

## **STATEMENT OF WORK**

### **Soil Health Management Plan (116)**

**These deliverables apply to Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) 116 – Soil Health Management Plan, as a component of a conservation plan. This plan documents soil health concerns related to the physical, biological, and chemical properties of the soil. The purpose of the plan is to identify and document soil health resource concerns, problems, and opportunities**

**This conservation activity plan applies to cropland**

**Resource concerns considered during CAP 116 development are:**

- Soil organic matter depletion
- Compaction
- Soil organism habitat loss or degradation
- Aggregate instability
- Concentration of salts or other chemicals
- Plant productivity and health

## **PLAN**

---

### **Deliverables:**

1. **Two copies (hardcopy or electronic) of the conservation activity plan must be developed—one for the client and one for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office. At the client's request, Technical Service Provider (TSP) can deliver NRCS's copy to the NRCS Field Office. The client's copy must include the client's preferred alternative and implementation requirements, unless the client requests other documents from the CAP. The NRCS copy must include all items identified in the Statement of Deliverables.**
2. **The conservation activity plan (CAP) must include:**
  - a. **Part-1 of the CAP**
    - i. Cover page, including name, address, phone numbers of client and TSP; total acres of the plan, signature blocks for the TSP, client, and NRCS acceptance.
  - b. **Part-2 of the CAP**
    - i. Conservation Assistance Notes (NRCS-CPA-6) or other format that includes all components of the CPA-6.
      - (1) Document the client's objectives.
      - (2) Document each interaction with the client, include notes and results of that interaction, date, and initials of the TSP.
      - (3) Document each site visit, activity in the field, results of each site visit, all parties present, date, and initials of the TSP.
    - ii. Any correspondence between the TSP and the client relating to the development of the CAP.
  - c. **Part-3 of the CAP**
    - i. Maps to be included in the CAP are:
      - (1) General location map of the planning area
      - (2) CAP map (this may consist of several maps to account for the entire planning area). This map will specifically include:
        - (a) Boundary lines for the Planning Land Units (PLUs) with labels (name, number, or both). A PLU is a unique geographic area, defined by a polygon,

## **STATEMENT OF WORK**

### **Soil Health Management Plan (116)**

- that has common land use and is owned, operated, or managed by the same client or clients. The PLU is the minimum unit for planning.
- (b) Land-use designation and any applicable modifiers such as irrigation for each PLU as appropriate.
  - (c) Acreage for each PLU.
  - (d) Location of planned and applied conservation practices, using NRCS map symbols (see Title 170, National Map Symbol Handbook, Part 601).
  - (e) If the planning area includes nonprivate lands, such as Federal or Tribal lands, a land status map must be included to display land ownership categories (Private, State Trust, BLM, Tribal, and Territorial, etc.).
- (3) Resource maps of the PLU
- (a) Soils maps, and other resource maps as applicable.
- ii. At a minimum, all maps developed for the CAP will include:
- (1) Title block showing:
- (a) Map title.
  - (b) Client's name (individual or business).
  - (c) Prepared with assistance from USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service.
  - (d) Assisted By [TSP planner's name].
  - (e) Name of applicable conservation district, county, and State.
  - (f) Date prepared.
  - (g) Map scale.
  - (h) Information needed to locate the planning area, such as geographic coordinates, public land survey coordinates, etc.
  - (i) North arrow.
  - (j) Appropriate map symbols and a map symbol legend on the map or as an attachment.
  - (k) Horizontal topology control for PLU in the active PLU layer.
    - (i) No overlapping of adjacent PLU boundaries (polygons)
    - (ii) No stacking of PLUs (polygons)

#### **d. Part 4 of the CAP**

- i. A record of preferred alternative, which includes:
- (1) PLU label (name, number, or both).
  - (2) NRCS practice name and code.
  - (3) Amount to be applied.
  - (4) Brief description of the planned practice (practice narrative).
  - (5) Date the planned practice is scheduled to be implemented.
  - (6) As needed, applicable "Conservation Practice Overview" sheets or other prepared material.
  - (7) A list of commercially available materials to purchase for improving soil health for each PLU (cover crop seeds, mulches, amendments).
  - (8) Operation and maintenance agreements and procedures.
  - (9) Available maps, sketches, and materials lists, and designs resulting from the planning process that will be useful to the client in implementing the plan.

#### **e. Part-5 of the CAP**

- i. Resource inventory and assessment documentation.

## **STATEMENT OF WORK**

### **Soil Health Management Plan (116)**

- (1) Management history, current management and field observations, including:
    - (a) Predominant soils
    - (b) Crops and crop rotation
    - (c) Tillage, planting and harvest equipment and methods
    - (d) Typical nutrient program including forms, rates and timing of applications
    - (e) Typical pesticides used
    - (f) Kind/class of livestock and number,
    - (g) Cover crop use, including species, and planting and termination methods
    - (h) Whether soil water management is a routine concern (i.e. field too wet or too dry at planting)
    - (i) Whether water ponds or runs off during or immediately after rainfall events
    - (j) An inventory of soil amendments used (such as compost, manure, biosolids, gypsum, lime, etc.)
  - (2) Results of a State-approved in-field soil health assessment with the following guidelines:
    - (a) A separate assessment should be conducted for at least 2 CMU's.
    - (b) A minimum of 3 representative locations should be assessed in each of the CMU's to determine "average" management area conditions.
  - (3) Calculations from current erosion prediction technology used to estimate SCI
  - (4) Traditional laboratory soil test results, including pH and electroconductivity
  - (5) Laboratory soil health assessments as described in Soil Health Technical Note No. 450-03 Recommended Soil Health Indicators and Associated Laboratory Procedures
    - (a) Basic assessment: soil organic carbon, aggregation, bioavailable nitrogen, carbon mineralization (respiration), and permanganate oxidizable carbon (active carbon).
    - (b) A separate assessment should be conducted for at least 2 CMU's.
    - (c) A minimum of 10 representative locations should be sub-sampled and combined to make one assessment sample in each of the CMU's.
  - (6) A comprehensive water quality analysis to properly manage irrigation systems and crop salt tolerances (when appropriate)
  - (7) Other appropriate prediction and screening tools when applicable (Pasture Condition Scoresheet, Win-PST)
- ii. Implementation requirements:
- (1) Implementation requirements will be developed for preferred alternative nonstructural conservation practices. Recordkeeping and operation and maintenance requirements must be clearly stated.
  - (2) Cost estimates developed for preferred alternative nonstructural conservation practices and materials needed, including amendments and quantities.
  - (3) Develop and provide all supporting documentation, including any additional items required by the State Conservationist.

#### **f. Part-6**

- i. Reserved

Note: *State-Specific Deliverables may be added as appropriate to account for State-Specific statutes and/or regulations.*

## **STATEMENT OF WORK Soil Health Management Plan (116)**

### **REFERENCES**

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. National Planning Procedures Handbook.

---

<https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/OpenNonWebContent.aspx?content=36483.wba>

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Field Office Technical Guide.
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2011. National Agronomy Manual. 190-V. 4th Ed.  
[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1043210.pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1043210.pdf)
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. National Environmental Compliance Handbook.
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Cultural Resources Handbook
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Title170, National Map Symbol Handbook, Part 601
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Soil Health Technical Note No. 450-03. Recommended Soil Health Indicators and Associated Laboratory Procedures
- Note: *State-Specific references may be added as appropriate.*