

FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE

Section V Conservation Effects

Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE)

NRCS provides conservation planning alternatives and assistance that address individual and multiple problems while also considering the effects of those alternatives on all six resource concern classes. These resource concern classes are soil, water, air, plant, animal, and human resources and their interrelationships

NRCS strives to evaluate the effects of conservation practices on resources when providing technical assistance. It is necessary to determine the physical effects relevant to each resource concern 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 resource concerns.

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 Conservation Management Systems (CMS) 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 for the five resources. 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 columns in the CPPE worksheet. The headings in each column of the CPPE briefly describe identified or potential resource concerns/considerations.

The primary purpose of CPPE is to allow conservation planners to compare the projected physical effects of individual conservation practices on resource concerns and then assemble a system of practices that address the producers needs and minimizes adverse effects of treatment.