



United States Department of Agriculture



What is a Conservation Practice?



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What is a Conservation Practice?

- A structural or vegetative measure, or management activity used to protect/conserves or reduce the degradation natural resources (e.g., 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

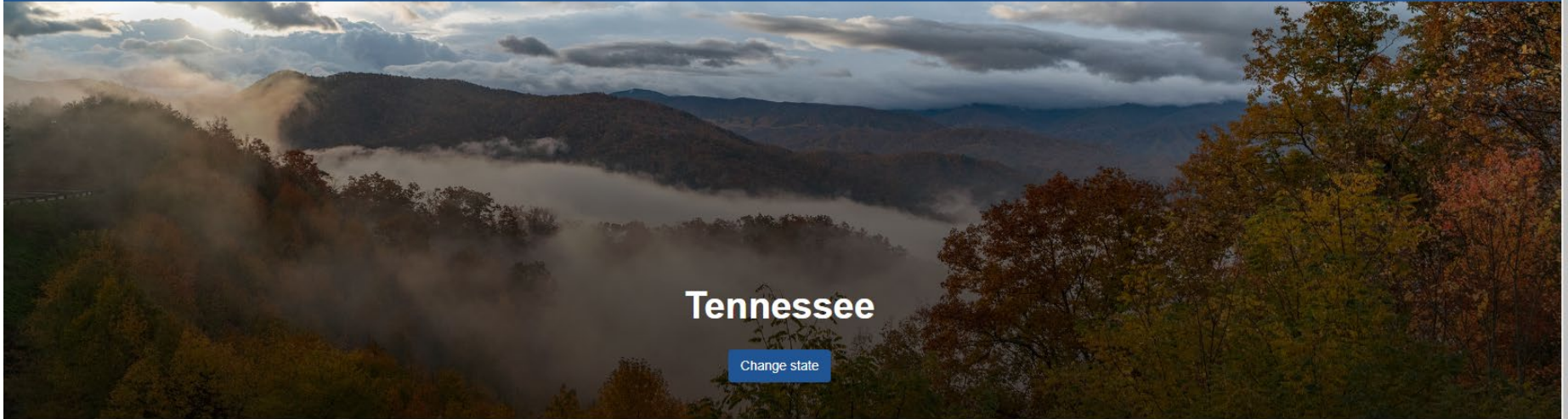




What are the Role of Practice Standards?

- ✓ *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*





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- Section 1 - General Resource References
- Section 2 - Natural and Cultural Resources Information
- Section 3 - Resource Concerns and Planning Criteria
- Section 4 - Practice Standards and Supporting Documents

TN Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG):

<https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/TN/documents>



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COVER CROP

CODE 340

(ac)

DEFINITION

Grasses, legumes, and forbs planted for seasonal vegetative cover.

PURPOSE

This practice is applied to support general criteria and one or more of the following purposes:

- Reduce erosion from wind and water
- Maintain or increase soil health and organic matter content
- Reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excessive soil nutrients
- Suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles
- Improve soil moisture use efficiency
- Minimize soil compaction

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

All lands requiring seasonal vegetative cover for natural resource protection or improvement.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Plant species, seedbed preparation, seeding rates, seeding dates, seeding depths, fertility requirements, and planting methods will be consistent with applicable local criteria and soil/site conditions. (See Appendix – Table 1, Recommended Cover Crop Mixes or refer to SARE's publication:

https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/20802/340_TN_OTH_covercrop_tables_2019

[http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Managing-Cover-Crops-Profitably-3rd-Edition.](http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Managing-Cover-Crops-Profitably-3rd-Edition))

Select species that are compatible with other components of the cropping system.

Ensure herbicides used with crops are compatible with cover crop selections and purpose(s).

Cover crops may be established between successive production crops, or companion-planted or relay-



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Adoption of a Conservation Practice Standard (CPS)

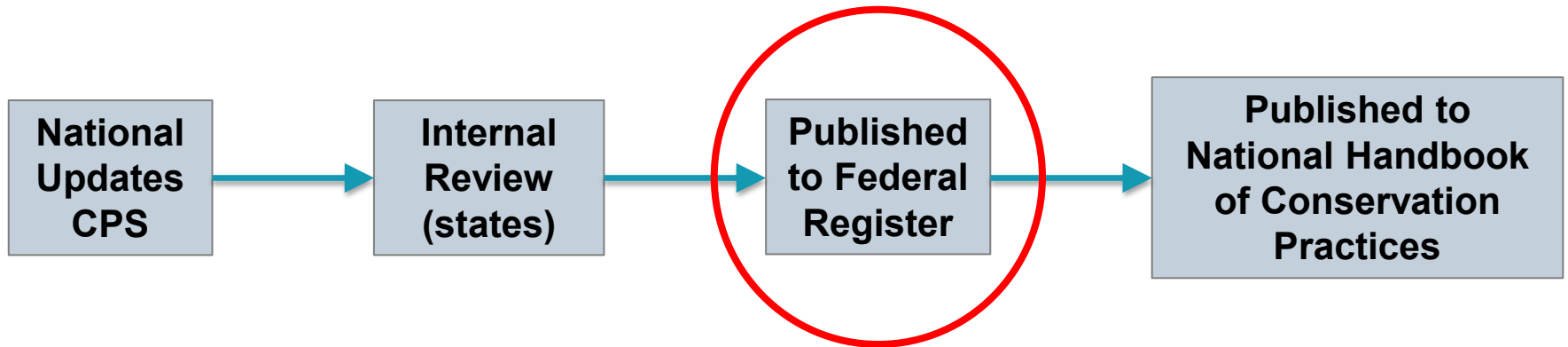


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National CPS Revision





NRCS Seeks Public Comment on 8 Conservation Practices

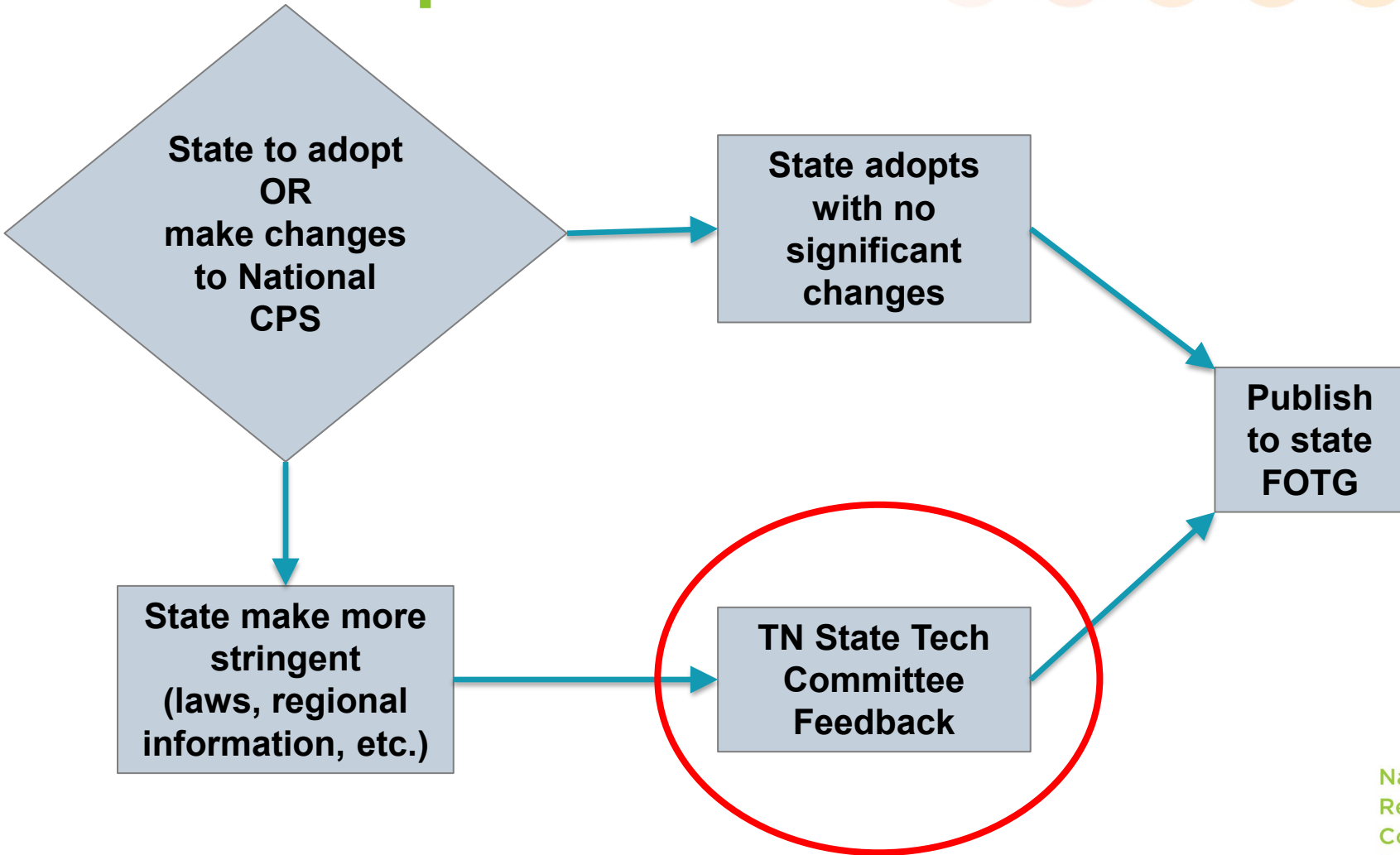
USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is seeking [public comment](#) on proposed revisions to eight national conservation practice standards. Comments are due March 4, 2024.

Proposed revisions to the national conservation practice standards include:

- Field Border (Code 386)
- Filter Strip (Code 393)
- Grazing Management (Code 528)
- Hedgerow Planting (Code 422)
- Mulching (Code 484)
- Seasonal Water Management for Wildlife (Code 646)
- Structure for Water Control (Code 587), and
- Wetland Restoration (Code 657).



State Adoption of CPS





HEY!

WE NEED YOUR **INPUT**





QUESTIONS?

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