Appendix C : NRCS T-Charts for Conservation Practices

Conservation Practice Effects

Alley Cropping (Ac) 311

<u>Definition</u>: Trees or shrubs planted in a set or series of single or multiple rows with agronomic, horticultural crops or forages produced in the alleys between the rows of woody plants.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Wind erosion, soil health, wildlife habitat.

Benchmark Condition: Small grain, hay crop rotation.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
Soil	Land
 Sheet, rill, wind and gulley erosion is reduced by vegetation, surface litter, tall vegetation and wind shadow. Roots and vegetative matter from permanent vegetation increases organic matter. Root penetration and organic matter helps restore soil structure and reduces compaction. Water Runoff, flooding and ponding are reduced, less runoff with increased water infiltration. Seasonal high water table and seeps are reduced with greater plant water uptake. Drifted snow is captured by tree/shrub crowns and deposited between rows. Tall vegetation reduces wind speeds and 	 Cultural resources may be adversely effected during tree planting. Increased complexity of land use, producing two or more crops. Change to less intense land use, some land converted from crop to tree production. No additional field equipment required. Capital Site preparation and tree planting costs. Operation and maintenance costs maintaining vegetation and managing pests. Labor Reduced labor with less intensive agriculture. Management Increase to manage additional farm
evapotranspiration allowing more efficient use of available water.	 Increase to manage additional farm enterprise. Risk
 Trees and shrubs intercept pesticide drift and take up pesticide and nutrient 	• Decrease in farm flexibility while

 residues. Nutrients and pesticides in surface and ground water will decrease as plant vigor improves soil conditions. Pathogens and chemicals from manure in surface and groundwater will be reduced in sensitive areas. Sediment in surface water will be reduced. High water temperature will be reduced. Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants in surface and groundwater will be reduced. Air 	 following designed cropping pattern around perennial plantings. Cash flow will decrease with less intense agricultural production. Crops must be adapted and managed to account for use of available water by trees. Foregone income from lost production or change in seasonal use.
 Trees provide windbreak and reduce saltating particles. Vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it as carbon in plants and soil. Plants Crops are sheltered from airborne 	
 Crops are sheltered from alroorne sediment and chemical drift. Plant productivity will increase. Animals 	
 Fish, wildlife and livestock habitat, food, water, cover and shelter will improve for some species. Wildlife habitat continuity (space) will improve, tall vegetation creates vertical habitat structure. Trees can limit livestock heat stress. Energy 	
Comparatively energy-efficient.Potential biofuel production.Human	
 Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive. Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business. 	

• Increase the property value (real estate) of your property.

•	Create open space and improve habitat	
	for wildlife.	
٠	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.	
Ne	t Effect: Alley Cropping improves soil prod	uctivity, reduces erosion at a moderat

Commonly Associated Practices: Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Buffer Strips, Contour Farming, Cover Crop, Forest Stand Improvement, Integrated Pest Management, Multi-Story Cropping, Nutrient Management, Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till, Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed, Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till, Residue Management, Seasonal, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Tree/Shrub Pruning, Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Woody Residue Treatment

Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products (Ac) 333

<u>Definition:</u> Using gypsum- (calcium sulfate dihydrate) derived products to change the physical and/or chemical properties of soil.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Soil health and plant productivity.

Benchmark Condition: Acidic cropland soil.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Sheet, rill and wind erosion is reduced by improved soil structure. Organic matter is maintained or increased. Aluminum toxicity is reduced. Water Runoff, flooding, or ponding is - Improved infiltration. Use of irrigation water will - Improved infiltration. 	 Land No change to land use Capital Slight increase in materials and annual operation and maintenance costs No additional equipment required. Labor Minimal change in labor. Management Minimal change in management. Risk
• No change. Plants	• No additional risk.
• Plant productivity and health will improve with better Ca:Mg ratio for improved nutrient use efficiency. Animals	
 Improved Nutrient use efficiency for livestock feed and forage. Energy 	
• No change. Human	

•	Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive.	
•	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.	
Ne	<u>t Effect:</u> Adding gypsum improves soil prod	luctivity at a minim

Commonly Associated Practices: Agrichemical Handling Facility, Nutrient Management, Waste Utilization.

Conservation Cover (Ac) 327

Definition: Establishing and maintaining permanent vegetative cover

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Soil Erosion and Water Quality.

Benchmark Condition: Annually tilled highly erodible low productivity cropland.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
Soil Increased vegetation and cover will 	Land Land use will be changed or land taken
 improve infiltration and decrease sheet and rill, wind, and gully erosion. Streambank, shoreline, and channel erosion is reduced. Organic matter will increase with residue and root establishment. Compaction and subsidence is will decrease with fewer field operations. Concentration of salts or other chemicals is reduced with permanent cover. Water Runoff, flooding, ponding, seeps or seasonal high water table may be reduced with increased water use. 	 out of production if cropland is converted to permanent cover. Capital No additional field equipment required. Materials, seedbed and planting costs. Annual operation and maintenance costs to maintain vegetation and reduce pests. Reduced farm income (forgone income). Labor None. Management None. Risk
 Permanent vegetation can trap snow. Soil moisture will increase. Reduced nutrient and pesticide use, less transport to surface and ground water. Less runoff and infiltration of salts, pathogens and chemicals from manure. Less sediment in surface water. Air Fewer emissions of particulate matter, permanent vegetation reduces wind erosion and generation of fugitive dust. Emissions of ozone precursors and CO2 	 Reduced whole farm flexibility and timing by taking land out of agricultural production. Reduced or lost crop production. Reduced cash flow. Seeps may increase with deeper and more numerous roots and higher soil infiltration rates.

will be reduced with less machinery use. Plants
Plant community productivity and health will increase.
Permanent vegetation may slow the spread of noxious weeds.
Animals
Fish and wildlife habitat, food, cover and shelter will improve.
Fish and wildlife habitat continuity (space) will increase and may be used to connect other cover areas.
Energy
Less fuel and oil will be used with reduced machinery use.
Iuman
Cultural resources may be protected from erosion.
Labor, management and capital will decrease as land is taken out of production.
Reduced time cultivating previous crop.
Create sustainability of natural resources that support farm business.
Increase the property value (real estate).
Create open space and improve habitat for wildlife.
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.
<u>Net Effect:</u> Soil health will improve, erosion will be reduced and water quality improved
at a significant cost. Profitability will decrease as land is taken out of production.

Commonly Associated Practices: Brush Management, Critical Area Planting, Fence, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

Conservation Crop Rotation (Ac) 328

Definition: Growing crops in a planned sequence on the same field.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed:

Benchmark Condition:

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Positive Effects Soil Reduced sheet, rill, wind and gully erosion by maintaining sufficient canopy and residue cover that reduces soil detachment by water. High residue crops can lead to increased root development and increased soil organic carbon. Deep rooted crops in the rotation may reduce compaction. Soil subsidence may be reduced if rotation addresses drainage. Salt tolerant crops with high transpiration rates can increase salt uptake and reduce salt content in the root zone. Water Improved plant uptake may reduce excessive seepage, runoff, flooding, ponding and seasonal high water table. 	 Land Cultural resources may be harmed if new deep rooted crops are introduced. Land may be utilized more intensely. No change in land in production. Capital No additional field equipment required. Crop production costs. Labor Additional time cultivating crops. Management Increase time managing crop production.
ponding and seasonal high water table.Crop rotation balances available water with crop needs and may reduce total	
 irrigation requirements. Reduced need for pesticide use by breaking pest lifecycles and improve surface and ground water quality. Nitrogen demanding or deep rooted crops can remove excess nitrogen. 	

- Legumes in rotation will provide slow release nitrogen and reduce need for additional nitrogen and improve surface and ground water quality.
- Reduced erosion and runoff reduces transport of salts, and some crops may accumulate salts, improving water quality.
- Depending on crop rotation, less erosion and runoff reduces delivery of sediment and pathogens.

Air

- Crops in the rotation can reduce the generation of fugitive dust.
- Vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil.

Plants

- Increase in crop yield with improved soil quality, fertility and moisture holding capacity.
- Crop selection will be modified to include species better suited to soils and climate.
- Crop rotation creates diversity that may reduce weed pressures, break weed life cycles, and provide competition that would slow the spread of noxious plants.

Animals

- Suitable rotations may provide more food, cover and shelter for wildlife.
- Increased cover will increase space for wildlife and connect to other cover areas.
- Crop rotation may be designed to add forage crops and aftermath grazing for livestock.

Energy

• Legume crops supply nitrogen reducing fertilizer costs.

Human

• Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive.

•	Create sustainability of natural resources	
	that support your business.	
•	Increase the property value (real estate)	
	of your property.	
•	Create open space and improve habitat	
	for wildlife.	
•	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.	
	P	
Not	Effect: Cover crop improves soil productiv	nity, voluces evening at a moderate cost

Commonly Associated Practices: Conservation Cover, Contour Buffer Strips, Cover Crop, Critical Area Planting, Cross Wind Trap Strips, Herbaceous Wind Barriers, Integrated Pest Management, Irrigation Water Management, Mulching, Nutrient Management, Residue and Tillage Management-Mulch Till, Residue and Tillage Management-No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed, Residue and Tillage Management-Ridge Till, Residue Management-Seasonal, Terrace, Spoil Spreading, Stream Habitat Improvement and Management, Streambank and Shoreline Protection.

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.

Conservation Practice Effects

Cover Crop (Ac) 340

Definition: Grasses, legumes, and forbs planted for seasonal vegetative cover.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Soil Erosion, Water Quality, Plant Productivity.

Benchmark Condition: Cropland, row crops, non-irrigated.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Reduce erosion from wind and water and transport of sediment. Maintain or increase soil health and organic matter content. Improve soil moisture use efficiency. Minimize soil compaction. Water Reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excessive soil nutrients. Reduce drainage, seepage and soil subsidence. Increased organic matter will buffer salts. Reduce runoff and increase infiltration. Improves infiltration, soil structure, and soil water storage. Increase soil biological activity. Reduce runoff and transport of nutrients, pesticides, pathogens and soluble salts. Air Ground cover helps reduce wind erosion and generation of fugitive dust. Vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil. Plants Suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles. 	 Land No change in landuse Land utilized more intensely Capital Materials & planting costs. Grass/Legume Seed. Seeding Operation, No Till/Grass Drill. Herbicide, ground application. Mechanical or chemical crop kill. Labor Increase in labor to plant, manage, eliminate crop. Management Increase time managing crop production. Risk Other farm activities delayed while implementing the practice. In dry climates (<20 inches/year) will compete for crop moisture. May have to convert to shorter season crops in northern latitudes.

• Improved plant health, productivity and	
crop yields.	
Animals	
• Increased food and cover for wildlife.	
• Increased space and connectivity for	
wildlife.	
Supplemental forage for livestock.	
Energy	
• Cover crops can reduce nitrogen inputs.	
Human	
110111411	
• Increase yields/reduce costs as land	
becomes more productive.	
Create sustainability of natural resources	
that support your business.	
• Increase the property value (real estate)	
of your property.	
 Create open space and improve habitat 	
for wildlife.	
 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. Bromete family health and sofety. 	
Promote family health and safety.	
Make land more attractive and promote acad atempodabin	
good stewardship.	
• May be eligible for cost share.	
• Increased profitability in the long run.	
<u>Net Effect:</u> Cover crop improves soil productive	vity, reduces erosion at a moderate cost.

Commonly Associated Practices: Conservation Crop Rotation, Integrated Pest Management, Nutrient Management, Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till, Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed, Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till, Residue Management, Seasonal.

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.

Cross Wind Ridges (Ac) 588

<u>Definition</u>: Ridges formed by tillage, planting or other operations and aligned across the direction of erosive wind

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Wind erosion.

Benchmark Condition: Level row-cropland in wind prone area.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
Soil	Land
 Wind Erosion is reduced by adding roughness to the soil. Reduced wind erosion decreases organic matter loss. Water Reduced wind erosion transport of soiladsorbed nutrients, pesticides and salts to surface water. Reduced offsite sediment transport. Air Emissions of Particulate Matter (and precursors) will - Surface roughness oriented perpendicular to the erosive wind direction will reduce wind erosion. Plants Decreased physical plant damage. Improved crop yields. Animals None. Energy 	 Cultural resources may be protected from erosion. No change in land use. Minor amount of land taken out of agricultural production. Capital No additional field equipment required. Materials & installation cost. Annual operation and maintenance costs to maintain vegetation and manage pests. Foregone Income. Labor Increase in tillage operations. Management Increased time managing crop production. Risk Decreased agricultural operation flexibility and timing by taking land out of agricultural production. Equipment weight during ridge
• None. Human	establishment may increase soil compaction is under certain soil moisture
• Reduced time managing sediment.	conditions.

•	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
ľ	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.
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
<u>Net Effect:</u> Reduced wind erosion, improved plant productive	

Commonly Associated Practices: Cross Wind Trap Strips, Herbaceous Wind Barriers, Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till, Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed, Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till, Residue Management, Seasonal, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment

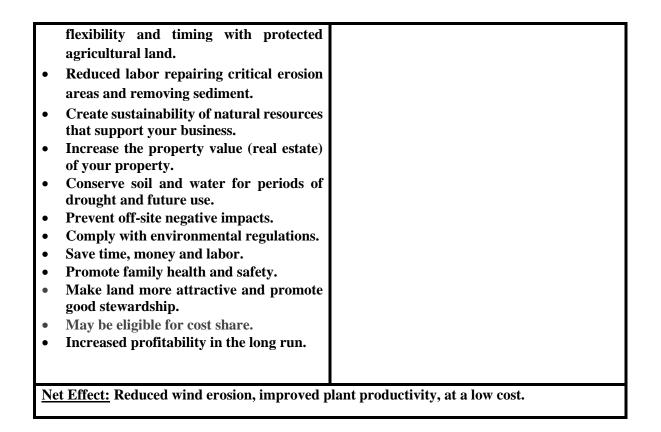
Cross Wind Trap Strips (Ac) 589C

<u>Definition:</u> Herbaceous cover established in one or more strips typically perpendicular to the most erosive wind events.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Wind erosion.

Benchmark Condition: Level cropland in wind prone area.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Wind erosion is reduced. Increase in soil organic matter. Water Reduced wind erosion transport of soil- adsorbed nutrients, pesticides and salts to surface water. Reduced offsite sediment transport. Air Improved particulate matter air quality. Vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil. Plants Decreased physical plant damage. Improved crop yields. Animals Vegetation provides cover for wildlife. 	 Land Cultural resources may be protected from erosion. No change in land use. Minor amount of land taken out of agricultural production. Capital No additional field equipment required. Materials & installation cost. Annual operation and maintenance costs to maintain vegetation and manage pests. Foregone Income. Labor Increase in tillage operations. Management Increased time managing crop production. Risk
 Vegetation provides cover for wildlife. Feed and forage for livestock. Energy None. Human 	
 Reduced time managing sediment. Improved agricultural operation 	



Commonly Associated Practices: Cross Wind Ridges, Herbaceous Wind Barriers, Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till, Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed, Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till, Residue Management, Seasonal, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment.

Field Border (Ac) 386

<u>Definition:</u> A stripe of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter or a field.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Water quality, wildlife habitat.

Benchmark Condition: Cropland field with annually tilled crop.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
Soil	Land
 Reduced sheet, rill, wind and gulley erosion if vegetation is planted across the slope. Permanent cover and lack of soil disturbance reduces decomposition of soil organic materials. Compaction is reduced as root penetration and increased organic matter restores soil structure. Water Permanent vegetation will reduce runoff and increase infiltration. Borders may attract beneficial insects or trap insect pests, reducing the need for pesticide applications. Nutrients, pesticides, salts, pathogens, manure in surface and ground water will be reduced. Air Permanent vegetation around the field edge reduces particulate emissions from vehicle traffic and tillage in the border area. Vegetation removes CO2 from the air 	 Slight change in land use if cropland converted to border. Minor amount of land taken out of agricultural production. Capital No additional field equipment required. Materials & planting costs. Foregone income with land taken out of production. Annual operation and maintenance costs to maintain vegetation and manage pests. Slight increase for weed control. Management Increased management of crop production. Reduced operation flexibility and timing with land taken out of production.
and stores it as soil carbon.	

Plants		
 Plants are selected and managed to maintain optimal productivity and health. Vegetation is installed and managed to control undesired species. Animals Increased quality and quantity of food, cover and shelter for wildlife. Permanent vegetation may provide added habitat and connectivity for selected wildlife species. Opportunity for feed and forage for 		
livestock.		
Energy		
• None Human		
 Historic properties in agricultural context can be protected from erosion by permanent vegetative cover. Slight decrease in labor turning equipment at ends of fields. Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive. 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. 		
Net Effect: Improves soil productivity and water quality at a low cost.		

Commonly Associated Practices: Conservation Crop Rotation, Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces, Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgt., Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till, Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed, Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till, Residue Management, Seasonal, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management.

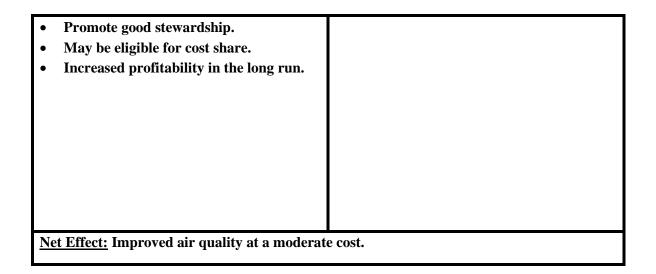
Field Operations Emissions Reduction (Ac) 376

<u>Definition:</u> Adjusting field operations and technologies to reduce particulate matter (PM) emissions from field operations.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Air quality.

Benchmark Condition: Dryland fallow field in winter wheat crop rotation.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
Soil	Land
• Techniques may reduce the potential for sheet, rill and wind erosion. Water	 No change in land use or land in production. Capital
 None Air Reduced soil and residue particulates in the air with changes in tillage, harvest and other field operations. Increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Plants None. Animals None. Energy None. Human Prolong life of above-ground cultural 	 Purchase new equipment. Annual operation and maintenance costs to service and maintain equipment. Labor No change. Management No change. Risk None.
 resources. Prevent off-site negative impacts. Comply with environmental regulations. Save time, money and labor. Promote family health and safety. 	



Commonly Associated Practices: Conservation Cover, Contour Buffer Strips, Cover Crop, Critical Area Planting, Cross Wind Trap Strips, Herbaceous Wind Barriers, Integrated Pest Management, Irrigation Water Management, Mulching, Nutrient Management, Pumping Plant, Residue and Tillage Management-Mulch Till, Residue and Tillage Management-No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed, Residue and Tillage Management-Ridge Till, Residue Management-Seasonal, Terrace, Spoil Spreading, Stream Habitat Improvement and Management, Streambank and Shoreline Protection.

Hedgerow Planting (Ac) 422

<u>Definition:</u> Establishment of dense vegetation in a linear design to achieve a natural resource conservation purpose.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Wildlife habitat, cover and shelter.

Benchmark Condition: Cropland without trees or shrubs.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Reduced wind erosion with dense vegetation trapping saltating particles. Permanent vegetation increases soil organic matter. Root development will improve soil structure and porosity and reduce compaction. Water Tall vegetation will trap snow upwind of structures and animal concentration areas, and increase soil moisture. Reduced pesticide drift and improve 	 Land Cultural resources may be impacted during planting. Change in land use as crop or grazed land is converted to shrub/tree and wildlife use. Minor amount of land taken out of agricultural production. Capital Some brush management equipment may be required. Materials & planting costs. Annual operation and maintenance costs
 Reduced pesticide drift and improve water quality. Borders may attract beneficial insects or trap insect pests which reduce the need for pesticide applications. Nutrients kept in place with reduced overland flow and wind erosion. Borders along small streams increases shade and moderates stream 	 Additional labor maintaining hedgerow, reduced time with some land out of crop production. Increase in crop production planning and
temperatures. Air	 Increase in crop production planning and scouting. Risk
 Permanent rows of trees or shrubs can reduce wind erosion and intercept and trap airborne particles. Vegetation removes CO2 from the air 	 Reduced agricultural operation flexibility and timing with land taken out of production. Forgone income as crop land is taken out

and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil.	of production.
• Reduced objectionable odors are	
intercepted. Plants	
• Vegetation is installed and managed to	
control undesired species.	
Animals	
• Selected plants improve food supply,	
cover, shelter and habitat for fish and	
wildlife.	
• Hedgerows can provide some shade and	
protection from wind for livestock.	
Energy	
• No change.	
Human	
• Increase yields/reduce costs as land	
becomes more productive.Create sustainability of natural resources	
• Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business.	
• Increase the property value (real estate)	
of your property.	
• Create open space and improve habitat for wildlife.	
• Conserve soil and water for periods of	
drought and future use.	
• Prevent off-site negative impacts.	
 Comply with environmental regulations. Save time menoy and labor 	
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.	
Net Effect: Improves soil productivity and wild	dlife habitat at a moderate cost.

Commonly Associated Practices: Stripcropping, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment.

Herbaceous Wind Barriers (Ac) 603

Definition: Herbaceous vegetation established in rows or narrow strips in the field across the prevailing wind direction.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Wind erosion.

Benchmark Condition: Cropland in wind erosion area.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Wind Erosion is reduced by stiff stemmed herbaceous vegetation established across the prevailing wind erosion direction by trapping saltating soil particles and sheltering an area down wind. Soil organic matter increased as wind erosion is reduced. Water Trapped snow can provide additional plant available moisture. Barriers may attract beneficial insects or trap insect pests which reduce the need for pesticide applications improving water quality. Reduced wind erosion keeps soiladsorbed nutrients and sediment in place improving water quality. Barriers can reduce wind erosion and particulate emissions. Vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil and reduced soil loss/organic matter 	 Vegetative covers may protect near surface or subsurface historic properties. Minor change in land use as crop is converted to grass/forb production. Minor amount of land taken out of agricultural production. Capital No additional field equipment required. Materials & planting costs. Annual operation and maintenance costs to maintain vegetation and manage pests. Labor Additional labor maintaining wind barriers. Management Increase in crop production planning and field scouting. Risk Reduced agricultural operation flexibility and timing with land taken out of production. Forgone income with some land taken out of crop production.

 Increased crop yield with reduced wind erosion. Vegetation is installed and managed to control undesired species. Animals Increased quality and quantity of vegetation provides more food, cover, shelter and habitat for wildlife. Energy 		
No change.		
Human		
 Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive. Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business. Increase the property value (real estate) of your property. Create open space and improve habitat for wildlife. 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. 		
Net Effect: Improved soil productivity and reduced wind erosion at a moderate cost.		

Commonly Associated Practices: Cover Crop, Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till, Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed, Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till, Residue Management, Seasonal, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.

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.

Mulching (Ft) 484

<u>Definition:</u> Applying plant residues or other suitable materials produced off site, to the land surface

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Soil productivity.

Benchmark Condition: Depleted intensively farmed row crop land.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<u>a</u> 1	-
 Soil Reduced sheet, rill, wind, gully and streambank erosion. Increased soil organic matter. Reduced evaporation may reduce salt build-up and added organic matter will buffer salts. Water Increased infiltration reduces runoff, flooding and ponding. Increased infiltration and decreased evaporation results in more available water from irrigation and precipitation. Reduced runoff of pesticides, nutrients, salts, sediment, manure, pathogens and other agricultural chemicals improve surface water quality. Air Stabilized the soil surface, reducing the generation of particulate matter. Plants Improved crop production opportunities. Improve growing conditions and increased plant health and vigor. Thick and/or impenetrable mulch cover can prevent emergence of undesired weed 	 Land Adverse effects on cultural resources possible during planting and/or removal. No change in land use or land in production. Capital Mulching equipment and materials. Labor Increase in passes over the field. Management No Change. Risk Increase in pests may reduce crop yield. Increase in seeps and seasonal high water table with increased infiltration. Impervious mulches may increase runoff and surface water quality problems. Increased infiltration negatively effects ground water.

 Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive. 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. 	species. Animals Mulching enhances wildlife food, cover and shelter. Energy None Human 	
	 Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive. 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. 	

Commonly Associated Practices: Contour Farming, Critical Area Planting, Integrated Pest Management, Irrigation Water Management, Nutrient Management.

Technical Note: TN 200-ECN-1, Basic Economic Analysis Using T-Charts (August 2013) for more information.

Multi-Story Cropping (Ft) 379

<u>Definition</u>: Existing or planted stands of trees or shrubs that are managed as an overstory with an understory of woody and/or non-woody plants that are grown for a variety of products.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Soil productivity.

Benchmark Condition: Annual cropland.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Positive Effects Soil Sheet, rill, gully and streambank erosion is reduced by vegetation and surface litter reducing raindrop impact, slowing runoff water and increasing infiltration. Wind erosion is reduced by trees or shrubs creating turbulence, reduced wind velocities and stable areas which stops saltating particles. Biological activity, root depth/density 	 Land Cultural resources may be damaged during tree planting. Increased intensity of land use, producing two or more crops. Capital Additional field equipment required to produce two crops. Materials, installation and management
 blooged activity, root acpulatensity and organic matter cycling increases. Compaction is reduced and soil structure improved. Canopy cover and organic matter provide soil buffer during extended tropical droughts to reduce organic matter oxidation and loss. Plants may take up some salts, and 	costs. Labor • Labor for additional field operations. Management • Increase in management to take soil test, calibrate equipment and keep records. Risk
 increased root penetration improves infiltration that may lead to increased leaching. Water Runoff, flooding, ponding, high water table and seeps are reduced with increased infiltration, evapotranspiration utilizes water, and increased soil organic matter holds water. 	 Reduced agricultural operation flexibility and timing with less annual crop and more perennial vegetation. Crops must be adapted and managed to account for use of available water by trees. Changes in stand structure and composition may interrupt continuity of habitat for certain wildlife species.

- Management of mixed multistoried crops reduces need for chemicals to manage pests. Pesticide degradation may be improved by interception of drift by varied canopy layers. Surface and ground water are improved.
- Permanent vegetation and soil organisms' uptake nutrients and surface and ground water are improved.
- Varied canopy layers and surface cover and organic matter increases infiltration and reduces need for irrigation or chemical inputs and reduces harmful pathogens.
- Reduced sediment-laden runoff from reaching surface water conveyances.
- Air
- Permanent vegetation traps air and slows movement of air, reducing wind velocities and wind stress on crops while providing a stable area to intercept air particles.
- Emissions of greenhouse gases are reduced and stored as carbon.
- Plants
- Increase in crop yield with more effective use of nutrients and plant protection.
- Plants are selected and managed to maintain optimal productivity, health and to control plant pests and undesired species.
- Management of multiple layers and surface organic matter reduce ladder fuel load buildup.
- Animals
- Fish and wildlife habitat, cover and shelter will improve.
- Changes in stand structure and composition may create habitat diversity and edge conditions favored by some wildlife.
- Energy
- No change.
- Human

•	Opportunity to produce two or more
	sources of income.
•	Decrease in labor with land taken out of
	annual crop production.
•	Create sustainability of natural resources
	that support your business.
•	Increase the property value (real estate)
	of your property.
•	Create open space and improve habitat
	for wildlife.
•	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.
Ne	<u>t Effect:</u> Improves soil productivity at a mo

Commonly Associated Practices: Access Control , , Brush Management, Firebreak, Forage and Biomass Planting, Forest Stand Improvement, Forest Trails and Landings, Herbaceous Weed Control, Integrated Pest Management, Nutrient Management, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Tree/Shrub Pruning, Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Woody Residue Treatment.

Technical Note: TN 200-ECN-1, Basic Economic Analysis Using T-Charts (August 2013) for more information.

Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (Ac) 345

<u>Definition:</u> Managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the soil surface year round while limiting the soil-disturbing activities used to grow and harvest crops in systems where the field surface is tilled prior to planting.

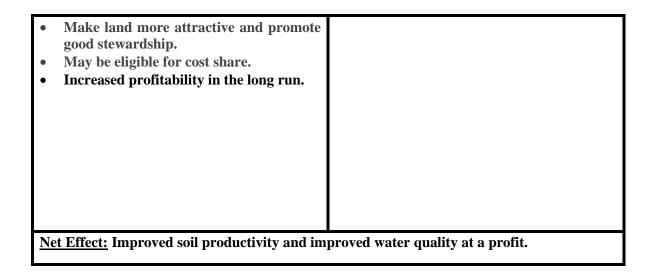
Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Soil erosion, water quality, plant productivity.

Benchmark Condition: Corn and soybean crop rotation.

<u>Date:</u> October, 2016 <u>Developer/Location:</u> Hal Gordon, OR<u>Date:</u> October, 2016 <u>Developer/Location:</u> Hal Gordon, OR

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Sheet, rill, wind, gully erosion is reduced by increasing residue and reducing soil disturbance. Improvement in soil health and water holding capacity. Decreased erosion and less oxidation 	 Land No change in land in production. More intensive land use. Capital Additional field equipment required including no-till drill and spray rig.
 For better as a constant of the second sec	 Increase in pest management costs. Annual operation, maintenance and replacement costs of new field equipment. Labor None. Management Increase management costs in developing crop, nutrient, pest plans and record keeping.
 Increased infiltration results in more water moving through the profile, reducing runoff, ponding and seasonal high water table. Increased infiltration and decreased evaporation results in more available water. Decreased runoff and erosion reduces nutrients, pesticides, salt, pathogens and 	 Steep learning curve first few years. Risk Reduced flexibility when tillage is not available as a management option. Increase in pesticide use (substitute tillage with chemical pest control). Increased infiltration reduces the efficiency of flood and furrow irrigation.

sediment to surface waters.	• Increased infiltration may increase
• High soil organic carbon may cause	nutrient, salt and agricultural chemicals
microbes to immobilize nutrients to	leaching to ground water.
leaching.	• High residue on cold and wet soils may
Air	delay crop emergence and early growth.
	V I O VO
• Fewer field operations reduce the	
generation of particulate matter, ozone	
precursors and CO2.	
Plants	
• Possible increase in crop yields.	
• Conserving moisture and improving soil	
conditions improve plant productivity	
and health.	
Animals	
• Crop residue provides food, cover,	
shelter and habitat for wildlife.	
Energy	
• Fewer passes over the field reduces fuel	
and oil use.	
Human	
• Reduction in field labor, fewer passes	
over the field.	
passes over the field.	
• Improved drainage allows working the	
field earlier and later in field season.	
• Salvage value of obsolete field equipment.	
• Increase yields/reduce costs as land	
becomes more productive.	
• Create sustainability of natural resources	
that support your business.	
• Increase the property value (real estate)	
of your property.	
• Create open space and improve habitat	
for wildlife.	
Conserve soil and water for periods of drought and future use	
drought and future use.	
Prevent off-site negative impacts.	
• Comply with environmental regulations.	
 Save time, money and labor. Duements family health and safety 	
• Promote family health and safety.	



Commonly Associated Practices: Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Integrated Pest Management, Irrigation Water Management, Nutrient Management.

Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (Ac) 329

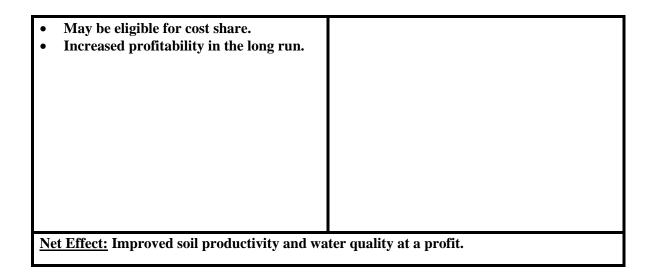
<u>Definition:</u> Managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residue on the soil surface year round, limiting soil-disturbing activities to those necessary to place nutrients, condition residue and plant crops.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Soil erosion, water quality, plant productivity.

Benchmark Condition: Small grain and fallow crop rotation.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Sheet, rill, wind, gully erosion is reduced by increasing residue and reducing soil disturbance. Improvement in soil health and water holding capacity. Decreased erosion and less oxidation from lack of soil disturbance will increase or maintain organic matter. 	 Land No change in land in production. More intensive land use. Capital Additional field equipment required including no-till drill and spray rig. Increase in pest management costs. Annual operation, maintenance and
 Fewer field operations and less tillage reduce the potential for soil compaction. Low disturbance and high residue increase organic matter which buffers salts. Increase in soil carbon. Water 	replacement costs of new field equipment. Labor • None. Management • Increase management costs in developing crop, nutrient, pest plans and record keeping.
 Increased infiltration results in more water moving through the profile, reducing runoff, ponding and seasonal high water table. Increased infiltration and decreased evaporation results in more available water. Decreased runoff and erosion reduces nutrients, pesticides, salt, pathogens and sediment to surface waters. 	 Steep learning curve first few years. Risk Reduced flexibility when tillage is not available as a management option. Increase in pesticide use (substitute tillage with chemical pest control). Increased infiltration reduces the efficiency of flood and furrow irrigation. Increased infiltration may increase

 High soil organic carbon may cause microbes to immobilize nutrients to leaching. Air Fewer field operations reduce the generation of particulate matter, ozone precursors and CO2. Plants Possible increase in crop yields. Conserving moisture and improving soil conditions improve plant productivity and health. Animals Crop residue provides food, cover, shelter and habitat for wildlife. Energy Fewer passes over the field reduces fuel and oil use. Human Reduction in field labor, fewer passes over the field. Reduced equipment repairs with fewer passes over the field. Improved drainage allows working the field earlier and later in field season. Salvage value of obsolete field equipment. Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive. 		
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becomes more productive.Create sustainability of natural resources	• Salvage value of obsolete field equipment.	
Create sustainability of natural resources	• Increase yields/reduce costs as land	
	=	
that support your business.		
	that support your business.	
• Increase the property value (real estate)		
of your property.		
• Create open space and improve habitat for wildlife.		
 Conserve soil and water for periods of 		
drought and future use.	-	
 Prevent off-site negative impacts. 	8	
Comply with environmental regulations.		
• Save time, money and labor.	Save time, money and labor.	
Promote family health and safety.	-	
Make land more attractive and promote	-	
good stewardship.	good stewardship.	



Commonly Associated Practices: Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Integrated Pest Management, Irrigation Water Management, Nutrient Management

Stripcropping (Ac) 586

<u>Definition:</u> 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.

Soil	Land
 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 	 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
	 Increase in developing crop management plan and record keeping. Risk Reduced agricultural operation flexibility and timing when required to follow designed row pattern.

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. 		
<u>Net Effect:</u> 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.

Surface Roughening (Ac) 609

Definition: Performing tillage operations that create random roughness of the soil surface.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Wind erosion.

Benchmark Condition: Level fallow cropland in wind prone area.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Wind erosion is reduced. Maintained soil organic matter. Water 	 Land Cultural resources may be protected from erosion. No change in land use or land taken out of number time.
 Reduced wind erosion transport of soil- adsorbed nutrients, pesticides and salts to surface water. Reduced offsite sediment transport. Air 	of production. Capital • No additional field equipment required. • Additional tillage passes over the field. Labor
 Improved particulate matter air quality. Vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil. 	 Increase in tillage operations. Management Increased time managing crop production. Risk
None.AnimalsNoon.	• None.
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 sus	stainability of natural resources	
that suppo	ort your business.	
• Increase t	he property value (real estate)	
of your pr	operty.	
• Conserve	soil and water for periods of	
drought a	nd future use.	
Prevent of	ff-site negative impacts.	
Comply with environmental regulations.		
Save time, money and labor.		
Promote family health and safety.		
Make land	d more attractive and promote	
good stewardship.		
• Increased profitability in the long run.		
Net Effect: Reduced wind erosion at a low cost.		

Commonly Associated Practices: Conservation Crop Rotation, Cross Wind Ridges, Cross Wind Trap Strips, Herbaceous Wind Barriers, Integrated Pest Management, Nutrient Management, Residue and Tillage Management-Mulch Till, Residue and Tillage Management-No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed, Residue and Tillage Management-Ridge Till, Residue Management, Seasonal, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation.

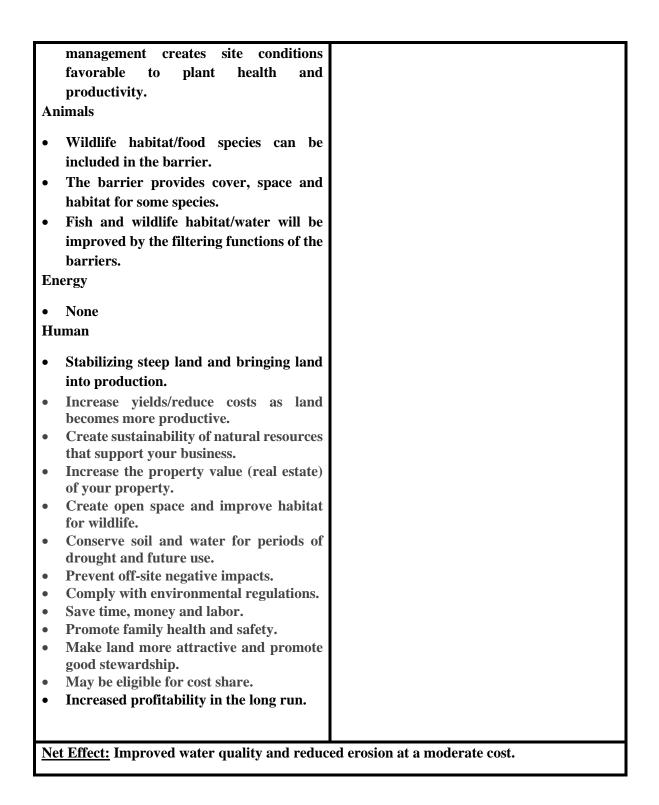
Vegetative Barrier (Ac) 601

<u>Definition:</u> Permanent strips of stiff, dense vegetation established along the general contour of slopes or across concentrated flow areas.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Waste runoff, water quality.

Benchmark Condition: Livestock winter feeding and loafing area.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Sheet, rill, wind and gulley erosion is reduced by stiff-stemmed vegetation planted along the contour or across areas of concentrated flow increasing infiltration. Water Reduced runoff and erosion and traps adsorbed pesticides, nutrients and agricultural chemicals. 	 Land Historic properties may be protected by erosion reduction. Minimal land taken out of agricultural production, some land may be brought into production. Capital No additional field equipment required. Installation equipment costs. Materials and planting costs.
 Soluble organics infiltrate into the soil and may be taken up by plants and soil organisms. Vegetative barriers capture sediment-bound pathogens and retard pathogen movement, allowing more time for mortality to occur before pathogens can reach water bodies. Vegetation slows runoff, filters water, and increases infiltration. Air Vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the 	 Annual operation and maintenance cost to maintain control barrier. Labor Increase in labor to remove sediment an maintain vegetation. Management No Change. Risk Over time salts are collected of redistributed within a field due to seepage, if present.
plants and soil. Plants • Reduced erosion and improved water	



Commonly Associated Practices: Conservation Crop Rotation, Contour Farming, Integrated Pest Management, Nutrient Management, Residue and Tillage Management-Mulch Till, Residue and Tillage Management-No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed, Residue and Tillage Management-Ridge Till, Residue Management-Seasonal.

Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (Ac) 380

<u>Definition</u>: Windbreaks or shelterbelts are single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs in linear configurations.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Wind erosion, energy savings.

Benchmark Condition: Exposed cropland and headquarters.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Positive Effects Soil Sheet, rill and gully erosion is reduced by vegetation across the slope and surface litter reduces erosive water energy. Wind Erosion is reduced by tall vegetation that creates a wind shadow, reduces erosive wind velocities and provides a stable area which stops saltating particles. Roots and vegetative matter and its breakdown increases organic matter. Root penetration and organic matter helps restore soil structure and reduces compaction. Water Reduction in seeps as trees/plants uptake excess water. Runoff, flooding, or ponding is reduced as trees or shrubs increase infiltration and retard flood water movement. 	Negative Effects Land • Change in land use and land in production. • Historic landscapes may change. Capital • Materials, planting & installation costs. • No additional field equipment required. • Annual operation and maintenance costs to maintain vegetation and manage pests. • Forgone income. Labor • Increase in labor during planting. Management • Management change from previous crop. Risk • None
 excess water. Runoff, flooding, or ponding is reduced as trees or shrubs increase infiltration and retard flood water movement. Water table and soil moisture is restored as plants uptake excess water. 	
 Snow is captured within and downwind of tree/shrub rows increasing soil moisture. Tall vegetation reduces wind speeds and evapotranspiration allowing more 	

efficient use of available water.

- Sheltered crops intercept pesticide drift.
- Plants and soil organisms' uptake nutrients and improve surface and ground water quality.
- Vegetation traps sediment preventing it from being deposited elsewhere.

Air

- Reduced particulate emissions associated with wind erosion and filtering particulate matter, CO2 and ammonia from the air.
- Vegetation will reduce wind movement and intercept fine particulates, dust and reduce odor.

Plants

- Crops are sheltered from airborne sediment and chemical drift.
- Reduced crop damage.
- Vegetation is installed and managed to control undesired species.

Animals

- Improved plant diversity and quality and quantity of vegetation provides food, cover and space for wildlife.
- Livestock feed and forage in is enhanced by improving the microclimate.
- Tall vegetation provides shelter for wildlife and livestock.

Energy

- Reduced heating and cooling around farmsteads.
- Potential biomass as fuel source.

Human

- Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive.
- Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business.
- Increase the property value (real estate) of your property.

٠	Create open space and improve habitat	
	for wildlife.	
•	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.	
Ne	Net Effect: Reduced wind erosion, improved soil productivity at a moderate cost.	

Commonly Associated Practices: Access Control , Brush Management, Conservation Crop Rotation, Cover Crop, Cross Wind Trap Strips, Dust Control from Animal Activity on Open Lot Surfaces, Fence, Field Border, Firebreak, Herbaceous Weed Control, Herbaceous Wind Barriers, Integrated Pest Management, Mulching, Residue and Tillage Management-Mulch Till, Residue and Tillage Management-No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed, Residue and Tillage Management-Ridge Till, Residue Management-Seasonal, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Tree/Shrub Pruning, Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Watering Facility, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation.

Access Control (Ac) 472

<u>Definition</u>: The temporary or permanent exclusion of animals, people, vehicles, and/or equipment from an area.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Soil erosion, streambank protection, wildlife habitat.

Benchmark Condition: Riparian area.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
Soil	Land
 Sheet, rill, wind, gully, streambank erosion is reduced by less disturbance of the soil and vegetation. Organic matter increases. Soil compaction is reduced. Water Runoff, flooding, ponding, seasonal high water table and seeps may be reduced as plant vigor increase water uptake and soil structure improves. Soil moisture will increase with improved vegetation and soil structure. Nutrients and pesticides in surface and ground water will decrease as plant vigor improves soil conditions. Pathogens and chemicals from manure in surface and groundwater will be reduced in sensitive areas. Sediment in surface water will be reduced. High water temperature will be reduced. Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants in surface and groundwater will be reduced. Air Emissions of particulate matter, ozone 	 a change to less intense land use. Capital Reduced use of field equipment. Forgone income from previous land use. Annual operation and maintenance costs to maintain control barrier. Labor None. Management None. Risk Agricultural operation flexibility and timing will be limited due to deferred land use, reduced grazing or cropping. Cash flow will decline, annual costs may be greater than annual benefits. Profitability will decrease if land is taken out of production. Wildfire hazard from excessive biomass accumulation may increase. The threat of noxious and invasive plants may increase.

precursors and greenhouse gases will be reduced. Plants	
 Plant community productivity and health will increase by excluding animals, people, and vehicles and encouraging natural revegetation. The threat of noxious and invasive plants may decrease. Animals 	
 Fish and wildlife habitat, food, water, cover, and shelter will improve for certain wildlife species. Fish and wildlife habitat continuity (space) will improve. Livestock feed, forage and shelter will improve (if utilized in the future). Energy 	
 Less energy will be expended with reduced land use. Human 	
 Reduced labor and management. Cultural resources will be protected. Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business. Increase the property value (real estate) of your property. Create open space and improve habitat for wildlife. Conserve soil and water for periods of drought and future use. Prevent off-site negative impacts. Comply with environmental regulations. Promote family health and safety. Make land more attractive and promote good stewardship. May be eligible for cost share. 	
<u>Net Effect:</u> Access Control improves soil prod in the long term at a moderate cost.	uctivity, reduces erosion and protects wildlife

Commonly Associated Practices: Aquaculture Ponds, Critical Area Planting, Fence, Forage and Biomass Planting, Forest Stand Improvement, Fuel Break, Karst Sinkhole Treatment, Land Reclamation, Abandoned Mined Land, Land Reclamation, Currently Mined Land, Land Reclamation, Landslide Treatment, Multi-Story Cropping, Pond, Prescribed Grazing, Range Planting, Riparian Forest Buffer, Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment, Silvopasture Establishment, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Vegetated Treatment Area, Waste Storage Facility, Waste Treatment Lagoon, Water Well, Water Well Decommissioning, Watering Facility, Wetland Restoration, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment.

Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Erosion Control (Ac) 450

<u>Definition:</u> Application of water-soluble Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) to meet a resource concern.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Furrow irrigation erosion.

Benchmark Condition: Furrow irrigated row crops.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Sheet, rill, wind and gully erosion is reduced as soil particles coagulate making them less susceptible to detachment from flowing water and wind. Water Minimize furrow erosion allowing higher water flow in the furrow that provides more efficient application. Reduced erosion and delivery of sediment-attached nutrients and pesticides to be carried off-site to surface water and infiltrated to ground water. Reduces sediment load to waterways. Air Reduce the susceptibility of soil to wind erosion. Plants Improved crop yields. Animals Water quality improvement to fish and wildlife. Energy Reduces seepage losses resulting in 	 Land No change in land in production or land use. Capital Materials and some mixing and field application equipment required. No operation and maintenance costs. Labor Materials application labor. Management Increase in record keeping and developing irrigation schedules. Risk No increase in risk.

reduced energy use for pumping.	
Human	
110111/211	
• Less time managing sediment in	
waterways.	
-	
• Increase furrow irrigation management	
options.	
 Increased crop yields and reduced 	
erosion and sediment management costs.	
• Increase yields/reduce costs as land	
becomes more productive.	
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.	
· · · ·	
Net Effect: PAM improves soil productivity, re	educes erosion at a low cost.

Commonly Associated Practices: Irrigation Canal or Lateral, Irrigation Field Ditch, Irrigation System, Sprinkler, Irrigation System, Surface & Subsurface.

Technical Note: TN 200-ECN-1, Basic Economic Analysis Using T-Charts (August 2013) for more information.

Brush Management (Ac) 314

<u>Definition:</u> The management or removal of woody (non-herbaceous or succulent) plants including those that are invasive and noxious.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Invasive plants, wildlife habitat, soil erosion.

Benchmark Condition: Juniper infested rangeland.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
Soil	Land
• Sheet, rill, wind, gully erosion is reduced with reduced brush canopy and increase in herbaceous ground cover resulting in increased infiltration, reduced overland flow and reduced soil detachment. Water	 Cultural resources may be damaged with mechanical treatment. Land may be utilized more intensely. Land in production may increase. Capital No additional field equipment required.
 Runoff, flooding and ponding is reduced with increased ground cover. Increase in soil moisture and plant use efficiency with a decrease in undesirable species. Reduced sediment in surface water with improved plant cover and less overland flow and runoff. 	 Treatment costs (chemical, mechanical, grazing or fire). Annual operation and maintenance costs may include spot treatment for reinvading brush. Labor None. Management
 Positive long-term carbon sequestration effect from brush management. Plants 	 None. Risk Short term foregone income or change in
 Brush removal increases desirable plant community health, vigor and biodiversity. Reduced wildfire hazard and fuel loadings. 	 seasonal use if deferred from grazing. Temporary increase in soil erosion following mechanical treatment. Pesticides in surface water if used to control brush.
AnimalsImproved composition, structure,	• Removal of vegetation by mechanical means or burning can increase short-term particulate matter emissions, CO2,

4 1 11114 0 1 4 0	
amount and availability of plants for	VOC and/or NOx emissions.
food.	• Loss of habitat for some wildlife species.
• Improved fish and wildlife cover/shelter	
and habitat continuity depending on the	
amount of brush removed and the	
enhancement of stand composition and	
structure.	
 Increased production of forage that 	
meets nutritional and productive needs	
for livestock.	
Energy	
None	
Human	
110111811	
Reduced time managing unwanted brush	
and livestock.	
• Increase yields/reduced costs as land	
becomes more productive.	
Create sustainability of natural resources	
that support your business.	
• Increase the property value (real estate)	
of your property.	
• Create open space and improve habitat	
for wildlife.	
• 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.	
<u>Net Effect:</u> Improved soil productivity, forage	yield, wildlife habitat at a moderate cost.

Commonly Associated Practices: Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgt., Herbaceous Weed Control, Integrated Pest Management, Nutrient Management, Prescribed Burning, Prescribed Grazing, Riparian Forest Buffer, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Woody Residue Treatment.

Critical Area Planting (Ac) 342

<u>Definition</u>: Establishing permanent vegetation on sites that have, or are expected to have, high erosion rates, and on sites that have physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Soil erosion and sedimentation.

Benchmark Condition: Steep cropland slope above perennial stream.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Sheet, rill, wind, gully and streambank erosion reduced with increased vegetation, cover and stabilization of erosive conditions. Increase in soil organic matter. Decrease in soil compaction with increased root growth. 	Negative Effects Land • Historic properties and cultural resources may be protected from erosion. • Change in land use if large areas are planted. • Some land taken out of agricultural production. Capital
 Increased vegetation will increase salt uptake and increased organic matter may tie up salts and other chemicals. Water Growing plants will take up excess water and may reduce seeps, ponding, flooding and high water table with large treatment area. 	 No additional field equipment required. Materials & planting costs. Annual operation and maintenance costs to maintain vegetation and manage pests. Forgone income. Labor None.
 Reduced soil erosion and sediment- attached nutrients delivered to surface and ground water. Permanent vegetation will uptake excess nutrients. Less runoff reduces transport of soluble salts to surface and ground water. Air Permanent cover helps reduce wind erosion and generation of fugitive dust. 	 Management None. Risk Reduced agricultural operation flexibility and timing by taking land out of production. Reduced profitability with land taken out of production.

 Vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil. Plants Establishment of permanent vegetation may provide competition that would slow the spread of noxious plants. Animals Increased quality and quantity of wildlife food, cover, shelter and habitat. Energy None. Human 	
 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. Create open space and improve habitat for wildlife. 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. 	

Commonly Associated Practices: Access Control

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.

Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces (SqFt) 373

<u>Definition:</u> Controlling direct particulate matter emissions produced by vehicle and machinery traffic or wind action from unpaved roads and other surfaces by applying a palliative on the surface.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Air Quality

Benchmark Condition: Dusty roads at farm headquarters.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Treatment of unpaved surfaces can help to bind particles, resulting in reduced erosion. Wind erosion is reduced by treatment of open lots. Water Reduced manure, nutrient, salt, pathogen and other chemical runoff from the open lot surface. Air Reduce particulate matter emissions from vehicle traffic and wind erosion on unpaved roads and surfaces. 	Negative Effects Land • No change in land use or land in production. Capital • Some application equipment required and purchase materials. • No O&M costs after implementation. Labor • Additional labor required to operate dust control equipment. Management • Increased management of equipment and record keeping. Risk
 unpaved roads and surfaces. Plants No effect Animals 	 KISK If road oils are used, nearby surface water may be impacted.
 Improved working conditions and animal health. Energy 	
• No effect Human	
• Improved working conditions.	

•	Increase the property value (real estate) of your property.	
•	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.	
<u>Ne</u>	Net Effect: Improved air quality at a low cost.	

Commonly Associated Practices: Critical Area Planting, Dust Control Animals, Heavy Use Area Protection, Irrigation Pipeline, Irrigation Reservoir, Irrigation System, Sprinkler, Livestock Pipeline, Mulching, Pumping Plant, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment.

Forage and Biomass Planting (Ac) 512

<u>Definition:</u> Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Plant productivity.

Benchmark Condition: Low yield hayland.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Reduced sheet, rill, wind, gully erosion with an increase in vegetative cover. Improved soil organic matter with enhanced biomass production, root development, litter accumulation, increased biological activity, and reduced tillage (if associated with change in land use). Reduced soil compaction. Water Reduced runoff, flooding and ponding with an increase in cover and infiltration. Reduced pesticides, nutrients, pathogens and other agricultural chemicals in surface and ground water. 	 Land No change in land use if currently hayed/grazed. Increase in land in production if land is brought into production. Capital No additional field equipment required. Materials and planting costs. Annual operation and maintenance costs to maintain vegetation and manage pests. Labor No Change. Management Increased management of crop production.
 Permanent vegetation reduces the potential for generation of particulates by wind erosion. Vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil. Plants Increased crop yield with better plant species mix and plant density. 	 Reduced agricultural operation flexibility, timing and income if converting from annual to perennial crop. During the establishment period, there may be an increase in soil erosion, depending on seedbed preparation, seeding method, and species planted.

 Improved plant community structure and composition with adapted and suited plants. Animals Planted species may provide food, cover and shelter for certain wildlife species. Plant species will be selected that accommodate seasonal livestock production and nutritional needs. Energy Use of biomass as an alternative energy source can greatly reduce the use of fossil fuels. Human 	
 Improved agricultural operation flexibility and timing with higher quality crop. Decrease in labor from annual cropping. Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive. Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business. Increase the property value (real estate) of your property. Create open space and improve habitat for wildlife. 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. 	

Commonly Associated Practices: Access Control, Conservation Crop Rotation, Forage Harvest Management, Herbaceous Weed Control, Integrated Pest Management, Nutrient Management, Prescribed Grazing, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.

Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (Ac) 548

<u>Definition:</u> Modifying physical soil and or plant conditions with mechanical tools by treatment such as; pitting, contour furrowing, and ripping or sub-soiling.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Plant productivity.

Benchmark Condition: Rangeland with declining forage production.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Reduced sheet, rill and wind erosion with increased surface roughness and improved vegetation cover that increases infiltration and reduced runoff and soil movement. Improved plant vigor and productivity increases organic matter. Water Increased infiltration and decreased runoff, ponding and flooding. Increased water infiltration and improved plant soil moisture. Reduced nutrients, pathogens and sediment in surface water. 	 Land No change in land use or land in production. Capital No additional field equipment required. Materials and planting costs. No additional operation and maintenance costs. Labor No change. Management No change. Risk
improved plant soil moisture.Reduced nutrients, pathogens and	No change.
Plants	• Undestred plants can colonize newly treated disturbed areas.
 Plant productivity, health and vigor will increase. Animals 	
Annualo	
• Improved forage and livestock yield with improved soil permeability, infiltration and plant vigor.	

• Improved plant production and species	
diversity.	
•	
Energy	
• No change.	
C	
Human	
• Improved agricultural operation	
flexibility and timing with an increase in	
• 0	
forage productivity and grazing	
opportunities.	
Increase yields/reduce costs as land	
becomes more productive.	
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.	
Net Effect: Improved soil productivity and forage quality and yield at a moderate cost.	

Commonly Associated Practices: Forage and Biomass Planting, Integrated Pest Management, Nutrient Management, Prescribed Grazing, Range Planting.

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.

Heavy Use Area Protection (Ac) 561

<u>Definition</u>: The stabilization of areas frequently and intensively used by people, animals or vehicles by establishing vegetation cover, by surfacing with suitable materials, and/or by installing needed structures.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Soil health and livestock productivity.

Benchmark Condition: Muddy sacrifice area near water facility on rangeland.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
Soil • Reduced sheet, rill, wind, gully and streambank erosion with vegetative cover, hard-surfacing, or installing	 Land Vegetative cover may protect surface or subsurface cultural resources; heavy surface treatment or structures may
 structures to protect the soil. If vegetation is used to protect the site, organic matter may be increased, if another material is used to protect the site, organic matter will be decreased or unchanged. 	 damage cultural resources. No change in land use. Minor amount of land taken out of agricultural production. Capital No additional field equipment required.
 The area will be used preferentially and the area adjacent to the site will have less soil compaction. Water 	 Construction costs and materials. Annual operation and maintenance costs to keep pad clear and surfaced. Labor
 Reduced nutrient, pathogen, manure and sediment runoff into surface water as they are collected and disposed. Air 	 Reduced time removing debris and managing livestock. Management
 Stabilizing high-traffic areas can reduce particulate matter and dust. Plants 	 Increased management of site. Risk Impermeable surfaces will cause
 Use of the protected area will result in less traffic on adjacent areas, resulting in improved plant health. Animals 	increased runoff.

• Improved livestock health and management. Energy	
• None.	
Human	
 Less livestock labor required. Improved opportunities for land use and water management. Increase yields/reduced costs as land becomes more productive. 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. 	
<u>Net Effect:</u> Improves soil health and livestock productivity at a low cost.	

Commonly Associated Practices: Access Road, Critical Area Planting, Dry Hydrant, Dust Control from Animal Activity on Open Lot Surfaces, Fence, Filter Strip, Nutrient Management, Prescribed Grazing, Roof Runoff Structure, Subsurface Drain, Trails and Walkways, Vegetated Treatment Area, Waste Storage Facility, Waste Transfer, Waste Treatment, Waste Utilization.

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.

Herbaceous Weed Control (Ac) 315

<u>Definition</u>: The removal or control of herbaceous weeds including invasive, noxious and prohibited plants.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Plant productivity, wildlife habitat.

Benchmark Condition: Russian knapweed and jointed goatgrass infested pasture.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
I OSITIVE Effects	
Soil	Land
 Sheet, rill, wind, gully erosion is reduced with increased health, vigor and cover of desirable plant species. Water Reduced nutrients and sediment in surface water with improved ground cover reducing overland flow. Air Positive long-term carbon sequestration effect from weed management. Plants 	 Cultural resources may be damaged with mechanical treatment. Land may be utilized more intensely. Land in production may increase. Capital No additional field equipment required. Treatment costs (chemical, mechanical, grazing). Annual operation and maintenance costs may include spot treatment for reinvading weeds.
Plants	Labor
• Weed removal increases desirable plant community health, vigor and biodiversity.	• Additional time controlling weeds. Management
 Increase in forage productivity and grazing opportunities. Reduced wildfire hazard and fuel 	 Increase in crop production planning and field scouting. Risk
loadings. Animals	 Pesticides may be used to control vegetation.
 Improved composition, structure, amount and availability of plants for food. Improved fish and wildlife cover/shelter and habitat continuity depending on the type and amount of weeds removed. 	 Removal of vegetation by mechanical means or burning can increase short- term particulate matter emissions, CO2, VOC and/or NOx emissions. Loss of habitat for some wildlife species.

 Increased production of forage that meets nutritional and productive needs for livestock. Energy None. Human 	
 Increase in crop and livestock yields due to reduced weed competition. Reduced time managing unwanted brush and livestock. Increase yields/reduced costs as land becomes more productive. Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business. Increase the property value (real estate) of your property. 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. 	
<u>Net Effect:</u> Improved plant productivity and farm enterprise opportunities at a low cost.	

Commonly Associated Practices: Critical Area Planting, Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgt., Forage Harvest Management, Forest Stand Improvement, Integrated Pest Management, Land Clearing, Nutrient Management, Prescribed Burning, Prescribed Grazing, Range Planting, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.

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.

Land Reclamation, Landslide Treatment (Ft) 453

<u>Definition:</u> Managing in-place natural materials, mine spoil (excavated over-burden), mine waste or overburden to reduce down-slope movement.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Soil and water quality.

Benchmark Condition: Landslide on steep mined slope resulting from road water run-off.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Reduced sheet, rill, wind and gully erosion with the establishment of vegetative cover. Increase in soil organic matter. Water Removal of water to stabilize slopes reduces seepage and seasonal high water table. Reduced run-off of pathogens, agricultural chemicals, manure and sediment into surface water. Air Increase vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil. 	Image: Integrative Effects Land • Cultural resources may be impacted during construction. • Land may be brought into production. Capital • No additional field equipment required. • Materials and installation costs. • No annual operation and maintenance costs. Labor • Labor to dispose of spoil material. Management • Increase in plan development and record keeping. Risk • None.
 Vegetative cover species will be selected and maintained at optimal conditions for the intended purpose. Vegetation is installed and managed to control undesired species. Animals 	
• Increased quality and quantity of vegetation provides food, cover and shelter for wildlife.	

Energy	
• None.	
Human	
• Increase in public safety.	
Increase in crop and livestock production from metapotic of providently	
from restoration of previously unproductive areas.	
 Create sustainability of natural resources 	
that support farm business.	
• Increase the property value (real estate).	
• Create open space and improve habitat	
for wildlife.	
• 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. 	
- mercased promability in the folig full.	
Net Effect: Improved soil productivity and wa	ter quality at a significant cost.
	A V D

Commonly Associated Practices: Critical Area Planting, Integrated Pest Management, Land Reclamation, Currently Mined Land, Land Reclamation, Toxic Discharge Control, Nutrient Management, Obstruction Removal, Subsurface Drain, Terrace, Underground Outlet.

Prescribed Burning (Ac) 338

Definition: Controlled fire applied to a predetermined area

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Noxious weeds, plant and livestock productivity.

Benchmark Condition: Brush and noxious weed infested grazing land.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
Soil	Land
 Sheet, rill, wind and gulley erosion is reduced with improved plant production and vegetative cover. Improved plant production increases soil carbon. Organic soils are susceptible to subsistence. Water Runoff, flooding, or ponding is reduced with improved vegetative cover. Increased plant vigor improves the uptake of nutrients and improves surface and ground water quality. Improved vegetative cover reduces runoff and sediment into waterways. Maintain or lower surface water temperatures. Air Increased plant vigor reduces the potential for generation of particulates by wind erosion. Minimal reduction of ozone precursors through reduced incidence of wildfire. Short-term increase in ozone precursors (NOx and VOC emissions) during the burn. Emissions of greenhouse gases and CO2 	 Cultural resources may be affected by burning and mechanical treatment. Increase in land use, brush/tree areas brought into production. Capital No additional field equipment required, some installation equipment required. Consultants, permits, safety considerations and implementation. No operation and maintenance costs, only one-time implementation costs. Foregone income from lost production or change in seasonal use. Labor No Change. Management Develop fire management plan. Risk Fire hazard to people, structures, crops and livestock. Burning mineralizes organic materials, may increase salts. Increase in particulate emissions from the fire.

 emissions are decreased with the decreased incidence of wildfire. Increased plant vigor increases carbon sequestration. Fire increases smoke, particulates and other objectionable associated odors. Plants 	• Some shrubs and trees which provide livestock and wildlife shelter are removed from area.
 Growing conditions are altered to enhance health and productivity of more desirable plants. Improved management of undesirable vegetation. Reduced fuel loading and wildfire hazard. Animals 	
 Improved livestock distribution, increased forage availability, improved livestock health, extended grazing period, and improved forage production. A more diverse plant community with adequate food and cover for wildlife. Restored desired habitat, space and wildlife habitat continuity. Improved production and quality of desirable forage species. Energy 	
• Reduced energy requirements for firefighting and pest control. Human	
 More land management options. Labor savings managing brush and improved livestock herding. Increase in wildlife recreational opportunities. Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive. Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business. Increase the property value (real estate) of your property. Create open space and improve habitat 	

for wildlife.

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.
Net Effect: improves soil productivity, reduces erosion at a moderate cost.

Commonly Associated Practices: Access Control , Brush Management, Critical Area Planting, Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces, Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgt., Forage and Biomass Planting, Forest Stand Improvement, Forest Trails and Landings, Fuel Break, Herbaceous Weed Control, Integrated Pest Management, Range Planting, Sediment Basin, Silvopasture Establishment, Tree/Shrub Pruning, Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Woody Residue Treatment.

Prescribed Grazing (Ac) 528

Definition: Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Low plant/animal productivity and health.

Benchmark Condition: Native rangeland, poor livestock distribution, low forage yields.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
I USILIVE Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Sheet, rill, wind and gully erosion reduced by improving the health/vigor of plant communities with increased vegetative cover and water infiltration. Streambanks protected with an increase 	 Land Slight increase in land in production with better livestock distribution. Protect buried cultural resources. Capital
 Streambanks protected with an increase in riparian vegetation. Increase in vegetative cover, deeper root systems, increased soil organic material and biological activity, and improved nutrient cycling. Reduced soil compaction. Increased cover reduces evaporative salt accumulation. 	 Slight increase in equipment costs, some monitoring equipment may be required (camera, stakes, hoops, clippers, etc.) Minor increase in annual operation and maintenance costs for herding and forage monitoring. Labor
Water	 Additional labor herding livestock between pastures. Management
 Spring and seep flows improved. Runoff, flooding, or ponding is reduced and infiltration increased with improved vegetative cover. Soil moisture improved, less irrigation. Reduced pesticides and fertilizer use with 	 Increase in field scouting to determine when to move livestock and manage forage, minerals and water. Increase record keeping. Risk
 better plant health and vigor, improved surface and ground water. Reduced risk of movement of pathogens in surface waters with increase in soil microbial activity. Reduced sediment delivery to surface water. 	• Possible foregone income from forage deferment during implementation.

• Reduced surface water temperatures. Air

- Improved vegetative cover reduces the generation of particulates and removes CO2 from the air and stores it as carbon in plants and soil.
- Objectionable manure odor reduced. Plants
- Improved plant and animal management enhances growing conditions of the desired plant community and reduces noxious and invasive plants.
- Improved forage yields and access.

• Reduced fuel loads and wildfire hazard. Animals

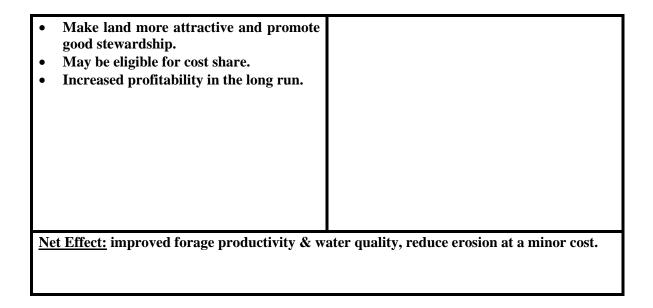
- Improved fish and wildlife habitat, cover, shelter, water, habitat continuity and space.
- Livestock numbers are in balance with feed and forage that meets livestock nutritional and productive needs.
- Grazing management considers animal shelter throughout the year.

Energy

• Opportunity to reduce herding requirements and fuel use.

Human

- Improved livestock distribution and management options.
- Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive.
- Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business.
- Increase the property value (real estate) of your property.
- Create open space and improve habitat for wildlife.
- Conserve soil and water for periods of drought and future use.
- Prevent off-site negative impacts.
- Comply with environmental regulations.
- Promote family health and safety.



Commonly Associated Practices: Access Control , Animal Trails and Walkways, Dust Control from Animal Activity on Open Lot Surfaces, Feed Management, Fence, Forage and Biomass Planting, Heavy Use Area Protection, Integrated Pest Management, Livestock Pipeline, Nutrient Management, Pond, Spring Development, Stream Crossing, Water Well, Watering Facility.

Range Planting (Ac) 550

<u>Definition</u>: Establishment of adapted perennial or self-sustaining vegetation such as grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs and trees.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Soil productivity.

Benchmark Condition: Low productive range land.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Positive Effects Soil Sheet, rill, wind, shoreline and gully erosion is reduced with increased vegetative cover. Increase in organic matter and reduced soil compaction with enhanced root development, litter accumulation, and increased biological activity. Site may be planted to adapted species that reduce saline seeps. Water Runoff, flooding, ponding, high water table and seeps are reduced with an increase in cover, infiltration and reduced runoff and overland flow. Reduced drifting snow. Reduced runoff, erosion and the delivery of organics and nutrients to surface water. Permanent vegetation will uptake excess nutrients protecting surface and ground water. 	 Land Cultural resources may be affected by mechanical treatment. No change in landuse if currently grazed, substantial if change from other land use. Capital No additional field equipment required. Materials & planting costs. Annual operation and maintenance costs to maintain vegetation and manage pests. Labor No change. Management No change. Risk During the establishment period, there may be a slight to moderate risk of erosion, depending on seedbed preparation, seeding method, and species planted.
nutrients protecting surface and ground	preparation, seeding method, and species

- Reduced runoff and sedimentation.
- Reduced high water temperature through thermal regulation of gravitational water moving laterally to open water.

Air

- Permanent vegetation reduces the potential for generation of particulates by wind erosion.
- Vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil.

Plants

- Plants are selected and managed to maintain optimal productivity, health and ecological function.
- Undesired species are controlled. Animals
- Increase in livestock and wildlife yield from better plant species mix and plant density.
- Fish and wildlife cover, shelter and habitat are improved.

Energy

• No change.

Human

- Improved livestock distribution, increased forage availability and management options.
- 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.	
Net Effect: Improves soil productivity at a moderate cost.	

Commonly Associated Practices: Access Control, Brush Management, Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment, Prescribed Burning, Prescribed Grazing, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Watering Facility.

Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats (Ac) 543

<u>Definition:</u> Restoring, conserving, and managing unique or diminishing native terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Wildlife habitat.

Benchmark Condition: Vernal pool habitat for aquatic invertebrates and waterfowl.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Positive Effects Soil Sheet, rill, wind, gully and streambank erosion is reduced by establishing or improving native vegetative cover. Improved vegetative cover may increase soil organic matter. However, if prescribed burning is used, removal of vegetation and litter from a site temporarily removes organic material that could have become soil organic matter. Water 	 Land Cultural resources may be harmed during restoration. Some land may be taken out of agricultural production. Capital No change in field equipment. Materials & construction costs. Annual operation and maintenance costs to clean-out debris, repair and replace structures, maintain vegetation and
	 structures, maintain vegetation and manage pests. Foregone income from lost production or change in seasonal use. Labor Increase in labor depends on natural or artificial habitat. Management
 Additional vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil. Plants 	 Develop habitat management plan, field scouting and record keeping. Risk
• Plants are selected and managed to maintain optimal productivity, health and the desired plant community.	• Reduced agricultural operation flexibility and timing with more restricted land use.

• Vegetation is managed to control undesired species. Animals	
 Improved plant diversity and quality and quantity of vegetation provides food, cover, shelter and habitat for wildlife. Declining habitats and space are restored. Additional feed and forage for livestock. Energy 	
• None Human	
 Labor, management and capital will decrease as land is taken out of production. Reduced time cultivating previous crop. Create sustainability of natural resources that support farm business. Increase the property value (real estate). Create open space and improve habitat for wildlife. 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. 	
<u>Net Effect:</u> Improved soil productivity and will	dlife habitat at a moderate cost.

Commonly Associated Practices: Access Control , Animal Trails and Walkways, Brush Management, Conservation Cover, Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgt., Fence, Forage and Biomass Planting, Range Planting, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management.

Riparian Forest Buffer (Ac) 391

<u>Definition:</u> An area predominantly trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from watercourses or water bodies.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Wildlife habitat and streambank erosion.

Benchmark Condition: Degraded riparian area adjacent to cropland.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Positive Effects Soil Sheet, rill, wind and gully erosion is reduced by vegetation and surface litter. Streambank, shoreline and conveyance channels erosion is reduced. Root penetration and organic matter will reduce compaction and restore soil structure. Increased vegetation and organic matter will increase salt uptake tie up salts and other chemicals. Water Trees or shrubs may retard flood water movement from the site. Seasonal high water table may be reduced as plants take up excess water. Trees, shrubs and other vegetation may reduce runoff, trap adsorbed pesticides, take up pesticide drift. Plants and soil organisms will utilize nutrients, and the buffer will filter out suspended particles to which nutrients are attached. Pathogens, agricultural chemicals and manure will be captured and delayed or removed from waterways. 	 Negative Effects Land Historic properties may be protected from erosion by permanent cover. Some land may be taken out of agricultural production. Capital No change in field equipment. Materials, planting and construction costs. Annual operation and maintenance costs to clean-out debris, repair and replace structures, maintain vegetation and manage pests. Labor None. Management Increase in developing a habitat management plan, field scouting and record keeping. Risk Reduced farm flexibility when land is taken out of production.

- Sediment, pathogens, chemicals, manure, bio-solids or compost will be captured and delayed from entering waterways.
- Riparian forest canopy shades streams and rivers, cooling water temperatures.
- Air
- Vegetation reduces erosive wind velocities and provides a stable area which stops saltating particles.
- Vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil.

Plants

- Buffer establishment and management creates the desired plant community.
- Vegetation is installed and managed to control undesired species.

Animals

• Improved fish and wildlife habitat, food, continuity, space, cover and shelter for wildlife.

Energy

• None.

Human

- Decrease in labor with land taken out of production.
- Reduced labor managing sediment and sloughing shoreline.
- Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business.
- Increase the property value (real estate) of your property.
- Create open space and improve habitat for fish and wildlife.
- 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. 	
Net Effect: Improve wildlife habitat and water quality at a moderate cost.	

Commonly Associated Practices: Access Control , Brush Management, Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgt., Field Border, Filter Strip, Firebreak, Fish Passage, Forest Stand Improvement, Grassed Waterway, Herbaceous Weed Control, Integrated Pest Management, Multi-Story Cropping, Nutrient Management, Prescribed Grazing, Recreation Area Improvement, Riparian Herbaceous Cover, Shallow Water Development and Management, Stream Crossing, Stream Habitat Improvement and Management, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Structure for Water Control, Subsurface Drain, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Tree/Shrub Pruning, Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Underground Outlet, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Wetland Creation, Wetland Enhancement, Wetland Restoration, Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management, Woody Residue Treatment.

Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Ac) 390

<u>Definition:</u> 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.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Wildlife habitat and streambank erosion.

Benchmark Condition: Degraded riparian area adjacent to pasture land.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Sheet, rill, wind and gully erosion is reduced by vegetation and surface litter. Streambank, shoreline and conveyance channels erosion is reduced. Root penetration and organic matter will 	 Land Historic properties may be protected from erosion by permanent cover. Some land may be taken out of agricultural production. Capital
 Root penetration and organic matter will reduce compaction and restore soil structure. Increased vegetation and organic matter will increase salt uptake tie up salts and other chemicals. Water Shrubs may retard flood water 	 No change in field equipment. Materials, planting and construction costs. Annual operation and maintenance costs to clean-out debris, repair and replace structures, maintain vegetation and manage pests.
 movement from the site. Seasonal high water table may be reduced as plants take up excess water. Shrubs and other vegetation may reduce runoff, trap adsorbed pesticides, take up pesticide residues and may intercept pesticide drift. Plants and soil organisms will utilize nutrients, and the buffer will filter out 	 Labor None. Management Increase in developing a habitat management plan, field scouting and record keeping. Risk
 nutrients, and the burler will litter out suspended particles to which nutrients are attached. Pathogens, agricultural chemicals and manure will be captured and delayed or 	• Reduced farm flexibility when land is taken out of production.

removed from waterways.

- Sediment, pathogens, chemicals, manure, bio-solids or compost will be captured and delayed from entering waterways.
- Herbaceous cover and shrubs may shade waterways, cooling water temperatures.
- Air
- Vegetation reduces erosive wind velocities and provides a stable area which stops saltating particles.
- Vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil.

Plants

- Buffer establishment and management creates the desired plant community.
- Vegetation is installed and managed to control undesired species.

Animals

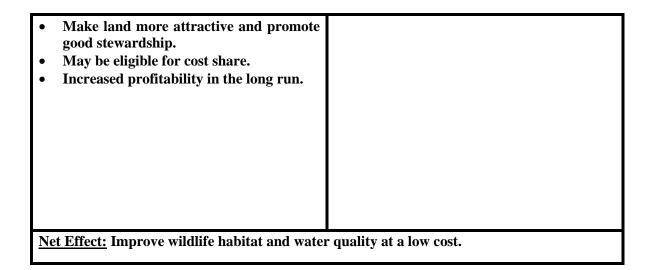
• Improved fish and wildlife habitat, food, continuity, space, cover and shelter for wildlife.

Energy

• None.

Human

- Decrease in labor with land taken out of production.
- Reduced labor managing sediment and sloughing shoreline.
- Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business.
- Increase the property value (real estate) of your property.
- Create open space and improve habitat for fish and wildlife.
- 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.



Commonly Associated Practices: Access Control, Conservation Cover, Fence, Forage and Biomass Planting, Forest Stand Improvement, Herbaceous Weed Control, Integrated Pest Management, Prescribed Grazing, Riparian Forest Buffer, Stream Habitat Improvement and Management, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Structure for Water Control, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.

Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (Ac) 654

<u>Definition:</u> The closure, decommissioning, or abandonment of roads, trails, and/or landings and associated treatment to achieve conservation objectives.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Soil compaction and plant productivity.

Benchmark Condition: High road density on grazing woodlots.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
Soil	Land
 Increased vegetation and cover and stabilization of erosive conditions will improve infiltration, decrease soil detachment by water and reduce erosion, gully formation and streambank erosion. Increased soil organic matter. Decrease in soil compaction. Increased organic matter may tie up salts and other chemicals. Water Hydrologic processes are restored through vegetative and other treatments. Reduced nutrient, salt, pathogens, agricultural chemicals, manure and sediment delivery to surface and ground water. Reestablishment of natural hydrology can reduce surface water temperatures. 	 Negative if trail is historic and needs maintenance. Change in land use from roadway to other land use. Reduced access may reduce land in production. Capital No change in field equipment. Materials & construction costs. Operate and maintain water bars, barriers and structures. Foregone income from lost production or change in seasonal use. Labor Decrease in labor with land taken out of production. Management No change.
• Permanent cover and other treatments	Risk
 help reduce wind erosion and wind and traffic generation of fugitive dust. Vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil. 	 Decrease in agricultural operation flexibility and timing due to restricting access, reduced grazing or agricultural production options. Increase in travel costs.

Plants

Plants	
 Proper plant selection, nutrient modification and management improves plant growth and vigor. Establishment of permanent vegetation provide competition that slows the spread of noxious plants, removes noxious plants and improves plant community Animals Increased quality and quantity of vegetation provides more food, cover, shelter and habitat for wildlife. 	
 Established vegetation may add forage 	
for domestic animals.	
Energy	
• No change.	
Human	
• Decrease in labor with land taken out of production.	
 Create sustainability of natural resources 	
that support your business.	
• Increase the property value (real estate) of your property.	
• Create open space and improve habitat for wildlife.	
• 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.	
<u>Net Effect:</u> Improves soil and plant productivity at a moderate cost.	

T

Commonly Associated Practices: Access Control, Critical Area Planting, Forest Stand Improvement, Sediment Basin, Structure for Water Control, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Woody Residue Treatment.

Silvopasture Establishment (Ac) 381

<u>Definition</u>: An application establishing a combination of trees or shrubs and compatible forages on the same acreage.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Soil productivity and livestock habitat.

Benchmark Condition: Sparse woodlot adjacent to pasture land.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
Soil Sheet, rill, wind, gully and streambank 	Land Cultural resources may be harmed
 erosion is reduced by establishing a combination of trees, shrubs and forages which reduce erosion by water. Permanent vegetation, roots, vegetative 	 during earth moving or tree planting. Change in land use and land in production. Capital
 matter and livestock waste may increase soil organic matter. Tree root penetration and organic matter counteracts soil compaction from livestock. 	 Additional field equipment may be required (crop, hay or livestock). Installation, materials & planting costs. Annual operation and maintenance costs
 Contaminants taken up by forage plants will be returned to the soil as manure. 	to maintain vegetation and manage pests. Labor
 Water Decrease in runoff, flooding, ponding, seeps and seasonal high water table with 	 Increase in labor managing tree and crop production. Management
increased utilization of soil moisture and evapotranspiration from changes in vegetative structure and composition.	 Increase time managing crop and tree production. Risk
• Increase in drifted snow that is captured by tree/shrub crowns and deposited within the forage area.	• Slight increase in seeps or high water table with increased infiltration, especially during dormant season.
• Trees and shrubs will take up additional pesticide residues and intercept pesticide drift.	 Grazing animals may cause difficulty in scheduling forage irrigations. Establishment of permanent silvopasture
• Increased nutrients and salt uptake by plants, reducing their movement to	• Establishment of permanent shyopasture vegetation may negatively impact the native understory plant community.

	surface and ground water.	• Changes in structure and composition
	Captured and delayed pathogen	• Changes in structure and composition will have negative effects on food, cover
	movement and increased pathogen	and habitat for certain wildlife species.
	movement and mercased pathogen mortality.	and habitat for certain whunce species.
	Reduced sedimentation.	
	Tall vegetation established near surface	
•	waters provides shade and reduces water	
	temperatures.	
•	Vegetation may take up heavy metals.	
Ai		
•	Reduced wind velocities, filtering	
	particulates from the air, stopping	
1	saltating particles and reduced odor.	
•	Increase in storing soil carbon.	
•	Tall vegetation slows surface air	
1	movement and intercepts and captures	
1	airborne particulates.	
Pla	ints	
	Vegetation is installed and managed to	
	control undesired weed species.	
	Overstory trees are spaced and managed	
	to reduce wildfire hazard.	
An	imals	
•	Changes in structure and composition	
	will have positive effects on food, cover	
	and habitat for certain wildlife species	
	and wildlife.	
En	ergy	
•	Reduced energy use associated with	
1	fighting wildfire.	
•	Potential biofuel production.	
Hu	man	
	Improved a proving the set of the	
•	Improved agricultural operation	
1	flexibility and timing with diversification	
	of land uses.	
•	Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive.	
	Create sustainability of natural resources	
	that support your business.	
•	Increase the property value (real estate)	
	of your property.	

• Create open space and improve habitat for wildlife.	
• 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.	
Net Effect: Improved soil productivity, livestock and wildlife habitat at a moderate cost.	

Commonly Associated Practices: Access Control , Brush Management, Dust Control from Animal Activity on Open Lot Surfaces, Firebreak, Forage and Biomass Planting, Forest Stand Improvement, Herbaceous Wind Barriers, Livestock Pipeline, Prescribed Burning, Prescribed Grazing, Tree/Shrub Establishment, Tree/Shrub Pruning, Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Watering Facility, Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management.

Trails and Walkways (Ac) 568

<u>Definition:</u> A pathway for pedestrian, equestrian, bicycle, other off-road modes of recreation travel, farm-workers, construction/maintenance access and small walk behind equipment.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Sensitive riparian areas, water quality.

Benchmark Condition: Wet meadow along riparian area near dairy milking parlor.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
Soil	Land
 Sheet, rill, wind, gully and streambank and shoreline erosion is reduced by directing travel away from erosion prone areas. Controlled traffic confines compaction is to a more limited area. Water 	 Historic properties and cultural resources may be affected by route preparation, construction and by certain operation and maintenance actions. Minimal land taken out of agricultural production. Capital
 Managed foot traffic increases vegetative cover and reduces compaction, runoff, flooding, or ponding. Trails and Walkways can move traffic away from sensitive riparian areas. Suspended sediment and turbidity in surface water will decrease due to controlled traffic and reduced erosion. Air Reduced time and travel of motorized vehicles. Plants Trails provide firebreaks and access to sites for fuel reduction activities. Animals By confining animals to a trail they will 	 No additional field equipment required. Installation equipment and materials. Annual operation and maintenance costs to maintain pathway, control vegetation and manage pests. Labor No change. Management No change. Risk None.
• By confining animals to a trail they will stay out of the stream and away from wildlife food, cover and shelter sources.	

 Improved distribution of animals makes forage more readily available to livestock. Provides access to previously inaccessible feeding and watering areas. Energy Reduced time and travel of motorized vehicles. 	
 Human Increase in farm flexibility with improved accessibility. Improved livestock management and health. Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive. Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business. Increase the property value (real estate) of your property. Create open space and improve habitat for wildlife. 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. 	
Net Effect: Improved livestock management, protect sensitive areas, at a moderate cost.	

Commonly Associated Practices: Access Control, Access Road, Critical Area Planting, Dam, Dam, Diversion, Dike, Diversion, Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces, Filter Strip, Heavy Use Area Protection, Mulching, Recreation Area Improvement, Recreation Land Grading and Shaping, Riparian Forest Buffer, Riparian Herbaceous Cover, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Water and Sediment Control Basin, Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management.

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.

Tree/Shrub Establishment (Ac) 612

<u>Definition</u>: Establishing woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, direct seeding, or natural regeneration.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Plant productivity, unproductive woodlot.

Benchmark Condition: Douglas fir riparian area after wildfire.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
 Soil Sheet, rill, wind and gully erosion is reduced by vegetation and surface litter. Establishment of permanent woody vegetation increases root and shoot development and increases soil organic matter. Root penetration and organic matter helps restore soil structure and reduces compaction. Woody vegetation takes up limited quantities of salts and other chemicals. Water Deep rooted plants uptake excess water and reduce seeps, ponding, flooding and high water table. Snow is captured and deposited down wind of planted trees and shrubs. Adapted and managed vegetative production allows more efficient use of available water. Trees and shrubs take up pesticide, nutrient and agricultural chemicals into surface and groundwater. 	 Land Change in land use if converting to woodland. Land taken out of agricultural production. Capital No additional field equipment required. Materials & planting costs. Annual operation and maintenance costs to maintain vegetation and manage pests. Labor Increase in labor during planting. Management No change. Risk Reduced farm flexibility by changing to permanent vegetation. Trees or shrubs may retard flood water movement away from the site.

•	Woody	vegetation	captures	and	delays	
	pathogen movement.					

• Near streams and other water bodies, trees and shrubs provide shade to moderate water temperature.

Air

- Permanent vegetative cover reduces wind erosion and fugitive dust generation.
- Vegetation removes CO2 from the air and stores it in the form of carbon in the plants and soil.
- Vegetation will reduce wind movement and can intercept odors.

Plants

• Plants are selected and managed to maintain optimal productivity and health.

Animals

- Plants are chosen and managed to enhance food, cover and shelter for target species.
- May be used as feed and forage by livestock if the desired trees and shrubs are not harmed.
- Tall vegetation provides livestock shelter. Energy
- Plantings may reduce need for heating and cooling around farmsteads.
- Potential biomass fuel production.

Human

- Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive.
- Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business.
- Increase the property value (real estate) of your property.
- Create open space and improve habitat for wildlife.
- Conserve soil and water for periods of drought and future use.
- Prevent off-site negative impacts.
- Comply with environmental regulations.

٠	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.	
Net Effect: Improved woodland at a moderate cost.		

Commonly Associated Practices: Conservation Cover, Critical Area Planting, Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgt., Forest Stand Improvement, Forest Trails and Landings, Hedgerow Planting, Integrated Pest Management, Nutrient Management, Riparian Forest Buffer, Sediment Basin, Tree/Shrub Pruning, Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation

Watering Facility (No) 614

<u>Definition:</u> A permanent or portable device to provide an adequate amount and quality of drinking water for livestock and or wildlife.

<u>Major Resource Concerns Addressed:</u> Livestock distribution, water quality and plant productivity.

Benchmark Condition: Uncontrolled in-stream access to watering livestock.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects	
 Soil Increased vegetated cover due to better livestock distribution reduces soil and gully erosion. Streambank, shoreline and water conveyance channel erosion are reduced with reduced animal traffic. Water Increased infiltration due to better vegetative cover, and an increase in seep flow and reduced ponding, flooding and high water table. When used in place of an in-stream water source, decreased manure deposition in stream. Better distribution of animals results in less concentration of contaminants entering waterways. Getting animals out of the stream will keep them cleaner and reduce contact with manure-borne pathogens. A water development will decrease livestock trampling in wet areas and nearby streams, reducing sediment, turbidity and high stream temperatures. Air 	 Land Possible damage to cultural resources during installation. Increase in land use intensity if livestock can access additional land. Capital Installation, operation and maintenance equipment required. Annual operation and maintenance costs include clean-out debris, repair and replace structures and equipment. Labor Increase in labor to maintain structures. Management Develop water management plan. Risk Livestock traffic may increase soil compaction around the practice, but the practice will help reduce excess moisture where traffic occurs. 	

No change. lants Improved livestock distribution improves growth and vigor of plants.	
Improved livestock distribution improves	
nimals	
Supplying water to off-stream locations protects the stream, riparian areas and fish and wildlife habitat. Improved distribution of animals makes forage more readily available to livestock.	
No Change.	
luman	
 More dependable water supply. Improved access to livestock water. Reduce livestock water costs and develop more intensive grazing system. Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive. Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business. Increase the property value (real estate) of your property. Create open space and improve habitat for wildlife. 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. 	

Commonly Associated Practices: Critical Area Planting, Dust Control from Animal Activity on Open Lot Surfaces, Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces, Fence, Heavy Use Area Protection, Livestock Pipeline, Prescribed Grazing, Spring Development, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, Water Well.

Water Well (Ac) 642

<u>Definition</u>: A hole drilled, dug, driven, bored, jetted or otherwise constructed to an aquifer for water supply.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Inadequate livestock water.

Benchmark Condition: Rangeland with poor livestock distribution.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects	
Soil	Land	
 Increased vegetative cover due to better distribution of water reduces soil erosion. Water Well will provide a dependable supply of water allowing better management. Where well flows are used for irrigation, contaminants can be leached below the root zone. Reduce high water table as water is removed from subsurface water source. Air No Change. Plants Plant productivity and health will improve with increased availability and managed application of irrigation water. Animals Provides dependable water supply to livestock and wildlife in areas where surface water is scant. Improve distribution of animals makes 	 Facilitating practice, may convert to irrigated land or more intensive grazed land. Significant increase in land in production with irrigation. Capital Install well and associated water management and distribution equipment. Annual operation and maintenance costs to repair and replace structures and equipment. Labor Increase in labor if bringing more land into production. Management Increase in management and record keeping. Risk In coastal areas pumping fresh groundwater may allow the intrusion of 	
forage more readily available to livestock.Wells facilitate the availability and distribution of water.	saltwater.Use of wells to irrigate previously non irrigated land will increase the likelihood	

Energy	contaminants moving of-site, probable		
 No change. Human Improved options for agricultural 	 less contaminants on grazing lands. Where well flows are used for irrigation, contaminants can be leached below the root zone. 		
production.	Increase in energy use.		
• Reduce irrigation or culinary water costs,			
develop more intensive agriculture.			
• Increase yields/reduce costs as land becomes more productive.			
• Create sustainability of natural resources that support your business.			
• Increase the property value (real estate) of your property.			
• Create open space and improve habitat for wildlife.			
• 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. 			
<u>Net Effect:</u> Improved water management and plant productivity, at a moderate cost.			

Commonly Associated Practices: Irrigation Water Management, Livestock Pipeline, Pumping Plant, Watering Facility.

Technical Note: TN 200-ECN-1, Basic Economic Analysis Using T-Charts (August 2013) for more information.