

## Conservation Practice Standard Overview

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### Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (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, flood plains, 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 will be 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

Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390), Fish Passage (396), Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580), Fence (382), and Use Exclusion (472).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.