

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE  
FOR YOUR  
LINED WATERWAY OR OUTLET**

OPERATOR: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TAX MAP KEY OF PRACTICE LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

NRCS OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

A properly operated and maintained lined waterway or outlet is an asset to your farm. This lined waterway or outlet is designed and installed to stabilize the waterway from erosion. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

Here are recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

**OPERATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Avoid crossing with heavy equipment.
- Do not use as a field road.
- Avoid using waterways as turn-rows during tillage and cultivation operations.
- Control livestock access on unfenced areas.
- Landowners should be advised to avoid areas where forbs have been established when applying herbicides.
- Prescribed burning and mowing may be appropriate to enhance wildlife values, but must be conducted to avoid peak nesting seasons.

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## **MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Inspect lined waterways regularly, especially following heavy rains. Damaged areas shall be repaired immediately.
- Remove sediment deposits to maintain capacity of lined waterways.
- Control noxious weeds.
- Check all rock riprap sections for accelerated weathering and displacement. Replace to original grades if necessary.
- Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and controlled application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing may also be needed to control height.
- If fences are installed, they shall be maintained to prevent unauthorized human or livestock entry.
- Remove debris that may accumulate at this section, and immediately upstream or downstream from this installation.
- Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage.

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CONTACT YOUR LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE OFFICE FOR ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE YOU MIGHT NEED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE.