

III - LEGISLATED PROGRAMS

INTRODUCTION

This subsection contains resource quality established to protect or enhance specific soil, water, air, plant, or animal resources in the area serviced by this office to achieve the level of resource protection stipulated by legislated programs.

United States Food Security Act of 1985, as amended

Resource Quality Criteria for the soil resource were established to comply with the United States Food Security Act (FSA) of 1985.

These criteria apply to fields classified as highly erodible land (HEL). If any HEL land was determined to be present in the area served by this office, these criteria are presented in the Basic Conservation Systems subsection.

Where the NRCS State Conservationist has approved higher levels of soil erosion on HEL fields present in the area served by this office in order to meet the Food Security Act requirements, these criteria are presented in the Alternative Conservation Systems subsection.

Definitions

Basic Conservation System (BCS): An erosion control system for treating sheet, rill, wind and ephemeral gully erosion on highly erodible land. A BCS may be a component of a Resource Management System (RMS). The BCS must achieve soil loss tolerance requirements for the principal soil it is designed to protect and be documented in the FOTG. This term applies only to conservation plans and conservation systems developed to carry out the provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, and the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (National Food Security Act Manual, 3rd Ed., 1996).

Alternative Conservation System (ACS): A conservation system for treating sheet, rill, wind and ephemeral gully erosion on highly erodible land that is documented in the FOTG and which achieves a substantial reduction in existing soil loss rates. This term applies only to conservation plans and conservation systems developed to carry out the provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, and the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (National Food Security Act Manual, 3rd Ed., 1996).

