

NB_290_11_1, 2011 State Resource Assessments

National Bulletin: 290-11-1

Date: February 1,
2011

Subject: INV - 2011 State Resource Assessments

Action Required By: June 1, 2011

Purpose. To announce the development of the fiscal year 2011 State Resource Assessments (SRAs).

Expiration Date. September 30, 2011

Background. SRAs provide a science-based, qualitative and quantitative picture of the extent and geographic distribution of natural resource concerns within a State that should be credible and defensible. SRAs are based on the best available natural resource data by utilizing a foundation of national geospatial data and enhanced by additional regional and State level geospatial data.

SRAs are designed to provide a high-level statewide view of where the major resource concerns have the potential of occurring. The information is general in nature and is not a substitute for a field-level resource assessment. The methodology is designed to support areawide and watershed planning and financial assistance ranking, as appropriate.

These SRAs will assist national, regional, and State leadership, including State Technical Committees, to establish priorities and to help achieve our natural resource objectives. The SRAs will provide critical information for a number of current agency efforts, including resource-based performance planning, workforce planning, and budget and allocation formulation.

Explanation. SRAs will be conducted between March 1, 2011, and June 1, 2011. The assessment will utilize the nine major resource concerns categories and 31 natural resource concerns, as described in National Bulletin 450-11-6, Restructured List of Resource Concerns to Support the Streamlined Delivery of Conservation Assistance, November 29, 2010.

The nine major resource concern categories are:

- 1) Soil Erosion
- 2) Soil Quality Degradation
- 3) Excess/Inefficient Water
- 4) Water Quality Degradation
- 5) Degraded Plant Condition
- 6) Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife
- 7) Livestock Production Limitation
- 8) Inefficient Energy Use
- 9) Air Quality Impacts

The SRA will assess the 31 natural resource concerns, as described in attachment A, and will be aggregated up to the nine major categories. States will utilize the guidance provided in Attachment B, "Guidance for Conducting the State Resource Assessment," to complete their resource assessment. The purpose of the SRA is to identify and document the extent and geographic distribution of the potential resource concerns within a State. The information will be aggregated to the nine major resource categories. This will provide agency leadership critical regional and national information. State conservationists should engage partners, such as the State Technical Committee or local work groups, to assist in the evaluation of the identified resource concerns. National geospatial datasets and an ArcGIS map template are being compiled. Further information and guidance will be provided to States by March 1, 2011.

SRAs must be completed and submitted to NHQ by June 1, 2011. A folder within the Regional Conservationists' SharePoint site has been established for State submissions.

Where States have an existing SRA, please post it in the RC SharePoint site under shared documents by February 15. Our intent is to leverage State efforts in the development of the final national SRA product.

Contact. For more information, contact Ross Lahren, Chief of Staff, Office of the Regional Conservationists, at (202) 690-0593 or by email at ross.lahren@wdc.usda.gov.

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[Attachment A - CDSI Resource Concerns](#)
[Attachment B - Guidance for Conducting the state Resource Assessment](#)