

CONSERVATION PRACTICE PHYSICAL EFFECTS

The Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) displays in subjective detail the physical effects that conservation practices have on resource problems for the natural resources based on experience and available technical information. Each resource may have multiple problems associated with it. The effects of practices may be greater if they are associated with a land use change. Onsite effects of practices are generally greater than offsite. The further away from the problem or treatment the less the effect.

The key question that should be asked when reviewing the CPPE is “If this practice is applied, what effect will it have not only on the target problem, but also on all other resource problems?”

CPPE MATRIX DESCRIPTION

In the following matrices the major effects of a single conservation practice on resource problems are identified. An interdisciplinary team identified the effects. The purpose of these matrices is to help the planner develop and maintain a strong awareness of the effects of conservation practices on all the basic natural resources.

The conservation effect may classified in one of the following forms, followed by additional information for clarity:

EFFECT	DEFINITION
N/A	Essentially no Effect
Insignificant	No Measurable Change
Slight	Minor change
Moderate	Meaningful Change
Significant	Considerable Change

A decrease or increase in the problem indicates the direction the installed practice has on the resource problem. For example, a practice may *moderately decrease* an erosion problem and *slightly increase* a water quality problem. The period, magnitude and direction of the conservation effect are all identified in the CPPE.

The CPPE is displayed in two formats: a CPPE per practice and a CPPE Matrix comparing all practices and effects. In the CPPE Matrix the resource problems are listed at

the top of each column and conservation practices are found at each row. A brief description of problems and practices are also included. The effect the conservation practice has on the resource problem is found at the intersection of the column and row.

The practice is assumed to be installed according to standards in Section IV, and that there is a current problem with the resource and the resource problem can be addressed by the installation of a conservation practice. The matrices address broad, general effects that may be expected from the practice application.

The effects shown in the matrices in Section V will need to be adjusted to reflect site specific conditions for a given practice. Use the following guidelines when developing site specific effects:

- Evaluate each practice for the effect it will have on the area being planned (i.e., a field or a CMU), not the short-term effect on the immediate area surrounding installation.
- Assume all practices will be installed according to practice standards in Section IV of the FOTG.
- Do not "reach" for effects. Not all practices have an effect on all possible problems associated with each resource.
- Assume that each practice is applied independently of others.
- Do not evaluate "systems" practices (e.g., Waste Management System) but evaluate each of the component practices.
- Assume that the practice being evaluated is not presently applied.
- Evaluate practices based on fields or CMUs that result from planning decisions, not necessarily for the original field. (The present field may need to be divided to meet landowner objectives.)
- When a land use change is considered, evaluate practices needed to change the land use against present conditions. Evaluate practices necessary to manage the new land use against expected future conditions.

The planner needs to recognize the effect of applying conservation practices in order to select combinations of practices that solve the identified or predictable problems without creating new problems. In addition, secondary benefits should be identified. The effects concept is applicable for formulation of RMS options for specific fields, conservation management units, or other planning areas. It can also be used to assist in development of FOTG guidance documents and to explain resource problems and potential solutions to the decisionmaker and to others. It is simply another tool to assist the planning process.

EFFECTS FOR GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

Two worksheets, the Conservation Treatment Effects Information sheet and the Conservation Effects Worksheet, can be used in conjunction with the CPPE to aid the planning process.