Channel Stabilization

This practice applies to stream channels undergoing damaging aggradation or degradation that cannot be reasonably controlled by upland Practices alone (establishment of vegetation, installation of bank protection, or installation of upstream water control devices).

Measures that may be used to stabilize the bed or bottom of a channel include installation of instream structures such as grade stabilization structures (see Grade Stabilization Structure practice) to control large gullies caused by headcutting; limited removal of sand or sediment that have caused the channel to become plugged due to a large storm event or bank failure; and channel reshaping as needed under the Stream Habitat Improvement and Management practice.

Allowable structures include loose rock checks, rock buried at grade (keyways), timbers, and willow layering. Concrete, grouted rock, and gabions are not allowed. Planting native vegetation on the banks is incorporated with this practice.

Removal of accumulated sand or sediment that has caused the channel to become plugged will be permitted **one time only at any given location** when it is causing bank erosion or threatening infrastructure.

Environmental values considered during planning and design include cultural resources; rare, threatened, and endangered species; air quality; and water quality and water quantity.

**How the Permit Coordination Program Works for Landowners**

- Landowner requests assistance from the NRCS/Cachuma RCD
- NRCS/Cachuma RCD develops a conservation plan to meet landowner needs, enhance natural resources, and comply with Program permits
- Landowner signs Cooperator Agreement to implement the conservation plan
- Project is covered by Program’s programmatic approvals and agreements
- Participating agencies include California Department of Fish and Game, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, NOAA Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*

**All practices completed under this program must have a clear environmental benefit**

*pending

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**Sample Project Covered Under the Program**

Unstable section of bank along stream

Rock J-hook under construction

Streambank following construction and revegetation