

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
Wetland Enhancement (659)
Maine

A properly operated and maintained wetland is an asset. This project was designed and installed on an existing wetland to enhance wetland values and functions. The minimum operation and maintenance lifespan of this NRCS practice is 10 years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by following a routine operation and maintenance program.

The operation and maintenance plan for this practice will require periodic inspection, monitoring and maintenance to provide satisfactory performance. *Note: Permits may be required prior to maintenance of water control structures, water levels, alteration of wetlands and control of undesirable animals and plants.*

Required:

- Use of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides or other chemicals and mechanical treatments will not compromise targeted enhancements to wetland functions and values.
- Species on Federal and Maine invasive or noxious lists will be maintained at less than 15% aerial coverage. If available and practicable, biological control of undesirable plant or pest species shall be used; otherwise, appropriate chemical and/or mechanical treatment may be used.
- Soil bioengineering measures, embankments and earthen structures (e.g., low embankment earthen berms, ditch plugs, etc.) should be assessed during drought and immediately after high flows. Inspection of embankments, channel measures and structures should be conducted at least annually during low-water conditions. Early failure of soil bioengineered structures may occur if:
 - desired plant cover is not well established, well-rooted, and vigorous growth maintained. Repair and re-plant as needed.
 - Undesirable cover (e.g., woody vegetation on embankments) may compromise the integrity and soundness of an earthen structure. Control undesirable vegetation and maintain desired vegetative cover.
 - Undesired animal burrowing may compromise the integrity and soundness of the earthen structure. Initiate lawful animal control measures and repair damage.
 - The elevations of earthfill and grades are not maintained. Restore elevations and grades, as necessary.
 - Eliminate causes of settlement or cracks in the earthen sections and repair damage.
- Periodic mowing, flash grazing and selective use of herbicides may be needed to maintain desired wetland vegetation and vegetative conditions (seral stage).
- Minimize excessive travel or use of any portion of the system that will harm or destroy vegetative cover and degrade wetland function and value. Repair vandalism, vehicular, and livestock damage.
- Periodically inspect flap gates, control gates, valves and other appurtenances for proper functioning every three (3) months or sooner, and their ability to maintain

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water levels to design elevations. Repair as necessary; remove all debris that hinders structures and system operation.

- Make sure all structure drains are functional and soil is not being transported through the drainage system.
- Keep screens and rodent guards maintained and in place.
- Inspect all rock riprap for accelerated weathering and displacement. Replace to original grades, if necessary.
- All fences, railings, and/or warning signs shall be maintained to provide warning and/or prevent unauthorized human or livestock entry.
- Check all timber or lumber sections for decay or other damage, especially sections in contact with earth or other materials. Repair as necessary.
- Repair spalls, cracks and weathered areas in concrete surfaces.
- Repair or replace rusted or damaged metal and apply paint as a protective coating.
- Maintain safety measures for protection of humans and animals.
- Maintain travel-ways that provide access for operation and maintenance.
- Annually for five (5) years following practice installation, complete and return the attached monitoring plan to your local NRCS Service Center. *The monitoring plan is critical for determining whether enhancement of targeted wetland values and functions is being realized and whether adaptive management is needed to correct identified deficiencies.*
- Additional operation and maintenance, if needed, specific to your wetland(s) (see below).

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Contact your local NRCS Service Center for technical assistance, as needed, for implementation of this operation and maintenance plan.

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Wetland Enhancement (659) Monitoring

The Land User, with assistance from NRCS or other Cooperators where needed, will provide the following information annually starting December 31st the year of practice installation and ending five years after practice installation.

Project Information:			
Client Name:			
Project Location:		Project Name (or N/A):	
Date Practice was installed:		Site Monitoring Date:	
Hydrologic Function: <i>please describe and document below whether the frequency, timing, duration and depth of flooding is meeting targeted goals.</i>			
Frequency:			
Timing:			
Duration:			
Depth:			
Vegetative Function: <i>please describe and document whether desired wetland plant species (planted or natural colonization) or critical area plantings have or are becoming established, are serving the intended purpose, and any problems (e.g., invasion of invasive, noxious, or undesirable species).</i>			
Wetland Species:			
Critical Area Planting:			
Structure Condition/Function: <i>please describe and document if structures are serving their intended purpose and any problems (e.g., nuisance animals or plants, structural failures, etc.).</i>			
Notes: <i>please describe any other issues or problems related to the project's success, operation and maintenance, etc.</i>			

Please attach supporting documentation (e.g., photos, survey information, etc.) as needed.