

EQIP/WHIP Toolkit Narratives for the Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative (MBHI)

Practice Code 646 – Shallow Water Development and Management

MBH1 – Aquaculture Mudflat Management: This production catfish pond(s) currently in a non-production rotation will be managed and maintained for the specified duration to provide valuable mudflats and shallow water habitat for early migratory shorebirds and waterfowl. Partially drain catfish pond(s) to hold an average of 2 inches of water to create mudflats between July 15 - Sept. 1. Ponds may be refilled four months from the date they were drained.

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MBH2 – Early Water for Migratory Birds: Moist soil areas, abandoned catfish ponds, and/or other native wetland habitats will be managed and maintained for the specified duration to provide valuable mudflats and shallow water habitat for early migratory shorebirds, wading birds, and waterfowl. Shallow flood (by pumping) moist soil areas, abandoned catfish ponds, or other native wetland habitats to create mudflats and shallow water habitat to hold an average of 12 inches of water between July 15 - Sept. 1. Hold/maintain shallow water until April 1 – May 1.

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MBH3 – Late Water for Migratory Birds: Moist soil areas, abandoned catfish ponds and/or other native wetland habitats will be managed and maintained for the specified duration to provide valuable mudflats and shallow water habitat for overwintering migratory shorebirds, wading birds, and waterfowl. Shallow flood (by pumping) moist soil areas, abandoned catfish ponds, or other native wetland habitats to create mudflats and shallow water habitat to hold an average of 12 inches of water between Sept. 1 – Nov. 15. Hold/maintain shallow water until April 1 – May 1.

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MBH4 – Flood Harvested Crops: Harvested cropland will be managed and maintained for the specified duration to provide valuable mudflats and shallow water habitat for overwintering migratory shorebirds, wading birds, and waterfowl. Shallow flood by pumping cropland immediately after harvest until Nov. 15 and manage structures to hold an average of 6-12 inches of water until February 15 - March 1. No tillage of soil will be allowed after crops are harvested until February 15.

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MBH5 – Creation of Early Mudflats on Existing Wetland Areas: Manage (remove) boards in water control structures on existing wetland areas to drain floodwater to create mudflats or shallow water habitat between July 15 - Sept. 1 for early migratory wetland birds.

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MBH6 – Creation of Late Mudflats on Existing Wetland Areas: Manage (remove) boards as specified in water control structures on existing wetland areas to drain floodwater to create mudflats or shallow water habitat between Sept. 1 and Nov. 15 for migratory wetland birds.

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MBH7 – Manage Boards to Create Early Water for Migratory Birds: Manage (insert) boards in water control structures to hold and maintain floodwater (no pumping) to create mudflats or shallow water habitat between July 15 - Sept. 1.

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MBH8 – Manage Boards to Create Late Water for Migratory Birds: Manage (insert) boards in water control structures to hold and maintain floodwater (no pumping) to create mudflats or shallow water habitat between Sept. 1 – Nov 15.

Practice Code 644 – Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

MBH1 – Disking: Existing vegetation shall be disturbed by light disking to set back vegetative succession for mudflats within moist soil areas. Disking shall take place prior to flooding.

Practice Code 644 – Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

MBH2 – Chemical Herbicide: Existing vegetation shall be disturbed by applying appropriate chemical herbicides to set back vegetative succession for mudflats within moist soil areas, as located on the conservation plan map. All chemicals must be applied according to label requirements and recommendations. Herbicide treatment will occur prior to flooding.

Practice Code 644 – Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

MBH3 – Bushhogging: Mowing will be allowed as needed to prepare sites for necessary herbicide applications or disking to set back vegetative succession for mudflats within moist soil areas, as located on the conservation plan map.