

Percent grass in the landscape is a reasonable surrogate measure of upland landscape integrity that may affect nest success, although, alone, this variable only accounts for about 5% of the variation in patch-level nest success. Proximity to brood habitat is thought to influence duckling survival. Categorical values used in the analysis were:

	Pair Accessibility	% Grass in Landscape	Access to Brood Habitat	
High	>30 pairs/sq.mi	>40%	< 0.5 mi	
Moderate	10-30 pairs/sq.mi	20-40%		
Low	<10 pairs/sq.mi	<20%	>0.5 mi	

Combining these variables results in 12 landscape types, each with different factors currently limiting waterfowl production, and each uniquely suited to a particular management treatment. These management treatments and the guidelines for their application are listed below.

1. Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) Acquisitions:

Acquire WPAs only in areas with adequate access to brood habitat (within 0.5 miles of a semipermanent wetland)

Pair Accessibility	Amount of Grass in a 4-sq. mi Landscape		
	>40%	20-40%	<20%
High (>30 pairs/sq.mi)	Highest	Highest	Moderate
Moderate (10-30 pairs/sq.mi)	High	High	Moderate
Low (<10 pairs/sq.mi)	Low	Low	Low

Outstanding features of proposed tracts may result in higher priority designations, e.g., other concurrent restoration projects in appropriate proximity, very large tracts (e.g., >640 ac) of contiguous grassland, high quality diving duck breeding or migration habitat, extremely low cost/acre, or partnerships that bear the majority of management costs

thereby increasing cost effectiveness of Small Wetlands Acquisition Program (SWAP) expenditures, etc.

2. Wetland Easements:

Pair Accessibility	Amount of Grass in a 4-sq. mi Landscape		
	>40%	20-40%	<20%
High (>30 pairs/sq.mi)	Highest	Highest	Moderate
Moderate (10-30 pairs/sq.mi)	High	Moderate	Low
Low (<10 pairs/sq.mi)	Moderate	Low	Low

Increase 1 level if within 2 miles of Waterfowl Production Area

Priority ranking should increase 1 level if the proposed tract is within 2 miles of a Waterfowl Production Area **and**:

- (1) the proposal includes predominantly temporary or seasonal wetlands in cropland, pasture, or other context with regular removal of residual vegetation; **or**
- (2) the proposal includes predominantly semipermanent brood habitat in landscapes without, or with few, semipermanent wetlands.

3. Wetland Restorations:

A. Restorable wetlands in adequate proximity (<0.5 mi) of brood habitat and:

High and Moderate Duck Pair Accessibility and >20% Grass in the Landscape - HIGH
 High and Moderate Duck Pair Accessibility and <20% Grass in the Landscape - LOW

Low Duck Pair Accessibility and >20% Grass in the Landscape - MODERATE
 Low Duck Pair Accessibility and <20% Grass in the Landscape - LOW

Increase 1 level if within 2 miles of a Waterfowl Production Area.

If the proposed project is in an area with High or Moderate duck pair accessibility and grass <20%, ranking = MODERATE, if combined with appropriate intensive management.

B. The proposed restoration is a temporary or seasonal wetland that will be maintained in a

cropped, grazed, hayed, or other disturbed context, within 2 miles of a WPA or other secured grassland within 0.5 miles of semipermanent brood habitat, and:

Landscape > 40% grass - HIGH
Landscape 20-40% grass - MODERATE
Landscape < 20% grass - LOW

C. The proposed restoration is a semipermanent wetland in areas with High or Moderate duck pair accessibility, in a landscape >20% grass, and in an area >0.5 mi from semipermanent brood habitat - HIGH Priority

D. The proposed restoration is located within an accepted Restoration Focus Area - HIGH

4. Grassland Easements and Restorations:

Protecting and conserving grassland is a priority management practice in any area with High and Moderate duck pair accessibility.

Within 0.5 mi of semipermanent brood habitat:
High or Moderate Pairs >20% Grass HIGH Priority
High or Moderate Pairs <20% Grass MODERATE

>0.5 mi from semipermanent brood habitat:
High or Moderate Pairs >20% Grass MODERATE
High or Moderate Pairs <20% Grass LOW
Low Pairs LOW

5. Intensive Management - Nesting Structures, Predator Enclosures, etc.

HIGH Priority Areas Only - High Pair Accessibility and <20% Grass