

Fish Barrier Removal: Using NRCS Practices to Open Blocked Waterways



Practice Overview

Purpose: To remove a complete or partial barrier to fish passage for aquatic species.



Introduction

A fish barrier is a structure, either natural or man-made, that prevents the upstream movement of fishes and aquatic organisms. To remove a complete or partial barrier to fish passage, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) uses a group of practices to open up these blocked waterways and allow native species like Chinook salmon to return to waters to spawn.

- 580 Streambank and Shoreline Protection**
It applies to controlling erosion where the problem can be solved with relatively simple structural measures, vegetation, or upland erosion control practices.
- 582 Open Channel**
Constructing or improving a channel either natural or artificial, in which water flows with a free surface.
- 584 Channel Bed Stabilization**
This practice may be applied to maintain or alter channel bed elevation or gradient.

- 324 Critical Area Planting**
This practice applies to highly disturbed areas such as road construction areas, conservation practice construction sites, and other areas degraded by human activities or natural events.
- 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment**
Tree/shrub establishment can be applied on any appropriately prepared site where woody plants can be grown.
- 396 Aquatic Organism (Fish) Passage**
Improve or provide upstream and downstream passage for fish and other aquatic organisms.
- 484 Mulching**
This practice may be used alone or in combination with other practices to provide erosion control, suppress weed growth and facilitate the establishment of vegetative cover.

Continued on back



Fish Barrier Removal: Using NRCS Practices to Open Blocked Waterways

Continued from page 1



Access Road

560

This standard applies to vehicular and equipment roads constructed to provide access to farms, ranches, fields, conservation systems, structures, woodlands, and recreation areas.

Stream Crossing

578

This practice applies to all land uses where an intermittent or perennial watercourse exists and a ford, bridge, or culvert type crossing is desired for livestock, people, and /or equipment.

KEY

NRCS Practice Code



To learn more about these practices or sign-up for technical and financial assistance, contact your local NRCS field office.

Or visit:

www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov