

Part 501 – Authorizations

Subpart E – Assistance of Shoreline Erosion Control

501.50 General

- A. Because shoreline erosion is complex, erosion control measures for stabilization differ greatly from those used for upland erosion control and can be very costly.
- B. Effective installation of erosion control measures can be achieved by proper coordination with other Federal and State agencies. This coordination eliminates duplication of services and provides for sharing knowledge in a rapidly changing technology.

501.51 Scope

- A. NRCS may provide assistance in controlling shoreline erosion if all the following conditions are met:
 - (1) The problem is not created by wave action on the open and unprotected shores of the oceanfronts or the Great Lakes.
 - (2) The problem can be solved with vegetation, normal upland erosion control practices, or minor structural measures, such as gabions or riprap revetment, masonry or timber bulkheads, or rock or timber barbs or vanes. All revetments, bulkheads, or groins are to be no higher than 3 feet above mean high tide or, in nontidal areas, no higher than 3 feet above mean high water. As used here, bulkheads are designed primarily to resist lateral earth pressures; revetments are not. Bulkheads and revetments are generally placed parallel to the shore; groins, barbs, or vanes are generally perpendicular to the shore.
 - (3) Failure of structural measures because of high-intensity storms will not create an immediate hazard to life or result in serious damage to buildings, residences, roads, or other high-value property.
 - (4) Installation of the recommended measures will have no significant adverse effects on the environment or on adjacent lands, waters, or installations.
 - (5) Sponsors and cooperators understand the level of protection provided and their responsibility for maintenance and repair.
 - (6) Plans and schedules for installing structures and establishing vegetation are acceptable to local, State, and Federal agencies that have jurisdiction.
- B. Although NRCS is not permitted to provide design or construction assistance to solve erosion problems created by wave action on the open and unprotected shores of major oceanfronts or the Great Lakes, advice and counsel may be provided on complementary erosion control practices used in conjunction with complex or expensive installations built by others at these locations. Assistance may be provided for normal erosion control on lands adjacent to these shorelines but only at elevations not affected by wave action.

501.52 Coordination With U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

- A. USACE has responsibility for beach erosion control and shore protection on certain public lands and navigable waters. They have authority to provide technical and engineering assistance to non-Federal public interests for shore and streambank erosion. This may include assistance to soil conservation districts. USACE has defined “shore and streambank erosion” to apply to shorelines of oceans, bluffs, bays, estuaries, the Great Lakes, inland lakes and reservoirs, and along banks of

navigable rivers and their tributaries. They also have responsibility for issuing permits for structures and work in or affecting navigable waters.

B. The kinds of work that must be coordinated with the appropriate USACE district engineer are—

- (1) Any work that will have offsite effects, such as entrapment or diversion of littoral drift.
- (2) Any work that affects USACE jurisdictional waters.
- (3) Any work that requires permits.
- (4) Any work that may be a duplication of effort.

501.53 Requirements for Assistance

A. Assistance on shore-erosion problems for individual landowners or groups of landowners is subject to the cooperator assistance priority controls established by the conservation district.

B. Technical assistance must be coordinated with the agencies issuing permits to ensure conformance with their criteria. Sponsors and cooperators must obtain any required permits. Data NRCS has collected in the course of making an investigation may be used by cooperators in preparing their requests for permits.

C. Special authorization will be considered for providing assistance during emergencies or for meeting the requirements of special legislation.