



Grade Control Structure

Earthen, wooden, concrete or other structure built across a drainageway or gully to control and reduce water flow.

Description

These structures drop water from one stabilized grade to another and prevent gullies from advancing up a slope.

Benefits

- A grade control structure is often used to stabilize the outlet of a waterway, preventing gully erosion.
- Grassed, non-eroding waterways with a grade control structure provide better water quality, can be crossed with equipment and look better than non-stabilized gullies.
- If it is planned to retain water, a grade control structure may provide a water source and habitat for wildlife.

Planning

- Are adequate conservation practices installed above the structure to reduce erosion and sedimentation?
- Is the planned location in the proper place to achieve the level of control needed?

Tech Notes

- Consult with NRCS for design and construction specifications.
- Obtain necessary permits or authorizations before construction.
- Remove all trees and shrubs within 30 feet of the structure.
- Clear debris approximately 50 feet downstream from the spillway outlet.

Maintenance

- Keep burrowing animals off earthen structures.
- Repair cracks in concrete.
- Keep outlets free of debris.