

State Specific Training Module for Maryland

Purpose of this Module

This module will provide some general information that TSPs need to conduct conservation planning in our state. 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.

Review of State Laws

Maryland requires that the competence of all nutrient management planners be certified by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA)

Certifications are issued for 1 year, but may be renewed for a 3 year term by providing the required renewal documentation to MDA.

Structural practices implemented within waterways or wetlands within Maryland usually require a State permit or authorization. Most structural conservation practices can be implemented through an existing general permit issued to NRCS by the MD Dept. of the Environment.

Review of State FOTG Requirements

Vegetative Practices

Site preparation can be a major factor for successful establishment of herbaceous and woody plantings, especially on non-cropland. Proper site preparation, including weed control and killing of established cool-season grass stands, needs to be communicated to the participant and implemented as part of vegetation establishment.

Deer browse on hardwood tree and shrub plantings can significantly affect survival of seedlings. Tree protection, such as tree shelters or wildlife exclusion fence, is necessary in most areas of Maryland.

Review of Important Resource Issues

The presence of threatened and endangered species and cultural resources must be evaluated for every conservation plan and NRCS contract. Maryland has GIS datasets that should be utilized to conduct these evaluations.

If working in areas where bog turtles are known to occur (Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, and Harford Cos.), planners must be cautious of planning practices that may adversely affect the turtles and their habitat. One particularly common practice that may adversely affect bog turtles is tree planting, including the establishment of riparian forest buffers.

Review of Major Land Uses or Agronomic Practices

The Eastern Shore of Maryland – everything east of the Chesapeake Bay – is dominated by row crops and poultry production. Most of the poultry production occurs in the lower half of the Eastern Shore. Forestry – and specifically southern pine production – is a significant land use on the lower portion of the Eastern Shore.

Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery are mostly horse and small beef operations, with some grain.

Carroll, Frederick, and Washington Cos. are dominated by dairy production, along with beef and grain production.

Southern Maryland – Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's, and St. Mary's – were dominated by tobacco up to 15 years ago, and are currently developing into produce and small livestock operations. Horse operations are a significant part of agriculture within Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties.

Allegany and Garrett Cos. are dominated by beef, hay, and forestry.

Review of Major Land Ownership

Most of the land in Maryland is privately owned. However, approximately 40% of Agricultural land in Maryland is leased. Many farmers have been farming the same land for many years but have no written agreement, or rent annually. Control of land is a consideration when writing Conservation plans and recommending conservation practices.

Expected TSP Workflow

- The State Planning Specialist will be responsible for reviewing TSP conservation planning for the National Planner Certification.
- Subsequent Conservation Plans will be reviewed by the District Conservationist (DC) at the local USDA Service Center.
- The State Planning Specialist will conduct plan reviews for TSP planner certification renewals.
- TSPs will work with the local District Conservationist to make sure the proper environmental evaluations (NRCS.CPA.52) are completed.

Additional References or Training

- State Field Office Technical Guide at www.nrcs.usda.gov
- State Training on CNMP Development
- Maryland Department of Agriculture Nutrient Management Laws and Regulations
- Maryland Department of Agriculture Nutrient Management Manual

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 the
TSP Name
content of the Maryland State Specific Training Module and affirm I have the
knowledge, skills and ability to conduct conservation planning services in that
state.

TSP signature

Date

Non-Discrimination Statement

Non-Discrimination Policy

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If you wish to file an employment complaint, you must contact your agency's EEO Counselor within 45 days of the date of the alleged discriminatory act, event, or in the case of a personnel action. Additional information can be found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_file.html

To File a Program Complaint

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9419, by fax at (202) 690-7442, or email at program.intake@usda.gov

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 Inquires

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