III - BASIC CONSERVATION SYSTEMS

INTRODUCTION

This subsection contains information on Basic Conservation Systems for implementing the Conservation Compliance Provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. Definitions and criteria are presented below. Basic Conservation Systems with guide sheets and system narratives for this Field Office, if needed, will be found immediately following this page.

BCSs need not be developed and placed in this section if the area served by the Field Office does not have commodity crops on Highly Erodible Lands (HEL). However, a letter from the State Conservationist approving this action needs to be placed in the backup data file. If the need for development of BCSs arises, refer to the appropriate California amendment to the NFSAM.

Definitions

A Basic Conservation System (BCS) is defined as the erosion control component of a resource management system. Under this system, sheet and rill erosion is controlled within the limits of "T" + 1 ton for any given mapping unit.

Criteria

BCS – Predicted average annual wind or water erosion rates will not exceed "T" + 1 ton for any given soil mapping unit(s).

Use of Basic Conservation Systems on Sodbusted Lands

Sodbusted lands that were cropped or in an approved cropland rotation (alfalfa, asparagus, vineyards, orchards, etc.) during the period 1981-1985 are to be treated with either a BCS, or an ACS (Alternative Conservation System).

All sodbusted lands that were not cropped or in an approved cropland rotation during the period 1981-1985 must be treated with only BCSs. This only covers sodbusted lands broken out of native range which have never been cropped (no Farm Services Agency – formerly ASCS - cropping history) or broken out of chapparal, woodland, forest or similar native or natural cover.