## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

## GEORGIA

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

# GRASSED WATERWAY

**CODE 412**

Land Owner/Operator_____

County_____ SWCD_____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Prepared By_____ Date 07/01/2009

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A properly operated and maintained grassed waterway is an asset to your farm. The grassed waterway is designed to stabilize an eroding area and safely convey runoff from the drainage area it serves. The estimated life span of the installation is at least 10 years. The life of the installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a systematic operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. Your operation and maintenance program requirements include:

- Protect seeding from concentrated flow and grazing until vegetation is established.
- Restrict heavy equipment access and exclude cattle when waterway is abnormally wet. Do not use the waterway as a travel lane.
- Inspect waterways regularly, especially after heavy rains. Fill, compact and seed damaged areas immediately. Remove sediment deposits to maintain design capacity. Re-fertilize, re-seed, and re-mulch as needed until cover becomes well established.
- Evaluate the site within three to four months of seeding. If the stand is uniform but too thin (50 to 80% ground cover), apply additional seed during the next optimum seeding period with a no-till drill or grain drill as site conditions dictate. Re- seed areas with an establishment rate of less than fifty percent (50%) in accordance with the original vegetation establishment plan.
- Once the grassed waterway is established, conduct inspections as an on-going process. Repair any damage (structural and/or vegetative) caused by farm machinery, erosion, sedimentation, drought, cattle, herbicides, etc.. Control noxious weeds. Use caution will be used when spraying chemicals on adjacent lands and/or on grassed waterways to control weeds.
- Mow or periodically graze the waterway to maintain capacity and reduce sediment deposition. If the waterway is grazed or cut for hay, maintain the height of the vegetative cover no lower than the height required to meet the design retardance level for stability.

- Do not mow or graze grassed waterways or adjacent areas established to wildlife enhancing species during the nesting season (April 1 to August 15). Restrict farm equipment and/or vehicle traffic on these waterways to the least amount practical. Do not use the waterway as a field road.

- Perform plowing and other tillage operations in a manner to avoid dead furrows and/or prevent soil buildup along the waterway edges. If these conditions occur, the land user will need to periodically grade these areas to re-establish positive drainage into the waterway. Repair any areas of the waterway damaged during this procedure promptly and re-seed the area in accordance with the original vegetation establishment plan.

- Test the soil every 3 to 4 years and apply lime and fertilizer as needed.

- Limit livestock usage to vegetative growth periods when they will not damage vegetative root system or compact the soil.

- Check all rock riprap sections for accelerated weathering and displacement. Replace to original grades if necessary.

- Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals. Burrows may weaken earthen sections and develop flow paths for water and accelerate soil erosion or failure. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.

Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements Specific to this Plan:_____

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