

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN  
FOR  
OPEN CHANNEL**

Landowner/user: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

A properly operated and maintained **Open Channel** is an asset to your property. This channel was designed and installed to convey water to a location where it can be utilized or safely discharged. The estimated life span of this practice is at least 10 years. The life of the channel can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance items to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some requirements to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

Operation and Maintenance

1. Maintain channel cross-section and gradient by removing sediment deposits or other obstructions.
2. Maintain a vigorous growth of desirable vegetation. This includes reseeding, fertilization and controlled application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing may also be needed to control height.
3. Control the growth of brush or other undesirable vegetation by the use of herbicides and/or mowing. Avoid direct contact with the water in the channel by the herbicides.
4. Remove all foreign debris or obstructions that may hinder the system operation.
5. Install and maintain fences to control livestock access when adjacent fields are used for pasture.
6. Replace weathered or displaced rock riprap to its original grade.
7. Repair any damage to side slopes, channel bottom, outlets or other appurtenances.

Specific Requirements for Your Practice

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