Effects of NRCS Conservation Practices - National

Conservation Cover

Establishing and maintaining permanent vegetative cover

Code: 327
Units: ac.

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

Soil Erosion	*Effect*	*Rationale*
Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill Erosion	4	Increased vegetation and cover will improve infiltration and decrease soil detachment by water.
Soil Erosion - Wind Erosion	4	An increase in vegetation and cover will protect the soil surface and decrease soil detachment by wind.
Soil Erosion - Ephemeral Gully Erosion	1	An increase in vegetation and cover will improve infiltration, protect the soil surface and decrease soil detachment by concentrated flow.
Soil Erosion - Classic Gully Erosion	1	Increased cover will reduce runoff.
Soil Erosion - Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance C	1	Better vegetation and cover can reduce overland flow.
Soil Quality Degradation		
Organic Matter Depletion	5	Establishing permanent vegetation will increase biomass production, infiltration and root establishment.
Compaction	3	Permanent vegetation will increase roots and organic matter and result in less field operations to cause compaction.
Subsidence	0	If it affects drainage the practice can have an impact on subsidence.
Concentration of Salts or Other Chemicals	2	Permanent cover may increase salt uptake.
Excess Water		
Excess Water - Seeps	1	Increased water use by permanent vegetation. However, increased infiltration could increase seepage.
Excess Water - Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding	2	Increased water use and infiltration will reduce runoff and ponding.
Excess Water - Seasonal High Water Table	1	Increased water use by permanent vegetation. However, increased infiltration could increase seepage.
Excess Water - Drifted Snow	1	Permanent vegetation can trap snow.
Insufficient Water		
Insufficient Water - Inefficient Use of Irrigation Water	0	Not Applicable
Insufficient Water - Inefficient Moisture Management	2	Permanent cover increases infiltration and water use.
Water Quality Degradation		
Pesticides in Surface Water	2	The action reduces the need for pesticide use, decreases runoff and erosion, and increases soil organic matter.
Pesticides in Groundwater	2	The action reduces the need for pesticide use and increases soil organic matter.
Nutrients in Surface water	4	Less erosion and runoff reduces transport of nutrients. Permanent cover can take up excess nutrients and convert them to stable organic forms.
Nutrients in Groundwater	4	Permanent vegetation will uptake excess nutrients.
Salts in Surface Water	5	Less runoff reduces transport of soluble salts. Permanent vegetation can use excess water which reduces seepage.
Salts in Groundwater	2	Permanent vegetation can take up salts and water reducing the leaching potential of salts.
Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solic	1	Less erosion and runoff reduces delivery of pathogens.
Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solic	2	Permanent vegetation increases organic matter promoting microbial activity which competes with pathogens.

Excessive Sediment in Surface Water	**4**	**Less erosion and runoff reduces sediment.**
Elevated Water Temperature	**0**	**Not Applicable**
Petroleum, Heavy Metals and Other Pollutants Transporte	**0**	**not applicable**
Petroleum, Heavy Metals and Other Pollutants Transporte	**0**	**Not Applicable**
Air Quality Impacts		
Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors	**2**	**Permanent vegetation reduces wind erosion and generation of fugitive dust.**
Emissions of Ozone Precursors	**1**	**Reduced use of machinery in permanent vegetation reduces ozone precursor emissions.**
Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)	**4**	**Vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil. Reduced use of machinery in permanent vegetation reduces CO2 emissions.**
Objectionable Odors	**0**	**Not Applicable**
Degraded Plant Condition		
Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	**4**	**Plants are selected and managed to maintain optimal productivity and health.**
Inadequate Structure and Composition	**4**	**Plants selected are adapted and suited.**
Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	**4**	**Establishment of permanent vegetation may provide competition that would slow the spread of noxious plants.**
Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	**0**	**Not Applicable**
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat		
Inadequate Habitat - Food	**4**	**Increased quality and quantity of vegetation provides more food for wildlife.**
Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	**4**	**Increased quality and quantity of vegetation provides more cover for wildlife.**
Inadequate Habitat - Water	**4**	**Not Applicable**
Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	**2**	**Increased cover will increase space for wildlife. May be used to connect other cover areas.**
Livestock Production Limitation		
Inadequate Feed and Forage	**0**	**Not Applicable**
Inadequate Shelter	**0**	**Not Applicable**
Inadequate Water	**0**	**Not Applicable**
Inefficient Energy Use		
Equipment and Facilities	**0**	**Not Applicable**
Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations	**0**	**Not Applicable**

CPPE Practice Effects:	
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