



## Fish & Wildlife Structure (734) Conservation Practice Job Sheet

JS-734-082013-2

Natural Resources Conservation Service - Idaho



### Definition

A structure designed and installed specifically for fish or wildlife.

### Purpose

To improve overall habitat conditions for fish or wildlife species. This practice may be applied as part of a fish or wildlife habitat management plan to serve one or more of the following functions:

- Provide structure for loafing, escape, nesting, rearing, roosting, perching, or basking.
- Provide an escape, avoidance, or exclusionary feature from otherwise life-threatening conditions.

- Provide alternative cover when natural cover is not readily available.
- Isolate native species populations from non-natives.
- Improve or restore habitat connectivity.

Types of fish and wildlife structures include:

- Artificial nest boxes or platforms for species such as cavity-nesting birds, bats, pollinators, and waterfowl
- Artificial cover such as brush piles, rock piles, buried concrete pipe, engineered log jams
- Wood structures in or along stream banks for fish cover
- Natural cover manipulation, such as girdling trees to encourage snag development
- Measures to facilitate passage or escape including elk jumps, escape ramps, fence markers
- Measures to inhibit passage including predator guards, non-native fish barriers, beaver dam exclusion features

### Planning Criteria & Considerations

- Conduct a habitat assessment to determine if cover is a limiting factor for the targeted species. If natural cover is insufficient, structures that provide artificial cover may be appropriate as a short-term solution.
- Develop a Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (WHMP) using Stream Habitat Improvement & Management (395), Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644), or Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645).
- The WHMP should include other land treatments or practices that improve food and cover long-term, such as forest stand improvement, riparian buffers, Tree & Shrub Establishment (612), Conservation Cover (327) and Range Planting (550).

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*Help the Land*

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Insert drawing and other instructions necessary for the client to correctly install the practice. Refer to the reference list below for sources of drawings and other information.

## References

Bat Conservation International. 2012. **Install a Bat House**. Retrieved from <http://www.batcon.org/> 09 August 2013.

Casey, D., B. Altman, and Darin Stringer. **Snags, Bark Beetles, and Cavity-Nesting Birds: Conservation and Management in Ponderosa Pine Forests of the Pacific Northwest**. American Bird Conservancy. 16 pp. Retrieved from <http://www.abcbirds.org/> 08 August 2013.

Johnson, D.H., D.C. Gillis, M.A. Gregg, J.L.Rebholz, J.L. Lincer, and J.R. Belthoff. 2013. **Users guide to installation of artificial burrows for Burrowing Owls**. Version 2.0. Tree Top Inc., Selah, Washington. 34 pp. Retrieved from: [www.globalowproject.com](http://www.globalowproject.com) 12 August 2013

Shepherd, M. 2008. **Nests for Native Bees**. Invertebrate Conservation Fact Sheet. The Xerces Society. 2 pp. Retrieved from: <http://www.xerces.org/> 08 August 2013.

Taylor, D.A.R. and M.D. Tuttle. 2007. **Water for Wildlife: A Handbook for Ranchers and Range Managers**. Retrieved from <http://www.batcon.org/> 12 August 2013.

USDA NRCS and Wildlife Habitat Council. 1999. **American Kestrel**. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet Number 3. 12 pp.

USDA NRCS and Wildlife Habitat Council. 2008. **Artificial Nesting Structures**. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet Number 20. Biology Technical Note 190-81. 29 pp.

USDA NRCS and Wildlife Habitat Council. 1999. **Bats**. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet Number 5. Biology Technical Note 190-4. 12 pp.

USDA NRCS and Wildlife Habitat Council. 1999. **Wood Duck**. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflet (unnumbered). 12 pp.

US Fish & Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Program. 2012. **Homes for Birds**. Retrieved from <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds> 09 August 2013.

**NOTE:** NRCS Biology Technical Notes are available in NRCS' Electronic Directives System <http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/default.aspx>

Fish & Wildlife Habitat Management Leaflets are available on NRCS' National web site <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/> and on the Wildlife Habitat Council web site <http://www.wildlifehc.org/>



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Natural Resources Conservation Service - Idaho

August 2013

**Fish and Wildlife Structure**

**Conservation Practice 734 – Specification Sheet**

<b>Client:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	
<b>Location:</b>		<b>County/SWCD:</b>	
<b>Contract #:</b>		<b>Tract/Field:</b>	
<b>Planner:</b>		<b>Acres:</b>	

**Management Objective(s):** Describe the species and benefits the structures are expected to provide.

Fish & Wildlife Structure Construction Specifications				
Number	Size (height x width)	Spacing	Materials	Location (attach map)
Structures will installed between: (specify dates)				
<b>Additional Specifications:</b>				

**Operation and Maintenance:** Structures will be inspected at least semi-annually and after major storms. Necessary maintenance, including removal of debris, shall be performed.

**CLIENT’S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT:**

- The Client acknowledges that:
- a. They have received a copy of the specification and understand the contents and requirements.
  - b. It shall be the responsibility of the client to obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice.

Accepted by: /s/ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATION:**

I have completed a review of the information provided by the client or have conducted a site visit and certify this practice has been applied according to NRCS standards and specifications.

Certified by: /s/ \_\_\_\_\_ Job title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_