

Fish Habitat Restoration Methods Concept Specification

Artificial Instream Debris

Purpose:

- To remove man-made debris that may contaminate water, hinder fish passage, or alter the stream's hydrology.

Conditions Where Applicable:

- Instream removal must be approved by an Adopt-A-Stream Biologist.
- Debris removal is the removal of material not naturally part of the composition of a watercourse. Examples of debris include car bodies, tires, shopping carts, empty containers, and garbage.
- All human sourced garbage should be removed.

Advantages:

- Aesthetically pleasing.
- Can remove contaminants.
- Can prevent bank erosion.
- Can permit fish passage.

Disadvantages:

- Can remove important cover.

Design Criteria:

- Garbage should be removed.
- Precautions must be taken to ensure any contaminants such as oil do not leak out during removal.
- Care must be taken not to damage stream banks when removing heavy objects.
- If the debris has remained in the watercourse for a long period of time, it may have become so deeply embedded that removing it would cause more damage than leaving it in place.

Implementation:

- All garbage should be disposed of according to local, provincial and/or municipal procedures and in approved dumps.

- No heavy equipment (e.g. bulldozers, tractors, or backhoes etc.) are allowed in the watercourse or on the banks to carry out the work.
- If machinery is required to remove heavy objects you require special approval. When using machines to do this work they must lift the object out of the stream and the machine must be located so as not to damage the banks of the watercourse.

References:

N.B. Department of Environment and Local Government. Watercourse alterations technical guidelines.

Adapted from Ecological Restoration of Degraded Aquatic Habitat: A Watershed Approach
2006 Published by Fisheries and Oceans Canada Oceans and Science Branch Gulf Region ISBN:
0-662-42818-8 Cat. Number: Fs104-4/2006E