NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

STREAM HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AND MANAGEMENT

South Carolina Conservation Practice Job Sheet
SC-395

Definition

Maintain, improve or restore physical, chemical and biological functions of a stream, and its associated riparian zone, necessary for meeting the life history requirements of desired aquatic species.

Purpose

1. Provide suitable habitat for desired aquatic species.
2. Provide stream channel and associated riparian conditions that maintain ecological processes and connections of diverse stream habitat types important to aquatic species.

Where used

All streams and their adjoining backwaters, floodplains, associated wetlands, and riparian areas where geomorphic conditions or habitat deficiencies limit reproduction, growth, survival and diversity of aquatic species.

Resource management system

This practice is normally established as part of a management system to address natural resource conservation needs and landowner objectives. For this practice to be fully effective, it should be installed with other components of a resource management system that helps protect soil, water, air, plant, animal (includes wildlife), and human resources.

Specifications

This conservation practice shall be designed and installed according to established criteria and specifications developed for South Carolina.

Site-specific requirements are listed on the attached specifications sheet. Additional provisions may be entered on the job sketch sheet, in engineering designs, and in the scope of work developed for this conservation practice standard.

Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG). See practice standard *Stream Habitat Improvement and Management*, code 395, in Section IV of the NRCS' eFOTG for South Carolina.

All activities planned under this practice shall comply with applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations.

Operation and maintenance

NRCS recognizes at least **10 years** as the lifespan for practice standard *Stream Habitat Improvement and Management*, code 395. Required actions shall be carried out to insure that this practice functions as intended throughout its lifespan. These actions include normal repetitive activities in the application and use of the practice (operation), and repair and upkeep of the practice (maintenance). *Note: Other NRCS practice standards used in conjunction with this standard to meet the intended purpose may have longer or shorter lifespans.*

Site specific operation and maintenance requirements are detailed in the Operation and Maintenance Section of this job sheet.

Stream Habitat Improvement and Management – Specification Sheet

For:	***Farm #:*** ***Tract #:***
Stream:	***Latitude:*** ***Longitude:***
Designed By:	***Approved By:*** ***Signature:***
Date:	***Date:***

Describe the Planned Activity:

Describe the Timing (Year, Month(s)) and\or Other Construction Constraints for All Activities Planned In or Adjacent to the Stream:

Riparian Vegetation Establishment (For woody species plantings use Code 490 - *Forest Site Preparation* and Code - 390 *Riparian Forest Buffer* specifications and job sheets):

Seedbed Preparation:				
Species\Cultivars	**PLS\acre**	**Planting Method**	**Planting Depth**	**Planting Date**
Additional Notes:				

Additional Specifications, as needed:

Operation and Maintenance Requirements

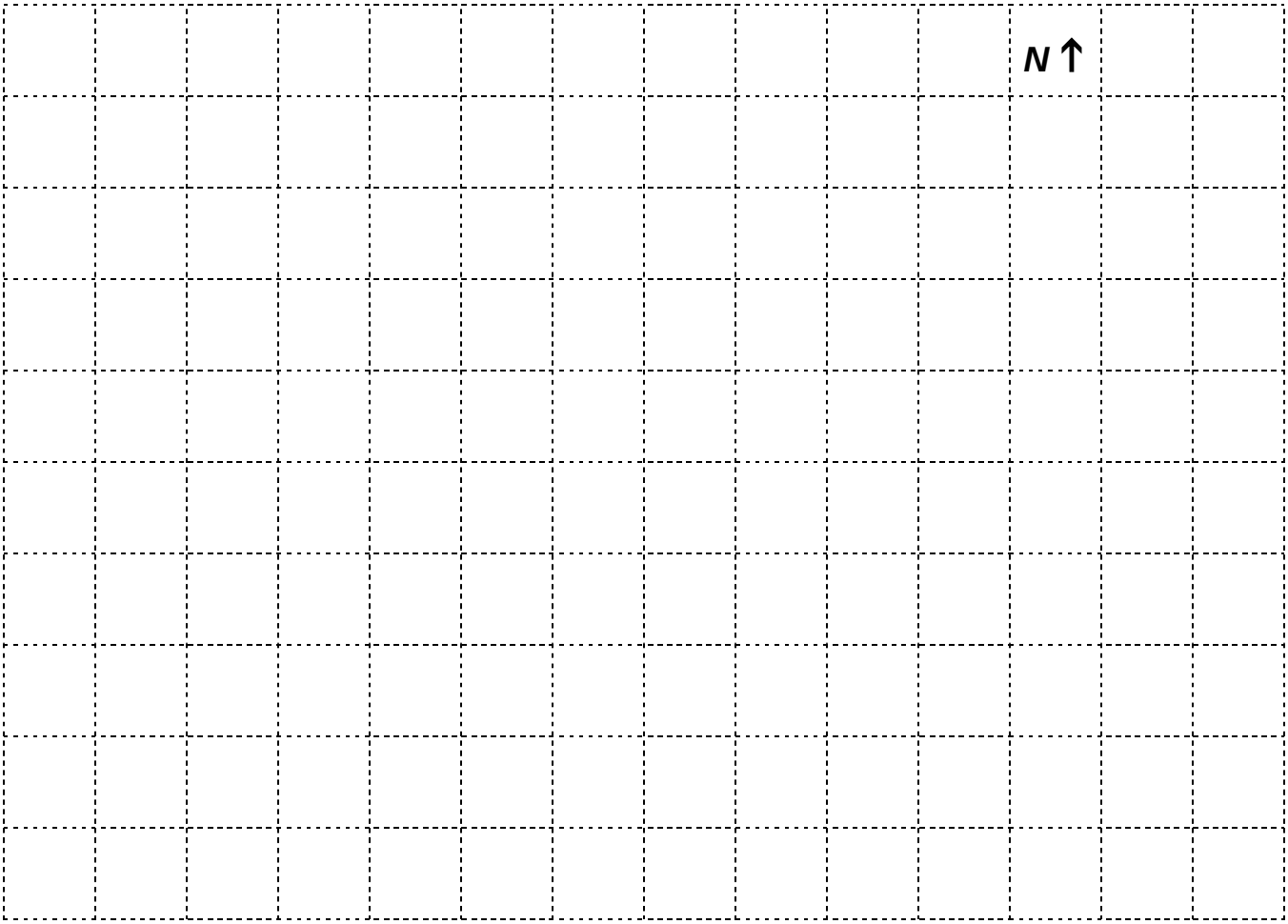
- Inspect the integrity of fences, access roads, water access, crossings and other livestock control measures. Replace or repair as necessary. Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage.
- Periodically check staff gages or other flow metering devices for accuracy.
- Annually inspect fish passage structures for structural integrity, disrepair, and proper functioning of water control devices, trash racks, and debris collectors.
- Soil bioengineering measures should be assessed during drought and immediately after high flows. Inspection of bank and channel measures should be conducted during low-water conditions to allow viewing of the measure as well as changes to the stream bed that may affect future integrity of the system. Early failure is an inherent risk of soil bioengineered structures systems that are not fully effective until the plants are well rooted and the stems reach a particular size and density. Repair and replant as required.
- Routine maintenance of vegetation includes removal of hazardous trees and branches that threaten safety, buildings, fences, as well as vegetation along road shoulders, trails and similar features. Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and controlled application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing may also be needed to control height of vegetation.
- Inspect for damage from rodents or burrowing animals. Repair any damage. Take appropriate corrective actions to alleviate further damage.
- Check all timber or lumber sections for decay and other damage, especially sections in contact with earth or other materials. Repair damaged sections.

Stream Habitat Improvement and Management – Specification Sheet

- Maintain grade control structures necessary for stream bottom and bank stability.
- Maintain stream bank protection facilities, i.e. rock jetties, bank riprap, rock barbs, log revetments, etc.
- Maintain safety measures for protection of people and animals.
- Other:

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Scale 1"=_____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")



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