



# Conservation Planning *On Your Land*

*California's Planning Workbook*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**This workbook will help you collect the information you need to complete a conservation plan. The questions are designed to gather information about your land, objectives, and management. Although the information will be reviewed by a conservation planner, it is confidential and belongs to you. It will not be released to other agencies, groups or individuals.**

## **Conserving Your Land's Natural Resources Through Voluntary Conservation Planning**

America's farmers and ranchers are the working conservationists on private and tribal lands in our country. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the federal agency that, for over 70 years, has had the privilege of providing technical assistance to these true conservationists as they make a voluntary commitment to apply conservation practices on their private lands.

Conservation Planning is a voluntary process that helps you develop a record of your natural management decisions. This record, Conservation Plan, combines selected conservation practices into a system, which is laid out in a reasonable schedule that fits your timetable.

The conservation applied on private lands provides benefits to all citizens by reducing soil erosion, improving water quality and quantity, enhancing wildlife habitat, maintaining open spaces and aesthetic landscapes, and improving the health of the land for future generations.

### ***Ten Ways a Conservation Plan Can Benefit You***

- Saves money as your land becomes more productive.
- Ensures better natural resource quality for you, your animals and your neighbors.
- Increases your property value.
- Enhances open space and wildlife habitat.
- Improves animal health.
- Prevents off-site impacts, and may help you comply with environmental regulations.
- Contributes to plant health and vigor.
- Makes your land more attractive and promotes good neighbor relations.
- Promotes health and safety for your family.
- Helps you identify your eligibility for some USDA programs.

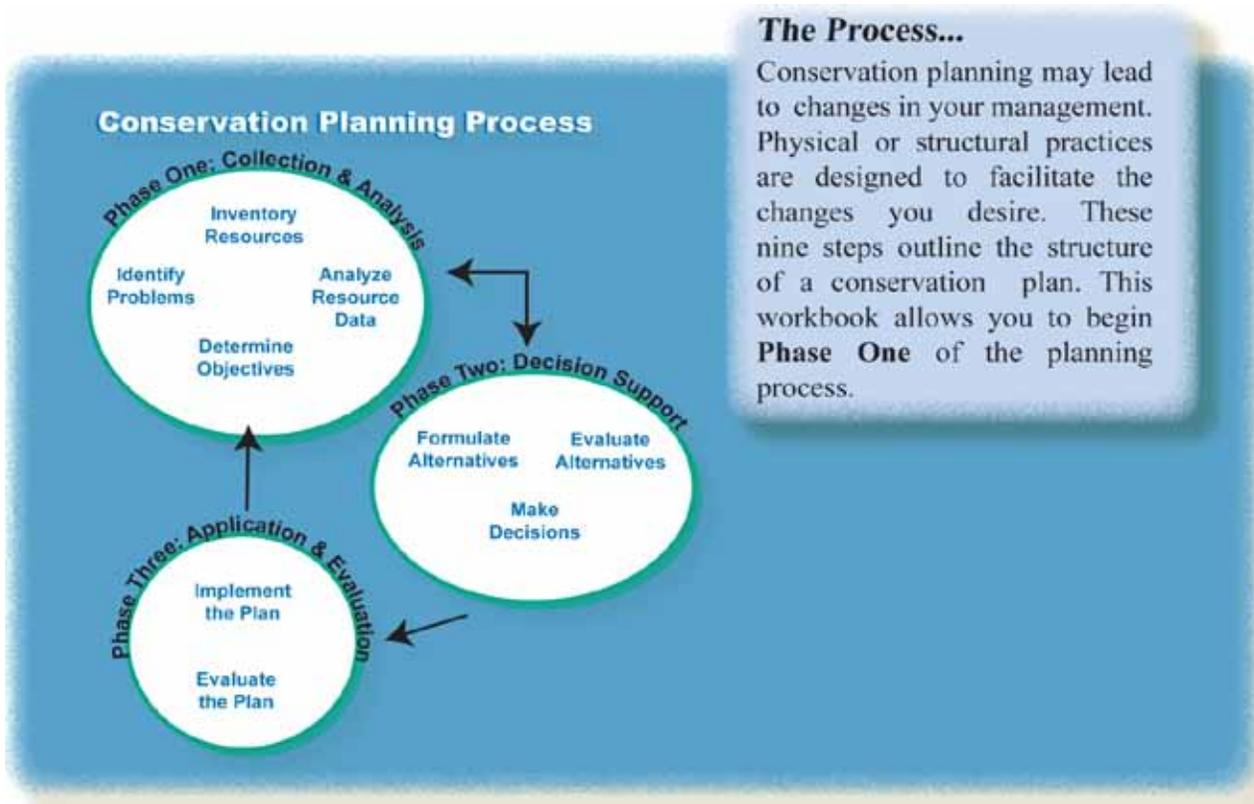
## What is a Conservation Plan?

A Conservation Plan is a voluntary and dynamic tool that helps manage your lands profitably while protecting your natural resources. Soil erosion, water quality, and waste management are just a few of the resource concerns that could be addressed with a plan. The completed conservation plan will describe each of the conservation practices you select to manage your natural resources. The choice to develop or not develop a conservation plan is yours. It is a voluntary process. You make the decisions. You implement the plan.

Conservation planners provide the technical assistance needed to develop and implement your plan. Creating a plan does not provide public access to your property. You control all rights of entry and use. Information in your conservation plan is confidential and is not released to other agencies, groups or individuals. All of the information you develop belongs to you.

A Conservation Plan consists of nine steps and is organized into three phases. This workbook does not result in a complete plan. However, it assists you with the preliminary self-assessment and fact gathering needed for a plan. You need to commit to the process in order for it to work.

After completing this preliminary self-assessment, contact your local U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center to be put in contact with a conservation planner. The conservation planner will assist you, or you may employ a qualified private consultant, to complete a plan.



## ***General Information***

1. Have you participated in any USDA programs before?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you already have a conservation plan?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you have an irrigation system?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what kind? Drip \_\_\_\_\_ Flood \_\_\_\_\_ Furrow \_\_\_\_\_

Sprinkler \_\_\_\_\_ Border \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

List your irrigation water source \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you have any streams or ponds on your farm?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you have any wildlife areas on your farm?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you have any wetland areas on your farm?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you have any land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

8. Have you noticed any areas where the soil erodes or is deposited in ditches, roads, etc. ?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

9. Does your water run off your fields or farm in any location?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

10. Have you ever noticed algae blooms, high salinity, high temperatures, or other unusual circumstances in the streams, ponds, or ditches on your farm?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

## ***General Information (cont.)***

11. Have you ever noticed any areas on your property such as Indian sites, historic buildings, or other types of archaeological or cultural resources?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

12. Do you handle or use any type of pesticides on your land?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

13. Do you handle or use commercial fertilizers on your land?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

14. Do you handle, generate, or use animal waste such as compost, manure, etc.?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

15. Do you operate a dairy?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

16. Do you know of any rare or endangered plant or animal species on your land?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

17. Have you ever installed or used measures to reduce erosion or fix any other things you viewed as a problem on your land?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_



## ***Information About Your Land***

Complete the following questions the best you can. Make note of any concern or questions you have for the conservation planner. The more information you supply the easier it will be to help you.

Name of Landowner (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Manager (if different from landowner): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Location (APN or parcel number if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Watershed (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Land Use(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Acres: \_\_\_\_\_ Nursery: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Irrigated Cropland: \_\_\_\_\_ Irrigated Cropland: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastureland: \_\_\_\_\_ Vineyard: \_\_\_\_\_

Rangeland: \_\_\_\_\_ Dairy/Poultry/Swine: \_\_\_\_\_

Orchard: \_\_\_\_\_ Rural Home Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Forestland: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Ranchette: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you received assistance from your local Resource Conservation District, NRCS, UC Cooperative Extension or consultant?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Have you completed the UC Extension Rangeland or Cropland Water Quality Short Course?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

### **FOR DAIRIES ONLY**

(CDQAP = California Dairy Quality Assurance Program CNMP = Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan)

Have you completed CDQAP Environmental Stewardship Short Course and Certification or have a CNMP?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

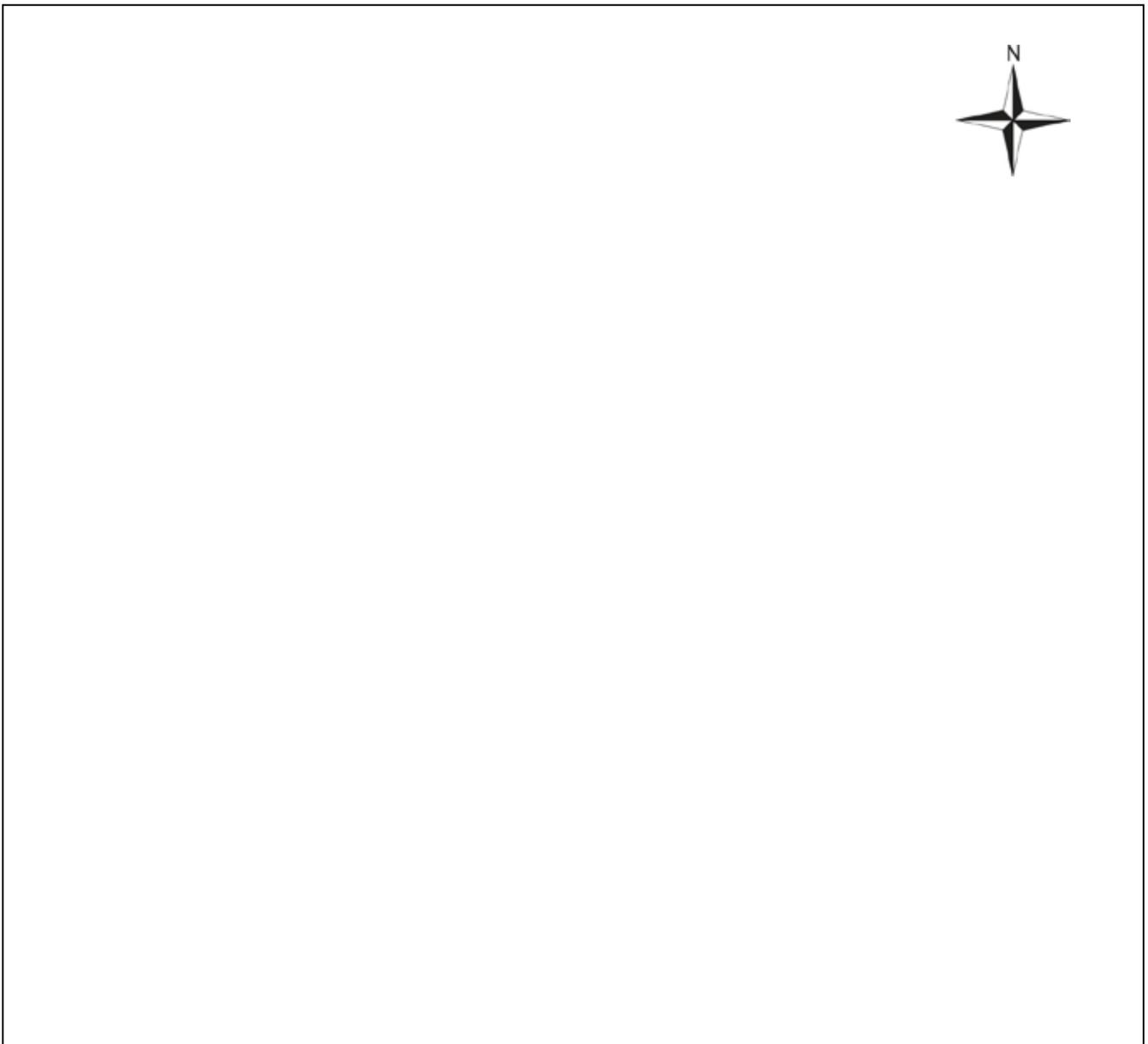


## ***Property Location & Conservation Plan Maps***

On this page, please draw or attach a map showing directions to your property and any leased lands you want to include in the plan, in relation to well-known features (highways, towns, etc.)

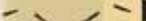
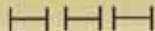
On the following page, draw or attach a detailed map of your property (include any leased lands you want to include in the plan, field boundaries, access roads, streams, etc.). Include the location of conservation practices (fences, irrigation systems, runoff control features, land leveling, pipelines, etc.) you have installed on each field. Attach additional pages if necessary.

### *Property Location Map*



# Conservation Plan Map

## Plan Map Legend

 Property Boundary	 Road	 Fence	 Homestead
 Stream	 Field Number	 Well	 Spring
 Water	 Ditch	 Pipeline	 Trough

Label land uses in designated fields. Identify existing conservation practices.



## ***Field Information***

Describe each of your fields on the chart below. The first row is an example.

<b>Tract#</b>	<b>Field#</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Land Use &amp; Crop Information</b> (Crop, range, pasture, homestead, forest, wildlife, wetland, nursery, etc.)	<b>Field Characteristics</b> (Rotation, production, operation constraints, soil characteristics, etc.)
20	1	100	Cropland	3 yrs. Alfalfa (8 tons avg. yield), 1 yr. tomatoes (33 tons avg. yield); irrigation water collects at north end of field; spotty area of low yields

