

# DIVERSION

## PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 362



### DIVERSION

A diversion is a channel constructed across the slope with a supporting ridge on the lower side.

### PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice applies to all types of diversions except Dam, Diversion (348). The general purpose of this type of diversion is to divert excess water from one area for use or safe disposal in other areas.

This practice applies to sites where:

- Runoff damages cropland, grazing land, farmsteads, feedlots, or conservation practices such as terraces or strip cropping
- Surface flow and/or shallow subsurface flow caused by seepage is causing damage on sloping cropland
- Runoff is excessive and available for use on nearby sites
- A diversion is required as part of a pollution abatement system
- A diversion is required to control erosion and runoff on urban or developing areas and construction or mining sites

The channel may be parabolic, V-shaped, or trapezoidal. The channel grades may be uniform or variable as long as the velocity is nonerosive, considering the soil and planned vegetation or lining. The location of the diversion is determined by outlet conditions, topography, land use, farming operations, and soil type.

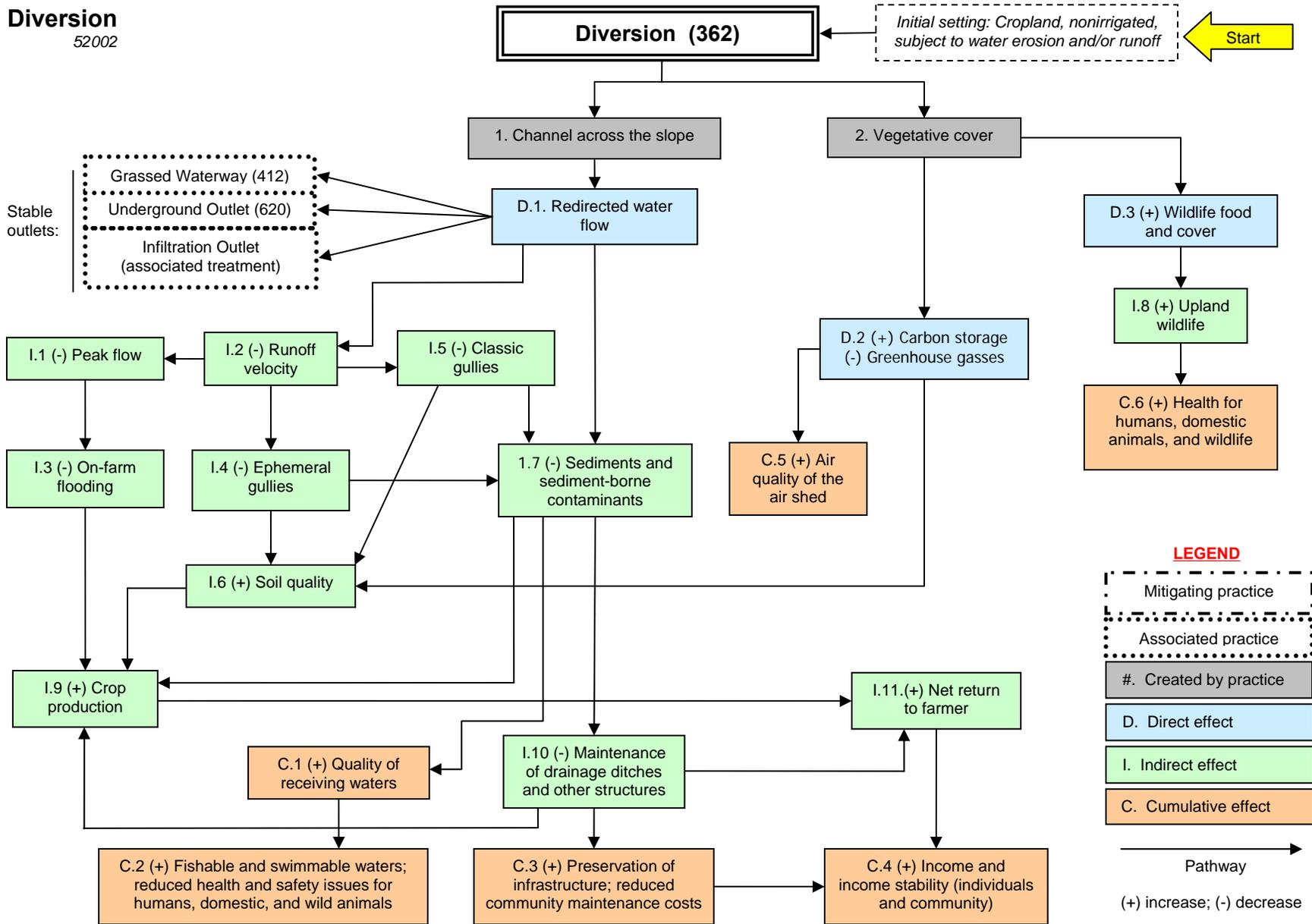
### COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Diversions must have a safe and stable outlet with adequate capacity. The outlet may be a grassed waterway, paved area, vegetated area, a grade stabilization structure, a stable watercourse, underground outlet, or a combination of these structures. The outlet must be able to convey the runoff to a point where outflow will not cause damage. If the outlet is a vegetated area, the vegetation must be established before constructing the diversion.

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.

**Diversion**  
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**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 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.