

# DUST CONTROL ON UNPAVED ROADS AND SURFACES

## PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 373



### DUST CONTROL ON UNPAVED ROADS AND SURFACES

Direct particulate matter (PM) emissions produced by vehicle and machinery traffic or wind action on unpaved roads and other surfaces can be a significant air quality issue in some areas.

#### PRACTICE INFORMATION

The objective of this practice is to reduce or eliminate dust (direct PM) emissions from either the mechanical action of vehicles and machinery, or from high winds, on unpaved roadways or other surfaces. Control of dust generated by the activity of animals is handled under the Dust Control from Animal Activity on Open Lot Surfaces practice (375).

Dust from roads can lead to visibility and safety issues along and near roadways. It can deposit on nearby vegetation, resulting in poor plant health. It also can deposit on water bodies or streams leading to increased sedimentation and reduced fish health.

There are a variety of dust suppressants (palliatives) that can be used to control dust. These include substances that require rather

frequent re-application (such as water), and those with relatively long control lifetimes (such as petroleum emulsions). Some suppressants contain chemicals that can have deleterious effects on nearby streams and water bodies from runoff from treated areas.

The benefits of this practice can be significant and immediate. Dust is reduced or eliminated, as well as all of the consequent impacts.

#### COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

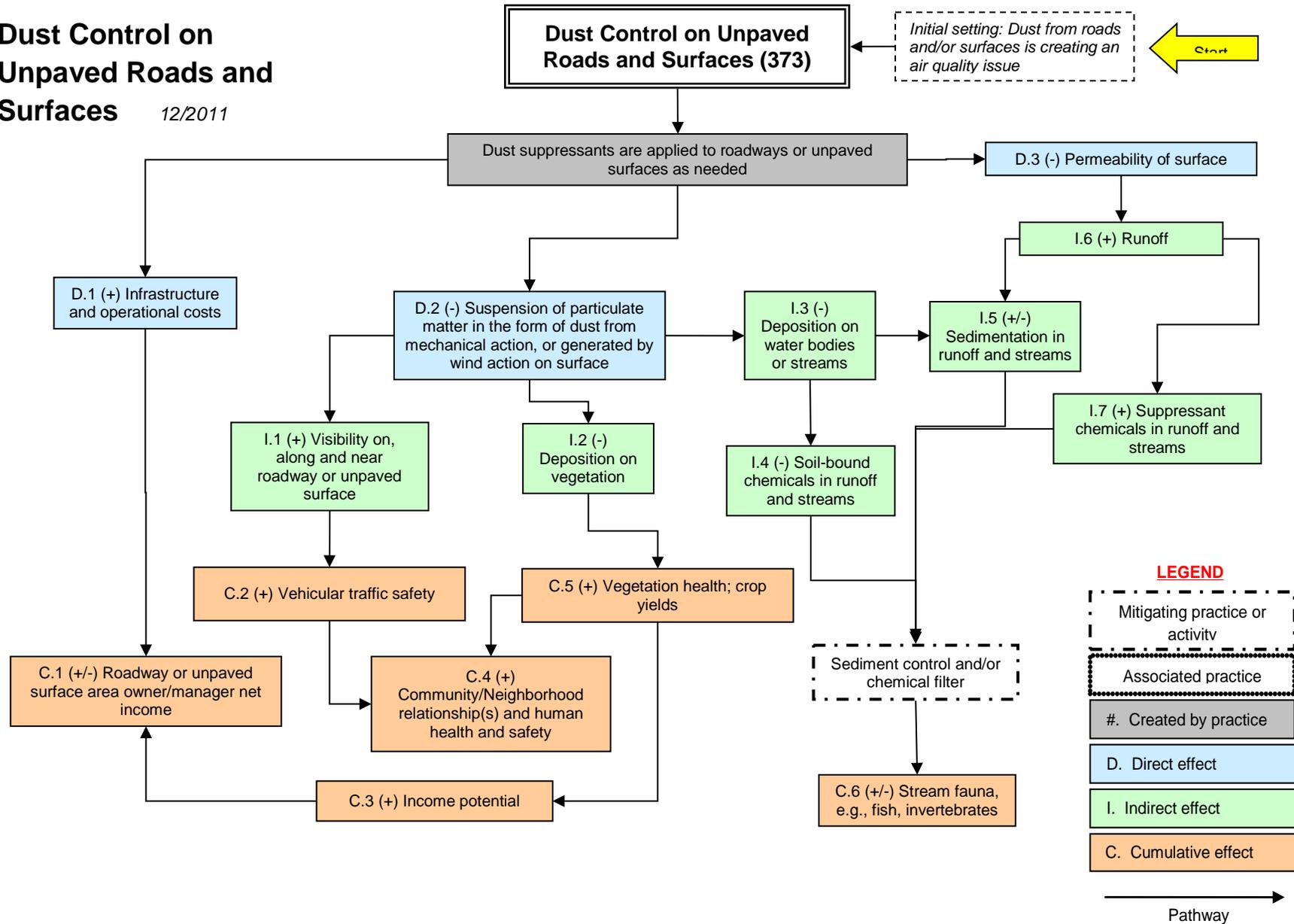
Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces (373) is commonly applied as part of a more comprehensive farm or ranch conservation management plan, and may be associated with other practices such as Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) Dust Control from Animal Activity on Open Lot Surfaces (375), Mulching (484), and other practices.

For more information, refer to the practice standard in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and design criteria.

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.

# Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces

12/2011



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 NRCGS. 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.