

SECTION III - GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

Introduction

Resource Management Systems (RMS) guidance documents have been developed to show the effects of practices and combinations of practices and management on the soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources. In addition to the effects shown, consideration must also be made for social, economic, and cultural constraints.

This section contains planning information and examples of CMS's by land use. Planning information should be developed individually for the farm, tract or field depending on its unique characteristics. Note that the examples show general soils group descriptions and concerns by land uses. It is the consideration for these concerns and others you may add which determine the column headings (problems) for consideration, under the five resources. These considerations may vary from site to site and with land use, but should be fairly constant within a given region.

A users guide for developing CMS's is included at the beginning of this section to show a logical planning process and possible inputs needed to address identified problems for the five resources: soil, water, air, plants, and animals.

Guidance documents are to be added or revised as technology increases and resource problems are successfully treated by the given system.

Planning Resource Management Systems

A RMS is a combination of practices that will solve the identified resource problems to at least the level indicated in the quality criteria and meet the cooperator's objectives. Successful resource management is dependent on the correct application of the RMS. Correct application of the RMS hinges on the application of those practices, which manage the soil surface, vegetation, and/or harvesting of vegetation. These practices are ESSENTIAL to prevent resource degradation and ensure sustainable use. The success and maintenance of other practices depend upon the operation of the ESSENTIAL practices.

Other practices that are planned whether to solve an identified problem or enhance a resource are either used to facilitate or accelerate the ESSENTIAL practices.

Those practices that are ESSENTIAL to the development of a RMS are identified for each land use in the following land use sections. Those practices that enhance the application of the recommended practices are identified as FACILITATIVE practices. Those practices that are needed to cause or accelerate changes are identified as ADDITIONAL practices. These practices become recommended if they are necessary to treat a specific resource problem for soil, water, air, plant, and/or animal (SWAPA+H) resources to the level described in the quality criteria.

Guide Sheets

Sample guide sheets are filed under major land use headings. The guide sheets contain a typical resource setting for that land use and the resource problems that may be encountered in a typical field office situation. The associated matrix is designed to show the effects of the RMS practices on the resource problems.

SECTION III - GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

Introduction

It should be noted that the guide sheets are just that, "**GUIDE**" sheets. They are meant to illustrate a thought process used during the planning process as outlined in the National Planning Procedures Handbook. It is unlikely that many situations will be identical to those described in the guide sheets. They should be used to help the conservationist ensure that all the problems associated with the five resource concerns have been identified and addressed during the planning process. A primary goal of conservation planning is to develop a plan with the cooperator for the implementation of conservation practices and management, which achieves a level of natural resource protection that prevents degradation and permits sustainable use. Where degradation has already occurred, the goal is to restore the resource to a degree practical to permit sustainable use.

The guide sheets were developed using a rating system of plusses (+) or minuses (-) with ADDITIONAL designations of N/A, 0, 1, 2, or 3. These designations were determined from the CPPE sheet filed in Section V, FOTG, and have the following meanings:

- + The practice has a **positive** effect on the resource problem of concern.
- The practice has a **negative** effect on the resource problem of concern.
- N/A The conservation practice being evaluated is **not applicable** (has no effect on) to the described resource problem.
- 0 There is an effect of the practice on the resource problem of concern, but it is **negligible** or insignificant.
- 1 There is a **slight**, but measurable effect (positive or negative) of the practice on the resource problem of concern. The effect would not be enough to influence the decision to select the practice or solve the problem.
- 2 There is a **moderate** effect (positive or negative) of the practice on the resource problem of concern. The effect would be measurable and have an influence on the selection of the practice or solution to the problem.
- 3 There is a **significant** effect (positive or negative) of the practice on the resource problem of concern. The effect would be measurable and have a major influence on the selection of the practice or solution to the problem.