

CONSERVATION ROAD MAP

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) uses a 9-step planning process to provide assistance to our customers and develop a conservation plan.

- 1. Identify Problems and Opportunities** - Initial opportunities and problems are first identified while working with the customer.
- 2. Determine Objectives** - The customer identifies their objectives, while the planner guides the process so that it includes the customer's needs and values, the resource uses and on-site and off-site ecological protection.
- 3. Inventory Resources** - Natural resource, economic, and social information for the planning area is collected to further define problems and opportunities, develop alternatives, and evaluate the plan.
- 4. Analyze Resource Data** - The planner studies the resource data and defines existing conditions for all the identified natural resources, including limitations and potentials for the desired use.
- 5. Formulate Alternatives** - Alternatives are formulated that achieve the customer's objectives, solve identified concerns, and take advantage of opportunities to improve or protect resource conditions.
- 6. Evaluate Alternatives** - Alternatives are evaluated to determine their effectiveness in addressing the customer's problems, opportunities and objectives.
- 7. Make Decisions** - The customer selects their preferred alternatives and works with the planner on practice implementation.
- 8. Implement the Plan** - The customer implements the selected alternatives. The planner provides the land manager with detailed practice implementation information.
- 9. Evaluate the Plan** - The planner evaluates the effectiveness of the plan in solving the resource concerns and works with the customer to make adjustments as needed.