

Effects of NRCS Conservation Practices - National

Riparian Herbaceous Cover

Grasses, sedges, rushes, ferns, legumes, and forbs tolerant of intermittent flooding or saturated soils, established or managed as the dominant vegetation in the transitional zone between upland and aquatic habitats.

Code: 390

Units: ac

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

Typical Landuse: C F R P Pr FS D O AL

<u>Soil Erosion</u>	<u>Effect</u>	<u>Rationale</u>
Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill Erosion	2	Vegetation and surface litter reduces erosive water energy on the planted site.
Soil Erosion - Wind Erosion	2	Dense herbaceous vegetation reduces erosion from wind.
Soil Erosion - Ephemeral Gully Erosion	1	Vegetation reduces erosive energy of concentrated flows.
Soil Erosion - Classic Gully Erosion	0	Not Applicable
Soil Erosion - Streambank, Shoreline, Water Conveyance C	4	Vegetation and dense roots protects and binds the soil making it resistant to water flow erosion.
<u>Soil Quality Degradation</u>		
Organic Matter Depletion	4	Increased vegetative matter and its breakdown increases soil organic matter.
Compaction	4	Root penetration and organic matter helps restore soil structure.
Subsidence	0	Not Applicable
Concentration of Salts or Other Chemicals	2	Increased vegetation will increase salt uptake and increased organic matter may tie up salts and other chemicals.
<u>Excess Water</u>		
Excess Water - Seeps	2	Plants uptake excess water.
Excess Water - Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding	-3	Vegetation causes flooding and ponding.
Excess Water - Seasonal High Water Table	2	Plants uptake excess 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	2	The action reduces runoff and traps adsorbed pesticides.
Pesticides in Groundwater	2	Pesticide degradation may be improved by increased soil organic matter and biological activity.
Nutrients in Surface water	5	Permanent vegetation will uptake excess nutrients.
Nutrients in Groundwater	5	Permanent vegetation will uptake excess nutrients.
Salts in Surface Water	1	The action increases infiltration and reduces runoff.
Salts in Groundwater	1	The action may result in some uptake by plants.
Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solic	3	vegetation traps pathogens providing increased opportunity for solar and microbial action to destroy some
Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solic	2	Riparian areas capture and delay pathogen movement and increase pathogen mortality. Soil microbial activity enhances competition with pathogens.

Excessive Sediment in Surface Water	4	Vegetation protects soil surface and traps sediment, nutrients and other materials.														
Elevated Water Temperature	2	Herbaceous plants provide some shade and protect banks, moderating stream temperature.														
Petroleum, Heavy Metals and Other Pollutants Transport	2	The action filters sediment, and some plants may take up heavy metals.														
Petroleum, Heavy Metals and Other Pollutants Transport	1	The action may result in metal uptake by some plants.														
<u>Air Quality Impacts</u>																
Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors	1	Vegetative cover reduces wind erosion and provides a stable area which stops saltating particles.														
Emissions of Ozone Precursors	0	Not Applicable														
Emissions of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)	2	Vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil.														
Objectionable Odors	0	Not Applicable														
<u>Degraded Plant Condition</u>																
Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	5	Plants are selected and managed to maintain optimal productivity and health.														
Inadequate Structure and Composition	4	Establishment and management of cover creates or maintains the desired plant community.														
Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	4	Vegetation is installed and managed to control undesired species.														
Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	0	Not Applicable														
<u>Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat</u>																
Inadequate Habitat - Food	4	Improved plant diversity and quality and quantity of vegetation provides food for wildlife.														
Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	4	Improved plant diversity and quality and quantity of vegetation provides cover for wildlife.														
Inadequate Habitat - Water	2	Water can be temporarily trapped in the riparian area. Warm-season water is cooled.														
Inadequate Habitat - Habitat Continuity (Space)	4	Cover can restore desired habitats/space.														
<u>Livestock Production Limitation</u>																
Inadequate Feed and Forage	4	These sites may be used as feed and forage by livestock if the intended purpose is maintained.														
Inadequate Shelter	0	Not Applicable														
Inadequate Water	0	Not Applicable														
<u>Inefficient Energy Use</u>																
Equipment and Facilities	0	Not Applicable														
Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations	2	Reduced energy due to conversion of crop to permanent cover. Reduced energy due to ephemeral gully erosion management. Potential for biomass product.														
		<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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