

Resource Management Systems and Quality Criteria

Introduction

Section III provides information for developing Conservation Systems (CS) to address concerns and problems associated with soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.

A Resource Management System (RMS) is a combination of conservation practices and management technique, identified by land uses, that will meet or exceed locally established FOTG *quality criteria* for all identified natural resource concerns. The guidelines contained in this section establish the treatment level necessary to adequately address the resource concerns and the human considerations that are identified during the planning process for the development of a RMS.

Content

Planning levels are defined in this section, quality criteria established, and guidance documents developed. Direction is also provided to properly integrate social, economic, and cultural characteristics within Conservation Systems.

This section also provides information for meeting program requirements of the 1985, 1990, 1996, and 2002 USDA farm bills.

Quality Criteria

Quality Criteria (QC) establish the minimum treatment levels necessary to adequately address the resource concerns that are identified during the planning process for development of a Resource Management System (RMS). The RMS criteria are met when treatment has been planned that, when applied, will resolve all of the identified resource problems. The RMS will be considered applied when all of the conservation practices that make up the system have been installed according to Conservation Practice Standards in *Section IV*, Missouri Field Office Technical Guide (MOFOTG).

Additional Criteria

Additional criteria that should be considered in the RMS planning process include social, economic, and cultural resource. The differing social, economic, and cultural resource situations of a decision maker will affect the type of system planned and the subsequent degree of treatment attained.

In some instances, individual decision maker action cannot solve an existing conservation problem in accordance with these criteria. In these instances, an opportunity exists for group planning, project measures or multi-program activities to meet the respective quality criteria. In cases where the decision maker cannot solve the problem as an individual, the criteria will be met when the land under the control of the decision maker, after treatment, does not contribute to the problem.

Planning Considerations

Where a RMS is not attainable at the present time, the progressive planning process (the incremental process of building a plan consistent with the decision makers ability to plan and implement) may be used to ultimately achieve a RMS. The progression on individual planning units is always toward the planning and implementation of a RMS.

The use and implementation of information in this Section will be consistent with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. In instances where management of water is restricted because of policy and laws, such as those pertaining to wetlands, the criteria will be met if policy and laws are followed.