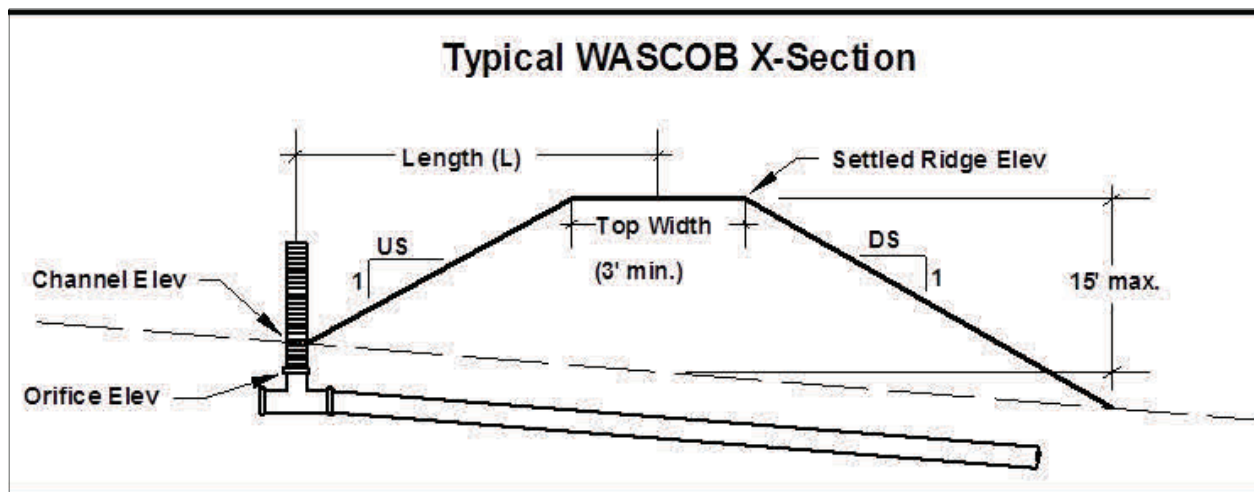


## Conservation Practice Standard Overview

### Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)



A water and sediment control basin, (WASCOB), is an earth embankment or a combination ridge and channel constructed across the slope of minor watercourses to form a sediment trap and water detention basin with a stable outlet.

#### Practice Information

This practice improves the farmability of sloping land, reduces erosion, traps sediment, reduces and manages runoff, and improves water quality. WASCOBs are constructed across small drainageways where they intercept runoff. The runoff is detained in the basin where sediment is allowed to settle out. The runoff is slowly released through an outlet. WASCOBs generally use an underground outlet that carries the runoff in a pipe to a receiving stream or ditch.

This practice is applied where the topography is generally irregular or undulating, and water concentrates and causes gullies to form. Therefore, contour farming, strip cropping, terraces, and other practices that involve farming on the contour may not be suitable on fields where this practice is used.

The operation and maintenance of WASCOBs includes conducting periodic inspections, prompt repair or replacement of any damaged components, removal of accumulated sediment, and regular maintenance of inlets and outlets.

#### Common Associated Practices

Sheet and rill erosion may continue to be a problem following installation of water and sediment control basins so additional practices are needed to protect the sloping upland areas of the fields. Water and Sediment Control Basin (638) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Residue and Tillage Management (329, 345, 346), and Cover Crop (430). Critical Area Planting (342), Filter Strip (393), and Nutrient Management (590) are often applied to protect down-slope water quality.

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.