

# **FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE**

## **SECTION III** Part B

### *RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM Guidance*

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

FLORIDA

## Table of Contents

Introduction Resource Management Systems	Page 1
Definitions	Page 2
RMS by Land Use	Page 4
Confined Livestock	Page 5
Crop	Page 6
Forest	Page 7
Grazed Forest	Page 8
Grazed Range	Page 9
Hay	Page 10
Headquarters	Page 11
Mined	Page 12
Native or Naturalized Pasture	Page 13
Natural Area	Page 14
Pasture	Page 15
Recreation	Page 16
Urban	Page 17
Water	Page 18
Watershed Protection	Page 19
Wildlife	Page 20



## **Introduction Resource Management Systems**

NRCS provides technical assistance to decision-makers to protect, maintain, and improve soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources and related human considerations. The guidelines outlined in Section III are to be used to establish minimum treatment levels necessary to adequately address natural resource concerns and human considerations. These concerns and considerations are identified during the planning process for the development of a Resource Management System (RMS), Conservation System or Conservation Treatment. National policy pertaining to this guidance can be found in General Manual (GM) Title 450, Part 401 – Technical Guides, Amendment 11, May 2002.

NRCS provides conservation planning and technical assistance to clients (individuals, groups, and units of government). The conservation planner, through on-site visits and interviews with the client, identifies resource concerns and determines considerations to be addressed in the conservation plan. The client implements the conservation plan to protect, conserve, and enhance natural resources (soil, water, air, plants, and animals) within their social and economic interests.

Conservation planning is a process to solve and manage natural resource concerns. This process integrates economic, social, and ecological considerations to meet private and public needs. Conservation planning emphasizes desired future conditions, helps improve natural resources management, minimizes conflict, and addresses problems and opportunities. Conservation planning involves more than considering individual resources or parts of a system or landscape, it focuses on the complete natural systems and ecological processes that sustain natural resources and agricultural production of food and fiber. National policy pertaining to conservation planning can be found in General Manual (GM) Title 180, Part 409.

A RMS is a combination of conservation practices and resource management, which provides treatment of all resource concerns for soil, water, air, plants, and animals to that ensure that they meet or exceed the quality criteria for resource sustainability as described within this section. The objective of the NRCS conservation planning process, is to help each client balance natural resource concerns with their economic and social needs, while achieving the RMS level of treatment within the planning unit, when and wherever possible.

The level of treatment and desired conservation effects described within quality criteria are stated in qualitative or quantitative terms as appropriate. If a client is unable to implement the necessary conservation practices or management, i.e., level of treatment, to attain a RMS, progressive planning should be provided as long as the client shows interest and is willing to work toward achieving a higher level of resource management. Guidance pertaining to the conservation planning process, progressive planning and RMS is found in the National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH).



## Definitions

### **Benchmark Condition**

The present condition or situation used as a point of reference to measure change in resource conditions resulting from conservation treatment.

### **Common Resource Areas**

A geographical area where resource concerns, problems, and treatment needs are similar. Landscape conditions, soil, climate, human considerations, and other natural resource information are used to determine the geographical boundaries of the common resource area.

### **Conservation Management Unit (CMU)**

A field, group of fields, or other land units of the same land use and having similar treatment needs and planned management. CMU is a grouping by the planner to simplify planning activities and facilitate development of resource management systems. A CMU has defined boundaries, such as fence, drainage, vegetation, topography, soil lines, or land use.

### **Conservation Plan**

A record of the client's decisions and supporting information for treatment of a unit of land or water as a result of the planning process that meets the FOTG quality criteria for each natural resource (soil, water, air, plant, and animal), including economic and social considerations. A conservation plan includes decisions that meet the required level of treatment for a specific program or initiative if the client is made aware of alternative treatments, but is not ready to commit to a Resource Management System level of treatment. The plan describes the schedule of operations and activities needed to solve the identified natural resource concerns and problems.

### **Conservation System**

A combination of conservation practices and resource management that achieve a specific level of treatment of soil, water, air, plant, and/or animal resource concerns.

### **Conservation Treatment**

Any and all conservation practices, management measures, and works of improvement that have the purpose of alleviating resource concerns, solving or reducing the severity of natural resource use problems, or taking advantage of resource opportunities.

### **Cultural Resources**

Evidence of activities and accomplishments of people including remnants of past cultures and some unique resources associated with present day cultures. The most common are sites, buildings, and objects that have scientific, historical, or archaeological value.

**Land Use**

A term used by NRCS to identify the client's intended use of the land.

**Progressive Planning**

A point in the planning process where the client is ready willing and able to make some but not all of the decisions necessary to achieve resource sustainability for soil, water air, plants and animals.

**Quality Criteria**

Quantitative or qualitative statements of the treatment level required to achieve a Resource Management System for identified resource considerations for a particular land use.

**Resource Management System**

A combination of conservation practices and resource management, for the treatment of all identified resource concerns for soil, water, air, plants, and animals, that meets or exceeds the quality criteria in the FOTG for resource sustainability.

**Resource Consideration**

Identified elements or conditions of the natural resources that may be sensitive to change by natural forces or human activity (e.g. soil erosion, water quality, etc).

**Resource Concern**

A subset of a resource consideration that specifically identifies or narrows the scope of analysis of a resource consideration. Concerns are identified by predictive models, direct measurements, observation or client objectives.

**Resource Problem**

A condition related to one or more resource concerns that does not meet the minimum acceptable quality criteria shown in the FOTG, Section III.



## RMS by Land Use

Conservation planning is the process of assisting clients to solve natural resource concerns. When all 5 resources soil, water, air, plants and animals (SWAPA) meet the minimum quality criteria defined in the previous part of Section III, we consider the client to be operating at an Resource Management System (RMS) level of management. This is accomplished by providing advice, technical assistance, and financial incentives that leads to informed decision-making and wise use of natural resources. We identify current or benchmark condition of natural resources using predictive models, resource inventories and observations. We identify resource problems and provide management alternatives to solve the resource concern(s). The client reviews their conservation planning alternatives with the planner, and then selects the conservation practices and/or management applications that best meet their management goals and conservation needs.

Considerations of social and economic factors referred to as "human considerations", are important and should be addressed early in the planning process. Economic and social issues are important in formulating an RMS plan since they are closely linked to human behavior.

To ensure that the minimum level of conservation treatment and/or management will be applied to allow for sustainability of all resources, a minimum level of NRCS conservation practice implementation and/or management is required to achieve an RMS level plan. These conservation practices are identified as "**Essential**", and MUST be included within all conservation plans according to land use and installed and/or applied according to the NRCS conservation practice standards located in Section IV of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

A second level of conservation practices, "**Facilitating**", are provided to assist the conservation planner and their clients to select applications and management that will, accelerate, assist, and/or enhance the installation or success of implementing the Essential conservation practices. Facilitating conservation practices may be implemented to address resource concerns independently or in combination with Essential conservation practices, but they are not required to attain a RMS level of management.

In Florida, NRCS recognizes the following land uses for which Quality Criteria, Essential and Facilitating conservation practices have been designated to achieve a RMS level plan.

1. Confined Livestock
2. Crop
3. Forest
4. Grazed Forest
5. Grazed Range
6. Hay
7. Headquarters
8. Mined
9. Native or Naturalized Pasture
10. Natural Area
11. Pasture
12. Recreation
13. Urban
14. Water
15. Watershed Protection
16. Wildlife



## Confined Livestock

**Definition:** A land use dedicated to the facilitation and production of high intensity animal agriculture in a containment facility where nutritional requirements are obtained from other lands or feed sources. (Includes areas such as milking barns, holding lots, heavy use areas, waste treatment lagoons, waste storage facility, composting facilities, feed mixing facilities, poultry houses, farrowing houses, and other equipment/feed storage facilities)

**RMS Quality Criteria:** An RMS is achieved on Confined Livestock land when quality criteria is met for each of the 5 natural resources (SWAPA) and when human concerns associated with the individual client and his/her operation are assessed. Operation is in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and/or policies.

### Essential Conservation Practices:

#### All Wastes Removed

Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561)  
Manure Transfer (Code 634)  
Waste Storage Facility (Code 313) and/or Waste Treatment Lagoon (Code 359)  
Watering Facility (Code 614) or other dependable source of livestock water.  
Waste Utilization (Code 633)

#### Wastes Utilized On-Farm

Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561)  
Manure Transfer (Code 634)  
Nutrient Management (Code 590)  
Waste Storage Facility (Code 313) and/or Waste Treatment Lagoon (Code 359)  
Waste Utilization (Code 633)  
Watering Facility (Code 614) or other dependable source of livestock water.

### Facilitating Conservation Practices:

Access Road (Code 560)	Livestock Shade Structure (Code 717)
Animal Trails and Walkways (Code 575)	Mole Drain (Code 482)
Closure of Waste Impoundments (Code 360)	Pest Management (Code 595)
Composting Facility (Code 317)	Pipeline (Code 516)
Constructed Wetland Code 656)	Pond (Code 378)
Critical Area Planting (Code 342)	Pond Sealing or Lining (Code 521)
Diversion (Code 362)	Prescribed Grazing (Code 528)
Drainage Water Management (Code 554)	Pumping Plant, (Code 533)
Fence (Code 382)	Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)
Field Border (Code 386)	Roof Runoff Structure (Code 558)
Filter Strip (Code 393)	Sediment Basin (Code 350)
Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410)	Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (Code 796)
Irrigation System , Sprinkler (Code 442)	Stormwater Wet Detention/Chem. Treatment System (Code 787)
Irrigation Water Mgt. (Code 449)	Stream Crossing (Code 585)
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline (Code 430)	Structure for Water Control (Code 587)
Land Clearing (Code 460)	Underground Outlet (Code 620)
Livestock Cooling Pond (Code 779)	Use Exclusion (Code 472)
Land Clearing (Code 460)	Waste Treatment Strip (Code 635)
	Water and Sediment Control Basin (Code 638)
Livestock Cooling Pond (Code 779)	Water Well (Code 642)



## Crop

**Definition:** A land used primarily for the production of adapted, cultivated, crops for harvest, alone or in association with sod crops, includes fruit and nut production in groves and orchards, and ornamental/nursery crops.

**RMS Quality Criteria:** An RMS is achieved on Crop land when quality criteria is met for each of the 5 natural resources (SWAPA) and when human concerns associated with the individual client and his/her operation are assessed. Operation is in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and/or policies.

### Essential Conservation Practices:

<u>Cropland</u>	<u>Groves, Orchards &amp; Vineyards</u>	<u>Ornamental/Nursery</u>
Conservation Crop Rotation (Code 328)	Cover Crop ( Code 340)	Nutrient Management (Code 590)
Nutrient Management (Code 590)	Nutrient Management (Code 590)	Pest Management (Code 595)
Pest Management (Code 595)	Pest Management (Code 595)	

### Facilitating Conservation Practices:

Access Road (Code 560)	Irrigation System, Sprinkler (Code 442)
Agrichemical Handling Facility (Code 702)	Irrigation System, Surface & Subsurface (443)
Agrichemical Mixing Station (Code 703)	Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (Code 447)
Alley Cropping (Code 311)	Irrigation. Water Conveyance, Ditch & Canal Lining A, B & C (Code 428)
Bedding (Code 310)	Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline AA - HH (Code 430)
Contour Buffers ( Code 332)	Irrigation Water Management (Code 449)
Contour Farming (Code 330)	Lined Waterway or Outlet (Code 468)
Cover Crop (Code 340)	Mole Drain (Code 482)
Cross Wind Ridges (Code 589A)	Mulching (Code 484)
Cross Wind Trap Strips (Code 589C)	Pumping Plant (Code 533)
Critical Area Planting (Code 342)	Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)
Deep Tillage (Code 324)	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390)
Diversion (Code 362)	Residue Management (Code 329 A, B, C)
Drainage Water Management (Code 554)	Residue Management, Seasonal (Code 344)
Field Border (Code 386)	Row Arrangement (Code 557)
Filter Strip (Code 393)	Stripcropping (Code 585)
Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410)	Structure for Water Control (Code 587)
Grassed Waterway (Code 412)	Subsurface Drainage (Code 606)
Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561)	Surface Drainage, Field Ditch (Code 607)
Hedge Row Planting (Code 422)	Surface Drainage, Main or Lateral (Code 608)
Herbaceous Wind Barriers (Code 603)	Terrace (Code 600)
Irrigation Canal or Lateral (Code 320)	Underground Outlet (Code 620)
Irrigation Field Ditch (Code 388)	Vegetative Barrier (Code 601)
Irrigation Land Leveling (Code 464)	Water Well (Code 642)
Irrigation Regulating Reservoir (Code 552)	Waste Utilization (Code 633)
Irrigation Storage Reservoir (Code 436)	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Est. (Code 380)
Irrigation System, Microirrigation (Code 441)	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (Code 650)



## Forest

**Definition:** Land managed primarily for native or adapted trees with the goal to produce forest products.

**RMS Quality Criteria:** An RMS is achieved on Forest land when quality criteria is met for each of the 5 natural resources (SWAPA) and when human concerns associated with the individual client and his/her operation are assessed. Operation is in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and/or policies.

### Essential Conservation Practices:

Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666)

\* Forest Site Preparation (Code 490)

\* Tree and Shrub Establishment (Code 612)

\* *Only required on sites where the establishment of trees or shrubs are planned.*

### Facilitating Conservation Practices:

Access Road (Code 560)

Bedding (Code 310)

Brush Management (Code 314)

Critical Area Planting (Code 342)

Diversion (Code 362)

Fence (Code 382)

Filter Strip (Code 393)

Firebreak (Code 394)

Forest Trails & Landings (Code 655)

Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410)

Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561)

Mulching (Code 484)

Nutrient Management (Code 590)

Pond (Code 378)

Pond Sealing or Lining A, B, & C (Code 521)

Pest Management (Code 595)

Prescribed Burning (Code 338)

Prescribed Grazing (Code 528)

Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)

Streambank & Shoreline Protection (Code 580)

Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612)

Tree/Shrub Pruning (Code 660A)

Use Exclusion (Code 472)

Watering Facility (Code 614)

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644)

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)



## Grazed Forest

**Definition:** Forest land that produces understory vegetation that is used for the production of livestock.

**RMS Quality Criteria:** An RMS is achieved on Grazed Forest land when quality criteria is met for each of the 5 natural resources (SWAPA) and when human concerns associated with the individual client and his/her operation are assessed. Operation is in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and/or policies.

### Essential Conservation Practices:

Prescribed Grazing (Code 528)  
Watering Facility (Code 614) or other dependable source of livestock water.

### Facilitating Conservation Practices:

Access Road (Code 560)  
Animal Trails & Walkways (Code 575)  
Brush Management (Code 314)  
Critical Area Planting (Code 342)  
Diversion (Code 362)  
Fence (Code 382)  
Firebreak (Code 392)  
Filter Strip (Code 393)  
Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666)  
Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410)  
Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (Code 548)  
Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561)  
Pest Management (Code 595A)  
Pipeline (Code 516)  
Pond (Code 378)  
Pond Sealing or Lining A, B & C (Code 521)  
Prescribed Burning (Code 338)  
Pumping Plant (Code 533)  
Range Planting (Code 550)  
Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)  
Spring Development (Code 574)  
Streambank & Shoreline Protection (Code 580)  
Stream Crossing (Code 578)  
Structure for Water Control (Code 587)  
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)  
Water Well (Code 642)  
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644)



## Grazed Range

**Definition:** Land on which the historic climax plant community is predominantly grasses, grasslike plants, forbs or shrubs. Includes lands revegetated naturally or artificially when routine management of that vegetation is accomplished mainly through manipulation of grazing.

**RMS Quality Criteria:** An RMS is achieved on Grazed Range land when quality criteria is met for each of the 5 natural resources (SWAPA) and when human concerns associated with the individual client and his/her operation are assessed. Operation is in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and/or policies.

### Essential Conservation Practices:

Prescribed Burning (Code 338)  
Prescribed Grazing (Code 528)  
Watering Facility (Code 614) or other dependable source of livestock water.

### Facilitating Conservation Practices:

Access Road (Code 560)  
Animal Trails & Walkways (Code 575)  
Brush Management (Code 314)  
Critical Area Planting (Code 342)  
Diversion (Code 362)  
Fence (Code 382)  
Filter Strip (Code 393)  
Firebreak (Code 392)  
Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410)  
Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (Code 548)  
Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561)  
Livestock Shade Structure (Code 717)  
Pest Management (Code 595A)  
Pipeline (Code 516)  
Pond (Code 378)  
Pond Sealing or Lining A, B & C (Code 521)  
Pumping Plant (Code 533)  
Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)  
Spring Development (Code 574)  
Streambank & Shoreline Protection (Code 580)  
Stream Crossing (Code 578)  
Structure for Water Control (Code 587)  
Range Planting (Code 550)  
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)  
Water Well (Code 642)  
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644)



## Hay

**Definition:** Land managed primarily for the production of grasses, legumes, or comparatively fine-stemmed forbs cut and cured (dried) to preserve forage for later use as a livestock feed.

**RMS Quality Criteria:** An RMS is achieved on Hay land when quality criteria is met for each of the 5 natural resources (SWAPA) and when human concerns associated with the individual client and his/her operation are assessed. Operation is in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and/or policies.

### Essential Conservation Practices:

Forage Harvest Management (Code 511)  
Nutrient Management (Code 590)  
Pest Management (Code 595)

### Facilitating Conservation Practices:

Critical Area Planting (Code 342)	Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)
Diversion (Code 362)	Streambank & Shoreline Protection (Code 580)
Fence (Code 382)	Structure for Water Control (Code 587)
Filter Strip (Code 393)	Subsurface Drain (Code 606)
Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410)	Subsurface Drain, Field Ditch (Code 607)
Grassed Waterway (Code 412)	Subsurface Drain, Main or Lateral (Code 608)
Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561)	Use Exclusion (Code 472)
Hedgerow Planting (Code 422)	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)
Irrigation Water Management (Code 449)	Water & Sediment Control Basin (Code 638)
Irrigation Canal or Lateral (Code 320)	Watering Facility (Code 614)
Irrigation Field Ditch (Code 388)	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644)
Irrigation Land Leveling (Code 464)	Water Well (Code 642)
Irrigation System, Sprinkler (Code 442)	
Irrigation System, Surface & Subsurface (443)	
Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline, AA - FF (Code 430)	
Lined Waterway or Outlet (Code 468)	
Pasture & Hay Planting (Code 512)	
Pipeline (Code 516)	
Pond (Code 378)	
Pond Sealing or Lining (Code 521)	
Prescribed Burning (Code 338)	
Prescribed Grazing (Code 528A)	
Pumping Plant (Code 533)	



## Headquarters

**Definition:** Land used for dwellings, barns, livestock pens, corrals, equipment shed, or other facilities used in the connection with farm and ranch managed.

**RMS Quality Criteria:** An RMS is achieved for the Headquarters when quality criteria is met for each of the 5 natural resources (SWAPA) and when human concerns associated with the individual client and his/her operation are assessed. Operation is in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and/or policies.

### **Essential Conservation Practices:**

Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561)

### **Facilitating Conservation Practices:**

Access Road (Code 560)  
Constructed Wetland Code 656  
Critical Area Planting (Code 342)  
Diversion (Code 362)  
Fence (Code 382)  
Filter Strip (Code 393)  
Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410)  
Mole Drain (Code 482)  
Pest Management (Code 595)  
Pipeline (Code 516)  
Pond (Code 378)  
Pond Sealing or Lining A, B & C (Code 521)  
Pumping Plant (Code 533)  
Roof Runoff Structure (Code 558)  
Runoff Management System (Code 570)  
Structure for Water Control (Code 587)  
Underground Outlet (Code 620)  
Use Exclusion (Code 472)  
Water Well (Code 642)  
Water Facility (Code 614)



## **Mined**

**Definition:** Land on which the soil has been disturbed by the mining of minerals.

**RMS Quality Criteria:** An RMS is achieved on Mined land when quality criteria is met for each of the 5 natural resources (SWAPA) and when human concerns associated with the individual client and his/her operation are assessed. Operation is in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and/or policies.

### **Essential Conservation Practices:**

Critical Area Planting (Code 342)

### **Facilitating Conservation Practices:**

Diversion (Code 362)

Filter Strip (Code 393)

Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410)

Grassed Waterway (Code 412)

Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561)

Land Smoothing (Code 466)

Lined Waterway or Outlet (Code 468)

Nutrient Management (Code 590)

Pasture & Hay Planting (Code 512)

Pest Management (Code 595)

Prescribed Burning (Code 338)

Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)

Sediment Basin (Code 350)

Structure for Water Control (Code 587)

Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612)

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)

Use Exclusion (Code 472)

Water & Sediment Control Basin (Code 638)

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644)



## Native or Naturalized Pasture

**Definition:** Forest land that is used primarily for the production of forage for grazing by livestock rather than for the production of wood products. Overstory trees are removed or managed to promote the native and introduced understory vegetation occurring on the site. This vegetation is managed for its forage value through the use of grazing management principles.

**RMS Quality Criteria:** An RMS is achieved on Native (Naturalized) Pasture land when quality criteria is met for each of the 5 natural resources (SWAPA) and when human concerns associated with the individual client and his/her operation are assessed. Operation is in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and/or policies.

### Essential Conservation Practices:

Brush Management (Code 314)  
Prescribed Grazing (Code 528)  
Watering Facility (Code 614) or other dependable source of livestock water

### Facilitating Conservation Practices:

Access Road (Code 560)	Streambank & Shoreline Protection (Code 580)
Animal Trails & Walkways (Code 575)	Water & Sediment Control Basin (Code 638)
Critical Area Planting (Code 342)	Water Well (Code 642)
Diversion (Code 362)	Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612)
Fence (Code 382)	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)
Filter Strip (Code 393)	Use Exclusion (Code 472)
Firebreak (Code 392)	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644)
Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410)	
Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (Code 548)	
Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561)	
Livestock Shade Structure (Code 717)	
Nutrient Management (Code 590)	
Pasture & Hay Planting (Code 512)	
Pest Management (Code 595)	
Pipeline (Code 516)	
Pond (Code 378)	
Pond Sealing or Lining A, B & C (Code 521)	
Prescribed Burning (Code 338)	
Pumping Plant (Code 533)	
Range Planting (Code 550)	
Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)	
Stream Crossing (Code 578)	
Spring Development (Code 574)	



## Natural Area

**Definition:** Land or water used for the preservation, protection and observation of the existing natural resources, archaeological or historical interpretation, natural resource interpretation, or for aesthetic value. Some of these may be officially designated by legislation or other authorities.

**RMS Quality Criteria:** An RMS is achieved on Natural Areas when quality criteria is met for each of the 5 natural resources (SWAPA) and when human concerns associated with the individual client and his/her operation are assessed. Operation is in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and/or policies.

### Essential Conservation Practices:

None identified due to the variable nature of this land use designation.

### Facilitating Conservation Practices:

Access Road (Code 560)	Pond (Code 378)
Animal Trails & Walkways (Code 575)	Pond Sealing or Lining A, B, C (Code 521)
Brush Management (Code 314)	Prescribed Burning (Code 338)
Clearing & Snagging (Code 326)	Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)
Critical Area Planting (Code 342)	Spring Development (Code 574)
Dike (Code 356)	Streambank & Shoreline Protection (Code 580)
Diversion (Code 362)	Structure for Water Control (Code 587)
Fence (Code 382)	Range Planting (Code 550)
Field Border (Code 386)	Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612)
Filter Strip (Code 393)	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)
Firebreak (Code 392)	Water Well (Code 642)
Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666)	Wetland Creation (Code 658)
Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410)	Wetland Enhancement (Code 659)
Grassed Waterway (Code 412)	Wetland Restoration (Code 657)
Land Clearing (Code 460)	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644)
Nutrient Management (Code 590)	Wildlife Watering Facility (Code 614)
Pest Management (Code 595)	



## Pasture

**Definition:** Grazing land composed of introduced or domesticated native forage species that are used primarily for the production of domestic livestock. They receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control, and may be irrigated. This land use is not considered to be in rotation with crops.

**RMS Quality Criteria:** An RMS is achieved on Pasture land when quality criteria is met for each of the 5 natural resources (SWAPA) and when human concerns associated with the individual client and his/her operation are assessed. Operation is in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and/or policies.

### Essential Conservation Practices:

Nutrient Management (Code 590)  
Pest Management (Code 595)  
Prescribed Grazing (Code 528)  
Watering Facility (Code 614) or other dependable source of livestock water

### Facilitating Conservation Practices:

Access Road (Code 560)	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)
Animal Trails & Walkways (Code 575)	Water & Sediment Control Basin (Code 638)
Brush Management (Code 314)	Water Well (Code 642)
Critical Area Planting (Code 342)	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644)
Diversion (Code 362)	
Forage Harvest Management (Code 511)	
Fence (Code 382)	
Filter Strip (Code)	
Firebreak (Code 392)	
Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410)	
Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment (Code 548)	
Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561)	
Livestock Shade Structure (Code 717)	
Pasture & Hay Planting (Code 512)	
Pipeline (Code 516)	
Pond (Code 378)	
Pond Sealing or Lining A, B, & C (Code 521)	
Prescribed Burning (Code 338)	
Pumping Plant (Code 533)	
Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)	
Streambank & Shoreline Protection (Code 580)	
Stream Crossing (Code 578)	
Structure for Water Control (Code 587)	



## Recreation

**Definition:** Land used or usable primarily for outdoor recreation activities and facilities.

**RMS Quality Criteria:** An RMS is achieved on Recreation land when quality criteria is met for each of the 5 natural resources (SWAPA) and when human concerns associated with the individual client and his/her operation are assessed. Operation is in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and/or policies.

### Essential Conservation Practices:

#### Low & Medium Intensity Areas

Critical Area Planting (Code 342)  
Recreation Trail & Walkway (Code 568)  
Recreation Area Improvement (Code 562)

#### High Intensity Areas

Access Road (Code 560)  
Critical Area Planting (Code 342)  
Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561)  
Recreation Area Improvement (Code 562)  
Recreation Trail & Walkway (Code 568)

### Facilitating Conservation Practices:

Animal Trails & Walkways (Code 575)	Tree/Shrub Establishment ( Code 612)
Brush Management (Code 314)	Water Well (Code 642)
Clearing & Snagging (Code 326)	Wetland Creation (Code 658)
Diversion (Code 362)	Wetland Enhancement (Code 659)
Fence (Code 382)	Wetland Restoration (Code 657)
Filter Strip (Code 393)	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644)
Firebreak (Code 392)	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)
Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410)	Recreation Land Grading & Shaping (Code 566)
Grassed Waterway (Code 412)	Range Planting (Code 550)
Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561)	
Land Clearing (Code 460)	
Lined Waterway or Outlet (Code 468)	
Nutrient Management (Code 590)	
Pest Management (Code 595)	
Pond (Code 378)	
Pond Sealing or Lining A, B, & C (Code 521)	
Prescribed Burning (Code 338)	
Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)	
Spring Development (Code 574)	
Streambank & Shoreline Protection (Code 580)	
Stream Crossing (Code 578)	
Structure for Water Control (Code 587)	



## Urban

**Definition:** Land occupied by buildings and related facilities used for residences, industrial sites, institutional sites, public highways, airports and similar uses associated with towns and cities.

**RMS Quality Criteria:** An RMS is achieved on Urban land when quality criteria is met for each of the 5 natural resources (SWAPA) and when human concerns associated with the individual client and his/her operation are assessed. Operation is in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and/or policies.

### **Essential Conservation Practices:**

Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561)

### **Facilitating Conservation Practices:**

Access Road (Code 560)  
Brush Management (Code 314)  
Critical Area Planting (Code 342)  
Diversion (Code 362)  
Fence (Code 382)  
Filter Strip (Code 393)  
Firebreak (Code 392)  
Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410)  
Lined Waterway or Outlet (Code 468)  
Pipeline (Code 516)  
Pond (Code 378)  
Pond Sealing or Lining A, B, & C (Code 521)  
Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)  
Streambank & Shoreline Protection (Code 580)  
Structure for Water Control (Code 587)  
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)  
Water & Sediment Control Basin (Code 638)  
Water Well (Code 642)  
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644)



## Water

**Definition:** A geographic area whose dominant characteristic is open water, but which may include a large proportion of intermingled land, including coastal marshlands.

**RMS Quality Criteria:** An RMS is achieved on Water and associated intermingled land when quality criteria is met for each of the 5 natural resources (SWAPA) and when human concerns associated with the individual client and his/her operation are assessed. Operation is in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and/or policies.

### **Essential Conservation Practices:**

None identified due to the variable nature of this land use designation.

### **Facilitating Conservation Practices:**

- Access Road (Code 560)
- Brush Management (Code 314)
- Critical Area Planting (Code 342)
- Diversion (Code 362)
- Fence (Code 382)
- Firebreak (Code 392)
- Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410)
- Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)
- Streambank & Shoreline Protection (Code 580)
- Structure for Water Control (Code 587)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)
- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644)



## Watershed Protection

**Definition:** Land managed and used specifically for water, but which may be a geographic area whose dominant characteristic is open water, but which may include a large proportion of intermingled land, including coastal marsh lands.

**RMS Quality Criteria:** An RMS is achieved on Watershed Protection land when quality criteria is met for each of the 5 natural resources (SWAPA) and when human concerns associated with the individual client and his/her operation are assessed. Operation is in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and/or policies.

### Essential Conservation Practices:

None identified due to the variable nature of this land use designation.

### Facilitating Conservation Practices:

Access Road (Code 560)	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644)
Brush Management (Code 314)	Water Well (Code 642)
Clearing & Snagging (Code 326)	Wetland Creation (Code 658)
Critical Area Planting (Code 342)	Wetland Enhancement (Code 659)
Diversion (Code 362)	Wetland Restoration (Code 657)
Fence (Code 382)	
Filter Strip (Code 393)	
Firebreak (Code 392)	
Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410)	
Grassed Waterway (Code 412)	
Heavy Use Area Protection (Code 561)	
Land Clearing (Code 460)	
Lined Waterway or Outlet (Code 468)	
Nutrient Management (Code 590)	
Pasture and Hayland Planting (Code 512)	
Pest Management (Code 595A)	
Pond (Code 378)	
Pond Sealing or Lining A, B, C (Code 521)	
Prescribed Burning (Code 338)	
Range Planting (Code 550)	
Recreation Land Grading & Shaping (Code 562)	
Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)	
Sediment Basin (Code 350)	
Spring Development (Code 574)	
Streambank & Shoreline Protection (Code 580)	
Structure for Water Control (Code 587)	
Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612)	
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)	



## Wildlife

**Definition:** Land or water used, protected and managed primarily as habitat for wildlife.

**RMS Quality Criteria:** An RMS is achieved on Wildlife land when quality criteria is met for each of the 5 natural resources (SWAPA) and when human concerns associated with the individual client and his/her operation are assessed. Operation is in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws, rules, and/or policies.

### Essential Conservation Practices:

- \* Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)
- \* Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644)

*\* These essential practices are required based upon the type(s) of land present. When uplands are present, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) is required. When wetlands are present, Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644) is required. When both uplands and wetlands are present, both practices are required.*

### Facilitating Conservation Practices:

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Access Road (Code 560)                       | Wildlife Watering Facility (Code 614) |
| Animal Trails & Walkways (Code 575)          | Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666)   |
| Brush Management (Code 314)                  | Wetland Restoration (Code 657)        |
| Clearing & Snagging (Code 326)               | Wetland Enhancement (Code 659)        |
| Critical Area Planting (Code 342)            | Wetland Creation (Code 658)           |
| Dams, Multi-Purpose (Code 349)               | Water Well (Code 642)                 |
| Dike (Code 356)                              | Range Planting (Code 550)             |
| Diversion (Code 362)                         | Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612)   |
| Fence (Code 382)                             |                                       |
| Field Border (Code 386)                      |                                       |
| Filter Strip (Code 393)                      |                                       |
| Firebreak (Code 392)                         |                                       |
| Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410)     |                                       |
| Grassed Waterway (Code 412)                  |                                       |
| Land Clearing (Code 460)                     |                                       |
| Nutrient Management (Code 590)               |                                       |
| Pasture and Hay Land Planting (Code 512)     |                                       |
| Pest Management (Code 595)                   |                                       |
| Pond (Code 378)                              |                                       |
| Pond Sealing or Lining A, B, & C (Code 512)  |                                       |
| Prescribed Burning (Code 338)                |                                       |
| Riparian Forest Buffer (Code 391)            |                                       |
| Spring Development (Code 574)                |                                       |
| Streambank & Shoreline Protection (Code 580) |                                       |
| Structure for Water Control (Code 587)       |                                       |