

# Drainage Management



BMP Factsheet #6

## General Drainage Maintenance BMPs

### Introduction

Drainage Maintenance work such as dredging, mowing or beaver dam removal will have negative impacts to natural resources. Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been developed to minimize the environmental impacts. This Factsheet contains general BMPs that should be used when implementing any type of drainage maintenance project. BMP Factsheets #7 to #17 describe additional BMPs needed for specific types of drainage maintenance work.

### BMPs

1. Operate equipment only from the top of the channel bank. Watercourse crossings are not allowed.
2. Equipment shall not enter or cross the channel when water is present.
3. Existing vegetation shall be retained on the sidewalls of the channel to the maximum extent possible.
4. Work will take place from the north or east banks whenever possible.
5. Disturbance of the channel banks and woody stem riparian vegetation shall be held to the absolute minimum necessary to access the channel and to conduct the drainage maintenance activity.
6. Disturbance of woody stem riparian vegetation shall be limited to one side of the channel at any given location along the watercourse.
7. Along the shoreline, disturbed soils at risk of entering the watercourse shall be protected from erosion using vegetation and/or other means.
8. Dredged, excavated, or bucket mowed materials shall be deposited landward of the top of the channel bank.
9. Dredged, excavated, or bucket mowed materials shall not be stockpiled below the top of the channel bank.
10. Project activities shall be conducted in a way that minimizes the introduction of silt-laden water into the watercourse.
11. Pilings or lumber treated with creosote or pentachlorophenol shall not be used for project construction.
12. All treated wood shall be professionally treated and completely cured prior to installation below the high water line in order to minimize leaching into the water or substrate.
13. Wet concrete shall be prevented from entering the watercourse. Footings, foundations and/or super structures constructed with fresh concrete shall be sufficiently cured prior to contact with water to avoid leaching. Forms and impervious materials shall remain in place until the concrete is cured.
14. All debris or deleterious material resulting from drainage maintenance activities shall be removed from the watercourse and prevented from re-entering the channel.
15. No petroleum products or other deleterious materials shall be allowed to enter the surface waters in the channel.
16. If a fish kill occurs or fish in distress are observed, in-water drainage maintenance activities shall immediately cease and the Area Habitat Biologist (AHB) shall be immediately contacted.
17. Removal of trash and plant debris blocking culverts, bridges, and floodgates shall not be subject to a timing limitation.
18. Whenever rock is used to armor the channel bank in the immediate vicinity of a drainage structure (culvert, floodgate, bridge, pump facility), the rock shall be composed of clean, angular material of a sufficient durability and size to prevent its being broken up or washed away by high water.
19. The footprint of a maintained, repaired or replaced drainage structure (culvert, floodgate, bridge, pump facility, trash rack) below the high waterline shall not exceed the footprint of the original drainage structure below the high waterline.
20. Emergency work that must be done outside the normal work window of August 1 to September 30 must be verbally approved by the AHB prior to implementation.