



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P. O. Box 311
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ALABAMA TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE 6.

This notice transmits revisions to the eFOTG.

SECTION III. Resource Concerns and Planning Criteria for Conservation Planning

This notice transmits revisions to the NRCS Quality Criteria. The document "National and State Resource Concerns and Quality Criteria" dated October 2004, is replaced in its entirety with the revised document "RESOURCE CONCERNS & PLANNING CRITERIA FOR CONSERVATION PLANNING."

Background.

NRCS adopted the restructured list of resource concern and planning criteria with the release of National Bulletin 450-11-6, "Restructured List of Resource Concerns to Support the Streamlined Delivery of Conservation Assistance," dated November 29, 2010.

During 2009, the efforts of Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative (CDSI) business teams reinforced the need to restructure the agency's formal list of resource concerns in Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide and to formalize its use in the next generation of science-based planning and assessment tools. Feedback from employees has consistently identified that the list of resource concerns is too long to be used efficiently; is not aligned with the way planners and clients inventory, assess, and treat resource issues; and is not supported by usable, objective, and repeatable assessment criteria.

In response to these issues, NRCS leadership adopted a restructured list of 31 resource concerns, along with formalized processes for their use in planning.

Explanation.

Per National Bulletin 450-13-2, the restructured list of resource concerns and the planning criteria is effective October 1, 2012. This formalized planning process includes the following —

- Planning criteria to assist planners to document when potential resource issues are adequately treated.
- A screening process to minimize the analysis needed by the planner for resource issues on less complex sites.
- A direct linkage between resource concerns and land cover and use in order to streamline the analysis and assessment processes during planning.
- The integration of client objectives as a part of the resource concern determination for selected resource concerns when applicable.

Support documents, such as resource concern checklist and Conservation Practice Physical Effects components, are available on the [CDSI Readiness SharePoint Site](#) under the "Resource Concern" tab.

The resource concerns will be integrated in Conservation Desktop deployment for fiscal year (FY) 2013 and incorporated in the National Planning Procedures Handbook.



Per National Bulletin 450-12-5, States will continue to use the legacy list of resource concerns for program application ranking in the ProTracts Application Evaluation and Ranking tool (AERT) during this transition year to the new concerns.



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DIST: All Employees