
Chapter 1

Introduction

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Introduction

Use of the Field Guide

This Field Guide provides general guidance (descriptions and illustrations) for installing and maintaining many of the erosion and sediment control practices that are referred to as Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Detailed design plans/drawings are the basis for meeting requirements on most sites and the **plan design requirements take precedence over details in the Field Guide.**

Also, the Field Guide is **not intended to be used for specifications in instances where a design is not available. A professional should always be consulted.**

Benefits of Erosion and Sediment Control

The benefits of effective erosion and sediment control are important to the environment, to contractors and the public. Keeping sediment out of small conveyances, channels, streams, lakes, and rivers contributes to clean water, protection of wetlands and reduces maintenance costs associated with culverts, road ditches and drainage channels. The biological integrity of streams and lakes is protected with effective erosion and sediment control. Contractor construction costs should be minimized with a well-executed erosion and sediment control program. Obviously, the public benefits as the environment is protected and construction costs are minimized. These benefits are

accomplished most effectively with proper installation and maintenance of BMPs.

Principles of Erosion and Sediment Control

- Emphasize erosion control to minimize soil detachment and sediment production.
- Minimize the periods of bare ground by shortening construction periods and staging a project (dividing the project into sectors that will be done independently of other sectors) when possible. Install practices in a sequence that supports shortened construction periods and permits the use of temporary and permanent seeding when the practices can be most effective.
- Use perimeter and interior sediment control and erosion control measures that minimize erosive velocities and minimize sediment transport off the disturbed site.
- Prevent sediment from leaving the construction site at entrance/exits during muddy periods.
- Use practices that minimize turbid water from leaving the construction site.
- Give special attention to cut-and-fill slopes because they are difficult to stabilize.
- Give special attention to sites that are transected by streams or are near streams and wetlands because close proximity to these areas increases the importance of effective erosion and sediment control.

- Maintain practices to ensure their effectiveness. This includes regular inspections of the practices, the site, adjacent off-site areas and receiving streams.
- A schedule of regular inspections should be set forth to ensure that repairs and maintenance receive appropriate attention.

Alabama 811 (call before you dig)

Determine exact location of underground utilities before beginning earthmoving or excavations. If you don't call and lines are cut, you may be billed for the repair. The number to call in Alabama is 811 or 1-800-292-8525. Check out www.al811.com for more information.

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