



Cooperative  
relationships between  
NRCS and Districts

# Working with Districts

What are the three  
levels of formal  
agreements  
Conservation Districts  
can enter into?

# Agreements at a Glance

- Basic framework for cooperation with USDA

## Mutual Agreement

Signed by:

- Secretary
- Governor and/or Tribal Council
- District and/or Tribe

- Basic framework for state cooperation

## Cooperative Working Agreement

Signed by:

- State Conservationist
- State conservation agency and/or Tribal Council
- District and/or Tribe

- Locally developed detailed working arrangements

## Operational Agreement

Signed by:

- State Conservationist
- District Chair
- Basin Team Leader/AC/DC

# Mutual Agreement

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- Basic framework for cooperation with USDA

## Mutual Agreement

Signed by:

- Secretary
- Governor and/or Tribal Council
- District and/or Tribe

- Formalizes the unique relationship established in 1935 under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act

# Why Is This Important ?

- We have common objectives of assisting people utilize and manage natural resources
- Each party is independent
- Each has respective responsibilities
- Recognizes the need to coordinate as a federal, state and local partnership for successful delivery of conservation programs

# Mutual Agreement

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- Describes the cooperative effort among USDA, Conservation Districts, and the State for delivery of broad based conservation programs
- Establishes an enduring basis between parties to achieve common natural resource goals and objectives

# Cooperative Working Agreement

- Basic framework for state cooperation

## Cooperative Working Agreement

Signed by:

- NRCS
- State conservation agency and/or Tribal Council
- District and/or Tribe

# Cooperative Working Agreement

- Authorities, Statutes, Laws
- Personnel
- Training
- Program delivery
- Technical and Administrative Assistance
- Technical standards
- Records, facilities, equipment
- Civil rights
- Other

# Operational Agreement

- Locally developed detailed working arrangements

## Operational Agreement

Signed by:

- District
- Others as deemed necessary by district

# Operational Agreement

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- Optional
- Use this agreement to describe specific details of the working relationship in the field office

# Operational Agreement

- **Technical and Administrative Assistance**
- **Accountability**
- **Working Space (rental costs)**
- **Equipment Use (phones, Computers, Internet, copiers, fax, etc.)**
- **Vehicles**
- **Operating Procedures**