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# Minnesota Biology Technical Note 18

## Woody Habitat/Tree Drops for Fish Habitat

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Tree drops involve the placement of coarse woody debris into the water of a lake to create or enhance natural reproduction and provide cover for fish.

- The tree drop shall be placed entirely within the riparian's zone of interest.
- The tree drop must be placed solely for the purpose of fish habitat.
- A deposit of sand, gravel, or stone may be associated with the placement of a tree drop provided the deposit is limited to the area immediately underneath or within one foot of the structure and is less than two cubic yards.
- Dredging is not allowed for the placement of a tree drop.
- Tree drops may only be placed in lakes.
- Tree drops shall use live trees having a minimum diameter of 12 inches at the base.
- Tree drops shall be securely anchored to the shore at intervals no less than 50 feet apart.
- The tree drop may consist of one or more trees at each site.
- Proper erosion control measures shall be used during installation, removed after work is complete, and any disturbed areas restored.
- To protect fish habitat during spawning seasons, the tree drop may not be placed during the following time periods:
  - a) For waters South of Hwy 210, April 1 through May 1.
  - b) For waters North of Hwy 210, April 15 through May 15.
- Contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources or other permitting entity for applicable permits. On waters that require permits, all State and Local regulations will be followed.

Note: Local zoning ordinances may place restrictions on cutting trees in the shore land zone. The riparian is responsible for ensuring that their tree drop project is in compliance with any local zoning requirements.

- As a minimum, the construction plan will include all of the data required for an approved tree drop permit.