

## **Section V**

### **Conservation Effects**

#### **Introduction**

Planning the soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources and their interrelationships had increased the complexity of assisting decision makers. NRCS can no longer provide alternatives and assistance that address individual problems without being aware of the effects on all five resources.

As a technical agency, NRCS must constantly strive to improve methods to evaluate the potential effects of conservation practices on the natural resources when providing technical assistance. It is necessary to determine the physical effects relevant to each resource during the planning process because a conservation practice which has a positive effect on one resource problem may have a positive or negative effect on other resources. Since one conservation practice usually does not completely address all resource needs, combinations of practices and their interactions need to be considered when working with the five resources.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of Section V is two fold:

- (A)** To provide a repository of data on the effects of conservation activities. Such data is an important part of technical reference material used by NRCS and decision makers in planning conservation actions. NRCS determines the effects of conservation treatments in order to help formulate the identification of suitable conservation management systems that protect the resource base and address the decision maker's and society's social, cultural, and economic objectives.
- (B)** To serve as a source of appropriate procedures and methods for collecting, analyzing, and displaying conservation effects data.