

**United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Montana**

## Operation and Maintenance Guide For Your Irrigation Ditch or Canal Lining

Operator: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Project: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Sec. \_\_\_\_\_, T. \_\_\_\_\_, R. \_\_\_\_\_  
 NRCS Office \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

*A properly operated and maintained lined irrigation ditch is an asset to your farm. This lining was designed and installed to reduce water loss in your irrigation delivery and/or head ditches. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program. This checklist is provided for your convenience in order to help you develop a good operation and maintenance plan.*

### OPERATION CHECKLIST

- ✓
- r      Avoid the use of tillage equipment adjacent to the lining that accelerates soil removal.
- r      If livestock are present, prevent their access to the lining and provide a system of watering.
- r      Maintain adequate drainage of the foundation.
- r      Drain all lined ditches when not being used.
- r      Maintain the widths and heights of soil berms adjacent to the lining.

### MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

- ✓
- r      Immediately repair any cracks or breaks in the lining. Investigate cause before repair and take measures to prevent re-occurrence.
- r      Remove sediment, debris or any blockage that restricts capacity.
- r      Remove woody vegetation and perennials from areas adjacent to the lining.
- r      Repair spalls, cracks and weathered areas in concrete surfaces.
- r      Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular or livestock damage.
- r      Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.

