

GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

Conservation Planning is the process of assisting a land user to develop a Resource Management System. This is accomplished by leading them to identify the current and predictable soil, water, air, plant, and animal resource problems. Then, we assist them to reach a decision to apply a combination of practices that will treat each identified or predictable problem to the level established in Section III, Quality Criteria, of the FOTG.

Conservation planning to develop a RMS requires:

- a. An understanding of the five natural resources and the conservation problems associated with each.
- b. A realization that treating one resource problem has positive and negative effects on the other resources and/or their problems. Understanding of the "Conservation Practice Physical Effects" in Section V-A is essential when considering different practices.
- c. An identification of all resource conservation problems associated with soil, water, air, plants, and animals on the treatment unit (fields, conservation treatment unit, or other planning area).
- d. The development of a set of practices (RMS options) that treats all of the identified current and potential resource problems to meet the quality criteria described in Section III of the local FOTG.

This should include the development of a number of RMS options, if possible, in order that the decisionmaker may select an RMS that meets their objectives and abilities.

The following portions of Section III are Guidance Documents that are an illustration of the thought process for formulating RMS options. For each land use, there is a verbal description of the thought process in the selection of practices to solve the identified and predictable resource problems. Following that description are example RMSs that have been developed by MLRAs. Field Office staff should develop site specific Resource Management System guidance documents based on soil type and other resource conditions. The guidance documents are to demonstrate the resource evaluation process.