

United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Montana

**Operation and Maintenance Guide  
For Your  
Grassed Waterway**

Operator: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. \_\_\_\_\_, T. \_\_\_\_\_, R. \_\_\_\_\_  
NRCS Office \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*A properly operated and maintained grassed waterway is an asset to your farm. This grass waterway was designed and installed to stabilize an eroding area and to safely convey runoff from the drainage area. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program. This checklist is provided for your convenience in order to help you develop a good operation and maintenance plan.*

**MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST**

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- r Maintain vigorous growth of desirable vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization, and controlled application of herbicides when necessary. Periodic mowing may also be needed to control height and weeds.
- r Remove all foreign debris that hinders system operation.
- r Limit the traffic and do not use as a roadway.
- r Limit livestock usage to periods that permit use without damage.
- r Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular, livestock, or erosion damage.
- r Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.
- r Replace weathered or displaced rock riprap to constructed grade.
- r Operate field cultivation equipment in such a way that earth ridges or swales do not occur between the field and the waterway. If buildup does occur, remove it.

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