



Conservation Practice Overview

May 2019

Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (Code 395)

Stream habitat improvement and management is the maintenance, improvement, and restoration of physical, chemical, and biological functions of a stream.

Practice Information

This practice applies to streams and their adjoining backwaters, floodplains, associated wetlands, and riparian areas. The practice provides for developing habitat for desired aquatic species and enhancing the stream channel and associated riparian conditions important to aquatic communities. Planned stream habitat improvements are based on an assessment of watershed, stream, and riparian conditions. Riparian corridors adjoining the stream must be managed, as well as the in-stream habitat. Establishment of an ecologically self-sustaining stream-riparian system consistent with the watershed conditions and geomorphic setting should be emphasized. Operations and maintenance requirements include the periodic inspection and repair of structures that are found to cause excessive streambank or streambed instability. The stream and riparian habitat conditions are to be monitored and evaluated to determine if they meet plan objectives.



Common Associated Practices

Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (Code 395) is commonly applied with CPSs such as Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390), Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612), Aquatic Organism Passage (Code 396), Streambank and Shoreline Protection (Code 580), Fence (Code 382), Access Control (Code 472), and Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities (Code 643).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.