Maine
August 2013

DAM, DIVERSION

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 348

DEFINITION

A diversion dam is a structure built to divert all or part of the water from a watercourse into another watercourse for conservation purposes.

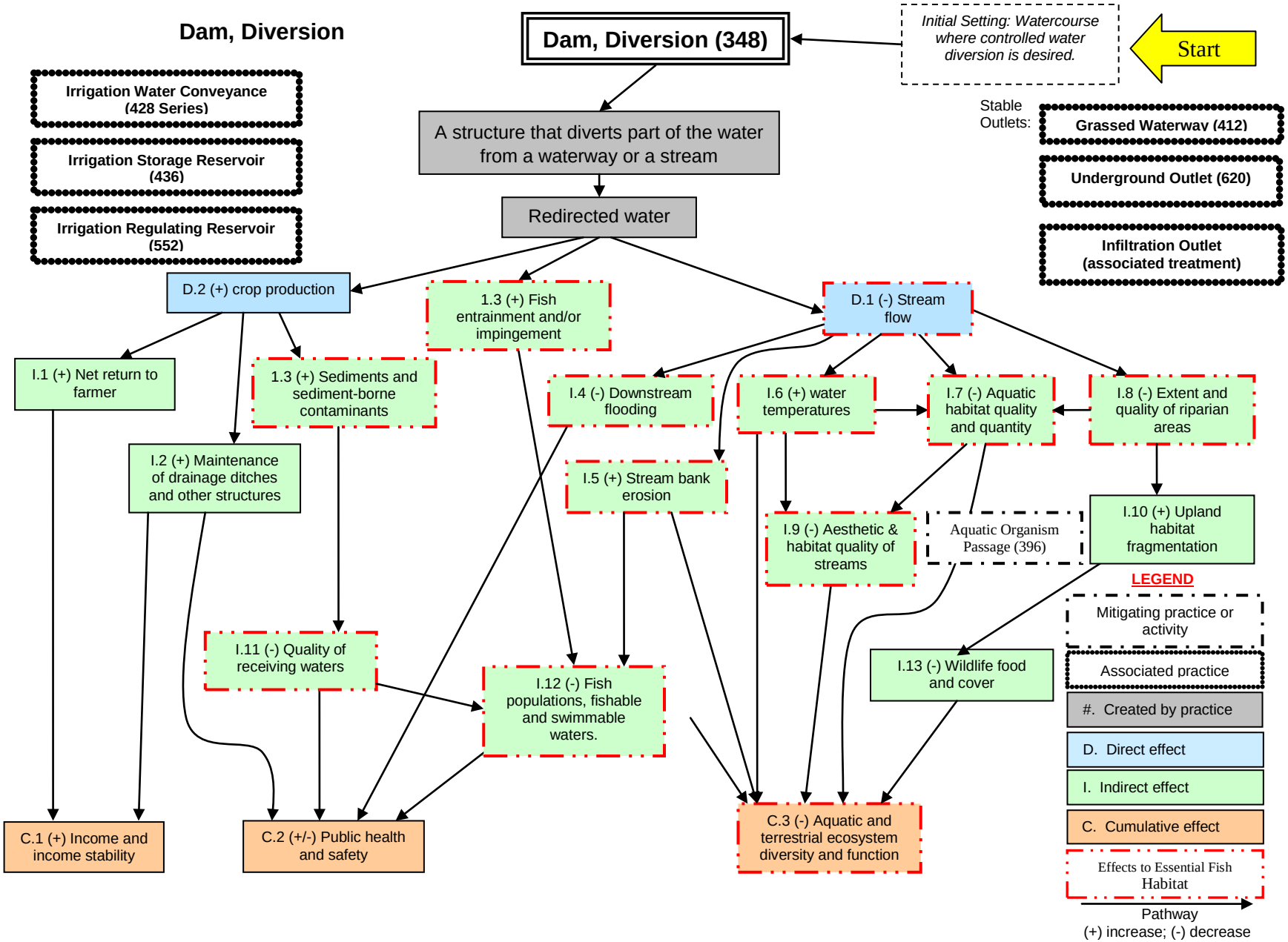
PRACTICE INFORMATION

A diversion dam is designed to divert water from a watercourse such as a waterway or stream into another watercourse, irrigation canal, stream, water-spreading system, or another waterway.

The purpose of the practice is to improve the beneficial use of water, or divert damaging flows to another watercourse that is more stable or otherwise more capable of reducing damage. One of the more common uses of this practice is
diverting water from a stream or river into a canal used for irrigation purposes.

The impacts of a proposed diversion dam are evaluated to assure water quality, fish and wildlife, aesthetics, and other environmental concerns are considered in the design and layout of the structure (s). The practice is also carefully evaluated to assure compliance with state and local laws concerning natural watercourses.

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



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.