

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

May 29, 2007

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS MANUAL (CPM)
440-V-PGM
AMENDMENT IA1

SUBJECT: PGM – TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDER ASSISTANCE

Purpose. To transmit CPM Iowa Amendment 1, May 2007.

Effective Date. Upon receipt.

Explanation of Changes. Provide Iowa policy defining NRCS' roles and responsibilities regarding cultural resources when technical assistance is being provided by Technical Service Providers.

Filing Instructions

Immediately After
Title 440, Part 404

Dated
May 2007

/s/Richard Van Klaveren
State Conservationist

Attachment

F

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Title 440 – Programs

Part 404 – Technical Assistance Provider Assistance

Subpart C – NRCS Roles and Responsibilities

IA504.23 District Conservationist and Designated Conservationists

- (A) The 2002 Farm Bill authorizes NRCS to use certified Technical Service Providers (TSP) to provide technical assistance. In all cases where a TSP participates in the planning, design, installation, and/or checkout of a conservation practice, NRCS retains the responsibility for cultural resource compliance.

Federal, state, and local laws have been enacted to preserve cultural resources. The most important of these is the [National Historic Preservation Act of 1966](#). Under this and other legislation, federal agencies, including the USDA-NRCS, are required to take into account cultural resources prior to beginning conservation activities.

The NRCS *General Manual 420*, Part 401.11 states that, “The Natural Resources Conservation Service is responsible for cultural resources compliance in all actions where NRCS is considered the lead agency, i.e., where NRCS has legislated responsibility or designated Departmental authority to administer specific Federal programs or when providing to nonfederal participants direct, single agency actions of technical and/or financial assistance that may effect cultural resources.”

The NRCS Field Office personnel will continue to follow the Iowa NRCS State Level Agreement (SLA) in determining if a planned action/practice is an exempted undertaking or an undertaking subject to further review.

The NRCS staff will conduct a pre-construction meeting with the producer and TSP. During this meeting, the producer, contractor, and the TSP will be informed of the process to follow if during ground disturbing activities a cultural resource is discovered. Should a TSP and/or a producer inadvertently or intentionally impact a cultural resource, the Iowa NRCS State Archeologist, and the Iowa TSP Coordinator, should be contacted immediately. The TSP file and producer file should be updated to reflect the consequences of the event. In the case of an intentional impact, the TSP may be subject to decertification as defined in the [TSP Final Rule, Part 652.7](#).

It is the NRCS staff's responsibility to communicate cultural resources policy to the producer and TSP. The TSP must apprise the NRCS staff of any design and/or on-site construction change orders in order for changes to be assessed for their possible impacts on cultural resources.

The NRCS' cultural resource policy may be found by visiting this website - [cultural resource policy](#), or the Iowa TSP website. Also refer to the Cultural Resources Process FlowChart on the Iowa NRCS website.

Cultural Resources Fact Sheet

What are Cultural Resources?

Cultural Resources are evidence of past human activity. These may include pioneer homes, buildings or old roads; structures with unique architecture; prehistoric village sites; historic or prehistoric artifacts or objects; rock inscription; human burial sites; earthworks, such as battlefield entrenchments, prehistoric canals, or mounds. These nonrenewable resources often yield unique information about past societies and environments, and provide answers for modern day social and conservation problems. Although many have been discovered and protected, there are numerous forgotten, undiscovered, or unprotected cultural resources in rural America.

The NRCS's Role in Protecting Cultural Resources

NRCS considers cultural resources in its conservation planning for the same reason it protects the natural resources—the soil, water, air, plants and animals—on your property. Keeping natural resources in balance helps provide the basis for a healthy and profitable farm environment; keeping cultural resources provides the basis for understanding our human past. The stewardship of these nonrenewable resources is an important link in the conservation ethic that underlies the NRCS mission.

Several Federal, state, and local laws have been enacted to preserve cultural resources. The most important of these is the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Under this and other legislation, Federal agencies, including the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, are required to protect cultural resources.

Some Benefits of Cultural Resources

Cultural resources provide many useful benefits to people today. They —

- Expand our knowledge and understanding of history.
- Provide scientific data. Archeological sites for example, can provide information not available from historic records on droughts, floods, and erosion over thousand of years.
- Provide jobs during the renovation process. Preserving cultural resources may also stimulate other community improvements.
- Attract tourists, who bring money into the community.
- Provide information that will help solve conservation and natural resource problems. Some modern irrigation techniques, for example, are actually based on prehistoric methods.

Your Role

Every American has a stake in the protection of cultural resources. All of the protected and restored cultural resources that we enjoy today have one thing in common: some individual, group, or organization went to work to protect and preserve for future generations to come.

If you know of an undeveloped cultural resource, do your part to preserve our country's heritage. Contact a local historical society, museum, archeological society, university archeology (sociology, anthropology) department, or your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

For More Information

- Archaeologists of the Americas
Home page of the Society for American Archaeology.
- The Get Involved program
Site lets you explore tours, see events, access internships, volunteer programs and opportunities. These programs are all a part of the National Park Service and Links into the Past.
- National Archives and Records Administration
The NARA Archival Information Locator that will conduct historical research in digitized documents and photos on the internet.
- The National Association of State Archaeologists
State archaeologists can answer questions regarding laws, procedures, current research, educational programs, and other aspects of archaeology for each state and possession.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS IN CONSERVATION PLANNING

IACPA-52
4/02

Client: _____ Plan ID No. _____ Tract/CMU(s) _____ Acres _____

Purpose: Documents resource concerns and summarizes effects of conservation systems.

Instructions: This worksheet is to be used to document resource concerns for the CMU being planned; to document whenever the planned system meets FOTG Quality Criteria for the identified resources concerns; and to document the effects of alternatives provided if the client remains in the progressive planning phase. These effects should be quantified as much as possible.

Resource Concerns	Present Condition Meets Quality Criteria (FOTG – Section III) Y/NA/or N (Needs Treatment - list CMU(s) numbers)	Planned System Meets Quality Criteria Y N (CMU No.)	Planned Conservation Practices	If Decisions Do Not Meet Quality Criteria, Give Effects of RMS Alternatives Provided. Quantify as T/Ac/Yr., Lbs./AC/Yr., AUMs, etc. when possible; or if not quantifiable. Use These Relative Factors – [+]beneficial[-] adverse [o] none.
SOIL				
Erosion				
Wind				
Sheet and Rill				
Ephemeral				
Classic Gully				
Streambank erosion				
Construction Site				
Condition				
Tilth				
Compaction				
Soil contaminants				
Organic Matter				
Deposition				
Damage				
Safety				
WATER				
Quantity				
Seeps, Subsurface				
Flooding				
Management				
Quality				
Sediment				
Nutrients				
Contaminants				
Aquatic Habitat Suit				

Resource Concerns	Present Condition Meets Quality Criteria (FOTG – Section III) Y/NA/or N (Needs Treatment - list CMU(s) numbers)	Planned System Meets Quality Criteria Y/N (CMU No.)	Planned Conservation Practices	If Decisions Do Not Meet Quality Criteria, Give Effects of RMS Alternatives Provided. Quantify as T/Ac/Yr, Lbs./AC/Yr, AUMs, etc. when possible; or if not quantifiable. Use These Relative Factors –. [+]beneficial[-] adverse [o] none.
AIR				
Quality				
Dust, smoke				
Chemical drift, odors				
Condition				
Temperature, air movement				
PLANTS				
Suitability				
Adapted to site				
Intended use				
Condition				
Productivity				
Health and Vigor				
Management				
Establishment				
Growth				
Pests				
Threatened & Endangered Species				
ANIMALS				
Habitat (domestic)				
Food				
Cover/Shelter				
Water				
T& Species				
Habitat (wildlife)				
Food				
Cover/Shelter				
Water				
T&E Species				
Management				
Population				
Balance				
Animal Health				
Human/Social	Short Term	Long Term	Effects Notes	
Economic Effect				