



## Gagetown State Game Area Habitat Management

Contact: Cass City DNR Wildlife Field Office  
4017 East Caro Road  
Cass City, MI 48726 (989) 872-5300

1,364 acres in Huron and Tuscola  
Counties  
[Link to area map](#)

This area is being managed for the features species listed below and may include the following habitat management practices:

### Bobolink:

- Maintaining large blocks of grasslands: prescribed burning, disking, mowing, applying herbicides, haying.
- Delaying haying or mowing until late July.

### Eastern Wild Turkey:

- Providing roosting sites: retaining mature trees when harvesting timber.
- Establishing brush through timber harvesting practices.
- Planting food plots.
- Maintaining grasslands and forest openings: planting, applying herbicides, mowing, disking, fertilizing, haying, and prescribed burning.
- Maintaining hard mast (beech, oak) and soft mast (cherry, crabapples): allowing forests to mature, retaining mast-producing trees when harvesting timber.

### Mallard:

- Maintaining a 50:50 ratio of marsh to open water condition: removing tree stubs, digging potholes, dredging channels, and maintaining ditch systems and culverts.
- Maintaining grasslands adjacent to wetlands: planting warm and cool-season grasses, applying herbicides, prescribed burning, mowing, and haying.
- Planting food plots (corn, buckwheat, oats, etc).
- Maintaining a good mix of seed-producing wetland plants: manipulating water levels, bulldozing, disking, and seeding.
- Controlling phragmites and narrow-leaf cattail: applying herbicides and prescribed burning.
- Maintaining water control structures and dikes: routine inspections of all structures, mowing, applying herbicides, removing brush, repairing pumps & valves, filling rodent burrows, replacing guard rails over dams, and removing debris.
- Providing and maintaining nesting tunnels.

### Ring-necked Pheasant:

- Maintaining a diversity of large, permanent grassland vegetation: prescribed burning, mowing, applying herbicides, planting, disking, haying, bulldozing, and blade raking.
- Planting food plots: legumes, millet, sorghum, and sunflowers.
- Establishing escape and winter cover: harvesting timber and saplings to promote brush and planting switchgrass.
- Providing management incentives and technical assistance for nearby private lands.

### Ruffed Grouse:

- Preserving brush, slash, and drumming logs during timber harvests.
- Maintaining forested stands, especially aspen, with diverse age classes by clear cutting adjacent stands on a 10 to 20 year rotation.
- Seeding log landings and access trails with clover.
- Maintaining a young, deciduous component in lowland and riparian stands.