United States Department of Agriculture

Washington
October 2017

Conservation Practice Overview

Structure for Water Control (Code 587)

A structure for water control is a structure in a water management system that conveys water, controls the direction or rate of flow, maintains a desired water surface elevation, or measures water.

Practice Information

A structure for water control may be installed for a wide variety of conservation purposes. These structures are often installed in a planned irrigation or drainage system. Flashboard risers, check dams, division boxes, water measurement devices, and pipe drop inlets are examples of structures that could be used.

The structure may be part of a wildlife project that requires modification of the water flow with chutes or cold-water releases. Sluices to provide silt management; debris screens to keep trash, debris, or weed seeds out of pipelines; and tide gates to prevent backflow into a channel are examples of other uses of this practice. Bridges, culverts, flumes, inverted siphons, and long span pipes can be used to convey water over, under, or along a ditch, canal, road, railroad, or other barrier.

This practice has a minimum expected life of 20 years. Operation requirements for the facility will depend upon the type of system chosen by the operator. The operation and maintenance plan will describe the amount and timing of water level management needed for the planned system. Semiannual maintenance will include inspection of the components and removal of debris. Additional inspection will be needed after major storm events.

Common Associated Practices

A Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Structure for Water Control (Code 587) is commonly associated with CPSs such as Dike (Code 356), Subsurface Drain (Code 606), Open Channel (Code 582), and Wetland Restoration (Code 657).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.