



Washington State Conservation Commission

Policy #	13-10 Management Practice Implementation Guidance
Applies to:	All Conservation Districts
Effective Date:	May 16, 2013

PURPOSE

This is a guidance paper to aid in the development of management practices so that they fully follow NRCS standards and specifications. This applies to all NRCS management practices paid with WSCC cost share funds, which include:

- Nutrient Management 590
- Residue Management 329 & 345
- Prescribed Grazing 528
- Integrated Pest Management 595
- Access Control 472
- Irrigation Water Management 449

A secondary purpose of this paper is to provide guidance on the type of information needed to conduct implementation monitoring on management practices.

BACKGROUND

Management practices funded with Conservation Commission cost share must follow NRCS practice standards and specifications appropriate for that practice and site. Through our implementation monitoring, we found some cost share-funded agronomic/management practices to be incomplete in that the full practice plan was not developed.

A separate, but related, issue is that a different approach is needed to conduct implementation monitoring on these types of practices (compared to structural practices) because of limited information present in the field.

POLICY

Planning Expectation

Practices should be planned following the “9 steps of planning” process, which are: 1) identify the resource concern(s), 2) determine the objective(s), 3) inventory the resources, 4) analyze the resource data, 5) formulate alternative solution(s), 6) evaluate alternative solution(s), 7) decide on solution (landowner), 8) implement practice(s), 9) evaluate practice(s).

Practice Expectation

- Each NRCS conservation practice standard includes a section called “Plans and Specifications” that describes what should be included in the completed practice. The requirements in this section must be included in the funded practice.
- NRCS has blank job sheets (specifications sheets) available to complete with site-specific guidance. Practice plans should include this or other appropriate site-specific guidance. Districts may use their own forms that provide adequate guidance. If they use their own cost share application, it must contain each section of the Commission cost share form (Grants Procedure Manual page 37).

- Practice Plans and Specifications should be written out and given to a landowner that will describe with clarity to a landowner what is required to be done by the landowner to correctly implement the practice. A copy of the practice Plans and Specifications should be kept in the district office.
- Trained NRCS planners and trained district planners should be familiar with the preparation of practice plans and practice specifications and should be able to assist other staff.

Practice Completion Expectations (Implementation Monitoring):

- After implementation, the district planner should review the management practices by checking the documentation supplied by the landowner. The planner should occasionally perform field checks or field measurements, if appropriate, to confirm that the practice was implemented according to the practice Plans and Specifications provided to the landowner.
- Pictures are not required for management practices unless pictures would further help document the completion of the practice.

Level of Detail

- The expected level of clarity in the practice Plans and Specifications and in the documentation of the completed practice is such that any uninvolved person with the technical understanding of the subject practice could determine what was required of the landowner to implement the practice. The documentation should show that the practice was completed according to the practice Plans and Specifications.

Photo Expectation

If photos would be helpful to document the practice, use good photo monitoring techniques such as: having the same point of view, same background, and same camera location. To show details, three pictures showing a long distant, medium distant, and close up shot might be helpful.