United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

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Sediment Basin (Code 350)

A sediment basin is a basin constructed with an engineered outlet, formed by constructing an embankment, excavating a dugout, or a combination of both.

Practice Information

Sediment basins capture and detain sediment-laden runoff or other debris for a sufficient length of time to allow it to settle out in the basin.

Sediment basins preserve the capacity of reservoirs, culverts, ditches, canals, diversions, waterways, and streams; prevent excessive down-slope deposition; trap sediment originating from construction sites; and reduce or abate damage to natural resources from pollution or deposition of sediment.

Many factors influence the efficiency of sediment removal in a basin. These include the detention time of runoff, the type of dewatering device, the presence of a permanent pool in the basin, a decrease in turbulence in the basin, and soil particle size.

Operation and maintenance requirements will include periodic inspections with prompt repair or replacement of damaged components, periodic removal of sediment, and periodic mowing of vegetation.

Common Associated Practices

Sediment Basin (Code 350) may be a component practice of a required storm water management plan and/or erosion and sediment control plan. Conservation practices commonly applied with Sediment Basin (Code 350) include Critical Area Planting (Code 342), Mulching (Code 484), and Structure for Water Control (Code 587).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.

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