

**SECTION V– CONSERVATION EFFECTS
HUMAN CONSIDERATIONS DEFINITIONS**

SECTION V – CONSERVATION PRACTICES PHYSICAL EFFECTS

HUMAN CONSIDERATIONS DEFINITIONS

Cultural Resources and/or Historic Properties Present or Suspected to be Present (Effect)

The degree to which implementation of the conservation practice is expected to increase or decrease the risk of cultural resource disturbance, degradation, or loss.

Depletion of Fossil Fuel Resources (Effect)

Inefficient use of fossil-originated energy sources (diesel, gasoline, propane, natural gas, coal), lubricants, and other materials.

Underutilization of Non-Fossil Energy Sources (Effect)

Available and cost-effective alternative energy sources (solar, wind, biofuel, hydroelectric, geothermal) are not being used or are being used inefficiently.

Land - Change in Land Use

The degree to which implementing the conservation practice is expected to cause a change from one land use to another.

Land - Land in Production

The degree to which implementing the conservation practice is expected to cause an increase or decrease in the amount of land in production.

Capital - Change in Equipment

The degree to which implementing the conservation practice is expected to cause an increase or decrease in the amount of capital equipment required for farm or ranch operations.

Capital - Total Investment Cost

A qualitative measure of the increase in total investment dollars required in order to implement the conservation practice.

Capital - Annual Cost

A qualitative measure of the expected change in annual capital costs required in order to operate and maintain the conservation practice.

Capital - Credit & Farm Program Eligibility

Included to make conservation planners aware of the potential availability of funding for implementing conservation practices.

Labor - Labor

The degree to which implementing the conservation practice is likely to cause an increase or decrease in the total amount of overall farm or ranch labor required for operations.

Labor - Change in Management Level

The degree to which implementing the conservation practice is likely to cause an increase or decrease in the total amount of required active management on a farm or ranch.

Risk - Yield

The degree to which risk, as related to crop or livestock yields, is expected to increase or decrease as a result of implementing the conservation practice.

Risk - Flexibility

The degree to which risk, as related to the flexibility of farm or ranch operations, is expected to increase or decrease as a result of implementing the conservation practice. For example, converting from flood irrigation to a sprinkler system gives a farmer an increase in flexibility of irrigation, which results in a decrease in the level of risk associated with inflexibility of operations.

Risk - Timing

The degree to which risk, as related to the timing of farm or ranch operations, is expected to increase or decrease as a result of implementing the conservation practice.

Risk - Cash Flow

The degree to which risk, as related to cash flow in farm or ranch operations, is expected to increase or decrease as a result of implementing the conservation practice.

Profitability - Change in Profitability

The degree to which farm or ranch profitability is expected to increase or decrease as a result of implementing the conservation practice.

Operations & Maintenance Factor

The percentage of initial installation cost that a producer is expected to need to spend on an annual basis in order to perform the operations and maintenance (O&M) necessary to meeting the requirements of NRCS practice standards. To calculate expected annual O&M costs, multiply the installation cost by the O&M factor.

Practice Life

The period of time, measured in years, during which the conservation practice must remain fully functional--through design, construction, implementation, and/or O&M--in order to meet the requirements of NRCS practice standards.

Estimated Average Installation Cost (2005 Estimates)

An estimate, based on national data, of the average total cost of installing a typical or representative case of the conservation practice. This figure includes only "cost-shareable" expenses and is intended to give conservation planners a rough or "ballpark" idea as to the relative costs of implementing different conservation practices. It is not intended for use as the basis for calculating actual cost estimates for specific conservation systems or practices on individual land units.

Estimated Average Annual Cost

Calculated by amortizing the estimated average annual installation cost over the practice standard life of the practice and then adding expected annual O&M costs in order to estimate the average annual cost of implementing the practice.

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