

ANIMAL TRAILS AND WALKWAYS

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - Practice code 575



ANIMAL TRAILS AND WALKWAYS

Animal trails and walkways provide a travel lane through difficult or ecologically sensitive terrain.

PRACTICE INFORMATION This practice is installed on grazing lands as part of a conservation plan to accomplish one or more of the following:

1. Improve access to forage, water and /or shelter.
2. Improve grazing efficiency and distribution.
3. Divert travel away from ecologically sensitive and/or erosive sites.

Trails or walkways are often needed where animal movement is impeded or restricted because of steep rough terrain, rock outcrops, dense vegetation, water, etc.

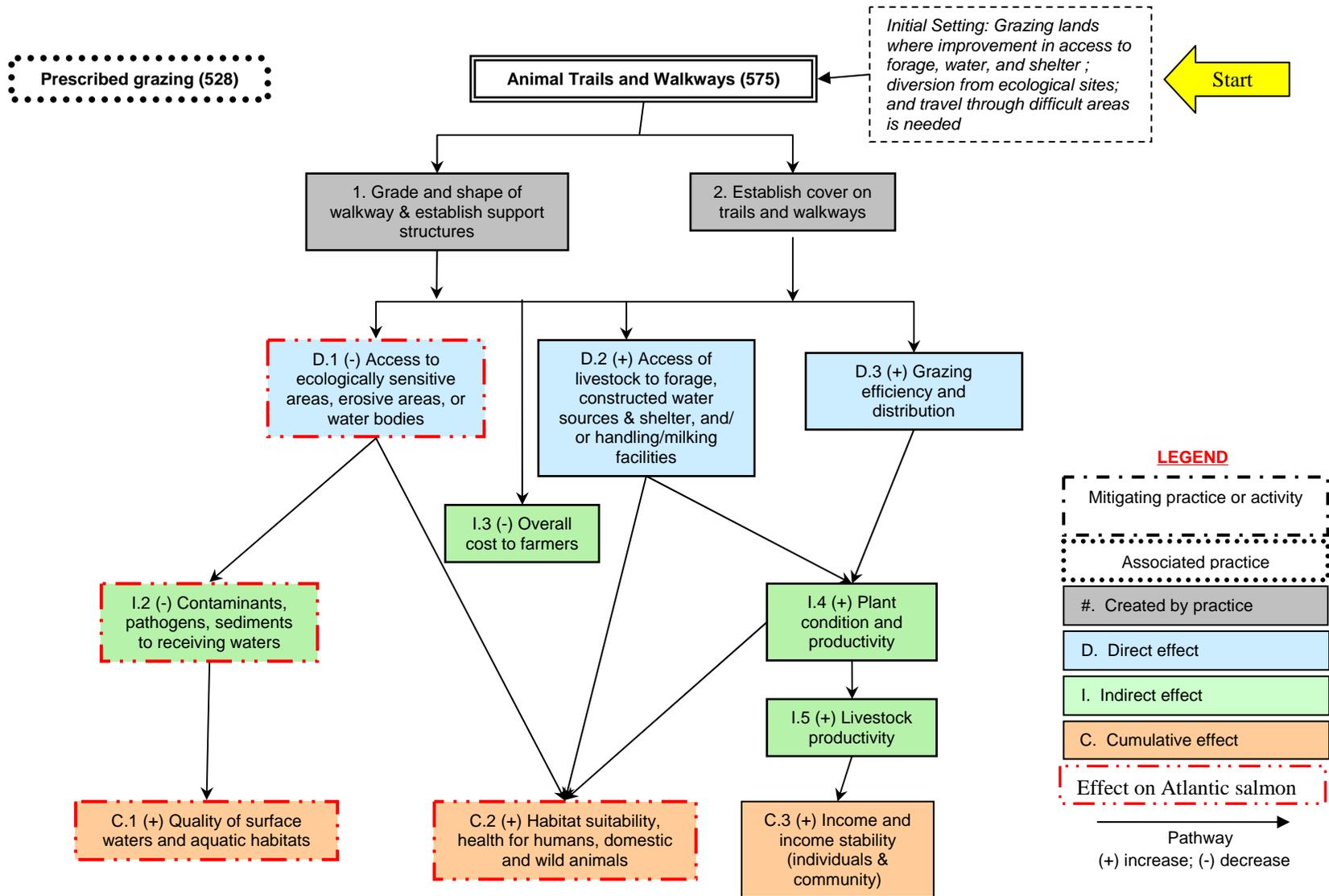
Detailed design criteria is available on the NRCS national practice standard. To familiarize you with the general concept, the following practice criteria is provided:

1. The structures will be wide enough for livestock movement and vehicles.
2. Soil erosion will be minimized during construction.
3. Supporting structures for water management will be provided.
4. Walkways will be constructed based on normal high water levels.
5. Walkway borrow pits will be staggered to provide access to grazing areas on either side of the structure.

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. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

Animal Trails and Walkways Practice

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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 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.