

Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE)

This section assesses the effects of conservation practices when assisting Iowa land users in making informed decisions. With a display of conservation effects, suitable Conservation Systems (CS) can be formulated to protect the resource base and to address both the land users and society's social, cultural resources and economic objectives.

Conservationists must constantly strive to use methods to evaluate the potential effects of conservation practices on the resources when providing technical assistance. It is necessary to determine the physical effects relevant to each resource during the planning process. Because a conservation practice has a positive effect on one resource concern does not necessarily mean it will also have a positive effect on other resources.

Effects Concept

The conservationist needs to recognize the effect of applying conservation practices in order to select combinations of practices that solve the identified or potential concerns without creating new problems. The effects concept is applicable for formulation of RMS alternatives for specific fields, Conservation Treatment Units (CTUs), or other planning areas. It can also be used to assist in explaining resource problems, and display treatment options. (The entire effects process will not be needed when working with each decision maker. Only unique or complex situations would warrant documentation of the complete effects concept).

CPPE

The Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) detail in subjective language the physical effects that conservation practices have on problems/concerns associated with the six resources (Soil, Water, Air, Plant, Animal and Energy). The estimation of physical effects is based on professional experience and available technical information. Each resource may have multiple problems that are represented by one of the various columns in the CPPE worksheet. The effects of practices may be greater if they are associated with a land use change. The primary purpose of CPPE is to document the physical effects of conservation practices on resource problems. Secondly, the purpose of CPPE is to emphasize the realization that resources are interrelated and the treatment of one resource also affects other resources.

Matrices

The matrices in this Section express the major effects of a single conservation practice on resource problems. **The practice associated with each matrix is assumed to be installed according to standards in Section IV.**

The effects are quantified as follows:

Substantial Improvement	5
Moderate to Substantial Improvement	4
Moderate Improvement	3
Slight to Moderate Improvement	2
Slight Improvement	1
No Effect or Not Applicable	0
Slight Worsening	-1
Slight to Moderate Worsening	-2
Moderate Worsening	-3
Moderate to Substantial Worsening	-4
Substantial Worsening	-5

The application of a practice with a negative effect may be overcome through the application of another practice that has a greater positive effect. The matrices address broad, general effects that you may expect from the practice application.