

WETLAND ENHANCEMENT

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 659



WETLAND ENHANCEMENT

Wetland Enhancement is the rehabilitation or re-establishment of a degraded wetland, and/or the modification of an existing wetland to favor specific wetland functions.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice applies on any degraded or non-degraded existing wetland where the objective is specifically to enhance selected wetland functions. This practice is not used on degraded wetlands when the soils, hydrology, vegetative community, and biological habitat are returned to original conditions or where a wetland is created on a site that historically was not a wetland.

The purpose of this practice is to provide specific wetland conditions by:

- Hydrologic enhancement (depth duration and season of inundation, and/or duration and season of soil saturation)

and/or

- Vegetative enhancement (including the removal of undesired species, and/or seeding or planting of desired species).

Native vegetative species should be used in the enhancement whenever possible. Manipulation of water levels can be used to control unwanted vegetation. Haying or grazing can also be used to manage vegetation.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Wetland Enhancement is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with the following practices: Dike (356), Structure for Water Control (587), Fence (382), Fish Passage (396), Pipeline (516), Pond (378), and Use Exclusion (472).

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

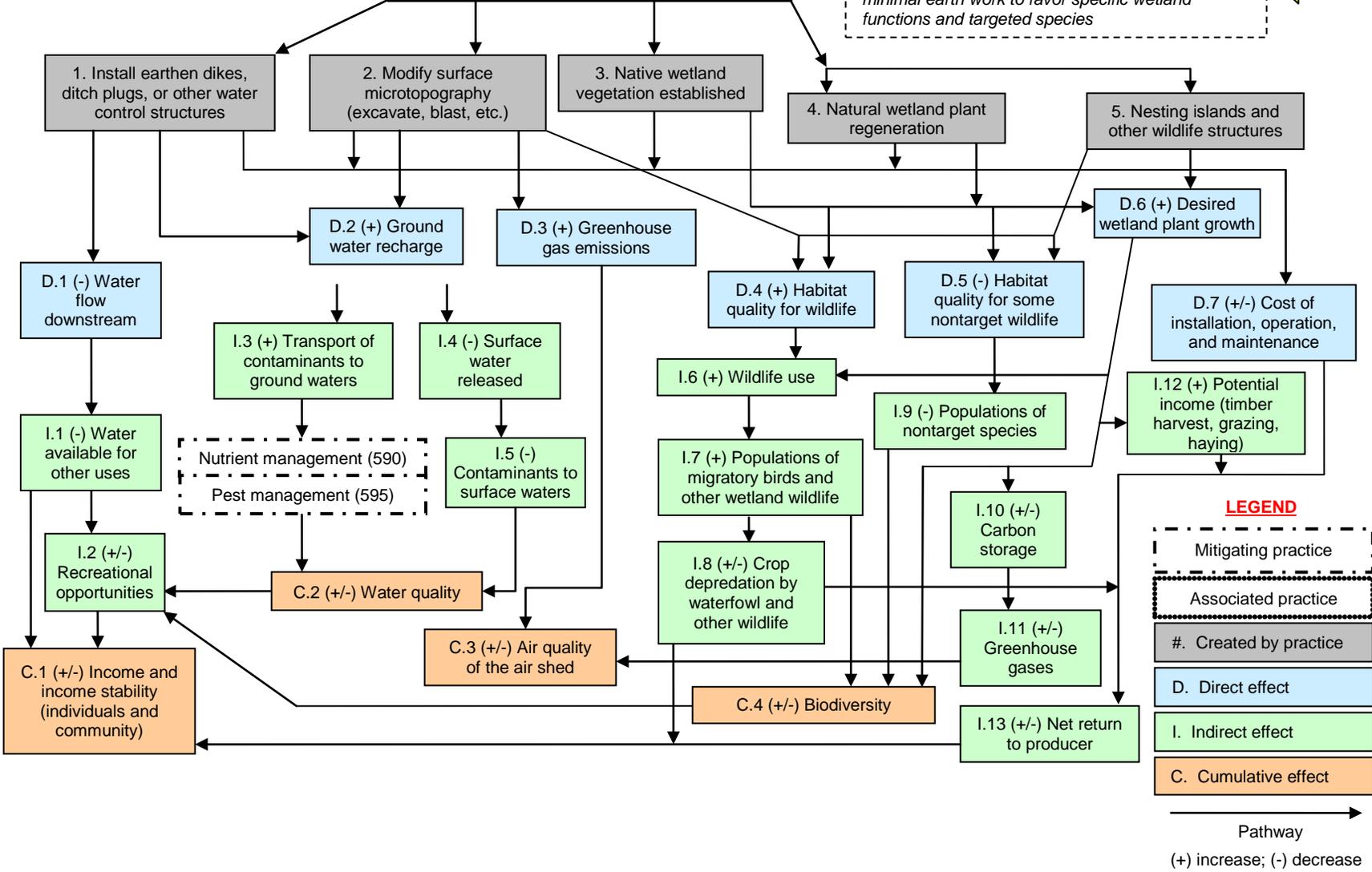
The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowner 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.

I.5 (-)
Contaminants
to surface
waters

Wetland Enhancement
November 2011

Wetland Enhancement (659)

Initial setting: Small freshwater wetlands or degraded wetlands where hydrologic or vegetative enhancement is needed and can be achieved with minimal earth work to favor specific wetland functions and targeted species



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 scope of the practice implementation and resulting effects are limited to those described in the “initial setting.” Larger wetland projects requiring substantial earth work or involving marshes or other brackish waters may need to be evaluated in a site-specific EA.**

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.