

NHCP Exhibit 1 Documentation Files

A documentation file will be maintained on each national conservation practice standard by the national discipline leader listed in the Table of Contents of the NHCP. The file defines what is in the standard, why and how the technology became a part of the standard, and rationale for each criterion and consideration. Documentation will include a history of the conservation practice standard's development and will contain each of the following sections, if appropriate.

The documentation file is created and maintained under the responsibility of the national discipline leader for each of the conservation practice standards. The National Discipline Leader maintains the file at National Headquarters or at the location of the national discipline leader. The documentation file will be available to States upon request.

States are to maintain documentation files on conservation practice standards where the State adds criteria to the standard or makes criteria more stringent than the national criteria.

Brief history of the development of the conservation practice standard: A history of the conservation practice standard should be able to address any questions raised by the public and NRCS partners concerning the science and rationale used in the National Conservation Practice Standards.

Rationale behind each requirement in the criteria section of the standard: This is a short narrative statement used to justify the selection of a particular value or decisive factors for each criterion. The narrative statement provides additional information helpful to users of the conservation practice standard by providing a log of past decisions or changes to the criteria as well as any clarifications concerning the technology.

Documentation needed for the items listed in the consideration section of the standard: Documentation should include rationale for including each consideration and justify the item as a consideration, rather than as criteria.

Summary of the changes, if any, from each previous revision of the standard: All meaningful comments received during the review process are listed, and the disposition of the comments is documented (why the comments were or were not incorporated into the conservation practice standard).

Technical sources and appropriate literature used in addition to those cited in the standard: Sources listed will document or clarify the rationale or criteria used in the standard.