

# TREE/SHRUB PRUNING

## PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 660



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### TREE/SHRUB PRUNING

Tree or shrub pruning is the removal of all or parts of selected branches, leaders, or roots from trees and shrubs.

### PRACTICE INFORMATION

The purpose of the practice is to improve the function, health, appearance, and quality of the plants. Safety is also a reason for pruning trees and shrubs. This practice applies to crop trees of high value, as well as trees planted for aesthetics, wildlife, recreation, windbreaks, and other purposes.

The timing of the pruning operation should be appropriate to the growth characteristics of the plants. In addition, nesting and breeding requirements of birds should be considered.

Other wildlife species may or may not be adversely affected by pruning. In urban areas, special attention must be given to safety precautions.

### COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

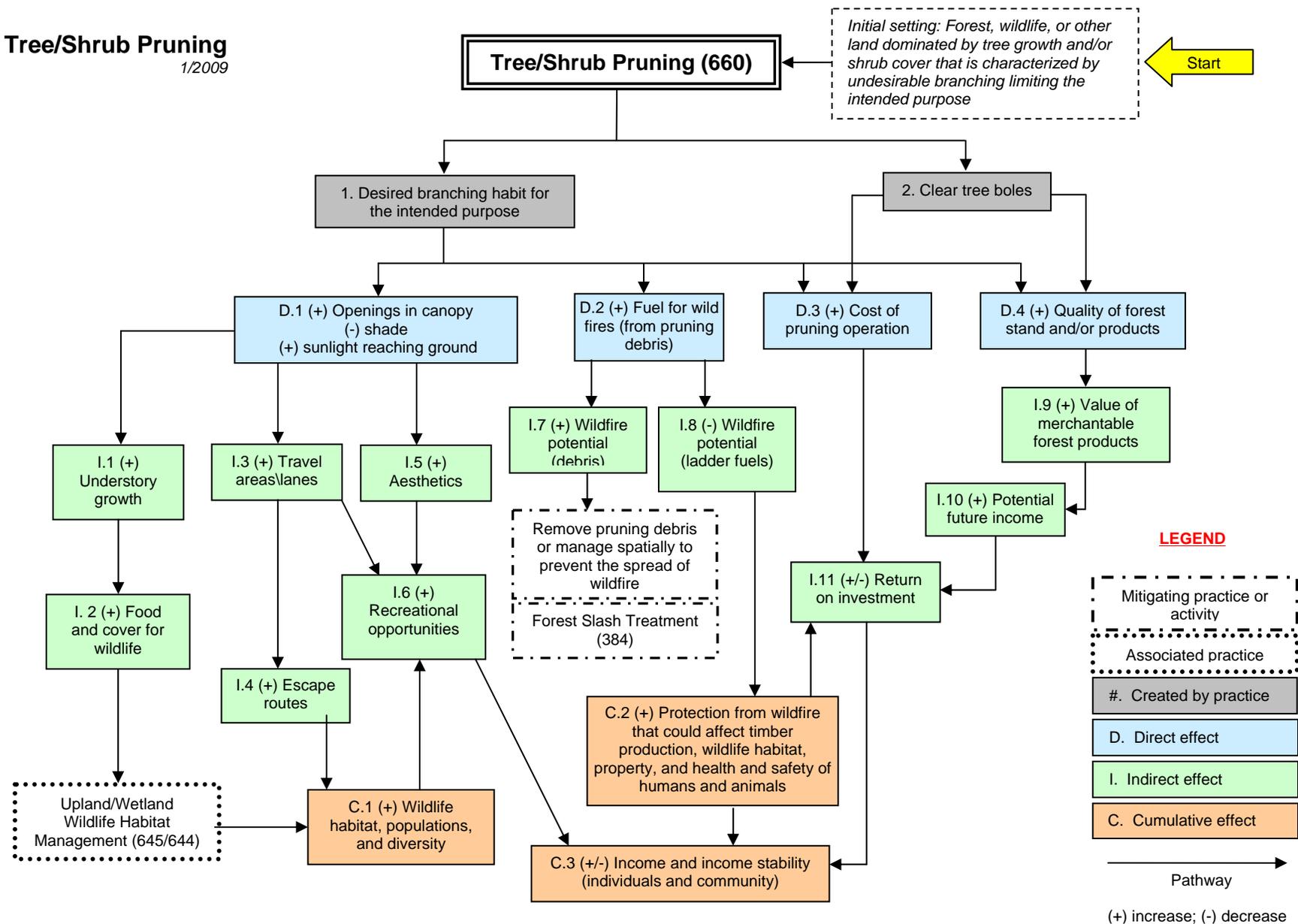
Tree/Shrub Pruning is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with Forest Stand Improvement (666), Forest Trails and Landings (655), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644), Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) and Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650).

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 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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1/2009



**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 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.