

Name of Practice: VOLUNTARY DIVERSIONS  
DCR Specifications for No. VSL-5

This document specifies terms and conditions for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's diversions best management practice that are applicable to all contracts entered into with respect to that practice.

A. Description and Purpose

A channel with a supporting ridge on the lower side constructed across the general land slope.

To improve water quality by directing nutrient and sediment-laden water from large areas to sites where it can be used or disposed of safely.

B. Policies and Specifications

1. This practice may include:
  - i. Diversions, ditches, or dikes. Subsurface drains may be installed where necessary for the proper functioning of the diversion.
  - ii. Installation of structures such as pipe, chutes, underground outlets, or other outlets, if needed, for proper functioning of a ditch or dike, for more even flow, or to protect outlets from erosion.
  - iii. Necessary leveling and filling to permit installation on an effective system.
  - iv. Removing portions of stonewalls or hedgerows if necessary to permit establishment of the practice.
2. This practice does not include ditches or dikes designed to impound water for later use, or that will be a part of a regular irrigation system.
3. Cost-share and tax credit with the same person is limited to once on the same acreage.
4. Soil loss rates must be computed for all applications for use in establishing priority considerations.
5. This practice is subject to NRCS Standard 362 Diversions.
6. All practice components implemented should be maintained for a minimum of 5 years following the calendar year of installation. The lifespan begins on Jan. 1 of the calendar year following the year of certification of completion. This practice is subject to spot check by the District throughout the lifespan of the practice.

C. 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.

Revised March, 2016