



# HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND

Conservation planners from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will work together with you to develop a FREE conservation plan.

## Conservation Planning

The 1<sup>st</sup> phase: **Collection and Analysis**

- Step 1.** Identify Problems
- Step 2.** Determine Objectives
- Step 3.** Inventory Resources
- Step 4.** Analyze Resource Data

The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase: **Decision Support**

- Step 5.** Formulate Alternatives
- Step 6.** Evaluate Alternatives
- Step 7.** Make Decisions

### Application Period:

January 1- April 30, 2015

Applicants Notified by June 2015

Plans provided no later than  
December 31, 2015

For more information contact your local field office. Or visit us online at: [www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov)

**USDA'S NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) IS A LOCAL RESOURCE FOR INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE THE LAND AND PROTECT YOUR WAY OF LIFE.**

Technical assistance is available for agriculture producers who want to work with NRCS to develop a voluntary conservation plan. These are FREE plans that identify potential natural resource problems, evaluate alternatives, and recommend solutions that could make use of the land more effective and sustainable.

Voluntary conservation plans can be developed for a farm, ranch, private non-industrial forestry operation, or shellfish or aquaculture operation. The information in the plan will be specific to all the land uses for the entire operation (inside of Washington state boundaries). Use of and impacts on natural resources (soil, water, air, plants, animals, humans and energy) are considered in the plan.

These plans are resource management system (RMS) level plans for all land-uses and natural resource concerns. RMS-level voluntary natural resources conservation plans:

- Inventory and assess the condition of natural resources on/around an operation;
- Contain valuable information about the land and the operation like maps, soil type, and native plants and animal species that may be present;
- Discuss alternatives for meeting landowner objectives and natural resource needs;
- Can help a farmer, rancher, or forester make decisions about their operation;
- Give operators a tool that may be necessary to access and compete for financial assistance, loan and insurance rate subsidies, and other financial incentives; and
- Are yours to keep and can't be shared with the public or regulators.