

# OPEN CHANNEL

## PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service – Practice Code 582



### OPEN CHANNEL

Open channel is the construction or improvement of a channel, either natural or artificial, in which water flows with a free surface.

### PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice is designed to provide discharge capacity required for flood prevention, drainage, or other authorized water management purposes. It is used in New England primarily for by-pass canals to protect streams that flow through cranberry bogs. Stream flow is temporarily diverted around the bog through a series of dikes, water control structures and open channel so the bog can be managed as a closed system, capable of containing pesticides and other agri-chemicals for their required holding times for water pollution control.

This practice applies to earthen channel construction or modification where stability requirements can be met, an adequate outlet for

the modified channel reach is available for discharge by gravity flow or pumping, and excavation or other channel work does not cause significant erosion, flooding or sedimentation. The impact of the proposed construction on water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, forest resources, and quality of the landscape must be evaluated, and the techniques and measures necessary to overcome any undesirable effects must be included as part of the planned work,

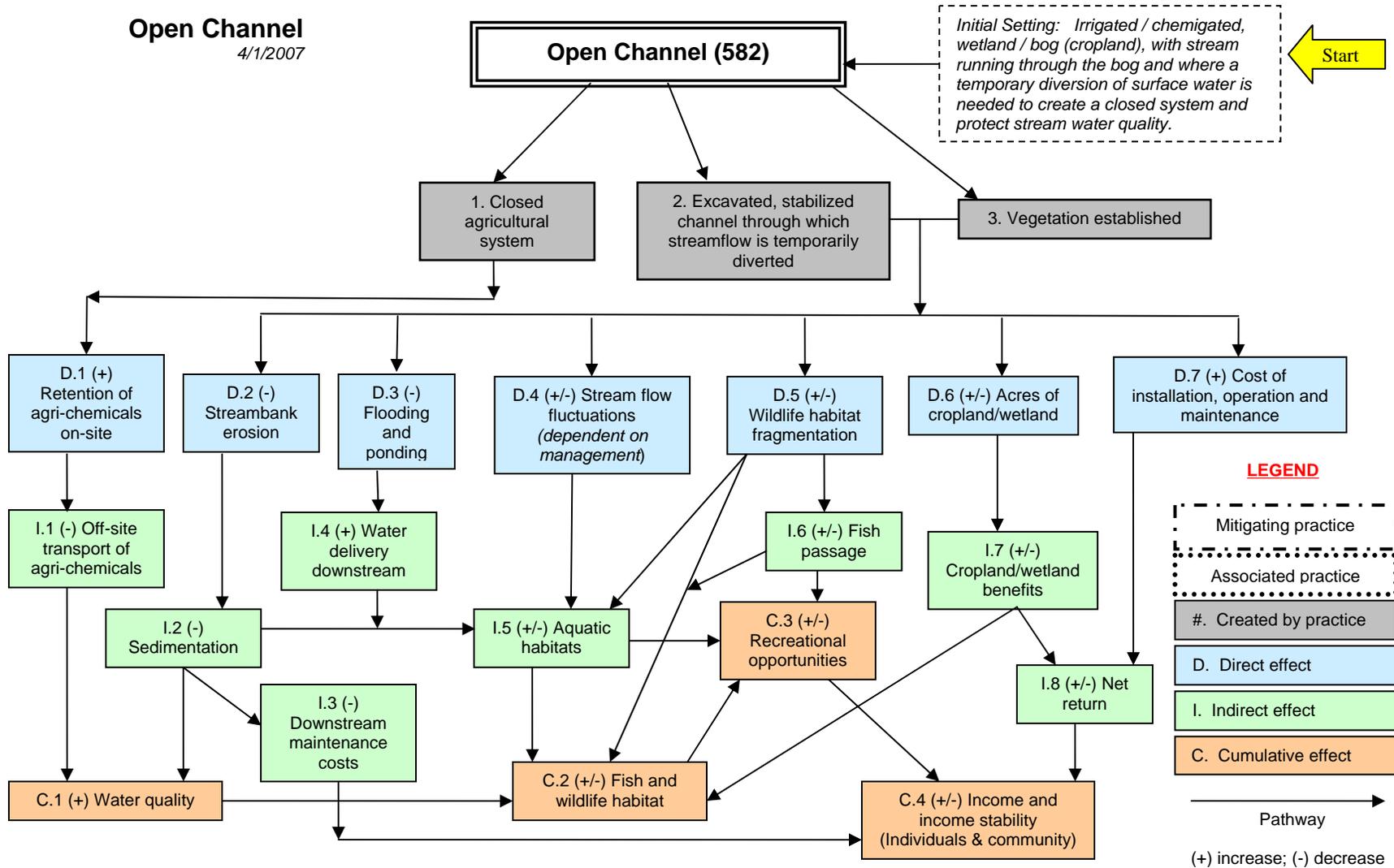
### COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

The practice is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with Dikes and Structures for Water Control.

Refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and 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 landowners 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". Effects are described for temporary diversion of surface waters only. Creation of an Open Channel for permanent stream relocation 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 landowners 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.