PRIMARY USE: Improve habitat for aquatic plants and animals, and contribute to food web dynamics.
ADDITIONAL USES: Sediment flushing and deepening of scour pools caused by increased stream velocity.

TREE COVER

What is it? In this technique trees or large shrubs are felled and anchored at various locations along the stream bank to provide needed aquatic habitat.

Purpose

They provide excellent overhead cover and an ideal substrate for aquatic organisms. Under certain conditions, trees can provide excellent benefits with little expense.

Tree Cover - Hinge Felling
Section View

Limitations

Channels must be large enough to accommodate trees without threatening bank erosion and limiting needed channel flow capacity. Suitable trees may not be nearby. Where trees cannot be felled directly into the stream, heavy equipment will be required for placement. Tree covers generally require frequent maintenance; ice is particularly damaging to them.

Materials

Vegetation on site.

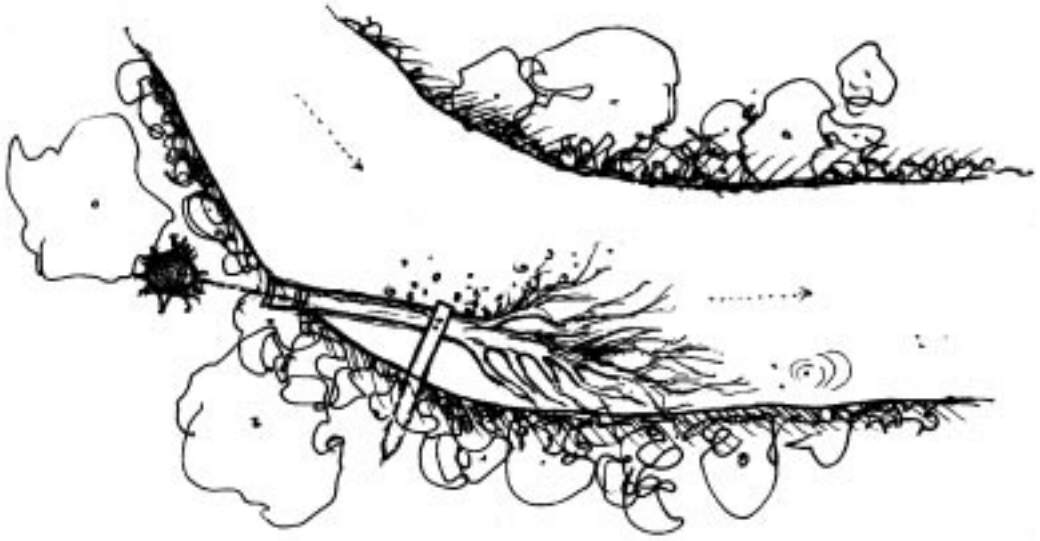
Installation

Minimize disturbance to the stream and adjoining areas by scheduling the work when it will interrupt aquatic plants and animals the least. Greatest benefits probably occur in wide, shallow streams with sand or gravel substrate. Whenever possible, fell trees directly into the stream with tips pointing downstream and with the trunk parallel to or at an angle no more than 20 degrees from the bank. Bank trees can be hinge-felled in shallow streams, but in deeper streams it will be necessary to cut off the tree, place it in the stream, and cable it to the stump, deadman in the bank, or other stable object.

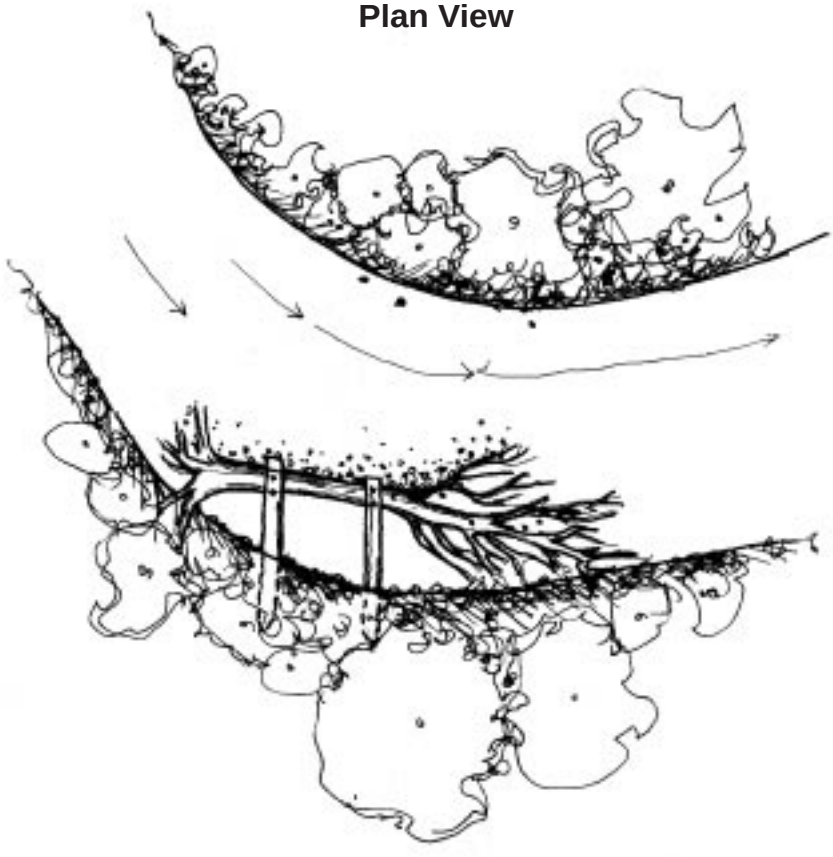
Source: Stream Corridor Restoration Handbook, USDA.

TREE COVER

Additional Drawings:



Tree Cover
Plan View



Tree Cover
Plan View

Source: Stream Corridor Restoration Handbook, USDA.