

PRIMARY USE: Minimize bank erosion.

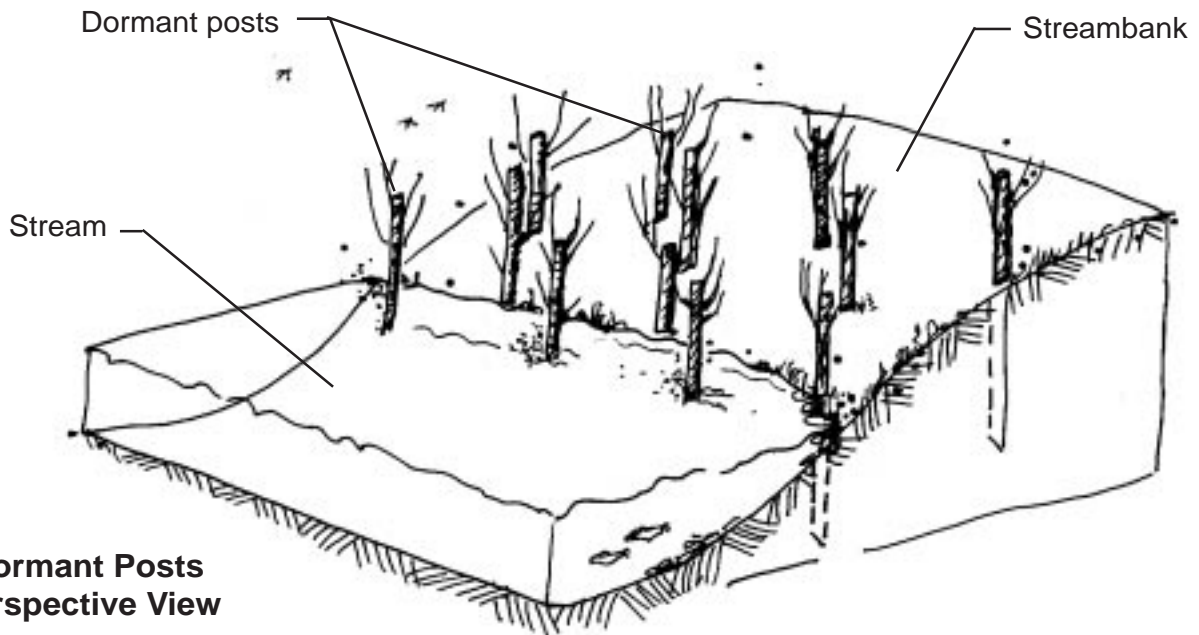
ADDITIONAL USES: Enhance aesthetics through the establishment of vegetation, and improved habitat.

DORMANT POSTS

What is it? Sections of trunks of suitable species of trees are harvested during the dormant season and installed in specifically spaced pattern at the lower edges of the streambank.

Purpose

As the posts root and grow, they form a permeable revetment which helps to stabilize the bank toe by slowing channel velocities and by beginning the establishment of a riparian habitat. In addition, the dormant posts can be installed deeply enough so that it is possible to establish riparian vegetation even in regions where water tables are very deep.



Limitations

This system works best in small streams which don't freeze in winter, have slopes no steeper than 2:1, and which do not have a gravel bed. The posts may need to be protected from damage by beavers and livestock. Because harvest of this size post can be destructive to the donor stand, it is best to gather materials from sites designated for clearing or thinning. Posts must not be allowed to dry out after harvest and before installation. May need supplemental water during dry season.

Materials

Dormant posts of willow, poplar, or other appropriate species, between 3-4.5 in (76-114 mm) diameter, 6-8 ft (1.8-2.4 m) long (or longer as appropriate). Posts should be tapered on basal end for easier planting. Equipment may be required to dig the planting holes.

Installation

Schedule harvest and installation of posts prior to spring bud break. The posts should be set in holes 2-4 ft (0.6-1.2 m) on center in a square or triangular configuration at a depth which allows insertion into the permanent water table of 1 ft (0.3 m) and at least 1 ft (0.3 m) of soil around the post above the water table. Approximately half to two-thirds of the post should be underground.

Source: Stream Corridor Restoration Handbook, USDA.

DORMANT POSTS

Additional Drawings:

