Dam

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 402

DEFINITION

A dam is an artificial barrier that can impound water for one or more beneficial purposes.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

One purpose of a dam is to temporarily store runoff from heavy storms, reducing flood damage downstream by controlling the release rate of flood flows. These structures may also permit the use of more economical channel modifications and other downstream works of improvement.

This practice requires a very thorough site investigation to assure the following:

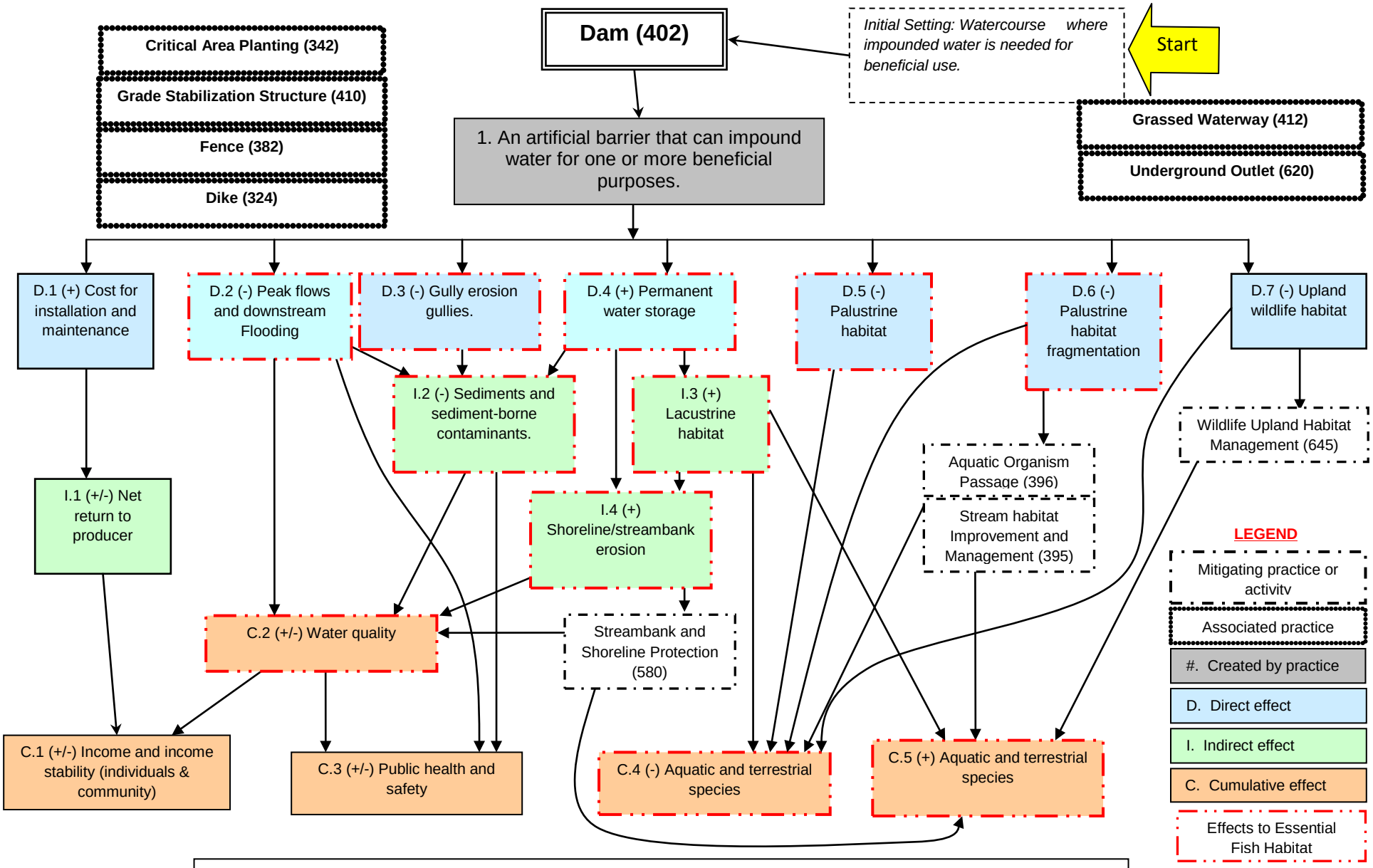
- Topographic, geologic, and soil conditions are satisfactory for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the structure (s).
- Conservation treatment above the proposed structure is satisfactory so that sediments in the runoff will not be excessive.
- Environmental impacts are accounted for in the overall plan.

Dams constructed as floodwater retarding structures are normally part of a watershed plan sponsored by an organized group of local people with a vested interest in the natural resources of a specific watershed.

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

Maine
August 2013

Dam



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." Construction of new access roads in previously undisturbed areas, particularly in forested areas or wildlife lands, may need to be evaluated in a site-specific EA.