Maine
August 2013

STRUCTURE FOR WATER CONTROL

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 587

STRUCTURE FOR WATER CONTROL

A structure for water control is placed in irrigation, drainage, or other water management systems to convey water, control the direction or rate of flow, or maintain water surface elevation.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Structures for water control are used to control the stage, discharge, distribution, delivery, or direction of flow of water in open channels or water use areas. They are also used for water quality control, such as sediment reduction or temperature regulation, or for protection of fish and wildlife and other natural resources.

Water control structures are used as outlets on cranberry bogs and irrigation pits to manage the level of water for harvesting, winter flooding, trash removal, pest control or other purposes. When used to control the division of chemigation water, this practice will reduce the amount of suspended chemicals attached to organic material and soil particles entering surface waters. It allows for the biological treatment of dissolved chemicals when water is detained in the system for the required holding period. Chemicals that remain in the system may be bound up in the soil organic matter; however, soils that are low in organic matter may have a tendency to allow for the leaching of dissolved chemicals into the ground water.

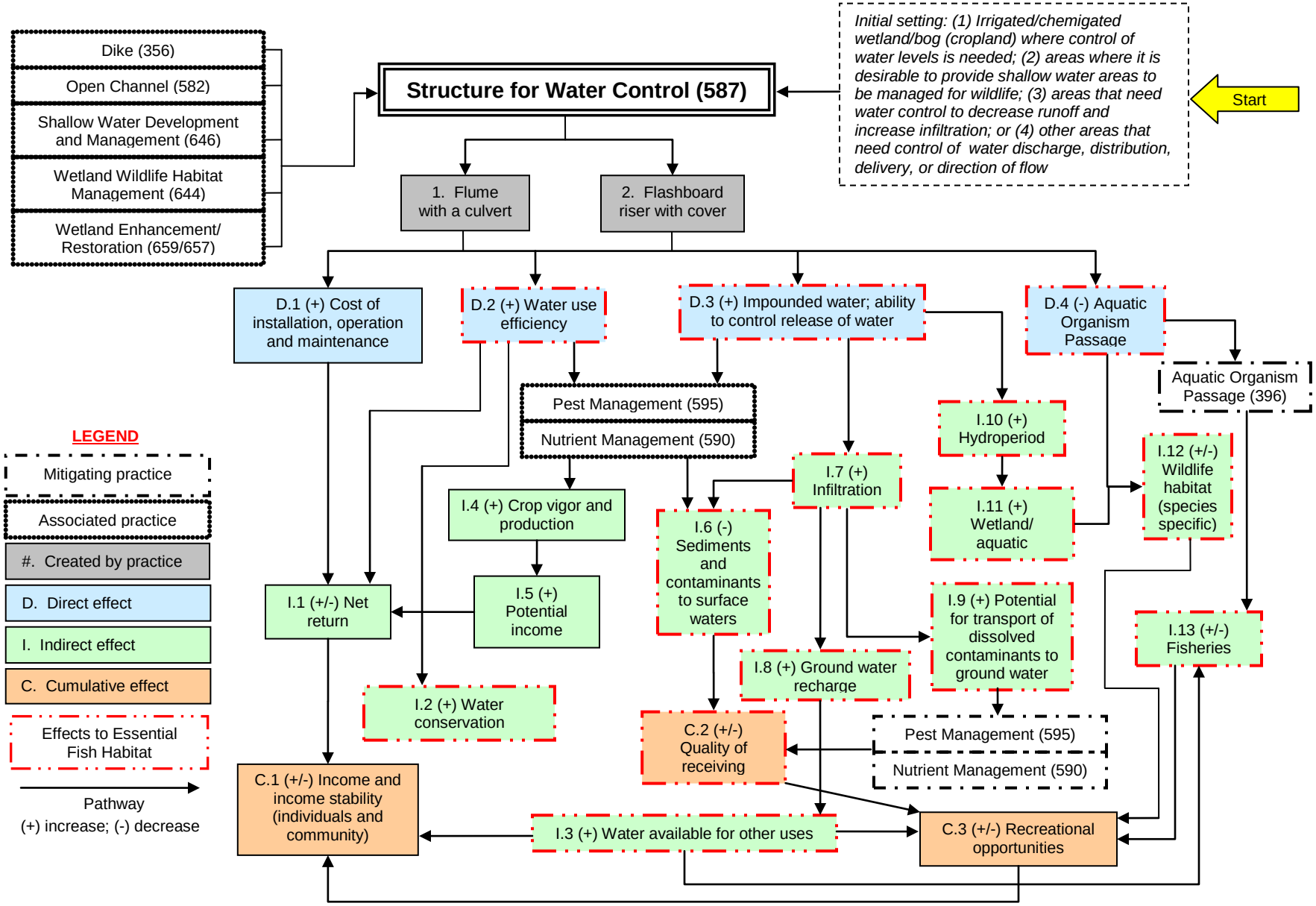
COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Structure for Water Control is commonly used in Conservation Management Systems with Dike (356), Open Channel (582), Land Smoothing (466), Shallow Water Development and Management (646), Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644), Wetland Enhancement (659), or Wetland Restoration (657).

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.

Structure for Water Control



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 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.