

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, 45 significant natural resource concerns are identified in Section III that must be inventoried using the appropriate assessment tool and treated to the quality criteria level to meet the RMS criteria.

Human concerns are also to be evaluated and considered during planning. In situations where there are no identifiable natural resource concerns, you may still develop a plan that addresses human concerns. These plans may address operation and maintenance of existing practices.

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.

RMS CRITERIA

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 decision maker 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 decision maker 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.

PROGRESSIVE PLANNING

Where an RMS is not attainable at the present time, the progressive planning process (the incremental process of building a plan consistent with the decision maker’s ability to plan and implement) may be used to ultimately achieve an RMS. The progression on individual planning units is always toward the planning and implementation of an RMS.

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's are in Section III – FOTG.