

# LAND CLEARING

## PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - Practice Code 460



### LAND CLEARING

Land clearing is removing trees, stumps, and other vegetation to allow needed land use adjustments and improvements in the interest of conservation. Land clearing is used to prepare land for the establishment of habitat for wildlife species.

### PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice applies to wooded areas where the removal of trees, stumps, brush, and other vegetation is needed to establish, re-establish or maintain desired habitat for wildlife.

**This practice *is not* for purposes of clearing, filling, and/or draining wetlands for the purpose of growing commodity crops or any other purpose.**

An undisturbed area at least 50-feet wide will be left between the area being cleared and all wetlands, water bodies, and perennial streams. Temporary vegetation should be established as necessary until the planned

land use is in place. Avoid clearing when soil moisture conditions are high to reduce compaction.

### COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Land Clearing is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with the following practices:

- Brush Management,
- Obstruction Removal,
- Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats,
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Early Successional Habitat Development and Management,
- Forest Stand Improvement,
- Forest Trails and Landings.

Refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated Job Sheets for further information.

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowner and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

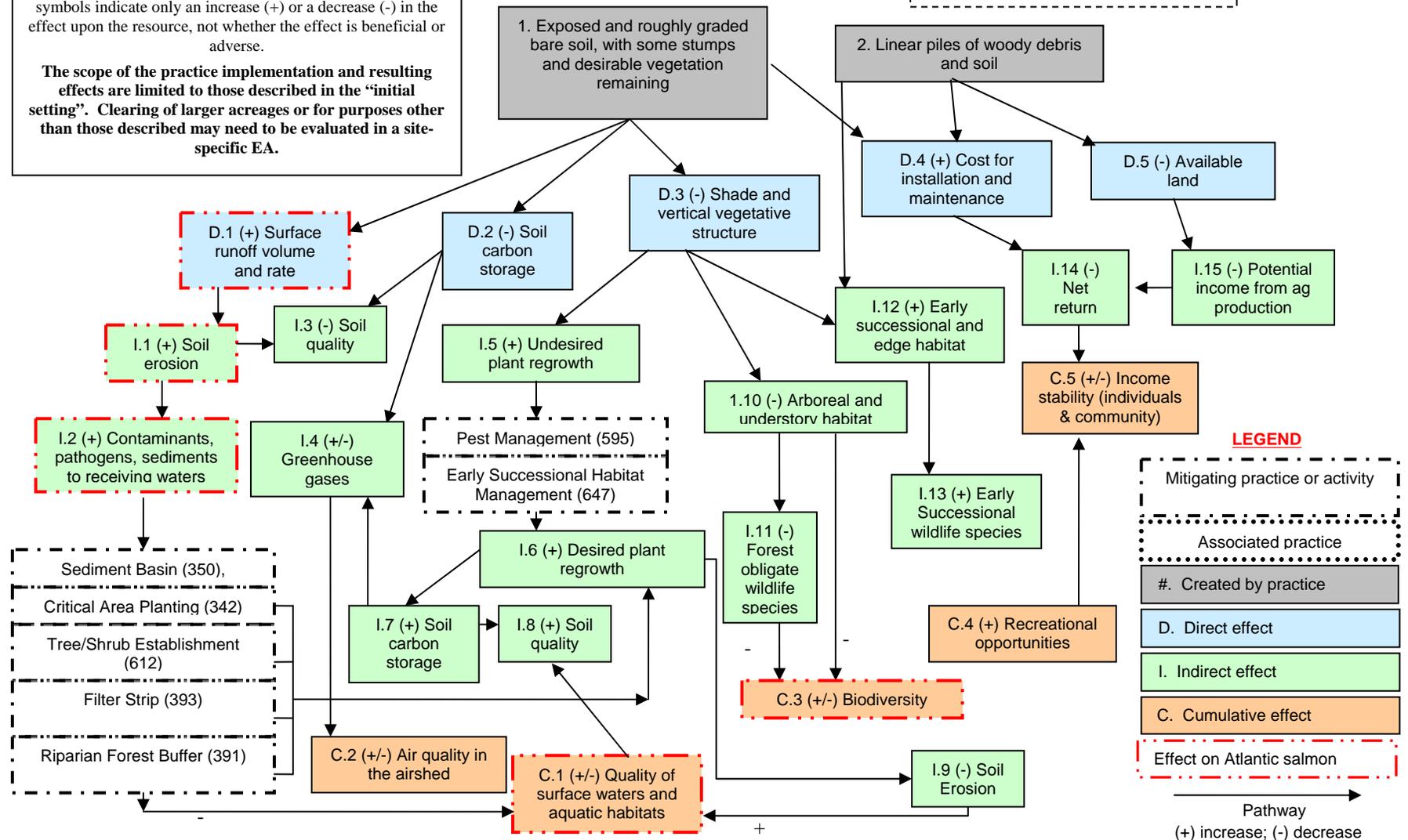
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**Notes:**  
Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

**The scope of the practice implementation and resulting effects are limited to those described in the "initial setting". Clearing of larger acreages or for purposes other than those described may need to be evaluated in a site-specific EA.**

## Land Clearing (460)

*Initial Setting: Small area, less than 5 acres in size, of 1) cutover forestland, or 2) other forested areas, where a change in the successional stage of vegetation is needed to improve habitat for wildlife*



The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowner and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.