VEGETATED TREATMENT AREA

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service –Practice Code 635

VEGETATED TREATMENT AREA

A Vegetated Treatment Area is a component of an agricultural waste management system consisting of a strip or area of herbaceous vegetation for the treatment of contaminated runoff.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice is used to improve water quality by reducing loading of nutrients, organics, pathogens, and other contaminants associated with animal manure and other wastes and wastewater by treating agricultural wastewater and runoff from livestock holding areas. More than one treatment strip may be needed.

In order for the vegetated treatment area to work properly, discharge to and through it must be sheet flow. Some means, such as a ditch, curb, or gated pipe, is provided to disperse concentrated flow and ensure sheet flow across the width of the treatment strip. Permanent herbaceous vegetation, consisting of a single species or a mixture of grasses, legumes and/or other forbs adapted to the soil and climate, is established in the treatment strip. The Vegetated Treatment Area must receive regular maintenance for it to operate as planned.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

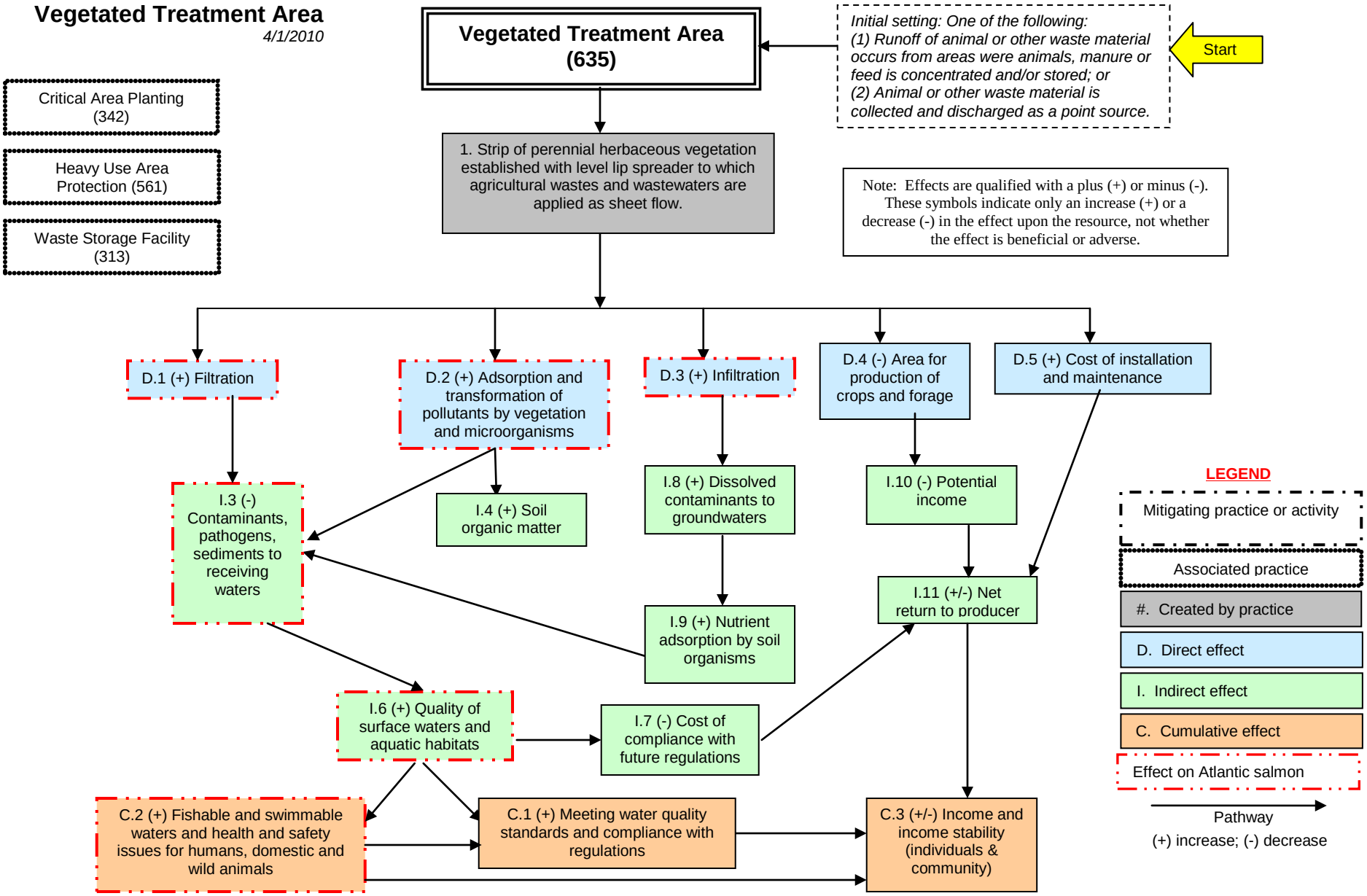
A Vegetated Treatment Area is commonly planned as part of Conservation Management System with a Waste Storage Facility, Waste Utilization, Heavy Use Area Protection, Critical Area Planting, Nutrient Management, Solid/Liquid Separation Facility and other conservation practices.

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.

Vegetated Treatment Area

4/1/2010



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.