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Conservation Delivery Network





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Who We Are!

What is the Purpose of the Natural Resources Conservation Service?



NRCS is USDA's technical agency for providing assistance to private land managers, conservation districts, tribes, and other organizations in planning and carrying out conservation activities and programs



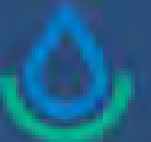
“Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and your cities will spring up again as if by magic; but destroy our farms and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country. “

William Jennings Bryan

What is a Conservation Plan



A conservation plan is the record of decisions and supporting information for treatment of a unit of land meeting planning criteria for one or more identified natural resource concerns as a result of the planning process.



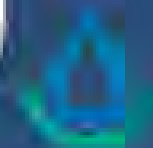
RMS vs Progressive Planning

Resource Management System (RMS)

— An RMS is a combination of conservation practices and resource management activities for the treatment of all identified resource concerns for SWAPAE+H resources that meets or exceeds the planning criteria in the FOTG.

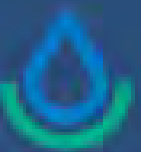
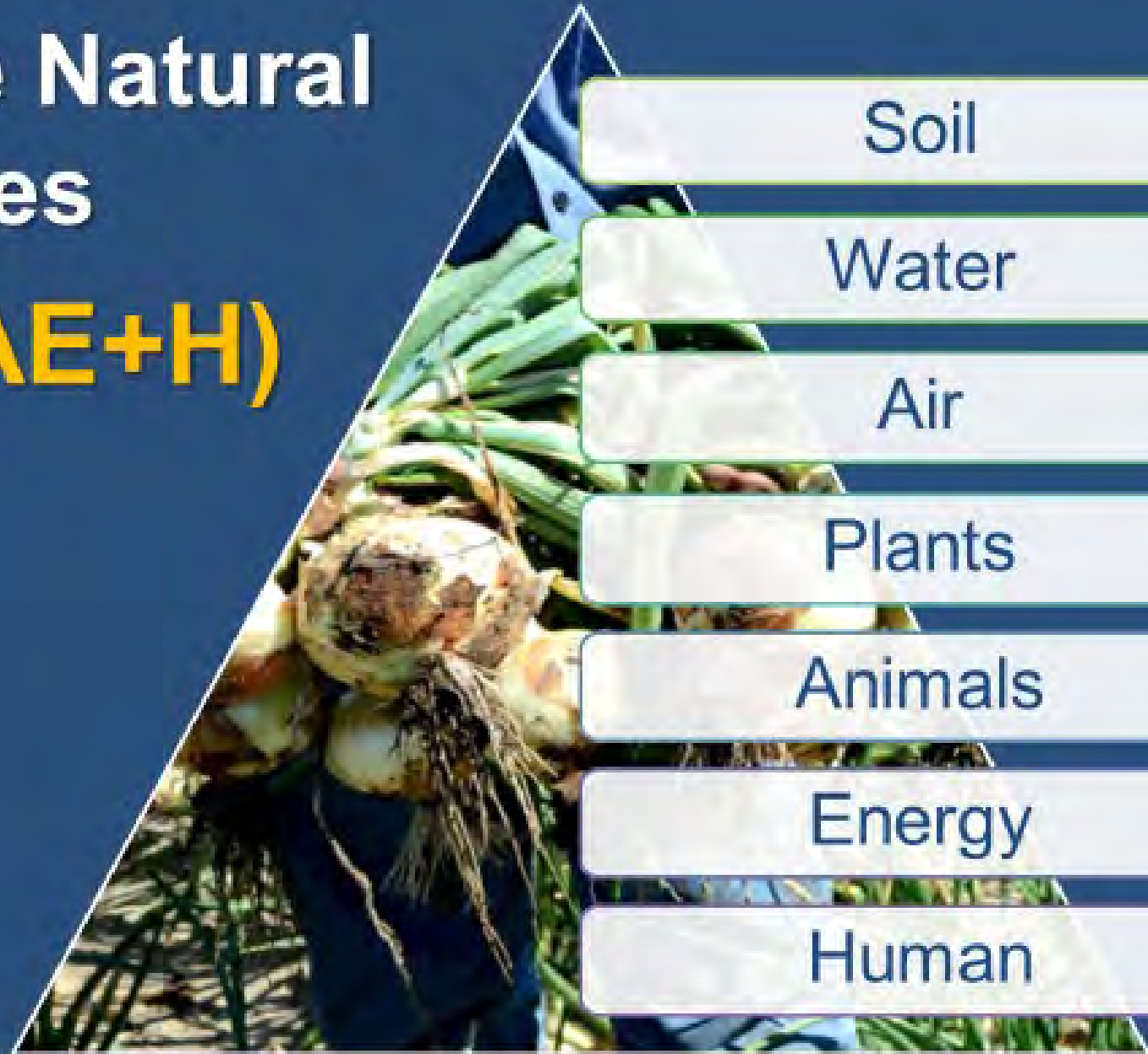
Progressive Planning and Implementation

— The conservation planning process is progressive when a client addresses only a limited number of resource concerns - or even a single resource concern alone, but does not achieve an RMS level of treatment. The rate of progress in moving to an RMS level will depend on the client's desires and constraints.

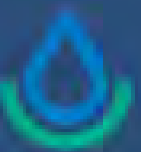
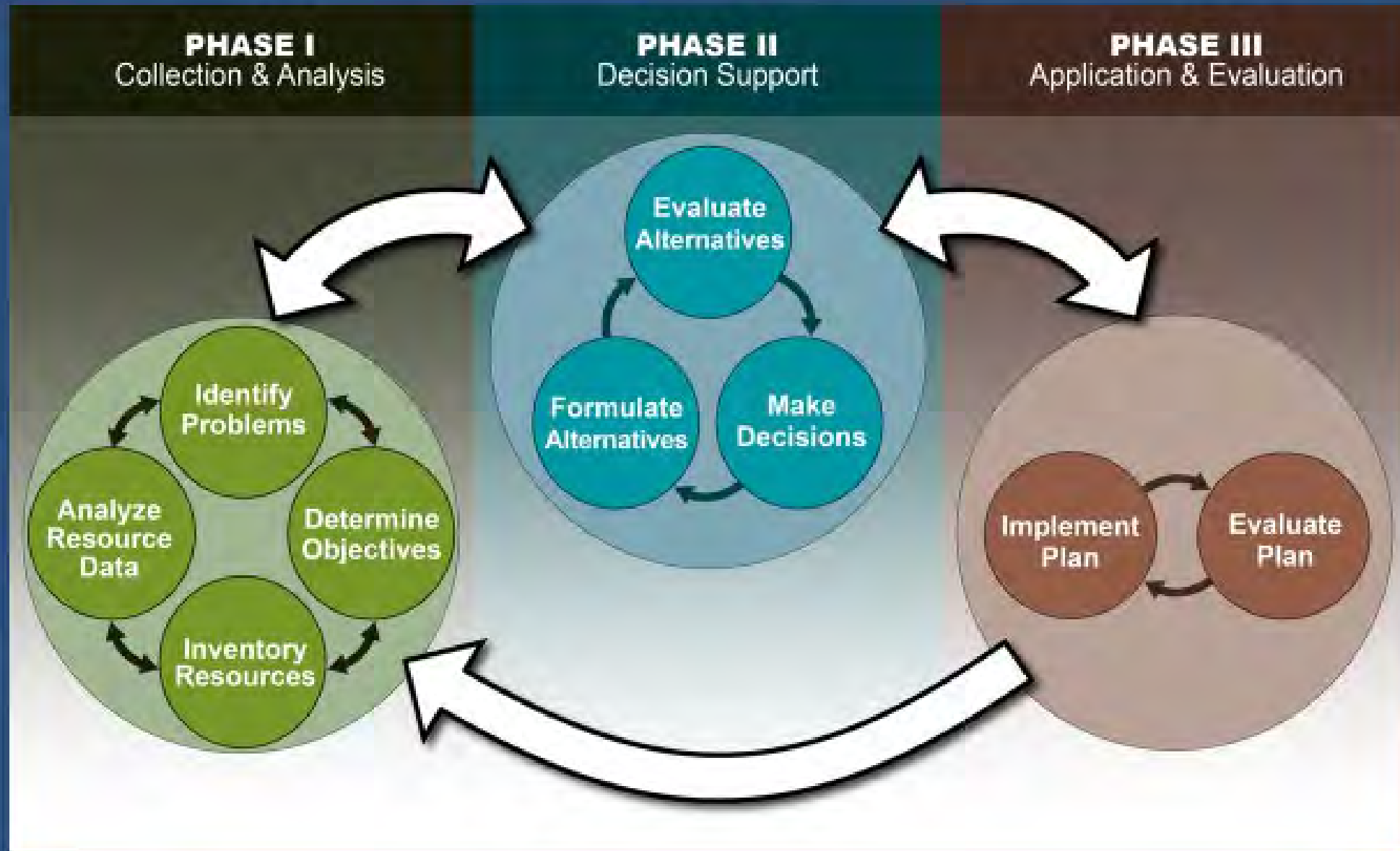


What are Natural Resources

(SWAPAE+H)



NRCS Planning Process



Step 1 - Identify Problems and Opportunities



Policy: National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) Part 600.21







2/3/2012





Step 2: Determine Objectives



Objectives

- **Whose objectives?**
- **Desired future conditions?**

Objectives



Establish relationship with client



Identify the planning area



Identify decision maker(s)



Identify problems & opportunities



Document, document, document





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Step 3: Resource Inventory

A wide-angle photograph of a rural landscape. The foreground shows a grassy field with some rocks. In the middle ground, there are rolling green hills, a line of trees, and a red barn. The sky is clear and blue.

What Do We Inventory – SWAPAE + H

Soil

Water

Air

Plants

Animals

Energy

+

Human









Step 4: Analyze Resource Data

Policy: National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) Part 600.24



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Producer sees: “I need water for my cattle...”
NRCS sees: “..did we miss something else?”



Phase II - Decision Support

Step 5 – Formulating Alternatives

Plan A
Plan B





06/28/2013 08:24









— EVALUATE

Step 6 – Evaluate Alternatives

Policy: National Planning Procedures
Handbook (NPPH) Part 600.26

— ASSESS



Why?

- **Alternatives must;**
 - Achieve client's objectives and NRCS' planning policy requirements
 - Include alternatives to solve identified resource concerns by meeting planning criteria.
 - Take advantage of opportunities
 - Prevent or lessen the possibility of additional problems occurring
 - Will not have a negative effect on the human environment
- **Provide client information needed to select desired alternative.**





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Step 7 – Make Decisions



Lesson Objectives



- Explain alternatives to your client
- Support clients making decisions
- Prepare plan documents
- Deliver plan to the client, explain it, and request signature
- Explain next follow-up, or next implementation steps to client

Be prepared to carry out these five parts of Step 7



Role of the Planner: Phase III, Step 8

Implement the Plan





Step 8 – Implement the Plan

- Implementing the plan includes providing **technical assistance** to:
 - Install conservation practices
 - Obtain needed permits, funding, land rights
 - Complete topo surveys, final designs, practice layout
 - Conduct inspections for structural practices
 - A review of needed operation, maintenance, and management
- If the client is interested in **financial assistance**, consider specific program requirements and deadlines.



Step 9 – Evaluate the Plan

Conservation planning is an **ongoing process** that continues after the plan has been implemented

Continued onsite contact with the client:

- Evaluate operation and maintenance needs
- Determine if management systems and practices are performing properly
- Determine if client's and NRCS's objectives are met





2/3/2012



4/7/2013



9/26/2018

Hugh Hammond Bennett identified the principles of conservation planning in his text, *Elements of Soil Conservation*. According to Bennett, an effective conservation planner must adhere to the following principles:

- Consider the needs and capabilities of each acre within the plan
- Consider the client's facilities, machinery, and economic situation
- Incorporate the client's willingness to try new practices
- Consider the land's relationship to the entire farm, ranch, or watershed
- Ensure the conservationist's presence out on the land



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The **human**
considerations
often have the
most influence on
a clients decision





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Natural Resources Conservation Service

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