SURFACE DRAINAGE, FIELD DITCH

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service –Practice Code 607

SURFACE DRAINAGE, FIELD DITCH

A Field Ditch installed for surface drainage is a graded ditch for collecting excess surface or subsurface water in a field.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

The purpose of this practice is to:

- Drain surface depressions;
- Collect or intercept excess surface water, such as sheet flow from natural and graded land surfaces or channel flow from furrows, and carry it to an outlet; or
- Collect excess subsurface water and carry it to an outlet.

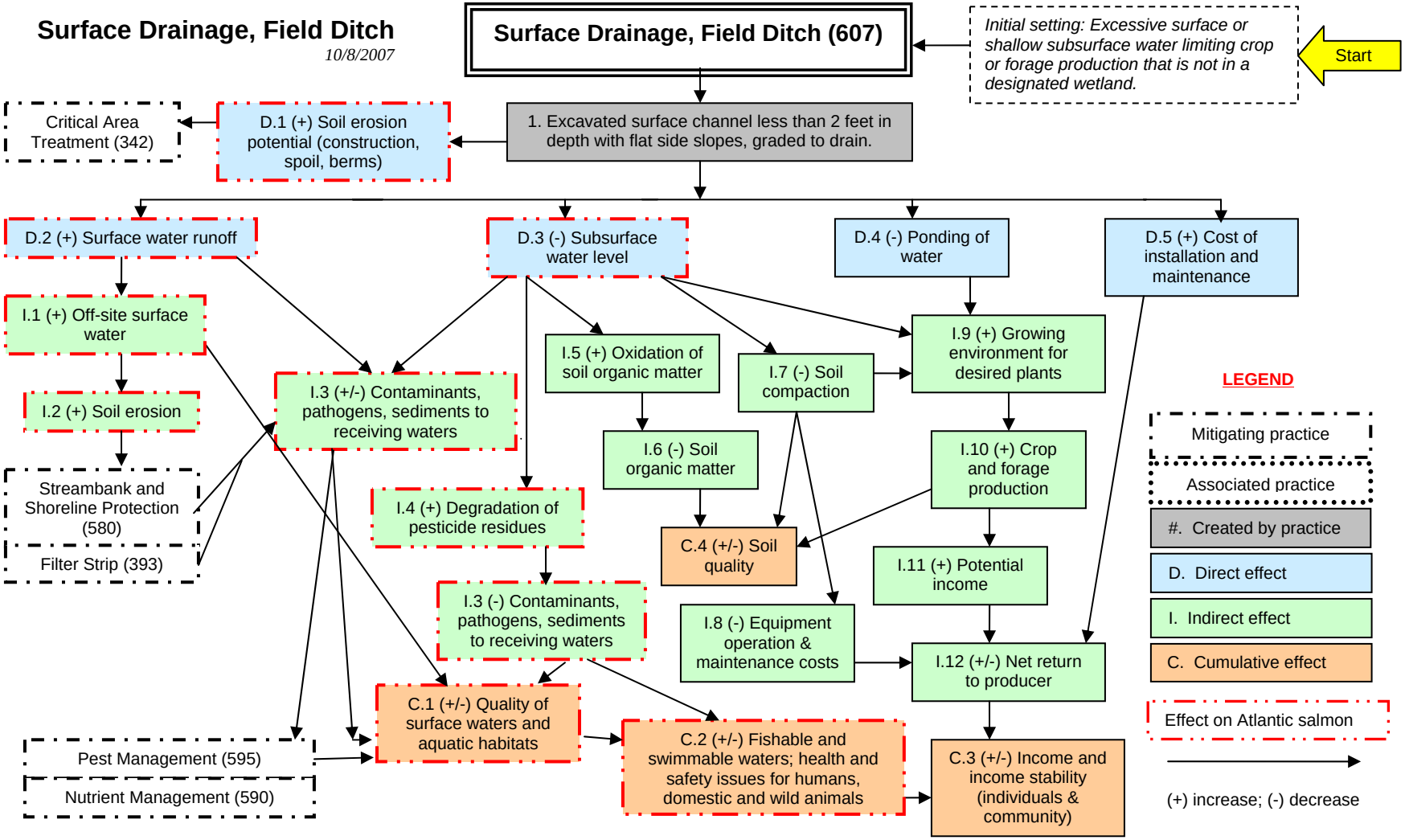
Applicable sites are flat or nearly flat and have soils that are slowly permeable or otherwise collect water. Adequate outlets for the disposal of drainage waters are required. This practice applies to small drainage ditches within a field, but not to main or lateral ditches, or grassed waterways. Compliance with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations is required.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Drainage field ditches are planned as integral parts of a drainage system for the field served. They are commonly used in Conservation Management Systems with Surface Drainage, Main or Lateral, Nutrient Management, Pest Management, Diversions, and other conservation practices.

Refer to the practice standard found 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.



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". Any drainage practice has the potential for impacts to receiving aquifers and surface waters. Larger drainage projects may need to be evaluated in a site-specific EA.

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.