capable of being managed by the participant and must be under the participant's control. An exception may be a nearby (< 1 mile without barriers) "natural" marsh with salinity levels suitable for mottle duck brooding.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative (MBHI) financial assistance is authorized only on land on which agricultural products are produced. Non-agricultural wetlands may be included in the conservation plan to complete the system requirements; however financial assistance is not authorized on non-agricultural land.
- The benchmark conditions of the grassland component site must have no more than 20% canopy cover of woody vegetation and be capable of being enhanced to provide improved nesting habitat for mottled ducks.
- The system shall include enhancing both a grassland component area for nesting habitat and a nearby (< 1 mile without barriers) wetland component area for brooding habitat, and to encourage breeding activity. Existing grassland or wetland that exhibits the minimum requirements for nesting or brooding habitat may be maintained to complete the system requirements, but is not eligible for financial assistance.
- Financial assistance for the "grassland component" or "wetland component" is authorized only when the grassland and/or wetland habitat will be enhanced through long-term management improvements to provide an increase of habitat value above the benchmark conditions. Short term habitat improvements may be eligible for financial assistance through facilitating practices; however financial assistance will not be authorized for the grassland component and/or wetland component payment without the adoption of long-term management improvements.
- A Mottled Duck Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (MODU WHEG) will be completed by NRCS for all Activity 5 applications to assess habitat conditions and identify limiting factors. To be considered, the MODU WHEG final score must be 0.5 or higher and must document an increase of habitat value above the benchmark conditions.

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Activity 5

MBHI Activities List

Eligible Site (continued)

- If eligible for financial assistance, the grassland component will be identified as either “Low” or “High” intensity or a combination of the two. “Low” or “High” intensity grassland management will be determined by the following criteria:
 - “High” intensity: A combination of long-term grassland management improvements that will address the sustainability of native warm season grasses for mottled duck nesting habitat when converting a site from introduced grass to native herbaceous grass/forb, or reclaiming a historic native herbaceous grass/forb site that has had complete loss of mottled duck nesting habitat due to invasion of trees and/or shrubs.
 - “Low” intensity: Long-term grassland management improvements that will address the sustainability of mottled duck nesting habitat on land that does not meet the high-intensity criteria.

Required Management (grassland component)

- The grassland component (high or low intensity) area will be managed in accordance with the conservation plan to include adoption of long-term management improvements to sustain mottled duck nesting habitat.
- The grassland component will include management of permanent pasture or other agricultural grasslands (fallow rice field).
- The grassland component area will be enhanced by planting native grasses and/or improving management to benefit the target habitat. Through implementation of the conservation plan and program contract, the grassland component area will be managed to sustain a diverse mix of grasses, especially native grasses, with a varying canopy height throughout; and a minimal amount of trees and shrubs (< 5% canopy cover).
- Grasslands component areas are ideally at least 40 acres, with larger blocks (500 – 1,000 acres) being preferred habitat.

Required Management (wetland component)

- The wetland component area will be managed in accordance with the conservation plan to include adoption of long-term management improvements to sustain mottled duck brooding habitat.
- The wetland component will include management of agricultural fields (fallow rice fields or crawfish-type impoundments). Non-agricultural wetlands will be managed in accordance with the conservation plan to complete the system requirements without financial assistance.
- Agricultural fields will be managed for a shallow flood throughout the brooding season for mottled ducks (February 1 through July 31).
- If order to meet system requirements, non-agricultural wetlands will be managed to hold water < 6 inches in depth with short emergent vegetation not exceeding 50% coverage and minimal coverage of more dense escape cover throughout the brooding season for mottled ducks (February 1 through July 31).
- Deep water habitat is not considered a suitable component of the habitat and will not be considered as part of the wetland component requirement.
- A wetland component area of 500 acres or more is most desirable.



**United States
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For more information on the **Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative** or these activities, contact your local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service or Soil and Water Conservation District.

Parish	Field Office	Soil and Water Conservation District	Address	Telephone
Acadia	Crowley	Acadia SWCD	157 Cherokee Drive, Suite C, Crowley, LA 70526	(337) 783-5823, ext. 3
Allen	Oberlin	Allen SWCD	309 North 1st Street, Suite 1, Oberlin, LA 70655	(337) 639-4850, ext. 3
Ascension	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD and New River SWCD	2438 Highway 1 South, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
Assumption	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD	2438 Highway 1 South, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
Avoyelles	Marksville	Avoyelles SWCD	629 Tunica Drive West, Marksville, LA 71351	(318) 253-9445, ext. 3
Beauregard	DeRidder	Calcasieu SWCD	597 Mahlon Street, Suite B, DeRidder, LA 70634	(337) 463-8555, ext. 3
Bienville	Minden	Saline SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
Bossier	Benton	Bodcau SWCD	200 Burt Boulevard, Suite 101, Benton, LA 71006-4901	(318) 965-2185, ext. 3
Caddo	Shreveport	Caddo SWCD	1402 Hawn Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71107	(318) 676-3461, ext. 3
Calcasieu	Lake Charles	Gulf Coast SWCD	5417 Gerstner Memorial Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601	(337) 474-1583, ext. 3
Caldwell	Columbia	Boeuf and Dugdemona SWCD	7128 Highway 165 South, Suite 2, Columbia, LA 71418	(318) 649-2651, ext. 3
Cameron	Lake Charles	Gulf Coast SWCD	5417 Gerstner Memorial Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601	(337) 474-1583, ext. 3
Catahoula	Jonesville	Catahoula SWCD	3545 4th Street, Jonesville, LA 71343	(318) 339-4239, ext. 3
Claiborne	Minden	D'Arbonne SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
Concordia	Ferriday	Tensas-Concordia SWCD	8331 Highway 84, Ferriday, LA 71334	(318) 757-2455, ext. 3
DeSoto	Mansfield	DeSoto SWCD	332 Lake Road, Mansfield, LA 71052	(318) 872-4949, ext. 3
East Baton Rouge	Denham Springs	Capital SWCD	907 Florida Boulevard, SW, Denham Springs, LA 70726	(225) 664-1430, ext. 3
East Carroll	Lake Providence	East Carroll SWCD	406 Lake Street, Suite C, Lake Providence, LA 71254	(318) 559-2604, ext. 3
East Feliciana	Clinton	Feliciana SWCD	9752 Plank Road South, Clinton, LA 70722	(225) 683-5496, ext. 3
Evangeline	Ville Platte	Evangeline SWCD	205 Court Street, Ville Platte, LA 70586	(337) 363-6602, ext. 3
Franklin	Winnsboro	Northeast SWCD	616 Riser Road, Winnsboro, LA 71295	(318) 435-6743, ext. 3
Grant	Colfax	Grant SWCD	510 Main Street, Colfax, LA 71417	(318) 627-9903, ext. 3
Iberia	New Iberia	Iberia SWCD	2617 Northside Road, Suite 600, New Iberia, LA 70563	(337) 369-6623, ext. 3
Iberville	Addis	Lower Delta SWCD	7747 Highway 1 South, Addis, LA 70710	(225) 687-2184, ext. 3
Jackson	Ruston	Dugdemona SWCD	1412 Celebrity Drive, Ruston, LA 71270	(318) 255-3136, ext. 3
Jefferson	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
Jefferson Davis	Jennings	Jefferson Davis SWCD	2003 Port Drive, Jennings, LA 70546	(337) 824-0975, ext. 3
Lafayette	Lafayette	Lafayette SWCD	905 Jefferson Street, Suite 310, Lafayette, LA 70501-7913	(337) 262-6601, ext. 3
Lafourche	Thibodaux	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD	143 Laura Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301	(985) 447-3871, ext. 3
LaSalle	Jonesville	LaSalle SWCD	3545 4th Street, Jonesville, LA 71343	(318) 339-4239, ext. 3
Lincoln	Ruston	D'Arbonne SWCD	1412 Celebrity Drive, Ruston, LA 71270	(318) 255-3136, ext. 3
Livingston	Denham Springs	Capital SWCD	907 Florida Boulevard, SW, Denham Springs, LA 70726	(225) 664-1430, ext. 3
Madison	Tallulah	Madison SWCD	1900 Crothers Drive, Tallulah, LA 71282	(318) 574-4158, ext. 3
Morehouse	Bastrop	Morehouse SWCD	9604 Marlatt Street, Bastrop, LA 71220	(318) 283-7626, ext. 3
Natchitoches	Natchitoches	Natchitoches SWCD	6949 Louisiana Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457	(318) 357-8366, ext. 3
Orleans	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
Ouachita	Monroe	D'Arbonne/Boeuf River SWCD	2410 Old Sterlington Road, Suite B, Monroe, LA 71203-2668	(318) 343-4467, ext. 3
Plaquemines	New Orleans	Plaquemines SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
Pointe Coupee	New Roads	Upper Delta SWCD	180 East Main Street, New Roads, LA 70760	(225) 638-7746, ext. 3
Rapides	Alexandria	Rapides SWCD	3734 Government Street, Building C, Alexandria, LA 71303	(318) 473-7856, ext. 3
Red River	Coushatta	Red River SWCD	1311 Ringgold Avenue, Coushatta, LA 71019	(318) 932-4352, ext. 3
Richland	Rayville	Boeuf River SWCD	141 Industrial Loop, Rayville, LA 71269	(318) 728-4451, ext. 3
Sabine	Many	Sabine SWCD	570 Highway 171 By Pass, Many, LA 71449	(318) 256-3491
St. Bernard	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
St. Charles	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
St. Helena	Amite	Tangipahoa-St. Helena SWCD	805 West Oak Street, Suite 1, Amite, LA 70422-2820	(985) 748-8751, ext. 3
St. James	Donaldsonville	Lower Delta SWCD and New River SWCD	2438 Highway 1 South, Donaldsonville, LA 70346	(225) 473-7638, ext. 3
St. John	New Orleans	Crescent SWCD	1041 Rue La Cannes, Luling, LA 70070	(985) 331-9084
St. Landry	Opelousas	St. Landry SWCD	5832 I-49 North Service Road, Opelousas, LA 70570	(337) 942-2530, ext. 3
St. Martin	Lafayette	St. Martin SWCD	905 Jefferson Street, Suite 310, Lafayette, LA 70501-7913	(337) 262-6601, ext. 3
St. Mary	Franklin	St. Mary SWCD	500 Main Street, Franklin, LA 70538	(337) 828-1461, ext. 3
St. Tammany	Franklinton	Bogue Chitto-Pearl River SWCD	1111 Washington Street, Franklinton, LA 70438	(985) 839-5688, ext. 3
Tangipahoa	Amite	Tangipahoa-St. Helena SWCD	805 West Oak Street, Suite 1, Amite, LA 70422-2820	(985) 748-8751, ext. 3
Tensas	St. Joseph	Tensas-Concordia SWCD	1223 Plank Road, St. Joseph, LA 71366	(318) 766-3502, ext. 3
Terrebonne	Thibodaux	Lafourche-Terrebonne SWCD	143 Laura Drive, Thibodaux, LA 70301	(985) 447-3871, ext. 3
Union	Farmerville	D'Arbonne SWCD	501 Glory Road, Farmerville, LA 71241	(318) 368-8021
Vermilion	Abbeville	Vermilion SWCD	3221 Veterans Memorial Drive, Suite H, Abbeville, LA 70510	(337) 893-5664, ext. 3
Vernon	Leesville	Calcasieu SWCD	205 North 5th Street, Leesville, LA 71446	(337) 239-2193
Washington	Franklinton	Bogue Chitto-Pearl River SWCD	1111 Washington Street, Franklinton, LA 70438	(985) 839-5688, ext. 3
Webster	Minden	Dorcheat SWCD	216B Broadway, Minden, LA 71055	(318) 377-3950, ext. 3
West Baton Rouge	Addis	Upper Delta SWCD	7747 Highway 1, South, Addis, LA 70710	(225) 687-2184, ext. 3
West Carroll	Oak Grove	West Carroll SWCD	208 South Constitution Street, Oak Grove, LA 71263	(318) 428-9303, ext. 3
West Feliciana	Clinton	Feliciana SWCD	9752 Plank Road South, Clinton, LA 70722	(225) 683-5496, ext. 3
Winn	Natchitoches	Dugdemona SWCD	6949 Louisiana Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, LA 71457	(318) 357-8366, ext. 3

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