

State Specific Training Module for North Carolina

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.

North Carolina

North Carolina is composed of 100 counties. Consisting of three main geographic sections: the Atlantic Coastal Plain, which occupies the eastern 45% of the state; the Piedmont region, which contains the middle 35%; and the Appalachian Mountains and foothills. The extreme eastern section of the state contains the Outer Banks, a string of sandy, narrow barrier islands between the Atlantic Ocean and two inland waterways or "sounds": Albemarle Sound in the north and Pamlico Sound in the south. They are the two largest landlocked sounds in the United States.

Review of Major Land Uses or Agronomic Practices

This state is comprised of 50,218 farms with approximately 8,414,756 acres. The average farm size being 168 acres.

- Cropland - 56%
- Hayland - 10%
- Irrigated Land – .02%
- Native Rangeland – 0%
- Pastureland - .20%
- Forestland - 33%

Data obtained from 2012 Census of Agriculture, USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)

Forestry

North Carolina's private landowners own close to 85 percent of the state's 18.6 million acres of forestland. Conservation planners play a critical role in ensuring that our forests are healthy, productive and diverse. Decisions have long-term impact on wildlife habitat, clean air, clean water, wood supply and outdoor recreational opportunities.

Forestry continued...

CHAPTER 89B OF THE GENERAL STATUTES OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

"Foresters"

" § 89B-1. General provisions.

(a) No person shall use the designation 'forester', 'registered forester', or any other descriptive terms that include the words 'forester' or 'registered forester' and that directly convey that the person is a forester without first having been registered under this Chapter.

Pest Management

The state requires valid pesticide applicator and consultant licenses for professionals who apply pesticides or write pesticide prescriptions on a consulting basis.

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services administers the state's pesticide applicator license program.

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/pesticides/license.htm>

Prescribed Burning

This state requires that the competency of all Prescribed Burning planners must obtain a Certified Prescribed Burner Certification from the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources.

http://www.ncforestservice.gov/fire_control/fc_howtobeacertifiedburner.htm

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan

This state requires that the competency of all Comprehensive Nutrient Management planners obtain a Waste Utilization Plan/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) Technical Specialist designation through the North Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC).

http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/professional_development/tech_specialist_designation.html

Engineering

In order to safeguard life, health, and property, and to promote the public welfare, the practice of engineering and land surveying in North Carolina are subject to regulation. TSPs are required to obtain a North Carolina Engineering License from The North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors.

Below is a spreadsheet listing conservation practices that currently fall under the state Engineer Board's authority:



Microsoft Excel
Worksheet

Grazing

This state requires that the competency of all Grazing Management planners obtain a Commercial Ground Applicators, Aerial Applicators, or Pest Control Consultants license. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services administers the state's pesticide applicator license program.

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SPCAP/pesticides/license.htm>

Irrigation

This state requires a Professional Engineering license for irrigation systems to handle animal waste (application and design).

Conservation Planner must also obtain a Wettable Acres (for liquid animal waste) Technical Specialist designation through the North Carolina Department of Agriculture - Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC).

http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/professional_development/tech_specialist_designation.html

Protected Species

Freshwater mussels, other aquatic species and some plants listed as federally Endangered or Threatened are the protected species most often encountered in conservation planning situations. There is a list of protected species and a procedure for documenting effects of conservation practice on species in eFOTG, Section II.

Twenty-five counties in western NC contain stream reaches that support Trout Waters where construction activities in the water are normally excluded during the period between October 15 and April 15 unless prior written approval is obtained from the NCWRC.

State Water Quality Regulations

- The state Division of Water Resources applies Surface Water Classifications to streams, rivers and lakes, which define the best uses to be protected within these waters and carry with them an associated set of water quality standards to protect those uses.
- Classifications and their associated protection rules may be designed to protect water quality, fish and wildlife, or other special characteristics.
- Here is a link for more information:
<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ps/csu/classifications>

Review of Major Land Ownership

- Most land in North Carolina is privately owned.
- There is significant pressure to convert rural land for urban uses in many regions of the state- especially surrounding the major cities.
- There is large amount of federally-owned land in western North Carolina, comprising National Forests and National Parks- especially at higher elevations.
- The Eastern Cherokee Indian Reservation, officially known as the [Qualla Boundary](#), is located in eastern [Swain County](#) and northern [Jackson County](#), but smaller non-contiguous sections are located to the southwest in [Cherokee County](#) and [Graham County](#). A small part of the main reservation extends eastward into [Haywood County](#). The Qualla Boundary is not a reservation, but rather a "land trust" supervised by the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Expected TSP Workflow

- State TSP Coordinator serves as the Point of Contact for TSPs.
- A Resource Conservationist assigned from the NRCS state office's Ecological Sciences staff will be responsible for reviewing TSP conservation planning for the National Planner Certification.
- The Resource Conservationist 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

- North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors <http://www.ncbels.org/>
- North Carolina State University nutrient management training <http://nutrients.soil.ncsu.edu/software/ncanat/>
- NC Dept. of Administration Tribal Information <http://www.doa.nc.gov/cia/tribes.aspx>

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 North Carolina 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

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

To File an Employment Complaint

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 Inquiries

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