**Conservation Practice Effects**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Recreation Land Grading and Shaping (Ac) 566**  **Definition: Reshaping the surface of the land to support recreation land use.**  **Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Soil drainage and wildlife habitat.**  **Benchmark Condition: Ponding water on intensively used recreational forested area.**  **Date: October, 2016 Developer/Location: Hal Gordon, OR** | |
| **Positive Effects** | **Negative Effects** |
| **Soil**   * **Sheet, rill, wind and gully erosion is reduced by reshaping land, establishing vegetative cover and applying erosion control practices.** * **Soil organic matter increases with mulch, soil amendments, manure, compost and high biomass producing plants.** * **Compaction will initially increase due to construction equipment and then followed by a decrease in compaction as vegetative cover is established.**   **Water**   * **Runoff, flooding and ponding is reduced with a more uniform surface and the removal of depressions.** * **Reduced runoff and erosion will reduce sediment and turbidity in surface water.**   **Air**   * **None.**   **Plants**   * **The site modification will enhance the health and vigor of desired species.** * **Vegetation is installed and managed to control undesired species.**   **Animals**   * **Grading and shaping activities may improve food, cover, shelter and habitat for some species for wildlife.**   **Energy**   * **None.**   **Human**   * **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.** | **Land**   * **Cultural resources or historic structures may be affected.** * **No change if currently recreation use, substantial if converted from other land use.**   **Capital**   * **Installation equipment.** * **Materials.** * **Annual operation and maintenance costs to clean-out debris**   **Labor**   * **None.**   **Management**   * **None.**   **Risk**   * **Some soil carbon may be lost due to soil disturbance.** * **Grading and shaping activities may eliminate or reduce food, cover, shelter and habitat for some species for wildlife.** |
| **Net Effect: Improved site, reduced erosion, improved water quality at a moderate cost.** | |

**Commonly Associated Practices:** Access Control , Conservation Crop Rotation, Critical Area Planting, Diversion, Filter Strip, Heavy Use Area Protection, Obstruction Removal, Recreation Area Improvement, Riparian Forest Buffer, Riparian Herbaceous Cover, Trails and Walkways, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Water and Sediment Control Basin, Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management.

**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.