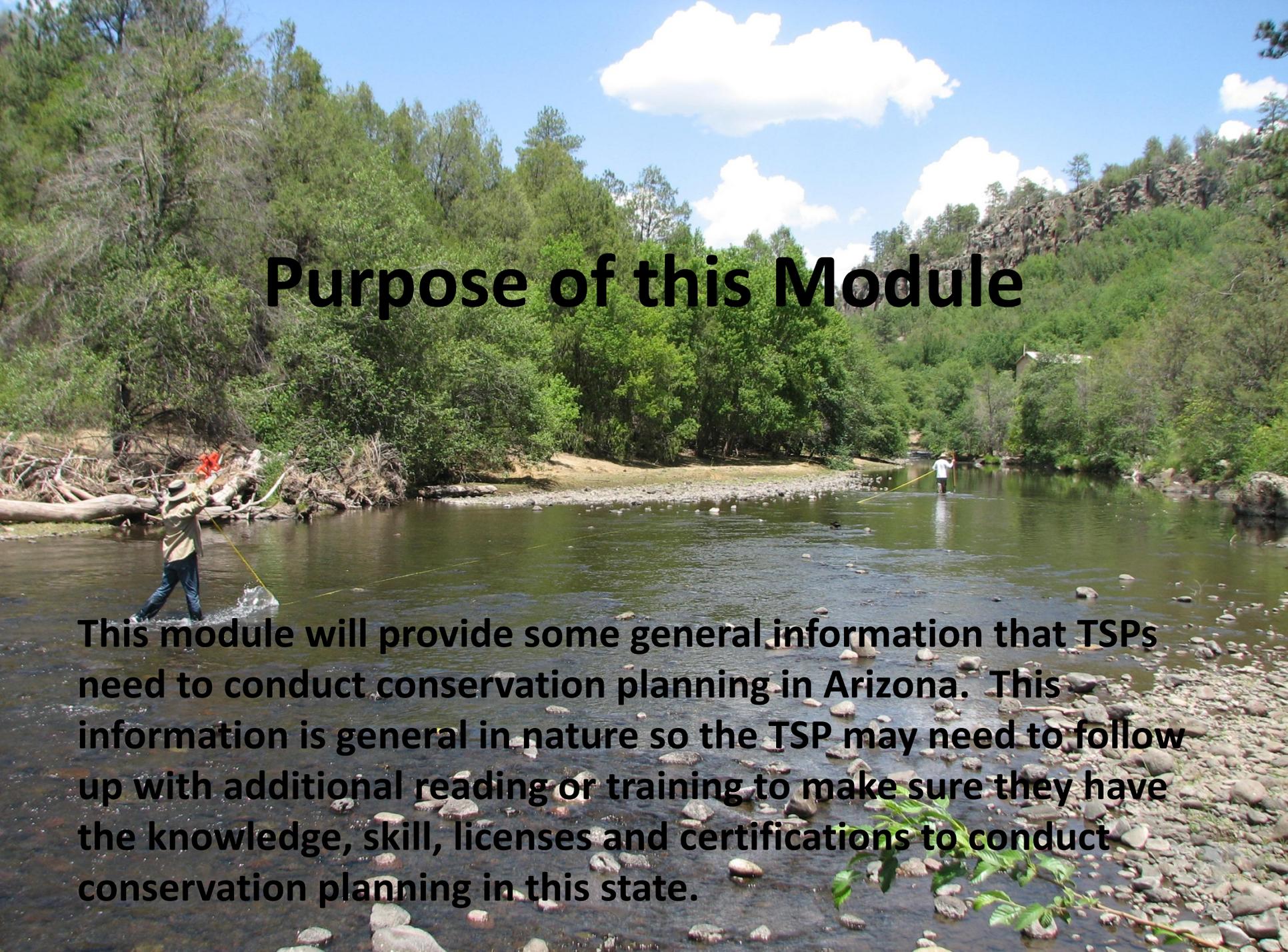


Arizona State Specific Training Module

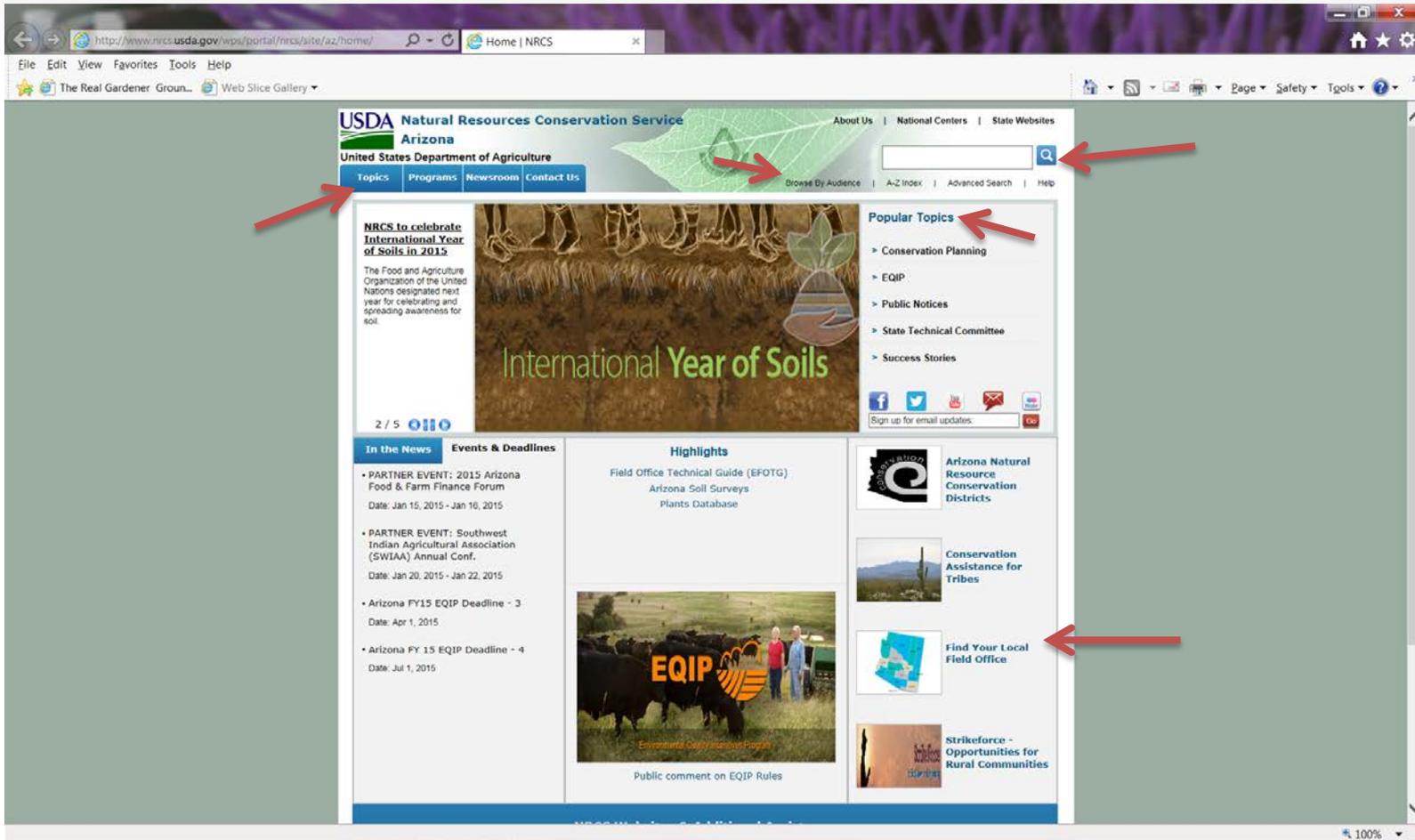




Purpose of this Module

This module will provide some general information that TSPs need to conduct conservation planning in Arizona. This information is general in nature so the TSP may need to follow up with additional reading or training to make sure they have the knowledge, skill, licenses and certifications to conduct conservation planning in this state.

Arizona NRCS Home Page

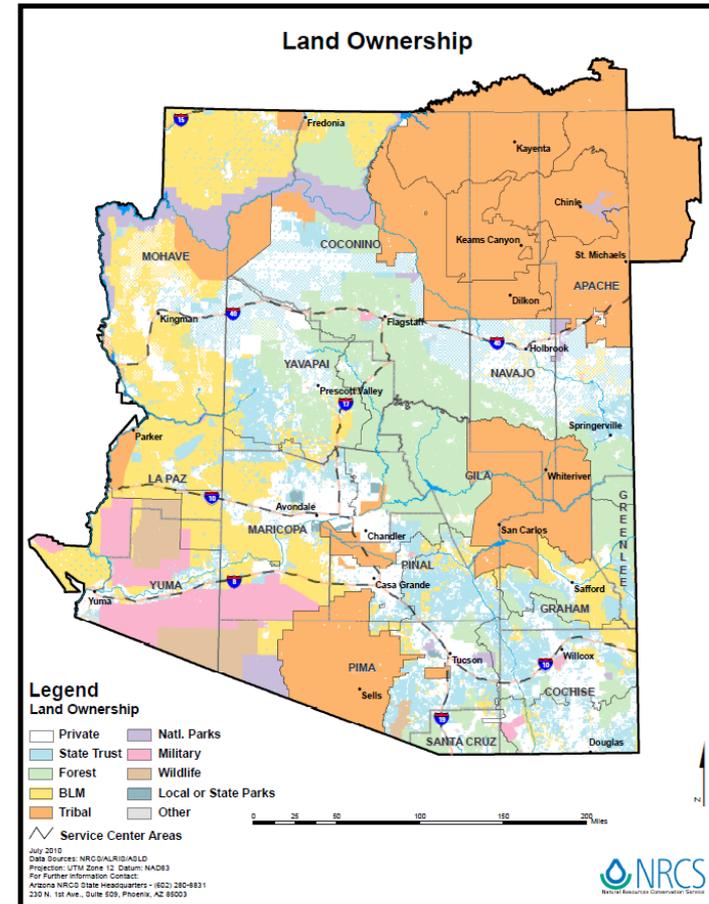
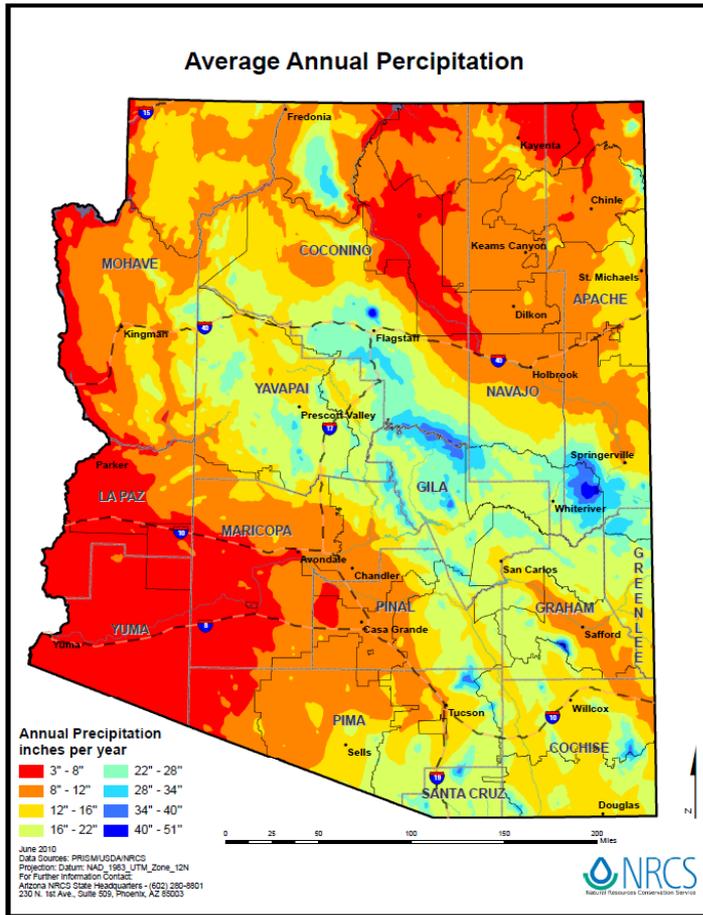


www.az.nrcs.usda.gov

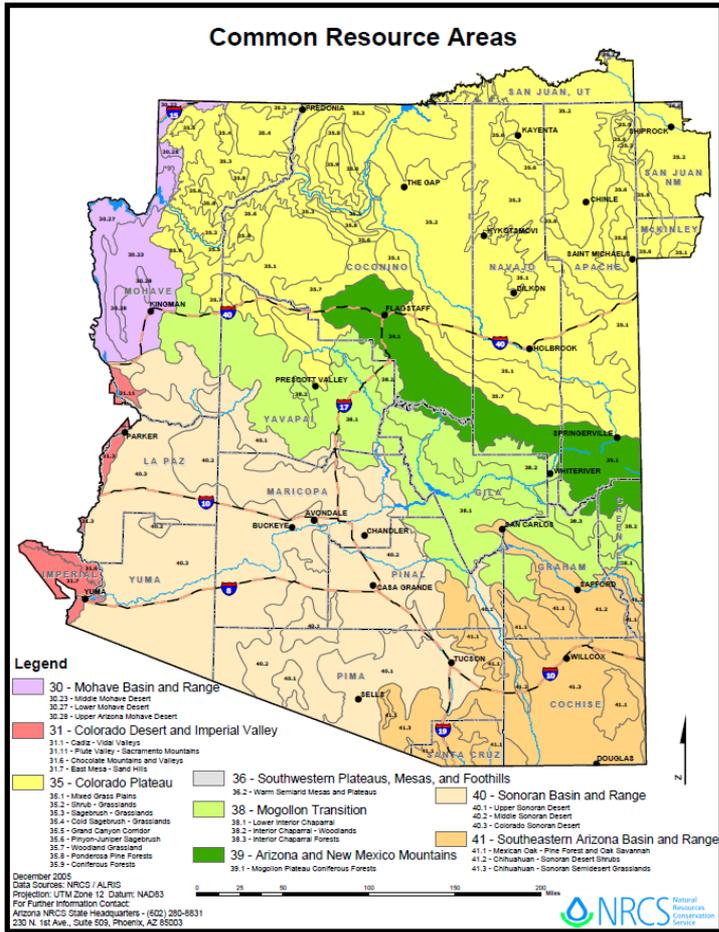
Field Office Technical Guide

- Always refer to the Arizona electronic Field Office Technical Guide (not a paper copy), as this changes and is an interactive resource.
- Although all NRCS FOTGs are organized Section I to V, each state adds state-specific information on their website.
- Here are a few examples of Maps from Section I that you may find useful in the Arizona eFOTG

Useful Maps from the FOTG



Maps



Arizona NRCS: We Care About Conservation

Check out the Arizona NRCS Conservation Planning
Success Stories at

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/az/technical/cp/>

Read about Arizona NRCS activities in the Newsroom
and look for Featured Success Stories

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/az/newsroom/stories/>

Arizona Conservation Priorities

- Improve irrigation efficiency
- Develop reliable livestock water to improve grazing management
- Reduce nutrients in surface and ground water
- Improve plant community productivity, structure and function
- Control dust to improve air quality
- Control noxious weeds
- Manage soil salinity
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Reduce soil erosion
- Improve soil condition
- Improve soil moisture management
- Reduce odors from animal feeding operations
- Improve forage production for livestock
- Reduce sediment in surface waters
- Reduce energy use



Review of State Laws

- Refer to Section I of the Arizona eFOTG for a list of references about Laws. <http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx>
- Tribal Laws for Arizona can be accessed here <http://www.tribal-institute.org/lists/codes.htm>
- Arizona requires that the competence of all private industry nutrient management specialists be certified by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). The ADEQ website has many resources which are useful when planning for air and water quality resources. A Notice of Intent and *General Permit No. AZG2004-002* are required for all operations submitting a Nutrient Management Plan for review. <http://www.azdeq.gov/>
- Pesticide Operators and PCAs are subject to regulation and certification by the Arizona Department of Agriculture. NRCS does not make pesticide recommendations, and supports the Integrated Pest Management approach. <https://agriculture.az.gov/>

Review of State Laws

- Many structural conservation practices require a Private Engineer's license for Arizona. Check membership and licensing at the Arizona State Board of Technical Registration website <https://btr.az.gov/>
- Arizona Native Plant Law: Prior to removal of protected plants, process must be followed with the AZ Department of Agriculture. <https://agriculture.az.gov/protected-arizona-native-plants>
- Arizona NRCS follows land grant university recommendations. Check with the University of Arizona, College of Agriculture and Life Science, Cooperative Extension for current updates and useful information at <http://extension.arizona.edu/>

Review of State Laws

1980 Arizona Groundwater Code

- Arizona Department of Water Resources
- There are 5 active management areas (AMA) in the state
- There are 3 irrigation non-expansion areas
- Goals of management areas are to reach safe yield by 2025 or to sustain the agricultural economy for as long as feasible (Pinal AMA)
- State is currently in the fourth management period (2010-2020)
- <http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/WaterManagement/AMAs>
- http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/PublicInformationOfficer/documents/MohaveBOSPresentation_May2014.pdf

Water Rights in Conservation Planning for Arizona

- Agriculture in Arizona, on a commercial scale, would be virtually impossible without irrigation water.
- As a planner you will need to be mindful of the many types of irrigation water delivery systems, the types of water available and who “owns” the water.
- Irrigation water is delivered to the crop field in a variety of ways, some are more efficient than others, and some are more complicated than others.
- Irrigation water is measured in acre feet. That is the amount of water needed to cover an acre of land to a depth of one foot. If a crop needs 10 acre feet of water per year to produce then the water, if release all at once, would be 10 feet deep on that acre of land.



“Flood Irrigation” is delivered in concrete lined ditches along the perimeter of the field.

Then a series of siphons move the water from the ditch to furrows or borders in the crop field. Flooding places a uniform sheet of water on the field.



In some cases there is a gate that allows a large volume of water to enter the field all at once rather than by siphon tubes.

Sprinkler system installed on pasture land



Center pivot system on crop field



Drip irrigation places water only on the plant base. This is very efficient, but more costly to install and maintain than the other methods.



Types of Water

- Ground Water is water that is stored below ground, can be accessed by a well and pumped to the crop field.
- The analogy has been made of a pool of water below the surface, and people sticking straws into it, and pulling out water. Obviously, the number of straws and the size of the straw must be regulated to help ensure fair and equitable use.
- To learn more about AZ water rights relative to ground water pumping visit-
<http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/SurfaceWater/SurfaceWaterRights/default.htm>
- Surface water is water flowing in streams, canyons, ravines or other natural channels, or in underground channels, whether perennial or intermittent, floodwaters, wastewaters, or surplus water, and of lakes, ponds and springs on the surface of the ground.

Types of Water

- Much of Arizona's irrigation water comes from either the Salt River Project (SRP) or the Central Arizona Project (CAP). SRP delivers about 800,000 acre feet of water annually to the metro Phoenix area, and CAP delivers about 1.5 million acre feet of water to central Arizona each year.
- Water distribution to individual fields is controlled by Conservation Water Districts. Irrigated agriculture is the largest use of water in Arizona, using about 68% of the available water supply.
- Arizona's Groundwater Management Act (GMA) requires regulation of agricultural irrigation water users within five Active Management Areas (AMAs).

Natural Resource Inventory

- This program gathers data relative to soil and rangeland health, land use changes and natural impacts (fire, flooding etc.) by revisiting preselected points on the earth on a rotational basis every few years using GPS and data loggers.
- The NRI program in Arizona is staffed by people trained in NRI protocols.
- NRI data is used by national leaders to evaluate the need and effect of conservation programs at the state and regional level.

Soils Program in Arizona

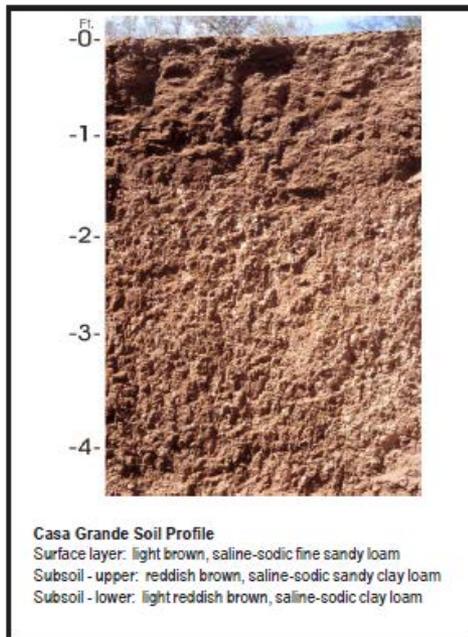
- In many respects the condition of the soil directs many of the efforts of the NRCS in agriculture. It is very important that planners have a good picture of soil health before beginning the planning process.
- To provide this information there are several soil survey offices located in Arizona. These regional offices are led by the soil regional director, Cathy McGuire, who is headquartered with her staff in the state office in Phoenix.

- There are Soil Survey offices in Tucson, Globe, Chandler, and Flagstaff. Besides drawing soil maps, preparing interpretations for soils and making the information available to the public in the form of reports and thematic maps the soil scientists perform many other important tasks for Arizona:
 - They manage the NRI project
 - They partner with the Future Farmers of America in teaching resource conservation
 - They partner with colleges and universities by teaching classes in resource management
 - They teach classes to NRCS field office staff in the use of soil data in resource planning

The soils that we classify



CASA GRANDE -- ARIZONA STATE SOIL



The Casa Grande series was first identified in 1936. It is named after the city of Casa Grande and the nearby Casa Grande National Monument, home of a large earthen building constructed by the Hohokam Indians nearly 1,000 years ago. The Spanish words "Casa Grande" mean "Big House." The Indians used irrigation to remove excess salts from Casa Grande soils and raised cotton, grain, and vegetables on these productive soils, much as farmers do today.

The Casa Grande series consists of very deep, well-drained, saline-sodic soils on fan terraces and relict basin floors. These soils formed in alluvium derived from granite, rhyolite, andesite, quartzite, and some limestone and basalt. Slopes generally are 0 to 5 percent. The climate is hot and arid.

Casa Grande soils have a known distribution of about 275,000 acres and a probable distribution of several million acres throughout central and southwestern Arizona.



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USDA NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service



NRCS soil scientist taking field notes for support documentation in soil mapping



NRCS soil scientists and conservation planners are actively working toward a program of dust abatement as a public safety issue and natural resource concern



NRCS Soil Scientists teaching soil classification, leading field trips for colleges and universities and partnering with other federal agencies, in this case BLM on the Agua Fria



Arizona Soil Resources

- See the Arizona Soils page for more information about the NRCS Soil Survey and other soil resources.
- The NRCS Web Soil Survey can be also be accessed here
- <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/az/soils/surveys/>

Air Quality

- Dust and particulate matter (PM10) from roads, crop fields and other sources is a real problem. Smoke and fine particulates (PM2.5) exist and are mostly in southern counties of the state along the border. Arizona has six counties with Air Quality Non-Attainment Areas according to ADEQ and EPA data.
- Greenhouse gas emissions (NOX and VOCs) from fields and Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), and odors from animal waste contribute to poor air quality.
- Include practices which prevent dust, such as, vegetative practices, fewer passes of equipment across the field, road dust control and track out devices for vehicle and equipment traffic. Find out more about air quality at the ADEQ website:
<http://www.azdeq.gov/index.html>, Download the AgBMP Guide
<http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/air/plan/download/webguide.pdf>

Energy

- There are many opportunities for energy generation by wind, solar and biomass in Arizona.
- Consider including agricultural energy conservation practices when planning for the farm, ranch, dairy or animal feeding operation.
- Conserve resources in the landscape and in the farmstead and headquarters.



Review of Arizona Planting Requirements

Vegetative Practices

- Wind can be a major factor in establishing vegetation in this state. Seedlings and plantings should be protected from the wind.
- Plantings in the drier regions of the state should be delayed until the bi-modal precipitation months when they are more likely to receive rainfall.

Tucson Plant Material Center



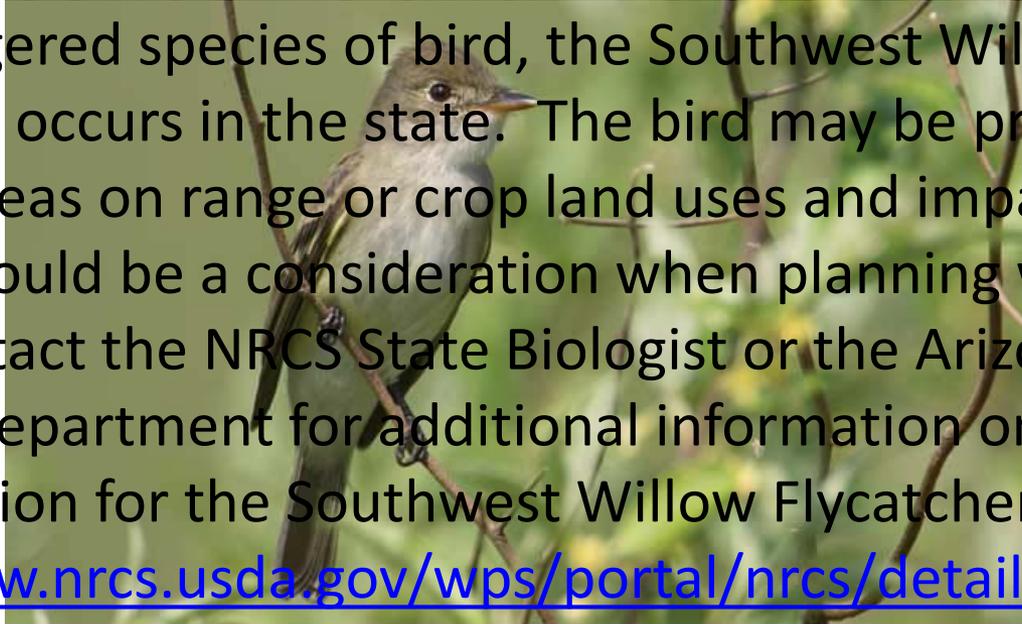
Conservation of Plants

Vegetative Practices

- Brush Management, Prescribed Grazing are used on more acreage in the state than other vegetative practices
- If range seeding is planned, dates should be planned to coincide with bi-modal precipitation
- Native, locally adapted seed is often very expensive and/or not commercially available
- Before planning ground disturbing practices consider the 4 protected native plant categories (Arizona Native Plant Law)
 - Southern Arizona is served by the USDA, NRCS, Plant Material Center in Tucson, while northern Arizona is served by the Los Lunas, New Mexico PMC.
 - You may access PMC brochures, publications and fact sheets at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/publications/plantmaterials/pmc/west/azpmc/pub>

Review of Arizona Wildlife Resource Concerns and Worksheets

- An Endangered species of bird, the Southwest Willow Flycatcher, occurs in the state. The bird may be present in riparian areas on range or crop land uses and impacts to the species should be a consideration when planning within this area. Contact the NRCS State Biologist or the Arizona Game and Fish Department for additional information on planning consideration for the Southwest Willow Flycatcher.
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/az/newsroom/?cid=stelprdb1047041>
- Refer to the most current status of listed Threatened and Endangered species in the eFOTG or on the USFWS or AZGFD websites.



Threatened and Endangered Species

- A Permit is required from FWS for protocol surveys of listed species. All species surveys that involve handling or disturbance of wildlife require a permit from AZGFD.
- Very few NRCS conservation Planning activities require species surveys- instead the **habitat** is evaluated using a **Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide** or WHEG.
- TSP can recommend to NRCS a determination of No Effect, Not likely to Adversely Affect, or Adverse Effect of the conservation practice on any listed species within the area of potential effect (APE)
- The agency determination of effect is the sole responsibility of NRCS

T&E Species

- Arizona NRCS conducted several Programmatic Consultations with the US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - See Arizona Field Office Tech Guide, Section II- Planning Documents- AZ Programmatic Consultations Practice List

The screenshot displays the NRCS FOTG (Field Office Technical Guide) website. The header includes the NRCS logo and navigation links for FOTG, Search/Index, and About. The date is Jan 15 | Thu. The left sidebar shows a tree view under 'FOTG' with 'Section II' expanded, and 'AZ Programmatic Consultations Practice List' highlighted. A blue arrow points to this item. The main content area includes sections for 'What is FOTG?', 'What's in FOTG?' (listing Sections I-V), 'In The Spotlight' (Technical Materials), 'What's Changed Recently', 'Draft FOTG', and 'State Specific Notices'.

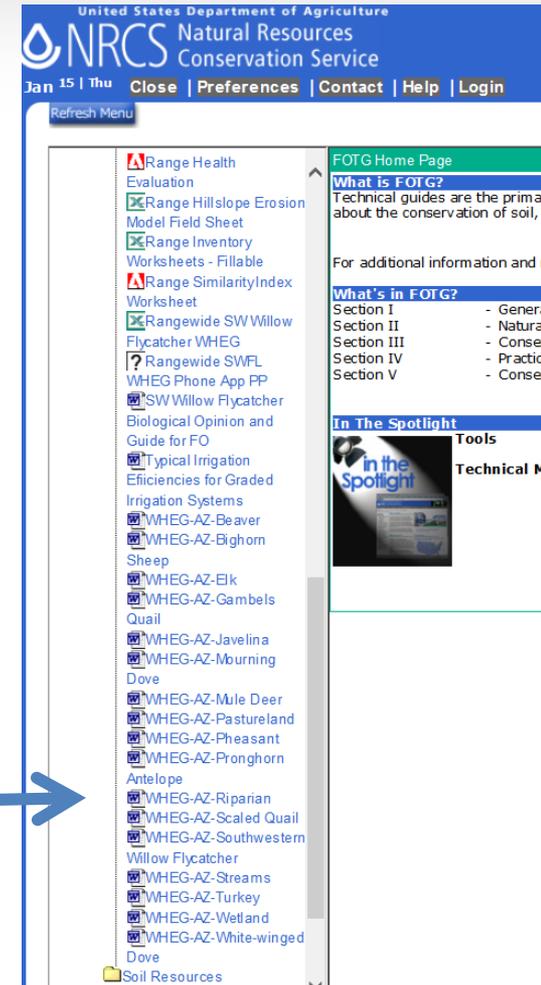
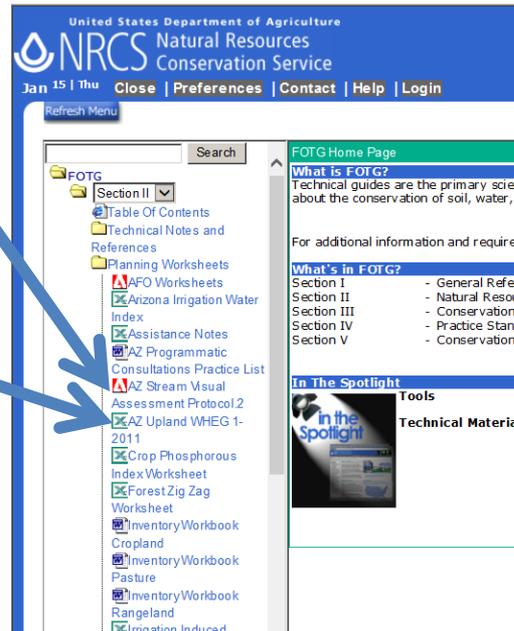
Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guides (WHEGs)

- Riparian- USE SVAP2-AZ

- AZ Upland WHEG

- Compare site to expected for ESD
- Required for each plan at same scale of Range health
- Has sheet providing guidance and instructions

- AZ Individual Species WHEGS- optional when requested by landowner



NRCS Cultural Resources Procedures

Authorities Guiding NRCS Historic Preservation (Cultural Resources) Review

SELECTED LAWS

- **National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (PL 89-655)**
- **National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended**
- **American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, as amended (PL 95-431)**
- **Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (PL 101-601)**
- **Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended (PL 96-95)**

NRCS Cultural Resources Procedures

Authorities Guiding NRCS Historic Preservation (Cultural Resources) Review

SELECTED REGULATIONS

- **36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties (Section 106 of the NHPA)**
- **40 CFR Parts 1500-1508: CEQ Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA**
- **43 CFR Part 10: NAGPRA Regulations**
- **36 CFR Part 63: National Register of Historic Places Regulations (NHPA)**
- **USDA Regulation 1350-002: Tribal Consultation, Coordination, and Collaboration 1/18/2013**

NRCS Cultural Resources Procedures

Authorities Guiding NRCS Historic Preservation (Cultural Resources) Review

SELECTED EXECUTIVE ORDERS

- **Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments:
E. O. 13175 2000 (see USDA regulation)**
- **Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment: E. O.
11593 1971 (see NHPA 110)**
- **Indian Sacred Sites: 1996 E. O. 13007 1995
(see also NHPA Section 106)**

NRCS Cultural Resources Procedures

Step by Step

SEE: <http://www.achp.gov/106summary.html>

INITIATE PROCESS

- Establish undertaking and assess potential to affect historic properties**
- Identify State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) and consult**
- Plan to involve the public**
- Identify other consulting parties**
- Decide whether undertaking has potential to affect historic properties:**
 - IF NO POTENTIAL – Proceed with undertaking**
 - IF UNDERTAKING HAS POTENTIAL TO AFFECT: Go to next step**

NRCS Cultural Resources Procedures

Step by Step

SEE: <http://www.achp.gov/106summary.html>

WHEN UNDERTAKING HAS POTENTIAL TO AFFECT:

IDENTIFY HISTORIC PROPERTIES

- **Determine scope of efforts**
- **Identify historic properties**
- **Evaluate historic significance (eligibility for listing in National Register of Historic Places)**
- **Decide whether any historic properties may be affected:**
 - **IF NO ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES PRESENT OR AFFECTED –**
Proceed with undertaking
 - **IF ELIGIBLE PROPERTIES MIGHT BE AFFECTED –**
Assess effects
 - **IF EFFECTS ARE ADVERSE – Go to next step**

NRCS Cultural Resources Procedures

Step by Step

SEE: <http://www.achp.gov/106summary.html>

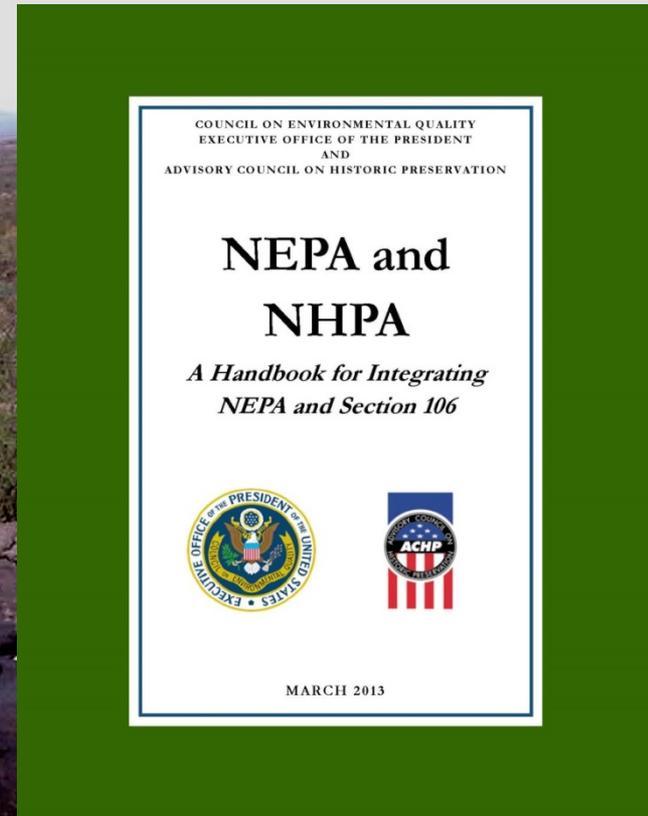
WHEN EFFECTS ARE ADVERSE:

RESOLVE ADVERSE EFFECTS

- **Develop memorandum of agreement (MOA) with concerned consulting parties**

IF CONSULTING PARTIES FAIL TO AGREE ON HOW TO RESOLVE ADVERSE EFFECTS

- **Go to Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) for comment, and proceed with resolution of the adverse effects**
- **Complete the project or undertaking after adverse effects have been resolved**



**For information on coordinating NEPA and NHPA
cultural resources/historic properties
procedures, consult this document**

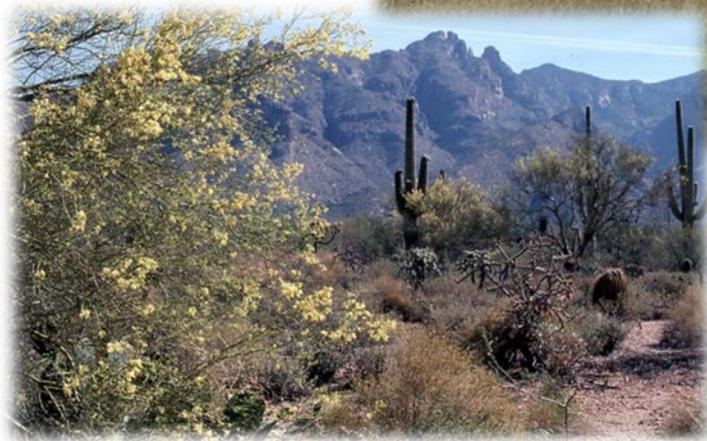
http://www.achp.gov/docs/NEPA_NHPA_Section_106_Handbook_Mar2013.pdf

Review of Rangeland Resources

- Arizona has a bi-modal precipitation pattern, with precipitation occurring in both the summer and winter seasons . Summer is characterized by high-intensity, localized, bursts of rainfall from thunderstorms and the winter has widespread, soaking rains and snowfall.
- The average cow herd size ranges from 300 to 400 head and ranch sizes vary from several thousand acres up to several hundred thousand acres.
- The mixed ownership of the state leads to many ranches having multiple land management agencies involved in planning and requires coordination among agencies.

Review of Rangeland Resources

- The native rangeland in Arizona ranges from desert scrub to grasslands to high elevation meadows. The primary grazers are cattle, however, there is also sheep, goats and other livestock on grazing land.



Review of Rangeland Practices

- Most common practices for Rangelands are Watering Facility, Prescribed Grazing, Livestock Pipeline, Brush Management, Fence, and Pumping Plant.
- Brush Management, Prescribed Grazing are used on more acreage in the state than other vegetative practices.
- Priority Resource Concerns for rangelands are:
 - LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION –Inadequate Livestock Water
 - DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Undesirable Plant Productivity And Health
 - DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION - Inadequate Structure And Composition
 - DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION – Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
 - SOIL EROSION - Sheet, Rill, & Wind Erosion

Review of Agronomic Practices and Resources- Tools of the Trade

- Conservation Planning Tools Available
 - Conservation Plan Management System Inventory (Benchmark)
 - Arizona Resource Concern and Planning Criteria
 - Conservation Alternatives-Land Use and Treatment
 - Implementing the Plan
 - Evaluating the Plan

KNOW YOUR CUSTOMER

Agronomic Tools of the Trade

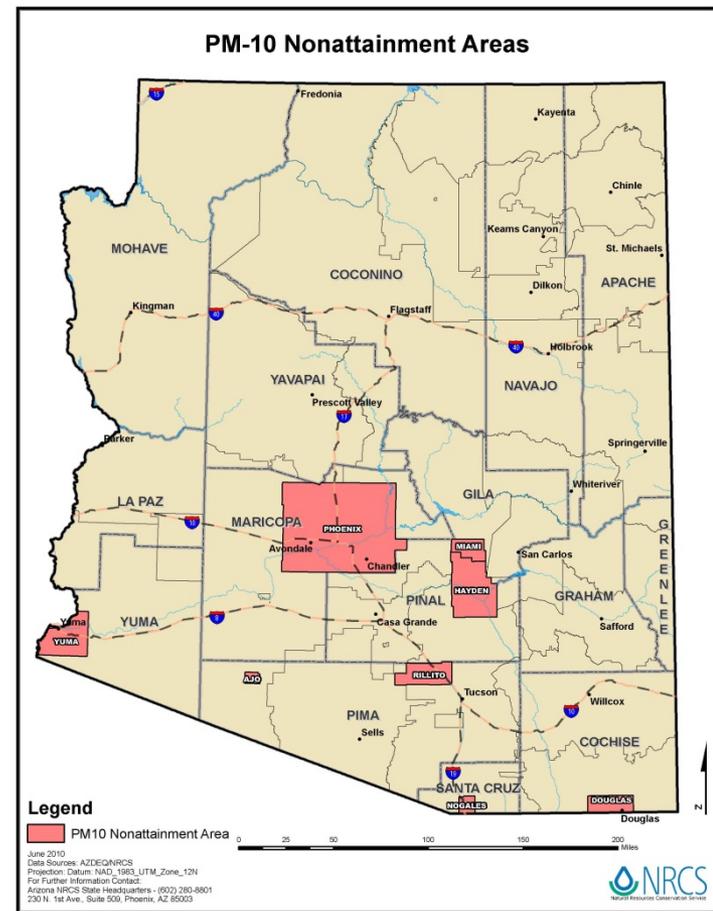
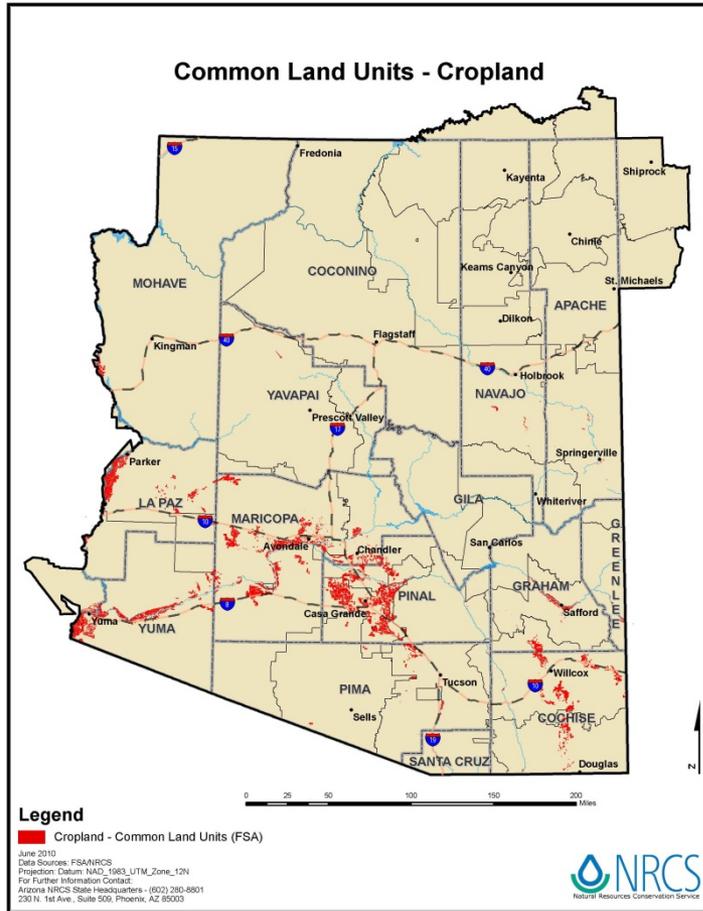
- RUSLE2 for soil erosion by water –sheet and rill
- WinSrfr – for surface irrigation systems
- WinPST –Windows Pesticide Screening Tool
- WEPS- Wind Erosion Prediction System
- Toolkit (C Planner for TSPs) – for planning, mapping and technical notes
- NRCS CPA-52 Environmental Evaluation –Coordinate with the NRCS field office District Conservationist, and start early in the planning process to allow enough time for thorough assessment and follow up.

Agronomic Tools of the Trade

- Irrigation forms AZ-CONS-5- IWM Plan, AZ—CPA-7 IW Reorg. Plan, AzFIRI, AZ-ENG-10 Irrigation System Design, + worksheets, job sheets and more (use up to date eFOTG versions only)
- Nutrient Budget worksheet
- Phosphorus Index worksheet
- COMET-FARM- Enables farmers and ranchers to calculate how much carbon their conservation actions can remove from the atmosphere.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/az/home/?cid=stelprdb1119532> or www.comet-farm.com

Cropland Maps



Arizona eFOTG Planning Documents

Typical Resource Management System for Arizona Cropland may include

- **Ecological Sciences/non-engineering practices for Cropland**
 - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
 - Residue Management, Seasonal (344)
 - Residue Mgt. –No Till, Reduced Till, Strip Till (329)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
 - Pest Management (595)
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Wildlife Upland Habitat Mgt. (645)

Typical Resource Management System for Arizona Cropland may include

- **Engineering Practices for Cropland**
 - Irrigation Land Leveling (464)
 - Irrigation Water Conveyance, Plain Concrete (428-A)
 - Structure for Water Control (587)
 - Irrigation Water Management (449)*
 - Micro-Irrigation System (441)
 - Sprinkler Irrigation System (442)
 - Irrigation Water Conveyance- Pipeline, PVC (430 DD & 430 EE)
 - Pumping Plant for Water Control (533)
 - Irrigation Regulating Reservoir (552)
 - Pond Sealing or Lining (521)

IRRIGATION

Standard, Specification & SOW Examples

- Standards and Specifications
 - Irrigation Water Management (449) Standard Example
 - Conservation Crop Rotation (328) Specification Example
- Statement of Work (SOW)- Good Guide for Deliverables
 - Conservation Planning National Template (SOW)
 - IWM (449) SOW
 - Conservation Crop Rotation (328) SOW
- Job Sheets and Worksheets
 - There are many available. Look in the eFOTG Section IV and for Planning Forms in the appropriate Section. If you don't find what you need please ask the NRCS field, Area or State Office for help locating them.

Irrigation Water Management 449

Standard Example

Purpose: IWM is the process of determining and controlling the volume, frequency and application rate of irrigation water in a planned and efficient manner.

- Manage soil moisture to promote desired crop response
- Optimize the use of available water supplies
- Minimize irrigation induced soil erosion
- Decrease non-point source pollution of surface and groundwater resources
- Manage salts in the crop root zone
- Manage air, soil, or plant micro-climate



Conservation Crop Rotation (328)

Specification Example

- **Purpose of Specification: Be SPECIFIC for the operation and the field.**
- 
- Scope: The work shall consist of growing crops in a recurring sequence on the same field.
 - General Requirements
 - Soil Testing
 - Crop Selection
 - Special Requirements
 - Design and Work Sheets

Statement of Work for IWM (449) Example

- State the purpose and extent in the conservation practice narrative
- Show control of the land
- Provide supporting information for practice design in the case file
- Show calculations and analyze use to develop specifications
- Client provides soil and water test results to planner/engineer
- Provide written specification to the client
- Demonstrate that criteria for NRCS Standard will be met
- Comply with all applicable laws and regulations
- NRCS representative with JAA approves design and certifies practice

Other Tips

- Someone with the Job Approval Authority for the Practice must Approve the Design and Sign the Checkout (Certification) of the Practice. The Planner must get the signatures of the producer, approver and certifier.
- Spot Checks and Reviews –What to expect
- All conservation plans and practices are required to have a 5% spot check. Where to go for more info???
Ask or go to www.az.usda.gov

Residue Management using barley in a cotton field



Expected TSP Workflow

- The Arizona NRCS State Resource Conservationist (SRC), or designee, will be responsible for reviewing TSP conservation planning for the National Planner Certification.
- Subsequent conservation plans will be reviewed by the District Conservationist (DC), Area or State Office Technical Specialists who make a recommendation for plan approval and Conservation Planner certification.
- The SRC, or designee, will conduct plan reviews for TSP planner certification renewals according to the Arizona FOTG requirements.
- TSPs will work with the local NRCS Field Office District Conservationist to make sure the proper environmental evaluations (NRCS CPA-52) are completed.
- TSPs will report their conservation planning work to the District Conservationist in the county where the farm or ranch is located, and maintain good working relationships with the field office and conservation partners.

Certificate of Completion

After viewing the State Specific Training module, please print and sign the completion certificate on the following slide.

The certificate is your acknowledgement that based on the information provided in this module, you have the proper knowledge, skills and ability to conduct planning in this state.

Send the signed certificate to the State TSP Coordinator. Copy the below link to your browser for a list of State TSP Coordinators.

<https://techreg.sc.egov.usda.gov/RptStateContact4Admin.aspx>

STATE SPECIFIC TRAINING MODULE COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

I, _____, hereby verify I have viewed and understand
TSP Name
the content of the Arizona State Specific Training Module and affirm I
have the knowledge, skills and ability to conduct conservation planning
services in that state.

TSP signature

Date

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Persons with Disabilities

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities and you wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities, who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.), please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

For any other information dealing with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) issues, persons should either contact the USDA SNAP Hotline Number at (800) 221-5689, which is also in Spanish, or call the State Information/Hotline Numbers.

All Other Inquiries

For any other information not pertaining to civil rights, please refer to the listing of the USDA Agencies and Offices.