

Course Wrap-up and Assignment



Natural Resources Conservation Service

Conservation Planning Course

Module 9 Course Wrap-up and Assignment

Objectives

At the end of this module, the participant will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the ability to develop a conservation plan, evaluate a conservation plan, and revise a conservation plan.

Training Aids

Flip Chart

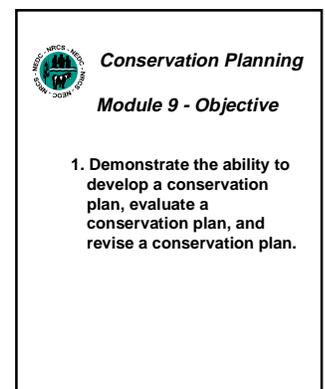
Method of Instruction

Presentation and Discussion

Total Time

2 Hours Classroom

Plus time to complete the module assignment in the employee's home office area as a part of carrying out regular conservation planning business in that office.



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Course Wrap-up

It truly has been a pleasure and an honor to have each of you here as participants in the conservation planning course. It has also been a pleasure and an honor for all of the instructors to take part in the course. I feel that it has been a very beneficial teaching and learning experience for us all, and will continue to be as we move forward with conservation planning in _____ (state).

The purpose of this course was.....

to prepare the participant—you—to be able to independently apply the NRCS planning process, and to utilize supporting technology, in order to assist clients in making decisions resulting in conservation plans that protect, conserve, and enhance the natural resources and meet the client's needs.

With the material covered so far, plus the completion of the assignment in this module, we will have fulfilled that purpose.

Thanks for all of the hard work and participation on your part. It is very much appreciated.

Let me turn the program over to _____ (state conservationist) (or someone representing the state conservationist) to help us wrap up the course and set the stage as to where we go from here in the whole arena of conservation planning.

State Conservationist's Comments

Before I give my parting comments regarding the course and conservation planning, let me ask if you have any questions or comments about the course or about conservation planning? Also, did the course meet your expectations?

Questions?

Thanks for those questions and comments.

At the beginning of the course, and during the course, we stressed several items. They included:

- Investment in the course was absolutely critical for NRCS and our partnership in _____ (state) in order to help our clients meet their needs and the needs of the resources.
- Conservation planning is the foundation for the conservation assistance we provide in _____ (state).
- We will follow the planning process, and the procedures and guidelines laid out for that process, in the National Planning Procedures Handbook. That is the way we will do business.
- This course was about using our conservation planning procedures and guidelines, technical guidance, electronic tools, and implementation programs to assist our clients in developing, implementing, and evaluating quality conservation plans to solve identified natural resource problems, take advantage of opportunities, and meet the client's objectives.
- The job of conservation planning is vast and complex. No longer can one agency "do it all" or "go it alone." Partnerships are critical for getting the job done.

All of these items I reiterate to you. They are all critical to the success of our partnership conservation effort in _____ (state).

Let me also stress that there is a tremendous strain on our natural resources today. The longer we take to get the conservation planning job done, the greater the damage may be to those irreplaceable resources. To secure our future, and that of the generations to follow us, we must keep our resources in a productive, sustainable condition.

In summary, conservation planning is foremost in importance in working with our clients. The policy, procedures, and guidelines in the General Manual and the NPPH spell out the way we will conduct business in conservation planning. That's why this course was so important and why your attendance and input was so critical.

As you reflect on the course over the next couple of days, ask yourself "what do I do on Monday?" In other words, "what am I going to do differently, when I get back to my office, as a result of the information I gained during the course?" Please take some time to reflect on that question.

Thanks for being a part of the course; **thanks** for being vital members of our conservation team in _____ (state); and **thanks** for all of your dedication and hard work in the past, as well as into the future, as we tackle the conservation challenges facing our state and Nation.

Thanks also to all of our partners for participating in the course. Our combined efforts during the course demonstrates once again what can be accomplished when we all work together.

Also a **special thanks** is in order for the _____ and _____ (name) families for letting us use their farms (ranchs) for the field exercise portion of the course. We couldn't have conducted the course without their tremendous contribution.

At this time I'll turn the program back to _____ (name).

Instructor Note

The instructor comes back to take over the session.

Thank you _____ (state conservationist).

Post-Course Test

We do have a test for each of you to take as a part of the wrap-up of the course. The results of this test, compared to the results of the pre-course test, will help us gauge the success of the course as well as where we may need additional emphasis the next time the course is taught.

At the end of the test, you can turn it in to me. Take a break when you are finished with the test and we'll reconvene the class at _____ (time).

Instructor Note

Allow time for the participants to complete the test and take a break.

Recognition of Accomplishments

One of the fun parts of each course is the presentation of completion certificates. Today we have certificates signifying completion of this portion of the course.

To present the certificates I'll call on _____ (state conservationist), _____ (partnership representative), and _____ (partnership representative) to do the honors.

The state conservationist should call each class

Instructor Note

participant up to the front of the room, and present the certificate. The partnership representatives should join in congratulating the participants.

An alternative for presenting the certificates is to have the participant's make the presentations themselves as follows, as expressed by the instructor:

"I'm going to lay a certificate, upside down, in front of each of you. Don't turn it over until I give the signal. When I do give the signal, turn the certificate over and present it to the person whose name is on the certificate. Congratulate them for a job well done."

Instructor Note

Put a certificate upside down in front of each participant. Indicate again.....

"Don't turn over the certificate until I give the signal."

"Okay, present your certificates."

Instructor Note

The instructors, the state conservationist, and the partnership representatives should all circulate, at the same time the participants are presenting the certificates, and offer their congratulations too.

I hope each of you will display your certificate prominently and proudly, because you've all earned it.

As you all know, we did take a class picture, and we do want each of you to have a copy of that.

Instructor Note

Distribute a copy of the group picture to each participant.

When you complete the assignment with Module 9, that we will discuss shortly, you will receive an additional certificate signifying overall completion of this course.

Recognition of the Farmers (or Ranchers) Who Hosted the Course

With a plaque or other appropriate item from the conservation partnership along with remarks from conservation partners who are present.

Instructor Note

The State Conservationist and partnership representatives should participate in the presentation to the farmers or ranchers and offer appropriate remarks.

Course Assignment

The course assignment, to complete this module and the course, is for each participant, who is not a coach, to:

1. Assist a client with the development of a complete, comprehensive conservation plan at the RMS level.
2. Evaluate an existing conservation plan that is well into the implementation stage. Provide documentation on the status of the plan and the results being obtained compared to what was anticipated when the plan was originally developed. Is the plan solving the identified problems, taking advantage of opportunities, and meeting the client's objectives? Are there any adjustments needed in the plan, and if so what are they?
3. Assist a client in revising an existing conservation plan that needs revision.

This assignment is expected to be completed within the next four months, (or another time frame as determined by the state), in your home office area. If for some reason the assignment cannot be completed within your home office area, or within this time frame, please make other arrangements with your supervisor and coach.

This assignment is a practical, real-life, real-time application of the procedures, guidelines, techniques, and tools that you learned in this course. That includes policy, procedures, technical guidance, tools, and implementation programs.

The assignment will be completed in consultation with your coach and in cooperation with your supervisor. Both are there to help you.

Your coach will provide guidance, encouragement, and additional training as needed. Take advantage of what the coach has to offer. The coach is there to help you, but not to complete the assignment for you. Completion of the assignment is your responsibility.

The results of all three portions of this assignment will be reviewed by your coach and your supervisor to certify that you have completed the assignment in a quality and timely manner, and that you have reached a proficiency level of 4, apply independently, in conservation planning.

What is Expected from Each Participant

Complete development of the following products:

1. A conservation plan.
2. An evaluation of an existing conservation plan.
3. A revised conservation plan.

Complete the assignment in a quality and timely manner.

Develop your knowledge, skills, and abilities to a proficiency level of 4, apply independently, by the time this course and assignment are completed.

Questions?

Are there any questions or comments?

Is there any unfinished business before we close this session?

Again, **thanks** for being a part of this course. My hat is off to each of you for the fine job you've done.

Have a safe trip home.