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SILVOPASTURE ESTABLISHMENT

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 381

SILVOPASTURE ESTABLISHMENT

Silvopasture is an agroforestry practice specifically designed and managed for the production of trees, tree products, forage, and livestock on the same acreage. Silvopasture results when forage crops are deliberately introduced or enhanced in a timber production system or timber crops are deliberately introduced or enhanced in a forage production system. As a silvopasture practice, timber and pasture are managed as a single integrated system.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice applies on any lands suitable for the production of the desired tree/shrub and forage plants. The purposes of silvopasture include:

- Providing forage for livestock and producing wood products
- Increasing carbon sequestration
- Improving water quality and reducing erosion
- Enhancing wildlife habitat
- Reducing fire hazard
- Providing shade for livestock

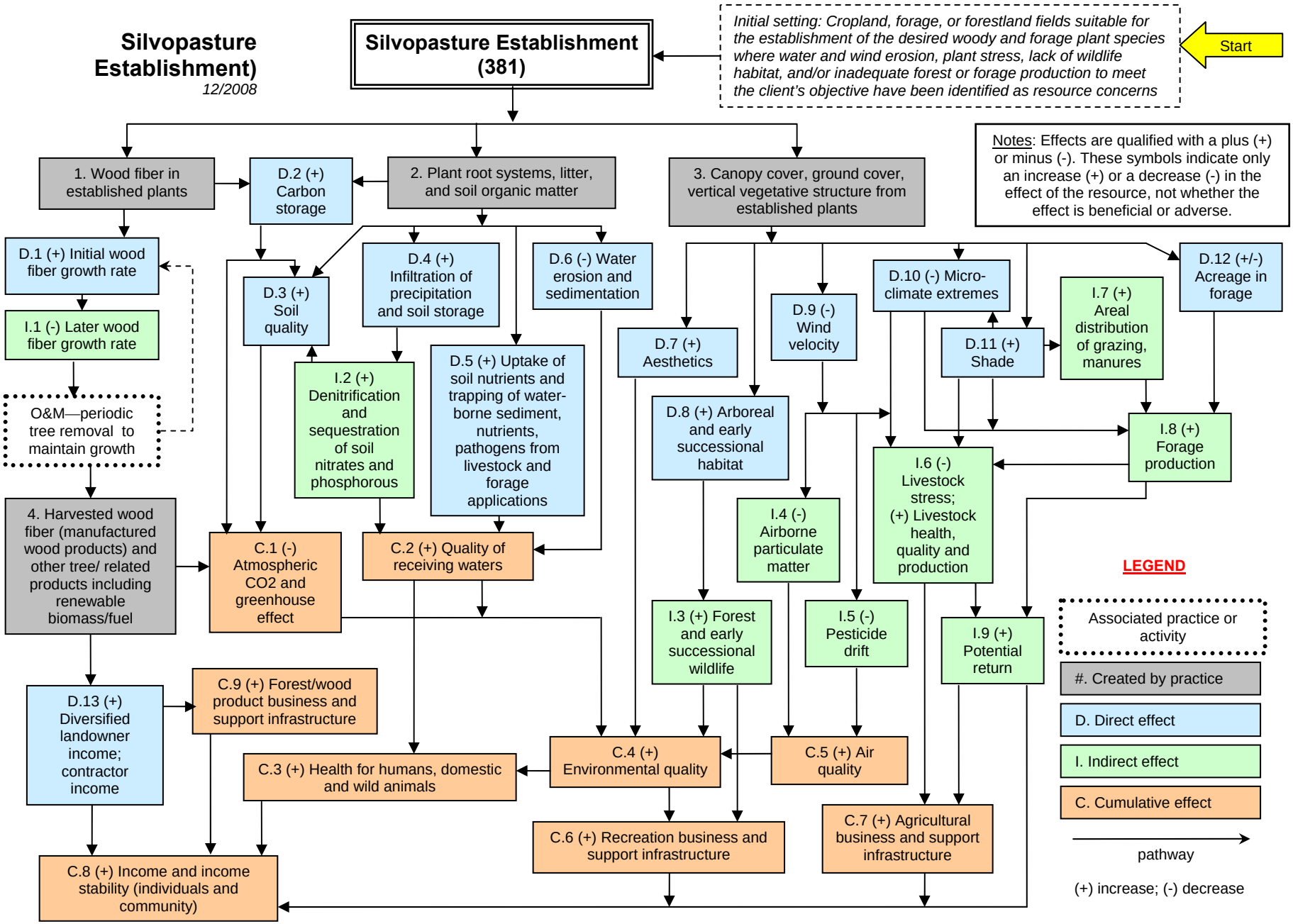
Silvopastures can provide cost-effective economic returns while creating a sustainable system with many environmental benefits. Silvopasture practices are designed to produce a high-value timber component, while providing short-term cash flow from the livestock component. The interactions among timber, forage, and livestock are intensively managed to simultaneously produce useful timber products, quality forages, and profitable livestock operations.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Silvopasture Establishment is commonly applied as part of a Conservation Management System with practices such as Forest Stand Improvement (666), Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Tree/Shrub Pruning (660), Pasture and Hayland Planting (512), Prescribed Grazing (528), and other grazing and forestry practices.

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.



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