

Effects of NRCS Conservation Practices - National

Fuel Break

A strip or block of land on which the vegetation, debris and detritus have been reduced and/or modified to control or diminish the risk of the spread of fire crossing the strip or block of land.

Code: 383

Units: ac

Typical Landuse:

AL-Aso Land	
O-Other	
W-Water	
D-Developed	
FS-Farmstead	
Pr-Protected	
P-Pasture	
R-Range	
F-Forest	
C-Crop	

<u>Soil Erosion</u>	<u>Effect</u>	<u>Rationale</u>
Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill Erosion	-1	An area of land with a reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter has potential for increases in erosive water energy.
Soil Erosion - Wind Erosion	-1	An area of land with a reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter has potential for increases in erosive water energy.
Soil Erosion - Ephemeral Gully Erosion	-1	An area of land with a reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter has potential for increases in erosive water energy.
Soil Erosion - Classic Gully Erosion	-1	An area of land with a reduction in vegetative cover and surface litter has potential for increases in erosive water energy.
Soil Erosion - Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance C	0	Not Applicable
<u>Soil Quality Degradation</u>		
Organic Matter Depletion	-4	Nutrient cycling is diminished on areas with reduced vegetation.
Compaction	-2	Equipment used to treat vegetation can compact soils.
Subsidence	0	Not Applicable
Concentration of Salts or Other Chemicals	0	Not Applicable
<u>Excess Water</u>		
Excess Water - Seeps	0	Not Applicable
Excess Water - Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding	0	Not Applicable
Excess Water - Seasonal High Water Table	-1	Removal of vegetation may reduce uptake of subsurface water.
Excess Water - Drifted Snow	0	Not Applicable
<u>Insufficient Water</u>		
Insufficient Water - Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water	0	Not Applicable
Insufficient Water - Inefficient Moisture Management	0	Not Applicable
<u>Water Quality Degradation</u>		
Pesticides in Surface Water	-1	Herbicides, if used, could reach surface water.
Pesticides in Groundwater	0	Not Applicable
Nutrients in Surface water	0	Not Applicable
Nutrients in Groundwater	0	Not Applicable
Salts in Surface Water	0	Not Applicable
Salts in Groundwater	0	Not Applicable
Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solic	0	Not Applicable
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Excessive Sediment in Surface Water	-1	Areas with reduced vegetation are subject to increased sediment delivery.														
Elevated Water Temperature	0	Not Applicable														
Petroleum, Heavy Metals and Other Pollutants Transport	0	Not Applicable														
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<u>Air Quality Impacts</u>																
Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors	1	There is a minimal reduction of particulate matter through reduced incidence of wildfire.														
Emissions of Ozone Precursors	1	There is a minimal reduction of ozone precursors through reduced incidence of wildfire.														
Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)	1	There is a decrease in CO2 emissions from reduced incidence of wildfire.														
Objectionable Odors	0	Not Applicable														
<u>Degraded Plant Condition</u>																
Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	3	Fewer residual plants are using site resources.														
Inadequate Structure and Composition	0	Residual plants are adapted and suited.														
Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	-1	Undesired species can colonize areas where vegetation has been treated.														
Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	5	Fuel loadings are isolated.														
<u>Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat</u>																
Inadequate Habitat - Food	1	The treated area can provide additional food sources.														
Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	-1	Vegetation is treated and reduced in quantity.														
Inadequate Habitat - Water	-1	Not Applicable														
Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	0	Breaks in vegetative cover may interrupt continuity of habitat for certain wildlife species and create diversity for other species.														
<u>Livestock Production Limitation</u>																
Inadequate Feed and Forage	1	Forage species can be favored on a long-term basis to maintain practice function.														
Inadequate Shelter	0	Vegetation is reduced in quantity.														
Inadequate Water	0	Not Applicable														
<u>Inefficient Energy Use</u>																
Equipment and Facilities	0	Not Applicable														
Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations	0	Not Applicable														
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"><u>CPPE Practice Effects:</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5 Substantial Improvement</td> <td>0 No Effect</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 Moderate to Substantial Improvement</td> <td>-1 Slight Worsening</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Moderate Improvement</td> <td>-2 Slight to Moderate Worsening</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 Slight to Moderate Improvement</td> <td>-3 Moderate Worsening</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1 Slight Improvement</td> <td>-4 Moderate to Substantial Worsening</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>-5 Substantial Worsening</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>CPPE Practice Effects:</u>		5 Substantial Improvement	0 No Effect	4 Moderate to Substantial Improvement	-1 Slight Worsening	3 Moderate Improvement	-2 Slight to Moderate Worsening	2 Slight to Moderate Improvement	-3 Moderate Worsening	1 Slight Improvement	-4 Moderate to Substantial Worsening		-5 Substantial Worsening
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