

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
GRASSED WATERWAY
CODE 412**

Landowner/Operator _____

Job Location _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

Operation and Maintenance Items

The grass waterway is designed to stabilize an eroding area and safely convey runoff from the drainage area it serves. The life of the installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out an effective operation and maintenance program. An effective program includes:

- Establish a maintenance program to maintain waterway capacity, vegetative cover, and outlet stability. Vegetation damaged by machinery, herbicides, or erosion must be repaired promptly.
- Protect the waterway from concentrated flow by using diversion of runoff or mechanical means of stabilization such as silt fences, mulching, hay bale barriers, etc. to stabilize grade during vegetation establishment.
- Minimize damage to vegetation by excluding livestock.
- Avoid any traffic on the waterway when soil conditions are wet and the soil is soft.
- Check all rock riprap and erosion control matting sections for accelerated weathering and displacement of materials. Replace to original shape and grade if necessary.
- Inspect grassed waterways regularly, especially following heavy rains. Fill, compact, and reseed damaged areas immediately. Remove sediment deposits to maintain capacity of grassed waterway.
- Avoid use of herbicides that would be harmful to the vegetation or pollinating insects in and adjacent to the waterway area.
- Avoid using waterways as turn-rows during tillage and cultivation operations.
- Mow or periodically graze vegetation to maintain capacity and reduce sediment deposition. Mowing may be appropriate to enhance wildlife values, but must be conducted to avoid peak nesting seasons and reduced winter cover.
- Apply supplemental nutrients as needed to maintain the desired species composition and stand density of the waterway.
- Control noxious weeds.
- Keep woody vegetation from growing in the waterway.
- Do not use waterways as a field road. Avoid crossing with heavy equipment when wet.
- Lift tillage equipment off the waterway when crossing and turn off chemical application equipment.

Other _____
