

HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 561



HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION

Heavy use area protection is the establishment of a stable surface with suitable materials and any needed structures to protect areas heavily impacted by livestock, vehicles or development.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice is usually applied on agricultural land or developed land used intensively by livestock, vehicles, and people. Treatment provided by this practice is primarily for erosion control, but also addresses other types of natural resource degradation including aesthetics.

The prescribed surface treatment is designed to accommodate the specific type of traffic expected to occur. Surface treatment may involve pavement for vehicle traffic, or vegetation may provide sufficient protection for people and animal traffic.

Impermeable surfaces such as pavement increase runoff. Therefore, provision for drainage is always considered when planning this practice.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

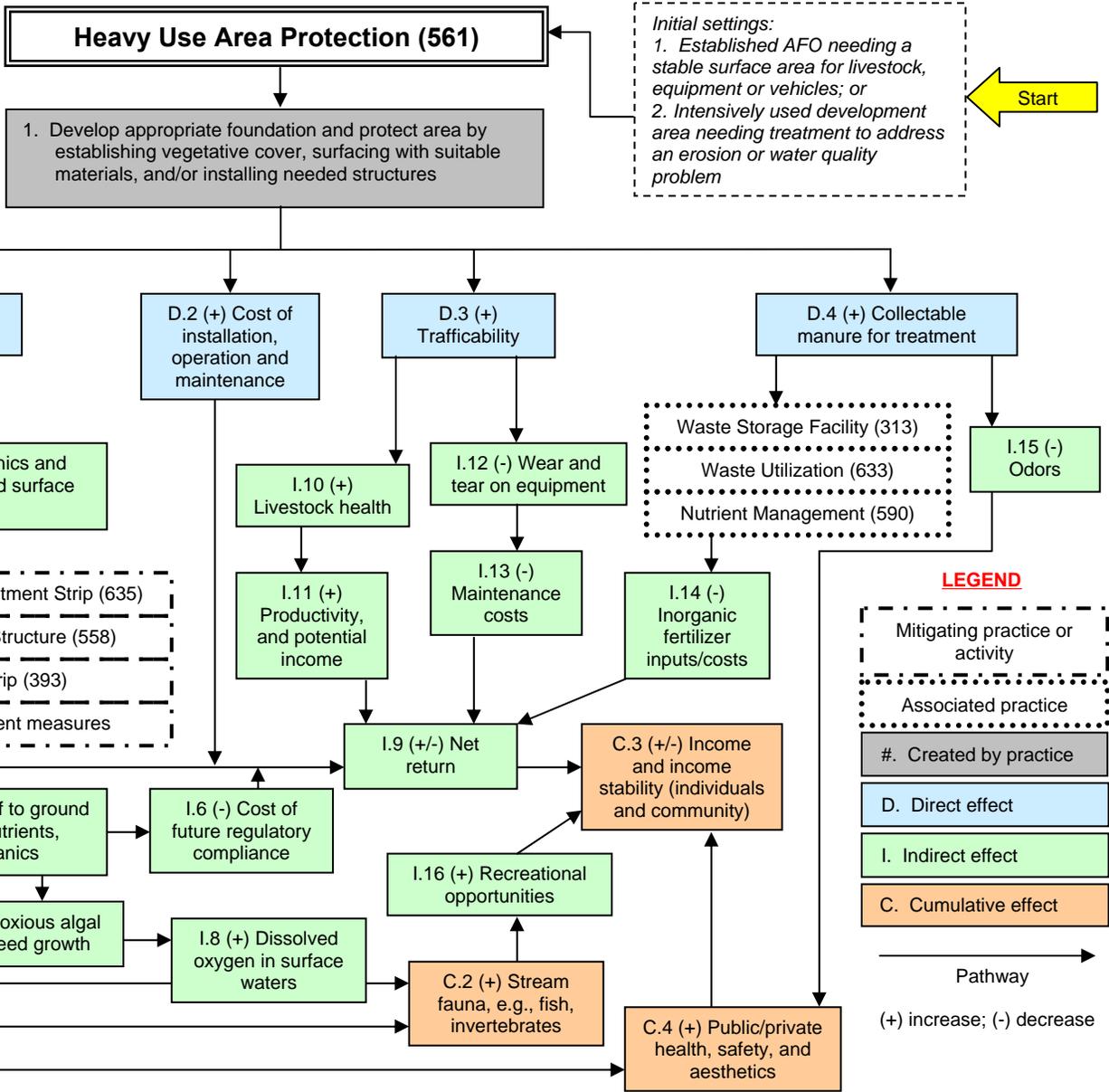
Heavy Use Area Protection is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with practices such as Prescribed Grazing (528), Vegetated Treatment Area (635), Nutrient Management (590), Waste Storage Facility (313), Roof Runoff Structure (558), Filter Strip (393), and practices for erosion and sediment control.

For further information, refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated 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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4/2007



Note: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

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.