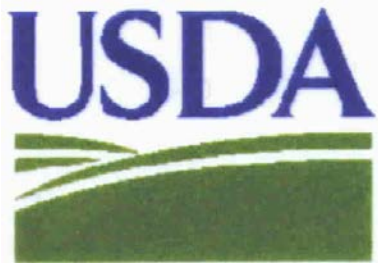


Missouri NRCS Conservation Planning Course



Dwaine Gelnar
State Resource Conservationist
Module 1B – 2013
NRCS Policy



CONSERVATION PLANNING

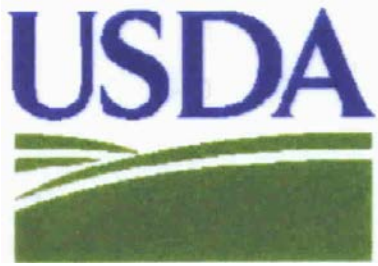
**Conservation
Plan**

Policy

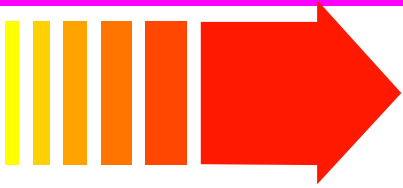
vs.

Guidance



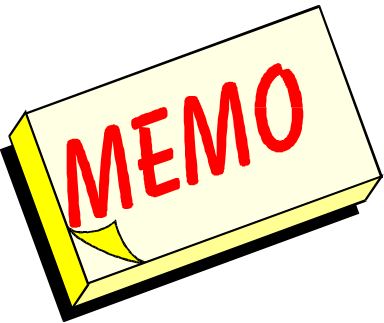
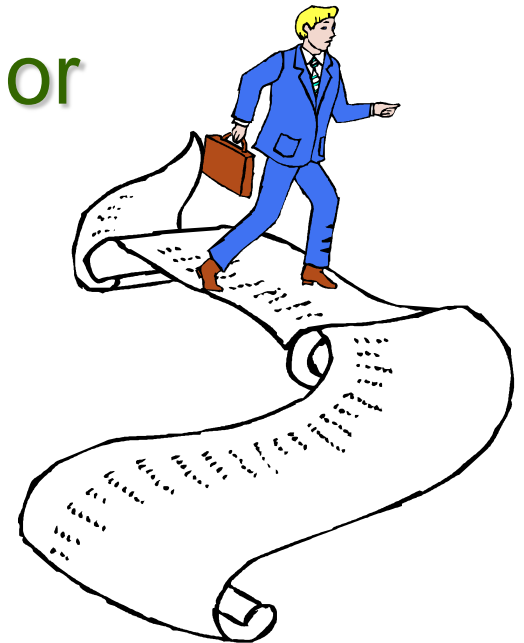


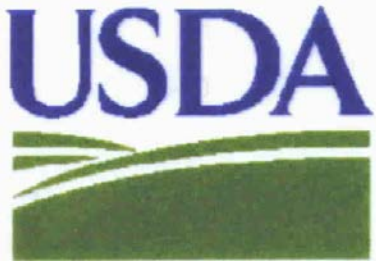
CONSERVATION PLANNING



POLICY

- Legislation, Rules, or Regulations
- Inflexible
- Set Parameters
- General Manual





CONSERVATION PLANNING

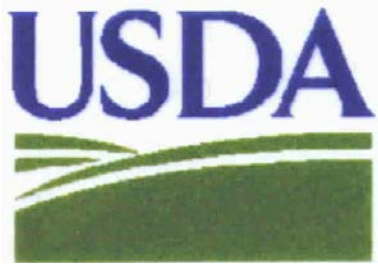


PLANNING POLICY

(GM 180, Part 409)


- Three Phase – Nine Step
- Sound Use and Management of Resources (SWAPA)
- NPPH/FOTG/Toolkit

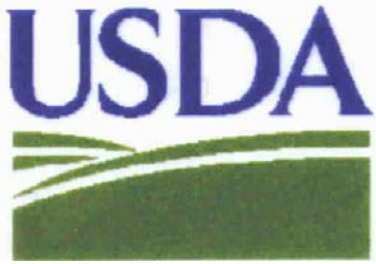




CONSERVATION PLANNING

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- 
- A background image of a field with a plowed area in the foreground and a line of trees in the distance under a cloudy sky.
- I. Conservation Planning**
 - II. Field Office Technical Guide**
 - III. Customer Service Toolkit**
 - IV. Programs**
 - V. Related Policies**



CONSERVATION PLANNING



<http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

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The Electronic Directives System (eDirectives) provides employees of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) immediate access to the most current directives issued by the NRCS.

What's New

February, 2009 — eDirectives is being updated to address the following known issue:

- **Embedded Content Link Errors**— There is a known issue with trying to access certain embedded content items by the citation value within the active directive. The following error is displayed: "The resource you are attempting to reach cannot be found". We are in the process of correcting this issue.

Recent Updates

General Manual

- June 17, 2013 [GM_280_Part 400 – International Conservation Programs](#) : **New**
- June 10, 2013 [GM_270_414 : Contingency Planning and Disaster Response](#)
- May 28, 2013 [GM_130_400_B_10_May 2013 : Part 400 – Mission Statement](#)

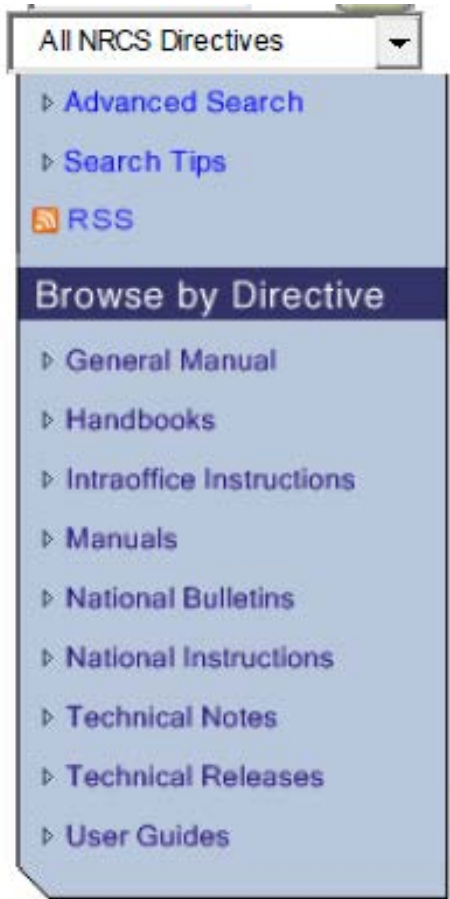
Handbooks

- June 18, 2013 [H_450_NHCP_TOC : National Handbook of Conservation Practices](#) **New**
- June 10, 2013 [H_190_IESHR : Interagency Ecological Site Handbook for Rangelands](#)



GM_180 - Title 180 Conservation Planning and Application

Part 409 - Conservation Planning Policy



General Manual



GM_180 - Title 180 - Conservation Planning and Application

Part 409 - Conservation Planning Policy

409.0 General

- A. This document ***establishes NRCS policy*** for providing conservation planning assistance to clients.....
- B. States may supplement this policy, as needed, to
- C. Title 180, National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH), Part 600, ***provides procedures and guidance*** on implementing this planning policy, including relationships to the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), electronic storage of data, technical handbooks, and program guidance in the planning process. **The NRCS planning process and standards as outlined in the NPPH will be used for all conservation planning.**

United States
Department of
Agriculture

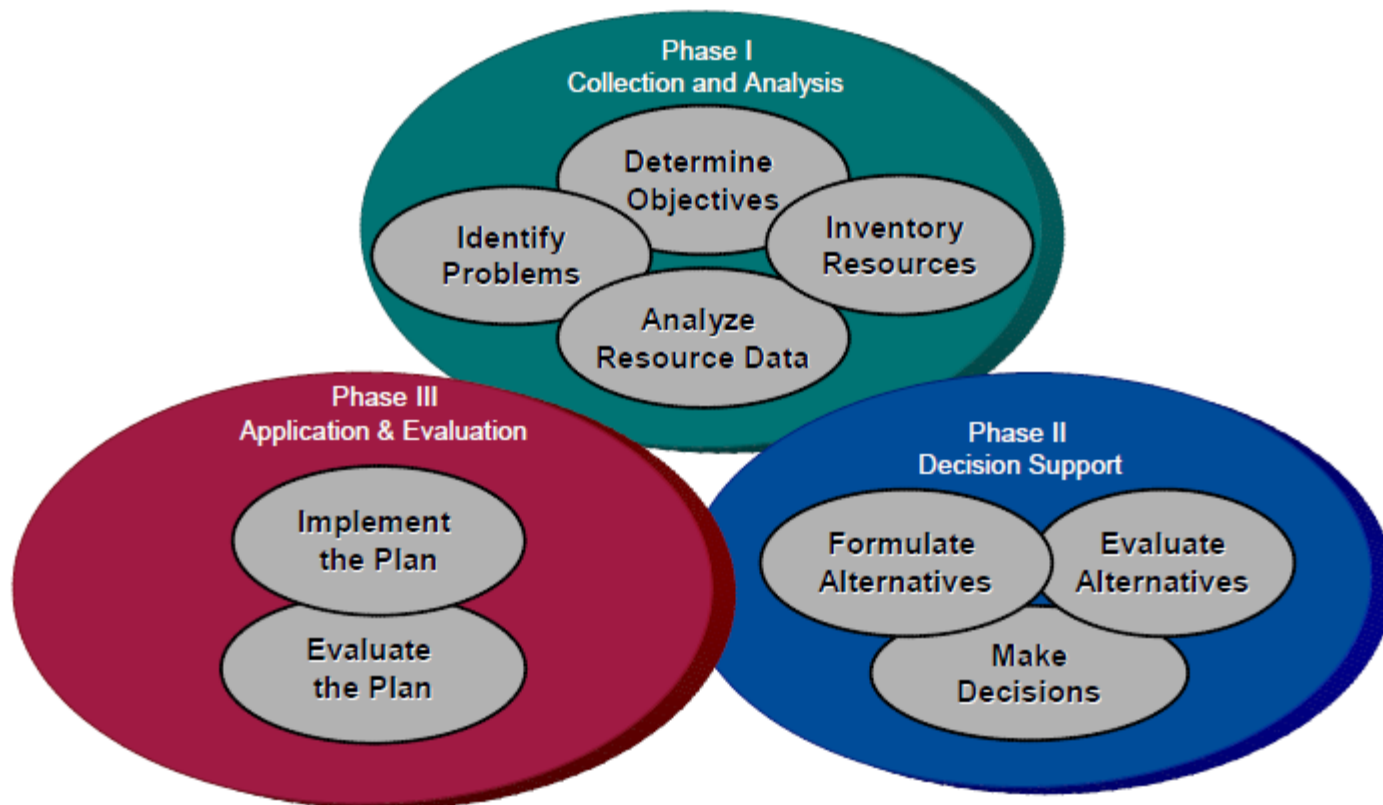
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

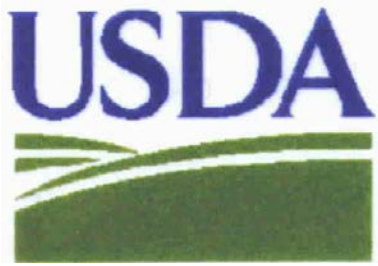
National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH), Amendment 5



600.11 The Planning Process

NRCS Planning Process



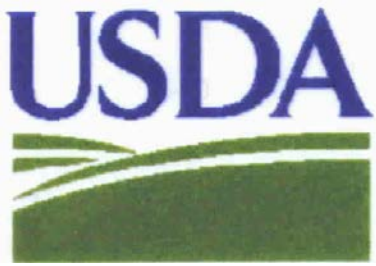


CONSERVATION PLANNING

FOTG

(GM 450, Part 401)

- Establishes Policy on Use of
 - ❖ Resource Concerns and Quality Criteria
 - ❖ FOTG format
 - ❖ Standards

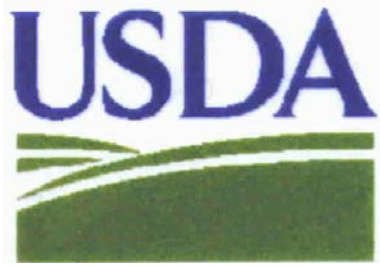


CONSERVATION PLANNING

Customer Service Toolkit

- Mandated for use in the field office – effective November 28, 2003.





CONSERVATION PLANNING

PROGRAMS

EQIP

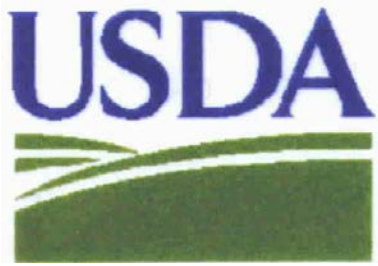
CRP

WHIP

STATE C/S

CSP



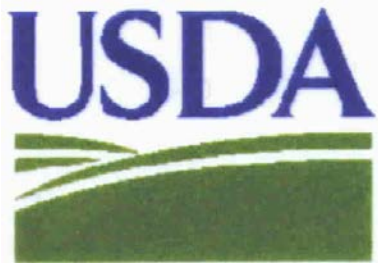


CONSERVATION POLICY



OTHER IMPORTANT POLICIES

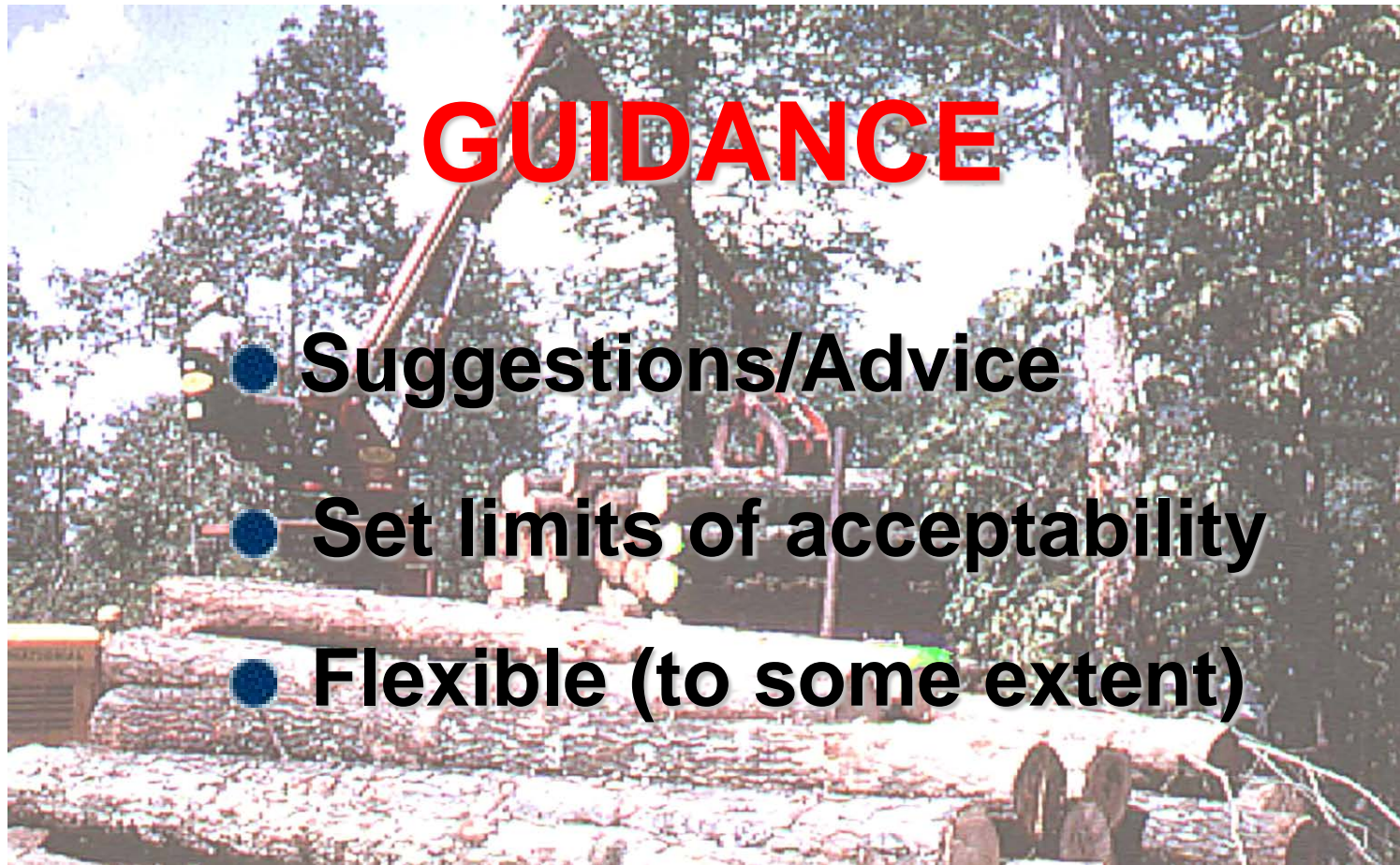
- T&E Species
- FOIA
- Cultural Resources
- Civil Rights
- 404 Permits
- Appeals
- NEPA



CONSERVATION PLANNING

GUIDANCE

- Suggestions/Advice
- Set limits of acceptability
- Flexible (to some extent)



May 2013

Adaptive Nutrient Management Process





Bobwhite Quail Habitat Management Information Sheet

Conservation Practice Information Sheet

(IS-MO645bwq)

Evaluate your quail habitat management

Landowners interested in creating bobwhite quail habitat can spend a considerable amount of time and money while trying to create good habitat. Unfortunately, many of these landowners unknowingly make minor mistakes when completing management practices or may not recognize an easier way to create better quail habitat. As a result, the landowner often has less than ideal habitat conditions for bobwhite quail on all or part of their property.

This information sheet identifies some of the common mistakes landowners make when managing for quail, but also emphasizes the importance of creating good shrubby, nesting and brooding cover for quail. Information in this guide sheet is best suited for the landowner who is two or





GM_180 - Title 180 - Conservation Planning and Application

Part 409 - Conservation Planning Policy

409.3 Requirements for Providing Conservation Planning Assistance

A. All NRCS conservation planners must be certified. The CTAD will establish minimum criteria to be met to be a “certified conservation planner” (see 180-GM, Part 409, Section 409.9).....

(1) A certified conservation planner is a person who possesses the necessary skills, training, and experience to implement the NRCS nine-step planning process to meet client objectives in solving natural resource concerns.

(2) The certified conservation planner has demonstrated skill in assisting clients to

(3) The State Conservationist may establish additional certification levels and criteria as needed to cover degrees of scope and complexity in planning environments.



GM_180 - Title 180 - Conservation Planning and Application

Part 409 - Conservation Planning Policy

409.3 Requirements for Providing Conservation Planning Assistance

B. All conservation plans developed by NRCS or partner employees for NRCS purposes will be approved by an NRCS certified conservation planner..... The signature of the NRCS certified conservation planner indicates that the conservation plan meets the needs of the client; NRCS conservation planning policy, procedures, and standards; and any applicable program or provision requirements.



GM_180 - Title 180 - Conservation Planning and Application

Part 409 - Conservation Planning Policy

409.3 Requirements for Providing Conservation Planning Assistance

D. The State Conservationist will establish and maintain a list of all NRCS certified conservation planners in the State, including NRCS employees, volunteers, conservation district employees, TSPs, and participating State agency employees.

G. All certified conservation planners will develop conservation plans that contain conservation practices that meet NRCS standards and specifications as documented in the FOTG.

H. Job approval authority for both engineering and ecological practices is a process separate from conservation planning certifications.



409.9 Criteria to Achieve an NRCS Certified Conservation Planner Designation

D. Certification Requirements

- (1) States will follow all national requirements and any additional State requirements.
- (2) The State Conservationist will establish a process and criteria to certify conservation planners.
- (3) NRCS certified conservation planner candidates must complete at least one field-reviewed RMS plan for a conservation management unit (CMU).
 - (i) The planner will be accompanied to the field by the State Conservationist designee to meet with the decisionmaker.
 - (ii) The candidate will be expected to demonstrate competency in the planning process and plan development.
 - (iii) The observer will evaluate the planner's involvement with the decisionmaker (landowner or land operator) in the planning process and whether all resource concerns associated with the CMU are adequately addressed.
 - (iv) Field-reviewed plans must be approved by the State Conservationist or designee prior to final delivery to the decisionmaker.
- (8) The State Conservationist will maintain a list of certified planners.



GM_180 - Title 180 - Conservation Planning and Application

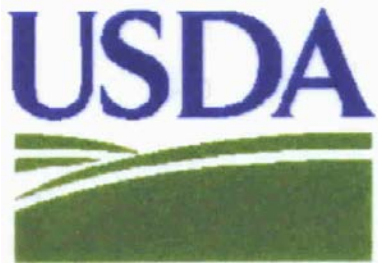
Part 409 - Conservation Planning Policy

409.9 Criteria to Achieve an NRCS Certified Conservation Planner Designation

E. Maintaining Certification

Training to maintain and update conservation planning skills must, at a minimum, occur once every 3 years.

- (i) The State Conservationist will determine the type and minimum hours of training necessary to maintain the certified conservation planner designation.
- (ii) NRCS certified conservation planners and TSPs are responsible for maintaining their conservation planner certification.....



CONSERVATION PLANNING

WRAP-UP

- Not a Complete List
- Become Familiar with Policies Affecting Your Planning Responsibilities
- Stay Within Scope and Authority



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