Dam, Diversion

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 348

DEFINITION
A diversion dam is a structure built to divert all or part of the water from a watercourse into another watercourse for conservation purposes.

PRACTICE INFORMATION
A diversion dam is designed to divert water from a watercourse such as a waterway or stream into another watercourse, irrigation canal, stream, water-spreading system, or another waterway.

The purpose of the practice is to improve the beneficial use of water, or divert damaging flows to another watercourse that is more stable or otherwise more capable of reducing damage. One of the more common uses of this practice is diverting water from a stream or river into a canal used for irrigation purposes.

The impacts of a proposed diversion dam are evaluated to assure water quality, fish and wildlife, aesthetics, and other environmental concerns are considered in the design and layout of the structure (s). The practice is also carefully evaluated to assure compliance with state and local laws concerning natural watercourses.

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.