

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
WYOMING

FISH AND WILDLIFE STRUCTURE

(No.)

CODE 734

DEFINITION

A structure designed and installed specifically for fish or wildlife.

PURPOSE

To facilitate and/or improve overall conditions for fish or wildlife species.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies wherever a specific structure is needed as an integral part of a fish/wildlife habitat management plan utilizing Practice Codes 644, 645, or 395 to provide 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.

CRITERIA

Structures shall be designed and installed to meet the focus species biology and life history needs.

Plastic and fiberglass structures shall be made of ultraviolet resistant materials and may be coated with non-toxic substances for additional

protection from deterioration due to sunlight exposure.

Structures shall be built to withstand normal and extreme environmental conditions at the site to maximize structural lifespan, stability and habitat benefits.

CONSIDERATIONS

Give consideration to effects the location of the structure will have on targeted and non-targeted species.

Consider the need to prevent increased predation on both targeted and non-targeted fish and wildlife species as a result of installation of structures under this practice.

Consider combining this practice with vegetative practices to establish natural habitat features in the long term.

Types of fish and wildlife structures to consider 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 streams on banks for fish cover
- Natural cover manipulation, such as girdling trees to encourage snag development

- Measures to facilitate passage including elk jumps, escape ramps, road crossings
- Measures to inhibit passage including predator guards, non-native fish barriers, beaver dam exclusion features, stock tank escapes

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for installing fish and wildlife structures shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the biological and physical requirements for applying the practice.

The plan shall specify the location, grade, quantities, dimensions, materials and timing of installation for the individual structure.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operation and maintenance provisions shall be provided to and reviewed with the land manager. The provisions shall be site specific and include but not be limited to the following:

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

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