

SURFACE DRAINAGE, MAIN OR LATERAL

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 608



SURFACE DRAINAGE, MAIN OR LATERAL

A main or lateral is an open drainage ditch constructed to a designed size and grade that receives drainage waters from other drainage structures.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice is used in conjunction with Surface Drainage, Field Ditch (607) or Subsurface Drain (606) for conveyance and disposal of excess surface and subsurface water and control of ground water levels.

Sites for this practice are suitable for agriculture and have an outlet for the drainage water by either gravity or pumping. Mains and laterals are located and designed to serve as integral parts of a surface or subsurface drainage system that meets conservation and land use needs.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

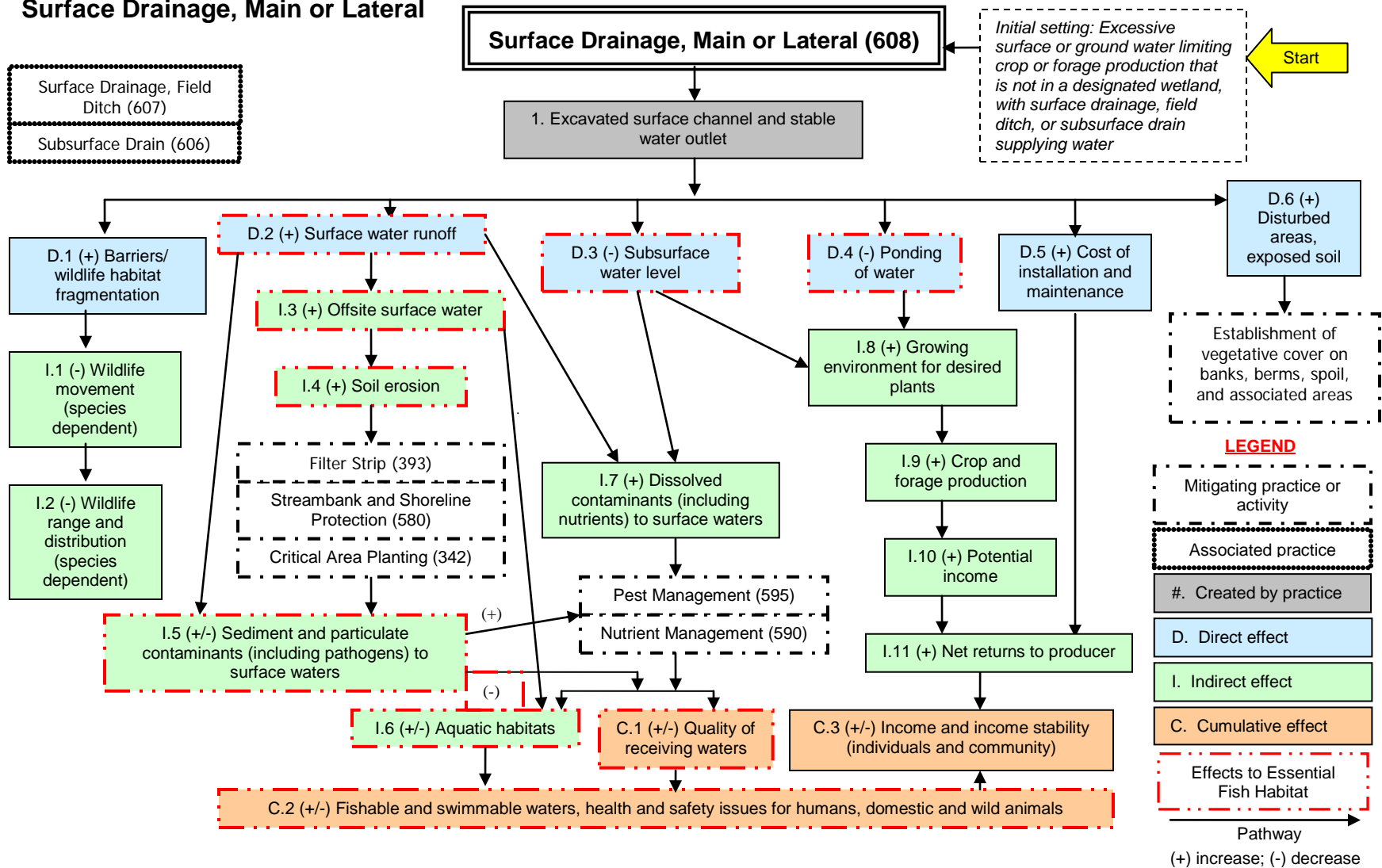
Surface Drainage, Main or Lateral is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with the following practices:

- Surface Drainage, Field Ditch (607)
- Subsurface Drain (606)
- Channel Bank Vegetation (322)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Pest Management (595)
- Critical Area Planting (342)

For further information, refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated practice specifications and job sheets.

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowner and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

Surface Drainage, Main or Lateral



Notes: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The scope of the practice implementation and resulting effects are limited to those described in the “initial setting.” Any drainage practice has the potential for impacts to receiving aquifers and surface waters. Larger drainage projects or those proposed in sensitive areas may need to be evaluated in a site-specific EA.

The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowner and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.