

“HOW TO” CREATE OR CONSTRUCT A WETLAND

Do you dream of your land having its own pond teeming with waterfowl? Have you considered turning the swampy gully that you're sick of trying to drain into a wetland that not only provides hunting opportunities, but also adds a great aesthetic feature to your farm and provides a wealth of biodiversity values? Enhancement of a wetland can start small, while wetland creation requires good design, expert advice and the odd hour of digger time. But how do you go about enhancing or creating a wetland? This is a general guide to things to consider when you are thinking about creating a wetland.

With all restoration efforts, the aim should be to keep it simple. The goal should be a wetland that takes care of itself with little effort from you.

WHAT TO DO - STEPS:

- 1 Decide:** make the decision to turn a spot of boggy ground on your land into a wetland.
- 2 Planning and design:** make a good plan and consider what type of wetland you want to create. See “Introducing wetlands”. That gully of rushes and tussocks may be perfect for enhancement or creation.
- 3 Advice:** you may want to contact a member of the Southland Wetlands Working Party. See “How To” Contact Us. Fish and Game in particular survey

wetlands on an almost weekly basis and provide free advice.

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Assistance: you may need the help of a local earthworks contractor to construct a retaining wall. Note: Generally this won't require a resource consent, but be sure to check. See “How To” Know When I Need Consent.

Waiau restored wetland ...



“Before” Nov 04



“Just constructed” Nov 04



“After” Feb 05

Rakatu restored wetland...

- 5** **Get water levels right at time of construction:** See “How To” Keep Your Wetland Wet.
 - 6** **Weed control and Pest control:** See “How To” Manage Pest Animals and Weeds
 - 7** **Planting:** See “How To” Plant out a Wetland.
 - 8** **Provide for fish passage:** be sure to check consent requirements
 - 9** **Wait for the waterfowl to arrive!**
- Ongoing maintenance is usually minimal;** mainly weed control, perhaps release spraying of plantings.

The New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust

The New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust is a charitable body that receives and distributes the proceeds of the Game Bird Habitat



Stamp programme. Fish & Game NZ services the programme on behalf of the Trust Board. Each year the Board invites individuals and organisations to apply for funds from the Trust to enhance, protect or create game bird habitat. Contact Fish & Game if you would like to apply for funds for your project.



“Before” Feb 02



“Construction” Feb 02



“After” late Feb 02



“After” June 02