

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN FOR
STREAM CROSSING**

CODE 578

Name _____
Legal Desc. _____

Ident. No. _____
County _____

A properly operated and maintained stream crossing is an asset to your farm. This structure was designed and installed to do at least one of the following:

- Improve water quality by reducing sediment, nutrient, organic, or inorganic loading of the stream.
- Reduce streambank or streambed erosion.
- Provide crossing for access to another land unit.

The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 years. The life of this installation can be ensured 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 for satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

General Recommendations

- Inspect the crossing regularly, especially after heavy rains. Stream crossings will need periodic maintenance throughout the life span.
- Remove debris or blockages. Restore flow capacity as needed.

- Promptly repair damage due to vandalism, vehicles, or livestock that has been done to earthfill and slopes, placed rock or stone, spillways, or other components.
- Maintain the crossing surface in good condition, which includes periodic grading and adding stone or other surface material when necessary. Prevent surface ponding by localized grading or adding stone to remove depressions. Fill low areas in travel treads and regrade as needed to maintain the road cross section. Use road base rock as needed to stabilize the foundation.
- The top surface of the stone may be eroded away during large flows. Replace this stone to ensure a safe and stable travel surface.
- Maintain all concrete work, rock riprap, grouted rock, and other structural measures. Replace to original grades with similar materials as necessary.
- Culvert-type crossings impose a restriction to stream flow and can receive excessive damage from large flows. Perform regular maintenance to preserve their integrity and design dimensions.
- Maintain and repair any fencing components (which are particularly susceptible to large flows).
- Restore grading that diverts runoff from eroding the stream crossing approaches. Reseed or resurface as necessary.

(more)

Specific Recommendations

If you need additional technical assistance to implement the operation and maintenance plan for this structure, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government).