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What is a Conservation Practice?



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What are the Role of Practice Standards?

- ✓ *Ensure quality*
- ✓ *Provide consistency*
- ✓ *Define “components” of conservation systems*
- ✓ *Assure environmental compliance*
- ✓ *Serve as a repository for knowledge & experience
... that can be continually brought forward to “new”
employees*





What is a Conservation Practice?

- A structural or vegetative measure, or management activity used to protect or reduce the degradation of soil, water, air, plant, animal, or energy resources

What is a

Conservation Practice Standard?

- **A document containing statements which:**
- define the technology
 - identify the purposes and applicability of the practice
 - establish criteria supporting each purpose
 - list special considerations useful in planning and applying the practice
 - establish installation, operation and maintenance requirements

A Practice Standard:

- Delivers technology
- Puts emphasis on the important aspects of the technology (design elements) and how much latitude you have to manipulate those elements (criteria) to adapt the technology to the site
- Is about putting the “thing” on the ground



Components of a Practice Standard



- Name
- Definition
- Purpose(s)
- Conditions Where Practice Applies
- Criteria
- Considerations
- Plans and Specifications
- Operation and Maintenance
- References





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Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Access and Organization



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Roles and Responsibilities



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General Manual 450, Part 401

Subpart A - Policies & Responsibilities

Subpart A 401.1.A.7/Subpart B 401.13.G

National Discipline Leaders establish and maintain

- conservation practice standards
- practice overviews
- statements of work
- network effects diagrams
- references

according to a 5 year revision schedule





General Manual 450, Part 401

Subpart A - Policies & Responsibilities



Subpart A 401.1.D.1 - State Staff

- Work with national discipline leaders to ensure State-level issues are addressed
- Establish State Tech Guide Committee and Guidelines
 - ✓ At a minimum – State-level technical leaders
 - ✓ Membership, responsibility, meetings, working process, etc.
- Develop and maintain FOTG



General Manual 450, Part 401

Subpart A - Policies & Responsibilities

Subpart A.401.1.D.2 - State Technical Specialists

- Participate... in the development and maintenance of the NHCP
- Work with National Discipline Leads and the National Conservation Practice Standards Subcommittee to ensure state level issues are addressed
- Identify FOTG technology needs and report issues to the STGC
- Help develop interim practices





General Manual 450, Part 401

Subpart A - Content of FOTGs



Subpart A 401.3.C.4 – FOTG Section IV

- What is the difference between the NHCP and Section IV of the FOTG?
 - ✓ NHCP contains National Practice Standards
 - ✓ Section IV of the FOTG contains State Practice Standards





General Manual 450, Part 401

Subpart A - 401.3 Section IV CPS/CPD



Subpart A 401.3.C(4) – Section IV

- Contains Standards applicable to a State
- Standards establish the minimum level of quality for designing, installing, operating, and maintaining conservation practices

National standards are to be supplemented and used by State-level offices, as needed





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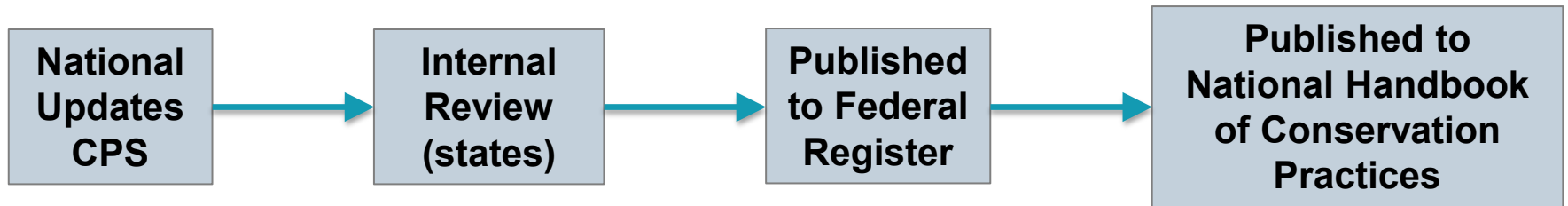
Adoption of a Conservation Practice Standard (CPS)



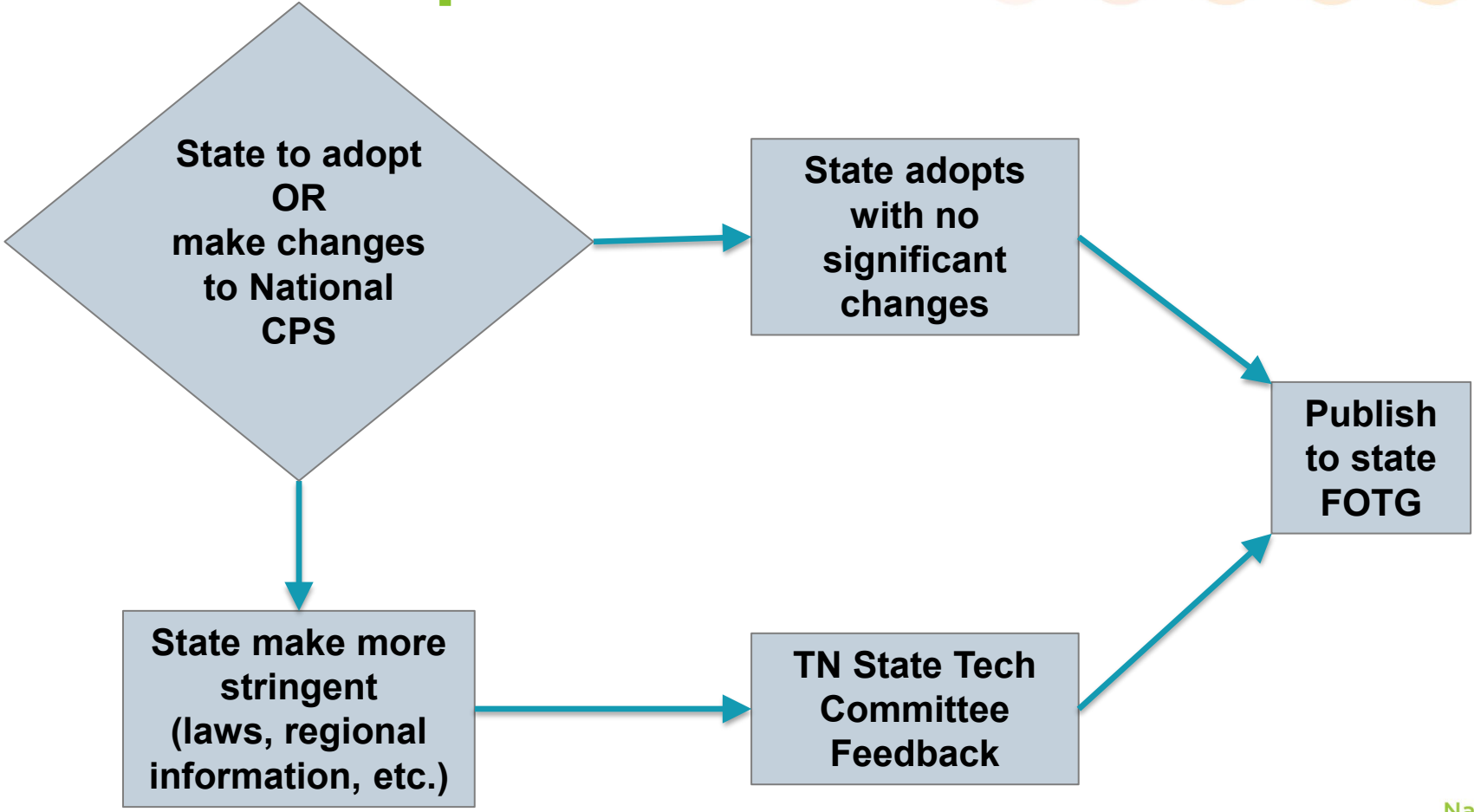
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National CPS Revision



State Adoption of CPS





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Conservation Practice
Standards Writing Workshop

Interim Practice Standards



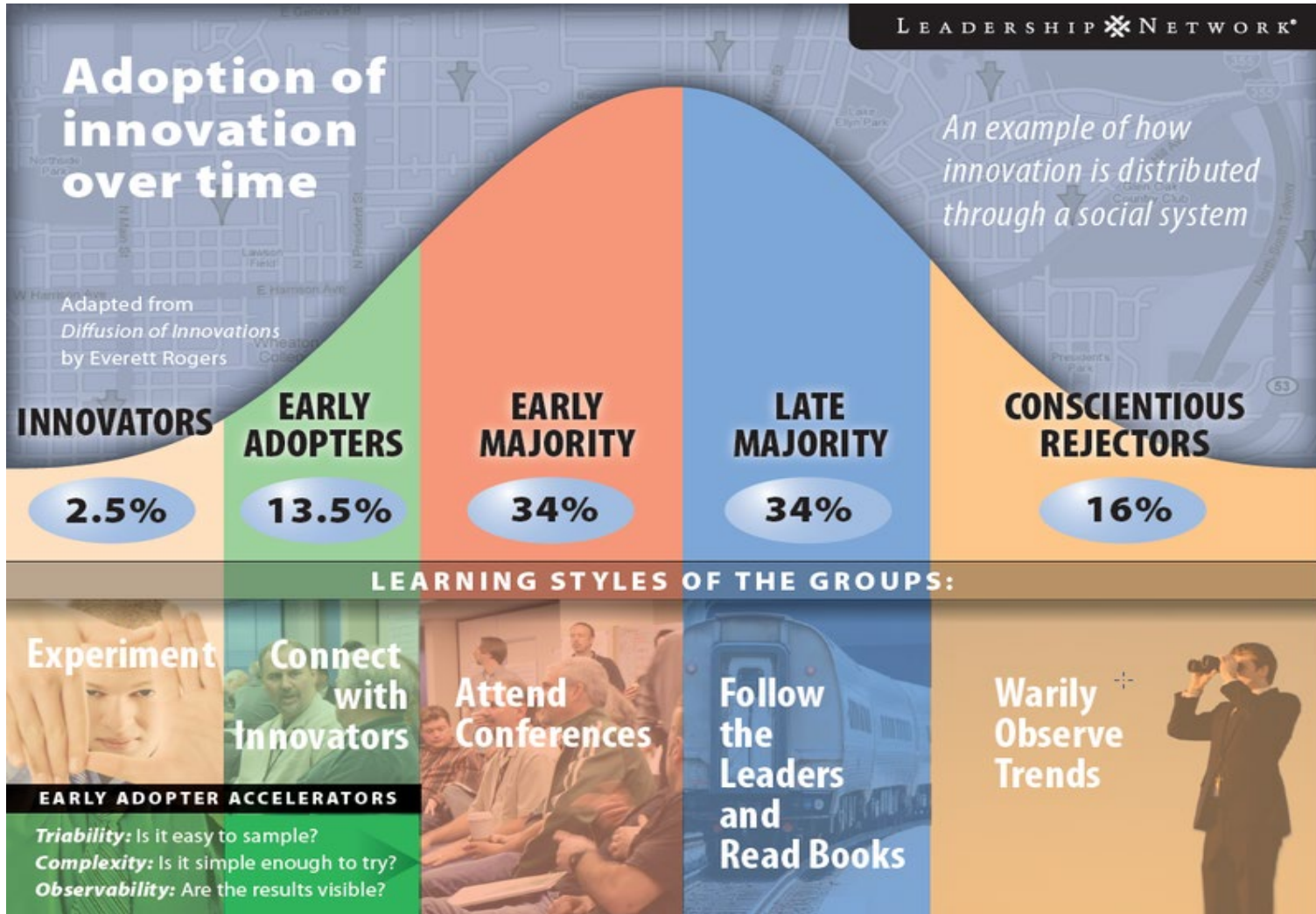
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Society's Stages in Adopting Innovation



Interim Practice Policy

- **Title 450 Part 401 Subpart B - 401.17**
 - Provides a mechanism for field testing new technology a state
 - Address resource concerns which are not addressed by an existing national standard

Examples of Recent Interims that Became Practice Standards



- **Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products, Code 333**
- **Denitrifying Bioreactor, Code 605**
- **Soil Carbon Amendment, Code 336**