Maine
August 2013

SPRING DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 574

SPRING DEVELOPMENT

Spring development is improving springs and/or seeps by excavating, cleaning, capping, or providing collection and storage facilities.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

The purpose of spring development is to improve distribution of water for livestock, recreation, and wildlife. The practice also applies to irrigation when the quantity and quality of water are suitable for irrigating crops. Spring development involves cleaning and/or enlarging the discharge opening of the spring. Other appurtenances might be needed such as a collection device to channel the water and a spring box to provide a small amount of storage, as well as a sediment trap and connection point for an outlet pipe(s). The outlet pipe(s) may then lead to a storage facility such as a trough or tank.

Prior to spring development, an investigation of site conditions must be completed including ecological functions and potential losses to these functions that may occur. Consideration should be given to how diversion of water from the spring may affect streamflow in the watershed and whether the spring can be developed to preserve conditions that support unique habitats in the landscape.

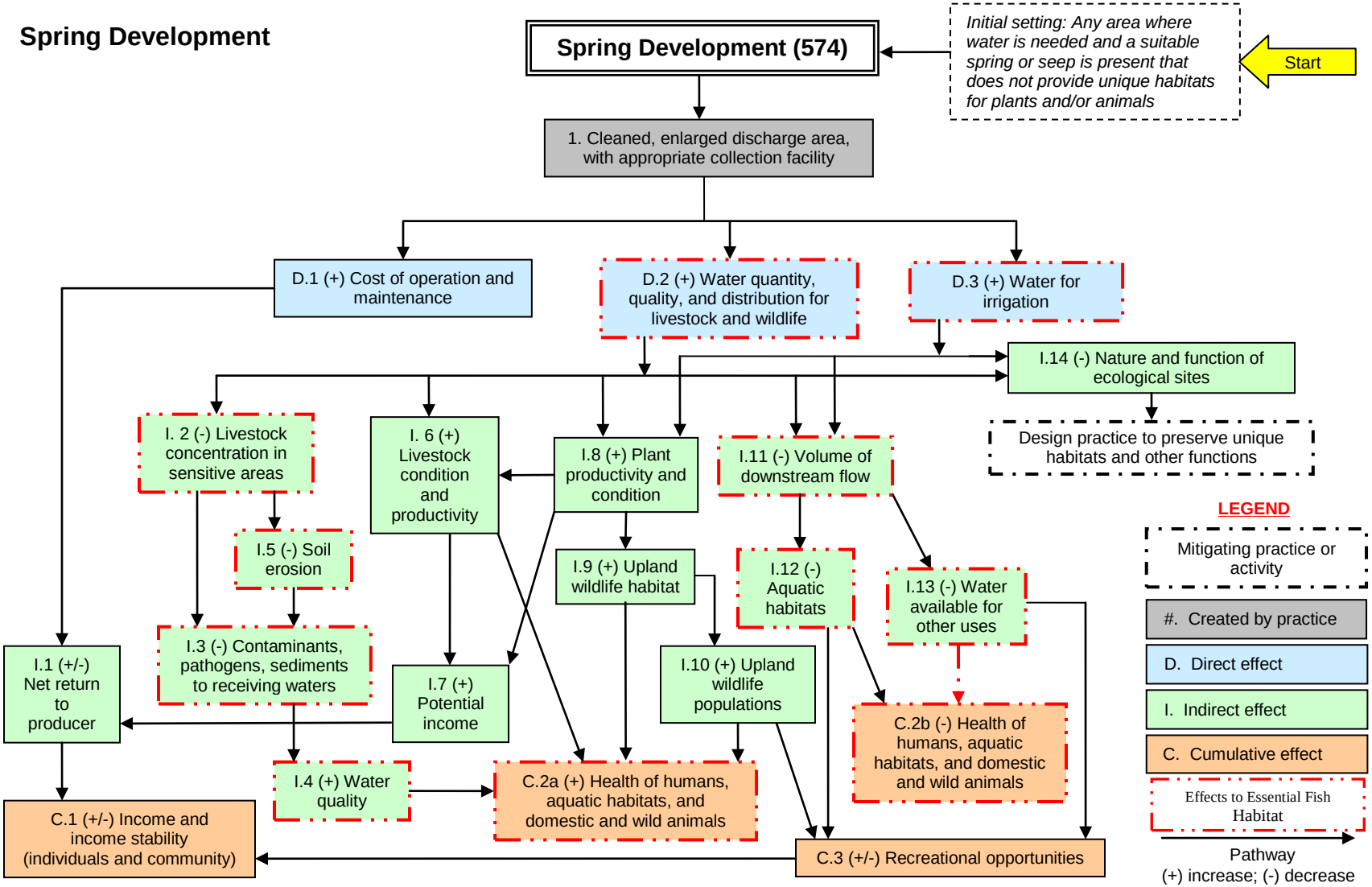
COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Spring Development is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with practices such as Watering Facility (614), Pipeline (516), Irrigation Water Management (449), and Critical Area Planting (342).

For further information, refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and job sheets.

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.

Spring Development



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." If unique habitats supporting plant and animal species exist in a spring to be developed, particularly where there have been numerous disruptions of similar habitats across the landscape, impacts upon the habitat and options for development to preserve unique ecological functions may need to be evaluated in a site-specific EA. Various regulations and policies for the protection of wetlands should also be considered.

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.