

## Best Management Farming Practices for Water Quality Protection

### Grade Stabilization (410) Fact Sheet

**BMP: Stabilize grade and control erosion in natural and artificial channels. Prevent the formation or advancement of gullies. Maintain and improve habitat for fish and wildlife.**

#### **NRCS Practice Standard: Grade Stabilization (410)**

This standard applies to all types of grade stabilization structures, including a combination of earth embankments and mechanical spillways and full-flow or detention-type structures. This standard also applies to channel side-inlet structures installed to lower the water from a field elevation, a surface drain, or a waterway to a deeper outlet channel. It does not apply to structures designed to control the rate of flow or to regulate the water level in channels.



#### **Grade Stabilization (NRCS Conservation Practice Code 410)**

**Definition:** A structure used to control the grade and head cutting in natural or artificial channels.

#### **Purposes:**

- Stabilize grade in channels where the concentration and flow velocity of water are resulting in head-cutting and bank erosion
- Prevent or control gully erosion

#### **CONSIDER THIS:**

*Grade stabilization structures may affect volumes and rates of runoff, evaporation, deep percolation and ground water recharge.*

*Grade stabilization structures may affect soil water, plant growth and transpiration.*

*Structures may trap sediment and sediment attached substances carried by runoff.*

*Structures may influence the susceptibility of downstream stream banks and stream beds to erosion.*

*Structures may affect movement of dissolved substances to ground water.*

*Structure may affect the visual quality of water resources.*

*Structure may impact federal or state listed Rare, Threatened or Endangered species or their habitat.*

*Structures must be designed for stability after installation. The crest of the inlet must be set at an elevation that stabilized upstream head cutting.*

*For more information contact your local NRCS office or visit our website at*

<http://efotq.sc.egov.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx>

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