



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**  
**E399137X**

**CONSERVATION**  
**STEWARDSHIP**  
**PROGRAM**

Fishpond management for native aquatic and terrestrial species

**Conservation Practice 399: Fishpond Management**

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

**RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Fish & Wildlife Inadequate**

**PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 year**

**Enhancement Description**

Pond rehabilitation, buffer, and watershed management actions are taken to improve habitat for native species of fish, amphibians, and shorebirds.

**Criteria**

- The pond must meet the requirements of Conservation Practice Standard 378, Pond.
- Where feasible, retain features such as trees in the upper reaches of the pond and stumps in the pool area. If necessary, shape upper reaches of the pond to provide shallow areas and wetland habitat.
- Based on client objectives and local regulations develop a pond management plan that specifies species selection, stocking rates, and ratios. Develop species selection, stocking rates, and ratios with respect to the size, depth, water temperature, and water quality of the pond to be stocked.
- Use native species that are locally adapted for use in ponds, lakes, or reservoirs. Comply with state and local regulations when selecting species to be stocked. Control nuisance non-native species in compliance with state and local regulations.
- If needed, use of supplemental aeration equipment to improve gas transfer, water quality, and minimize fish stress within the impoundment.



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- Protect the site from flooding, sedimentation, and contamination. Use erosion control and nutrient and pest management conservation practices in the watershed to maintain water quality and reduce sediment production.
- Establish a minimum 35-foot vegetated buffer around the pond. Improve the diversity of native or natural shrub and/or herbaceous plant species suitable for the site and appropriate for the riparian and aquatic species. Exclude livestock from the pond and the buffer area.
- Grassy cover around the impoundment that may provide nesting habitat should not be mowed until after the primary nesting season.

### **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.