



Conservation Practice Overview

September 2020

Water Harvesting Catchment (Code 636)

Water harvesting catchment is a facility for collecting and storing runoff from precipitation.

Practice Information

The purpose of a water harvesting catchment is to provide water for livestock, fish, wildlife, and/or other uses by treating contributing areas or the construction of elevated roof structures to increase, collect, and store runoff water for future use.



This practice involves treating a watershed or portion of a watershed to increase, collect, and store runoff water. It may also involve installing curbs and/or diversions to direct the runoff water to a storage facility. The contributing area may be rock outcrops, paved areas, or other impervious areas that yield high rates of runoff. The contributing area may require treatment with material such as asphalt, wax, rubber, plastic, concrete, metal, or other impervious material.

Consideration of the effects the practice has on the quantity and quality of surface and ground water resources should be made. Factors may include changes in evaporation, timing of releases from the catchment, and the impact of the type of catchment on surface water versus ground water resources.

A water harvesting catchment will require maintenance over the expected life of the practice.

Common Associated Practices

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Water Harvesting Catchment (Code 636) is commonly applied with NRCS CPSs such as Diversion (Code 362), Livestock Pipeline (Code 516), Pumping Plant (Code 533), Pond (Code 378), Watering Facility (Code 614), Aquaculture Ponds (Code 397), and Critical Area Planting (Code 342).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.