

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

SPOIL SPREADING

(ac.)
CODE 572

DEFINITION

Disposing of surplus excavated materials.

PURPOSE

Permit use of land occupied by spoil for agriculture and other purposes.

Facilitate establishing and controlling vegetation along banks.

Provide a travelway along banks for use and maintenance.

Provide borrow for land grading, leveling, or smoothing.

Improve landscape quality.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to sites where spoil material is available from excavation of channels, drainage ditches, irrigation canals, or other construction sites and where it is desirable and economically feasible to achieve one or more purposes.

CRITERIA

Laws and Regulations. This practice must conform to all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Laws and regulations of particular concern include those involving environmental protection, wetlands, Waters of the United States, water rights, land use, pollution control, land disturbed by construction, property easements, preservation of cultural resources, and endangered species.

Spoil materials contaminated by petroleum or other chemicals must be disposed of by following South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources requirements.

General Criteria. Location and placement of spoil shall avoid destruction of vegetation in

Riparian Zones 1 and 2 as defined in practice standard Riparian Forest Buffer (391) or Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390).

Spoil shall be spread over a designated area according to an approved plan or plan modification.

Spreading shall not be done when the ground or soil is frozen, excessively wet, or otherwise in a condition detrimental to the work.

Provisions shall be made for diversion or safe passage of surface water impounded by spoil deposits. Spoil deposits along water courses must not significantly reduce flood capacity.

Spoil deposits located within 30 feet of the top of ditch banks or other steep slopes shall not exceed 3 feet height above natural ground surface except as designed by an engineer.

Slopes of spoil deposits shall not be steeper than three horizontal (H) to one vertical (V).

Where spoil deposits will not be cropped, establishment of vegetation (or other erosion controls) shall begin immediately after completion of spoil placement. If spoil spreading is completed at a time that desired vegetation cannot be established, temporary erosion control measures, such as Mulching (484) shall be implemented immediately.

If the spoil material has physical or chemical characteristics that prevent the establishment of adequate vegetative cover, at least six inches (in.) of topsoil or other suitable soil material shall be placed over the spoil material.

Spoil spreading for other construction sites shall be in accordance with the standard and specification of the applicable conservation practices.

Spoil shall be spread to a designed form that blends visually with the landscape.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. The current version of this standard is posted on our website at www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov or may be obtained at your local Natural Resources Conservation Service.

CONSIDERATIONS

Where appropriate, use spoil for direct or indirect human benefits such as blocking views, deflecting or redirecting wind or snow, or other uses that may be identified as desirable.

If spoil areas are established to permanent vegetation, use species that will provide suitable wildlife food and cover.

Place spoil as far as possible from the edge of the channel to minimize damage to riparian zone 3 [as defined in Practice Standard Riparian Forest Buffer (391)].

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for spoil spreading shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for properly

applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Inspect the spoil areas within six months after spreading. Fill or repair any excessive rills or gullies in the spoil. Reestablish vegetation as necessary on the repaired areas.

Mow the vegetation as necessary to maintain a dense, vigorous stand.

Control of undesirable species and/or noxious weeds shall be done as needed.