

ACCESS ROAD

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service – Practice Code 560



ACCESS ROAD

Access roads are travel-ways for equipment and vehicles constructed as part of a conservation plan.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Access roads are installed to provide a fixed route for vehicular travel for resource management activities while protecting the soil, water, air, fish, wildlife and other adjacent natural resources. Access roads range from seasonal use roads, designed for low speed and rough driving conditions, to all-weather roads heavily used by the public and designed with safety as a high priority.

Access roads are designed to serve the enterprise or planned use with the expected vehicular or equipment traffic. The type of vehicle or equipment, speed, loads, soil, climatic, and other conditions under which

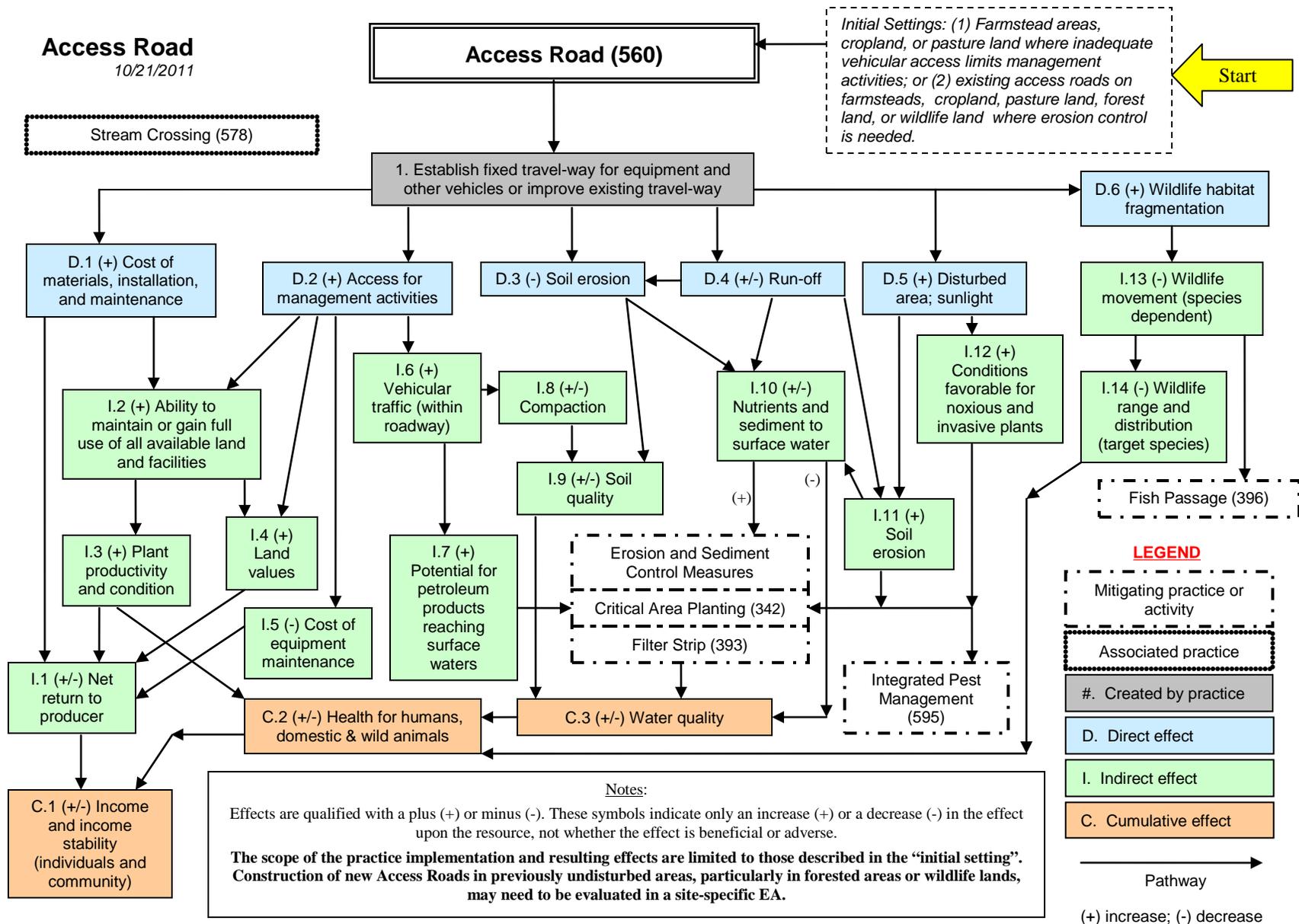
vehicles and equipment are expected to operate must be considered. Planned work must also comply with all Federal, state and local laws and regulations. Where general public use is anticipated, roads must be designed to meet applicable Federal, state and local criteria.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Access roads are applied as part of Conservation Management Systems on various land uses, including headquarters areas, cropland, pasture, and forest land. The practices associated with access roads will vary by land use but may include Stream Crossings, Critical Area Planting, Fish Passage, and various practices associated with runoff and erosion control.

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 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.



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.