



July 21, 2015

## IOWA INSTRUCTION 180-385 SECOND EDITION – DESIGNATED CONSERVATIONIST

### IA385.0 PURPOSE

This instruction is being sent to specify which Iowa NRCS and partner employees may hold the title of Designated Conservationist for conservation planning and technical determinations and/or decisions.

### IA385.1 SCOPE

These instructions will be followed by all NRCS and partner employees.

### IA385.2 FILING INSTRUCTIONS

This Iowa Instruction will be posted on the Iowa NRCS Employee Website, which can be accessed under the Topics/People/NRCS Employees/Iowa NRCS eDirectives or at this link [Iowa NRCS eDirectives website](#).

### IA385.3 EXHIBITS

See attachment.

/s/Richard P. Ellsmore  
Acting State Conservationist

Attachment

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(IA Instruction 180 - 385 Second Edition – July 2015)

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1. PURPOSE:

This instruction is being sent to specify which Iowa NRCS and partner employees may hold the title of Designated Conservationist for conservation planning and technical determinations and/or decisions.

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

There are numerous situations when the Code of Federal Regulations (CFC) or Natural Resources Conservation Service policy requires action or a signature by the “Designated Conservationist.”

The ability to assume the title of Designated Conservationist may also be limited by the principle of “separation of duties.” In order to be a Designated Conservationist, the NRCS or partner employee must meet all applicable policy guidance.

<b>Designated Conservationist</b>	
<b>Function</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
Signing conservation plans	Any NRCS or partner employee who is a “Certified Conservation Planner.”
Wetland determination, field reviews, use of Functional Assessments models, development of minimal effect agreements and other wetland activities	All NRCS and partner employees who have job approval authority level 3 as listed on the Wetland Identification Job Approval spreadsheet in Section III of the Iowa Field Office Technical Guide.
Highly Erodible Land (HEL) Compliance decisions	NRCS or partner employee who have HEL compliance as a duty in their position description.

Iowa NRCS area resource conservationists and members of the Ecological Sciences and Conservation Planning staff are authorized to serve as a designated conservationist.

Direct questions to the State Resource Conservationist at (515) 284-4370.

Approved By: /s/

Date: July 23, 2015

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