Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition Plan Criteria
Practice/Activity Code (138) (No.)

1. Definition

A "Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition" is a detailed resource inventory documenting resource conditions and practice recommendations for producers/growers to use to develop a future conservation plan with NRCS or Technical Service Provider (TSP) technical assistance and to assist the producer to transition from conventional farming or ranching systems to an organic production system. The Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition" will:

a. At a minimum address and planning criteria for the NRCS resource concerns for soil erosion, water quality, and plant condition. Other resource concerns can also be assessed based on the land user objectives.

b. Develop the linkage between the resource concerns addressed to the National Organic Program requirements for organic farming. This will assist the grower to develop their Organic System Plan (OSP) as defined in the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) Standards (www.ams.usda.gov/nop).

c. Comply with federal, state, tribal, and local laws, regulations and permit requirements.

d. Document the producer's objectives for practice implementation during and after the transition period.

Note: The plan can help support a producer's efforts to become a certified organic operation. However, this assessment and recommendations are not a replacement for an Organic System Plan (OSP) as required by the National Organic Program.

2. The Organic Resource Assessment Inventory and Recommended Practices.

The organic resource assessment inventory and recommended practices for the operation will be developed by the TSP and will form the basis for an eventual conservation plan developed by the NRCS with the producer or qualified Technical Service Provider (TSP).

The organic resource assessment inventory and recommended practices provided to the producer by the TSP will be documented in the CAP 138 Organic Resource Inventory Assessment and Practice Recommendations Template.pdf with the appropriate maps. The resource assessment and planning criteria dated October 1, 2013 is attached to the CAP 138 Organic Resource Inventory Assessment and Practice Recommendations Template.pdf to assist in the resource inventory.

3. References

- USDA National Organic Program (NOP - www.ams.usda.gov/nop)
- California Certified Organic Farmers (http://www.ccof.org/)
- USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov//efotg_locator.aspx , Select State, Select Section 4 Conservation Practices
- ATTRA Organic Documentation Forms, Organic Crop and Livestock Workbooks (http://www.attra.org/)

4. Deliverables for the Client:

a. A hardcopy of the CAP 138 Organic Resource Inventory Assessment and Practice Recommendations Template with all appropriate signatures.

b. Any supporting maps needed to support the resource inventory and recommended practices.

5. Deliverables for NRCS Field Office:

- Complete Hardcopy and electronic copy of the CAP 138 Organic Resource Inventory Assessment and Practice Recommendations Template given to the producer any supporting maps needed to support the resource inventory and recommended practices.