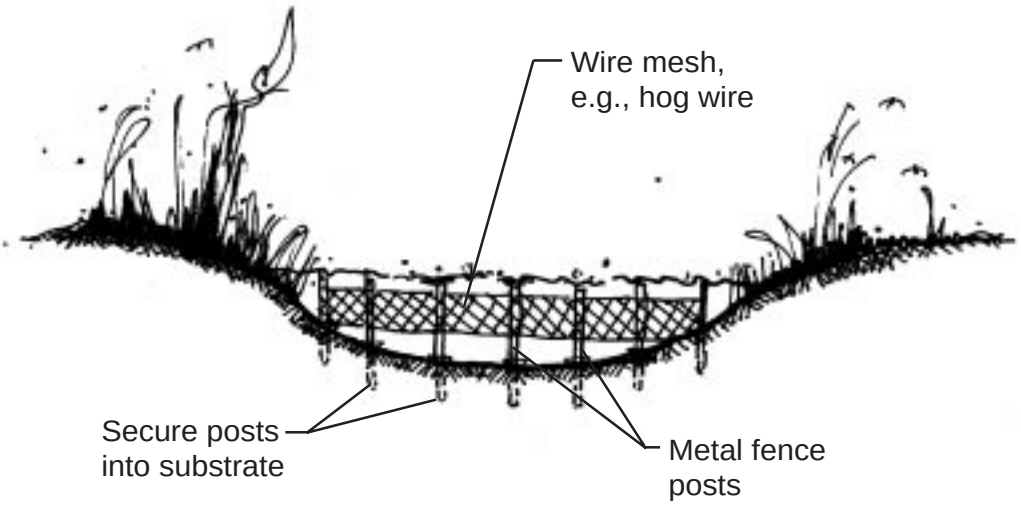
**PRIMARY USE**: Improve habitat for aquatic plants and animals, and contribute to food web dynamics.
**ADDITIONAL USES:**

# TRASH CATCHER

**What is it?** Trash catchers or barriers are habitat reclamation devices. Wire mesh stretched between two fence posts fills with silt, debris and gravel to form a low dam.

## Purpose

Trash catchers can be used in either large or small streams to create pools, increase stream surface area, provide cover, slow velocities, and hold spawning gravel in place. They can be built for less than one-third the cost of a log dam.




**Trash Catcher**
**Section View**

## Limitations

While they are time and cost efficient as well as adequate producers of habitat, trash catchers can be aesthetically unpleasing if careful attention is not paid to detail. Also, their longevity can be hampered by the wire rusting out before the trash catcher's purpose is served.

## Materials

Steel fence posts 6.5 ft (2.0 m) long, 0.8 hog wire (0.08 to 0.15 m mesh), and #12 galvanized tie wire.

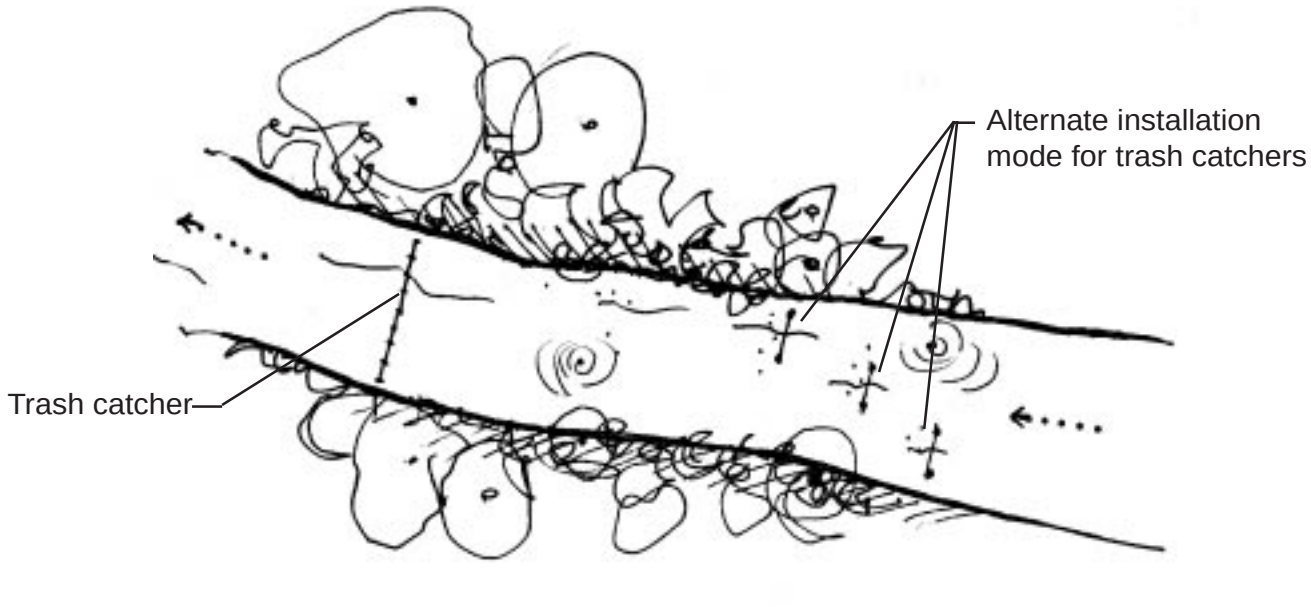
## Installation

The fence posts are cut in half and the 3 ft (1 m) sections are driven into the streambanks and bottom at 2 ft (0.6 m) intervals. For aesthetic purposes and to avoid collecting large pieces of drifting debris which could wash out the structure, the top should be located slightly below the low water line. The last post on each bank is placed just above the high water line. The top of the hog wire is attached to the steel posts and to each post. The remaining hog wire is bent upstream and rocks are piled on the upstream edge to hold it in place.

**Source:** The Restoration of Rivers and Streams, Gore, James A.

# TRASH CATCHER

**Additional Drawings:**




**Trash Catchers**
**Plan View**

**Source:** The Restoration of Rivers and Streams, Gore, James A.