Livestakes are cuttings taken from the branches and stems of hardwood trees and shrubs. Livestakes are ideal for steep slopes or unstable stream banks. You can harvest your own stakes, but want to plant them as soon as possible. Livestakes should be stored in a bucket of water prior to planting. Livestakes should be harvested and planted during full plant dormancy, December to February. Common livestake species include: Pacific willow, Hooker’s willow, Sitka willow, Scouler’s willow, red osier dogwood, black cottonwood, black twinberry, Pacific ninebark, Nootka rose, salmonberry and elderberries.

Steps for Successful Planting

1. The livestake should have a fresh 45 degree angle cut on the bottom tip of the stake before being planted. Stakes should be between the widths of your pinky to thumb.

2. Make sure you have identified the bottom (45 degree cut) and the top of the stake. Generally the bottom of the stake will be thicker than the top or you’ll see the tips of buds pointing toward the top.

3. Some soils may be soft enough that stakes can be installed without a pilot hole. Try pushing the stake into the ground so that 2/3 of the stake is in the ground.
   - If the soil is too hard for direct placement, use a piece of rebar or other material that is a similar width to your livestakes, and make a pilot hole in the ground. The pilot hole should be about 2/3 the length of your livestake (or as deep as the soil allows).
   - Remove the rebar from the hole and place the livestake (45 degree angle end first) into the pilot hole and push into the ground until only 1/3 of the stake length is above ground.
   - Once the stake is installed into the pilot hole, use your foot to gently tamp the soil around the cutting to eliminate air pockets around the stake.

4. When planting is complete, check the stake to make sure it’s snugly in the ground. If you can wiggle the stake in its hole or pull it up, it needs to be replanted.
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Si los solicita, hay disponibles servicios de interpretación y traducción para personas que no hablan inglés y adaptaciones para personas con discapacidades. Llame al 425-388-3464. Si tiene preguntas sobre el Programa de Obras Públicas del Título VI, comuníquese con nuestro Coordinador del Título VI por correo electrónico a spw-titlevi@snoco.org, o por teléfono al 425-388-6660. Las personas con dificultades auditivas/del habla deben llamar al 711.