

Land Reclamation, Currently Mined Land PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service: Practice Code 544



DEFINITION

Reclamation of Currently Mined land is restoring the land to an acceptable form suitable for the planned use of the land.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

The purposes of this practice are to:

- Prevent permanent damage to the natural resources on areas affected by mining activity.
- Restore the productivity of soil to pre-mining conditions.
- Control erosion, maintain the aesthetics of the area, and provide post-mining economic use of the land.

Detailed USDA soil surveys are necessary to planners in developing alternatives to restore these areas. The conservation and reclamation planning involves a determination of available top soil or reconstruction material, storage and segregation of the soil, access roads, needed water impoundments, placement and use of overburden and spoil material, analysis of the construction material, revegetation requirements,

and other related activities necessary to properly restore the disturbed areas.

The plan will provide specific guidance concerning the removal and use of soil material for reconstruction of the site.

COMMONLY ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

- Nutrient Management (590)
- Pest Management (595)
- Land Reclamation – Abandoned Mine Land (543)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Obstruction Removal (500)

Refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide (www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg) and associated specifications and job sheets for further information.

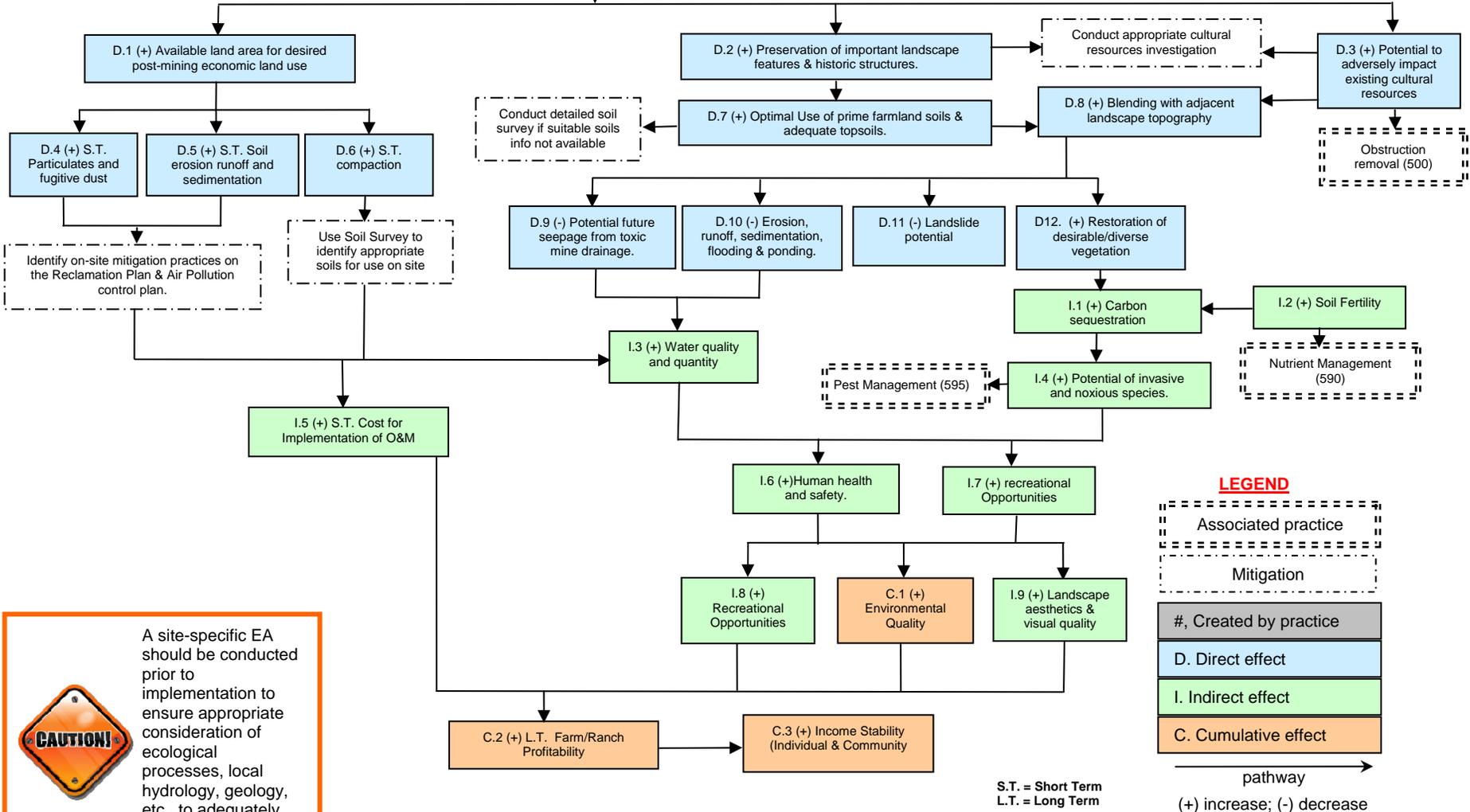
Land Reclamation – Currently Mined Land (544)

Initial Setting: Currently mined land to identify, remove, stockpile, and replace soil materials and re-vegetate. Also applies to nearby non-mined area adversely impacted by mining activities.



3/20/2009

1. Preparation of currently mined land surface to prevent negative resource impacts and encourage post-mining restoration to planned uses.



CAUTION!
A site-specific EA should be conducted prior to implementation to ensure appropriate consideration of ecological processes, local hydrology, geology, etc., to adequately address the potential of significant adverse impacts.

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