

FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service – Practice Code 666



FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT

Forest Stand Improvement involves the manipulation of forest species composition, stand structure and stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and/or understory vegetation.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice is applied on forest land where competing vegetation hinders development and stocking of preferred tree and understory species. Preferred species are retained to achieve the intended purpose. The primary purpose of Forest Stand Improvement is to increase the quantity and quality of the forest products that can be realized in a stand through silvicultural activities such as thinning, pruning or the removal of undesirable species. Such activities enable the harvesting of forest products and help stand regeneration. The practice can also improve forest health and help to restore natural plant communities.

Implementation of the practice requires that the harvest-regeneration strategy will be identified for all planned forest improvements. This is best done with a qualified/certified forester.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Forest Stand Improvement is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with the following practices:

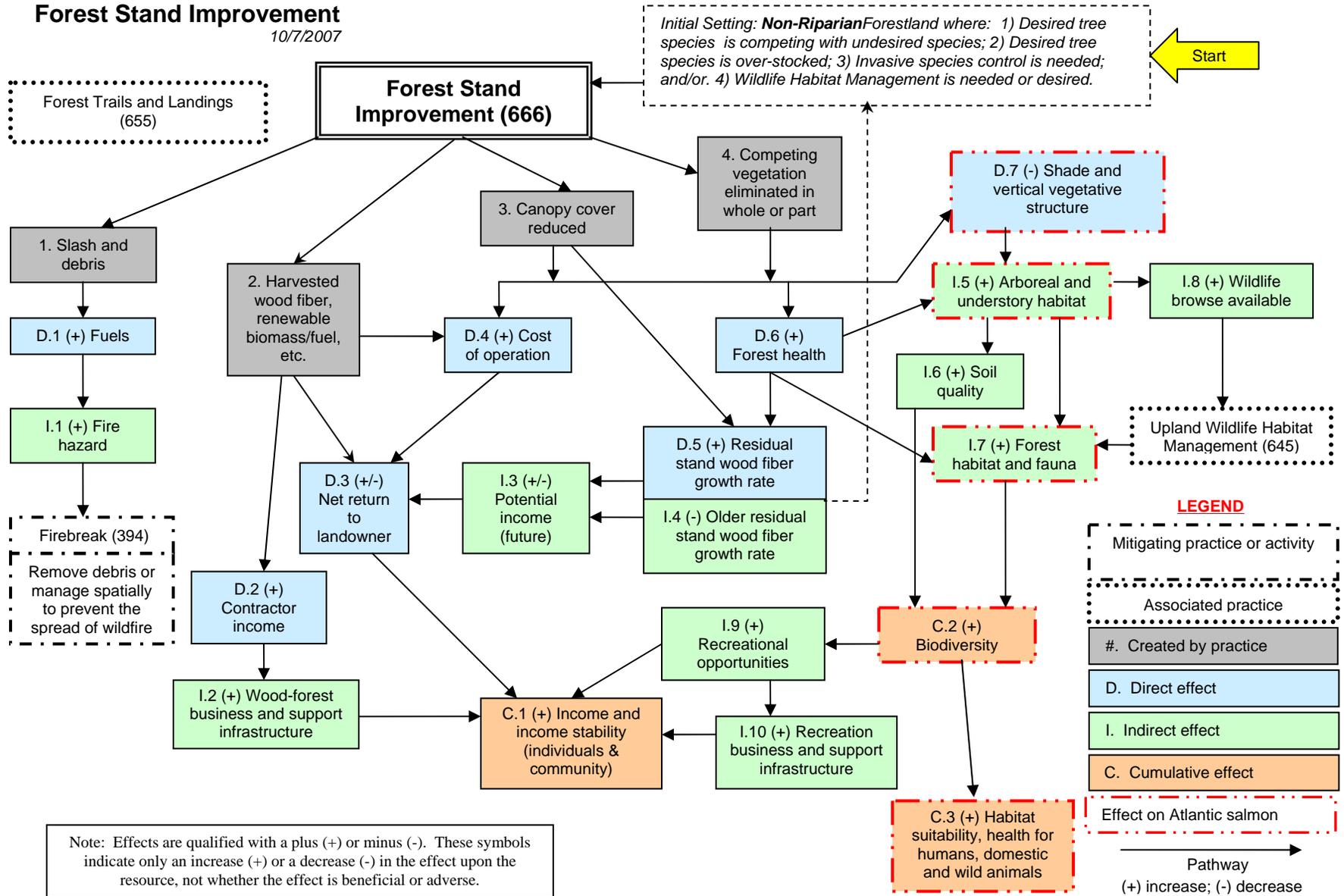
- Forest Trails and Landings,
- Firebreak,
- Early Successional Habitat Development and Management,
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.

Refer to the practice standard in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and design criteria for more 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.

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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 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.