

OPEN CHANNEL

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 582



OPEN CHANNEL

Open channel is the construction or improvement of a channel, either natural or artificial, in which water flows with a free surface.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice is designed to provide discharge capacity required for flood prevention, drainage, or other authorized water management purposes or any combination of these purposes.

This practice does not apply to diversions, grassed waterways, irrigation field ditches, surface drainage, and other small on-farm structures. It also does not apply to irrigation canals and laterals.

This practice applies to earthen channel construction or modification where stability requirements can be met, an adequate outlet for the modified channel reach is available for discharge by gravity flow or pumping, and excavation or other channel work does not cause significant erosion, flooding, or sedimentation.

The impact of the proposed construction on water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, forest resources,

and quality of the landscape must be evaluated, and the techniques and measures necessary to overcome any undesirable effects must be included as part of the planned work,

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

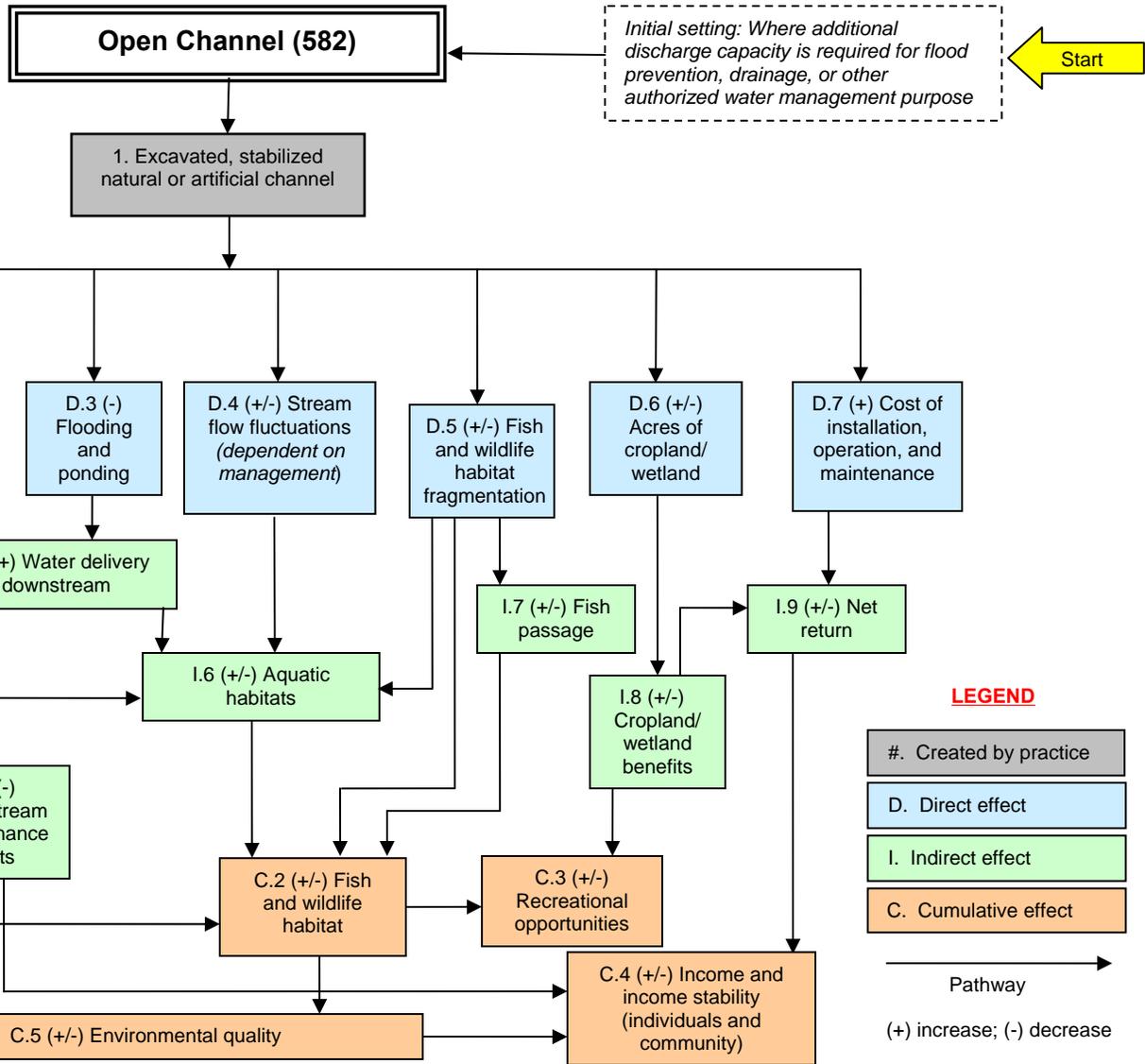
Open Channel is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with practices such as:

- Dike (356)
- Structure for Water Control (587)
- Pumping Plant (533)

For further information, refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and 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 landowners 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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Notes:
Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect of the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.
Projects involving modification of natural channels and where potentially undesirable effects on water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, forest resources, and quality of the landscape cannot be sufficiently mitigated, evaluation in a site-specific EA may be required.

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.