

State Specific Training Module for Texas

Purpose of this Module

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

Review of State Laws

Nutrient Management

- Texas requires that the competence of all nutrient management planners be certified by Texas A&M *AgriLife* Extension as a Nutrient Management Planning specialist. More information can be found at: <https://nutrientmanagement.tamu.edu/>
- No other state certification is accepted.
- Certification is valid as long CEU's are maintained each year. Certified Nutrient Management Specialists are required to obtain 5 CEUs in nutrient management or related areas per year. Related areas include soil fertility and water quality related to nutrient management.

Review of State Laws

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans

- To be certified to write and approve CNMP's a certified specialist must:
 - Be currently certified by Texas A&M AgriLife and Extension as a Nutrient Management Planning Specialist.
 - Be certified in Texas as an NRCS Level II Conservation Planner

Review of State Laws

Engineering Practices

- Agricultural Waste Management Systems – require a licensed Texas P.E. certification for planning, design, installation and certification of engineering practices
- Other engineering practices may be planned by non-engineers provided the planner has knowledge and competence to appropriately plan the practice.
- The design, installation and certification of ALL engineering practices shall be certified by a licensed Texas P. E., except for specified irrigation practices which may be certified by a licensed irrigator in accordance with state law.

Review of State Laws

Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) that include engineering must meet the CAP Eligibility Criteria for TSPs. CAPs that may require engineering include:

- CAP 102 – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) – Manure and Wastewater Handling and Storage component must be planned by a licensed Texas P.E.
- CAP 118 – Irrigation Water Management Plan
- CAP 128 – Agricultural Energy Management Plan– must be planned by a licensed Texas P.E. (as of January 2015 – currently awaiting ruling by the Texas Board of Professional Engineers)
- CAP 130 – Drainage Water Management Plan

List of Engineering Practices

Agrichemical Handling Facility (CPS 309)	Waste Storage Facility (CPS 313)	Animal Mortality Facility (CPS 316)
Composting Facility (CPS 317)	Irrigation Canal or Lateral (CPS 320) ** or IA Certified Irrigation Designer	Clearing and Snagging (CPS 326)
Dam, Diversion (CPS 348)	Sediment Basin (CPS 350)	Dike (CPS 356)
Waste Treatment Lagoon (359)	Waste Facility Closure (CPS 360)	Diversion (CPS 362)
Anaerobic Digester (CPS 366)	Roofs and Covers (CPS 367)	Air Filtration and Scrubbing (CPS 371)
Combustion System Improvement (CPS 372)	Farmstead Energy Improvement (CPS 374)	Pond (CPS 378)
Irrigation Field Ditch (CPS 388)** or IA Certified Irrigation Designer	Aquaculture Ponds (CPS 396)	Dam (CPS 402)
Grade Stabilization Structure (CPS 410)	Grassed Waterway (CPS 412)	Hillside Ditch (CPS 423)
Irrigation Ditch Lining (CPS 428) ** or IA Certified Irrigation Ditch Designer	Irrigation Pipeline (CPS 430) ** or IA Certified Irrigation Ditch Designer	Dry Hydrant (CPS 432)

List of Engineering Practices

Irrigation Reservoir (CPS 436)** or IA Certified Irrigation Designer	Irrigation System, Microirrigation (CPS 441)** or IA Certified Irrigation Designer	Irrigation System, Sprinkler (CPS 442) ** or IA Certified Irrigation Designer
Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (CPS 443) ** or IA Certified Irrigation Designer	Irrigation System, Tailwater Recover (CPS 447) ** or IA Certified Irrigation Designer	Irrigation Water Management (CPS 449) ** or IA Certified Irrigation Designer
Land Reclamation, Landslide Treatment (CPS 453)	Land Reclamation, Toxic Discharge Control (CPS 455)	Mine Shaft and Adit Closing (CPS 457)
Precision Land Forming (CPS 462)	Irrigation Land Leveling (CPS 464)	Land Smoothing (CPS 466)
Lined Waterway or Outlet (CPS 468)	Mole Drain (CPS 482)	Obstruction Removal (CPS 500)
Livestock Pipeline (CPS 516)	Pond Sealing or Lining (CPS 521)	Karst Sinkhole Treatment (CPS 527)
Pumping Plant (CPS 533)	Land Reconstruction, Abandoned Mine (CPS 543)	Land Reconstruction, Currently Mined Land (CPS 544)
Drainage Water Management (CPS 554)	Rock Barrier (CPS 555)	Roof Runoff Structure (CPS 558)

List of Engineering Practices

Access Road (CPS 560)	Heavy Use Protection Area (CPS 561)	Recreation Land Grading and Shaping (CPS 566)
Stormwater Runoff Control (CPS 570)	Stream Crossing (CPS 578)	Streambank and Shoreline Protection (CPS 580)
Open Channel (CPS 582)	Channel Bed Stabilization (CPS 584)	Structure for Water Control (CPS 587)
Terrace (CPS 600)	Subsurface Drain (CPS 606)	Subsurface Drain, Field Ditch (CPS 607)
Subsurface Drain, Main or Lateral Line (CPS 608)	Watering Facility (CPS 614)	Underground Outlet (CPS 620)
Waste Treatment (bio-filter) (CPS 629)	Vertical Drain (CPS 630)	Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (CPS 632)
Waste Recycling (CPS 633)	Waste Transfer (CPS 634)	Vegetated Treatment Area (CPS 635)
Water Harvesting Catchment (CPS 636)	Water and Sediment Control Basin (CPS 638)	Waterspreading (CPS 640)
Constructed Wetland (CPS 656)	Farmstead Energy Improvements (CPS 374)	Lighting System Improvement (CPS 672)
Building Envelop Improvement (CPS 670)		

Review of State Laws

Engineering Practices – the following practices require a Texas P.E. certification.

Agrichemical Handling Facility (CP 309)	Waste Storage Facility (CP 313)	Animal Mortality Facility (CP 316)
Composting Facility (CP 317)	Irrigation Canal or Lateral (CP 320) ** or IA Certified Irrigation Designer	Clearing and Snagging (CP 326)
Dam, Diversion (CP 348)	Sediment Basin (CP 350)	Dike (CP 356)
Waste Treatment Lagoon (359)	Waste Facility Closure ((CP 360)	Diversion (CP 362)
Anaerobic Digester (CP 366)	Roofs and Covers (CP 367)	Air Filtration and Scrubbing (CP 371)
Combustion System Improvement (CP 372)	Farmstead Energy Improvement (CP 374)	Pond (CP 378)
Irrigation Field Ditch (CP 388)** or IA Certified Irrigation Designer	Aquaculture Ponds (CP 396)	Dam (CP 402)
Grade Stabilization Structure (CP 410)	Grassed Waterway (CP 412)	Hillside Ditch (CP 423)
Irrigation Ditch Lining (CP 428) ** or IA Certified Irrigation Ditch Designer	Irrigation Pipeline (CP 430) ** or IA Certified Irrigation Ditch Designer	Dry Hydrant (CP 432)

Review of State FOTG Requirements

Vegetative Practices

- Plant specific information relative to seeding rates, seeding dates, and areas of adaptation can be found on the e-FOTG within the Appendix 1 which is linked to the applicable conservation practices.
- Any variance outside of these specifications must be approved by the State Resource Conservationist prior to planning an application.

Review of Important Resource Issues

NEPA dictates that NRCS address Threatened and Endangered species in accordance with the ESA

- Federally listed Threatened And Endangered species can be found by county at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>
- State listed species (species of concern) must be considered in planning of conservation practices.

http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/nongame/listed-species/media/federal_state_listed_species_complete_12_11_2014.xls

Review of Important Resource Issues

Conservation practices when addressing T & E species will include:

- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management – 645
- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – 644
- Prescribed Grazing – 528 (where livestock grazing is a concern)

All conservation practices within the EFOTG may be utilized to meet the “Life Requirements” of the species.

Contact the NRCS State Biologist for additional information on planning consideration T & E species.

Review of Important Resource Issues

Wetlands are an important resource concern due to loss and degradation

NEPA dictates that NRCS address this resource to prevent loss of and degradation of wetland ecosystems.

Conservation planning may include the need for permits under the CWA (Sec 404)

For additional information contact State Wetland Specialist or State Wildlife Biologist.

Review of Major Land Uses or Agronomic Practices

Texas has 97.4 million acres of rangeland, 24.3 million acres of cropland, 11.9 million acres of Forestland, 16.9 million acres of pastureland and 3.2 million acres of Conservation Reserve Program land.

- Major crop productions include cotton, corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, rice and wheat. Areas of South Texas produces fruits, vegetables and sugar cane.
- The native rangelands of Texas are vast and diverse. The state has short grass, mid-grass and tall grass prairies in addition to marshland along the Gulf Coast. The primary grazers are cattle. Wildlife (terrestrial, aquatic, wetland) can be found throughout these areas.

Expected TSP Workflow

- The State Resource Conservationist, TSP Coordinator and appropriate Ecological Sciences discipline staff 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 TSP Coordinator and appropriate Ecological Sciences discipline staff 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
- Texas A&M AgriLife Extension; <https://nutrientmanagement.tamu.edu/>

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 Texas 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.