Classification of Conservation Practices
Effects on Cultural Resources

The following listing of conservation practices indicates the potential of each practice to have an effect on cultural resources. The criteria for classification are the potential for the practice to adversely affect significant cultural resources. Detailed definitions for the three classification categories are as follows:

A. Conservation practices considered as undertakings. – Potential to Affect (P)
Some conservation practices have a high potential to affect cultural resources when installed according to standard NRCS criteria. Such practices are considered undertakings. *(Previously known as Ground Disturbing.)*

B. Conservation practices considered as undertakings except when nonintrusive. – Low Potential to Affect (L)
Some conservation practices that may affect cultural resources because of the potential ground disturbance during installation. For instance, practices may not be undertakings, or non-ground disturbing, if no cultural resource is present and if installation will not:

(1) Exceed the depth, extent, or kind of disturbance caused by previous cultivation(s) or;
(2) Result in ground disturbance to land that has not been previously disturbed.

However, practices are considered undertakings, or ground disturbing, if they disturb previously undisturbed, or "new" ground or involve a different type of disturbance. Some practices listed as "L" have alternative types of implementation that require specific decisions as to their effect on cultural resources; in such instances the classification would be determined on a case-by-case basis. *(Previously known as Potentially Ground Disturbing.)*

C. Conservation practices not considered as undertakings. – No Potential to Affect (N)
Some conservation practices are primarily management related and will not have any physical effects or alter a cultural resource. Some of these practices are not just benign but provide beneficial effects by affecting soil or cover stability. Such practices do not require cultural resources considerations. *(Previously known as Non-Ground Disturbing.)*

The table below lists a classification for each practice and a description of possible extents and/or components of the practice. Each practice extent may have different classifications. *Any earthfill material that is used on the operation that is for the implementation of a conservation practice, either on-site or off-site, is considered an undertaking and must be included within the Area of Potential Effect (APE).

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Code	Practice Name	Practice Extent	Rating
472	Access Control	Dependent on size of post and depth.	L
560	Access Road	Shaping, grading, subgrading, compaction, drainage and fill material*.	P
309	Agrichemical Handling Facility	Shaping, grading, subgrading, compaction, drainage, fill material* and placement of concrete.	P
311	Alley Cropping	Dependent on the type of planting method (hand or mechanical) and size of tree/shrub planted (tubling or containerized).	L
591	Amendments for the Treatment of Agricultural Wastes	Chemical or biological amendments to wastewater. Applications are limited to manual or other methods above-ground.	N
366	Anaerobic Digester	Excavation, shaping, grading, subgrading, compaction, drainage, fill material* and/or placement of concrete.	P
316	Animal Mortality Facility	Shaping, grading, subgrading, compaction, drainage, fill material* and placement of concrete.	P
575	Animal Trails and Walkways	Shaping, grading, subgrading, compaction and fill material*.	P
450	Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Erosion Control	Application of water soluble anionic polyacrylamide through existing surface and sprinkler irrigation systems.	N
397	Aquaculture Ponds	Excavation, shaping, grading and compaction.	P
310	Bedding	Establishment of ridges or furrows by plowing or blading.	P
314	Brush Management	Mechanical removal of non-herbaceous vegetation by heavy farm equipment. Chemical removal may be considered non-ground disturbing.	L
584	Channel Bed Stabilization	Heavy equipment is used to place concrete or metal structures within channel bottom.	P
326	Clearing and Snagging	Heavy equipment used to clear vegetation within channel and along banks.	P
360	Closure of Waste Impoundments	Removing waste from existing structure by pumping with irrigation equipment or other pumping equipment than land applying waste or wastewater through spreaders is non-ground disturbing. If utilizing fill material* to backfill waste impoundment ground disturbance will occur.	L
372	Combustion System Improvement	Conversion to more efficient power units in a self contained system.	N
317	Composting Facility	Shaping, grading, subgrading, compaction, drainage, fill material* and placement of concrete.	P
327	Conservation Cover	Planting permanent vegetative cover of grasses, legumes, trees or shrubs.	L
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	Dependent on the type of site preparation, planting method.	N
656	Constructed Wetland	Excavation, shaping, grading, compaction and fill material*.	P
332	Contour Buffer Strips	Dependent on grade needed to establish vegetative cover.	L
330	Contour Farming	Dependent on grade needed to establish vegetative cover.	L

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340	Cover Crop	Establishment of grasses, legumes, or small grains on using on-farm equipment on previously farmed land.	N
342	Critical Area Planting	Eroded areas that require shaping with heavy equipment before planting is considered ground disturbing. Around man-made structures, the area has been previously shaped and graded hence the planting itself is not ground-disturbing.	L
588	Cross Wind Ridges	Dependent on depth ridges and previous plow zone.	L
402	Dam	Excavation, shaping, grading, compaction and fill material*.	P
348	Dam, Diversion	Excavation, shaping, grading, compaction and fill material*.	P
324	Deep Tillage	Equipment including chisels, subsoilers or rippers that operate below any previous plow zone.	P
356	Dike	Heavy farm equipment or construction equipment is used to place soil into a berm.	P
362	Diversion	Heavy farm equipment or construction equipment is used to excavate a channel and place soil into a berm.	P
554	Drainage Water Management	The management involved in implementing drainage water management not any facilitating practices that are considered potentially ground-disturbing or ground disturbing.	N
432	Dry Hydrant	A hole drilled, dug, driven, bored, jetted or otherwise constructed for permanent pipeline.	P
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	The management involved in maintaining early successional habitat. Any facilitating practices or referred practices within the standard and specifications are considered ground-disturbing or potentially ground disturbing.	L
781	Evaporative Cooling Pads	Cooling pads are installed in existing greenhouse or livestock production structures.	N
374	Farmstead Energy Improvement	Upgrade of existing farming infrastructure including lighting, pumps, ventilation, refrigeration to increase energy efficiency.	N
592	Feed Management	Management of nutrients fed to livestock and poultry.	N
382	Fence	Dependent on size of post and depth.	L
386	Field Border	Dependent on the type of site preparation, planting method and vegetation used (grasses or shrubs).	L
393	Filter Strip	Dependent upon type of site preparation needed and planting method.	L
394	Firebreak	Creating a new firebreak by disking or plowing.	P
399	Fishpond Management	Regulating water flow, feed and forage in a pond.	N
512	Forage and Biomass Planting	Dependent on the type of site preparation, planting method.	L
511	Forage Harvest Management	The timely cutting and removal of forages involving on-farm equipment.	N
384	Forest Slash Treatment	Treatment includes above-ground methods including burning, chipping, mulching and/or removal.	N
666	Forest Stand Improvement	If species are to be removed with a chainsaw, or other hand tools and left on the ground or injected with chemicals and left standing it is considered non-ground disturbing. If trees are to be cut and/or removed with	L

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		heavy equipment than it is ground disturbing.	
655	Forest Trails and Landings	Shaping, grading, subgrading, compaction and fill material*.	P
383	Fuel Break	Mechanical removal of non-herbaceous or herbaceous vegetation by heavy farm equipment. Chemical removal may be considered non-ground disturbing.	L
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	Trenching of pipe with water control appurtenance(s). Excavation, shaping, grading, and fill material*.	P
412	Grassed Waterway	Excavation, shaping, grading and compaction.	P
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	Shaping, grading, subgrading, compaction, drainage and fill material*.	P
422	Hedgerow Planting	Dependent on the type of planting method (hand or mechanical) and vegetation used (grasses or shrubs).	L
315	Herbaceous Weed Control	Dependent on the type of removal. If non-native, invasive species are to be removed with a chainsaw, or other hand tools and left on the ground or treated with chemicals and left standing than it is non-ground disturbing. If non-native, invasive species are to be cut and/or removed with heavy equipment, it is ground-disturbing.	L
603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers	Dependent on the type of site preparation, planting method and vegetation used (grasses or shrubs).	L
595	Integrated Pest Management	Scouting, recordkeeping and variable rate application is considered non-ground disturbing.	N
320	Irrigation Canal or Lateral	Heavy farm or construction equipment is used to clear and excavate canal or lateral.	P
388	Irrigation Field Ditch	Heavy farm or construction equipment is used to clear and excavate field ditch.	P
464	Irrigation Land Leveling	Earthmoving equipment such as a fixed blade, grader or earth pan is used.	P
436	Irrigation Reservoir	Heavy farm or construction equipment is used to excavate reservoir and construct embankments. Fill material* may be needed for embankments.	P
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	Pipeline may be placed just below or within the plow zone or below the plow zone. Retrofits are non-ground disturbing.	L
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler	Pipeline is ground disturbing, but installed under 430 – Irrigation Pipeline. Retrofits are non-ground disturbing.	N
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface	Pipeline may be placed just below or within the plow zone or below the plow zone.	L
447	Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	Heavy farm or construction equipment is used to excavate reservoir and construct embankments. Fill material* may be needed for embankments. Storage tanks, depending on location, will require shaping, grading, subgrading, compaction, drainage, fill material* and placement of concrete.	P
428	Irrigation Ditch Lining	Site will already be previously disturbed through pond construction. *However, Irrigation Canal or Lateral and Irrigation Field Ditch is considered a ground-disturbing practice.*	N
430	Irrigation Pipeline	Trenches are backfilled ranging from 6 – 30 inches and depending on the pipe diameter and freezing, vehicular and/or cultivation hazards.	P

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449	Irrigation Water Management	Recordkeeping, analysis and incorporation into irrigation water schedule is considered non-ground disturbing.	N
460	Land Clearing	Use of heavy equipment, extensive site disturbance.	P
543	Land Reconstruction, Abandoned Mined Land	These sites are already or will be highly disturbed from mining activity, but reshaping may occur on undisturbed areas adjacent to existing mine.	P
544	Land Reconstruction, Currently Mined Land	These sites are already or will be highly disturbed from mining activity, but reshaping may occur on undisturbed areas adjacent to existing mine.	P
466	Land Smoothing	Smoothing out surface with on-farm equipment.	P
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	Excavation, shaping, grading and compaction.	P
779	Livestock Cooling Pond	Excavation, shaping, grading, compaction and if embankment, fill material*.	P
717	Livestock Shade Structure	Shade fabric supported with metal structure placed on surface.	N
482	Mole Drain	Dependent on the depth of the mole drain and the plow zone.	L
353	Monitoring Well	A hole drilled, dug, driven, bored, jetted or otherwise constructed.	P
484	Mulching	Composted or synthetic material is placed by hand or machine on the surface.	N
590	Nutrient Management	Recordkeeping, analysis and incorporation into nutrient application is considered non-ground disturbing.	N
500	Obstruction Removal	Use of heavy equipment for removal of structures to natural obstructions.	P
582	Open Channel	Excavation, shaping and grading.	P
772	Organic Sorbent for the Remediation of Oil-Contaminated Soils	Organic sorbents are limited to above-ground application.	L
516	Pipeline	Trenches are excavated ranging from 12 – 30 inches in depth depending on the pipe diameter and cultivation hazard.	P
378	Pond	Excavation, shaping, grading, compaction and if embankment, fill material*.	P
521	Pond Sealing or Lining A – Flexible Flexible Membrance Lining B – Soil Dispersant Treatment C – Bentonite Treatment D – Compacted Clay Treatment	Site will already be previously disturbed through pond construction. *The practice 378 - Pond is considered a ground-disturbing practice.*	N
462	Precision Land Forming	Earthmoving equipment such as a fixed blade, grader or earth pan is used.	P
338	Prescribed Burning	Will threaten above-ground structures and dense ceramics on the surface.	L
528	Prescribed Grazing	The management involved in implementing a rotational grazing schedule <u>not</u> any facilitating practices that could be considered ground-disturbing or potentially ground-disturbing.	N
533	Pumping Plant	Shaping, grading, subgrading and placement of foundation. If the pumping plant is floating, it is non-ground disturbing. All pipeline associated with the	L

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		Pumping Plant is referred to appropriate practice.	
550	Range Planting	Dependent on the type of site preparation, planting method and vegetation used.	L
566	Recreation Land Grading and Shaping	Shaping and grading.	P
345	Residue Management, Mulch Till	Tillage on previously established cropland using on-farm equipment.	N
329	Residue & Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed	Tillage on previously established cropland using on-farm equipment.	N
344	Residue Management, Seasonal	Tillage on previously established cropland using on-farm equipment.	N
643	Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	Dependent on the planting method and vegetation used.	L
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	Dependent on the type of site preparation, planting method and vegetation used.	L
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	Dependent on the type of site preparation, planting method and vegetation used.	L
558	Roof Runoff Structure	Gutters and downspouts are considered non-ground disturbing. Any underground outlet is ground disturbing.	L
367	Roofs and Covers	Metal roofs or covers and anchorage system with pipe above-ground.	N
557	Row Arrangement	Planning row direction, grade and length on previously established cropland.	N
789	Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops	Polyethylene covered structure system above-ground. Any facilitating practices or referred practices within the standard and specifications are considered ground-disturbing or potentially ground disturbing which may include 620 – Underground Outlet or 362 – Diversion, etc.	N
350	Sediment Basin	Excavation, shaping, grading, compaction and if embankment, fill material*.	P
381	Silvopasture Establishment	Dependent on the site preparation, planting method and vegetation used.	L
527	Sinkhole & Sinkhole Area Treatment	Dependent upon type of site preparation needed and if vegetatively controlled, planting method.	L
632	Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility	Shaping, grading, subgrading, compaction, drainage, fill material* and placement of concrete.	P
572	Spoil Spreading	Use of heavy equipment needed to spread surplus material.	P
574	Spring Development	Excavation, shaping, grading, compaction and if embankment, fill material*.	P
782	Storage Facility – Nursery Substrate	Shaping, grading, subgrading, compaction, drainage, fill material* and placement of concrete.	P
570	Stormwater Runoff Control	Excavation, shaping, grading, compaction and if embankment, fill material*.	N
578	Stream Crossing	Excavation, shaping, grading, compaction and fill material*.	P
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	The management involved in maintaining stream habitat. Any facilitating practices or referred practices within the standard and specifications are considered ground-disturbing or potentially ground disturbing.	L

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580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection	Shaping, grading, compaction and/or placement of stabilizing materials (i.e. rock).	P
585	Stripcropping	Establishment of grasses, legumes, or small grains on using on-farm equipment.	N
587	Structure for Water Control	Trenching of pipe with water control appurtenance(s). Excavation, shaping, grading, and fill material*.	P
606	Subsurface Drain	Trenches are excavated to accommodate pipe.	P
607	Surface Drainage, Field Ditch	On-farm equipment is used to excavate field ditch.	P
608	Surface Drainage, Main or Lateral	Heavy farm or construction equipment is used to excavate main or lateral.	P
600	Terrace	Shaping, grading, compaction and embankment.	P
568	Trails and Walkways	Shaping, grading, subgrading, compaction and fill material*.	P
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	Dependent on the planting method and vegetation used.	L
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning	Pruning trees/shrubs on previously established forestland, cropland	N
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	Dependent on the type of site preparation.	L
620	Underground Outlet	Trenches are backfilled ranging from 24-30 inches and pipe may be placed below 30 inches depending on its diameter.	P
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	May include strategic installation of avian species nest boxes or use of mechanical manipulations with heavy equipment resulting in site disturbance.	L
635	Vegetated Treatment Area	Dependent on the type of site preparation, planting method and vegetation used.	L
601	Vegetative Barrier	Dependent on the type of site preparation, planting method and vegetation used.	L
313	Waste Storage Facility	Excavation, shaping, grading, compaction and fill material*.	P
634	Waste Transfer	A conveyance system using structures or conduits involving shaping, subgrading, compaction and placement of concrete.	P
629	Waste Treatment	If utilizing chemical or biological treatments without any mechanical manipulations. If shaping, grading, subgrading, compaction, drainage, fill material* and placement of concrete for use of mechanized treatments than the practice is ground-disturbing.	L
359	Waste Treatment Lagoon	Excavation, shaping, grading, compaction and fill material*.	P
633	Waste Utilization	Collection and surface application of collected manners, bedding material and other biodegradable products safe for land application.	N
636	Water Harvesting Catchment	Shaping, grading, subgrading, compaction, drainage, fill material* and placement of concrete.	P
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	Excavation, shaping, grading, compaction and if embankment, fill material*.	P
642	Water Well	A hole drilled, dug, driven, bored, jetted or otherwise constructed.	P
614	Watering Facility	Shaping and grading required for adequate drainage.	P
351	Water Well Decommissioning	Removing old equipment and sealing a previously established well.	N
755	Well Plugging	Removing old equipment and plugging a previously	N

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		established well.	
355	Well Water Testing	Testing for physical, biological and chemical characteristics well water.	N
658	Wetland Creation	May consist of other practices such as tree planting, dike construction or placement of water control structures to accomplish objectives including backfilling of existing ditches and canals*.	P
659	Wetland Enhancement	May consist of other practices such as tree planting, dike construction or placement of water control structures to accomplish objectives including backfilling of existing ditches and canals*.	P
657	Wetland Restoration	May consist of other practices such as tree planting, dike construction or placement of water control structures to accomplish objectives including backfilling of existing ditches and canals*.	P
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Can include vegetative establishment or ground-disturbing practices that include mechanical, or heavy equipment applications.	L
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Dependent on the type of site preparation, planting method and vegetation used.	L
650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	Dependent on the type of site preparation, planting method and vegetation used.	L

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