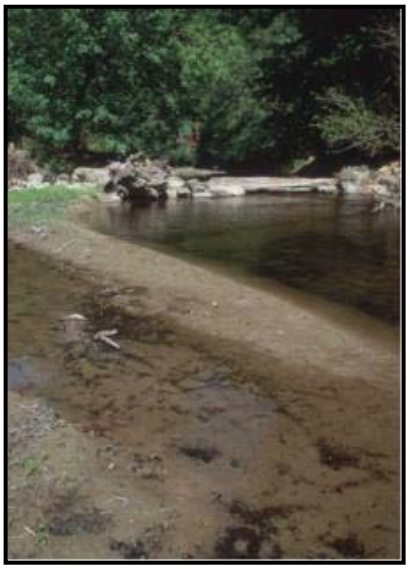
STREAM HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AND MANAGEMENT

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - Practice Code 395



STREAM HABITAT IMPROVEMENT AND MANAGEMENT

Stream Habitat Improvement and Management is the maintenance, improvement, and restoration of physical, chemical, and biological functions of a stream.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice applies to streams and their adjoining backwaters, floodplains, associated wetlands and riparian areas where geomorphic conditions or habitat deficiencies limit survival, growth, diversity, and/or reproduction of aquatic species.

The purposes of this practice include providing:

- Suitable habitat for desired aquatic species and diverse aquatic communities; and
- Stream channel and associated riparian conditions that maintain ecological processes and connections of diverse stream habitat types important to aquatic species.

Planned stream habitat improvements will be based on an assessment of watershed, stream and riparian conditions. Riparian corridors adjoining the stream must be managed as well as the in-stream habitat. Establishment of an ecologically self-sustaining stream-riparian system consistent with the watershed conditions and geomorphic setting should be emphasized.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Stream Habitat Improvement and Management is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with practices such as Riparian Forest Buffer, Fish Passage, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Animal Trails and Walkways, Fence, and Access Control.

Refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated Job Sheets for further 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 landowner 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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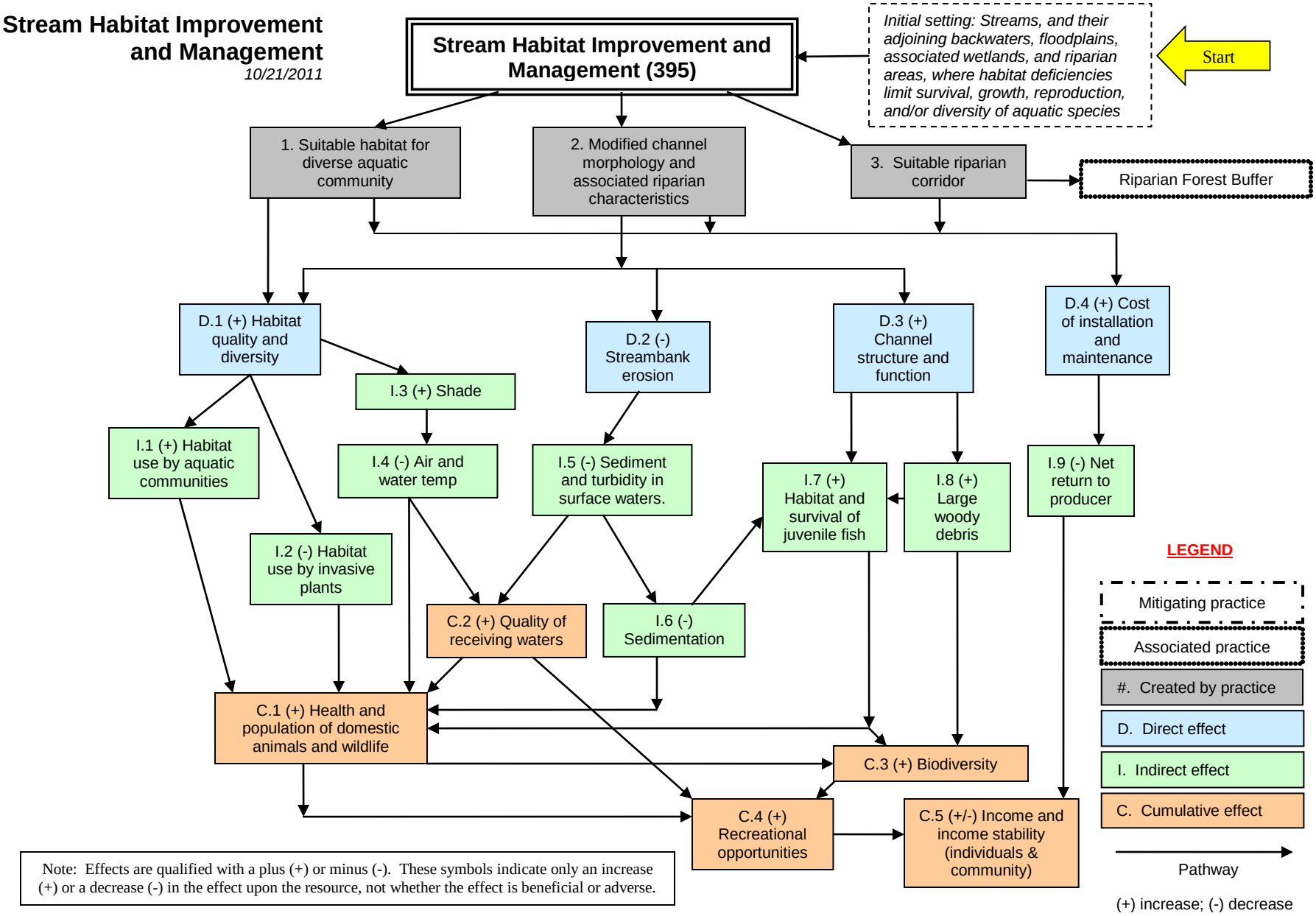

Note: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The 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 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.