Benefits of a Conservation Plan

A conservation plan ensures that the land's unique natural resources are managed in the best possible way, while maintaining sustainability and productivity.

Other benefits of a conservation plan:

- May help landowner comply with environmental regulations
- May qualify landowner for USDA conservation programs that can help him or her implement conservation measures
- Adapts to changing farm or ranch operational goals
- Establishes an implementation schedule that fits landowner's timetable and resources

For More Information

To learn more about conservation planning or to request assistance from an NRCS Certified Conservation Planner, contact the NRCS office in a local USDA Service Center or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov.

USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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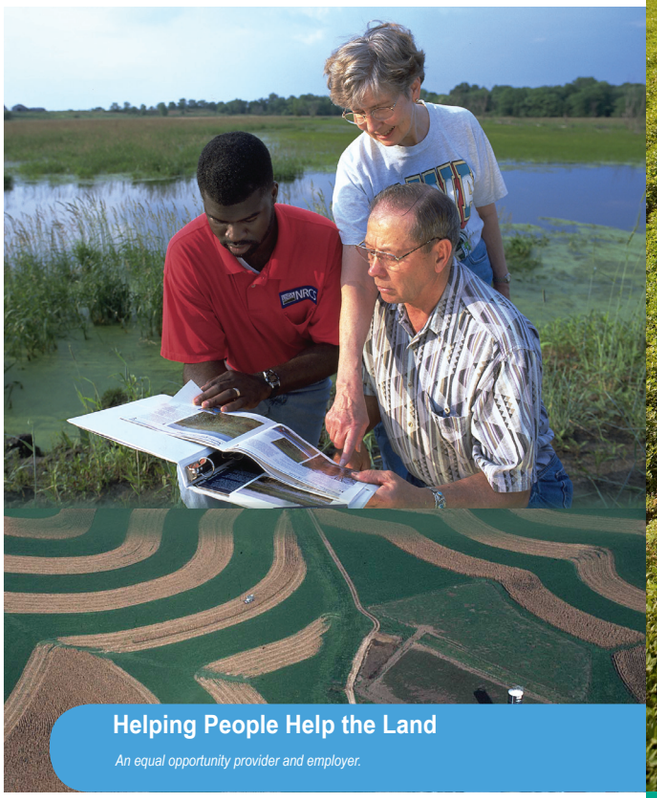

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Conservation Planning

Productive lands, healthy environment

An Overview of Conservation Planning

A conservation plan is the first step in managing natural resources in the landscape. With advice from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a landowner or land manager selects the best combination of conservation practices to meet both natural resource needs and his or her individual land management goals. Conservation planning is provided free of charge.

The plan combines the landowner's or land manager's land management skills with NRCS science-based technology to help ensure:

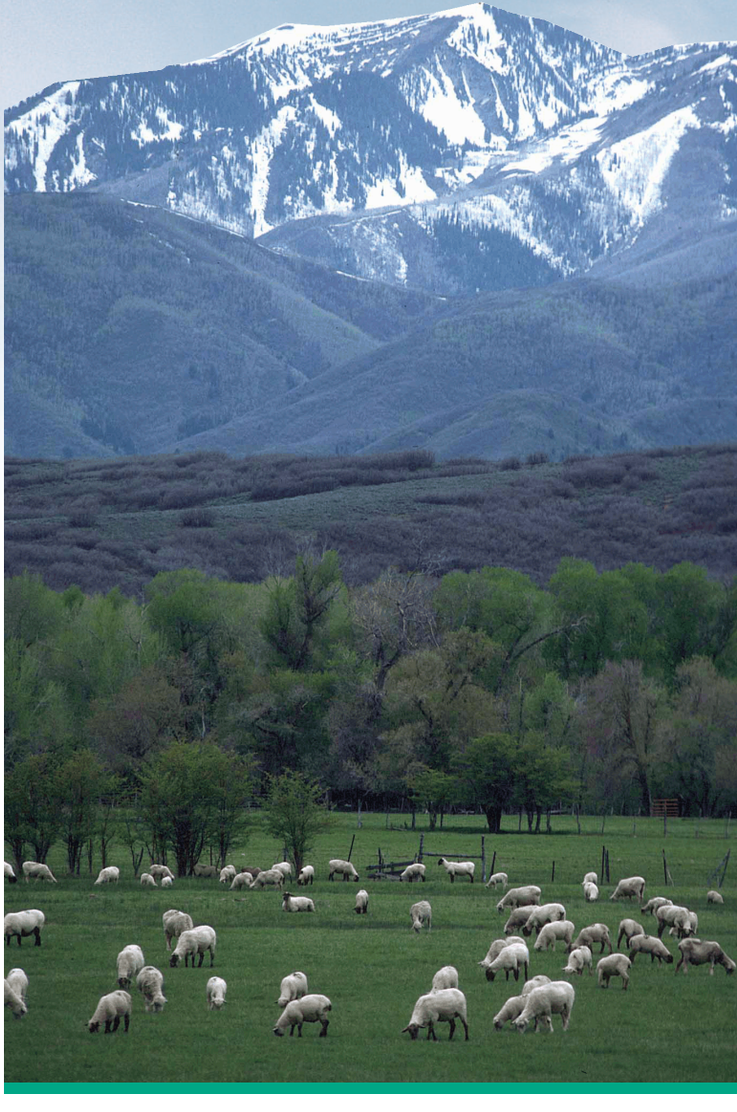
- Clean water
- Clean air
- Quality soil
- Abundant wildlife
- Healthy environment
- Energy conservation

Conservation Planning

Productive lands, healthy environment

What a Conservation Plan Includes

After soil, water, air, plant, animal, human, and energy resource considerations are inventoried and evaluated, an NRCS Certified Conservation Planner will suggest several options. The landowner's decisions are recorded in the conservation plan, which becomes his or her roadmap for better management of natural resources.

A conservation plan includes:

- Landowner-determined goals
- Aerial photograph or diagram of the land
- Soils map and soils descriptions
- Resource inventory data, such as forage or crop production potential
- List of landowner's conservation decisions
- Location and schedule for applying conservation practices and systems
- Maintenance information for installed conservation measures