

Name of Practice: WOODLAND EROSION STABILIZATION
VACS Program Specifications for No. FR-4

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program's Woodland Erosion Stabilization best management practice, which are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

This practice will promote land shaping and planting of permanent vegetation on critically eroding areas on forest harvesting sites.

The purpose of this practice is to improve water quality by stabilizing soil, thus reducing the movement of sediment and nutrients from the site.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. State cost-share and tax credit are authorized for measures needed to stabilize a source of sediment, such as grading, shaping, and filling, the establishment (including soil amendments such as fertilizer and lime) of grass and legumes, vehicle barriers and fencing needed to protect the established area, and other similar measures that are practical for the solution of the problem.
2. Cost-share and tax credit are also authorized for associated structural measures, such as diversion, water bars, etc., only if essentially needed to protect vegetated areas from runoff related damages.
3. Consideration should be given to wildlife and enhancing the appearance of the area when establishing the protective measures.
4. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications for use in establishing priority considerations.
5. This practice is not intended to correct problems currently being created by an active logging operation which is not applying the required BMPs. Sites are eligible for cost-share assistance one year after timber product harvesting activities are completed.
6. Grazing livestock on established areas is prohibited.
7. Areas established should be protected from vehicle traffic. This practice is not intended for roadways that receive infrequent but regular use. All stabilized areas must have some type of vehicle barrier (cable, chain, posts, etc.).

8. This practice is subject to NRCS Standard No. 342 Critical Area Planting, 362 Diversion, and 382 Fence or Virginia's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality, Technical Manual.
9. All practice components implemented must be maintained for a minimum of five years following the calendar year of installation. The lifespan begins on Jan. 1 of the calendar year following the year of certification of completion. By accepting either a cost-share payment or a state tax credit for this practice, the participant agrees to maintain all practice components for the specified lifespan. This practice is subject to spot check by the District throughout the lifespan of the practice and failure to maintain the practice may result in reimbursement of cost-share and/or tax credits.

C. Rate(s)

1. The VACS payment will not exceed 75% of the approved estimated cost or eligible actual cost, whichever is less.
2. As set forth by Virginia Code, the Commonwealth currently provides a tax credit for implementation of certain agricultural best management practices as discussed in the Tax Credit Guidelines of the VACS Manual.
3. If a participant receives cost-share, only the participant's eligible out-of-pocket share of the project cost is used to determine the tax credit.

D. Technical Responsibility

Technical and administrative responsibility is assigned to qualified technical DCR and District staff in consultation, where appropriate and based on the controlling standard, with DCR, Virginia Certified Nutrient Management Planner(s), NRCS, DOF, and VCE. Individuals certifying technical need and technical practice installation shall have appropriate certifications as identified above and/or Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA) for the designed and installed component(s). All practices are subject to spot check procedures and any other quality control measures.

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