

STREAM CROSSING

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 578



STREAM CROSSING

A stream crossing is a stabilized area or structure constructed across a stream to provide a travel way for people, livestock, equipment, or vehicles.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice applies to all land uses where an intermittent or perennial watercourse exists and a ford, bridge, or culvert type crossing is desired for livestock, people, and/or equipment.

Stream crossings are located in areas where the streambed is stable or where grade control can be provided to create a stable condition. Avoid sites where channel grade or alignment changes abruptly, excessive seepage or instability is evident, or where large tributaries enter the stream.

A properly designed and installed stream crossing provides a way for normal passage of water, fish,

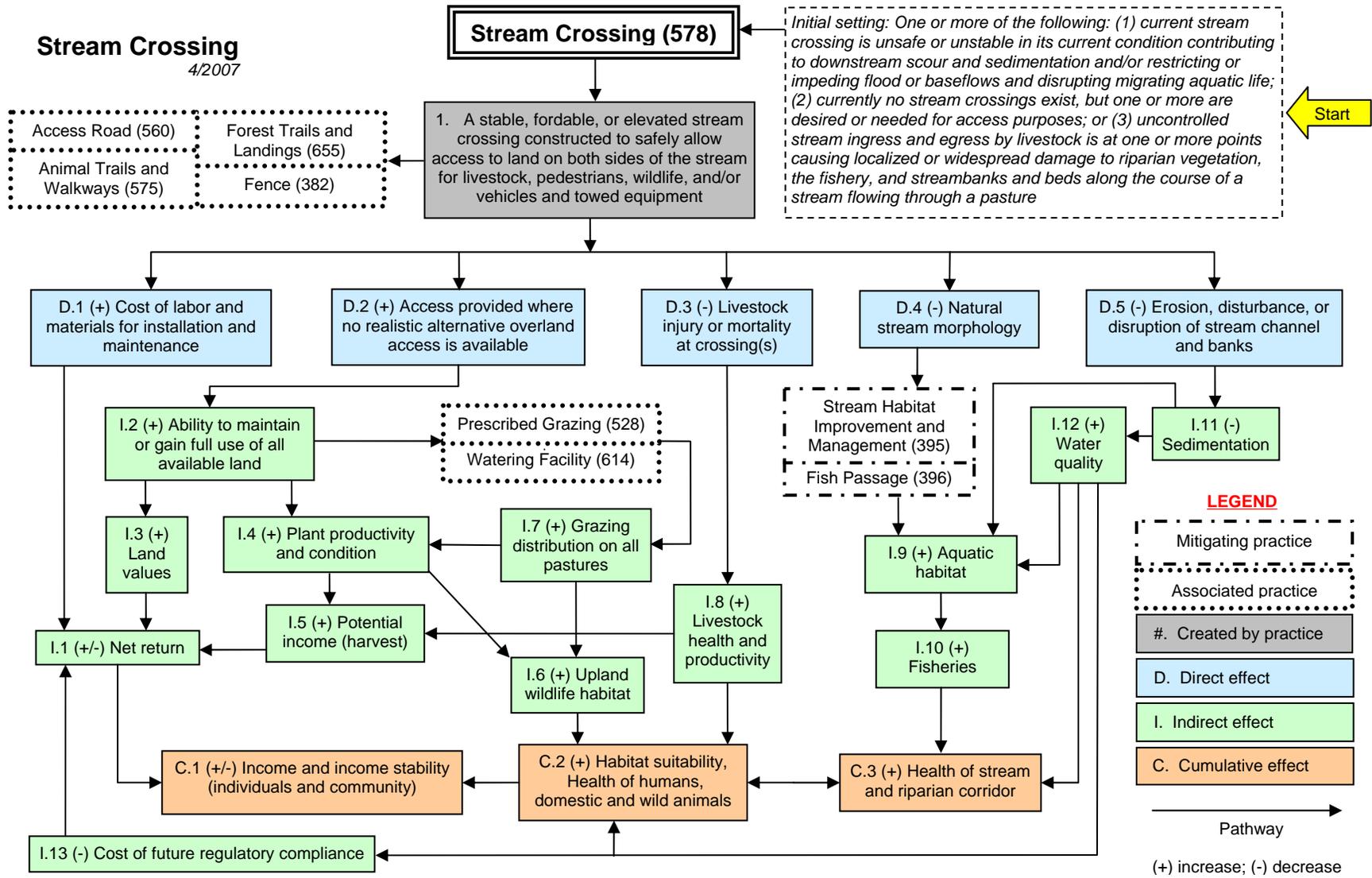
and other aquatic animals within the channel during all seasons of the year.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Stream Crossings are commonly planned in Conservation Management Systems with a variety of practices including Critical Area Planting (342), Access Road (560), Forest Trails and Landings (655), Animal Trails and Walkways (575), Prescribed Grazing (528), Watering Facility (614), Fence (382), and Fish Passage (396).

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.



Notes:

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”. Stream Crossings that involve construction of substantial structures, alteration of the natural channel profile, or protected resources 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 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.