

**Part 620, Subpart A**  
**NHCP Exhibit 1**  
**Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Template**



United States Department of Agriculture

[Practice Code]-CPS-1

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**NAME**

**Code xxx**

**(unit)**

**DEFINITION**

Briefly describe the conservation practice and/or the technology delivered by the conservation practice. Avoid including how the practice functions or is implemented in this section.

**PURPOSES**

Provide a bulleted list of the primary conservation reasons why the conservation practice is applied.

- Relate each purpose to one or more resource concerns that can be addressed by the technology in the conservation practice standard (CPS). Use the introductory phrase: "Use this practice to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:" For example:
  - Reduce sheet and rill erosion (nonfacilitating practice).
  - Facilitate the reduction of sheet and rill erosion (facilitating practice).
- Provide an example of a practice application, if needed for clarity.
- Do not include secondary purposes in this section.
- Do not describe how the practice will resolve the resource concern.

States may add a purpose by requesting a variance as outlined in Title 450, General Manual, Part 401, Subpart B, "Variances" (450-GM-401-B). States may delete any purpose that addresses a resource concern that has not been identified in that State.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

Describe the land uses where the practice can be applied and site-specific conditions that necessitate implementation of the practice. Describe site conditions that may affect practice suitability or function. If needed, include specific situations where the practice should not be applied.

NRCS reviews and periodically updates conservation practice standards. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service [State office](#) or visit the [Field Office Technical Guide](#).  
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Month Year

**CRITERIA**

Support each purpose with appropriate criteria. A “General Criteria” section is used to address criteria common to all purposes. If there are requirements that apply only to a specific purpose or to a specific application of the practice, provide an “Additional Criteria” section. List the important requirements including any necessary minimum and maximum limits.

If there is a specific tool or procedure that must be used, provide a complete reference in the “References” section. Place long lists, such as seeding information, in supplementary guidance and reference that document here. If another CPS has applicable criteria, that CPS may be referenced in this section.

The initial reference to other CPSs will have the format: NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) [practice name] (Code [practice code number]). The acronym may be used for subsequent references.

Unless a State obtains a variance, the State may not delete any criteria or make criteria less restrictive than the national CPS. However, the State may delete any additional criteria associated with a deleted purpose.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

This section includes secondary purposes or additional details that could enhance application of a primary or secondary purpose. The “Considerations” section is the one section that contains optional information for use by the planner and designer. States may add, delete, or edit considerations based on identified needs.

**PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Provide a bulleted list of the information that is required to describe what is being implemented and how the work is to be done. The information must communicate the requirements for implementing the practice, (e.g., type, amount, or quality of materials, timing or sequence of implementation activities, or methods to be used) and may include construction plans, drawings, implementation requirements, specifications, or other similar documents.

List the required planning and design information that will be used to support the plans and specifications (e.g., calculations for size of pipe, quantities of seed, etc.) in the statement of work instead of in this document.

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Provide a bulleted list of the required management and corrective actions that contribute to the longevity and function of the conservation practice in the operation and maintenance plan given to the landowner/client who will be managing the practice.

**REFERENCES**

List the technical references used to develop the CPS or that are cited in the CPS. States may not delete any of these references. States may add additional references.

References should be formatted as the example below. Inclusion of a hyperlink to a website is discouraged because website addresses can change after the CPS is published.

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Reference examples (listed alphabetically):

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). 2017. AASHTO Load and Resistance Factor Rating Bridge Design Specifications, 8th Edition. Washington, D.C. (**Note:** Use AASHTO in additional listings.)

ASTM D5521/D5521M. 2018. Standard Guide for Development of Groundwater Monitoring Wells in Granular Aquifers. ASTM International, West Conshohocken, PA, D5521/D5521M-18, <http://www.astm.org>. (**Note:** ASTM is the designated name—no need to spell out).

Corwin, D., J. Rhoades, and J. Simunek. 2007. Leaching requirement for soil salinity control: Steady-state versus transient models. USDA Agricultural Research Service. Agricultural Water Management 90. Riverside, CA.

USDA NRCS. 2012. National Engineering Handbook (Title 210), Part 623, Chapter 4, Surface Irrigation. Washington, D.C. <https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/>.

USDA NRCS. 2011. Agronomy Technical Note No. 5 (Title 190), Pest Management in the Conservation Planning Process. Washington, D.C. <https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/>.

**Practice Name, Code, Unit, and Definition are established nationally and are not to be altered or supplemented by States.**

**Document changes made to the CPS according to the procedures in 450-NHCP, Chapter 1, Exhibit 5, “Documentation Files.”**

**Do not include references to or requirements for financial assistance or easement programs in a CPS.**