Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition Plan Criteria
Practice/Activity Code (138) (No.)

1. **Definition**

   A "Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition" is a conservation activity plan documenting decisions by producers/growers who agree to implement a system of conservation practices which assist the producer to transition from conventional farming or ranching systems to an organic production system. The Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition" will:

   a. At a minimum address and achieve the planning criteria for the NRCS resource concerns for soil erosion, water quality, and plant condition. Other resource concerns can also be addressed based on the land user objectives.
   b. Develop the linkage between the resource concerns addressed to the National Organic Program requirements for organic farming. This will assist the grower to develop their Organic System Plan (OSP) as defined in the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) Standards (www.ams.usda.gov/nop).
   c. Comply with federal, state, tribal, and local laws, regulations and permit requirements.
   d. Document the producer's objectives and decisions for practice implementation during the transition period.

   Note: The plan can help support a producer's efforts to become a certified operation. However, this plan is not a replacement for an Organic System Plan (OSP) as required by the National Organic Program.

2. **The NRCS Basic Conservation Plan.**

   The basic conservation plan for the operation will be developed by NRCS and will form the basis for the conservation plan specifications developed by the Technical Service Provider (TSP). This will require the producer to share the basic conservation plan with the chosen TSP.

   The conservation plan provided to the producer and TSP will contain the following:

   a. Record of planning decisions (practices) and alternative conservation systems if applicable.
   b. Soils map and soils descriptions for the planned land use(s).
   c. Conservation Plan Map.
   d. The results of all resource assessments and a list of the resource concerns that do not currently meet planning criteria.

3. **The management-type (non-engineering) conservation practice standard specifications (Implementation Requirements) for each planned practice will be developed by the TSP.**

   The conservation practice "Implementation Requirements" shall"

   a. Meet the minimum specifications for the respective state conservation practice standard
   b. Be compatible with other conservation practices planned
   c. Be compatible with the National Organic Program criteria
   d. Be compatible with the client objectives
   e. Meet the minimum documentation for the plans and specifications (The NRCS developed "Implementation Requirements" or Jobsheets available from the NRCS State FOTG or National Handbook of Conservation Practices website http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/landuse/crops/npm/?&cid=nrcs143_026849) shall be used to document the plans and specifications.

f. For practices such as 590 Nutrient Management, 595 Integrated Pest Management utilize the appropriate NRCS planning software to develop the plans and specifications (Implementation Requirements).

4. References

- USDA National Organic Program (NOP - www.ams.usda.gov/nop)
- California Certified Organic Farmers (http://www.ccof.org/)
- USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov//efotg_locator.aspx , Select State, Select Section 4 Conservation Practices
- ATTRA Organic Documentation Forms, Organic Crop and Livestock Workbooks (http://www.attra.org/)

5. Deliverables for the Client – a hardcopy of the plan that includes:

- Cover Page with the following:
  a. Name and address of Producer and TSP,
  b. Date of Plan,
  c. Signature blocks for the TSP and producer, and
  d. Signature and date block for the NRCS Field Office concurrence.
- One copy of each planned management practice plans and specifications (Implementation Requirements) with operation and maintenance requirements.
- Any supporting maps needed to assist the implementation of the planned management practices.

6. Deliverables for NRCS Field Office:

- Complete Hardcopy and electronic copy of the cover page and client's planed management practices plans and specifications (Implementation Requirements) with operation and maintenance requirements and supporting documents.