

TREE SHRUB SITE PREPARATION

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 490



TREE/SHRUB SITE PREPARATION

Tree/shrub site preparation is the practice of treating areas to encourage natural regeneration of desirable trees and shrubs or to accelerate the process by providing optimum site conditions for planting or direct seeding of desirable woody species.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice applies to understocked areas, areas planned for tree planting following harvest, areas where a land cover change to tree/shrub is desired, or areas having undesirable vegetation that inhibits or competes with preferred woody species.

The purpose of the practice is to prepare the land for establishing a stand of desirable woody vegetation by controlling undesirable vegetation, removing slash and debris, or altering site conditions. Application of this practice requires consideration of:

- Protection of existing desirable vegetation

- Treatment of remaining slash and debris so it does not harbor harmful levels of pests, hinder needed equipment operation, or create undue fire hazard
- Control of accelerated erosion and/or runoff by other conservation practices
- Cost-effectiveness of chosen method
- Protection of culture resources, springs, seeps, wetlands, and other unique areas
- Impacts on wildlife habitat

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

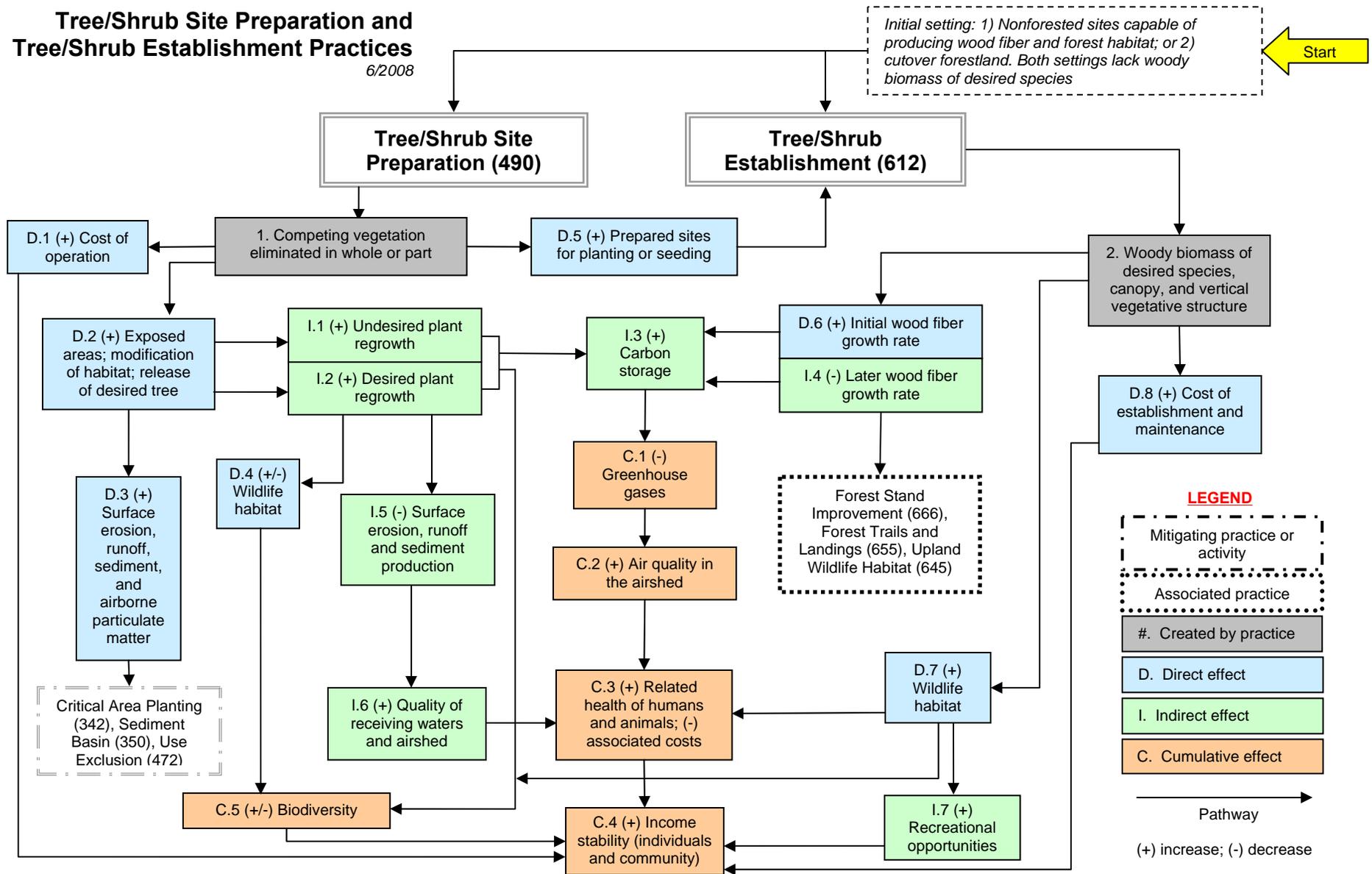
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation is commonly used as part of Conservation Management System with Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), and other conservation practices.

Refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated practice specifications and Job Sheets for further information.

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.

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation and Tree/Shrub Establishment Practices

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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 landowner 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.