

## **Procedures and Instructions**

Section I of the Montana Technical Guide has been prepared to aid Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) personnel in providing economic information to farmers, ranchers, and others who make land use and land treatment decisions. It will be used to evaluate alternative resource management systems. This section will be maintained in each NRCS field office. Assistance in using and updating Section I is available from the Ecological Sciences staff.

This information should be used only for evaluating the relative difference in costs and benefits of alternative resource management systems. It is not intended to be an analysis of a crop or livestock enterprise or of the total farm business. If a landuser desires farm management assistance, they should be referred to the Extension Service or other farm management assistance organization.

For the purpose of making resource management system evaluations, the production costs, cost of conservation practices, and prices to be used should be the most recent available. Other costs and prices may be used if they are reasonable or are used to illustrate the effect of price changes. However, if a cost-shared program is involved, the costs and prices associated with that program must be used.