

Landowner _____



WHAT IS CHANNEL BANK VEGETATION?

Channel bank vegetation is the establishment and maintenance of vegetative cover on channel banks, berms, spoils, and associated areas.

PURPOSE

- Stabilize channel banks and adjacent areas and reduce erosion and sedimentation.
- Maintain or enhance the quality of the environment, including visual aspects and fish and wildlife habitat.

WHERE THE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to establishing vegetation on channel banks, berms, spoil, and associated areas. It does not apply to grassed waterways, diversions, areas with protective linings, areas covered with water for an extended period of time, or areas where conditions will not support adequate vegetation.

The Oklahoma NRCS Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580) standard shall be used when stabilization of the Toe and/or Bank Hydrologic

Zones is required before channel vegetation establishment.

WHERE TO GET HELP

For assistance in planning channel bank vegetation, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service or local Conservation District Office.

HOW TO APPLY THE PRACTICE

Identify, mark, and protect desirable existing vegetation during practice installation.

Biotechnical slope stabilization practices (a combination of vegetative and structural measures using living and inert materials) are to be used when flow velocities, soils, and bank stability preclude stabilization by vegetative establishment alone. The determination to use either vegetation and a structural component or vegetation alone will be based on criteria found in the Oklahoma NRCS Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580) standard.

The existing vegetation will be cleared in a three-foot diameter around each site where container,

balled, potted, plug, paper sleeve and bare root stock plantings are planted.

A suitable seedbed shall be prepared for all seeded species. Compacted layers will be ripped and the soil re-firmed prior to seedbed preparation.

Seeds will be planted using the method or methods best suited to site and soil conditions.

All disturbed areas will be mulched as necessary. Mulch will be applied and anchored according to the criteria in the Oklahoma NRCS Mulching (484) standard.

All fertilizers and soil amendments will be applied in accordance with soil analysis and plant requirements, following the criteria in the

Oklahoma NRCS Nutrient Management (590) standard.

Plans and designs are provided for specific field sites. The plan will identify site conditions, required permits, and include design drawings showing location of planned measures, cut and fill cross sections, requirements for site preparation, location of planned species, planting dates, planting methods, plant spacing, planting depth, mulching, fertilizer and irrigation requirements

Refer to attached Forms OK-CPA-4 and/or OK-CPA-4a for planting specifications.

A management strategy protecting the site will be in place prior to the installation.

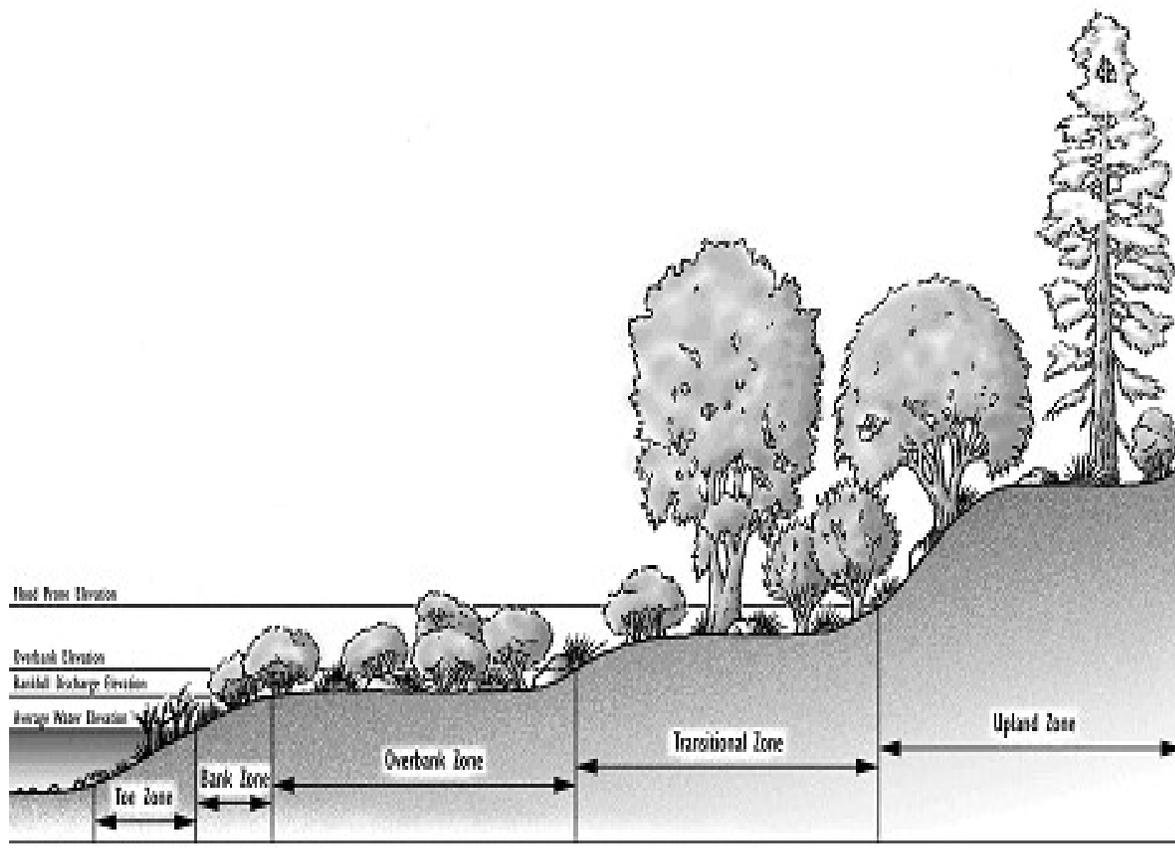


Figure 1. Location of Hydrologic Zones along a Channel

Definitions and descriptions of hydrologic zones used for Channel Bank Vegetation:

Bankfull Discharge Elevation - In natural streams, it is the elevation at which water fills the channel without overflowing onto the flood plain.

Bank Zone - The area above the Toe Zone located between the average water level and the bankfull discharge elevation. Vegetation may be herbaceous or woody, and is characterized by flexible stems and rhizomatous root systems.

Overbank Zone - The area located above the bankfull discharge elevation continuing upslope to an elevation equal to two thirds of the flood prone depth. Vegetation is generally small to medium shrub species.

Toe Zone - The portion of the bank that is between the average water level and the bottom of the channel, at the toe of the bank. Vegetation is generally herbaceous emergent aquatic species, tolerant of long periods of inundation.

Transitional Zone - The area located between the overbank zone, and the flood prone width elevation. Vegetation is usually larger shrub and tree species.

Upland Zone – The area above the Transitional Zone; this area is seldom if ever saturated.

Note: some channels have fewer than four hydrologic zones because of differences in soils, topography, entrenchment and/or moisture regime.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Maintenance for this practice includes the following:

- Management of vegetative growth, as applicable, by mowing, prescribed grazing, applying approved pesticides and fertilizer, or other means to maintain the desired cover. Vegetative removal will be restricted to periods having the

least impacts on nesting wildlife. All species shall be allowed adequate time for re-growth in order to provide winter cover.

- Repair of appurtenances and fences will be completed as needed.
- Control undesirable weed species, inspect and repair after storm events.

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