

National Conservation Planning Partnership

Resources Available for Leadership & Employee Engagement



Conservation Desktop

The Conservation Desktop application is an enhanced tool that enables conservation partnership planners to provide technical and/or financial assistance to customers in a simpler and faster way. This application is part of a national effort to make meaningful changes and improvements to all programs and services to streamline processes, improve efficiencies, incorporate technology, and improve communication and data availability.

WILL CONSERVATION DESKTOP MEET MY NEEDS?

The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCP) conducted eight listening sessions across the country to solicit feedback on current and future conservation planning efforts. More than 450 questions and comments were received from participants, which included employees, producers, conservation district supervisors and other partners nationwide.

Participants advocated for better tools that would increase workload efficiencies, reduce time in the office, be more user-friendly and ultimately improve the customer experience. Your feedback created action and was integrated into our NCP work plan as part of three major categories: *Changes in Programs and Processes, Tools and Technologies, and Communications.*

Our teams reviewed these comments and recommendations and incorporated changes and suggestions for improvements and new tools where applicable. As a result, we believe Conservation Desktop is a more beneficial and useful tool for all.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF CONSERVATION DESKTOP?

Conservation Desktop is an effective and efficient tool which will allow conservation planners more time for planning and follow up with customers. Users will be able to more quickly:

- Integrate with Farm Service Agency data to provide real-time Common Land Unit data across state and county lines.
- Create, manage, and track determination requests through the new Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation tools.
- Search and manage all clients' technical and financial assistance data and documents from one location.
- Create a variety of documents and maps for clients through simplified mapping and data entry.
- Create conservation plans for assessment and ranking in Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART).

About NCPP

The partnership was formed in FY 2015 to emphasize the critical role that conservation planning plays in advancing voluntary conservation efforts on private lands. Since then, NCPP has worked to "Reinvigorate Conservation Planning" by implementing goals and actions that support proven approaches, offer new tools, and expand training to enhance the ability of our workforce to deliver sound conservation planning assistance.



NEXT STEPS FOR CONSERVATION DESKOP

- Conservation Desktop is scheduled to replace Toolkit in March 2020. Toolkit is the current desktop application used by field offices to develop conservation plans. Training for all planners will continue up to the end of February 2020.
- Future Conservation Desktop releases will provide new functionalities, additional streamlining of application processes and will continue to improve the user experience.

The next version of Conservation Desktop will provide users with additional functionality, including the following:

- Generate Environmental Assessments and automate the CPA-52.
- Manage Resource Inventory data.
- Release a Mobile Planning Tool to complete resource inventory, practice certification and assistance notes in the field.

RESOURCES FOR CONSERVATION DESKTOP

Each state is disseminating Conservation Desktop information and training on a schedule that best meets their respective needs.

- Training Videos for all conservation partnership employees and partners are available on a YouTube Playlist, <http://bit.ly/2qcxHs>. These videos provide an overview of Conservation Desktop and a better understanding of its functions.

For more information, contact your state's Conservation Desktop point of contact (or current Toolkit coordinator).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR CONSERVATION PLANNING

NCPP has recently launched a new website that will house all available conservation partnership planning resources, along with updates on policy, training and tools. Visit www.ncpp.info to view conservation planning resources, learn more about NCPP efforts and sign up to receive direct updates.

