**Conservation Practice Effects**

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| **Stripcropping (Ac) 586**  **Definition: Growing planned rotations of row crops, forages, small grains, or fallow in a systematic arrangement of equal width strips across a field.**  **Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Wind erosion.**  **Benchmark Condition: Level cropland in wind prone area.**  **Date: October, 2016 Developer/Location: Hal Gordon, OR** | |
| **Positive Effects** | **Negative Effects** |
| **Soil**   * **Sheet, rill, wind and gulley erosion is reduced when applied on or near the contour.** * **Perennial crops in the alternating strips can add organic matter to the soil.**   **Water**   * **Increased water infiltration and seeps, particularly during fallow periods.** * **Increased water infiltration which may slightly reduce the potential for flooding or ponding.** * **Protected strips will capture additional snow, increase infiltration and create excess soil moisture and subsurface water.** * **Reduced runoff and erosion and soil-attached pesticides, nutrients, salts, manure and pathogens delivered to surface water.** * **Increased water infiltration could move salts, pesticides, nutrients and other agricultural chemicals to groundwater.**   **Air**   * **Vegetated strips provide ground cover and reduces wind erosion.**   **Plants**   * **Reduced erosion will improve site potential and enhance plant productivity and health.**   **Animals**   * **Improved fish and wildlife habitat, food, cover and shelter.**   **Energy**   * **None.**   **Human**   * **Reduced time managing sediment.** * **Improved agricultural operation flexibility and timing with protected agricultural land.** * **Reduced labor repairing critical erosion areas and removing sediment.** * **Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business.** * **Increase the property value (real estate) of your property.** * **Conserve soil and water for periods of drought and future use.** * **Prevent off-site negative impacts.** * **Comply with environmental regulations.** * **Save time, money and labor.** * **Promote family health and safety.** * **Make land more attractive and promote good stewardship.** * **May be eligible for cost share.** * **Increased profitability in the long run.** | **Land**   * **Cultural resources may be protected from erosion.** * **No change in land use.** * **Change to less intensive crop production.**   **Capital**   * **No additional field equipment required.** * **Annual operation and maintenance costs to maintain vegetation and manage pests.**   **Labor**   * **Increase in labor with more turns at end of rows.**   **Management**   * **Increase in developing crop management plan and record keeping.**   **Risk**   * **Reduced agricultural operation flexibility and timing when required to follow designed row pattern.** |
| **Net Effect: Reduced wind erosion, improved plant productivity, at a low cost.** | |

**Commonly Associated Practices:** Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Diversion, Grassed Waterway, Integrated Pest Management, Nutrient Management, Underground Outlet.

**Note:** This worksheet contains general talking points for the conservation planner to discuss with the land user. It is the first step towards an economic or financial analysis. The second step would include identifying a specific site for analysis at the farm or field level, editing the template for local conditions, adding units and quantities of farm inputs and outputs. The third step in the economic analysis is to place a dollar value on as many variables as possible, put all units in the same time frame, using amortization ($/Acres/Year) or net present value ($/Acre), so benefits and costs can be compared. The fourth and final step would be to combine several conservation practices into a conservation system, which is how most conservation practices are applied at the field level. Data for the worksheet comes from the land user, conservation planner, technical specialist and local agricultural supply vendors and contractors. See Economics Technical Note: TN 200-ECN-1, Basic Economic Analysis Using T-Charts (August 2013) for more information.