

SECTION III

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (RMS) AND QUALITY CRITERIA

LEGISLATED PROGRAMS

This section provides information for developing Conservation Management Systems (CMS) to address resource concerns associated with soil, water, air, and related plant and animal resources (SWAPA).

Conservation Management Systems

A CMS is a combination of conservation practices and management techniques for land and/or water that will meet locally established, minimum quality criteria for the five identified resource concerns. The guidelines contained in this section establish the treatment level necessary to adequately address the resource concerns listed above and the human considerations that are identified during the planning process for the development of a CMS. Under the umbrella of CMS are RMS, Acceptable Management Systems (AMS), and Program Specific Management Systems.

A CMS will be achieved when quality criteria for soil, water, air, plants, and animals are met. Quality criteria represent the standards of resource protection which must be achieved in order to meet the CMS requirement.

Concerns identified during the planning process will be addressed. The quality criteria are the benchmarks which the planner uses to determine when a CMS is achieved. Meeting the resource quality criteria will not in all cases meet the objectives of the land user. In individual cases, the land user may desire a level of treatment over and above that which is outlined in the criteria and planners need to plan accordingly in these instances. All actions must conform to state, federal, or local laws, programs, or regulations.

All CMS's utilize the same set of standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the South Dakota Technical Guide (SDTG).

Resource Management System

A RMS is the highest level of resource treatment. The resource quality criteria are set for this level of treatment. In all instances, federal, state, and local laws are to be followed and included in the resource quality criteria. All actions must conform to programs and all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Basic Conservation System (BCS), Alternative Conservation System (ACS) (Program Specific Management System)

These are conservation systems which address special resource concerns and have been developed for specific programs. Legislated state and federal programs can have varying authorities and qualifying criteria that may require a different level of treatment or target one or more, but not all, identified resource problems and concerns. For example, RMS should not be confused with "conservation systems" as defined in 7CFR Section 12.2 for treatment of highly erodible land. A conservation system for Food Security Act purposes considers only erosion reduction. This reduction may not be equivalent to the quality criteria for RMS. In all instances, federal, state, and local laws are to be followed and included in the resource quality criteria. Additional guidance concerning federal, state, and local laws and regulations is contained in Section I of the SDTG and in the General Manual.