

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN  
FOR  
POND OR DAM

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

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

A properly operated and maintained water impoundment structure is an asset to your property. This structure was designed and installed to collect and provide storage for runoff or ground water for beneficial use. The estimated life span of this practice is at least 10 years. The life of this practice 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 to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

Operation and Maintenance

1. Periodically inspect the spillways, principal and auxiliary, to ascertain if they are functioning properly and are able to maintain the design water elevations.
2. Remove any obstructions or blockages from spillways, trash racks or pipe inlets.
3. 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.
4. Install and maintain fences to prevent unauthorized human or livestock access.
5. Remove debris that may accumulate in the pond or in the exit channel immediately downstream from the pond.
6. Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage to earth fills, spillways, outlets or other appurtenances.
7. Make sure that all foundation and/or structure drains are functioning and soil particles are not being transported through the drainage system. Repair or replace if not functioning properly. Make certain that all small animal guards are kept in place.
8. Eradicate or otherwise remove all burrowing animals, beavers etc. Repair any damage caused by their activity.

- 9. 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 pond with herbicides.
- 10. Inspect earth fills for settlement or cracks. Repair damage as needed. Maintain design fill height.
- 11. Repair spalls, cracks and weathered areas in concrete surfaces.
- 12. Repair or replace rusted or damaged metal appurtenances. Paint to protect surfaces.
- 13. Replace weathered or displaced rock riprap to its original grade.
- 14. Inspect downstream slope and abutments for seepage. Repair as needed.
- 15. After each rainfall of greater than 1 inch inspect the principal and auxiliary spillway for signs of erosion and repair immediately.

Specific Recommendations for Your Practice

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