

NRCS – Partners in the Watershed

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Agency of USDA
- Authorized by Congress to work on private lands conservation.
- Under special agreement, may provide assistance on public lands.
- Under special agreement, may provide assistance on BIA, trust, and tribal lands.

Conservation Planning and Implementation

- Individuals - private landowners
- Groups - watershed or weed management groups
- Units of Government - CD's, Tribal Government

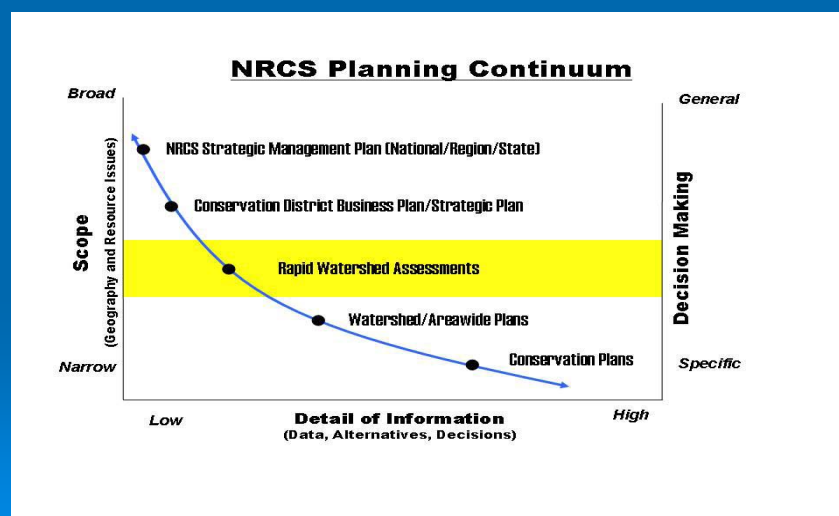
Planning Intensity

- Single Resource (BCS)
- Multiple Resource (RMS)
 - Required for Farm Bill programs

Planning Scope

- Sub field or field level
- Watershed or Area-wide
- Rapid Watershed Assessments
- Strategic Plans

NRCS Planning



'SWAPA + H' Resources

- Soils
- Water
- Air
- Plants
- Animals
- Human

Planning Process

- 9 Steps
- Based on a Scientific Process
- NEPA Compliance
- Must have Decision-maker to complete

Phase I - Collection and Analysis (Understanding the Problems and Opportunities)

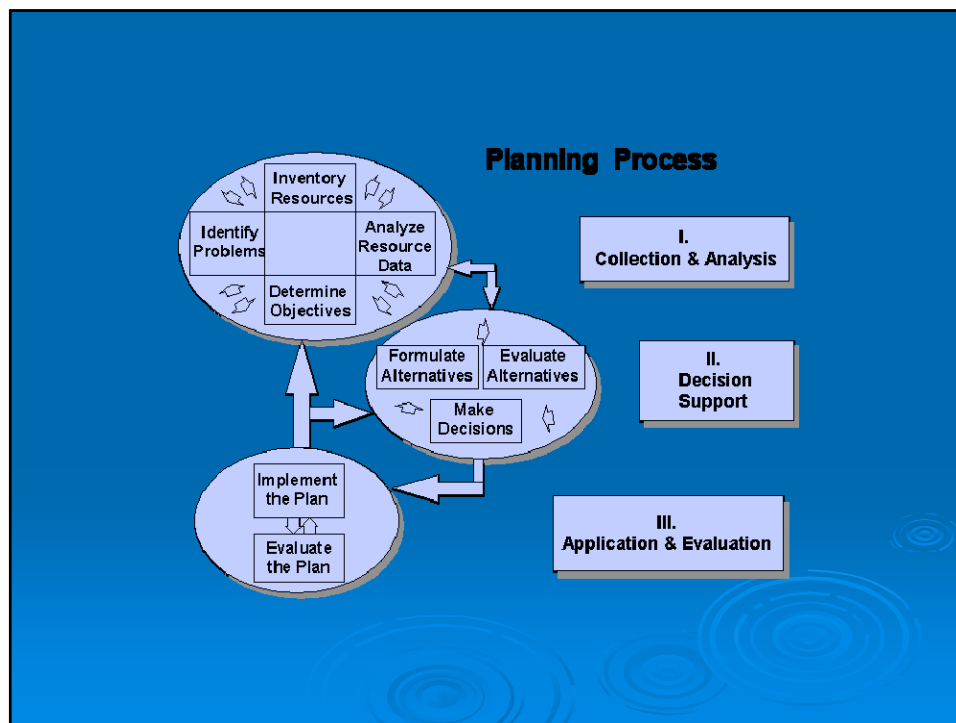
- 1. Identify Problems and Opportunities
- 2. Determine Objectives
- 3. Inventory Resources
- 4. Analyze Resource Data

Phase II - Decision Support (Understanding the Solutions)

- 5. Formulate Alternatives
- 6. Evaluate Alternatives
- 7. Make Decisions

Evaluation (Understanding the Results)

- 8. Implement the Plan
- 9. Evaluate the Plan



Partners in the Watershed?

- How does NRCS partner?
- What roles can partners play?
- What impacts can partners have?
- Real-world Examples
- Opportunities

What is a 'Partner'?

- “Somebody who is involved in an activity with somebody else” (Encarta Dictionary)
- “A member of a partnership especially in a business” (Merriam-Webster)

PARTNERSHIP

- **1** : the state of being a partner;
- **2** : A legal relation existing between two or more persons contractually associated as joint principals in a business; **b** : The persons joined together in a partnership;
- **3** : A relationship resembling a legal partnership and usually involving close cooperation between parties having specified and joint rights and responsibilities.

How Does NRCS Partner?

Through discussion with potential partner:

- Identify problems and opportunities where coordinated efforts could have mutual benefits and shared risks.
- Collaboratively determine objectives or desired outcomes.

How Does NRCS Partner?

- **Develop Mutual Agreements**
 - Defines who is who and why they have come together.
- **Develop Cooperative Working Agreements**
 - Further defines specifics of the working relationship.
- **Develop Operational Agreements**
 - Specific to task or project, who will do what, how much, and for how long.

What Roles Can Partners Play?

- Provide information, resource data, facilitators, contacts, funding, technical assistance, coordination of and with other entities

What Impacts Can Partners Have?

- ‘No Man is an Island” - John Donne (1572-1631).
- Human beings do not thrive when isolated from others.
- Partners work together to facilitate performance on a task or project.

Real World Examples

- MOU Between DOI-BIA, and USDA-NRCS and USDA-FSA.
- MOU Between EPA and USDA.
- MOU between NRCS, EPA, NvACD, State of Nevada.

Real World Examples

- EPA 319, FSA CRP/CCRP/CREP, and NRCS' EQIP/WHIP.
- USFWS Partners for Wildlife, NDOW, and NRCS' WHIP.

Program Development – Phase I

- Determine need/desires of the intended audience or beneficiary. (1)
- Scoping and prioritization based on identified resource concerns or issues of mutual concern and authorities. (2)

Program Development – Phase I

- Determine current conditions – must be measurable/quantifiable. (3)
- Determine desired outcomes – must be measurable/quantifiable. (4)

Program Development – Phase II

- Assemble inventory of available partnership resources. (5)
- Determine who will provide what – and by when. (6)

Program Development – Phase III

- Develop obligation document – the ‘Operational Agreement’. (7)
- Implement the program. (8)
- Evaluate effectiveness. (9)

Opportunities

- Joint local/state/tribal/federal technical assistance and funding to address mutual resource concerns.

Questions?

