

Prepared for: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm: \_\_\_\_\_ Tract: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Channel Bank Vegetation

Slopes steeper than 3:1 will normally need to be planted by hand, or with a hydroseeder. The slope surface should be left in a loose, friable, and slightly roughened condition. If additional roughness is desired, stair-step grading, grooving, furrowing, or tracking may be required by heavy equipment. Grooves or furrows should be at least two inches deep. However, tracking may cause severe surface compaction, and may not be as effective as other forms of roughening. On clayey soils, use this method only if there is no other alternative.

Grading of slopes should be performed only to the extent necessary to ensure stability.

Any surface debris that may interfere with conventional cover establishment or maintenance operations should be removed.

## DEFINITION

Establishing and maintaining adequate plants on channel banks, berms, spoil, and associated areas.

## PURPOSE

- To stabilize channel banks and adjacent areas and reduce erosion and sedimentation.
- To maintain or enhance the quality of the environment, including visual aspects and fish and wildlife habitat.

## SITE PREPARATION

Site preparation (including removal of rocks, stumps and other obstructions) shall be the minimum necessary to ensure close contact of seeds or springs with the soil and to ensure safe and efficient operation of equipment.

When conventional planting is proposed (normally on slopes with a 3:1 ratio or flatter), the area should be graded or shaped to permit the safe use of equipment associated with the establishment of vegetation and maintenance.

The use of 3-4 inches of topsoil or similar soil material should be considered where the soil texture at the site is sandy clay, silty clay, or clay. Ripping prior to the addition of new material is usually needed.

If feasible, no-till seeding may also be used.

## SEEDBED PREPARATION

All required seedbed preparation should be performed just prior to, and in conjunction with planting. If rainfall occurs between the initial seedbed preparation and the planting, the site may need to be reworked.

Where site conditions will not permit normal seedbed preparation, loosen the soil surface by tracking and/or back-blading with a bulldozer or other suitable earthmoving equipment.

Soil disturbance can also be accomplished with the use of a chain harrow, hand tools, or similar equipment. When hydro-seeding, seedbed preparation may not be necessary if adequate site preparation was performed.

On sites where the use of conventional equipment is proposed, prepare a proper seedbed by disking, harrowing, or using other suitable tillage implements.

## SOIL AMENDMENTS

Soil fertility and pH level should be amended to the needs of the plant species planned.

Application of all soil amendments should be based on recommendations from a qualified soil testing laboratory.

In the absence of a soil test, apply 2 tons lime per acre and fertilize with the amounts and analysis shown below. Lime and fertilizer shall be spread uniformly over the area to be planted.

A soil test shall be required in areas where excessive acidity or alkalinity is expected.

- Grasses alone: 700 to 1,000 pounds of 10-10-10 or equivalent per acres.
- Mixtures of grasses and legumes or legumes alone: 700 to 1,000 pounds of 5-10-10 or equivalent per acre.

Where possible, mix lime and fertilizer into the soil by disking or harrowing to a depth of approximately 3 inches. Otherwise, broadcast on soil surface or apply with hydraulic seeding equipment.

**CRITERIA**

It is the responsibility of the landowner/operator to obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and to comply with all Federal, state, and local laws pertaining to this installation. The landowner/operator is responsible for locating any buried utilities (water lines, electric lines, telephone lines, sewer lines, etc.) in the work area. NRCS makes no representation of the existence or nonexistence of utilities.

If manipulation of wetlands or streams may be involved, contact the Corps of Engineers and/or NRCS for a wetland determination/delineation.

**PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Additional instructions, specifications, material lists, designs, etc. for the establishment of this practice is attached or will be provided by \_\_\_\_\_. If cost-sharing is being provided for this practice, do not begin construction without NRCS or SWCD approval. Staking or flagging the area may be necessary. Contact NRCS or SWCD prior to starting construction.

**OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

1. Periodic inspection and evaluation of channel vegetation to determine maintenance needs.
2. Management of vegetation growth, as applicable, by mowing, controlled grazing, approved chemicals, or by other means to maintain the desired cover.

3. Reseeding or replanting, along with the use of fertilizers and/or soil amendments and irrigation, as needed.
4. Apply an additional application of nitrogen or complete fertilizer as needed within 3 to 12 months. Application should be timed to growing cycle of the species being established.
5. Repair of components and fences.

Additional Operation and Maintenance requirements specific to this plan:

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**PLANT MATERIALS INFORMATION FOR CHANNEL BANK VEGETATION**

**GRASSES/LEGUMES:**  Not Applicable. (See area on Conservation Plan Map)

<b>Cover Seeding Type</b>	Check one:	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydroseed	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydroseed	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydroseed
		<input type="checkbox"/> Conventional/Drilled	<input type="checkbox"/> Conventional/Drilled	<input type="checkbox"/> Conventional/Drilled
	Check one:	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary cover seeding	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary cover seeding	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary cover seeding
		<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent	<input type="checkbox"/> Permanent
<b>Specifications</b>	<b>Field</b>	<b>Field</b>	<b>Field</b>	
Site Slope <sup>1</sup>				
Seedbed Preparation Method <sup>2</sup>				
Seedbed Preparation Date				
Selected Species #1				
Species #1 Rate <sup>3</sup>				
Species #1 Planting Date				
Selected Species #2				
Species #2 Rate <sup>3</sup>				
Species #2 Planting Date				
Selected Species #3				
Species #3 Rate <sup>3</sup>				
Species #3 Planting Date				
Topsoil Salvage <sup>4</sup>				

<sup>1</sup> Indicate the approximate site slope. NOTE: Machinery should only be operated on slopes flatter than 3:1.

<sup>2</sup> List the site/seedbed preparation method to be used: Farm Equipment, Heavy Equipment, Manual, or Other.

<sup>3</sup> Specify seeding rates in quantities of lbs/acre or lbs/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> Indicate whether topsoil is present and feasible to be salvaged, stockpiled and utilized. NOTE: Topsoil should not be added to slopes steeper than a 2:1 unless good bonding to sub-layer can be achieved.

Note: Inoculate Legumes.

**MULCHING:**  Not Applicable.

Uniformly mulch all the seeded areas immediately after seeding (or seedbed preparation for a dormant seeding) with \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_ tons/acre or \_\_\_\_\_ lbs/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>.

**LIME & FERTILIZER:**  Not Applicable.

Fertilize and Lime grasses/legumes according to current soil test(s).

Grasses/Legumes

<b>Lime and Fertilizer during establishment</b> (Specify rates in quantities of tons/acre or lbs/1000 ft <sup>2</sup> ) See Table 1, in absence of soil test				
<b>Area/Field</b>	<b>Lime</b>	<b>Nitrogen (N)</b>	<b>Phosphate (P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>)</b>	<b>Potash (K<sub>2</sub>O)</b>

**INSTALLATION OF STRAW BALES OR SILT FENCE TEMPORARY BARRIERS:**

(See areas on the Conservation Plan Map)

Not Applicable

The following area(s) shall have temporary straw bale barrier(s) installed. Bales shall be placed on the contour, place on their sides, tight end-to-end. Two wooden stakes (30-36 inches long) shall be driven through each bale and at least 12 inches into the soil. \_\_\_\_\_

The following area(s) shall have a silt fence installed per the manufacturer's recommendations on the contour.  
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Remove the temporary barriers after the area to be vegetated is stabilized.