

RIPARIAN HERBACEOUS COVER

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 390



RIPARIAN HERBACEOUS COVER

Riparian herbaceous cover is establishment and maintenance of grasses, grass-like plants, and forbs that are tolerant of intermittent flooding or saturated soils and that are established or managed in the transitional zone between terrestrial and aquatic habitats.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice is used on lands along water courses or at the boundary of water bodies or wetlands where the natural or desired plant community is dominated by herbaceous vegetation; the ecosystem has been disturbed and the natural plant community is missing, changed, or has been converted to agricultural crops, lawns, or other high maintenance vegetation; or invasive species dominate.

The purposes of this practice include:

- Provision of food, shelter, shading substrate, access to adjacent habitats
- Nursery habitat and pathways for movement by resident and nonresident

aquatic, semi-aquatic, and terrestrial organisms

- Improvement and protection of water quality
- Stabilization of streambanks and shorelines
- Increased net carbon storage in the biomass and soil

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

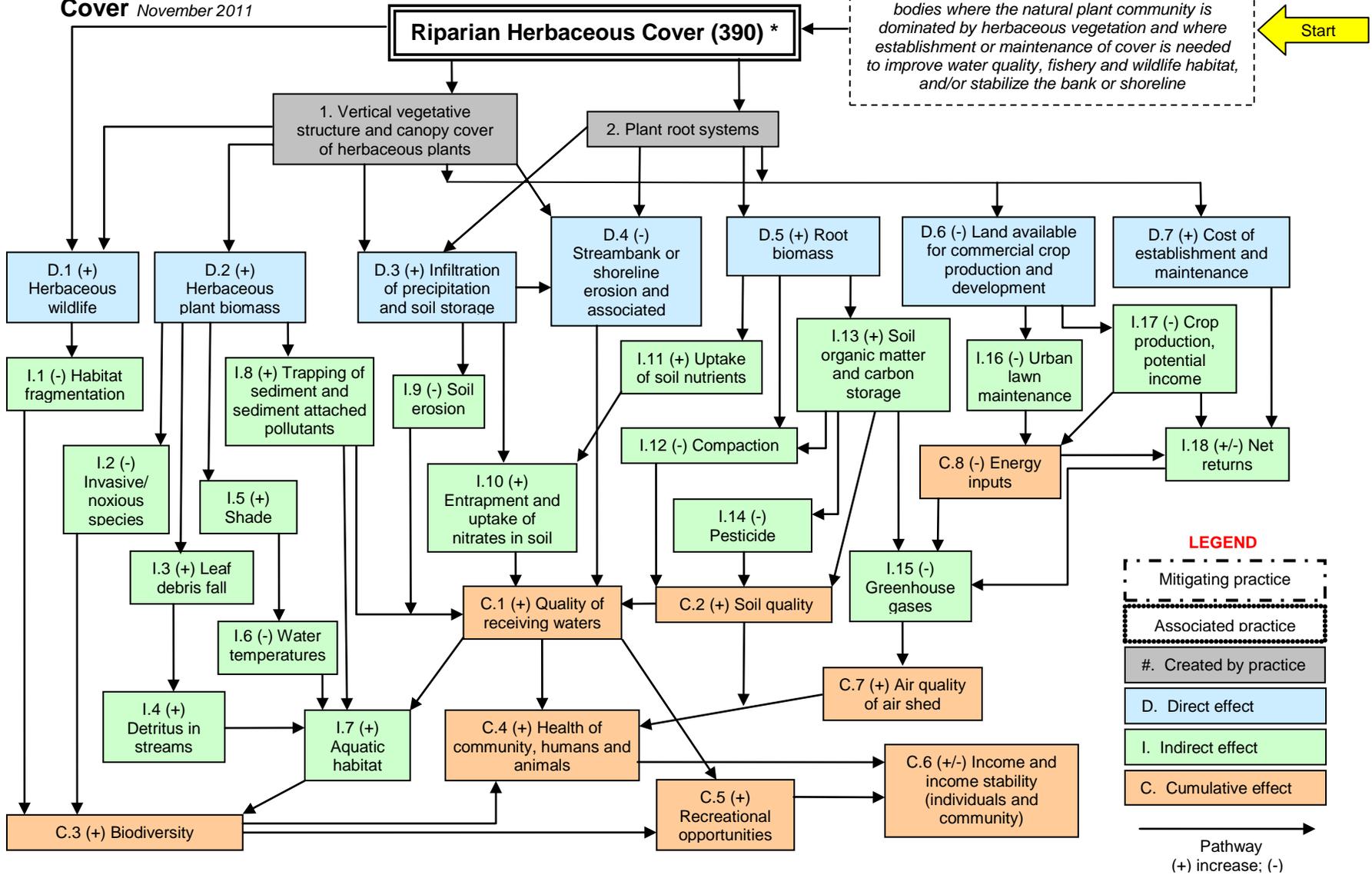
Riparian Herbaceous Cover is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with other practices such as Conservation Cover (327), Fence (382), Use Exclusion (472), Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644), Prescribed Grazing (528), Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580), Stream Crossing (578), and Watering Facility (614).

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.

*Effects start at establishment and continue through to fully functional condition

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.