

Part 409 – Conservation Planning Policy

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part 409 - CONSERVATION PLANNING POLICY

<u>Section</u>		<u>Page</u>
409.00	General.	ID409-1
409.01	Conservation planning objective.	ID409-1
409.02	Conservation planning assistance delivery.	ID409-2
409.03	Areawide conservation planning assistance delivery.	ID409-3
409.04	Requirements for providing conservation planning assistance.	ID409-7
409.05	Planning on units that cross a state, county or field office boundary.	ID409-7
409.06	Equal access to assistance.	ID409-7
409.07	Documentation of conservation planning data.	ID409-7
409.08	Conservation planning assistance which may have international impacts.	ID409-8
409.09	Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) of 1966 and Privacy Act (PA) of 1974	ID409-8
409.10	Public participation in the planning process.	ID409-8
409.11	Minimum conservation planning standards for NRCS and other providers of NRCS-related conservation planning for USDA-related assistance.	ID409-8
409.112	Minimum standards for Pest Management Assistance	ID409-12
409.113	Minimum standards for Nutrient Management Assistance	ID409-12
409.12	Idaho Wetland Plan Approval Process	ID409-12

Part 409 – Conservation Planning Policy

409.00 General.

(a) This amendment establishes Idaho Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) policy for providing conservation planning assistance to clients and requirements for Idaho NRCS planner certification.

(b) The National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) provides procedures and guidance on implementing this planning policy, including relationships to the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), electronic storage of data, technical handbooks and program guidance in the planning process. The NRCS planning process and standards as outlined in the NPPH will be used for all conservation planning.

409.01 Conservation planning objective.

(a) The NRCS objective in conservation planning is to help each client attain sustainable use and sound management of their soil, water, air, plant and animal resources while considering the human element (SWAPA+H). The purpose is to prevent the degradation of resources and to assure their sustained use and productivity, while considering the client's economic and social needs.

- (1) The NRCS conservation planning process is the development of a resource management system (RMS). An RMS is a combination of conservation practices and resource management for the treatment of **all identified** resource concerns for soil, water, air, plants and animals that meets or exceeds the quality criteria in the FOTG for resource sustainability. RMS level planning is required when working with a CAFO, AFO or winter feeding operation unless exempted by specific NRCS program policy.
- (2) The minimum planning level with our clients is an RMS. Progressive planning is used to work toward implementation of an RMS plan as a client is ready, willing and able to make some, but not all, of the decisions necessary to achieve a full RMS level of management. When the conservation plan selected by the client is less than the RMS level, at least one RMS alternative will be developed and presented to the client. This provides the decision maker with a comparison of the difference in projected impacts between the selected plan and a full RMS level of treatment. It will help the decision maker understand which resources are not addressed and the impacts of not treating them. When available and appropriate for the planning resource setting, Conservation System Guides (CSGs) can be used to identify RMS alternatives. Documentation of the RMS alternative will be completed on the CPA-52. The CPA-52 will include required practices, resource concern effects information and a system narrative for the RMS alternative. Toolkit is not to be used to document an RMS alternative when a producer's selected plan is at the progressive planning level.

Part 409 – Conservation Planning Policy

(b) Conservation plans are the basic tool for clients to manage their land, water, and related natural resources. **Conservation programs are then used to help implement the conservation plan.** When programs exist that define levels of planning for specific resource issues, clients will be offered alternatives that, as a minimum, meet the RMS criteria. This will help the client identify and address all resource concerns and provide an RMS plan to use with other existing or future programs.

(c) Resource management objectives of NRCS clients are addressed through development of individual conservation plans, areawide conservation assessments, and areawide conservation plans. Clients develop plans and assessments with conservation planning assistance from NRCS, conservation districts, Resource Conservation and Development Councils, Soil Conservation Commission and other appropriate sources. NRCS conservation planning assistance will be based on ecological, economic, and social considerations relative to the resources. When NRCS provides conservation planning assistance, on-site visits with clients are an integral part of that assistance.

(d) It is the responsibility of the planner to determine when the scope of a request exceeds the limits of an individual conservation plan and should be dealt with under the guidance and authorities provided for areawide conservation plans (see 409.03). Areawide conservation plans typically involve multiple landowners, complex or intertwined objectives, or have the potential to affect a large or particularly sensitive portion of the land.

(e) The end product of the planning process is a plan and the engagement of clients in the planning process.

(f) In all cases, due consideration to SWAPA+H must be given to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Clean Water Act (CWA), and other applicable federal, state and local laws.

(g) It is desirable for RMS plans to be developed for an entire farm or ranch. When it is not possible to plan an entire farm or ranch, a single Conservation Management Unit (CMU) as defined in the NPPH will be the minimum area considered for planning. When an RMS to be implemented impacts the landuser's adjacent CMUs, those CMUs must also be brought into the planning process and planned to the RMS level.

409.02 Conservation planning assistance delivery.

(a) NRCS traditionally provides conservation planning assistance on individual land units through conservation districts and Tribal districts based on Mutual Agreements and Cooperative Working Agreements. The Mutual Agreement establishes a partnership and a foundation for USDA agencies to cooperate with states, Tribal governments, conservation districts, and Tribal conservation districts. The Cooperative Working Agreement supplements the Mutual Agreement and establishes the relationship between the partners and agencies of USDA, and between State Conservation Agencies or Tribal governments and conservation districts or Tribal

Part 409 – Conservation Planning Policy

conservation districts. NRCS may enter into agreements with other organizations and units of government to provide conservation planning assistance as mutually agreed. The State Conservationist will determine the level of NRCS assistance to be provided in areas without conservation districts. NRCS may provide assistance for programs mandated by Congress independent of a Cooperative Working Agreement with the conservation district.

(b) In relation to Indian Tribes, NRCS has a "Trust" responsibility to deliver service to American Indian Nations in a government-to-government manner. The government-to-government responsibilities are required by law, policy, and other directives. Executive Memos direct federal agencies to remove procedural impediments to working effectively with Tribal governments in the delivery of programs and services, using the consultative process. A Tribe may determine that a conservation district is not wanted or needed and that another mechanism fits their situation better. The State Conservationist will consult with federally recognized Tribes to determine the optimum means of delivering NRCS programs and services. Every effort will be made to fulfill NRCS's government-to-government responsibilities. For additional policy information concerning Tribes and other traditionally under-served customers, refer to the General Manual sections covering, Civil Rights, Outreach, and Environmental Justice.

(c) In providing assistance, NRCS will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, program rules, policy statements, Executive Orders, and international agreements. Federal laws, Executive Orders, and policy statements that are important to the planning process are listed in various handbooks and manuals and in specific program documents.

(d) In complex situations, NRCS will use an early scoping process to determine expected needs for NRCS services and other resources before committing to planning assistance.

(e) Assistance on federal or state land that will require a significant amount of NRCS resources will be based on an agreement that provides for reimbursement of NRCS services. The State Conservationist will determine when an agreement is required.

409.03 Areawide conservation planning assistance delivery.

(a) Areawide planning in Idaho will be divided into three distinct levels. Each level requires certain approvals and needs to meet certain criteria. Due to different decision making dynamics and opportunities for implementation funding the three levels of areawide planning encompass different planning steps than the three phases identified in Section 600.20 of the (NPPH). The three levels are:

Reconnaissance and Assessment (R&A). R&A takes the group through steps 1 and 2 of the planning process defined in the NPPH.

Resource Inventory and Alternative Development. Inventory and Alternative Development takes the planning group through steps 3, 4, and 5 of the planning process described in NPPH.

Plan Development. Plan Development encompasses steps 6, 7, and 8 of the planning process.

Part 409 – Conservation Planning Policy

(b) The three levels of areawide plan development are sequential in that the document produced must stand independently, and must be approved by a planner with the proper level of approval authority before proceeding to the next level. The planning process is dynamic and each level may need to be interactive with the other levels as you move through process. Several attempts at completion may be required before the planning group is satisfied and ready to move on.

(c) The requirements of NEPA shall be incorporated into each level of areawide planning (NPPH, Part 600.11(g)).

(d) Each level of areawide planning will have a designated lead planner. The lead planner will typically be a planner working in the field office where the majority of the planning area resides and be certified as a master planner (see 409.11). If the lead planner does not have master planner certification, a co-lead will be designated who has the proper level of planning authority and is assigned to provide technical review and sign the planning documents. It is the lead planner's responsibility to constantly monitor the complexity, scope, and potential impact of the planning effort as it progresses. Often, an R&A process that initially encompasses a simple problem can grow to include complex endangered species, cultural, and land management issues. The lead planner is responsible for assuring that technical assistance commensurate with the scope and complexity of the project is included in each level of planning. An interdisciplinary planning team should be used for complex plans. As complexity and scope increase or decrease, planning steps may need to be revisited or completely redone. Similarly, changes in scope and complexity may require changes in data collection, data analysis, and the level of public participation (see 409.10). Areawide planning shall not advance to the next level until the lead planner approves the previous level planning documents.

(e) Reconnaissance and Assessment. The R&A process generates an assessment document. The lead planner determines the breadth of the assessment document and the level of detail with which each topic will be treated. The complexity of the assessment document will be commensurate with the complexity of the resource problems. Although there is no required format for the assessment document, it should adhere to common standards of technical writing and represent the professionalism of Idaho NRCS. The assessment document will address:

(1) Items listed in Part 600.21 of the NPPH under areawide conservation plan including initial identification of problems, opportunities, and concerns. A brief description of the planning area reconnaissance will be included. Key stakeholders and participants will be identified, their interrelationships defined, and their concerns documented.

(2) Items listed in Part 600.22 of the NPPH under areawide conservation plan. This includes defining the desired future conditions of the resources and clearly stating the objectives that will lead to changes in the natural resources. Potential actions to achieve the objectives should be listed as well as a possible time line for the actions.

(3) The assessment will document the level of interest by local landowners, community groups, and government entities. Interest will be documented by listing

Part 409 – Conservation Planning Policy

actions that have occurred or are ongoing in the planning area. Groups that may have a passive interest in the natural resource problems of the area should be listed separately from groups and individuals who are currently active in the planning area. Public meetings or focus groups may be appropriate in determining the level of public interest.

(4) The assessment will include an analysis of the expected level of complexity in implementing an areawide conservation plan, including an estimate of the different technical specialties needed to analyze the perceived problems. A brief analysis of challenges to plan development and implementation should be included. This may include situations such as limited resources available to landowners, a widely dispersed population, or a complex mingling of urban, suburban, and rural ownership patterns.

(5) The assessment document will be signed by the lead planner and the conservation district. Signatures from other stakeholders and developers of the assessment may be appropriate and will be solicited by the lead planner as needed.

(f) Resource Inventory and Alternative Development. The Inventory and Alternative Development process generates several interrelated documents. These include:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| (NPPH Part 600.23) | 1) A Resource Inventory Action Plan |
| | 2) A Resource Inventory |
| (NPPH Part 600.24) | 3) Resource Analyses |
| | 4) Description of the Existing Resource Conditions |
| | 5) Description of the Applicable Quality Criteria |
| (NPPH Part 600.25) | 6) Identification of Applicable Conservation Systems |
| | 7) Evaluation of the physical effects of different conservation systems |
| | 8) Estimates of costs |

(1) Different levels of review and approval are required depending on the scope and complexity of areawide Resource Inventory and Alternative Development. Responsibility for obtaining proper review and approval rests with the lead planner. If the assessment document and the resource inventory action plan identify people and skills that are available in a particular field office, the Resource Inventory and Alternative Development can proceed with approval of the District Conservationist. Similarly if the assessment document and resource inventory action plan can be completed with staff available from within the Division, the planning effort may proceed with the approval of the Division Management Team. If the assessment document and resource inventory action plan indicate that substantial input is required from outside the Division from the Area Staff, State Office Technical Services or Resource Assessment staffs, requests shall be made to the Assistant State Conservationist for Technical Services and the Area Conservationist through the Division Management Team. A signed copy of the assessment document should accompany the request. Regardless of the level of complexity, the appropriate Area Conservationist should be kept apprised of all areawide planning activities.

Part 409 – Conservation Planning Policy

(2) It is the responsibility of the lead planner to anticipate the size and complexity of planned practices and assure that individuals with proper Job Approval Authority are involved in the resource inventory and resource analysis. For example, an alternative to substantially change conservation-cropping sequences may require the input of a different agronomy specialist than would an alternative to change conservation tillage residue rates.

(3) The lead planner is responsible for analyzing whether all of the assumptions and analyses made during the development of the assessment document and the subsequent resource inventories remain valid. If there are substantial differences the planning may need to recycle to earlier steps to insure the stakeholders understand the differences and still want to proceed. It is important to keep stakeholders informed about the differences between the products that were envisioned at the beginning of the planning process and those that were actually achieved. As the planning process is a dynamic one, this review step is important to the integrity of the process.

(4) The completed Resource Inventory and Alternative Development document should be an independent, coherent, and professional document. The completed document should, at a minimum be signed by the lead planner, the conservation district, and other potential sponsors. The lead planner should solicit other signatures as appropriate such as substantial contributors, stakeholders, or reviewers.

(g) Plan Development. This third level of planning creates a roadmap for stakeholders to achieve the desired future condition of the natural resources. The Conservation Plan includes identification of the impacts, both singular and cumulatively of the different Alternative actions (NPPH Part 600.26). These impacts are described in quantitative and qualitative terms as appropriate, and are then converted to monetary impacts in order to analyze trade-offs between short-term profit and long-term sustainability. The risk and uncertainty of each alternative is described. Appropriate funding mechanisms for plan implementation are identified. Alternatives and impact evaluations are presented to the stakeholders and the public, and the stakeholders select a preferred alternative (NPPH Part 600.27).

(1) Different levels of review and approval are required for the Areawide Conservation Plan depending on the complexity and scope of the plan. Responsibility for obtaining proper review and approval rests with the lead planner. If the areawide conservation plan can be developed by field office staff, plan development can proceed with approval of the District Conservationist. Similarly if the plan can be completed with staff available from within the Division, the planning effort may proceed with the approval of the Division Management Team. If the development of the areawide conservation plan requires substantial input from outside the Division from the Area Staff, State Office Technical Services or Resource Assessment staffs, approval of the Assistant State Conservationist for Technical Services and the Area Conservationist is required. Regardless of the level of complexity, the appropriate Area Conservationist should be kept apprised of all areawide planning activities.

Part 409 – Conservation Planning Policy

(2) Potential funding sources for plan implementation should be identified as early as practical in the plan development. Selection of one or more potential funding sources may influence the format and content of the final plan. If NRCS funding, such as PL 566 or the Wetland Reserve Program, are identified as potential funding sources, copies of the signed assessment document and inventory and alternative development document(s) should be sent to the Area Conservationist as early in the planning process as possible. This will allow program managers an opportunity to assist in areas of plan development specific to a funding source.

409.04 Requirements for providing conservation planning assistance.

(a) The State Conservationist will establish and implement a process to ensure training is provided to employees. The State Conservationist will ensure that all NRCS, District and Soil Conservation Commission employees, conservation volunteers, and technical service providers employed or used by NRCS for conservation planning, meet minimum NRCS conservation planning training and certification requirements. A Planning Support Team made-up of area and state specialists such as agronomists, biologists, economists, engineers, and range conservationists will ensure compliance training and certification requirements are met.

409.05 Planning on units that cross a state, county, or field office boundary.

(a) NRCS assistance on an individual land unit that crosses a state, county, or field office boundary is the responsibility of the field office in which the headquarters of the land unit is located, or as otherwise agreed upon by the client and respective State Conservationist. Conservation planning will be consistent with the FOTG covering the area where the land unit is located.

(b) For assistance to groups or units of government on a land unit that crosses a state boundary, the State Conservationists, in consultation with the client, will determine by mutual consent how states will provide planning and other technical assistance.

409.06 Equal access to assistance.

All citizens will have equal access to NRCS programs. Assistance provided will be in compliance with all Civil Rights Acts, nondiscrimination statutes, and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture.

409.07 Documentation of conservation planning data.

(a) Conservation planning data may be documented in either hard copy or electronic format as appropriate. Agency approved software and software components will be used when the data is documented electronically. Idaho will use the Customer Service Toolkit as its electronic

Part 409 – Conservation Planning Policy

format. As other electronic formats become available, they will be evaluated, and if approved, included for use by NRCS Idaho.

(b) Conservation plan practice designs and specifications will be delivered to and discussed with the client prior to the practice implementation date.

409.08 Conservation planning assistance which may have international impacts.

Assistance provided will be in compliance with National Instructions 280-301, International Conservation Assistance.

409.09 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) of 1966 and Privacy Act (PA) of 1974.

NRCS policy and procedures on FOIA and PA are contained in National Instruction 120-310 and 120-GM, Part 408, Subpart C.

409.10 Public participation in the planning process.

(a) Consideration of public participation is an integral part of the NRCS planning process and is described in 400-GM, Part 400. Opportunities for public participation and involvement will be provided throughout the planning process to provide for a full partnership when working with groups (not acting as an individual), communities and units of government. Individual conservation plans do not require public participation.

(b) Every areawide conservation planning effort will include a public participation component. A public participation component, in compliance with state statutes, will be written when the State Conservationist determines that the component is necessary.

(c) Public participation activities are to be consistent with the requirements of applicable federal statutes, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 and 1508), and Civil Rights requirements.

(d) The planning process will determine if public participation will be required on individual RMS plans.

409.11 Minimum conservation planning standards for NRCS and other providers of NRCS related conservation planning for USDA related assistance.

(a) New NRCS employees with conservation planning responsibility identified in their position description will, at a minimum, become certified as a Basic Planner **within two years** of employment. As new employees work toward Basic Planner certification, it is the responsibility

Part 409 – Conservation Planning Policy

of their supervisor to provide on-the-job training in policy, procedures and Resource Management System (RMS) planning.

Basic Planner certification requirements:

- 1) Self paced Modules 1-5 of the Conservation Planning Course.
- 2) Attend Idaho's Conservation Planning course and/or the National NRCS Boot Camp (based on Area Conservationists discretion).
- 3) Complete one conservation plan with a client on a land use that is common to the field office service area and contains multiple resource concerns with documentation specific to the planning unit. Reference to a Conservation System Guide for the supporting documentation will not be acceptable. The conservation plan and supporting documentation will be reviewed by the Area Resource Conservationist. All requirements for Basic Planner must be completed with six months of completion of the Conservation Planning Course. This includes completion of the conservation plan, reviews and corrections required to meet Basin Planner certification.
 - i. Conservation plans that do not meet planning procedures will be returned to the planner for corrections and re-review.
 - ii. Planners who do not satisfactorily correct the plan after the first review will make additional changes as directed by the reviewer and develop an additional conservation plan for review and satisfactory completion.
- 4) Candidates for Basic Planner are responsible for having their plan and documentation submitted for review in a timely manner. Meeting the six month certification requirement is not the responsibility of the reviewer. A plan submitted near the end of the six month time frame may not allow for adequate review and response time. The planner, not the reviewer, will be held accountable for not meeting the six month certification deadline.

Basic Planner certification enables the planner to assist clients in development of conservation plans and application of conservation systems. New NRCS employees who do not have Basic Planner certification can plan only under the direction of their supervisor. Conservation partnership employees and technical service providers who are providing planning assistance to land users for the purpose of NRCS program participation are required to have Basic Planner certification before providing planning assistance to NRCS clients.

(b) **Within one year** of receiving Basic Planner certification, NRCS employees with primary planning responsibility (GS-8 soil conservation technicians, soil, range and district conservationists) must obtain Master Planner certification. Master Planners exemplify the spirit and intent of conservation planning. They demonstrate knowledge of planning procedures, Soil, Water, Air, Plant and Animal (SWAPA) resource problems and RMS alternatives to solve those problems. They understand when an interdisciplinary planning approach is needed, and can provide guidance/training to Basic Planners and non-certified new employees in the planning process.

Master Planner certification requirements:

- 1) Previous certification as a Basic Planner.
- 2) Complete two conservation plans with clients on different land uses that are common to the field office service area that contain multiple resource concerns with documentation *

Part 409 – Conservation Planning Policy

specific to the planning unit. Reference to a Conservation System Guide for the supporting documentation will not be acceptable. The conservation plans and supporting documentation will be reviewed by the Technical Services Staff. Conservation plan supporting documentation for Master Planner certification will require the submission of plans and/or specifications for all planned practices (i.e. Irrigation water management plans, grazing management plans, fence specifications, etc.). All requirements for Master Planner certification must be completed within one year of receiving Basic Planner certification. This includes completion of the conservation plans, reviews and corrections required to meet Master Planner certification. *

- i. Conservation plans that do not meet planning procedures will be returned to the planner for corrections and re-review.
 - ii. Planners who do not satisfactorily correct the plans after the first review will make additional changes as directed by the reviewer and develop an additional conservation plan for review and satisfactory completion.
- 3) Candidates for Master Planner are responsible for having their plans and documentation submitted for review in a timely manner. Meeting the one year certification requirement is not the responsibility of the reviewers. Plans submitted near the end of the one year time frame may not allow for adequate review and response time. The planner, not the reviewers, will be held accountable for not meeting the one year certification deadline.

(c) Individual planners are subject to quality assurance review of all conservation plans completed to determine whether they meet NRCS conservation planning policy and follow the procedures and guidelines listed in the National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH).

Basic Planner certification maintenance requirements:

- 1) Annually develop two conservation plans with clients within the field office work area.
- 2) Annual review of one conservation plan by a Master Planner. It is the responsibility of the planner to schedule the plan for review.
 - i. Conservation plans that do not meet planning procedures will be returned to the planner for corrections and re-review.
 - ii. The Master Planner reviewing the plan will certify to the Area Resource Conservationist that the plan meets planning policy.

Master Planner certification maintenance requirements:

- 1) Annually develop three conservation plans with clients within the field office work area.
- 2) Conservation plans are subject to annual review by Area and/or State Specialists during normal field office visits. A detailed review of plans will be conducted by State Office and Area Specialists during Field Office Technical Quality Reviews.
 - i. Conservation plans that do not meet planning procedures will be returned to the planner for corrections and re-review.

(d) Basic Planners, without primary planning responsibility, can be certified as a Master Planner by completing the Master Planner Certification requirements.

(e) Prior service NRCS, Soil and Water Conservation District, and Soil Conservation Commission employees.

Part 409 – Conservation Planning Policy

- 1) Returning NRCS, Soil and Water Conservation District, and Soil Conservation Commission employees who have resigned or retired may retain their planner certification (Basic or Master) status for six months without recertification.
 - i. Previous conservation plans developed by the returning employee are subject to review by Area and/or State Specialists during normal field office visits to determine adequacy.
 - 2) Returning NRCS, Soil and Water Conservation District, and Soil Conservation Commission employees who have been resigned or retired for a period of more than six months must be recertified (Basic or Master).
 - i. The recertification process requires former employees to submit one conservation plan for review. Former employees with Master Planner certification will submit a plan to the Assistant State Conservationist – Technical Services for review and approval. Former employees with Basic Planner certification will submit a plan to the Area Resource Conservationist for review and approval. All plans submitted must meet current planning policy.
 - ii. Conservation plans developed by recertified planners are subject to review by Area and/or State Specialists during normal field office visits to determine adequacy.
- ✪ (f) NRCS employees with planner certification from a state other than Idaho.
- ✪ 1) NRCS employees hired from outside of Idaho whose position requires planner certification will, within six months of employment, submit one conservation plan with supporting documentation for review.
 - ✪ i. Plans submitted for Basic Planner certification will be directed to the Area Resource Conservationist for review and approval.
 - ✪ ii. Plans submitted for Master Planner certification will be directed to the Assistant State Conservationist – Technical Services for review and approval.
- (g) Individual planners are responsible for keeping their own personal training plan updated to reflect conservation planning training needed and obtained to maintain or increase their skill level. Training plans need to be developed in cooperation with their supervisor and according to NRCS-Idaho guidelines.
- (h) Individual planners must be listed by NRCS as being a "certified" conservation planner. The list for Idaho will be developed and maintained by the State Conservationist.
- (i) All NRCS employees within Idaho will be required to complete the National Employee Development Center (NEDC) Environmental Compliance for Conservation Assistance (EC Level 1) web-based course. New NRCS employees will be required to complete the NEDC course within one year of employment.

Part 409 – Conservation Planning Policy

409.112 Minimum Standards for Pest Management Assistance

Certification:

(a) As a minimum, each NRCS office will include one NRCS staff person as a Certified Pest Management Planner.

(b) Certification will be required to develop, revise and approve pest management components of NRCS conservation plans. **All pest management certification requirements are cited in Title 190 – GM, Idaho Amendment ID404.**

409.113 Minimum Standards for Nutrient Management Assistance

Certification:

(a) As a minimum, each NRCS office will include one NRCS staff person as a Certified Nutrient Management Planner.

(b) Certification will be required to develop, revise and approve nutrient management components of NRCS conservation plans. **All nutrient management certification requirements are cited in Title 190 – GM, Idaho Amendment ID402.**

409.12 Technical review and approval of all wetland restoration plans.

(a) All wetland restoration plans will be submitted to the Assistant State Conservationist (ASTC) for Technical Services (TS) for technical review and approval. ASTC (TS) will approve all wetland restoration plans prior to the installation of practices. Technical review will include the TS biologist, engineer and other staff as assigned by the ASTC (TS). Revisions to the original plan will also be submitted to the state office ASTC (TS) for review.