SUBSURFACE DRAIN

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - Practice Code 606

SUBSURFACE DRAIN

A subsurface drain is a conduit, such as corrugated plastic tubing, tile, or pipe, installed beneath the ground surface to collect and/or convey drainage water.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

The purpose of a subsurface drain is to:

- Improve the environment for vegetation;
- Reduce erosion;
- Improve water quality;
- Regulate ground water and water table flows;
- Collect ground water for beneficial uses;
- Remove water from heavy use areas such as recreation areas, or around buildings; and/or
- Regulate water to control health hazards caused by pests.

Subsurface drainage is used in areas having a high water table where the benefits of lowering the water level are worth the expense. The practice also applies to areas that will benefit from controlling ground water and/or surface runoff. The soil must meet certain suitability requirements and an adequate outlet must be available to assure the drain will function properly.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

A Subsurface Drain is commonly applied as part of a Conservation Management System with Pest Management, Nutrient Management, Surface Drain (Main or Lateral), Underground Outlet, Critical Area Treatment, Drainage Water Management, and other conservation practices.

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.

Subsurface Drain

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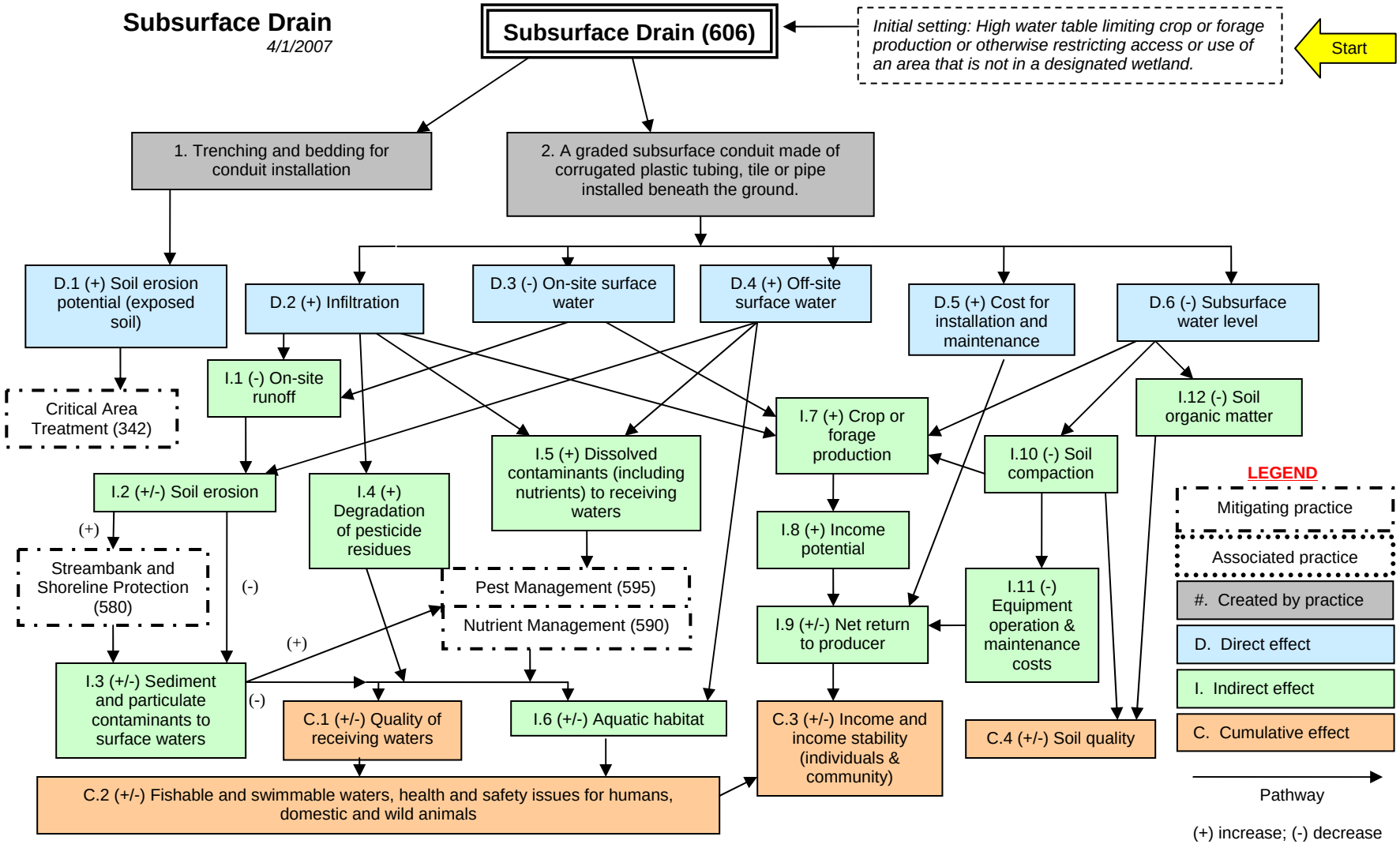

Notes:

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". Any drainage practice has the potential for impacts to receiving aquifers and surface waters. Large 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.