

## CONSTRUCTION SWPPP – 2910 JACKSON HIGHWAY RBE NO. 21045

All new development and redevelopment shall comply with Construction SWPPP Elements #1 through #13 outlined in the Manual. The project's SWPPP is a standalone document.

### CONSTRUCTION SWPPP

All new development and redevelopment shall comply with Construction SWPPP Elements #1 through #12 listed below. The suggested BMPs underlined and in **bold** are proposed for use in all phases of construction. Copies of the details for each of the recommended BMPs are included.

Due to the small site development no BMPs have been highlighted for Elements 1, 4 and 5.

#### Element 1: Mark Clearing Limits

- Prior to beginning land disturbing activities, including clearing and grading, clearly mark all clearing limits, sensitive areas and their buffers, and trees that are to be preserved within the construction area. These shall be clearly marked, both in the field and on the plans, to prevent damage and offsite impacts.
- Plastic, metal, or stake wire fence may be used to mark the clearing limits.
- Suggested BMPs:

**BMP C101: Preserving Natural Vegetation**

**BMP C102: Buffer Zones**

BMP C103: High-Visibility Fence

**BMP C233: Silt Fence**

#### Element 2: Establish Construction Access

- Construction vehicle access and exit shall be limited to one route if possible, or two for linear projects such as roadways where one access is necessary for large equipment maneuvering.
- Access points shall be stabilized with quarry spall or crushed rock to minimize the tracking of sediment onto public roads.
- Wheel wash or tire baths should be located onsite, if applicable.
- Roads shall be cleaned thoroughly at the end of each day. Sediment shall be removed from roads by shoveling or pickup sweeping and shall be transported to a controlled sediment disposal area. Street washing will be allowed only after sediment is removed in this manner.
- Street wash wastewater shall be controlled by pumping back onsite or otherwise be prevented from discharging into systems tributary to state surface waters.

- Construction access restoration shall be equal to or better than the pre-construction condition.
- Suggested BMPs:
  - BMP C105: Stabilized Construction Access
  - BMP C106: Wheel Wash
  - BMP C107: Construction Road/Parking Area Stabilization

### **Element 3: Control Flow Rates**

- Properties and waterways downstream from development sites shall be protected from erosion due to increases in the volume, velocity, and peak flow rate of stormwater runoff from the project site, as required by local plan approval authority.
- Downstream analysis is necessary if changes in offsite flows could impair or alter conveyance systems, streambanks, bed sediment, or aquatic habitat.
- Where necessary to comply with Minimum Requirement #7, stormwater detention facilities shall be constructed as one of the first steps in grading. Detention facilities shall be functional prior to construction of site improvements (e.g. impervious surfaces).
- Suggested BMPs:
  - BMP C203: Water Bars
  - BMP C207: Check Dams
  - BMP C209: Outlet Protection
  - BMP C235: Wattles
  - BMP C240: Sediment Trap
  - BMP C241: Sediment Pond (Temporary)
  - See *also*, V-12 Detention BMPs

### **Element 4: Install Sediment Controls**

- The duff layer, native top soil, and natural vegetation shall be retained in an undisturbed state to the maximum extent practicable.
- Prior to leaving a construction site or prior to discharge to an infiltration facility, stormwater runoff from disturbed areas shall pass through a sediment pond or other appropriate sediment removal BMP. Runoff from fully stabilized areas may be discharged without a sediment removal BMP, but must meet the flow control performance standard of Element #3, bullet #1. Full stabilization means concrete or asphalt paving; quarry spalls used as ditch lining; or the use of rolled erosion products, a bonded fiber matrix product, or vegetative cover in a manner that will fully prevent soil erosion. The local permitting authority shall inspect and approve areas fully stabilized by means other than pavement or quarry spalls.
- BMPs intended to trap sediment on site shall be constructed as one of the first steps in grading. These BMPs shall be functional before other land disturbing activities take place.
- Earthen structures such as dams, dikes, and diversions shall be seeded and mulched according to the timing indicated in Element #5.

- BMPs intended to trap sediment on site must be located in a manner to avoid interference with the movement of juvenile salmonids attempting to enter off-channel areas or drainages, often during non-storm events, in response to rain event changes in stream elevation or wetted area.
- Suggested BMPs

BMP C231: Brush Barrier

BMP C232: Gravel Filter Berm

**BMP C233: Silt Fence**

BMP C234: Vegetated Strip

BMP C235: Wattles

BMP C240: Sediment Trap

BMP C241: Sediment Pond (Temporary)

BMP C250: Construction Stormwater Chemical Treatment

BMP C251: Construction Stormwater Filtration

#### **Element 5: Stabilize Soils**

- Exposed and unworked soils shall be stabilized by application of effective BMPs that protect the soil from the erosive forces of raindrops, flowing water, and wind.
- From October 1 through April 30, no soils shall remain exposed and unworked for more than 2 days. From May 1 to September 30, no soils shall remain exposed and unworked for more than 7 days. This stabilization requirement applies to all soils on site, whether at final grade or not. These time limits may be adjusted by the local permitting authority if it can be shown that the average time between storm events justifies a different standard.
- Soils shall be stabilized at the end of the shift before a holiday or weekend if needed based on the weather forecast.
- Applicable practices include, but are not limited to, temporary and permanent seeding, sodding, mulching, plastic covering, erosion control fabrics and matting, soil application of polyacrylamide (PAM), the early application of gravel base on areas to be paved, and dust control.
- Selected soil stabilization measures shall be appropriate for the time of year, site conditions, estimated duration of use, and the water quality impacts that stabilization agents may have on downstream waters or ground water.
- Soil stockpiles must be stabilized and protected with sediment trapping measures.
- Linear construction activities such as right-of-way and easement clearing, roadway development, pipelines, and trenching for utilities, shall be conducted to meet the soil stabilization requirement. Contractors shall install the bedding materials, roadbeds, structures, pipelines, or utilities and re-stabilize the disturbed soils so that:
  - from October 1 through April 30 no soils shall remain exposed and unworked for more than 2 days and
  - from May 1 to September 30, no soils shall remain exposed and unworked for more than 7 days.

- Suggested BMPs:

**BMP C120: Temporary and Permanent Seeding**

BMP C121: Mulching

BMP C122: Nets and Blankets

BMP C123: Plastic Covering

BMP C124: Sodding

BMP C125: Topsoiling / Composting

BMP C126: Polyacrylamide (PAM) for Soil Erosion Protection

BMP C130: Surface Roughening

BMP C131: Gradient Terraces

**BMP C140: Dust Control**

**Element 6: Protect Slopes**

- Design, construct, and phase cut and fill slopes in a manner that will minimize erosion.
- Consider soil type and its potential for erosion.
- Reduce slope runoff velocities by reducing continuous length of slope with terracing and diversions, reduce slope steepness, and roughen slope surface.
- Divert upslope drainage and run-on waters with interceptors at top of slope. Stormwater from off site should be handled separately from stormwater generated on the site. Diversion of offsite stormwater around the site may be a viable option. Diverted flows shall be redirected to the natural drainage location at or before the property boundary.
- Contain downslope collected flows in pipes, slope drains, or protected channels. Check dams shall be used within channels that are cut down a slope.
- Provide drainage to remove ground water intersecting the slope surface of exposed soil areas.
- Excavated material shall be placed on the uphill side of trenches, consistent with safety and space considerations.
- Stabilize soils on slopes, as specified in Element #5.
- Suggested BMPs

BMP C120: Temporary and Permanent Seeding

BMP C121: Mulching

BMP C122: Nets and Blankets

BMP C123: Plastic Covering

BMP C124: Sodding

BMP C130: Surface Roughening

BMP C131: Gradient Terraces

BMP C200: Interceptor Dike and Swale

BMP C201: Grass-Lined Channels

BMP C203: Water Bars

BMP C204: Pipe Slope Drains

BMP C205: Subsurface Drains  
BMP C206: Level Spreader  
BMP C207: Check Dams  
BMP C208: Triangular Silt Dike (TSD)

#### **Element 7: Protect Drain Inlets**

- Storm drain inlets operable during construction shall be protected so that stormwater runoff does not enter the conveyance system without first being filtered or treated to remove sediment.
- Approach roads shall be kept clean. Sediment and street wash water shall not be allowed to enter storm drains without prior and adequate treatment unless treatment is provided before the storm drain discharges to waters of the state.
- Inlets should be inspected weekly at a minimum and daily during storm events. Inlet protection devices should be cleaned or removed and replaced before six inches of sediment can accumulate.
- Suggested BMPs:  
  
BMP C220: Inlet Protection

#### **Element 8: Stabilize Channels and Outlets**

- Temporary onsite conveyance channels shall be designed, constructed, and stabilized to prevent erosion from the expected flow velocity of a 2-year, 24-hour frequency storm for the developed condition.
- Stabilization, including armoring material, adequate to prevent erosion of outlets, adjacent streambanks, slopes, and downstream reaches shall be provided at the outlets of all conveyance systems.
- Suggested BMPs:  
  
BMP C122: Nets and Blankets  
BMP C202: Riprap Channel Lining  
BMP C207: Check Dams  
BMP C209: Outlet Protection

#### **Element 9: Control Pollutants**

- All pollutants, including waste materials and demolition debris, that occur on site during construction shall be handled and disposed of in a manner that does not cause contamination of stormwater. Woody debris may be chopped and spread on site.
- Cover, containment, and protection from vandalism shall be provided for all chemicals, liquid products, petroleum products, and non-inert wastes present on the site (see Chapter 173-304 WAC for the definition of inert waste).

- Maintenance and repair of heavy equipment and vehicles involving oil changes, hydraulic system drain down, solvent and de-greasing cleaning operations, fuel tank drain down and removal, and other activities which may result in discharge or spillage of pollutants to the ground or into stormwater runoff must be conducted using spill prevention measures, such as drip pans. Contaminated surfaces shall be cleaned immediately following any discharge or spill incident. Emergency repairs may be performed onsite using temporary plastic placed beneath and, if raining, over the vehicle.
- Wheel wash or tire bath wastewater shall be discharged to a separate onsite treatment system or to the sanitary sewer.
- Application of agricultural chemicals including fertilizers and pesticides shall be conducted in a manner and at application rate that will not result in loss of chemicals to stormwater runoff. Manufacturer recommendations for application rates and procedures shall be followed.
- BMPs shall be used to prevent or treat contamination of stormwater runoff by pH modifying sources. These sources include bulk cement, cement kiln dust, fly ash, new concrete washing and curing waters, waste streams generated from concrete grinding and sawing, exposed aggregate processes, and concrete pumping and mixer washout waters. Stormwater discharges shall not cause a violation of the water quality standard for pH in the receiving water.
- Suggested BMPs:

**BMP C151: Concrete Handling**

BMP C152: Sawcutting and Surfacing Pollution Prevention

BMP C153: Material Delivery, Storage, and Containment

**BMP C154: Concrete Washout Area**

BMP C250: Construction Stormwater Chemical Treatment

BMP C251: Construction Stormwater Filtration

BMP C252: Treating and Disposing of High pH Water

*Also see, the Source Control BMPs detailed in Volume IV*

**Element 10: Control De-Watering**

- Foundation, vault, and trench de-watering water shall be discharged into a controlled conveyance system prior to discharge to a sediment pond. Channels must be stabilized, as specified in Element #8.
- Clean, non-turbid de-watering water, such as well-point ground water, can be discharged to systems tributary to state surface waters, as specified in Element #8, provided the de-watering flow does not cause erosion or flooding of receiving waters. These clean waters should not be routed through stormwater sediment ponds.
- Highly turbid or contaminated dewatering water from construction equipment operation, clamshell digging, concrete tremie pour, or work inside a cofferdam shall be handled separately from stormwater.
- Other disposal options, depending on site constraints, may include:
  1. infiltration,

2. transport off site in vehicle, such as a vacuum flush truck, for legal disposal in a manner that does not pollute state waters,
3. onsite treatment using chemical treatment or other suitable treatment technologies,
4. sanitary sewer discharge with local sewer district approval, or
5. use of a sedimentation bag with outfall to a ditch or swale for small volumes of localized dewatering.

- Suggested BMPs:

BMP C203: Water Bars

BMP C236: Vegetative Filtration

#### **Element 11: Maintain BMPs**

- Temporary and permanent erosion and sediment control BMPs shall be maintained and repaired as needed to assure continued performance of their intended function. Maintenance and repair shall be conducted in accordance with BMPs.
- Sediment control BMPs shall be inspected weekly or after a runoff-producing storm event during the dry season and daily during the wet season. The inspection frequency for stabilized, inactive sites shall be determined by the local permitting authority based on the level of soil stability and potential for adverse environmental impacts.
- Temporary erosion and sediment control BMPs shall be removed within 30 days after final site stabilization is achieved or after the temporary BMPs are no longer needed. Trapped sediment shall be removed or stabilized on site. Disturbed soil resulting from removal of BMPs or vegetation shall be permanently stabilized.

- Suggested BMPs:

BMP C150: Materials on Hand

BMP C160: Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead

#### **Element 12: Manage the Project**

- Phasing of Construction

Development projects shall be phased where feasible in order to prevent, to the maximum extent practicable, the transport of sediment from the development site during construction. Revegetation of exposed areas and maintenance of that vegetation shall be an integral part of the clearing activities for any phase.

Clearing and grading activities for development shall be permitted only if conducted pursuant to an approved site development plan (e.g., subdivision approval) that establishes permitted areas of clearing, grading, cutting, and filling. When establishing these permitted clearing and grading areas, consideration should be given to minimizing removal of existing trees and minimizing disturbance and compaction of native soils except as needed for building purposes. These permitted clearing and grading areas and any other areas required to preserve critical or sensitive areas, buffers, native growth protection easements,

or tree retention areas as may be required by local jurisdictions, shall be delineated on the site plans and the development site.

- Seasonal Work Limitations

From October 1 through April 30, clearing, grading, and other soil disturbing activities shall only be permitted if shown to the satisfaction of the local permitting authority that the transport of sediment from the construction site to receiving waters will be prevented through a combination of the following:

1. Site conditions including existing vegetative coverage, slope, soil type, and proximity to receiving waters; and
2. Limitations on activities and the extent of disturbed areas; and
3. Proposed erosion and sediment control measures.

Based on the information provided and local weather conditions, the local permitting authority may expand or restrict the seasonal limitation on site disturbance. The local permitting authority shall take enforcement action - such as a notice of violation, administrative order, penalty, or stop-work order under the following circumstances:

- If, during the course of any construction activity or soil disturbance during the seasonal limitation period, sediment leaves the construction site causing a violation of the surface water quality standard; or
- If clearing and grading limits or erosion and sediment control measures shown in the approved plan are not maintained.

Local governments may restrict clearing and grading activities where site conditions may present a significant risk of impact to property or critical areas. Contact the local government permitting authority for information on specific site restrictions.

The following activities are exempt from the seasonal clearing and grading limitations:

1. Routine maintenance and necessary repair of erosion and sediment control BMPs,
2. Routine maintenance of public facilities or existing utility structures that do not expose the soil or result in the removal of the vegetative cover to soil, and
3. Activities where there is one hundred percent infiltration of surface water runoff within the site in approved and installed erosion and sediment control facilities.

- Coordination with Utilities and Other Contractors

The primary project proponent shall evaluate, with input from utilities and other contractors, the stormwater management requirements for the entire project, including the utilities, when preparing the Construction SWPPP.

- Inspection and Monitoring

All BMPs shall be inspected, maintained, and repaired as needed to assure continued performance of their intended function.



A certified professional in erosion and sediment control shall be identified in the Construction SWPPP and shall be onsite or on-call at all times.

Sampling and analysis of the stormwater discharges from a construction site may be necessary on a case-by-case basis to ensure compliance with standards. The local permitting authority may establish monitoring and reporting requirements when necessary.

Whenever inspection and/or monitoring reveals that the BMPs identified in the Construction SWPPP are inadequate, due to the actual discharge of or potential to discharge a significant amount of any pollutant, the SWPPP shall be modified, as appropriate, in a timely manner.

- Maintenance of the Construction SWPPP

The Construction SWPPP shall be retained onsite or within reasonable access to the site. The Construction SWPPP shall be modified whenever there is a significant change in the design, construction, operation, or maintenance of any BMP.

- Suggested BMPs:

BMP C150: Materials on Hand

BMP C160: Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead

BMP C162: Scheduling

### **Element #13: Protect Low Impact Development BMPs**

#### Municipal Stormwater Permits Requirements

Protect all Bioretention and Rain Garden BMPs from sedimentation through installation and maintenance of erosion and sediment control BMPs on portions of the site that drain into the Bioretention and/or Rain Garden BMPs. Restore the BMP so their fully functioning condition if they accumulate sediment during construction. Re-storing the BMP must include removal of sediment and any sediment-laden Bioretention/rain garden soils, and replacing the removed soils with soils meeting the design specification.

Prevent compacting Bioretention and rain garden BMPs by excluding construction equipment and foot traffic. Protect completed lawn and landscaped areas from compaction due to construction equipment.

Control erosion and avoid introducing sediment from surrounding land uses onto permeable pavements. Do not allow muddy construction equipment on the base material or pavement. Do not allow sediment-laden runoff onto permeable pavements.

Pavements fouled with sediments or no longer passing an initial infiltration test must be cleaned using procedures from the local stormwater manual or the manufacturer's procedures.

Keep all heavy equipment off existing soils under LID facilities that have been excavated

to final grade to retain the infiltration rate of the soils.

### **Additional Guidance**

See Chapter 5: Precision Site Preparation, Construction & Inspection of LID Facilities in the LID Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound (2012) for more detail on protecting LID integrated management practices.

Note that the LID Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound (2012) is for additional informational purposes only. You must follow the guidance within this manual if there are any discrepancies between this manual and the LID Technical Guidance Manual for Puget Sound (2012).

- Suggested BMPs:

- BMP C102: Buffer Zones
- BMP C103: High-Visibility Fence
- BMP C200: Interceptor Dike and Swale
- BMP C201: Grass-Lined Channels
- BMP C207: Check Dams
- BMP C208: Triangular Silt Dike (TSD)
- BMP C231: Brush Barrier
- BMP C233: Silt Fence
- BMP C234: Vegetated Strip

## Project Specific Construction BMPs

Below is the the suggested BMPs underlined and in **bold** from above.

- BMP C101: Preserving Natural Vegetation
- BMP C102: Buffer Zones
- BMP C120: Temporary and Permanent Seeding
- BMP C140: Dust Control
- BMP C151: Concrete Handling
- BMP C154: Concrete Washout Area
- BMP C233: Silt Fence

# BMP C101: Preserving Natural Vegetation

## ***Purpose***

The purpose of preserving natural vegetation is to reduce erosion wherever practicable. Limiting site disturbance is the single most effective method for reducing erosion. For example, conifers can hold up to about 50 percent of all rain that falls during a storm. Up to 20-30 percent of this rain may never reach the ground but is taken up by the tree or evaporates. Another benefit is that the rain held in the tree can be released slowly to the ground after the storm.

## ***Conditions of Use***

Natural vegetation should be preserved on steep slopes, near perennial and intermittent water- courses or swales, and on building sites in wooded areas.

- As required by local governments.
- Phase construction to preserve natural vegetation on the project site for as long as possible during the construction period.

## ***Design and Installation Specifications***

Natural vegetation can be preserved in natural clumps or as individual trees, shrubs and vines.

The preservation of individual plants is more difficult because heavy equipment is generally used to remove unwanted vegetation. The points to remember when attempting to save individual plants are:

- Is the plant worth saving? Consider the location, species, size, age, vigor, and the work involved. Local governments may also have ordinances to save natural vegetation and trees.
- Fence or clearly mark areas around trees that are to be saved. It is preferable to keep ground disturbance away from the trees at least as far out as the dripline.

Plants need protection from three kinds of injuries:

- *Construction Equipment* - This injury can be above or below the ground level. Damage results from scarring, cutting of roots, and compaction of the soil. Placing a fenced buffer zone around plants to be saved prior to construction can prevent construction equipment injuries.
- *Grade Changes* - Changing the natural ground level will alter grades, which affects the plant's ability to obtain the necessary air, water, and minerals. Minor fills usually do not cause problems although sensitivity between species does vary and should be checked. Trees can typically tolerate fill of 6 inches or less. For shrubs and other plants, the fill should be less.

When there are major changes in grade, it may become necessary to supply air to the roots of plants. This can be done by placing a layer of gravel and a tile system over the roots before the fill is made. The tile system should be laid out on the original grade leading from a dry well

around the tree trunk. The system should then be covered with small stones to allow air to circulate over the root area.

Lowering the natural ground level can seriously damage trees and shrubs. The highest percentage of the plant roots are in the upper 12 inches of the soil and cuts of only 2-3 inches can cause serious injury. To protect the roots it may be necessary to terrace the immediate area around the plants to be saved. If roots are exposed, construction of retaining walls may be needed to keep the soil in place. Plants can also be preserved by leaving them on an undisturbed, gently sloping mound. To increase the chances for survival, it is best to limit grade changes and other soil disturbances to areas outside the dripline of the plant.

- *Excavations* - Protect trees and other plants when excavating for drainfields, power, water, and sewer lines. Where possible, the trenches should be routed around trees and large shrubs. When this is not possible, it is best to tunnel under them. This can be done with hand tools or with power augers. If it is not possible to route the trench around plants to be saved, then the following should be observed:
  - Cut as few roots as possible. When you have to cut, cut clean. Paint cut root ends with a wood dressing like asphalt base paint if roots will be exposed for more than 24-hours.
  - Backfill the trench as soon as possible.
  - Tunnel beneath root systems as close to the center of the main trunk to preserve most of the important feeder roots.

Some problems that can be encountered with a few specific trees are:

- Maple, Dogwood, Red alder, Western hemlock, Western red cedar, and Douglas fir do not readily adjust to changes in environment and special care should be taken to protect these trees.
- The windthrow hazard of Pacific silver fir and madrona is high, while that of Western hemlock is moderate. The danger of windthrow increases where dense stands have been thinned. Other species (unless they are on shallow, wet soils less than 20 inches deep) have a low windthrow hazard.
- Cottonwoods, maples, and willows have water-seeking roots. These can cause trouble in sewer lines and infiltration fields. On the other hand, they thrive in high moisture conditions that other trees would not.
- Thinning operations in pure or mixed stands of Grand fir, Pacific silver fir, Noble fir, Sitka spruce, Western red cedar, Western hemlock, Pacific dogwood, and Red alder can cause serious disease problems. Disease can become established through damaged limbs, trunks, roots, and freshly cut stumps. Diseased and weakened trees are also susceptible to insect attack.

## ***Maintenance Standards***

Inspect flagged and/or fenced areas regularly to make sure flagging or fencing has not been removed or damaged. If the flagging or fencing has been damaged or visibility reduced, it shall be

repaired or replaced immediately and visibility restored. If tree roots have been exposed or injured, “prune” cleanly with an appropriate pruning saw or loppers directly above the damaged roots and recover with native soils. Treatment of sap flowing trees (fir, hemlock, pine, soft maples) is not advised as sap forms a natural healing barrier.

# BMP C102: Buffer Zones

## ***Purpose***

Creation of an undisturbed area or strip of natural vegetation or an established suitable planting that will provide a living filter to reduce soil erosion and stormwater runoff velocities.

## ***Conditions of Use***

Buffer zones are used along streams, wetlands and other bodies of water that need protection from erosion and sedimentation. Contractors can use vegetative buffer zone BMPs to protect natural swales and they can incorporate them into the natural landscaping of an area.

Do not use critical-areas buffer zones as sediment treatment areas. These areas shall remain completely undisturbed. The local permitting authority may expand the buffer widths temporarily to allow the use of the expanded area for removal of sediment.

The types of buffer zones can change the level of protection required as shown below:

**Designated Critical Area Buffers** - buffers that protect Critical Areas, as defined by the Washington State Growth Management Act, and are established and managed by the local permitting authority. These should not be disturbed and must be protected with sediment control BMPs to prevent impacts. The local permitting authority may expand the buffer widths temporarily to allow the use of the expanded area for removal of sediment.

**Vegetative Buffer Zones** - areas that may be identified in undisturbed vegetation areas or managed vegetation areas that are outside any Designated Critical Area Buffer. They may be utilized to provide an additional sediment control area and/or reduce runoff velocities. If being used for preservation of natural vegetation, they should be arranged in clumps or strips. They can be used to protect natural swales and incorporated into the natural landscaping area.

## ***Design and Installation Specifications***

- Preserving natural vegetation or plantings in clumps, blocks, or strips is generally the easiest and most successful method.
- Leave all unstable steep slopes in natural vegetation.
- Mark clearing limits and keep all equipment and construction debris out of the natural areas and buffer zones. Steel construction fencing is the most effective method to protect sensitive areas and buffers. Alternatively, wire-backed silt fence on steel posts is marginally effective. Flagging alone is typically not effective.
- Keep all excavations outside the dripline of trees and shrubs.
- Do not push debris or extra soil into the buffer zone area because it will cause damage by burying and smothering vegetation.
- Vegetative buffer zones for streams, lakes or other waterways shall be established by the

local permitting authority or other state or federal permits or approvals.

### ***Maintenance Standards***

Inspect the area frequently to make sure flagging remains in place and the area remains undisturbed. Replace all damaged flagging immediately. Remove all materials located in the buffer area that may impede the ability of the vegetation to act as a filter.



## BMP C120: Temporary and Permanent Seeding

### ***Purpose***

Seeding reduces erosion by stabilizing exposed soils. A well-established vegetative cover is one of the most effective methods of reducing erosion.

### ***Conditions of Use***

Use seeding throughout the project on disturbed areas that have reached final grade or that will remain unworked for more than 30 days.

The optimum seeding windows for western Washington are April 1 through June 30 and September 1 through October 1.

Between July 1 and August 30 seeding requires irrigation until 75 percent grass cover is established.

Between October 1 and March 30 seeding requires a cover of mulch or an erosion control blanket until 75 percent grass cover is established.

Review all disturbed areas in late August to early September and complete all seeding by the end of September. Otherwise, vegetation will not establish itself enough to provide more than average protection.

Mulch is required at all times for seeding because it protects seeds from heat, moisture loss, and transport due to runoff. Mulch can be applied on top of the seed or simultaneously by hydroseeding. See [BMP C121: Mulching](#) for specifications.

Seed and mulch all disturbed areas not otherwise vegetated at final site stabilization. Final stabilization means the completion of all soil disturbing activities at the site and the establishment of a permanent vegetative cover, or equivalent permanent stabilization measures (such as pavement, riprap, gabions, or geotextiles) which will prevent erosion. See [BMP T5.13: Post-Construction Soil Quality and Depth](#).

### ***Design and Installation Specifications***

#### **General**

- Install channels intended for vegetation before starting major earthwork and hydroseed with a Bonded Fiber Matrix. For vegetated channels that will have high flows, install erosion control blankets over the top of hydroseed. Before allowing water to flow in vegetated channels, establish 75 percent vegetation cover. If vegetated channels cannot be established by seed before water flow; install sod in the channel bottom — over top of hydromulch and erosion control blankets.
- Confirm the installation of all required surface water control measures to prevent seed from

washing away.

- Hydroseed applications shall include a minimum of 1,500 pounds per acre of mulch with 3 percent tackifier. See [BMP C121: Mulching](#) for specifications.
- Areas that will have seeding only and not landscaping may need compost or meal-based mulch included in the hydroseed in order to establish vegetation. Re-install native topsoil on the disturbed soil surface before application. See [BMP T5.13: Post-Construction Soil Quality and Depth](#).
- When installing seed via hydroseeding operations, only about 1/3 of the seed actually ends up in contact with the soil surface. This reduces the ability to establish a good stand of grass quickly. To overcome this, consider increasing seed quantities by up to 50 percent.
- Enhance vegetation establishment by dividing the hydromulch operation into two phases:
  - Phase 1- Install all seed and fertilizer with 25-30 percent mulch and tackifier onto soil in the first lift.
  - Phase 2- Install the rest of the mulch and tackifier over the first lift.

Or, enhance vegetation by:

- Installing the mulch, seed, fertilizer, and tackifier in one lift.
- Spread or blow straw over the top of the hydromulch at a rate of 800-1000 pounds per acre.
- Hold straw in place with a standard tackifier.

Both of these approaches will increase cost moderately but will greatly improve and enhance vegetative establishment. The increased cost may be offset by the reduced need for:

- Irrigation.
- Reapplication of mulch.
- Repair of failed slope surfaces.

This technique works with standard hydromulch (1,500 pounds per acre minimum) and Bonded Fiber Matrix/ Mechanically Bonded Fiber Matrix (BFM/MBFMs) (3,000 pounds per acre minimum).

- Seed may be installed by hand if:
  - Temporary and covered by straw, mulch, or topsoil.
  - Permanent in small areas (usually less than 1 acre) and covered with mulch, topsoil, or erosion blankets.
- The seed mixes listed in [Table II-3.4: Temporary and Permanent Seed Mixes](#) include recommended mixes for both temporary and permanent seeding.
- Apply these mixes, with the exception of the wet area seed mix, at a rate of 120 pounds per acre. This rate can be reduced if soil amendments or slow-release fertilizers are used. Apply

the wet area seed mix at a rate of 60 pounds per acre.

- Consult the local suppliers or the local conservation district for their recommendations. The appropriate mix depends on a variety of factors, including location, exposure, soil type, slope, and expected foot traffic. Alternative seed mixes approved by the local authority may be used, depending on the soil type and hydrology of the area.

Table II-3.4: Temporary and Permanent Seed Mixes

Common Name	Latin Name	% Weight	% Purity	% Germination
<b>Temporary Erosion Control Seed Mix</b>				
A standard mix for areas requiring a temporary vegetative cover.				
Chewings or annual blue grass	<i>Festuca rubra</i> var. <i>commutata</i> or <i>Poa annua</i>	40	98	90
Perennial rye	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	50	98	90
Redtop or colonial bentgrass	<i>Agrostis alba</i> or <i>Agrostis tenuis</i>	5	92	85
White dutch clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	5	98	90
<b>Landscaping Seed Mix</b>				
A recommended mix for landscaping seed.				
Perennial rye blend	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	70	98	90
Chewings and red fescue blend	<i>Festuca rubra</i> var. <i>commutata</i> or <i>Festuca rubra</i>	30	98	90
<b>Low-Growing Turf Seed Mix</b>				
A turf seed mix for dry situations where there is no need for watering. This mix requires very little maintenance.				
Dwarf tall fescue (several varieties)	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i> var.	45	98	90
Dwarf perennial rye (Barclay)	<i>Lolium perenne</i> var. <i>barclay</i>	30	98	90
Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	20	98	90
Colonial bentgrass	<i>Agrostis tenuis</i>	5	98	90
<b>Bioswale Seed Mix</b>				
A seed mix for bioswales and other intermittently wet areas.				
Tall or meadow fescue	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i> or <i>Festuca elatior</i>	75-80	98	90

Seaside/Creeping bentgrass	<i>Agrostis palustris</i>	10-15	92	85
Redtop bentgrass	<i>Agrostis alba</i> or <i>Agrostis gigantea</i>	5-10	90	80
<b>Wet Area Seed Mix</b>				
A low-growing, relatively non-invasive seed mix appropriate for very wet areas that are not regulated wetlands. Consult Hydraulic Permit Authority (HPA) for seed mixes if applicable.				

Table II-3.4: Temporary and Permanent Seed Mixes (continued)

Common Name	Latin Name	% Weight	% Purity	% Germination
Tall or meadow fescue	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i> or <i>Festuca elatior</i>	60-70	98	90
Seaside/Creeping bentgrass	<i>Agrostis palustris</i>	10-15	98	85
Meadow foxtail	<i>Alepocurus pratensis</i>	10-15	90	80
Alsike clover	<i>Trifolium hybridum</i>	1-6	98	90
Redtop bentgrass	<i>Agrostis alba</i>	1-6	92	85
<b>Meadow Seed Mix</b>				
A recommended meadow seed mix for infrequently maintained areas or non-maintained areas where colonization by native plants is desirable. Likely applications include rural road and utility right-of-way. Seeding should take place in September or very early October in order to obtain adequate establishment prior to the winter months. Consider the appropriateness of clover, a fairly invasive species, in the mix. Amending the soil can reduce the need for clover.				
Redtop or Oregon bentgrass	<i>Agrostis alba</i> or <i>Agrostis oregonensis</i>	20	92	85
Red fescue	<i>Festuca rubra</i>	70	98	90
White dutch clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	10	98	90

### **Roughening and Rototilling**

- The seedbed should be firm and rough. Roughen all soil no matter what the slope. Track walk slopes before seeding if engineering purposes require compaction. Backblading or smoothing of slopes greater than 4H:1V is not allowed if they are to be seeded.
  - Restoration-based landscape practices require deeper incorporation than that provided by a simple single-pass rototilling treatment. Wherever practical, initially rip the subgrade to improve long-term permeability, infiltration, and water inflow qualities. At a

minimum, permanent areas shall use soil amendments to achieve organic matter and permeability performance defined in engineered soil/landscape systems. For systems that are deeper than 8 inches complete the rototilling process in multiple lifts, or prepare the engineered soil system per specifications and place to achieve the specified depth.

### **Fertilizers**

- Conducting soil tests to determine the exact type and quantity of fertilizer is recommended. This will prevent the over-application of fertilizer.
- Organic matter is the most appropriate form of fertilizer because it provides nutrients (including nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium) in the least water-soluble form.
- In general, use 10-4-6 N-P-K (nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium) fertilizer at a rate of 90 pounds per acre. Always use slow-release fertilizers because they are more efficient and have fewer environmental impacts. Do not add fertilizer to the hydromulch machine, or agitate, more than 20 minutes before use. Too much agitation destroys the slow-release coating.
- There are numerous products available that take the place of chemical fertilizers. These include several with seaweed extracts that are beneficial to soil microbes and organisms. If 100 percent cottonseed meal is used as the mulch in hydroseed, chemical fertilizer may not be necessary. Cottonseed meal provides a good source of long-term, slow-release, available nitrogen.

### **Bonded Fiber Matrix and Mechanically Bonded Fiber Matrix**

- On steep slopes use Bonded Fiber Matrix (BFM) or Mechanically Bonded Fiber Matrix (MBFM) products. Apply BFM/MBFM products at a minimum rate of 3,000 pounds per acre with approximately 10 percent tackifier. Achieve a minimum of 95 percent soil coverage during application. Numerous products are available commercially. Most products require 24-36 hours to cure before rainfall and cannot be installed on wet or saturated soils. Generally, products come in 40-50 pound bags and include all necessary ingredients except for seed and fertilizer.
- Install products per manufacturer's instructions.
- BFMs and MBFMs provide good alternatives to blankets in most areas requiring vegetation establishment. Advantages over blankets include:
  - BFM and MBFMs do not require surface preparation.
  - Helicopters can assist in installing BFM and MBFMs in remote areas.
  - On slopes steeper than 2.5H:1V, blanket installers may require ropes and harnesses for safety.
  - Installing BFM and MBFMs can save at least \$1,000 per acre compared to blankets.

### ***Maintenance Standards***

Reseed any seeded areas that fail to establish at least 75 percent cover (100 percent cover for areas

that receive sheet or concentrated flows). If reseeding is ineffective, use an alternate method such as sodding, mulching, nets, or blankets.

- Reseed and protect by mulch any areas that experience erosion after achieving adequate cover. Reseed and protect by mulch any eroded area.
- Supply seeded areas with adequate moisture, but do not water to the extent that it causes run-off.

### ***Approved as Functionally Equivalent***

Ecology has approved products as able to meet the requirements of this BMP. The products did not pass through the Technology Assessment Protocol – Ecology (TAPE) process. Local jurisdictions may choose not to accept these products, or may require additional testing prior to consideration for local use. Products that Ecology has approved as functionally equivalent are available for review on Ecology's website at:

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Guidance-technical-assistance/Stormwater-permittee-guidance-resources/Emerging-stormwater-treatment-technologies>

# BMP C140: Dust Control

## **Purpose**

Dust control prevents wind transport of dust from disturbed soil surfaces onto roadways, drainage ways, and surface waters.

## **Conditions of Use**

Use dust control in areas (including roadways) subject to surface and air movement of dust where on-site or off-site impacts to roadways, drainage ways, or surface waters are likely.

## **Design and Installation Specifications**

- Vegetate or mulch areas that will not receive vehicle traffic. In areas where planting, mulching, or paving is impractical, apply gravel or landscaping rock.
- Limit dust generation by clearing only those areas where immediate activity will take place, leaving the remaining area(s) in the original condition. Maintain the original ground cover as long as practical.
- Construct natural or artificial windbreaks or windscreens. These may be designed as enclosures for small dust sources.
- Sprinkle the site with water until the surface is wet. Repeat as needed. To prevent carryout of mud onto the street, refer to [BMP C105: Stabilized Construction Access](#) and [BMP C106: Wheel Wash](#).
- Irrigation water can be used for dust control. Irrigation systems should be installed as a first step on sites where dust control is a concern.
- Spray exposed soil areas with a dust palliative, following the manufacturer's instructions and cautions regarding handling and application. Used oil is prohibited from use as a dust suppressant. Local governments may approve other dust palliatives such as calcium chloride or PAM.
- PAM ([BMP C126: Polyacrylamide \(PAM\) for Soil Erosion Protection](#)) added to water at a rate of 0.5 pounds per 1,000 gallons of water per acre and applied from a water truck is more effective than water alone. This is due to increased infiltration of water into the soil and reduced evaporation. In addition, small soil particles are bonded together and are not as easily transported by wind. Adding PAM may reduce the quantity of water needed for dust control. Note that the application rate specified here applies to this BMP, and is not the same application rate that is specified in [BMP C126: Polyacrylamide \(PAM\) for Soil Erosion Protection](#), but the downstream protections still apply.

Refer to [BMP C126: Polyacrylamide \(PAM\) for Soil Erosion Protection](#) for conditions of use. PAM shall not be directly applied to water or allowed to enter a water body.

- Contact your local Air Pollution Control Authority for guidance and training on other dust con-

trol measures. Compliance with the local Air Pollution Control Authority constitutes compliance with this BMP.

- Use vacuum street sweepers.
- Remove mud and other dirt promptly so it does not dry and then turn into dust.
- Techniques that can be used for unpaved roads and lots include:
  - Lower speed limits. High vehicle speed increases the amount of dust stirred up from unpaved roads and lots.
  - Upgrade the road surface strength by improving particle size, shape, and mineral types that make up the surface and base materials.
  - Add surface gravel to reduce the source of dust emission. Limit the amount of fine particles (those smaller than .075 mm) to 10 to 20 percent.
  - Use geotextile fabrics to increase the strength of new roads or roads undergoing reconstruction.
  - Encourage the use of alternate, paved routes, if available.
  - Apply chemical dust suppressants using the admix method, blending the product with the top few inches of surface material. Suppressants may also be applied as surface treatments.
  - Limit dust-causing work on windy days.
  - Pave unpaved permanent roads and other trafficked areas.

### ***Maintenance Standards***

Respray area as necessary to keep dust to a minimum.



# BMP C151: Concrete Handling

## ***Purpose***

Concrete work can generate process water and slurry that contain fine particles and high pH, both of which can violate water quality standards in the receiving water. Concrete spillage or concrete discharge to waters of the State is prohibited. Use this BMP to minimize and eliminate concrete, concrete process water, and concrete slurry from entering waters of the State.

## ***Conditions of Use***

Any time concrete is used, utilize these management practices. Concrete construction project components include, but are not limited to:

- Curbs
- Sidewalks
- Roads
- Bridges
- Foundations
- Floors
- Runways

Disposal options for concrete, in order of preference are:

1. Off-site disposal
2. Concrete wash-out areas (see [BMP C154: Concrete Washout Area](#))
3. De minimus washout to formed areas awaiting concrete

## ***Design and Installation Specifications***

- Wash concrete truck drums at an approved off-site location or in designated concrete washout areas only. Do not wash out concrete trucks onto the ground (including formed areas awaiting concrete), or into storm drains, open ditches, streets, or streams. Refer to [BMP C154: Concrete Washout Area](#) for information on concrete washout areas.
  - Return unused concrete remaining in the truck and pump to the originating batch plant for recycling. Do not dump excess concrete on site, except in designated concrete washout areas as allowed in [BMP C154: Concrete Washout Area](#).
- Wash small concrete handling equipment (e.g. hand tools, screeds, shovels, rakes, floats, trowels, and wheelbarrows) into designated concrete washout areas or into formed areas awaiting concrete pour.
- At no time shall concrete be washed off into the footprint of an area where an infiltration fea-

ture will be installed.

- Wash equipment difficult to move, such as concrete paving machines, in areas that do not directly drain to natural or constructed stormwater conveyance or potential infiltration areas.
- Do not allow washwater from areas, such as concrete aggregate driveways, to drain directly (without detention or treatment) to natural or constructed stormwater conveyances.
- Contain washwater and leftover product in a lined container when no designated concrete washout areas (or formed areas, allowed as described above) are available. Dispose of contained concrete and concrete washwater (process water) properly.
- Always use forms or solid barriers for concrete pours, such as pilings, within 15-feet of surface waters.
- Refer to [BMP C252: Treating and Disposing of High pH Water](#) for pH adjustment requirements.
- Refer to the Construction Stormwater General Permit (CSWGP) for pH monitoring requirements if the project involves one of the following activities:
  - Significant concrete work (as defined in the CSWGP).
  - The use of soils amended with (but not limited to) Portland cement-treated base, cement kiln dust or fly ash.
  - Discharging stormwater to segments of water bodies on the 303(d) list (Category 5) for high pH.

## ***Maintenance Standards***

Check containers for holes in the liner daily during concrete pours and repair the same day.

# BMP C154: Concrete Washout Area

## ***Purpose***

Prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants from concrete waste to stormwater by conducting washout off-site, or performing on-site washout in a designated area.

## ***Conditions of Use***

Concrete washout areas are implemented on construction projects where:

- Concrete is used as a construction material
- It is not possible to dispose of all concrete wastewater and washout off-site (ready mix plant, etc.).
- Concrete truck drums are washed on-site.

Note that auxiliary concrete truck components (e.g. chutes and hoses) and small concrete handling equipment (e.g. hand tools, screeds, shovels, rakes, floats, trowels, and wheel- barrows) may be washed into formed areas awaiting concrete pour.

At no time shall concrete be washed off into the footprint of an area where an infiltration feature will be installed.

## ***Design and Installation Specifications***

### **Implementation**

- Perform washout of concrete truck drums at an approved off-site location or in designated concrete washout areas only.
- Do not wash out concrete onto non-formed areas, or into storm drains, open ditches, streets, or streams.
- Wash equipment difficult to move, such as concrete paving machines, in areas that do not directly drain to natural or constructed stormwater conveyance or potential infiltration areas.
- Do not allow excess concrete to be dumped on-site, except in designated concrete washout areas as allowed above.
- Concrete washout areas may be prefabricated concrete washout containers, or self-installed structures (above-grade or below-grade).
- Prefabricated containers are most resistant to damage and protect against spills and leaks. Companies may offer delivery service and provide regular maintenance and disposal of solid and liquid waste.
- If self-installed concrete washout areas are used, below-grade structures are preferred over

above-grade structures because they are less prone to spills and leaks.

- Self-installed above-grade structures should only be used if excavation is not practical.
- Concrete washout areas shall be constructed and maintained in sufficient quantity and size to contain all liquid and concrete waste generated by washout operations.

### **Education**

- Discuss the concrete management techniques described in this BMP with the ready-mix concrete supplier before any deliveries are made.
- Educate employees and subcontractors on the concrete waste management techniques described in this BMP.
- Arrange for the contractor's superintendent or Certified Erosion and Sediment Control Lead (CESCL) to oversee and enforce concrete waste management procedures.
- A sign should be installed adjacent to each concrete washout area to inform concrete equipment operators to utilize the proper facilities.

### **Contracts**

Incorporate requirements for concrete waste management into concrete supplier and subcontractor agreements.

### **Location and Placement**

- Locate concrete washout areas at least 50 feet from sensitive areas such as storm drains, open ditches, water bodies, or wetlands.
- Allow convenient access to the concrete washout area for concrete trucks, preferably near the area where the concrete is being poured.
- If trucks need to leave a paved area to access the concrete washout area, prevent track-out with a pad of rock or quarry spalls (see [BMP C105: Stabilized Construction Access](#)). These areas should be far enough away from other construction traffic to reduce the likelihood of accidental damage and spills.
- The number of concrete washout areas you install should depend on the expected demand for storage capacity.
- On large sites with extensive concrete work, concrete washout areas should be placed in multiple locations for ease of use by concrete truck drivers.

### **Concrete Truck Washout Procedures**

- Washout of concrete truck drums shall be performed in designated concrete washout areas only.

- Concrete washout from concrete pumper bins can be washed into concrete pumper trucks and discharged into designated concrete washout areas or properly disposed of off-site.

### **Concrete Washout Area Installation**

- Concrete washout areas should be constructed as shown in the figures below, with a recommended minimum length and minimum width of 10 ft, but with sufficient quantity and volume to contain all liquid and concrete waste generated by washout operations.
- Plastic lining material should be a minimum of 10 mil polyethylene sheeting and should be free of holes, tears, or other defects that compromise the impermeability of the material.
- Lath and flagging should be commercial type.
- Liner seams shall be installed in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.
- Soil base shall be prepared free of rocks or other debris that may cause tears or holes in the plastic lining material.

## ***Maintenance Standards***

### **Inspection and Maintenance**

- Inspect and verify that concrete washout areas are in place prior to the commencement of concrete work.
- Once concrete wastes are washed into the designated washout area and allowed to harden, the concrete should be broken up, removed, and disposed of per applicable solid waste regulations. Dispose of hardened concrete on a regular basis.
- During periods of concrete work, inspect the concrete washout areas daily to verify continued performance.
  - Check overall condition and performance.
  - Check remaining capacity (% full).
  - If using self-installed concrete washout areas, verify plastic liners are intact and side-walls are not damaged.
  - If using prefabricated containers, check for leaks.
- Maintain the concrete washout areas to provide adequate holding capacity with a minimum freeboard of 12 inches.
- Concrete washout areas must be cleaned, or new concrete washout areas must be constructed and ready for use once the concrete washout area is 75% full.
- If the concrete washout area is nearing capacity, vacuum and dispose of the waste material in an approved manner.
  - Do not discharge liquid or slurry to waterways, storm drains or directly onto ground.

- Do not discharge to the sanitary sewer without local approval.
- Place a secure, non-collapsing, non-water collecting cover over the concrete washout area prior to predicted wet weather to prevent accumulation and overflow of precipitation.
- Remove and dispose of hardened concrete and return the structure to a functional condition. Concrete may be reused on-site or hauled away for disposal or recycling.
- When you remove materials from a self-installed concrete washout area, build a new structure; or, if the previous structure is still intact, inspect for signs of weakening or damage, and make any necessary repairs. Re-line the structure with new plastic after each cleaning.

### **Removal of Concrete Washout Areas**

- When concrete washout areas are no longer required for the work, the hardened concrete, slurries and liquids shall be removed and properly disposed of.
- Materials used to construct concrete washout areas shall be removed from the site of the work and disposed of or recycled.
- Holes, depressions or other ground disturbance caused by the removal of the concrete washout areas shall be backfilled, repaired, and stabilized to prevent erosion.

Figure II-3.7: Concrete Washout Area with Wood Planks

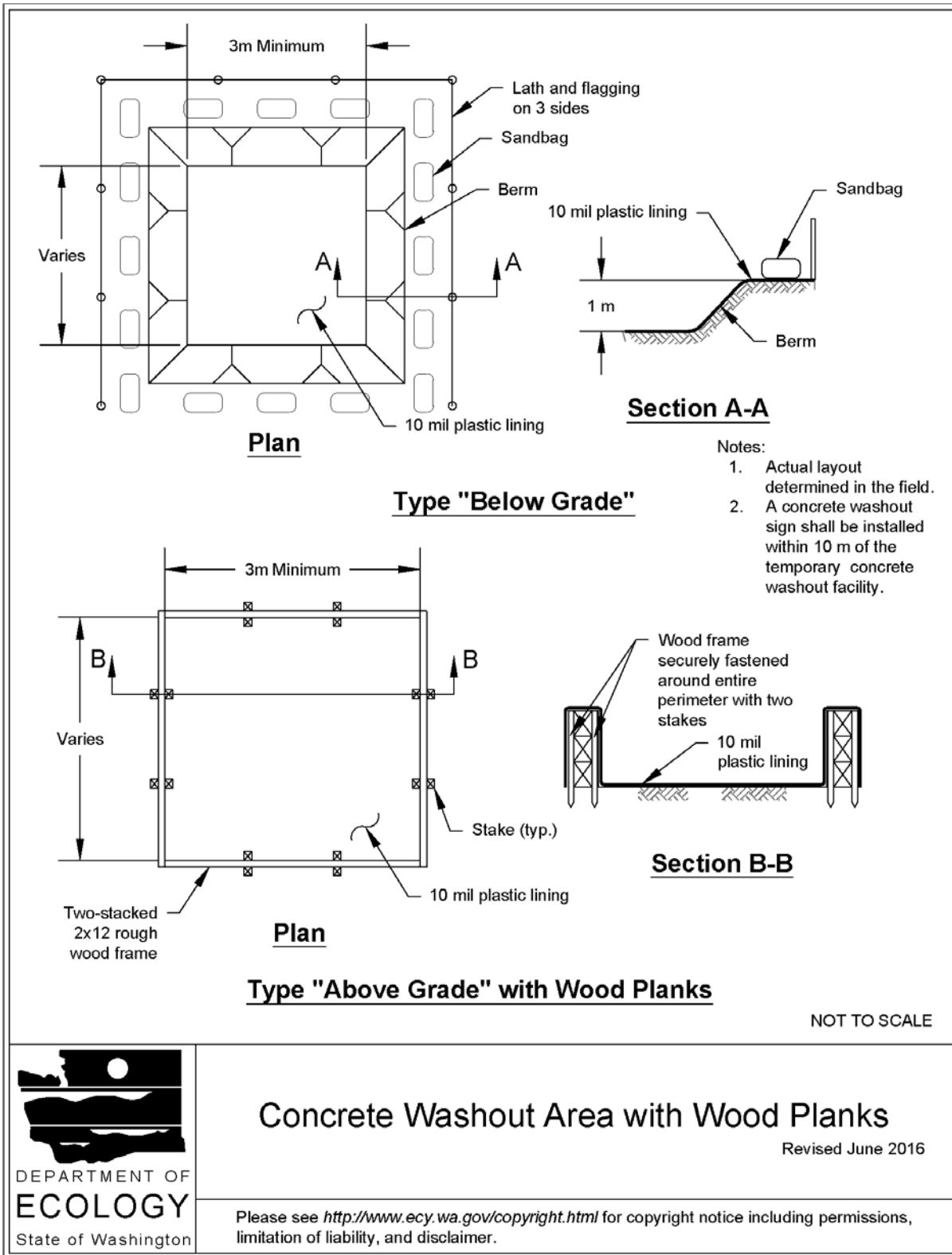


Figure II-3.8: Concrete Washout Area with Straw Bales

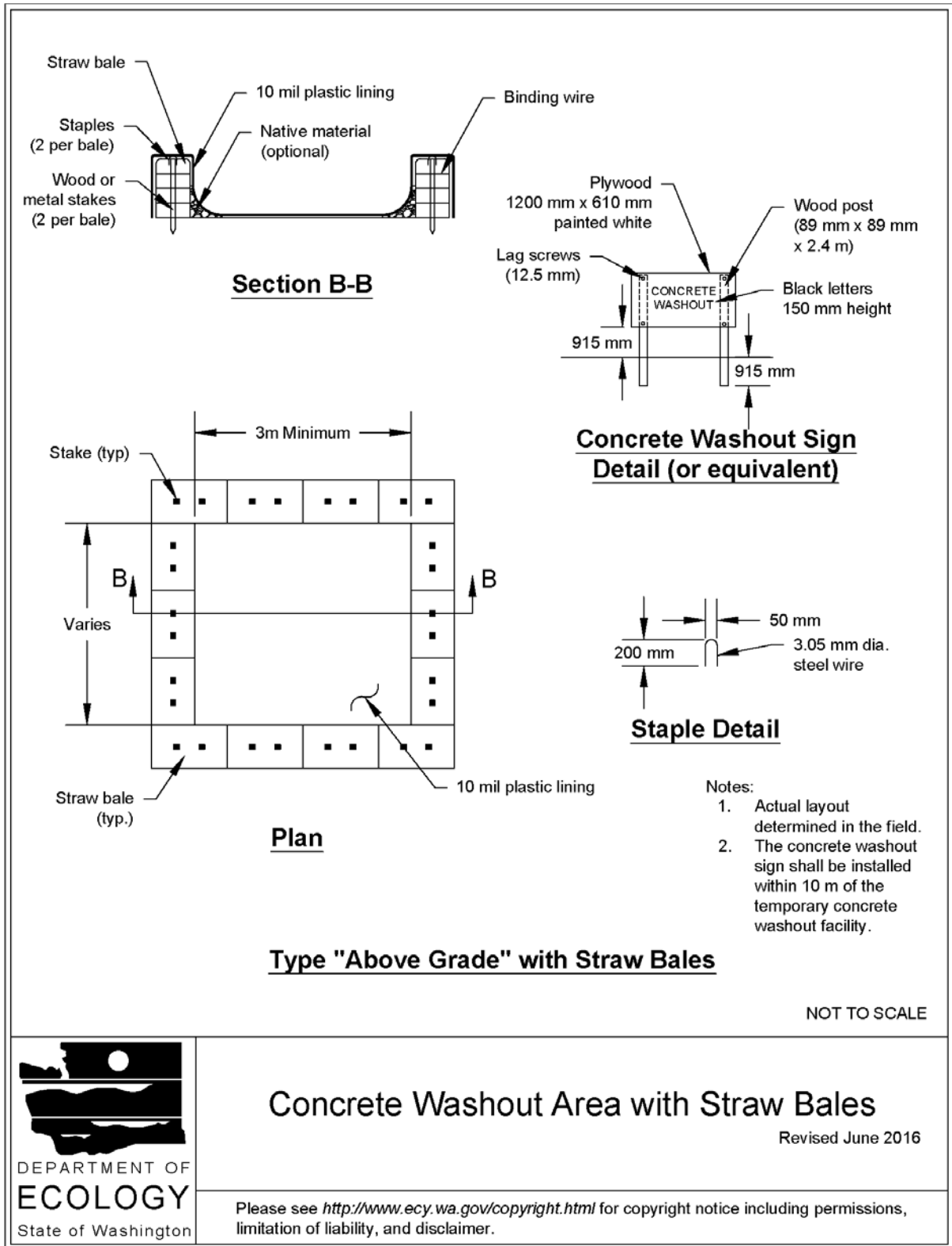
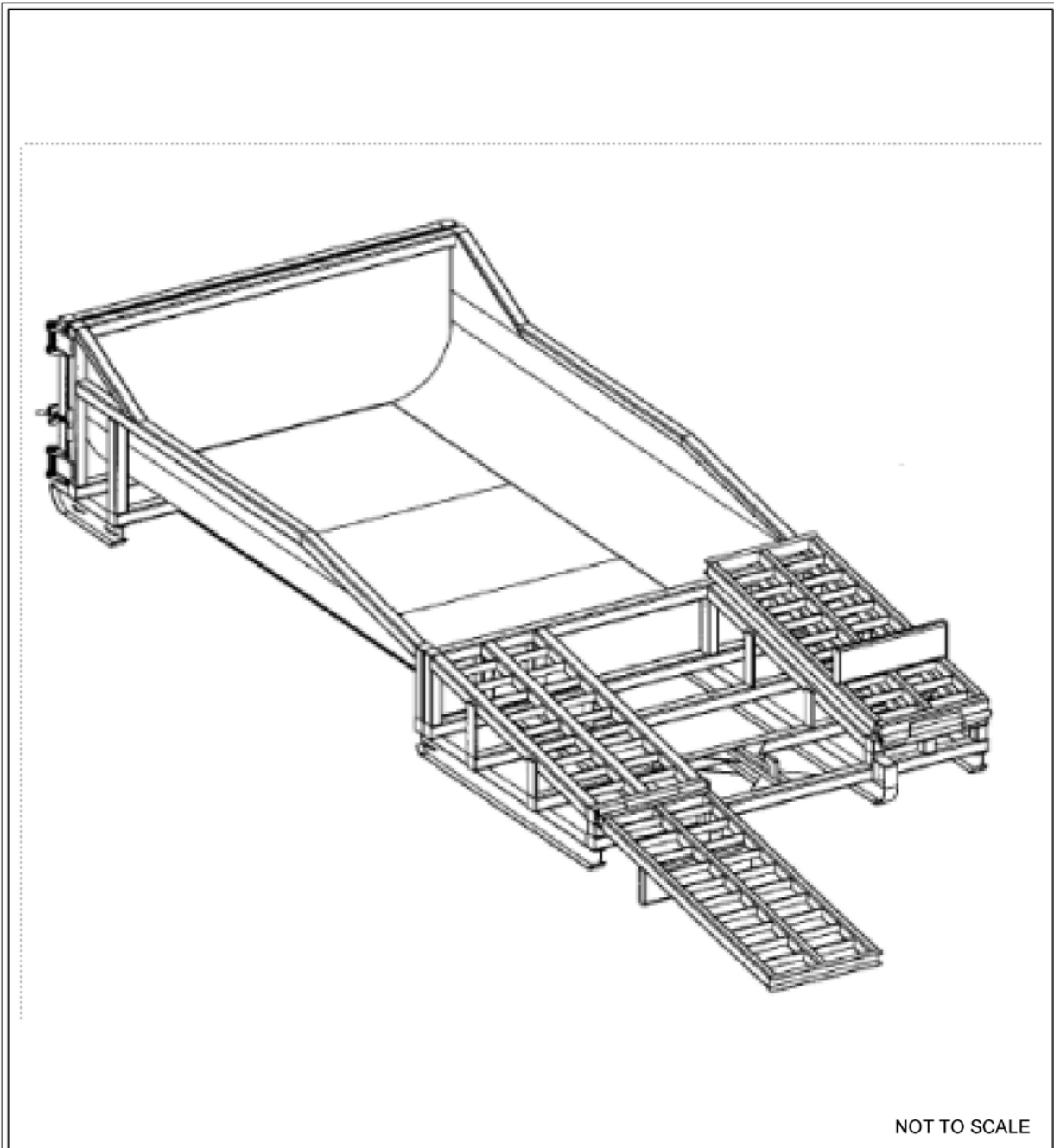




Figure II-3.9: Prefabricated Concrete Washout Container w/Ramp



NOT TO SCALE



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

## Prefabricated Concrete Washout Container w/Ramp

Revised June 2016

Please see <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/copyright.html> for copyright notice including permissions, limitation of liability, and disclaimer.

## BMP C233: Silt Fence

### ***Purpose***

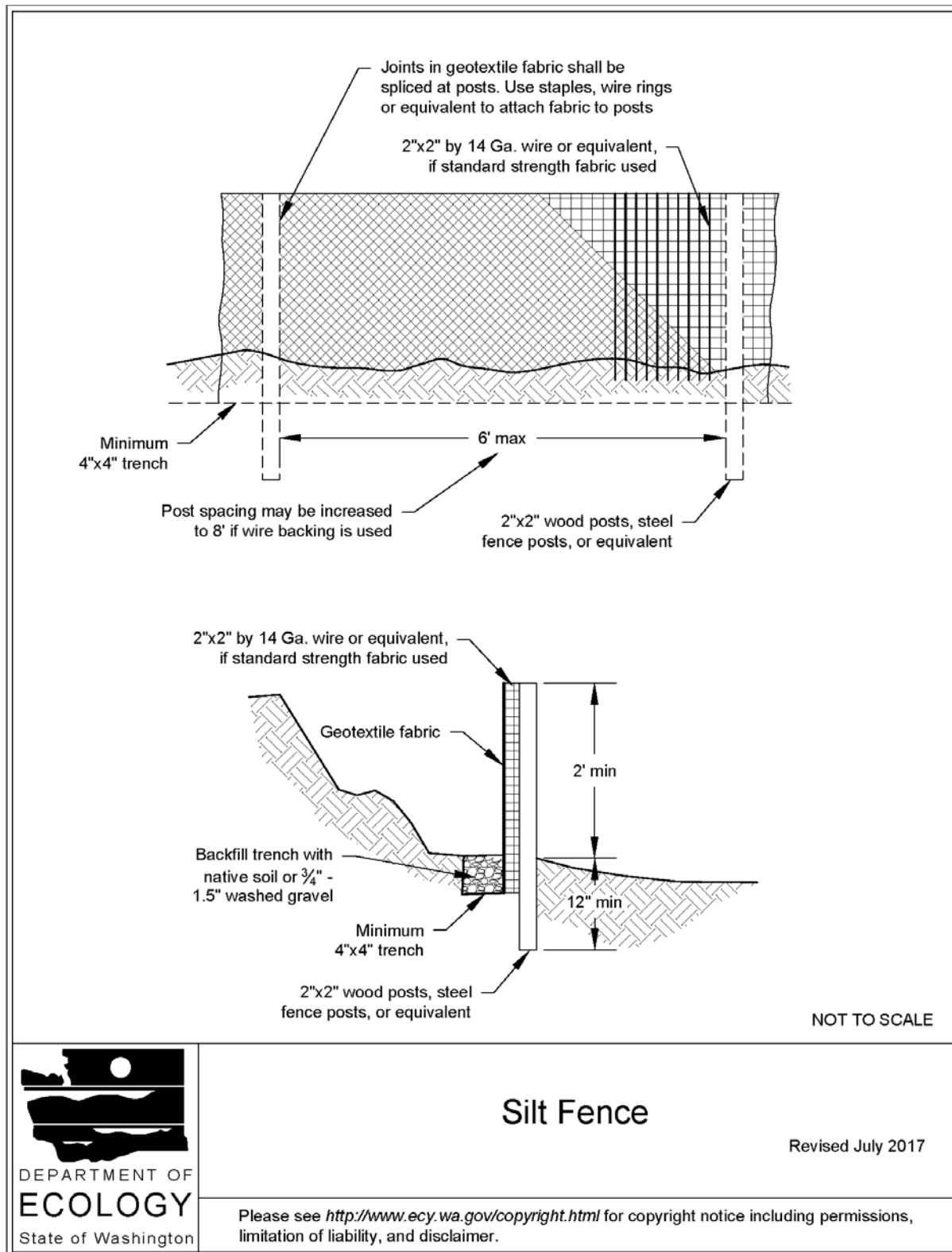
Silt fence reduces the transport of coarse sediment from a construction site by providing a temporary physical barrier to sediment and reducing the runoff velocities of overland flow.

### ***Conditions of Use***

Silt fence may be used downslope of all disturbed areas.

- Silt fence shall prevent sediment carried by runoff from going beneath, through, or over the top of the silt fence, but shall allow the water to pass through the fence.
- Silt fence is not intended to treat concentrated flows, nor is it intended to treat substantial amounts of overland flow. Convey any concentrated flows through the drainage system to a sediment trapping BMP.
- Do not construct silt fences in streams or use in V-shaped ditches. Silt fences do not provide an adequate method of silt control for anything deeper than sheet or overland flow.

Figure II-3.22: Silt Fence



## Silt Fence

Revised July 2017

Please see <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/copyright.html> for copyright notice including permissions, limitation of liability, and disclaimer.

## Design and Installation Specifications

- Use in combination with other construction stormwater BMPs.
- Maximum slope steepness (perpendicular to the silt fence line) 1H:1V.
- Maximum sheet or overland flow path length to the silt fence of 100 feet.
- Do not allow flows greater than 0.5 cfs.
- Use geotextile fabric that meets the following standards. All geotextile properties listed below are minimum average roll values (i.e., the test result for any sampled roll in a lot shall meet or exceed the values shown in [Table II-3.11: Geotextile Fabric Standards for Silt Fence](#)):

Table II-3.11: Geotextile Fabric Standards for Silt Fence

Geotextile Property	Minimum Average Roll Value
Polymeric Mesh AOS (ASTM D4751)	0.60 mm maximum for slit film woven (#30 sieve). 0.30 mm maximum for all other geotextile types (#50 sieve). 0.15 mm minimum for all fabric types (#100 sieve).
Water Permittivity (ASTM D4491)	0.02 sec <sup>-1</sup> minimum
Grab Tensile Strength (ASTM D4632)	180 lbs. Minimum for extra strength fabric. 100 lbs minimum for standard strength fabric.
Grab Tensile Strength (ASTM D4632)	30% maximum
Ultraviolet Resistance (ASTM D4355)	70% minimum

- Support standard strength geotextiles with wire mesh, chicken wire, 2-inch x 2-inch wire, safety fence, or jute mesh to increase the strength of the geotextile. Silt fence materials are available that have synthetic mesh backing attached.
- Silt fence material shall contain ultraviolet ray inhibitors and stabilizers to provide a minimum of six months of expected usable construction life at a temperature range of 0°F to 120°F.
- One-hundred percent biodegradable silt fence is available that is strong, long lasting, and can be left in place after the project is completed, if permitted by the local jurisdiction.
- Refer to [Figure II-3.22: Silt Fence](#) for standard silt fence details. Include the following Standard Notes for silt fence on construction plans and specifications:
  1. The Contractor shall install and maintain temporary silt fences at the locations shown in the Plans.
  2. Construct silt fences in areas of clearing, grading, or drainage prior to starting those

activities.

3. The silt fence shall have a 2-foot min. and a 2½-foot max. height above the original round surface.
4. The geotextile fabric shall be sewn together at the point of manufacture to form fabric lengths as required. Locate all sewn seams at support posts. Alternatively, two sections of silt fence can be overlapped, provided that the overlap is long enough and that the adjacent silt fence sections are close enough together to prevent silt laden water from escaping through the fence at the overlap.
5. Attach the geotextile fabric on the up-slope side of the posts and secure with staples, wire, or in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Attach the geotextile fabric to the posts in a manner that reduces the potential for tearing.
6. Support the geotextile fabric with wire or plastic mesh, dependent on the properties of the geotextile selected for use. If wire or plastic mesh is used, fasten the mesh securely to the up-slope side of the posts with the geotextile fabric up-slope of the mesh.
7. Mesh support, if used, shall consist of steel wire with a maximum mesh spacing of 2-inches, or a prefabricated polymeric mesh. The strength of the wire or polymeric mesh shall be equivalent to or greater than 180 lbs. grab tensile strength. The polymeric mesh must be as resistant to the same level of ultraviolet radiation as the geotextile fabric it supports.
8. Bury the bottom of the geotextile fabric 4-inches min. below the ground surface. Backfill and tamp soil in place over the buried portion of the geotextile fabric, so that no flow can pass beneath the silt fence and scouring cannot occur. When wire or polymeric back-up support mesh is used, the wire or polymeric mesh shall extend into the ground 3-inches min.
9. Drive or place the silt fence posts into the ground 18-inches min. A 12-inch min. depth is allowed if topsoil or other soft subgrade soil is not present and 18-inches cannot be reached. Increase fence post min. depths by 6 inches if the fence is located on slopes of 3H:1V or steeper and the slope is perpendicular to the fence. If required post depths cannot be obtained, the posts shall be adequately secured by bracing or guying to prevent overturning of the fence due to sediment loading.
10. Use wood, steel or equivalent posts. The spacing of the support posts shall be a maximum of 6-feet. Posts shall consist of either:
  - Wood with minimum dimensions of 2 inches by 2 inches by 3 feet. Wood shall be free of defects such as knots, splits, or gouges.
  - No. 6 steel rebar or larger.
  - ASTM A 120 steel pipe with a minimum diameter of 1-inch.
  - U, T, L, or C shape steel posts with a minimum weight of 1.35 lbs./ft.
  - Other steel posts having equivalent strength and bending resistance to the post sizes listed above.

11. Locate silt fences on contour as much as possible, except at the ends of the fence,

where the fence shall be turned uphill such that the silt fence captures the runoff water and prevents water from flowing around the end of the fence.

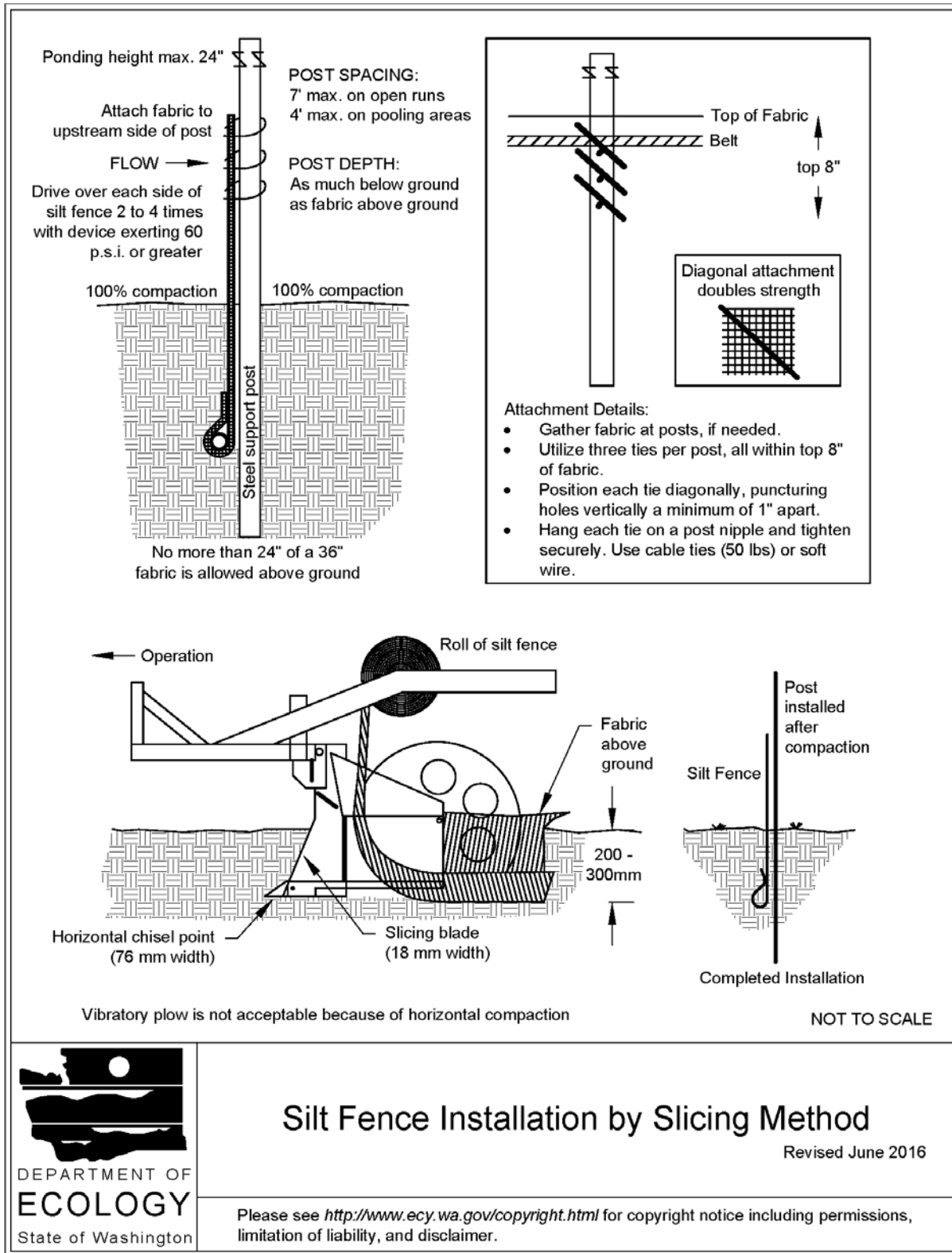
12. If the fence must cross contours, with the exception of the ends of the fence, place check dams perpendicular to the back of the fence to minimize concentrated flow and erosion. The slope of the fence line where contours must be crossed shall not be steeper than 3H:1V.

- Check dams shall be approximately 1-foot deep at the back of the fence. Check dams shall be continued perpendicular to the fence at the same elevation until the top of the check dam intercepts the ground surface behind the fence.
- Check dams shall consist of crushed surfacing base course, gravel backfill for walls, or shoulder ballast. Check dams shall be located every 10 feet along the fence where the fence must cross contours.

• Refer to [Figure II-3.23: Silt Fence Installation by Slicing Method](#) for slicing method details. The following are specifications for silt fence installation using the slicing method:

1. The base of both end posts must be at least 2- to 4-inches above the top of the geotextile fabric on the middle posts for ditch checks to drain properly. Use a hand level or string level, if necessary, to mark base points before installation.
2. Install posts 3- to 4-feet apart in critical retention areas and 6- to 7-feet apart in standard applications.
3. Install posts 24-inches deep on the downstream side of the silt fence, and as close as possible to the geotextile fabric, enabling posts to support the geotextile fabric from upstream water pressure.
4. Install posts with the nipples facing away from the geotextile fabric.
5. Attach the geotextile fabric to each post with three ties, all spaced within the top 8-inches of the fabric. Attach each tie diagonally 45 degrees through the fabric, with each puncture at least 1-inch vertically apart. Each tie should be positioned to hang on a post nipple when tightening to prevent sagging.
6. Wrap approximately 6-inches of the geotextile fabric around the end posts and secure with 3 ties.
7. No more than 24-inches of a 36-inch geotextile fabric is allowed above ground level.
8. Compact the soil immediately next to the geotextile fabric with the front wheel of the tractor, skid steer, or roller exerting at least 60 pounds per square inch. Compact the upstream side first and then each side twice for a total of four trips. Check and correct the silt fence installation for any deviation before compaction. Use a flat-bladed shovel to tuck the fabric deeper into the ground if necessary.

Figure II-3.23: Silt Fence Installation by Slicing Method



## ***Maintenance Standards***

- Repair any damage immediately.
- Intercept and convey all evident concentrated flows uphill of the silt fence to a sediment trapping BMP.
- Check the uphill side of the silt fence for signs of the fence clogging and acting as a barrier to flow and then causing channelization of flows parallel to the fence. If this occurs, replace the fence and remove the trapped sediment.
- Remove sediment deposits when the deposit reaches approximately one-third the height of the silt fence, or install a second silt fence.
- Replace geotextile fabric that has deteriorated due to ultraviolet breakdown.