

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

A Resource Management System (RMS) is a combination of conservation practices and management for land or water used within their capabilities that when planned, will at minimum meet established quality levels, and when installed will provide for the conservation, wise use, protection, or improvement of the resource base for soil, water, air, plants, and animals.

All conservation planning is directed towards implementing a resource management system. Planning assistance is provided to land users to progressively plan as much treatment towards a RMS as the decisionmakers are willing and able to attain at any time. The progressive planning approach is the process of building a conservation plan consistent with the land user's ability to make decisions over a period of time.

During the planning process, considerations for each of the five resources are evaluated and resource concerns (existing or predicted) are identified. The RMS will address each of the identified resource concerns, and practices planned which will lead to achieving quality criteria levels.

A resource concern exists when the minimum treatment levels identified in the quality criteria are not being met with the present system. The resource problem may be identified as being present on a site, or as a result of treatment being applied on a site.

A resource concern also exists when a problem can be predicted if proper treatment is not applied to the site. These "predictable" concerns are associated with sensitive resources (runoff into surface water supplies, ground water aquifers with associated soils that have high leaching potential, endangered species) where conditions require preventive measures to avoid problem development.

A concern can be identified by the decisionmaker (the land user recognizes a problem or has a specific concern), unit of state or local government (local SWCD, local community, TWC, etc. identifies a problem or have specific concerns), or by other federal agencies (erosion concerns, endangered species, etc.).

When a resource concern is identified, specific practices will be planned to achieve the quality criteria levels. The Resource Management System will be considered applied when all the conservation practices that make up a system have been installed according to NRCS Standards and Specifications in Section IV, Technical Guide.