

SECTION III

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (RMS) AND QUALITY CRITERIA

A RMS is a combination of conservation practices that will solve the identified resource concerns to the minimum level indicated in the Quality Criteria. Successful resource management is dependent on the correct application of the practices that are essential to prevent resource degradation and ensure sustainable use. Other practices are used to enhance the resource management system and/or adequately treat a resource concern.

Table 2. South Dakota Conservation Planning Guide contains the framework for development of RMS level conservation plans in South Dakota. The table is sorted by common land uses, as listed in the National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH). Not all conservation practices contained in Section IV of the South Dakota Technical Guide (SDTG) are included in this table; only the more commonly used ones. Additional information on conservation practices may be found in the Conservation Planning and Physical Effects (CPPE) tables, filed in Section V of the SDTG.

All resource concerns listed in the “Resource Concern” column for a particular land use **must** be evaluated to achieve a RMS. Only resource concerns that can be measured and are common within the state are listed as “Resource Concerns” in Table 2. The column labeled “Primary Practices in South Dakota” includes the commonly used conservation practices that will generally address the listed resource concerns. In most cases, these will be the minimum practices contained in the conservation plan.

Conservation practices in the “Secondary Practices in South Dakota” column may be used in place of one or more of the “Primary Practices” to address identified resource concerns. They may also be used to compliment the selected “Primary Practices.” Any practice in the SDTG, Section IV can be included in the plan.

During the inventory and evaluation phases of conservation planning, additional resource concerns may be identified that are not listed in the attached guide. These additional resource concerns must be addressed when developing and reporting a RMS level plan. Technical judgment will be required to determine treatment levels for resource concerns that do not have measurable quality criteria.

All Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) policy must be adhered to throughout the planning, implementation, and evaluation process (environmental compliance, documentation, and reporting, etc.). All practices contained in the SDTG, Section IV, must be applied according to their specifications. The respective measurement tools will be used to measure change in the primary resource concerns. Resource concerns without an assessment tool will be considered adequately treated when the practice(s) used to treat the resource concern has been installed according to specifications developed for the practice.