

## Temporary Ditch Checks

### PURPOSE:

A ditch check is a small barrier constructed across a swale or drainage ditch to reduce the velocity of flowing water thereby allowing sediment to settle and reducing erosion.

### IMPLEMENTATION:

- Ditch checks are to be spaced according to the formula found in Chapter 59 of the BDE Manual.
- Ditch checks must be long enough to ensure the center of the structure is lower than the outside edges of the structure to allow water to flow over the middle of the ditch check and not around the edges.

### DESIGN:

- Types of Temporary Ditch Checks:
  - Items on Approved Products List
  - Rolled Excelsior
  - Aggregate

### ITEMS ON APPROVED PRODUCTS LIST:

- To be installed according to manufacturer's specifications.

### ROLLED EXCELSIOR:

- Rolled excelsior ditch checks are to be trenched into the ground 6 inches deep.
- Stakes are to be placed through the mesh on the down slope side on a slight angle toward the up slope side.

### AGGREGATE:

- Aggregate ditch checks are to be 2 feet tall (or as applicable)
- Each aggregate ditch check is to be 6 feet wide at the bottom and 2 feet wide at the top. A 6 inch deep saddle is to be formed at the top of the ditch check to allow water to flow over the middle of the ditch check and not around the edges.

### INSPECTION/MAINTENANCE:

- All temporary ditch checks are to be inspected every 7 calendar days and after a storm event of ½" or greater (including snowfall).
- Sediment is to be removed from the upstream side of the ditch check when the sediment has reached 50% of the height of the structure.
- Ditch checks are to be repaired or replaced whenever tears, splits, unraveling or compressed excelsior is apparent.
- If water or sediment is going around the ditch check, maintenance may be required or installation may be flawed.
- If the ditch checks are floating, stakes may be installed incorrectly.
- In some circumstances, additional ditch checks or other BMPs may be necessary if the current number of ditch checks is being compromised.

- Ditch checks are only to be removed once all upslope areas have been stabilized.