

National Planning Procedures Handbook

Part 600.2 – NRCS Planning Process Subpart B

KS600.21 - Step 1 - Identify Problems and Opportunities

(c) Planning Standard

Resource concerns are identified during the planning process by comparing present or benchmark conditions with quality criteria established for a particular resource consideration. Resource concerns exist when benchmark conditions do not meet the minimum quality criteria.

To determine and document current resource condition, different assessment tools may be used depending on the nature of the resource concern, planner experience, and specific programs requirements.

In addition to the assessment tools listed in Section III, Quality Criteria, of the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG), other tools or methods may be used to determine and document resource concerns according to the following guidelines:

- Level One certified planners will use the assessment tool listed in Section III, Quality Criteria, of the eFOTG to determine and document the presence of a resource concern.
- Level Two and Level Three certified planners, in lieu of using the assessment tools listed in the eFOTG, may use the [Form KS-ECS-2, Resource Concerns Field Inventory Form](#), to record and document the presence of a resource concern. This form does not take the place of the Environmental Evaluation Worksheet ([Form KS-CPA-52, Environmental Effects for Conservation Planning](#)). Regardless of whether the Resource Concerns Field Inventory Form is used to document the presence of a resource concern, Form KS-CPA-52 must still be completed.
- In those cases where the status of the resource condition is questionable as to whether quality criteria is met, regardless of the planner certification level, the assessment tool listed in Section III, Quality Criteria, of the eFOTG will be used to determine and document the presence of a resource concern.
- Program requirements may dictate the type of assessment that must be completed. For example, the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) requires the Kansas Wildlife Habitat Assessment Worksheet be completed as part of the inventory process.

During quality assurance reviews, the assessment tool or method used to determine and document the benchmark resource condition will be reviewed to determine adequacy and correctness.

(180-VI-NPPH, Amend. KS11, Sept. 2007)

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KS600.21.1 - Step 1 - Activities - Conservation Plan

WHAT	HOW
2. Begin recording identified problems, opportunities, and concerns.	Form KS-ECS-2, Resource Concerns Field Inventory Form , provides a convenient method of recording natural resource problems/opportunities identified by the client and planner.

(180-VI-NPPH, Amend. KS11, Sept. 2007)

KS600.31 Conservation Plan

The plan document . . .

3. A soil map. . .

Conservation plan maps displaying soil survey data shall include the following disclaimer statement on the printed or electronic map layout: *"Soil data has been compiled to meet National Map Accuracy Standards at 1:12,000 scale. Use of this data at larger scales may introduce the appearance of inaccurate line placement."*

The conservation plan map scale should be determined by the planner as to facilitate the planning process.

8. A conservation plan. . .

(b) Body of map with:

- The ArcGIS Conservation Practice and Range Style Sheets shall be used in the development of conservation plan maps to ensure consistency in symbol usage and to reduce the time necessary for plan map creation. While use of the Style Sheets is required, color choice for map symbols is left to the discretion of the planner.
- Conservation planning maps will not show the location of utility lines unless marking the location is pertinent to the planning process. For example, a buried pipe should be shown if wetland restoration (Wetlands Reserve Program [WRP] water ponding) is planned because ponding may not be allowed in that corridor. Another example is to show an overhead power line if that is a restriction for a conservation easement program (WRP, Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program [FRPP], etc.) When one or more utilities are shown on the conservation planning map, the following disclaimer statement shall be written on the map: "Mapped utilities are for conservation planning purposes only. Additional aboveground and belowground utilities may exist in the mapped area."

(c) Land use designations:

Land use designations will be based on the intended/planned land use. Land use/land unit designations are not to be used to delineate a specific practice. Conservation practices are applied to the land to treat a specific resource concern(s). For example, Conservation Practice Grassed Waterway (412) should not be designated as a separate land use/land unit apart from the cropland field on which it has been applied.

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 Subpart D

KS600.49 Training Courses and Self Development Opportunities (KSA Levels *)

Position & GS level	Environmental Compliance Issue								
	CWA	ESA	FPPA	NEPA	NHPA	EJeo	ISeo	Trib L	SLC
Community Planner, GS-9 or >	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
Conservationists - Range, Resource, or Soil: GS-5 or GS-7	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Conservationist, GS-9 or >	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
Conservation Aid 2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Conservation Aid 3 or 4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
CE Tech or SC Tech 5 or 6	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
CE Tech or SC Tech 7 or >	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Agronomist 5 or 7	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Agronomist 9 thru 12	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4
Biologist 5	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Biologist 7-11	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Biologist 12	4	5	4	4	4	4	5	4	4
Contract Specialist 5 or 7	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Contract Specialist 9 or >	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Cultural Resource Spec 9 or <	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	3
Cultural Resource Spec 11/12	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	4
Cultural Resource/NHPA Coord	3 or >	3 or >	3 or >	3 or >	5	3 or >	3 or >	5	3 or >
Economist 9 or <	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Economist 11 or >	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
ESA/ISeo Coordinator	3 or >	5	3 or >	3 or >	3 or >	3 or >	5	3 or >	3 or >
Engineer 5 or 7	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Engineer 9 thru 12	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	5
Environ. Justice Exec Order Coord	3 or >	3 or >	3 or >	3 or >	3 or >	5	3 or >	3 or >	3 or >
FPPA Coordinator	3 or >	3 or >	5	3 or >					
Forester 5 or 7	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Forester 9 thru 12	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4
GIS Computer Assistant	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
GIS Specialist 5 or 7	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
GIS Specialist 9 or >	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Geologist 5	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	3
Geologist 7 thru 11	3	4	3	3	4	3	4	4	4
Geologist 12	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Hydrologist/Hydraulic Eng 9 or 11	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Hydrologist/Hydraulic Eng 12	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Information Specialist 5 or 7	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Information Specialist 9 or >	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
IRM Specialists - all grades	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Landscape Architect 5 or 7	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Landscape Architect 9-12	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	5
NEPA Coordinator	3 or >	3 or >	3 or >	5	3 or >	4 or >	3 or >	3 or >	3 or >
NRI Coordinator	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Plant Materials 9	3	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	3
Plant Materials 11	3	4	3	3	3	3	5	4	3
Plant Materials 12	4	5	4	4	4	4	5	4	3
Soil Scientist 5	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	3
Soil Scientist 7 thru 11	3	4	3	3	4	3	4	4	4
Soil Scientist 12	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

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Tribal Liaison 9 or >	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	5
Water Quality Specialist 9 or >	5	4							
Water Quality Coordinator	5	3 or >							
Line & Staff Managers, GS 13 or higher	3 or >								

- CWA - Clean Water Act**
- ESA - Endangered Species Act**
- FPPA - Farmland Protection Policy Act**
- NEPA - National Environmental Policy Act**
- NHPA - National Historic Preservation Act**
- EJeo - Environmental Justice Executive Order**
- ISoo - Invasive Species Executive Order**
- TribL - Tribal Laws**
- SLC - State and Local Laws Concerning Environment.**

* Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSA's) Levels for Environmental Compliance Issue.