

GLOSSARY

Acres Conservation Reserve (ACR): Acreage set aside under the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service acreage reduction program. Both the land and the cover must meet eligibility requirements.

Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP): Program of federal cost-sharing for conservation practice application. This program is administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Application for Assistance: A request from a client to the conservation district or to NRCS making known a need and desire for technical assistance.

Area Association: A grouping of conservation districts. Statewide there are six area associations of conservation districts statewide in Montana. They were formed to provide communication and cooperation between conservation districts, secure consensus on natural resource issues, inspire supervisors to greater leadership, and act as liaison with the Montana Association of Conservation Districts.

Best Management Practices (BMPs): The most effective practices or combinations of practices to reduce nonpoint source pollution to acceptable levels. BMPs are developed locally.

Clean Water Act (CWA): 1972 law also known as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*)

Compliance Memorandum of Agreement: An agreement between the local conservation district, Conservation Districts Bureau, and Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences detailing responsibilities for nonpoint source pollution control programs.

Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO): Area where livestock are confined and fed.

Conservation Compliance: A conservation provision of the 1985 Food Security Act that requires producers to implement a conservation plan for highly erodible fields to remain eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture program benefits. Plans must be developed by December 31, 1989, and fully implemented by December 31, 1994.

Conservation Districts Bureau (CDB): A bureau under the Conservation and Resource Development Division of Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, responsible under state law (Section 76-15-101 through 810, MCA) to assist and supervise Montana's 58 conservation districts and 30 grazing districts.

Conservation District Cooperator: An individual, group of people, or representative of a unit of government who has entered into a working arrangement or cooperative

agreement with a conservation district to work together in planning and carrying out resource use, development, and conservation on a specific land area.

Conservation Plan: A locally approved record of decisions made by the land user regarding the conservation of soil, water, and related plant and animal resources for all or part of an operating unit. Conservation plans also include resource material requested by a land user.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): A provision of the 1985 Food Security Act that encourages farmers to plant grass and/or trees on highly erodible cropland through 10-year contracts with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Conservation Use Acres (CU): Underseeded acres used to maintain cropping history in acreage reduction programs.

Cooperative Agreement: An agreement between a conservation district and a landowner or operator located in the district to provide technical assistance for soil and water conservation.

Cooperator: A landowner or operator who has signed a cooperative agreement with the conservation district.

Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP): A process to help landowners, agencies, and resource users coordinate solutions to natural resource problems occurring over mixed land ownerships.

County Executive Director (CED): An employee of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (CFSA) who is responsible for all CFSA personnel and programs in a county.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): A document that discusses the likely significant impacts of a development project or a planning proposal, ways to lessen the impacts, and alternatives to the project or proposal. EISs are required by the National and Montana Environmental Policy Acts.

Erodibility Index (EI): A numerical index indicating the potential of a soil to erode based on topography, precipitation, soil characteristics, and other factors.

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC): Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that offers farmers insurance against loss of crops due to natural hazards such as drought, flood, or freeze.

Federal Water Quality Act--Section 319: 1987 amendment to the Clean Water Act that specifically requires states to develop an assessment of nonpoint source pollution and a management plan for controlling such pollution.

Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG): A guide developed specifically for each Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) field office and used by the NRCS to assure quality of technical advice on conservation systems planning and application.

Food Security Act (FSA): A federal law including provisions called "Conservation Reserve," "Conservation Compliance," "Sodbuster," and "Swampbuster." This law is also known as the 1985 Farm Bill.

Forestry Incentives Program (FIP): Cost-share program for forestry conservation and reforestation practices.

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE): The work one person does in one year, which is a measurement used to estimate funds and personnel needed to perform certain actions.

General Services Administration (GSA):

Government Service (GS): Work performed by local, state, or federal government employees.

Great Plains Conservation Program: A legislated program that provides for contracts between NRCS and clients in treating resource problems in specific counties in the Great Plains area of the United States.

Highly Erodible Land (HEL): Land having an erodibility index greater than eight.

In-Kind Local Match: A requirement of many grants to the effect that grantees provide a percentage of the cost or "matching funds." For some grants, time or services contributed toward a specific project can be substituted for these funds.

Interagency Personnel Agreement (IPA): An agreement between agencies, often at different levels of government, to share or loan personnel.

Irrigation District: A legally established entity that has responsibility for developing, installing, and maintaining an irrigation program for a specified land area that encompasses multiple ownerships.

Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA): A system developed by USDA NRCS to determine the quality of land for agricultural uses and to assess sites or land areas for their agricultural viability.

Long-Term Agreement (LTA): Agreement between CFSA and landowner or operator to apply conservation practices. It contains practices to be applied, schedule of application, and cost-share rates, if appropriate.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA): See "Memorandum of Understanding."

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): An agreement between a conservation district and other public entity for services, funding, or other program assistance. Sometimes referred to as a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Montana Code Annotated (MCA): Laws enacted by the State of Montana, including those pertaining to conservation districts, governmental structure and administration, and public contracts.

Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA): A state law requiring state agencies to consider possible environmental effects of their decisions on activities, development proposals, and comprehensive plans. See also "National Environmental Policy Act."

Montana Rangeland Resource Executive Committee (MRREC): An organization consisting of members representing various livestock organizations, agencies, and universities formed to organize activities to protect and enhance the range resources of Montana.

Montana Resource Support Team (MRST): A board comprised of representatives from each of the Natural Resource Teams and the deputy State Conservationist. The MRST facilitates communication between the national, state and local teams.

Montana Salinity Control Association (MSCA): An association of 33 conservation districts formed to promote saline seep reclamation and implementation of reclamation practices on sites.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): A federal law requiring agencies of the federal government to consider the environmental impacts of their activities. (See also "Montana Environmental Policy Act.")

Nonpoint Source Pollution: Pollution from many small sources that accumulates in surface water or groundwater. Individual sites are insignificant, but add to a cumulative problem with serious health or environmental consequences.

Point of Order: A parliamentary procedure term for an objection raised by a member because of improper procedure or annoying remarks. It must be ruled on immediately by the chair.

Project Aquatic: An environmental and conservation education youth program emphasizing water resources. Instructors are trained and provided with a variety of educational resources appropriate to different age levels.

Project Learning Tree (PLT): An environmental and conservation youth education program emphasizing forestry. It is an unbiased approach to presenting basic forest practices and developing an appreciation for forest resources. Instructors are trained and provided with a variety of educational resources appropriate to various age levels.

Project Wild: An environmental and conservation education youth program emphasizing wildlife. It is an unbiased approach to presenting basic wildlife management practices and developing an appreciation for wildlife. Instructors are trained and provided with a variety of educational resources appropriate to different age levels.

Public Law 92-500--Federal Water Pollution Control Act--Section 208: Federal legislation setting national goals to eliminate water pollution. Section 208 addresses nonpoint pollution.

Quorum: The minimum number of members required to be present at a meeting to transact business. Three of five conservation district supervisors constitutes a quorum.

Referendum (Ref.): Proposed law or bond issue submitted on the ballot for approval by the people voting.

Resource Management System (RMS): A combination of conservation practices that, if installed and maintained, protects the resource base by meeting tolerable soil losses and maintaining acceptable water quality, ecological, and management levels for a specific resource use.

Resources Conservation Act (RCA) (PL 95-192): An act directing Secretary of Agriculture to continually appraise non-federal soil, water, and related resources.

Resources Conservation and Development (RC&D) Areas: Locally organized, sponsored, and directed organizations of people that receive technical and financial help from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other agencies to conserve and use natural resources.

Rural Clean Water Program (RCWP): A federal cost-sharing program for implementation of best management practices that was included in the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217) and is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Services.

Sodbuster: Provision of the 1985 Food Security Act that requires a conservation plan to be implemented on highly erodible cropland that was not cropped between 1981 and 1985, in order for the landowner or operator to remain eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture program benefits.

Soil Loss Tolerance (T): Erosion rate, expressed in tons per acre per year, at which a soil would not deteriorate.

Swampbuster: Conservation provision of the 1985 Food Security Act that requires farmers not to convert wetlands to annually tilled crops (after December 23, 1985) in order to remain eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture program benefits.

Technical Assistance: Help provided by SCS and employees of other agencies under the technical supervision of NRCS to clients on opportunities and problems related to natural resource use.

Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE): An empirical formula developed to predict soil loss from sheet and rill erosion. Factors used in the formula are soil characteristics, rainfall, length and steepness of slope, cover, and practice factors.

Water Quality (WQ): The biological, chemical, and physical conditions of a water body.

Water Quality Act (WQA): A 1987 federal law (PL 100-4) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for the renewal of the quality of the nation's waters. Section 319 details the legislation that relates to agricultural nonpoint pollution.

Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP): A plan designed to improve water quality by encouraging implementation of best management practices through information and education activities, technical assistance, and incentives.

Watershed: The geographic area from which a particular river, stream, or water body receives its water supply.

Weed Control District: A legally established entity that has responsibility for developing, installing, and maintaining a weed control program for a specified land area that encompasses multiple ownership.