

CASPeR Highlights

The importance of the CASPeR recommendations to the resource soil scientist relates to how the field office operations may change if the recommendations are approved and how these changes affect the work performed by the RSS and the opportunities for increased soils involvement in conservation planning.

Listed below are a selection of paraphrased recommendations coming from the team:

- To not sacrifice the technical delivery system in order to implement financial assistance programs.
- That key measures include that NRCS products and services are science based and technically sound.
- That conservation planning be field based and natural resource centric
- The workload is too large and assistance is needed
- The team recommends that 80 to 95% of planners' time be spent in the field and this is facilitated by mobile computing systems and removal of contract responsibilities
- There is a need to hire contract assistants in the field offices
- Science and technology interfaces are too complicated
- Planners do not have the science to help them plan according to policy
- Many planners use canned narratives that are a "closest fit" instead of field based conditions "such as soils data"
- The use of technical teams to support planners serving multi counties should be evaluated

Therefore, resource soil scientists under these recommendations would have an increased role in conservation planning at the field level providing more tailored information and increasing the science applied to program delivery.