**Conservation Practice Effects**

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| **Recreation Area Improvement (Ac) 562**  **Definition: Establishing grasses, legumes, vines, shrubs, trees, or other plants or selectively reducing stand density and trimming woody plants to improve an area for recreation.**  **Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Soil and water quality.**  **Benchmark Condition: Woodland adjacent to farmer’s roadside market.**  **Date: October, 2016 Developer/Location: Hal Gordon, OR** | |
| **Positive Effects** | **Negative Effects** |
| **Soil**   * **Sheet, rill, wind, gully and streambank erosion is reduced with additional vegetative cover.** * **Soil organic matter improved with vegetative cover.** * **Compaction is reduced when traffic is controlled.**   **Water**   * **Runoff, flooding and ponding is reduced with improved vegetative cover.** * **Pesticides, pathogens and sediment delivery to surface and ground water is reduced.** * **High water temperature will be reduced with shade provided by trees and shrubs.**   **Air**   * **Ground cover will reduce particulate generation and improve carbon storage in soils and in biomass.**   **Plants**   * **Plants are selected and managed to maintain optimal productivity and health, reduce plant pest pressure and reduce wildfire hazard.**   **Animals**   * **Plant species are selected that are well-adapted and compatible to the site and provide food, cover and shelter for wildlife.** * **Fish and wildlife watering sources may be improved.**   **Energy**   * **None.**   **Human**   * **Improved opportunity for additional land uses.** * **Increase in public safety.** * **Reduced labor managing the site.** * **Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business.** * **Increase the property value (real estate) of your property.** * **Improve habitat for wildlife.** * **Prevent off-site negative impacts.** * **Comply with environmental regulations.** * **Save time, money and labor.** * **Promote family health and safety.** * **Make land more attractive and promote good stewardship.** * **May be eligible for cost share.** * **Increased profitability in the long run.** | **Land**   * **Cultural resources may be negatively impacted with increased access and impacts by people.** * **No change in land use if currently recreation use, substantial if converted from other land use.** * **Land may be taken out of production.**   **Capital**   * **No additional field equipment required.** * **Earth moving and planting costs.** * **Materials.** * **Annual operation and maintenance costs to clean-out debris, repair and replace equipment, maintain vegetation and manage pests.**   **Labor**   * **No change in labor.**   **Management**   * **Increase in developing recreation area management plan.**   **Risk**   * **Increased recreation use and disturbance reduces wildlife habitat value.** |
| **Net Effect: Improved soil and water quality at a moderate cost.** | |

**Commonly Associated Practices:** Access Control , Critical Area Planting, Fence, Forage and Biomass Planting, Forest Stand Improvement, Heavy Use Area Protection, Herbaceous Weed Control, Recreation Land Grading and Shaping, Trails and Walkways, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Tree/Shrub Pruning, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation.

**Note:** This worksheet contains general talking points for the conservation planner to discuss with the land user. It is the first step towards an economic or financial analysis. The second step would include identifying a specific site for analysis at the farm or field level, editing the template for local conditions, adding units and quantities of farm inputs and outputs. The third step in the economic analysis is to place a dollar value on as many variables as possible, put all units in the same time frame, using amortization ($/Acres/Year) or net present value ($/Acre), so benefits and costs can be compared. The fourth and final step would be to combine several conservation practices into a conservation system, which is how most conservation practices are applied at the field level. Data for the worksheet comes from the land user, conservation planner, technical specialist and local agricultural supply vendors and contractors. See Economics Technical Note: TN 200-ECN-1, Basic Economic Analysis Using T-Charts (August 2013) for more information.