

Voluntary Conservation On Your Land



- Save money-decrease costs
- Obtain financial assistance
- Control wind and water erosion
- Reserve conservation lands
- Protect streams
- Provide riparian buffers
- Cost share conservation funds
- Develop fish & wildlife habitat
- Modify crop mix & rotations



- Restore water quality
- Reduce soil erosion
- Create wetlands
- Maintain healthy watersheds
- Improve grazing
- Increase production receipts
- Retain plant cover
- Plan conservation goals
- Contain animal waste
- Enhance your land
- Stay informed

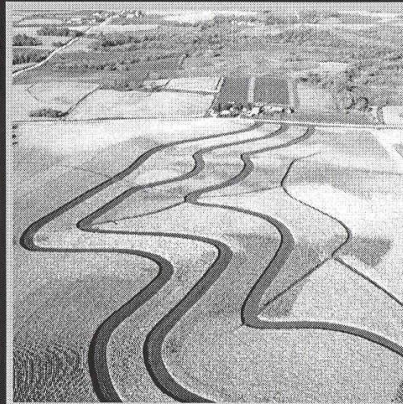
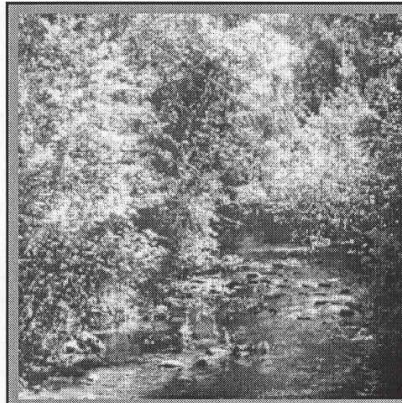


- Integrate manure management
- Rotate crops
- Practice pesticide management
- Apply nutrient management
- Provide protection filters
- Seek technical advice
- Conduct weed control
- Plant wildlife food
- Use irrigation scheduling
- Change tillage practices



Stream Protection

Partnership



Riparian Buffer

Contour Buffer

For help, contact:
Marion Soil & Water Conservation District
650 Hawthorne Ave SE, Suite #130
Salem, OR 97301
503-391-9927

What is a Conservation Plan?

- A voluntary conservation plan is a tool to help you manage your land profitably while protecting natural resources on your lands.
- The choice to develop or not develop a conservation plan is yours - it is a voluntary process. You make the decisions. You implement the plan. You are responsible for actions and natural resource management on your lands. It does not provide public access to your property. You control right of entry and use. All of the information developed by you belongs to you. Conservation planners provide you with technical assistance to develop and implement your plan.
- A conservation plan process consists of nine steps listed below and is relatively complex. This guide does not result in a complete plan. It will assist you in preliminary self assessment and fact gathering about your land.
- You will need to commit to the process in order for it to work.
- After you have completed this preliminary self assessment, contact a resource conservationist with your local service center of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), or Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). They will assist you, or you may employ a qualified private consultant to complete a plan. The plan developed will describe conservation practices you select to manage natural resources such as erosion, wastes, irrigation, and near-stream areas. An implementation schedule will be determined. The Conservation District will review the plan. Resource management practices will be implemented by you.



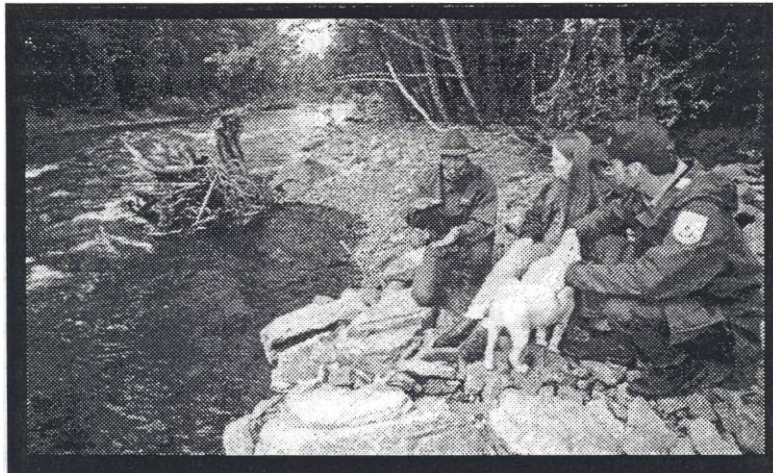
Benefits of a Conservation Plan

- Saves money over the long term as your land becomes more productive.
- Ensures better natural resource quality for you, your animals, and your neighbors.
- Increases your property value.
- Enhances open space and wildlife habitat.
- Improves animal health.
- Contributes to plant health and vigor for desired uses.
- Makes your place more attractive and promotes good neighbor relations.
- Promotes health and safety of your family.

Conservation Planning Process

Conservation planning implies a change in your management. Physical or structural practices are designed to accelerate and facilitate the management changes. These are the steps and processes that you need to be involved with in the planning process.

1. Identify Resource Problems
2. Identify Your Objectives
3. Inventory Resources
4. Analyze Resource Inventory
5. Develop Alternative Solutions
6. Evaluate Alternative Solutions
7. Make Your Decisions
8. Implement Plan
9. Evaluate Plan Success and Adjust As Necessary



The Conservation Partnership

Your Responsibilities:

- Provide access to property
- "Walk" the property with planner
- Participate in each planning process step
- Voluntarily follow conservation plan
- Choose and apply conservation practices
- Monitor effects and re-plan if necessary

Planner Responsibilities:

- Develop conservation plan with you
- Provide technical assistance
- Provide information about possible financial assistance
- Assist you with monitoring progress and providing documentation
- Evaluate monitoring and provide re-planning technical assistance if necessary

Landowner/Operator Name: _____

Phone: _____

Site Location Address: _____

Step 1 SET OBJECTIVES

List important items that you feel will advance your property to what you want it to be in the next few years. Set reasonable objectives that can be reached by achievable steps. If you need space for additional narrative, simply include additional sheets. Example goals: increase organic % in soils, improve forage, protect or restore wildlife habitat, increase yields, etc.

Natural Resources

Production and Economic

Quality of Life

Other Objectives

Step 2 RESOURCE CONCERNS

	Examples	Concerns
Soil	Erosion, deposition, tilth, fertility, muddy paddocks,	
Water	Quality, quantity, drainage, dirty runoff, groundwater, flooding, waterways, domestic water source	
Air	Quality, condition, dust, smoke, chemical drift	
Plants	Site suitability, weeds, vigor /quality, stream vegetation, uneven grazing	
Animals	Wildlife habitat & mgmt., game, rare /declining species, domestic animal health & mgmt.	
Human	Economic, social, cultural, artifacts, historic, etc.	

Resource: The NRCS STEPS website has more in-depth and useful tools to identify and quantify resource concerns. Optional: download the relevant sheets and attach.

<http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/STEPS.html>

Step 3 INVENTORY

Please provide the following information. This helps planners develop alternative solutions to treat your resource concerns and reach the objectives you set in your conservation plan. Think of a normal year and try to provide average numbers characteristic of your operation.

Field	Acres	Land Use (crop, pasture, forest, etc.)	Character (clayey, weedy, streams, etc.)

Machinery: Please provide a brief inventory of any tractors (include HP), implements, or other machinery available to you.

Irrigation: Please provide a brief description of your water rights (sources, storage, acres) & irrigation system (drip, linear, handline, big gun, etc.)

Crops:

Crop & Field #	Avg. Yield	Typical Rotation	Grazed ?

Fertilizer:

Fields /Acres	Crop	Type of applied Commercial Fertilizer (ex: 10-10-10) or manure	Lbs/ac

-Please provide planner with most recent soil test results if available-

Chemicals:

Pesticide	Crop/ acres	Target pest	Rate/ acre	Date/ method of application

Chemical Storage: Please describe your chemical storage system, location and disposal

Livestock:

Livestock type	Number/ Avg. weight	Grazing system/ # days held/ water source	Supplemental Feed

Manure Storage: Please describe your manure storage and applications

Control of land: Please describe any easements, agreements or contracts that could limit land management options:

What's Next?

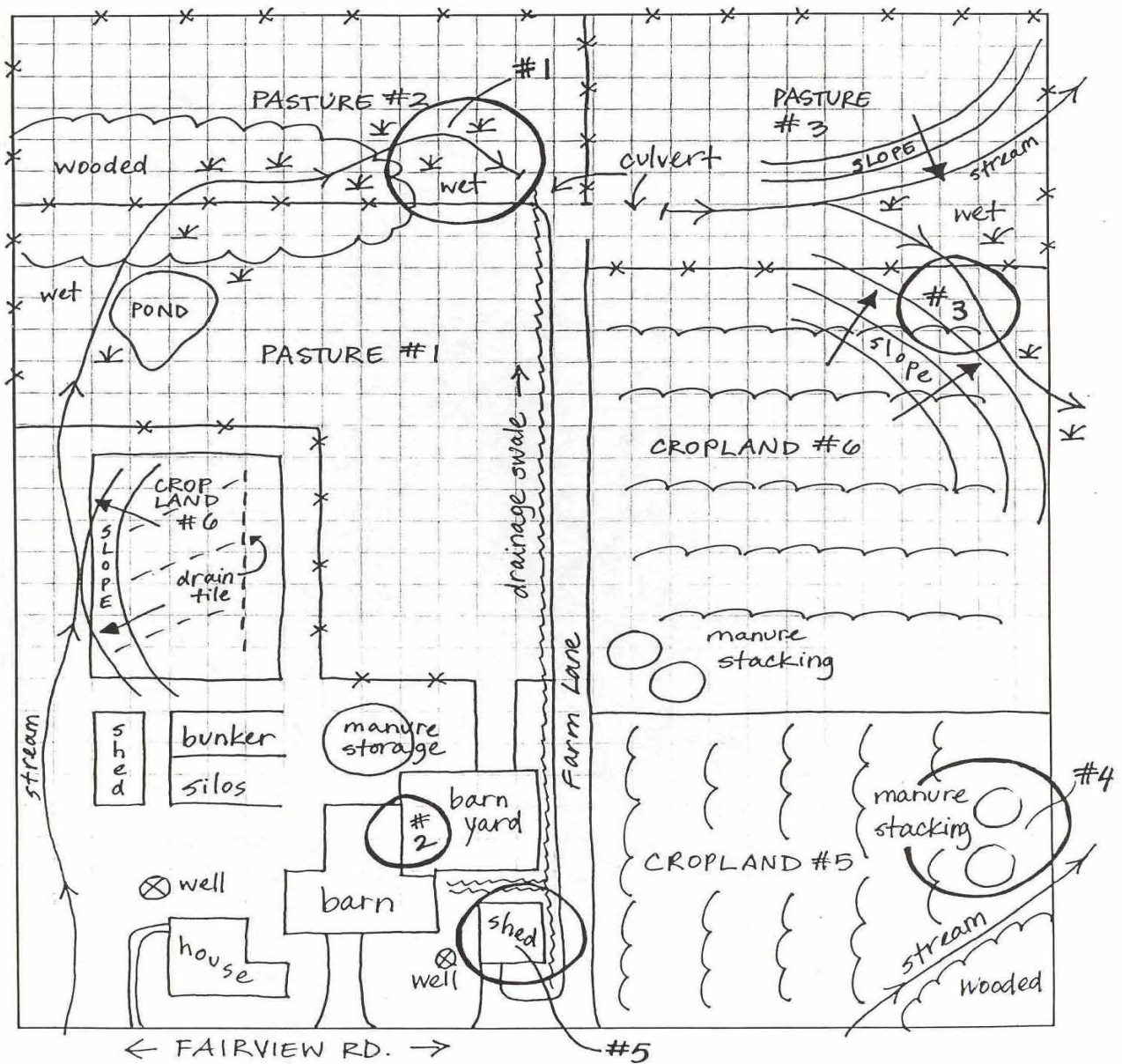
Congratulations! You have started a voluntary conservation plan. A more detailed description of your resource problems and some of the conservation practices specific to your land will be prepared by you and your conservationist or consultant, who will assist you in developing management strategies for your resource concerns. You make the decisions about what to do on your land. Assistance is available to determine ecological and economic impacts, install solutions, and monitor results. The Directors of your local Soil & Water Conservation District will review your plan to make sure it is feasible and practical. If you so choose, we look forward to working with you!

Farm Map

A farm map helps to identify features and uses of your land. Your conservation planner will utilize your base map and develop Conservation Plan and Alternatives maps and locate conservation practices. To download a color aerial photo of your property as a base, use the following website: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm> or you can use the sketch below as an example.

Sample Farm Map

You may want to draw a map of your farm as it is one of the most important features of a conservation plan. Here is an example to assist you.



Supplied from The New England Small Farm Institute "On-Farm Strategies to Protect Water Quality" workbook.