

NRCS Monitoring Documentation Requirements for Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

Monitoring documentation should be submitted annually after closing on the conservation easement.

Required per the 2008 Farm Bill Manual:

- Conservation easement name and location
- Name of inspector, affiliation, contact information, and signature
- Cooperating entity
- Name, address, and phone number of current landowner.
- Date of inspection
- Inspection methods used
- Name and affiliation of all persons present during the inspection
- Conservation easement violations or areas of concern
- Changes in land use, impervious surface, or boundaries*
- Comments
- Follow up needs and plans
- Sheet erosion
- Erosion from concentrated flow
- Runoff from heavy use areas
- Conditions of waterways, diversions, and riparian areas
- Other changes in the baseline conditions.

*The following may be monitored using remote sensing prior to the onsite visit

Note: NRCS requires the above list to be provided for each monitoring report. The national NRCS monitoring requirements can be found in 2008 Farm Bill Manual for FRPP at Subpart G (Exhibits) 519.65

Attached: Sample Monitoring Report Template

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program
Annual Easement Monitoring Report
(Year) _____

Conservation Easement Name: _____

Monitor(s) Name(s): _____ **Date of Monitoring Visit:** _____

Date easement acquired: _____ Date of last monitoring visit: _____

Easement Location: _____

Current Landowner: _____ Is this a change? Yes No
Address: _____ If yes, is the new landowner aware
Phone: _____ of the easement deed language?
Email: _____ Yes No

Cooperating Entity: _____
Monitoring Contact Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Was the landowner contacted prior to the visit? Yes No
If so, how? in person by phone by email by mail

Did the landowner accompany the monitor? Yes No

Did the monitor read the easement deed? Yes before visit after visit No

Which of the following were accomplished during the monitoring visit?

- Met with owner/property manager Yes No
- Walked property boundaries some all
- Walked trails and woods roads some all not applicable
- Walked developed area some all not applicable
- Walked road frontage some all not applicable
- Walked interior of property some most

Boundaries: Percentage of boundaries walked: _____%
Conditions of or changes to the boundary markers:

Describe the current land use? Has the land use changed (include any construction, dredging, filling, trails, timber harvest, clearing of new fields, timber growth)? **Does the landowner have any plans for changes in land use or management?**

What is the status of structures and impervious surface areas? Have there been any changes to the total impervious surface? Does the landowner have plans to construct any buildings or improve trails or access roads?

Have there been any natural alterations (sheet erosion, erosion from flow, runoff from heavy use areas, changes in waterways, diversions, or riparian areas, etc.)?

Have there been any natural disasters that have altered the conservation land (flooding, fire damage, insect infestation, natural timber growth, etc.)?

Is the landowner following the practices outlined in the conservation plan on all the easement acreage (forest and timber management, brush management, pasture and hay planting and mowing, pest management, manure management, soil management, etc.)? **Has the farming practices changed** (if so, please direct the landowner to NRCS to update or change their conservation plan)?

After observing the property, is the landowner in compliance with all restrictions specified in the easement terms? Yes No (Please Explain)

Other comments, observations, violations or concerns of monitor or landowner:

Are there any required follow up needs or plans? Yes No (Please Explain)

Were the monitoring results discussed with the landowner or landowner's representative?
 Yes No

Monitor's Signature: _____ **Phone #:** _____ **Date:** _____

Monitor's Affiliation with Entity: _____

Required materials included with this report:

Map with photo references

Photographs (labeled and dated or with accompanying list)