

## SECTION III – WEST VIRGINIA’S QUALITY CRITERIA FOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (RMS)

### GENERAL

Quality Criteria establishes the minimum treatment level necessary to adequately address the resource concerns that are identified during the planning process for development of a Resource Management System (RMS). In West Virginia, 28 significant natural resource concerns have been identified that must be adequately treated to meet on RMS criteria.

### RMS

The RMS criteria are met when treatment has been planned that, when applied, will resolve all of the identified resource problems according to the Quality Criteria. As guidance, to determine if a practice or combination of practices meets the RMS level, use the Numerical Values in Section V, Conservation Planning Physical Effects (CPPE) to document their cumulative effects. Documentation will be made on the RMS Documentation Guidance Worksheet in Section III – FOTG and placed in the cooperators file. Cumulative effect equal too or greater than +5 address the identified problem to the minimum RMS level. Additional treatment may be necessary to address

other program or regulatory requirements. The RMS will be considered applied when all of the conservation practices that make up the system have been installed according to Conservation Practice Standards in Section IV, FOTG.

In some instances, individual decisionmaker action cannot solve an existing conservation problem in accordance with these criteria. In these instances, an opportunity exists for group planning, project measures or multi-program activities to meet the respective quality criteria. In cases where the decisionmaker cannot solve the problem as an individual, the criteria will be met when the land under the control of the decision maker does not adversely contribute to the problem.

In instances where management of water is restricted because of policy and laws, such as those pertaining to wetlands, the criteria will be met if policy and laws are followed. The use and implementation of this criteria will be consistent with federal, state, local laws and regulations.

## **ALTERNATIVE CONSERVATION SYSTEMS (ACS)**

Alternative Conservation Systems can be followed to assist producers with meeting the Highly Erodible Land Conservation provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act as amended by the 1990, 1996 and 2002 Acts. These ACS's allow soil loss at non-sustainable levels due to social, economic and/or cultural conditions. The ACS are in Section III – FOTG.