

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Structure for Water Control (587)

A structure for water control is a structure in a water management system that conveys water, controls the direction or rate of flow, maintains a desired water surface elevation, or measures water.

Practice Information

A structure for water control may be installed for a wide variety of conservation purposes. These structures are often installed in a planned irrigation or drainage system. Flashboard risers, check dams, division boxes, water measurement devices, and pipe drop inlets are examples of structures that could be used.

The structure may be part of a wildlife project that requires modification of the water flow with chutes or cold water releases. Sluices to provide silt management; debris screens to keep trash, debris, or weed seeds out of pipelines; and tide gates to prevent backflow into a channel are examples of other uses of this practice. Bridges, culverts, flumes, inverted siphons, and long span pipes can be used to convey water over, under, or along a ditch, canal, road, railroad or other barrier.

The plans and specifications for installing this practice will include a site-specific design that will describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

This practice has a minimum expected life of 20 years. Operation requirements for the



facility will depend upon the type of system chosen by the operator. The operation and maintenance plan will describe the amount and timing of water level management needed for the planned system. Semiannual maintenance will include inspection of the components and removal of debris. Additional inspection will be needed after major storm events.

Common Associated Practices

Structure for Water Control (587) is commonly associated with conservation practices such as Dike (356), Subsurface Drain (606), Open Channel (582), or Wetland Restoration (657).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.