

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

CHANNEL BANK VEGETATION

(Acre)

Code 322

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.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This standard applies to the vegetation of open channels, streams, or ditches. It applies to FLOODWATER DIVERSIONS (400), FLOODWAYS (404), OPEN CHANNELS (582), STREAM CHANNEL STABILIZATION (584), STREAMBANK PROTECTION (580), and SURFACE DRAINAGE, MAIN or LATERAL (607-B). It does not apply to DIVERSIONS (362), GRASSED WATERWAYS or OUTLETS (412), or SURFACE DRAINAGE, FIELD DITCHES (607-A), areas with protective linings, those covered with water for an extended period, or in areas where conditions will not support vegetation.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Evaluate slopes and soil material, time of year for proper establishment of vegetation, necessity for irrigation, visual aspects, fish and wildlife, fire hazards, and special needs when construction is done from one side. Other considerations include:

- Protection of channel vegetation from sediment deposits resulting from offsite wind and water erosion;

- Provisions for safety and protection of human life and property in all aspects of design, application, and maintenance;
- Methods by which endangered and threatened plants and nationally recognized natural vegetated areas will be identified and protected.
- Requirements for overseeding or planting woody or herbaceous vegetation on the unexcavated side when construction is done from one side;
- Identification of desirable trees and other vegetation and means for their preservation.
- Special techniques for establishing and maintaining vegetation near inlets, outlets, or other appurtenances.

SPECIFICATIONS

- Side Slopes

Design Flow Depth	Steepest Slide Slope
0 to 6 feet	1.5 to 1
Over 6 feet	2 to 1

- Velocity of design flow should be determined by individual site conditions.
- Refer to CRITICAL AREA PLANTING 342 (Channels) for species, seedbed, fertilizer, planting, mulching, and maintenance.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resource Conservation Service.