



National Conservation Planning Partnership



What is NCPP

- ▶ The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPP) represents the efforts of five key national conservation partners to reinvigorate conservation planning.



NCPP Partners

- ▶ *Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)*
- ▶ *National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)*
- ▶ *National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA)*
- ▶ *National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA)*
- ▶ *National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (NARC&DC)*



NCPP's Purpose

- ▶ Reinvigorate conservation planning by enhancing and strengthening the planning process and our partnership workforce.



NCPP Goals

- ▶ *Reinvigorate conservation planning;*
- ▶ *Improve the partnership's capacity to deliver one-on-one conservation planning assistance;*
- ▶ *Ensure the delivery of voluntary, science-based assistance;*
- ▶ *Build and sustain a workforce of strong conservation planners*



What does NCPP mean for you?

- ▶ Highly skilled and trained workforce
- ▶ Development of tools and technology
- ▶ Ability to provide improved customer service
- ▶ An enhanced united workforce for conservation
- ▶ Ensure the delivery of voluntary, science-based assistance



Conservation Planning is the Future

- ▶ Conservation planning is the foundation for voluntary conservation delivery.
- ▶ Quality conservation planning provides the knowledge and assistance needed to help keep families on their farms.
- ▶ World class conservation takes world class planners.
- ▶ Nationally standardized and locally implemented Conservation Planner Role Designations.
- ▶ Natural resource concerns do not stop at the edge of the field.



Key Achievements: Communications & Messaging

- ▶ Internal NCPP publication developed and distributed to explain our purpose and goals.
- ▶ Completed survey of employees, partners and landowners to identify training and marketing needs.
- ▶ “What Works in the Field” peer-to-peer web conference series is offered the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:00PM EST.
- ▶ Developed Fridays on the Farm stories, highlighting farmers that have benefited from conservation planning.



Key Achievements:

Technology Access and Improvements

- ▶ National Conservation Planner Database developed with ~6,400 planners inputted, including 1,200 partners.
- ▶ Testing of Conservation Desktop was completed with over 100 participants including a few partner participants.
- ▶ Delivered a nationwide integrated Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative training to staff and partners.
- ▶ Identifying strategies to refine partner planner data in the conservation planner database.
- ▶ Roll-out of phase I release of Conservation Desktop and provided training to 276 users as Train the Trainers.



Key Achievements: Training Access and Opportunities

- ▶ Delivered Conservation Boot Camp employee development training to 112 Partner employees.
- ▶ Updated policy with new conservation planner role designations and training requirements.
- ▶ Workshops were held to assist states with updating their state supplements for conservation planner certification.
- ▶ Agreements with professional societies and organizations executed to develop training for planners.



Key Achievements: Process Improvements and Resource Leveraging

- ▶ Collaborating with private sector partners who can provide precision agriculture and economic data for producers.
- ▶ Developed core competencies for job approval authorities, alleviating concerns for employee KSAs.
- ▶ Agreement with NACD to provide additional CTA in urban small farmers and organic and specialty crop growers.
- ▶ Established Partner Advisory Committee to gather input from partners on implementation of the Conservation Planning Policy.



Next Steps

- ▶ Continue implementation of the new Conservation Planning Certification Policy and Procedures.
- ▶ Continue revision of Conservation Planning Modules 1-8 and Area Wide Conservation Planning.
- ▶ Continue work converting the Economics of Conservation Planning training to an online format.
- ▶ Pilot Conservation Planner Internship Framework in FY18.
- ▶ Develop proficiency exams for conservation planner designations as a “test out” option for required training for experienced planners.
- ▶ Expand NCPP database to include a geospatial mapping tool and portal to allow states to enter and manage data effectively.
- ▶ Improve screening and assessments to create efficiencies, while maintaining technical integrity.
- ▶ Develop external communications materials and launch a NCPP webpage.
- ▶ Host NCPP and You briefings for local field staff including partner planners and support staff

