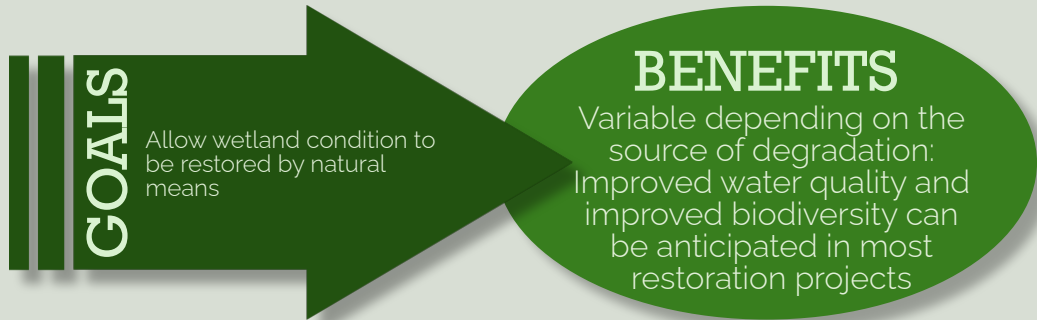


3.1 Passive Restoration

Wetland restoration projects vary in size, scope, and expense. There are many situations where taking a passive approach is all that is needed to restore a wetland. Passive restoration involves reducing or eliminating the sources of degradation and allowing the wetland time to recover naturally. This works when the restoration site still retains basic wetland characteristics and the source of degradation is an action that can be stopped (e.g. by removing grazing cattle, discontinuing mowing, etc.). Passive approaches are low cost and can often be implemented without a lot of pre-planning.



- 1 Identify degradation source
- 2 Demarcate project area limits
- 3 Remove source of degradation
- 4 Monitor for Success

DEFINITIONS

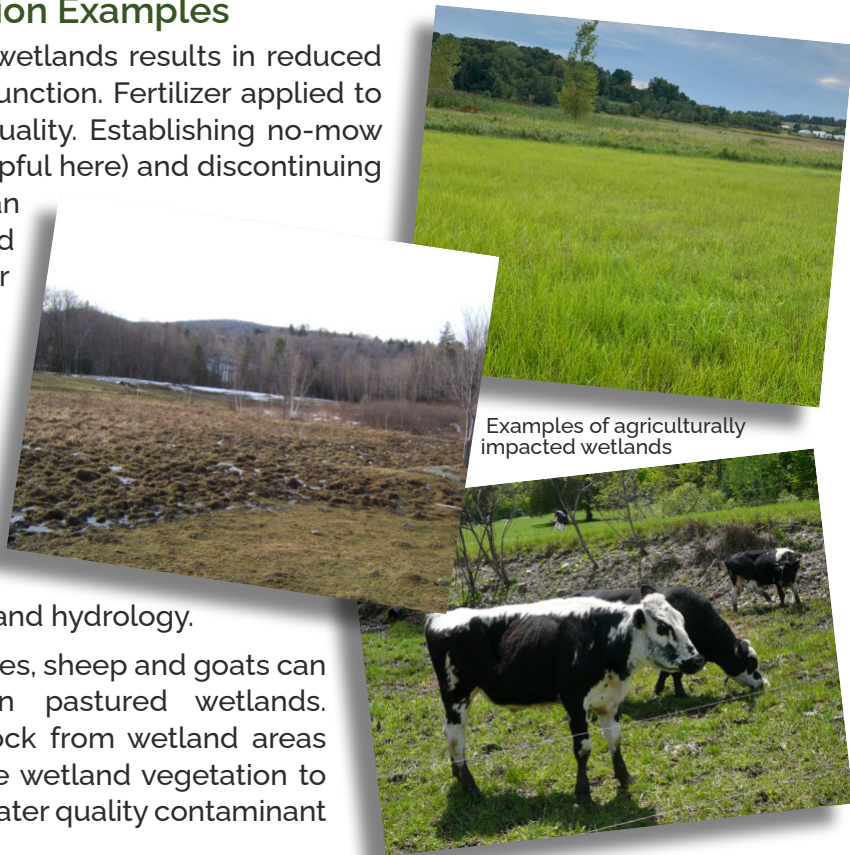
Hydrology: The distribution and movement of water both above and below the ground.

Passive Restoration Examples

Natural revegetation: Mowing in wetlands results in reduced biodiversity and overall wetland function. Fertilizer applied to mowed fields diminishes water quality. Establishing no-mow zones (signs and maps can be helpful here) and discontinuing fertilizer management provides an opportunity for native wetland vegetation to reestablish and for improved water quality.

Abandon Management: Ditches in wetlands often fill with sediment resulting in periodic maintenance through dredging. Discontinuing ditch maintenance can over time result in the natural filling of the ditch and reestablishment of wetland hydrology.

Exclusion of Livestock: Cows, horses, sheep and goats can all have negative impacts on pastured wetlands. Removing and fencing off livestock from wetland areas provides an opportunity for native wetland vegetation to reestablish as well as removes a water quality contaminant source.






Passive restoration

Challenges & Solutions

- Future impacts: Passive restoration can be vulnerable to reversal, especially if a property is sold to a new owner. Permanent protection of a wetland restoration area is possible through conservation easements and/or deed restrictions, which protect the land for future generations.
- NNIS: Since there is a preponderance of non-native invasive species (NNIS) on the landscape in some areas, there is a high likelihood of infestation, especially on open soils. Monitor for invasives that may introduce themselves, and make sure to remove them ASAP to prevent colonization.



Abandoned management practices cannot be reestablished without additional permitting

Complementary Practices:

