

WHAT IS THE FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE?

The Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) is the primary technical reference for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). It contains technical information about conservation of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.

The technical guide, used in any office, is localized so that it specifically applies to that planning area.

The technical guide provides:

- ◆ *Interpretations of resource use and potential productivity within alternative levels of management intensity and conservation treatment.*
- ◆ *Information for interdisciplinary planning for the conservation of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.*
- ◆ *Technical information for achieving Resource Management Systems (RMS) within the decisionmakers objectives.*
- ◆ *A basis for identifying proper Resource Management Systems and components.*
- ◆ *Criteria to evaluate the adequacy of candidate Resource Management Systems (RMS) to meet quality standards for resource management.*
- ◆ *Standards and specifications for conservation practices, including requirements of state and local regulations.*
- ◆ *Information for evaluating the economic feasibility of alternative conservation practices for Resource Management Systems.*
- ◆ *Technical material for instructing and training conservationists.*

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Limitation of the Field Office Technical Guide

The FOTG contains information for use in technical assistance to decisionmakers for resource management. The desired level of management is for non-degradation and sustainability. The information used in resource management must reflect specific sites and activities and conform to all local, state, and federal requirements. The final product of the technical assistance and the decisionmaker's choices will be limited by the initial breadth of consideration. The FOTG does not provide all information needed to solve all resource concerns that may occur. Unique or complex concerns may require additional information gathering and analysis prior to alternative development and evaluation.