

VEGETATIVE BARRIER

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 601



VEGETATIVE BARRIER

Vegetative barriers are permanent strips of stiff, dense vegetation along the general contour of slopes or across concentrated flow areas.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Vegetative barriers can be applied on all eroding areas including cropland, grazing land, forestland, farmsteads, mined land, and construction sites. The practice is used to reduce sheet and rill erosion, reduce ephemeral gully erosion, manage water flow, stabilize steep slopes, and trap sediment.

Vegetative barriers are most effective on slopes of less than 10 percent. Other site considerations include the need for suitable outlets below the barrier and the capacity to readily establish adapted perennial vegetation.

Vegetative barriers use tall, stiff, dense perennial vegetation in narrow buffers to slow runoff. As the flow hits the vegetative barrier and slows, sediment drops from the runoff, infiltration of runoff increases, and typically, the flow of runoff passing through the barrier is less concentrated.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

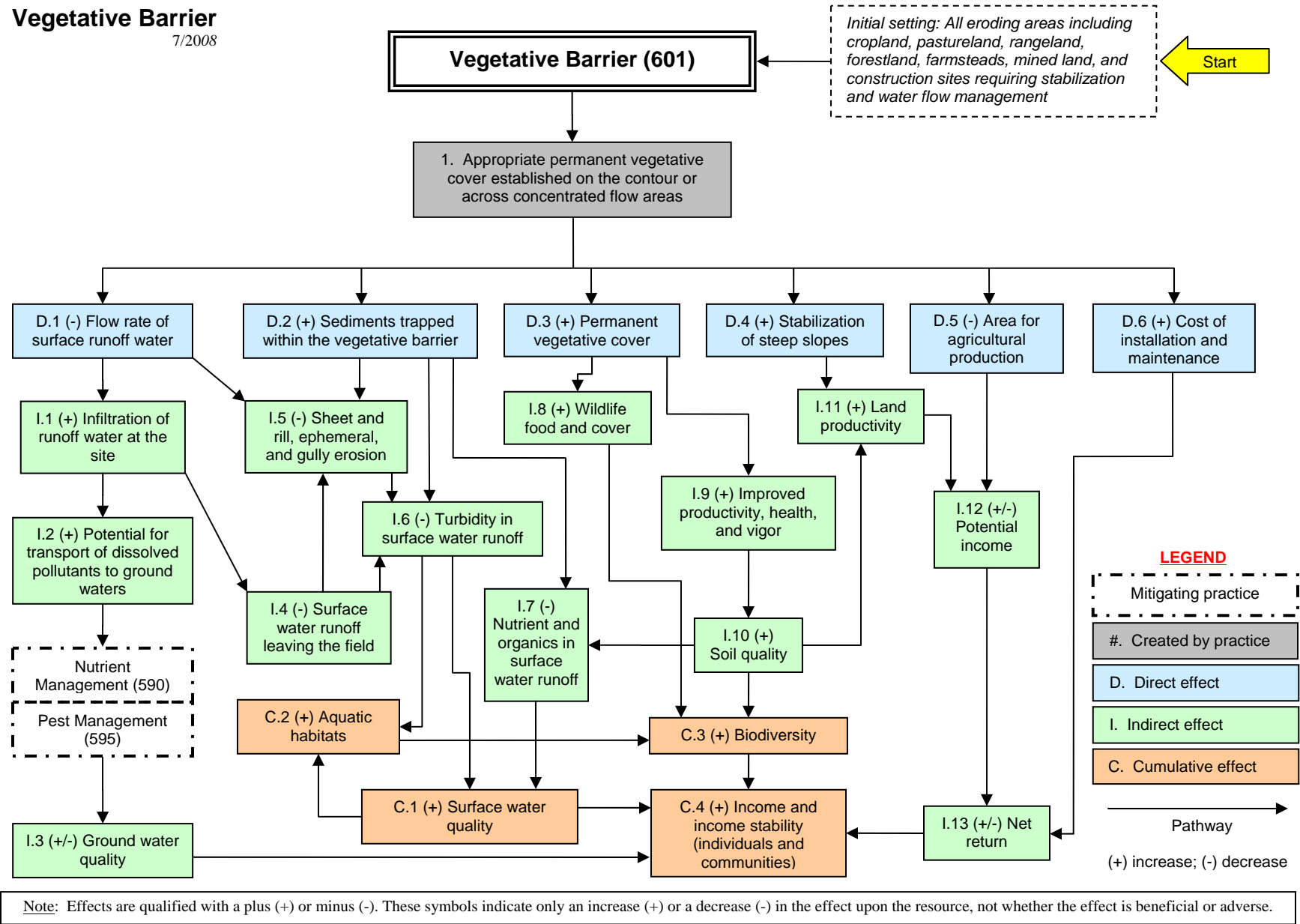
Vegetative Barrier is commonly planned as part of a Conservation Management System with Conservation Crop Rotation (328), Residue Management practices, Contour Farming (330), and other conservation practices.

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.

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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 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.