

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program

## 2013 EQIP Signup

Minnesota Supplement for:  
Practice Standard 395 – Stream Habitat Improvement

### Supplemental Criteria

1. All Federal, state and local wetland laws and regulations must be followed and needed permits obtained prior to construction. See General Provision 7.

### Scenarios

#### **Riparian Zone Improvement-Forested**

This scenario describes fish and wildlife **habitat improvement and/or management actions focused on the community structure and function of forested riparian zone plant communities**. The planned activity meets the 395 standard and facilitating practice standards, especially Codes ~~390~~ 327 and 391, utilized in combination to satisfy all requirements specific to habitats needed for the stream and riparian species for which the practice is being implemented. Implementation will improve instream and riparian habitat complexity, water quality, hiding and resting cover, and/or increased food availability for desired riparian and stream species.

#### **Instream wood placement**

This scenario involves placement of large wood (logs, root wads, log structures) into a stream channel in order to improve aquatic habitat that currently does not meet quality criteria for stream species habitat. A stream assessment (i.e. Stream Visual Assessment Protocol) should be conducted in order to document habitat components lacking for aquatic species (i.e. large wood, pools). A project design for wood placement will be based on assessment of the target stream reach characteristics and those of a suitable reference reach. These characteristics include channel geometry, channel slope, stream bottom substrate size and composition, and the geomorphic setting influencing the channel form, pattern and profile. Large wood and root wads placed into the stream will mimic genus, age, and size of mature trees found in intact, reference riparian areas in the MLRA where the project is located. Large wood/trees with rootwads intact should be placed in streams to create pool habitat according to NRCS engineering specifications and with close review & approval of a fish habitat biologist. Boulders placed to provide ballast shall only be used if the geomorphic setting and project design demand this component. The planned activity will meet the current 395 standard, and facilitating practice standards utilized, including timing of work windows required for protected aquatic and riparian species, and protecting/restoring vegetation and substrates of/to areas impacted by heavy equipment. Implementation will result in the improvement of instream habitat complexity, hiding and resting cover, and/or increased food availability for fish and other stream species. Payment for implementation is to defray the costs of project implementation. Monitoring records

demonstrating implementation of this scenario will address resource concerns for stream species of concern are required.

### **Instream rock placement**

This scenario describes the implementation of a **stream habitat improvement and management project that places individual boulders or boulder clusters, or rock structures in or adjacent to the stream channel as habitat components**. A project design for boulder placement will be based on assessment of the target stream reach characteristics and those of a suitable reference reach. These characteristics include channel geometry, channel slope, stream bottom substrate size and composition, and the geomorphic setting influencing the channel form, pattern and profile. Large rocks/boulders placed in the stream channel will mimic geologic material sizes typically present in the watershed or observed in intact, reference stream reaches in the MLRA where the project is located. Boulders should be placed in streams to create pool habitat and hydraulic complexity according to NRCS engineering specifications and with close review & approval of a fish habitat biologist onsite during implementation of the project design. Spawning gravel placement should be placed to restore spawning area substrates potentially disturbed by rock placement. The planned activity will meet the current 395 standard, and facilitating practice standards utilized. Implementation will result in the improvement of instream habitat complexity, hiding and resting cover, spawning habitat, and/or increased food availability for fish and other stream species. Payment for implementation is to defray the costs of stream habitat assessment, and project implementation. Records demonstrating implementation of this scenario will address resource concerns for stream species of concern will be required.

### **Rock and wood structures**

This scenario describes the implementation of a **stream habitat improvement and management project where practices are focused on instream habitat improvement with a combination of rock AND wood structures**. This scenario involves placement of large wood and rock structures into a stream channel in order to improve aquatic habitat that currently does not meet quality criteria for stream species habitat. A stream assessment (i.e. Stream Visual Assessment Protocol) should be conducted in order to document habitat components (such as large wood, pools) are not currently present in the stream or are limited for aquatic species. A project design for placement of habitat structures (boulders, boulder clusters, wood, wood structures) will be based on assessment of (a) the target stream reach characteristics and (b) those of a suitable reference reach. These characteristics include channel geometry, channel slope, stream bottom substrate size and composition, and the geomorphic setting influencing the channel form, pattern and profile. Large rocks/boulders placed in the stream channel will mimic geologic material sizes typically present in the watershed or observed in intact, reference stream reaches in the MLRA where the project is located. Rock boulder sizes should also reflect the geomorphic setting of the stream reach. Large wood placed into the stream under this scenario should be similar in species, age, and size (diameter) as trees found in the surrounding riparian area, to the extent possible. Wood, boulders and/or boulder clusters will be placed in the stream to create pool habitat and hydraulic complexity according to NRCS engineering specifications and with close review & approval of a fish habitat biologist onsite during the planning and implementation of the project. This scenario involves restoring one acre of stream. The planned activity will meet the current 395 standard, and facilitating practice standards utilized.

Implementation will result in the improvement of instream habitat complexity, hiding and resting cover, and/or increased food availability for fish and other stream species. Payment for implementation is to defray the costs of project implementation. Records demonstrating implementation of this scenario will address resource concerns for stream species of concern will be required.

### **Fish Barrier**

This scenario describes the implementation of a **stream habitat improvement and management project where practices are focused on the stream channel**. The planned activity will meet the current 395 standard, and facilitating practice standards utilized. Implementation will result in protecting native aquatic fauna in the reach from competition or harassment from non-native fish. This action may also increase food availability for fish and other stream species located above the constructed barrier. Payment for implementation is to defray the costs of stream habitat assessment above the barrier, and project implementation. Records demonstrating implementation of this scenario will address resource concerns for aquatic and riparian species of concern will be required.

### **Lunker Structure**

This scenario describes the implementation of a **stream habitat improvement and management project that places individual lunker structures (3 sets of 3 = 9 total) in the stream channel as habitat components**. A project design will be based on assessment of the target stream reach characteristics and those of a suitable reference reach. These characteristics include channel geometry, channel slope, stream bottom substrate size and composition, and the geomorphic setting influencing the channel form, pattern and profile. Large rocks/boulders placed in the stream channel will mimic geologic material sizes typically present in the watershed or observed in intact, reference stream reaches in the MLRA where the project is located. Boulders should be placed in streams to create pool habitat and hydraulic complexity according to NRCS engineering specifications and with close review & approval of a fish habitat biologist onsite during implementation of the project design. Spawning gravel placement should be placed to restore spawning area substrates potentially disturbed by rock placement. The planned activity will meet the current 395 standard, and facilitating practice standards utilized. Implementation will result in the improvement of instream habitat complexity, hiding and resting cover, spawning habitat, and/or increased food availability for fish and other stream species. Payment for implementation is to defray the costs of stream habitat assessment, and project implementation. Records demonstrating implementation of this scenario will address resource concerns for stream species of concern will be required.