

# Watershed Resources

## Rapid Watershed Assessment – Field Office Instructions

**Purpose.** To provide field office instructions for completing Rapid Watershed Assessments (RWAs) data collection. Worksheets for data collection include the Kansas Resource Concerns Inventory (Resource Concerns), Guide to Estimating the Adoption of Conservation Systems (Participation Rate Survey), Procedure to Measure Social Capital (Social Capital Survey), Estimated Conservation Applications, and Needs Assessment. The RWAs are based on 8-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC-8) sub basins in Kansas.

### 1.0 Resource Concerns

Each local work group should identify and document, at a minimum, the top three or four current specific resource concerns for each land use category by natural resource (soil, water, air, plant, and animal) in the county for your portion of the HUC-8 being evaluated. These should be the most important resource concerns remaining to be addressed to satisfy electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) Quality Criteria. If there are other important specific resource concerns present and not listed on the resource concerns worksheet, document these in “Other Concerns.”

The local work group will also identify the top one or two current human specific concerns for each land use category in the county in the portion of the HUC-8 being evaluated. These should be the most important economic, social, or political concerns or obstacles to conservation adoption. If there are important human concerns not listed, document them in “Other Concerns.”

### 2.0 Participation Rate Survey

The participation rate survey is a matrix developed to estimate the adoption of conservation systems for an individual. This survey should describe a typical farm and producer (typical unit) for data collection.

The survey form is self-explanatory and should be reviewed and completed with the local work group. The local workgroup should identify the typical producer(s) and respond to the survey accordingly. Once consensus is obtained, enter the information electronically on the spreadsheet for the typical unit as it calculates scores automatically for all measured items.

### 3.0 Social Capital Survey

Social capital is defined as bonds of trust that arise between people interacting in everyday life, including interacting in formal organizations such as churches, civic groups, and recreational leagues.

Evaluating the level of social capital in communities in which NRCS field staff and conservation district boards work can directly benefit conservation planners. Based on research in the social sciences, the list of indicators on the Social Capital Survey form will allow NRCS to evaluate and measure social capital in local communities to assist in RWA development.

District conservationists (DC) within the watershed are requested to review and complete the Social Capital Survey with their local work group to depict their community’s social capital.

#### **4.0 Estimated Conservation Application**

Estimate and enter the application of conservation systems by land use. Only record estimates for resource management (RMS) and progressive systems. Untreated land uses will be calculated automatically.

References include [Performance Results System \(PRS\)](#) data, Performance and Results Measurement System (PRMS) data, conservation plan information, and local knowledge in each field office.

#### **5.0 Needs Assessment**

The needs assessment provides an estimate of land units' treatment needs by land use in each HUC-8 and county. This data is critical for developing the assessment matrix portion of each RWA.

Each county should reference data from the 1992 National Resources Inventory and the National Land Cover Dataset. This information will be provided to each watershed broken out by county from the state office. Other references include PRS, PRMS, conservation plans, and local knowledge.

The DC should interpret this data and record the best estimate for the categories listed on the needs assessment.

#### **6.0 Timeline for RWAs**

Over the course of several years, NRCS will be completing RWAs for the 90 HUC-8 sub basins that are in Kansas. Seven HUC-8s are scheduled to be completed by the end of September 2008. The information requested by each county will be required by the dates listed on the current bulletin.

The Resource Concerns, Participation Rate Survey, Social Capital Survey, Estimated Conservation Application, and Needs Assessment worksheets and forms should be completed and sent electronically to Dean Krehbiel at [dean.krehbiel@ks.usda.gov](mailto:dean.krehbiel@ks.usda.gov), with courtesy copies sent to respective area offices.

**For more information or questions about RWAs, contact:**

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**785-823-4551**  
**[dean.krehbiel@ks.usda.gov](mailto:dean.krehbiel@ks.usda.gov)**