

# IRRIGATION SYSTEM, TAILWATER RECOVERY

## PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 447



### TAILWATER RECOVERY

An irrigation tailwater recovery system is an irrigation system in which all facilities utilized for the collection, storage, and transportation of irrigation tailwater for reuse have been installed.

### PRACTICE INFORMATION

Tailwater recovery involves the collection of recoverable irrigation runoff flows and is applied to conserve irrigation water supplies and/or improve offsite water quality. It applies to systems where recoverable irrigation runoff flows can be anticipated under current or expected management practices.

Facilities are needed to store the collected water and to convey water from the storage facility to a point of entry back into the irrigation system. Additional storage may be required to provide adequate retention time for the breakdown of chemicals in the runoff waters or to provide for

sediment deposition. Allowable retention times are specific to the particular chemical used.

Seepage from a storage facility is controlled through natural soil or commercial liners, soil additives or other approved methods when chemical-laden waters are stored. Protection of system components from storm events and excessive sedimentation are also considered in the planning and design of a system.

### COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

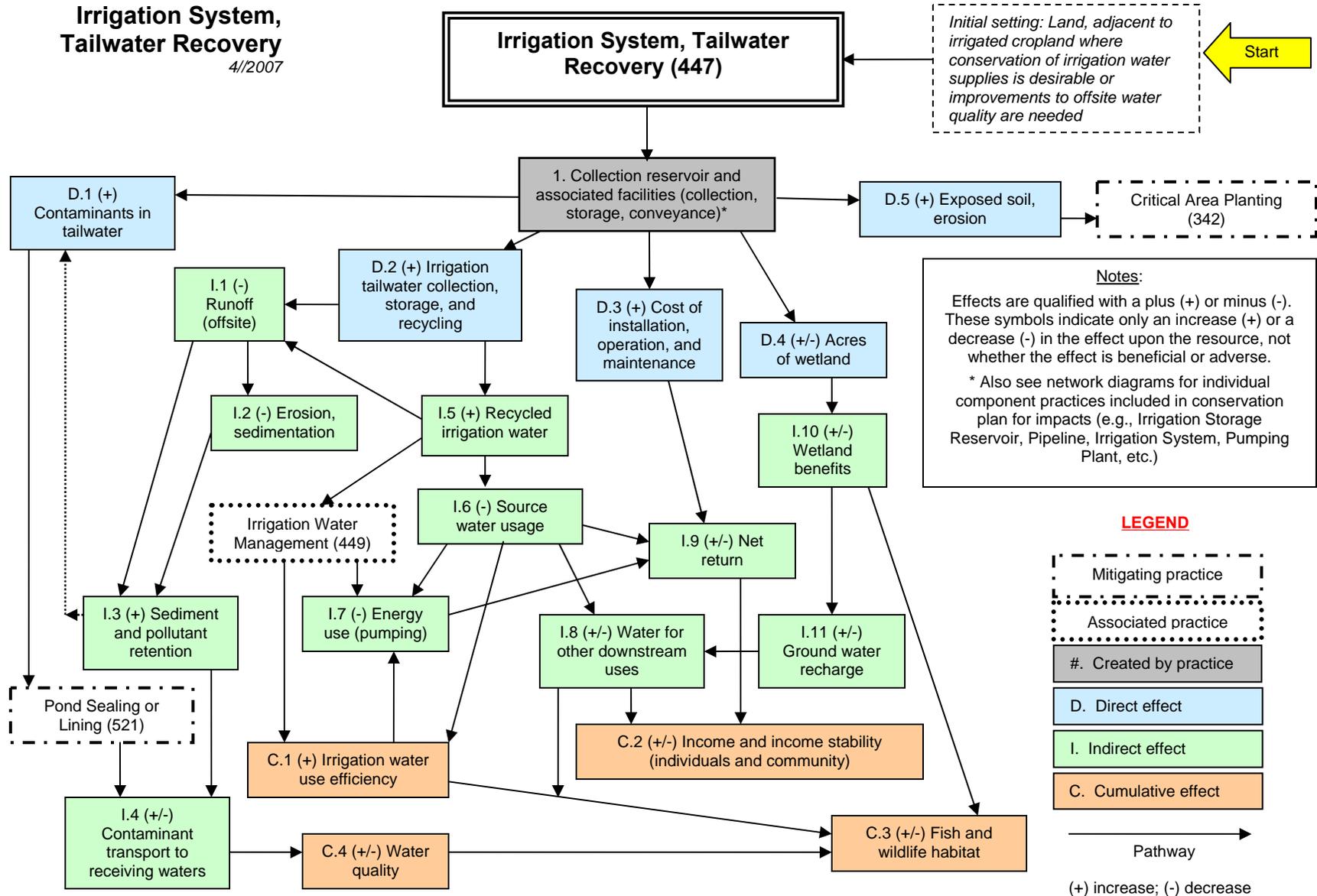
Irrigation, Tailwater Recovery is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with practices such as Pumping Plant (533), Irrigation Water Conveyance (428 series), Pond Sealing or Lining (521), and Irrigation Water Management (449).

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.