

## **Part 307 – Instructions for Implementing National Program and Landscape Conservation Initiatives**

### **Subpart A – Purpose and Background**

#### **307.0 Purpose**

This instruction provides State Conservationists (STCs) and Caribbean and Pacific Islands Areas Directors with initiative descriptions and policy guidance for national program and landscape conservation initiatives. Detailed program ranking and funding guidance can be found under the National Instruction 440-310 “NRCS Program Ranking through Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART).”

#### **307.1 Background and Policy References**

A. To support efficient delivery of these focused opportunities to eligible producers, this instruction consolidates information on certain national program and landscape conservation initiatives to be offered through EQIP and AMA. STCs are to use this instruction to find descriptions, resources, and business tool funding information for the included initiatives.

B. This instruction provides relevant information for STCs to support program initiatives. Additional guidance can be found in applicable policy and instructions. Delivery and management of these initiatives are subject to all agency program rules and policies including—

- (1) Title 440, Conservation Programs Manual (CPM), Part 530, “Working Lands Conservation Programs Manual”
- (2) NI 440-310 “NRCS Program Ranking through Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART)”

#### **307.2 General Instructions**

A. In order to support approved national program and landscape conservation initiatives, STCs should utilize the documents within this instruction to learn about the purpose of the initiatives.

B. To obtain information on where questions can be referred in relation to the initiatives, STCs should utilize the listed information on each initiative’s exhibit.

C. Initiative descriptions and information provided in exhibits should be utilized in conjunction with NI 440-310, where STCs can find information on the ranking of initiatives.

D. In order to support approved national program and landscape conservation initiatives, STCs should utilize the following definitions to be consistent across initiatives:

- (1) **Approved Conservation Practices – Core and Supporting Practices.**—The initiative exhibits identify conservation practices that are approved to support each national program or landscape conservation initiative. For purposes of this instruction, if required, core or supporting practices are used for an approved initiative, the following definitions apply:

## Title 440 – National Instruction

- **Required Practice.**—A conservation practice listed in the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) that is required to be offered in a State to support a national program or landscape conservation initiative.
- **Core Practice.**—A conservation practice listed in the FOTG that is essential to address the natural resource concerns identified by an initiative.
- **Supporting Practice.**—A conservation practice listed in the FOTG that may be needed to facilitate the implementation of a core practice or, along with other approved practice, needed to address the natural resource concerns identified by the initiative.