

Planning Documents:

Long-range Partnership Plan – is a list of the districts’ long-range goals and how they are to be achieved. This plan is updated every five years and used to produce the annual plan at the beginning of the work year. Input from the public and all partners is included.

Annual Partnership Plan – is a list of annual goals and how they are to be achieved. This plan is updated annually and comes from the long-range Partnership Plan.

Abbreviations:

ACP - Agricultural Conservation Program - no longer exists. Used to be the conservation cost-share program on farmlands. Some practices are still in effect.

APO- Annual Partnership Plan - annual plan of operations for the District, SCDNR, and NRCS within a District.

BMP - Best Management Practice - conservation practice which is chosen as most practical for an individual site.

Coastal Council - planning and regulatory body of the state which works in coastal areas.

COG - Council of Governments

Conservation Compliance - meeting all requirements of the 1985 and 1990 Farm Bills so you can be eligible for money from USDA. Covers land that is “highly erodible”

Conservation Plan - official NRCS and District record of land users’ decisions over time to perform conservation practices. Required for conservation compliance.

Conservation Planning - (holistic, ecosystem, whole-farm, etc.) - working with land users to plan the best use of land and to decide on systems of conservation practices to use.

CRP - Conservation Reserve Program - enacted by the 1985 Farm Bill; retires cropland to trees, grass, perennial wildlife foods or a combination of the three

DC - District Conservationist - NRCS position that oversees the NRCS work of a District.

EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentives Program - Part of the 1996 Farm Bill, it provides cost-share money for installing conservation practices under a contract.

EWP - Emergency Watershed Protection - NRCS program which helps clean up after natural disasters like floods and storms.

1990 FACTA Farm Bill - farm bill passed in 1990, called the Food, Agricultural and Conservation Trade Act (FACTA.)

1996 Farm Bill – Federal Law which abolished most federal conservation programs and established new programs.

FIP - Forestry Incentive Program - NRCS program which cost-shares with landowners on forestry practices.

FOCS - Field Office Computer System - NRCS computer software that has conservation plans and soils and other resource information in it for each land user.

FOTG - Field Office Technical Guide. Written by NRCS, it is also the District's standards and specifications for each conservation practice.

FSA - Farm Services Agency (a USDA agency)

1985 FSA Farm Bill - farm bill passed in 1985, called the Food Security Act

GIS - Geographic Information System - computer mapping system used to identify important resources.

GPS - Global Positioning System - uses satellites for exact ground locations.

Local Work Group - under the 1996 Farm Bill, a group of people in a county identified and convened by the District to design federal conservation programs.

Long-range Partnership Plan - plan written with public and Partner input to set out work over five years for the District, SCDNR and NRCS within a District.

LTA - Long-term agreement - Conservation agreement covering several years of installing conservation practices with cost-share funds. No new contracts being written because ACP no longer exists

LTC - Long-term contract - See explanation for LTA

MOA - Memorandum of Agreement - previous agreement with Partners.

MOU - Memorandum of Understanding - previous agreement with Partners.

NACD - National Association of Conservation Districts

Nonpoint Source Pollution - pollution without a single, identifiable source (like a pipe carrying waste coming out of industrial plants) that may come from many, scattered sources (examples are cattle manure, oil and gas from cars). This is usually the type of pollution whose source could be agricultural lands and is the state and national focus of controlling water pollution.

NRCS - Natural Resources Conservation Service

PQST - Partnership Quality Steering Team - team of top staff of SCDNR, SC Association of Conservation Districts, NRCS, and District Employees Association to work on Total Quality Management issues

QIP Team - Quality Improvement Team - team assigned to work on an issue under TQM.

RC&D - Resource Conservation and Development - USDA program for rural and community development funded through NRCS.

SCACD- South Carolina Association of Conservation Districts

SCDEA- S.C. District Employees Association

SCDHEC - SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

SCDNR- LWCD - S. C. Department of Natural Resources, Land, Water and Conservation Division

Sodbusting - one of the Conservation Compliance requirements. It states that you cannot bring land into annual crop production if it was not farmed for a certain period of time without a conservation plan.

Standards and Specifications - requirements of individual conservation practices (see FOTG)

Swampbusting - one of the Conservation Compliance requirements. It states that you cannot drain, fill, clear or otherwise alter wet areas for the purpose of annual crop production.

S&WCD- Soil and Water Conservation District

TQM - Total Quality Management - concept of providing quality service to customers and running an effective and efficient operation.

USACE - U. S. Army Corps of Engineers - The division of the Army that administers laws relating to navigable waterways and wetlands.

USDA - U. S. Department of Agriculture

Watersheds - area that sheds water to a certain point. A watershed can also be an area designated by the USDA-NRCS Watershed Program.

WHIP - Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program - enacted by 1996 Farm Bill. Provides cost-sharing for wildlife practices

WQIP - Water Quality Incentives Program - no longer exists, but contracts funded under this may still be in effect

WRP - Wetland Reserve Program - pays landowners to restore wetlands and puts them under long-term easement

The Commissioner Handbook is a Partnership project written and compiled by:

Ann Christie, District Conservationist-NRCS, Lancaster

H. D. Jameson, Commissioner, Pickens Conservation District

Glenda Lewis, District Manager, Orangeburg

Tommy McDaniel, Regional Director-SCDNR, Dillon

E.P. Stillwell, Commissioner, Pickens Conservation District

Special acknowledgment to:

David Arthur, NRCS: Scanning and Graphics

Ron Chapiesky, DNR: layout and graphics

Ann Nolte, DNR: editing

Activities and Program sections edited from Conservation Specialists Handbook prepared by Neil Bartley, Michelle Dyer, Sam Ward and Doug Edmondson, DNR

PARTNERSHIP LEADERS

SCDNR-LWCD
Alfred (Freddy) Vang
Deputy Director

SCACD
Jim McLeod
President

USDA-NRCS
Mark Berkland
State Conservationist



DNR

