

STANDARD AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE



Definition

A structure to stabilize the grade or to control head cutting in natural or artificial channels.

Scope

This standard applies to all types of grade stabilization structures. It does not apply to storm sewers or their component parts.

Purpose

Grade stabilization structures are used to reduce or prevent excessive erosion by reduction of velocities and grade in the watercourse or by providing channel linings or structures that can withstand the higher velocities.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

This practice applies to sites where the capability of earth and vegetative measures is exceeded in the safe handling of water at permissible velocities, where excessive grades or overfall conditions are encountered, or where water is to be lowered structurally from one elevation to another. These structures should generally be planned and installed along with, or as a part of, other conservation practices in an overall surface water disposal system.

Design Criteria

Compliance with Laws and Regulations

Design and construction shall be in compliance with state and local laws and regulations. Such compliance is the

responsibility of the landowner or developer.

General

Designs and specifications shall be prepared for each structure on an individual job basis depending on its purpose, site conditions, and the basic criteria of the conservation practice with which the structure is planned. Typical structures are as follows:

1. Channel linings of concrete, asphalt, half round metal pipe or other suitable lining materials. These linings should generally be used where channel velocities exceed safe velocities for vegetated channels due to increased grade or a change in channel cross section or where durability of vegetative lining is adversely affected by seasonal changes. Adequate protection will be provided to prevent erosion or scour of both ends of the channel lining.
2. Overfall structures of concrete, metal, rock riprap, or other suitable material is used to lower water from one elevation to another. These structures are applicable where it is desirable to drop the watercourse elevation over a very short horizontal distance. Adequate protection will be provided to prevent erosion or scour upstream, downstream and along sides of overfall structures. Structures should be located on straight sections of channel with a minimum of 100 feet of straight channel each way.
3. Pipe drops of metal pipe with suitable inlet and outlet structures. The inlet structure may consist of a vertical section of pipe or similar material, an embankment, or a combination of both. The outlet structure will provide adequate protection against erosion or scour at the pipe outlet.

Capacity

Structures that are designed to operate in conjunction with other erosion control practices shall have, as a minimum, capacity equal to the bankfull capacity of the channel delivering water to the structures. The minimum design capacity for structures that are not designed to perform in conjunction with other practices shall be that required to handle the peak rate of flow from a 10-year, 24-hour frequency storm or bankfull, whichever is greater. Peak rates of runoff used in determining the capacity requirements shall be determined by TR-55, Urban

Hydrology for Small Watersheds, or other appropriate method.

Set the rest of the structure at an elevation that will stabilize the grade of the upstream channel. The outlet should be set at an elevation to assure stability. Outlet velocities should be kept within the allowable limits for the receiving stream. Structural drop spillways need to include a foundation drainage system to reduce hydrostatic loads.

Structures which involve the retarding of floodwater or the impoundment of water shall be designed using the criteria set forth in the guidelines for Ponds or Floodwater Retarding Structures, whichever is applicable.

Construction Specifications

Structures shall be installed according to lines and grades shown on the plan. The foundation for structures shall be cleared of all undesirable materials prior to the installation of the structure. Materials used in construction shall be in conformance with the design frequency and life expectancy of the practice. Earth fill, when used as a part of the structure, shall be placed in 4-inch lifts and hand compacted within 2 feet of the structure.

Seeding, fertilizing, and mulching shall conform to the recommendation specification in Section 3.

Construction operations shall be carried out in such a manner that erosion and air and water pollution will be minimized. State and local laws concerning pollution abatement shall be complied with at every site.

Locate emergency bypass areas so that floods in excess of structural capacity enter the channel far enough downstream so as not to cause damage to the structure.

Maintenance

Once properly installed, the maintenance for the grade stabilization structure should be minimal. Inspect the structure periodically and after major storm events. Check fill for piping or extreme settlement. Ensure a good vegetative cover. Check the channel for scour or debris and loss of rock from aprons. Repair or replace failing structures immediately.