



Implementing the Resource Plan

Step 8

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What is it?

Implementing the resource plan involves carrying out the intended management strategies. The resource plan includes information about how the plan will be implemented. This implementation information details where, how, who, and when various actions will be taken.

When do we do it?

In theory, plan implementation occurs after a written resource management plan is finalized. In practice, however, some elements of the plan may be implemented before the plan is finalized and distributed throughout the planning area.

How do we do it?

Implementation of areawide resource plans requires the participation of citizens and local, state, and federal partners. Implementation entails using the resource plan to seek financial and technical support from many sources, meeting program requirements and deadlines, and designing, laying out, constructing, inspecting, and maintaining practices.

Typically, the Planning Committee is responsible for ensuring the resource plan is implemented. This often entails reconfiguring the Planning Committee into a new "Implementation Committee." Doing this gives closure to stakeholders who have been actively involved in the long planning process. Some Planning Committee members may choose to not take part in the implementation activities, and new stakeholders can be invited to help.

Implementation Committees often organize themselves as "Friends of" or "Coalition" groups. They may have many citizen members, a Board of Directors, and non-profit status. These coalitions spearhead projects, act as community advisors and advocates for the plan, and seek project funds. Their membership tends to be fluid with new stakeholders continually participating.

To help coordinate multiple activities and participants, the Implementation Committee should strategize about what needs to be done to apply the practices recommended in the plan. Regardless of whether it's included in the resource plan or documented separately, some kind of implementation strategy is necessary to determine how the actions in the plan will be applied. This will ensure that the plan is actually carried out, rather than shelved and forgotten.

Occasionally, some implementation has occurred before the resource plan is finalized. Grant money may have been obtained, floodprone homes bought out, or demonstration projects installed. The Implementation Committee should review the Resource Plan and identify any actions that are currently being pursued, and anything else that needs to be done to complete these projects. Then, for the remaining actions they should determine:

Which activities should be a priority? Initially consider tackling easy projects that are not controversial to build confidence and community support. Also prioritize projects based on how serious the need is and how likely it is to be successful.

Where will the activities take place? Locations probably were identified in the resource plan, but additional surveying or more detailed data collection may need to be done.

Who are the responsible parties to implement the actions, and what sources of technical assistance is available to help? Consider local, state, and federal agencies, as well as non-profit and for-profit organizations.

How will the actions be financed? Consider staffing needs and opportunities for local communities to provide matching monetary and non-monetary contributions.

When will the actions take place? Devise a tentative implementation timetable to guide the work.

Additional considerations



- Keep the public informed and involved. Try demonstration projects, kick-off campaigns, field days, newsletters, and regularly report activities in local media and to community leaders. Seek citizen volunteers and community groups to participate, so results happen and community support increases.

- Particularly for the design and installation of structural practices, coordination at multiple levels will be needed for the survey, design, layout, certification, and maintenance of work.

- Identify projects for which financial assistance is needed. Include in the implementation strategy any steps that need to be taken to obtain funding. Identify who will apply for grants and any additional documentation that may be needed.

- Identify any mitigation issues, environmental requirements, and other information needed to implement the plan. Items to consider include federal, state and local permitting requirements, interagency agreements, and other laws and executive orders, such as NEPA and those concerning threatened and endangered species, historic properties, and cultural resources.

- Coordinate implementation with other planning and implementation bodies, especially with county, municipal neighborhood, and growth management plans. Also coordinate with the independent conservation activities of individual landowners, local municipalities, and non-government organizations.

- Identify land rights and permits that will need to be secured. Ensure all parties clearly understand their responsibilities, and that project sponsors secure necessary permits such as dam safety permits and those required under Sections 401 & 404 of the Clean Water Act.

- Identify the agreements that will be needed for cooperative projects, and for the operation and maintenance of completed projects. Consider contracting issues--for example, long-term contracts needed for upland treatments.

- Consider documenting the implementation approach, including:

- Tasks
- Responsible Persons or Organizations
- Sources of Funding and In-kind Services/Amount
- Scheduled Start Date/Scheduled Finish Date
- Actual Start/Actual Finish

Implementation Activities			
Task	Responsible Person	Sources of funds	Schedule dates
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

The Next Step

Continual evaluation of the resource plan follows plan implementation. "Evaluating the Resource Plan" gives suggestions for Step 9.