

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION GUIDE
FISH POND MANAGEMENT**

399

399 - STEP 1. INITIAL EVALUATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine the landowner's desire to manage water bodies for the production of fish.

The landowner will be interviewed to determine the purpose and need of this action. The need for action should address a resource concern(s) for which the NRCS has authority to act upon. The purpose can be defined with the objectives of the landowner.

Determine the type of fishery the pond is to be managed for.

399 – STEP 2. INVESTIGATIONS, SURVEYS, AND INVENTORIES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine the feasibility and need for fish pond management. This step includes identifying all needed clearances including cultural resources, utilities, section 404 permits, ESA consultation, and water rights. Evaluate the pond type, water quality (particularly pH, temperature, and dissolved oxygen) level of production desired, and species of fish to be produced. Evaluate aquatic vegetation as related to water quality problems and adverse affects on harvest operations.

Determine if the fish are to be fed or if a food chain will be set up to operate within the pond.

399 – STEP 3. PRACTICE DESIGN

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to develop the fish pond management plan, incorporating the objectives of the NRCS and the landowner. A record will be developed of the completed action taken.

All required deliverables for the design, installation, and compliance are found on the New Mexico Statement of Work. This document will be followed to successfully complete the project.

The landowner will provide the contractor the appropriate specifications, job sheets, and statement of work. Excess materials will not be provided to the landowner or the contractor. Standards are to assist the planner with the design of the practice. Specifications are to assist the landowner/contractor with the implementation of the practice.

399 – STEP 4. INSTALLATION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to document all variations from the specifications. As built drawings, notations on job sheets, and technical notes are used to document variances from the practice design.

399 – STEP 5. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to assure the proper management and maintenance is carried out for the life of the practice. (See operation and maintenance in the practice standard 399).

399 – STEP 6. COMPLIANCE OR SPOT CHECKING

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine that all work has been completed to the standards required by the NRCS.

All specifications, drawings (including as built), job sheets should be filed in the case file.