



**Iowa Bulletin:** 180-24-2

**Date:** March 1, 2024

**Subject:** CPA – Changes to Iowa Supplement to Title 180  
General Manual, Part 409, “Conservation Planning Policy”

**Purpose.** To notify employees of revision to the Iowa Supplement to Title 180, General Manual, Part 409 (180-GM409) “Conservation Planning Policy,” and the major changes to the policy.

**Expiration Date.** September 30, 2024

**Background.** Iowa Supplement to National Conservation Planning Policy, 180-GM-409 has been revised to align with 180 GM 409, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, Amendment 46.

**Explanation.** Changes to policy in this revision include:

- Changed the naming convention of conservation planner designations (IA 409.3)
  - Level 1 Conservation Planner (formerly Apprentice Conservation Planner)
  - Level 2 Specialty Conservation Planner (formerly Technical Specialist Planner)
  - Level 3 Certified Conservation Planner (formerly Certified Conservation Planner)
  - Level 4 Certified Conservation Planner (formerly Master Certified Conservation Planner)
- Established timeframes for employees to achieve conservation planner designations.
- Established Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planners (CNMP), Level 2 Specialty Conservation Planner, must also be a Level 3 or Level 4 Certified Conservation Planner.
- Removed assessment tool training requirements.
- Removed Iowa Exhibit 3 – Worksheets for Specific Conservation Planner Roles. Refer to national 180 GM 409.15 Exhibit 3 for core competencies and course requirements.

IA 180 GM 409 can be accessed through [eDirectives](https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/landingpage/35527). The policy can be found here:  
<https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/landingpage/35527>.

**Contact.** Any questions concerning the contents of this bulletin should be directed to Michael Henderson, State Resource Conservationist, at 515-323-2292 or at [michael.henderson@usda.gov](mailto:michael.henderson@usda.gov).

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