

State Specific Training Module for Oklahoma

Purpose of this Module

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

State TSP Coordinator:

Joe Buford

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405-742-1282

Expected TSP Workflow

- The State Resource Conservationist (SRC) 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 SRC 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.

Review of Oklahoma Laws

Engineering in Oklahoma

- Certain engineering practices require that the TSP be a certified Professional Engineer (PE). An PE license can be required by the State of Oklahoma. For questions regarding which practices require a PE please call the State Conservation Engineer.
- NRCS State Conservation Engineer
Chris Stoner
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State FOTG Requirements

- Technical Service Providers should be familiar with and the use of the Oklahoma Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). Section IV of the FOTG has all of Oklahoma's Conservation Practice Standards (CPS) and Specification information. There are 5 sections in the FOTG.
- To access the Oklahoma FOTG link click here:
<http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

What is FOTG?

- Technical guides are the primary scientific references for NRCS. They contain technical information about the conservation of soil, water, air, and related plant and animal resources.
- Technical guides used in each field office are localized so that they apply specifically to the geographic area for which they are prepared. These documents are referred to as Field Office Technical Guides (FOTGs).
- Appropriate parts of the Field Office Technical Guides are automated as data bases, computer programs, and other electronic-based materials such as those included in these web based pages.

Section I: General References

- In this section you will find general state maps, descriptions of Major Land Resource Areas, watershed information, and links to NRCS reference manuals and handbooks. Section I contains links to researchers, universities, and agencies we work. Section I also contains conservation practice costs, agricultural laws and regulations, cultural resources, and information about protected plant and animal species.

Section II: Soil and Site Information

- In this section you will find detailed information about soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources. NRCS Soil Surveys, Hydric Soils Interpretations, Ecological Site Descriptions, Forage Suitability Groups, Cropland Production Tables, Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guides, Water Quality Guides, and other related information can be found here as it becomes available.

Section III: Conservation Management Systems

- In this section you will find information on NRCS Quality Criteria, which establish standards for resource conditions that help provide sustained use.

Section IV: Practice Standards and Specifications

- In this section you will find the NRCS Conservation Practices. Practice Standards define the practice and where it applies. Practice specifications are detailed requirements for installing the practice in the state.

Section V: Conservation Effects

- In this section you will find background information on how Conservation Practices affect each identified resource concerns in the state.

Oklahoma FOTG Navigation: Section IV

- The FOTG County Locator will appear upon first entering the site. Although, there are 77 counties selectable all CPS and Specification are the same in all counties.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov>. The page header includes the USDA NRCS logo, the date "Jan 30 | Fri", and navigation links for "Close", "Contact", "Help", and "Login". On the right side of the header, there is a "FOTG" logo with the tagline "a component of SmartTech" and "Field Office Technical Guide".

The main content area is titled "Oklahoma" and features a map of the state with its 77 counties labeled. The counties shown are: Cimarron, Texas, Beaver, Harper, Woods, Alfalfa, Grant, Kay, Washington, Craig, Ottawa, Nowata, Woodward, Major, Garfield, Noble, Pawnee, Rogers, Mayes, Delaware, Ellis, Dewey, Kingfisher, Payne, Tulsa, Creek, Wagoner, Cherokee, Adair, Logan, Lincoln, Oklahoma, Cleveland, Oklahoma, Muskogee, Sequoyah, Beckham, Washita, Caddo, Cleveland, Pottawatomie, Seminole, Hughes, Pittsburg, Latimer, LaFlore, Harmon, Kiowa, Brady, McClain, Garvin, Fort Cobb, Coss, Pushmataha, Jackson, Comanche, Stephens, Murray, Murray, Johnston, Atoka, McCurtain, Tillman, Cotton, Jefferson, Carter, Marshall, Bryan, Choctaw, and Love. A "Back to US Map" button is located at the bottom of the map.

To the right of the map is a light blue box titled "FOTG County Locator". It contains the text: "Select your County of interest by clicking the map to the left." Below this text is a bullet point: "• To select a different state, click [here](#)."

Select the Section IV Tab

The screenshot shows the FOTG (Field Office Technical Guide) website interface. The browser address bar displays <http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/treemenuF5.aspx>. The page header includes the USDA and NRCS logos, the text "United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service", and "LOGAN COUNTY, OK Field Office Technical Guide". A navigation bar contains "FOTG", "Search/Index", and "About" tabs. A date indicator shows "Jan 30 | Fri" with links for "Close", "Preferences", "Contact", "Help", and "Login".

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- FOTG Home Page:** Contains "What is FOTG?", "What's in FOTG?", and "In The Spotlight" sections.
- Left Navigation Menu:** A tree view under "FOTG" with a search box. A red arrow points to the "Section I" dropdown menu. Other items include "Table Of Contents", "Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Transmittals (Notices)", "Reference Materials", "Maps", "Cost Data", "Erosion prediction", and "Laws".
- What's Changed Recently:** A list of recent updates with links and dates, such as "CRP LPC Biological Opinion Questions and Answers (1/26/2015)".
- Draft FOTG:** A list of draft documents, including "Draft Heavy Use Area Protection (561) Statement of Work (1/14/2015)".

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with links: "NRCS | USDA | Accessibility Statement | USDA Privacy Policy | USDA Nondiscrimination Statement | FOIA".

Select Conservation Practices Tab

The screenshot shows the FOTG (Field Office Technical Guide) website interface. The browser address bar displays <http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx>. The page header includes the USDA and NRCS logos, the text "United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service", and "LOGAN COUNTY, OK Field Office Technical Guide". Navigation links for "FOTG", "Search/Index", and "About" are present. A date indicator shows "Jan 30 | Fri" with links for "Close", "Preferences", "Contact", "Help", and "Login".

The left sidebar contains a search bar and a tree menu for "FOTG". The "Conservation Practices" tab is highlighted with a red arrow. Below it, a list of practice categories is shown, including "Pre-Approved Structures, Components, and Appurtenances Practice List", "Section IV Index", "Structures for Wildlife (NO) (649)", "On-Farm Secondary Containment Facility (319) Standard", "Non-Practice Statements of Work", "Access Control (AC) (472)", "Access Road (FT) (560)", "Agricultural Secondary Containment Facility", "Alley Cropping (Ac) (311)", "Amendments for Treatment of Agricultural Waste (AU) (591)", "Animal Mortality Facility (NO) (316)", and "Animal Trails and Walkways (FT) (575)".

The main content area is titled "FOTG Home Page" and includes sections for "What is FOTG?", "What's in FOTG?", "In The Spotlight", "Tools", and "Technical Materials". The "What's in FOTG?" section lists: Section I - General References, Section II - Natural Resources Information, Section III - Conservation Management Systems, Section IV - Practice Standards and Specifications (highlighted with a red arrow), and Section V - Conservation Effects. The "What's Changed Recently" section lists various documents with dates, such as "CRP LPC Biological Opinion Questions and Answers (1/26/2015)" and "LPC Grassland Conversion (1/26/2015)". A "Draft FOTG" section at the bottom lists draft documents like "Draft Heavy Use Area Protection (561) Statement of Work (1/14/2015)".

At the bottom of the page, there are links for "NRCS | USDA | Accessibility Statement | USDA Privacy Policy | USDA Nondiscrimination Statement | FOIA".

National Environmental Policy Act Review

- Technical Service Providers who are certified conservation planners will provide NRCS with the information necessary to assess:
 - Identified natural resource concerns along with treatment alternatives, and
 - Special environmental concerns: Environmental Laws, Executive Orders, and policies.
- This information will be documented according to NRCS State-specific procedures (i.e., Environmental Evaluation Worksheet, NRCS-CPA-52).
- TSPs will sign the NRCS-CPA-52 and NRCS will verify and sign that the information provided is accurate.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Enacted in 1970 – Result of the first “Green Movement.”
- One of the most significant environmental legislation ever passed.
- Requires all federal agencies and TSP’s to evaluate impacts of their actions on the environment.

NEPA –Types of Environmental Analysis

- Environmental Evaluation (EE)
 - Used in most NRCS Conservation Planning (CPA-52 Form)
- Environmental Assessment (EA)
 - Developed when results of EE show potential adverse impacts
 - Results in FONSI or development of EIS
- Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI)
 - Developed when EA does not show significant impacts
 - Proceed with plan or action
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Developed when EA does shows significant impacts
 - Results will determine if federal plan or action can be implemented

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION CPA-52

- Environmental Evaluations required by NEPA (1970)
- CPA-52 form is used in all NRCS/TSP conservation planning activities including:
 - Technical Assistance Plans (no cost-share involved)
 - Financial Assistance Plans (cost-share programs like CRP, EQIP, WHIP, and WRP)

WHAT IS EVALUATED ON CPA-52 FORM?

Consider positive and negative impacts of planned practices on all resources

- ❖ Natural Resources (SWAPA)
 - Soil
 - Water
 - Air
 - Plants
 - Animals
- ❖ Human Resources (SWAPA + H)
 - Social
 - Economic
 - Cultural
- ❖ Special Resources (protected by law)
 - T & E Species
 - Wetlands
 - Scenic Rivers
 - Cultural Resources
 - Natural Areas
 - Prime Farmland, etc

T & E Species Documentation

DOCUMENTATION FOR T&E SPECIES IN CONSERVATION PLANNING

1. Review NRCS Policy on Endangered Species Act of 1973 (GM 190 – Part 410.22).
 - NRCS activities will not jeopardize the existence of listed T&E species or negatively impact habitats.
2. Use Form (CPA–52) Environmental Effects for Conservation Plans and Areawide Conservation Plans. (T&E species are listed under Special Environmental Concerns).
 - Information will be based on results of Planning Steps (i.e. Step 1 - Identify Problems and Opportunities; Step 3 - Inventory Resources; Step 5 – Formulate Alternatives; and Step 6 – Evaluate Alternatives).
3. Refer to T&E Species information in Section 2 of FOTG.
 - See “Oklahoma T&E List by County” (Continue if species are listed).
 - See “Species Account” in “Endangered Species List for Oklahoma” (This publication describes habitat requirements, life history, major threats, etc. and shows distribution within counties and state).
 - See Oklahoma supplemental “Species Account” (This NRCS supplement describes land use changes and conservation practices that could adversely effect each listed species. May also provide specific instructions).
4. If no T&E species present and/or no indication that planned practices will adversely effect T&E species or habitats.
 - Proceed with planned practices and complete Form CPA-52
5. If T&E species are present or planned practices could have adverse impact on T&E species or habitat.
 - Eliminate the planned practice (or)
 - Contact Resource Specialist/State Biologist for informal consultation with FWS and alternative plan development.
6. After final plan/practices are developed. Complete Form CPA- 52 with documentation.
7. Only provide technical or financial assistance where T&E species and/or habitat will not be adversely effected by selected plan/practices.

Documentation for T&E Species

- Use CPA-52 Form to document findings
- Refer to T&E Species information found in Section II of FOTG

Threatened and Endangered Species Information

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the eFOTG (electronic Field Office Technical Guide) website. The address bar shows <http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx>. The website header includes the NRCS logo and navigation links for eFOTG, Search/Index, and About. The main content area is titled "eFOTG Home Page" and features a "What's Changed Recently" section with a list of updates, including "Ephemeral and Gully Worksheets 9/04 (Excel Spreadsheets) (5/5/2009)" and "Estimating Soil Loss From Gully Erosion Guidance (Ephemeral and Classic) (5/5/2009)".

On the left side, there is a "Search menu" and a tree view of the eFOTG structure. The tree view includes:

- Section I
- Section II (highlighted with a red arrow)
- Section III
- Section IV
- Section V

Under Section II, the following items are listed:

- Table of Contents
- A. Soils Information
- B. Climatic Data
- C. Cultural Resources Information
- D. Special Environmental Concerns Information (circled in red)
- EPA Clean Air Act - Non-Attainment Map
- FEMA Floodplain Maps
- Oklahoma Department of Water Quality 303(d) List
- Oklahoma Nutrient - Vulnerable Groundwater Map

The "What's in eFOTG?" section lists the following categories:

- Section I - General References
- Section II - Natural Resources Information
- Section III - Conservation Management Systems
- Section IV - Practice Standards and Specifications
- Section V - Conservation Effects

At the bottom of the page, there are links for "In The Spotlight" and "Tools Technical Materials". The footer contains legal notices: "NRCS | USDA | Accessibility Statement | USDA Privacy Policy | USDA Nondiscrimination Statement | FOIA".

T&E Species Information Cont.

Microsoft PowerPoint - [Wildlife Management.ppt]

eFOTG Tree Menu - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Address <http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx>

United States Department of Agriculture
NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

May 13 | Wed [Close](#) | [Preferences](#) | [Contact](#) | [Help](#)

eFOTG [Search/Index](#) [About](#)

PAYNE COUNTY, OK **electronic Field Office Technical Guide**

Search menu:

eFOTG FYI

- Water Quality 303(d) List
- Oklahoma Nutrient - Vulnerable Groundwater Map
- Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Map
- Oklahoma Threatened and Endangered Species Book
- Oklahoma Threatened and Endangered Species by County
- Oklahoma Threatened and Endangered Species Distribution Maps
- US Fish and Wildlife Threatened and Endangered Species (website)**
- Oklahoma Nutrient

eFOTG Home Page

What is eFOTG?
Technical guides are the primary scientific references for NRCS. They contain technical information about the conservation of soil, water, air, and related plant and animal resources. [...more](#)

For additional information and requirements please contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

What's in eFOTG?

- Section I - General References
- Section II - Natural Resources Information
- Section III - Conservation Management Systems
- Section IV - Practice Standards and Specifications
- Section V - Conservation Effects [...more](#)

In The Spotlight

Tools

Technical Materials

What's Changed Recently

- [Ephemeral and Gully Worksheets 9/04 \(Excel Spreadsheets\) \(5/5/2009\) \(5/5/2009\)](#)
- [Estimating Soil Loss From Gully Erosion Guidance \(Ephemeral and Classic\) \(5/5/2009\)](#)
- [RUSLE2 with SCI \(5/5/2009\)](#)
- [Windows Pesticide Screening Program \(WIN-PST3.1\)Version 3.1.0013 \(5/5/2009\)](#)
- [Oklahoma National Resources Inventory \(NRI\) \(5/5/2009\)](#)
- [National Engineering Handbook \(5/5/2009\)](#)
- [National Handbook of Conservation Practices \(5/5/2009\)](#)
- [National Plant Materials Manual \(5/5/2009\)](#)
- [National Emergency Watershed Protection Program Manual \(5/5/2009\)](#)
- [National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook \(5/5/2009\)](#)
- [Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook \(5/5/2009\)](#)
- [National Biology Handbook - Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat Resources \(5/5/2009\)](#)
- [Oklahoma Horticulture Law \(5/5/2009\)](#)
- [Oklahoma Commerical Feed Law \(5/5/2009\)](#)

[...more \(Last 30 days\)](#)

[NRCS](#) | [USDA](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#) | [USDA Privacy Policy](#) | [USDA Nondiscrimination Statement](#) | [FOIA](#)

<http://www.state.ok.us/~okag/forms/cps/okfeedlaw.pdf>

Trusted sites

Slide 39 of 41 Meadow.pot

T& E Species -FOTG

- [Species List](#)
- [County Maps](#)
- USFWS Website

US FWS Website

http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/oklahoma/endsp_fedact.htm

Example:
Black Capped Vireo

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office
Southwest Region

Search

HOME

- Endangered Species and Conservation Planning Assistance
- Project Reviews
- Environmental Contaminants
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife
- Public Outreach

- Personnel Directory (PDF)
- General Office Location (PDF)
- Driving Directions

Contact us regarding:

- Federally Listed Species
- General Questions
- Web Site

Endangered Species and Conservation Planning Assistance

- 
Ozark Cavefish
Amblyopsis rosae
(Dante Fenolio)
- 
American burying beetle
Nicrophorus americanus
- 
Ozark big-eared bat
Corynorhinus townsendii ingens
- 
Interior least tern
Sterna antillarum
- 
Arkansas River Shiner
Notropis girardi

The **Endangered Species** program of our office is primarily responsible for reviewing public and private projects that may affect federally listed species. The **Conservation Planning Assistance** program (formerly Federal Activities) reviews other federal programs such as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wetland permits and Oklahoma Department of Transportation projects. These programs mainly work to implement the following Federal laws (the list is not complete):

- Endangered Species Act of 1973, 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Project Reviews

Endangered Species

- Species in Oklahoma (PDF)
- What species occur in my project area?
- Species of Concern (PDF)
- Species Fact Sheets

Critical Habitat

- What is it? (PDF)
- Critical Habitat Mapper

General Info:

- Plants and the ESA (PDF)
- Bald Eagle Information (PDF)
- Wind Energy

Communication Towers

- Service Guidance on the Siting, Construction, Operation and Decommissioning of Communication Towers (PDF)

Surveyors

- Approved Surveyors

Threatened and Endangered Species

- If no T&E Species present and no indication that planned practices will adversely impact species or habitats:
 - Proceed with plan and complete CPA -52
- If T&E Species present and practices could adversely impact species or habitats:
 - Modify or eliminate the practice (or)
 - Work with NRCS State Biologist to develop alternative plan in consultation with FWS
 - Proceed with plan and complete CPA-52

Threatened and Endangered Species

- Review species accounts and supplements for habitat requirements of T & E species.
- Technical Service Providers will provide NRCS with the information necessary to assess whether Federal, State, or Tribal permits or consultation/conferencing with the Services is necessary.
- TSPs do not represent NRCS and may not conduct required consultations, conferences, or other communication with entities outside of NRCS.
- Contact NRCS State Biologist:

Michael Sams

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Stillwater, OK 74074

Michael.Sams@ok.usda.gov

405-742-1239

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 Oklahoma 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.