

WELL DECOMMISSIONING

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 351



Photo courtesy of the Cass Soil and Water Conservation District, ND

WELL DECOMMISSIONING

Well decommissioning is the sealing and permanent closure of water well no longer in use.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Well decommissioning applies to the sealing and closure of any drilled, dug, driven, bored, or otherwise constructed water well determined to have no further beneficial use.

This practice requires the removal of all pumping equipment, valves, pipelines, liners, debris, and other foreign material. The well casing should be removed if possible, but can be sealed and left in place. Once cleared, the well water is brought to a 100 parts per million chlorine concentration or other solution specified by local or State requirements. The well is sealed and plugged as allowable by ASTM D5299 and State regulations.

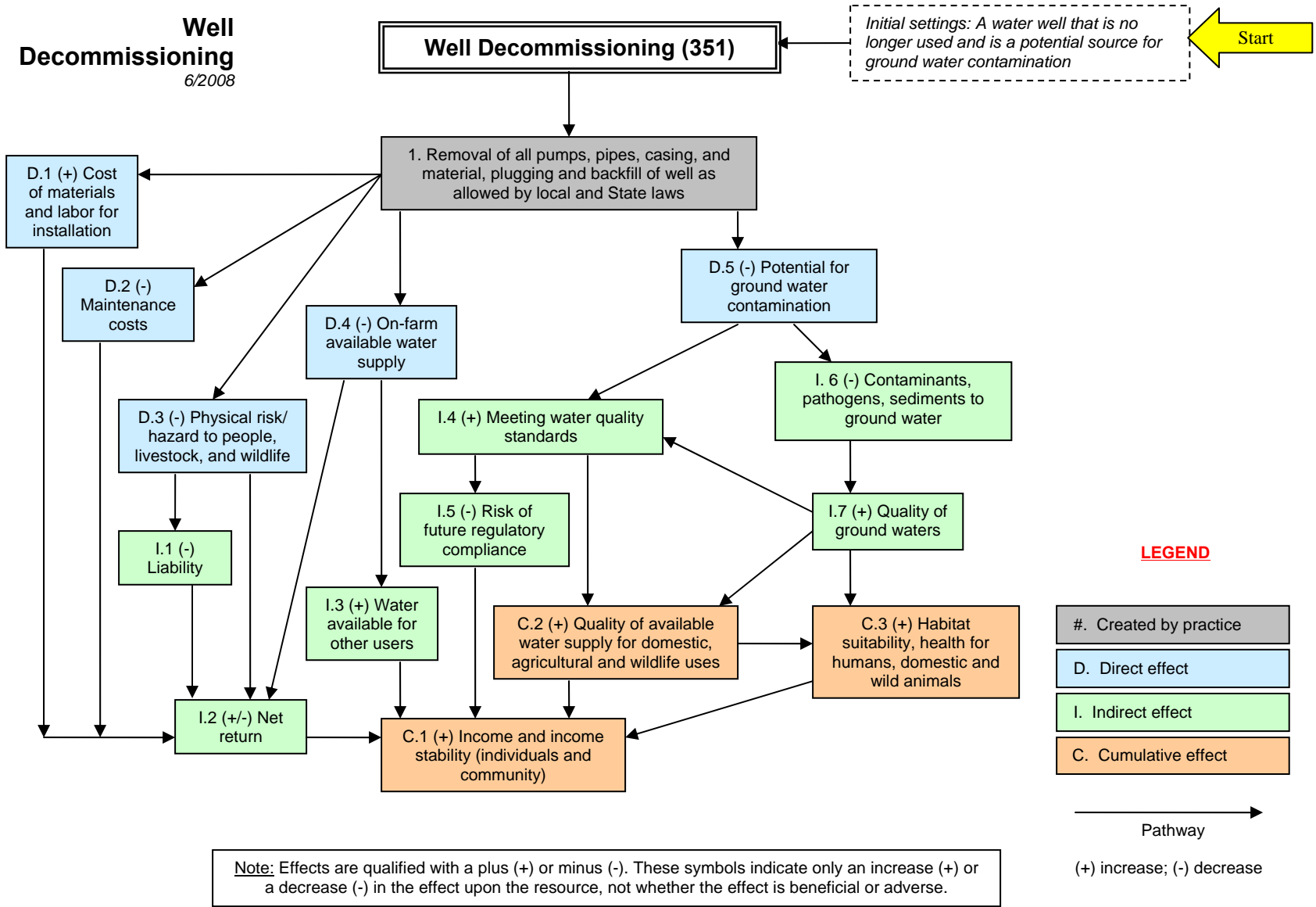
COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Well Decommissioning is used in a Conservation Management System with Critical Area Planting (342) and other conservation practices to enhance and protect water quality.

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

Well Decommissioning
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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.