

Standard Statements

Using Standard Statements When Creating Plan Documents

Introduction:

A Standard Statement is helpful to the customer in understanding what s/he is about to agree to when signing a Conservation Plan document. With the revision of the PA Clean Stream Law, Chapter 102, it has become more important to reinforce the limits of the Conservation Plan by including a summary Standard Statement. In order to provide a clear summary statement, three Standard Statements have been developed:

Statement 1 - “Meets the Tolerable (T) Level of Soil Loss”

Statement 2 - “Exceeds T, in Compliance with HELC”

Statement 3 - “Exceeds T, not subject to Food Security Act compliance”

One of these Standard Statements must be included in all Conservation Plans that address cropland.

For individuals not using Customer Service Toolkit:

The full text for each Standard Statement is included at the end of this document.

For individuals using the Plan Wizard in Customer Service Toolkit with access to the PA NRCS F: drive:

The Plan Wizard in Customer Service Toolkit provides a method to assist planners in adding Standard Statements to the plan. The planner will select an appropriate file from several Standard Statements provided to be used when creating a Conservation Plan report. There is some preliminary set-up by the user, however, before starting up the Plan Wizard process.

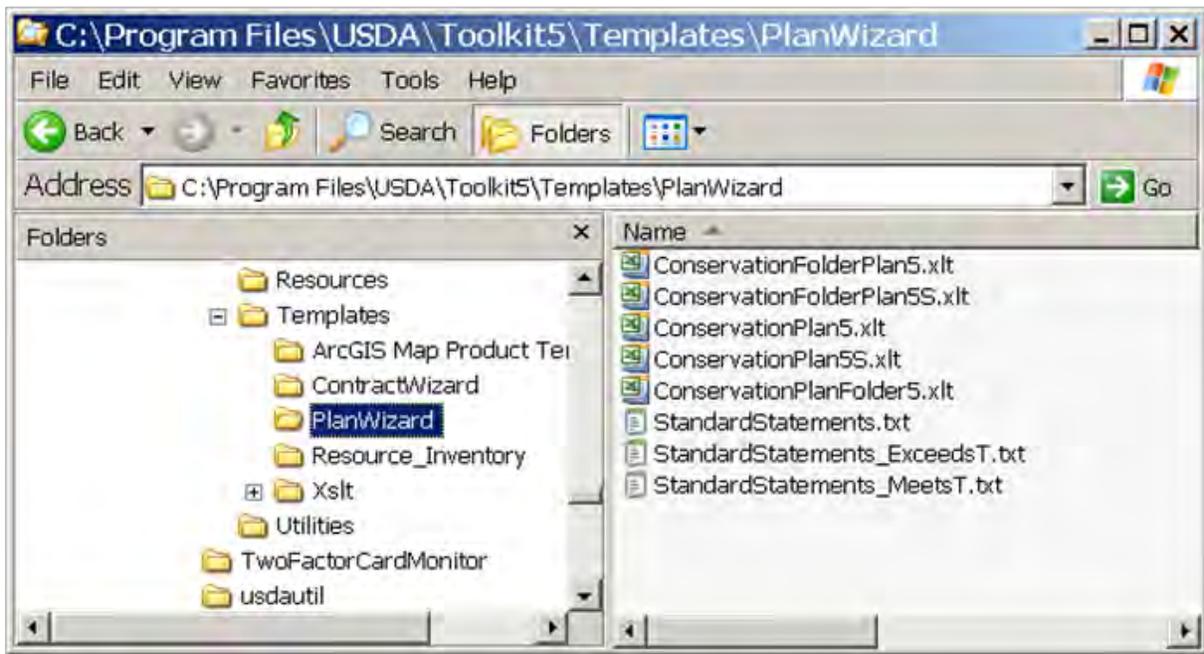
The user must place the statements in the correct folder on their C:\drive to be used effectively within toolkit. The Statement in the plan document will appear just above the signature blocks.

To be accessible from the Plan Wizard, copy and paste statements from

F: data on<paservernamec001\Standard_Statements_for_Toolkit to

C:\Program Files\USDA\Toolkit5\Templates\PlanWizard

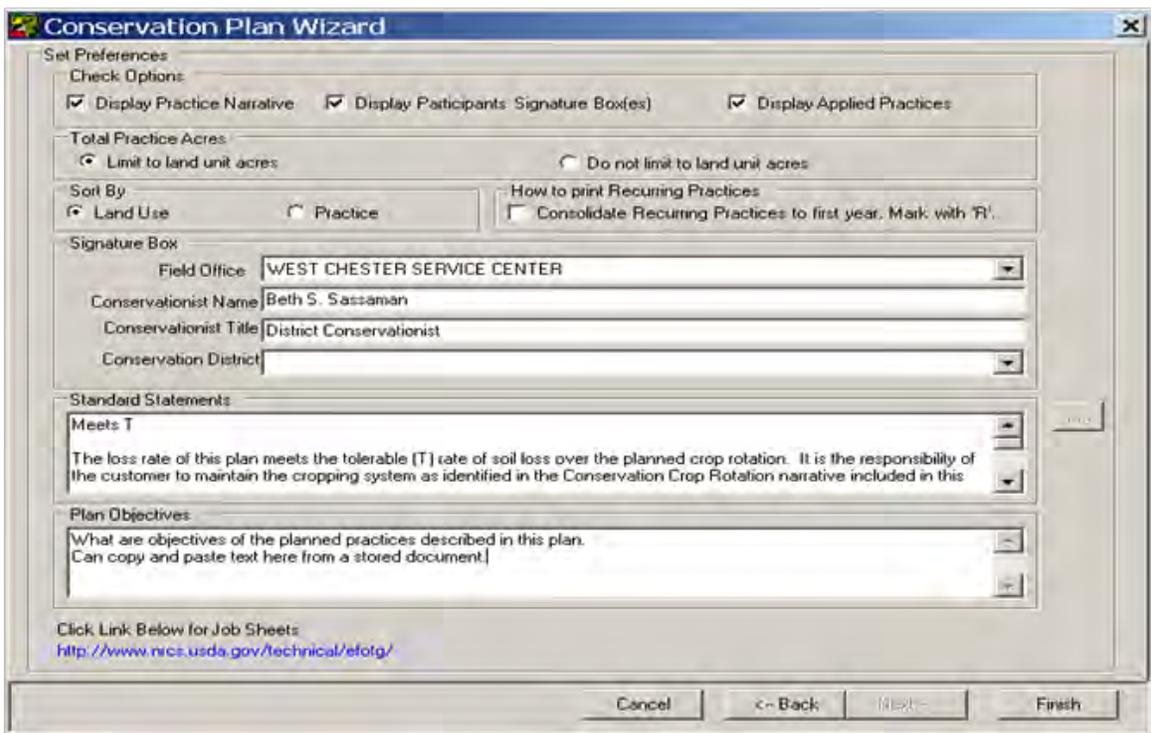
Note: For counties with upgraded servers, name is: <paservernameC057

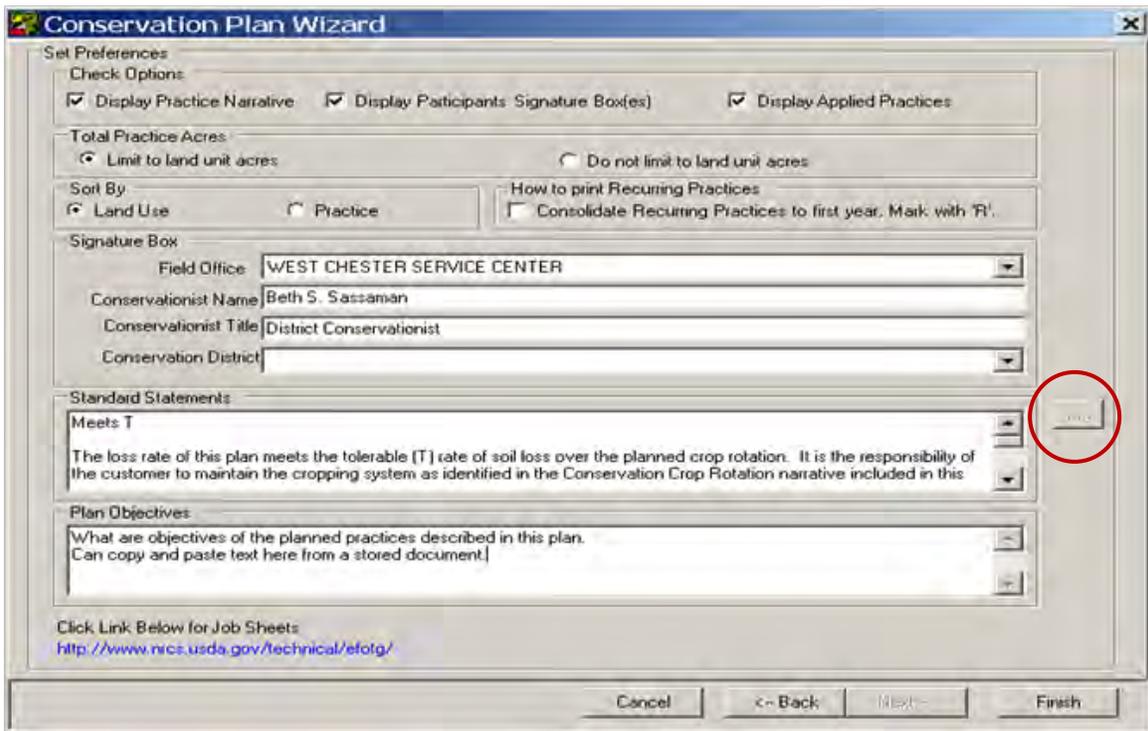


User has the option of creating additional Standard Statements useful to assist customer in understanding the plan report about to be signed. Creating new additional statements must be typed in a text format in Notepad window. (Can be accessed from- Start: All Programs: Accessories: Notepad)

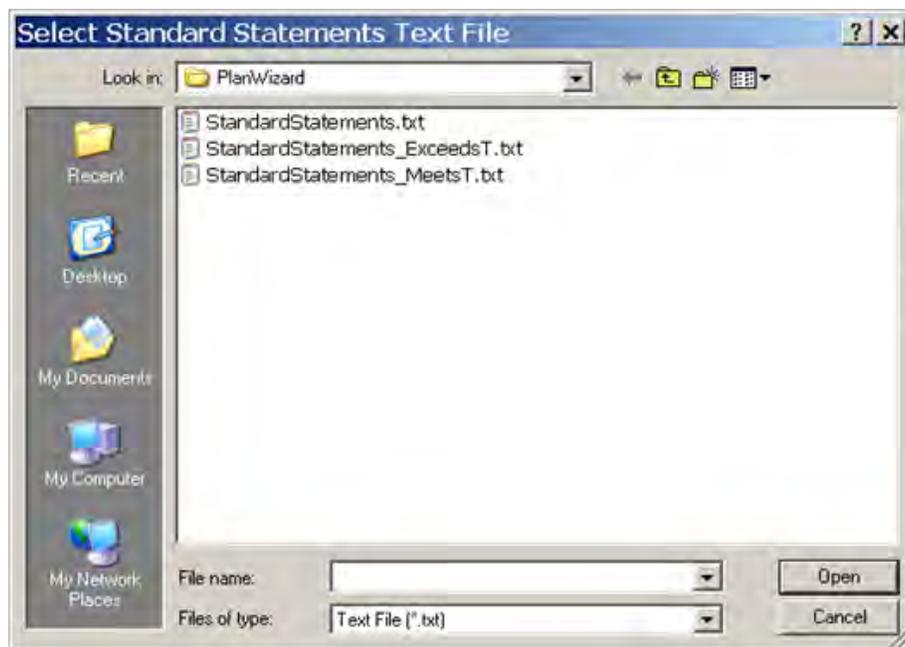
Place additional statements in the C:\ directory as stated above.

The graphic below is an image of the window in Plan Wizard where the Standard Statement and the Plan Objectives are entered when creating the plan document.





The browse button to the right of the Standard Statement textbox, (circled in red) will open to the location of the statements on the C:\drive when clicked.



Double click on a statement of choice to add to the plan wizard.

The plan objective must be typed in by individual preparing plan document according to planning guidance.

Standard Statements

A. Soil Erosion

Standard Statement 1 – Meets the Tolerable (T) Level of Soil Loss

The estimated soil loss rate for cropland in this conservation plan meets the tolerable (T) rate of soil loss over the planned crop rotation. Potential and existing gullies have been or will be treated through this plan. The customer agrees to maintain the cropping system as described in the Conservation Crop Rotation narrative and/or job sheet included in this plan.

The attached RUSLE2 Plan View report shows the estimated soil loss based on the planned cropping system. Flexibility within the system is permitted provided erosion is not increased. The narrative and job sheet describe changes to the system that would likely increase erosion. If the customer makes changes to the system that increase erosion, s/he is responsible for acquiring a new soil loss calculation and ensuring that the soil loss rate of the new cropping system does not exceed T.

The customer is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits, rights, or notifications, and for complying with all state, federal, and local laws and regulations pertaining to the application of the planned conservation practices identified in this plan.

Standard Statement 2 – Exceeds (T), in Compliance with HELC (for Land Subject to Food Security Act)

The soil loss rate for cropland in this in this conservation plan exceeds the tolerable (T) rate of soil loss over the planned crop rotation. Potential and existing gullies have been or will be treated through this plan. The planned system complies with the Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) compliance provisions of the Food Security Act. This plan should not be assumed to meet other federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to soil erosion. Additional structural and/or management practices are needed to meet T.

Responsibility for maintenance of a HELC compliant system rests with the customer. The Conservation Crop Rotation narrative and/or Job Sheet included in this plan provide flexibility to make changes in rotation and still maintain HELC compliance. The attached RUSLE2 Plan View report describes the cropping system used to calculate the estimated soil loss rate. The narrative and job sheet describe changes to the system that would likely increase erosion. If the customer makes changes to the system that increase erosion, s/he is responsible for acquiring a new soil loss calculation and ensuring that the soil loss rate of the new cropping system maintains soil loss at or below the rate of the previous system.

The customer is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits, rights, or notifications, and for complying with all state, federal, and local laws and regulations pertaining to the application of the planned conservation practices identified in this plan.

Standard Statement 3 – Exceeds T – Not Subject to Food Security Act Compliance

The soil loss rate of this plan, as identified in the attached RUSLE2 report, exceeds the tolerable (T) rate of soil loss over the planned crop rotation and/or gullies may be present in cropland. Additional structural and/or management practice changes needed to meet T. The land addressed in this conservation plan is not subject to Food Security Act provisions. This plan should not be assumed to meet federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to soil erosion.

The customer is responsible for obtaining all necessary permits, rights, or notifications, and for complying with all state, federal, and local laws and regulations pertaining to the application of the planned conservation practices identified in this plan.

