



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E395137X

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Stream habitat improvement through
placement of woody biomass

Conservation Practice 395: Stream Habitat Improvement & Management

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial); Pasture;
Range; Forest; Associated Ag Land**

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Fish & Wildlife Inadequate

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 5 years

Enhancement Description

Flexible placement of wood (unanchored/unpinned) in small, 1st and 2nd order streams to improve stream habitat conditions for aquatic species and natural stream processes.

Criteria

- Provide a heterogeneous and complex physical habitat consistent with the physiographic setting and important to fish and other aquatic species in the watershed.
- Apply to 1st- and 2nd-order streams, typically less than 15 feet wide, that are lacking in woody biomass. The stream should not be actively incising or down cutting.
- Develop a written plan detailing the actions, including a map indicating the action locations, for the stream segment(s) being impacted.
- Obtain all necessary Clean Water Act, Section 404 permits, and other federal, state or local permits, as required.
- If present, implement upstream of beaver flowages or wetlands which will collect wood moving downstream.



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- Select stream segments where ample canopy cover exists and cut trees will not greatly reduce shading. Refrain from cutting trees on the stream bank, which are creating undercut banks or adding to the stability of the system.
- Leave felled logs on floodplains to increase roughness elements that will reduce the effects of flooding and create wildlife habitat.
- Develop areas called “strainers” where a few large trees can be felled across the stream on the downstream end of the treatment area to collect any wood which may dislodge during high flows.
- Cut trees a few feet from the ground leaving a higher than normal stump on the downstream side to help secure recently cut trees.
- Where possible, utilize trees with full intact rootwads to create complex habitat.
- Design the expanded buffer enhancement for an expected life of at least 5 years.

Documentation Requirements

- Specifications for this practice shall be prepared for each site. Specification shall be recorded using approved specifications sheets, job sheets, narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.
- Copy of the plan including the pre-treatment conditions and the post-treatment conditions.
- Representative digital images/photos of the area showing before and after treatment conditions.