



**PRMS**

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
**Performance and Results Measurement System**

# **PRMS**

## *STATE BUSINESS DEFINITIONS*



**STATE DRAFT**

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## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: CUSTOMER REACHED STATE

### DEFINITION

Customers served by direct distributions of NRCS information, data, or technical products. These products include all agency publications (e.g., program fact sheets, brochures, reports, handbooks), analytical products (e.g., working papers, GIS products), data distributions, and tools (e.g., models, computer programs). Direct distribution means that the information or technical product is delivered to an external customer or group either through the mail, as handouts, or electronically. Distribution of materials internally from NHQ to Regional or State Offices is not included. Any direct distribution to a field office for a particular purpose (e.g., to support a meeting) may be included.

This measure should also include an estimate of the number of customers served through access to NRCS information or data available over Internet Web Sites. This information will be evaluated for automated collection directly from existing websites.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure permits NRCS to report numbers of customers served by direct distribution of information, data, or technical products.

### DATA ENTRY FIELDS

**Record Reference** – Optional field, which you may use to enter identifiers or other information at your discretion. This field may be useful for identifying a reason for entering a record.

**Assistance Date** – The date the assistance or service to the customer took place.

**Service Type** – This attribute is

**Customer Type** – Select one as appropriate.

**Customer Status** – Enter the number of customers reached. A number is entered in each customer status box that applies. Generally, you only enter a “1” in a single customer status box, however, when providing assistance to groups, you may have larger numbers entered in several of the customer status boxes. Note that for certain customer types, this data attribute is not a required field.

**Program Category(s)** – Enter all programs through which the instance(s) of customers reached have occurred.

**Identify Location** – – Select the state location where the customer(s) action occurred.

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

This data element.

#### Examples:

Number of customers receiving soils information by customer type.

Trends in customers reached with information or technical products, by region, 1999-2001.

Customers receiving NRI-based analysis.

*What can be reported?*

### OTHER ISSUES.

## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: NON-NRCS CONTRIBUTIONS

### DEFINITION

The total estimated number of dollars contributed by external sources to support agency conservation-related activities and initiatives. This includes all financial contributions made by any other Federal, state, tribal, or local governmental agency, Conservation Partner, private voluntary or non-governmental organizations, or other individuals. Specific examples would include dollars paid to landowners through state cost-share programs which implement NRCS practices, dollars contributed by a state or local government to complete soils mapping or digitizing, or dollars contributed by local or state units of government to conduct Conservation District activities.

The total estimated in-kind (service and property) contributions made by external sources to support agency conservation-related activities and initiatives. This includes all in-kind contributions made by any other Federal, state, tribal, or local agency, Conservation Partners, volunteers (e.g., Earth Team), and private voluntary or non-governmental organizations, among others. For time contributions, only record the number of hours; hours will be converted to dollar equivalents at the national level using the U.S. Department of Labor wage rates specific to the area where the time contribution was made.

### PURPOSE

This performance measure permits NRCS to report Non-NRCS contributions.

### DATA ENTRY FIELDS

**Record Reference** – Optional field, which you may use to enter identifiers or other information at your discretion. This field may be useful for identifying a reason for entering a record.

**Contribution Date** –

**Select Source of Contribution** –

**Enter Financial Contributions Made by External Sources** –

Enter Amount of Contribution:

**Enter In-Kind Contributions by External Sources** –

Enter Fair Market Value of Property or Materials:

Enter Number of Days Contributed:

**Program Category(s)** – Enter all programs through which the instance(s) of customers reached have occurred.

**Identify Location** – – Select the state location where the customer(s) action occurred.

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

*Enter Financial Contributions Made by External Sources* –

Enter Amount of Contribution:

*Enter In-Kind Contributions by External Sources* –

Enter Fair Market Value of Property or Materials:

Enter Number of Days Contributed:

### EXAMPLE

Trends in total hours leveraged from nongovernmental organizations, by program, 1999-2001.

Total contributions to conservation leveraged by NRCS programs and activities, by state, 1999. Total contributions to conservation leveraged by NRCS programs and activities, by state, 1999.

*What can be reported?*

## **OTHER ISSUES**

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## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: CULTURAL RESOURCES

### DEFINITION

**Undertaking:** Any project, activity, or program under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of NRCS that results in changes to the character or use of National Register listed or eligible historic properties or cultural resources. (If any historic properties are located in the area of potential effects.)

Undertakings include any project, activity, or program that:

- is carried out by or on behalf of the NRCS;
- is financed in part or in whole with NRCS financial assistance or technical assistance;
- requires a Federal permit, license, or approval, including the NRCS' authority to disapprove or veto the project, activity, or program; 04
- is subject to State or local regulation administered pursuant to a delegation or approval by the NRCS.

Undertakings also include new and continuing projects, technical assistance related to the provision of Federal assistance, or activities, programs, renewals or re-approvals of such assistance, approvals or programs. This scope also covers any of their elements not previously considered under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

**Historic Properties:** Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building structure, or object, significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture and listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Historic properties may also include material remains related to such a property or resources, such as artifactual and faunal remains, records, drawings, and photographs, and the like. See also cultural

resources, traditional cultural places, and National Register listed or eligible.

**Cultural Resources:** Cultural resources include historic properties and traditional cultural properties and refer to remains of past human activities and accomplishments that may or may not meet the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. **In NRCS** this term generally refers to National Register listed or eligible historic properties and National Register listed or eligible traditional cultural places.

Within a broader definition, cultural resources may include:

1. tangible remains, historic properties, such as districts, sites, buildings structures and objects;
2. less tangible remains such as dance forms, music, performing arts, folklife and folkways, vistas, traditional cultural or religious practices;
3. historical documents and artworks;
4. some landscapes, vistas, cemeteries. See also historic properties, traditional cultural properties, National Register listed or eligible.

**National Register of Historic Places listed or eligible:** Properties included in the official list or found through formal consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) that have significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and/or culture. The historical significance then determines the criteria for inclusion in the official list of districts, sites buildings, structures, and objects.

**National Register criteria for evaluation:** The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture that is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, objects, and tangible representations of culture that possess integrity of location, design,

setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and

(a) are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our (American or traditional) history; or

(b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

(c) that embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

(d) that have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in historic or prehistory.

#### **Criteria considerations:**

Ordinarily certain classes of historic properties/cultural resources including cemeteries, gravesites of famous historical figures, moved structures, properties belonging to or used by religious institutions, reconstructions, and properties that have attained historical significance within the last fifty years, are not considered eligible for the National Register. However, it is best to consult with your State Cultural Resources Specialist or Coordinator to determine if they qualify on other grounds.

**Field Investigation:** An examination of the area that may be impacted by an undertaking and is designed to physically locate and document the presence or absence of cultural resources. The investigation is conducted by a cultural resources specialist or, if in accordance with an signed State Level Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Officer, NRCS personnel who have completed required cultural resources training. The scope of the inspection is generally small and is normally used on farm or ranch fields or conservation treatment or practice installation areas.

**Treatment of Cultural Resources:** Treatment of cultural resources occurs when National Register listed or eligible resources are present within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). Treatments are designed and agreed upon in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer. These actions include:

**Avoidance** - (the most desirable treatment sought in NRCS);

**Data recovery** - (e.g. recordation of a site or structure);

**Interpretation** - (historic or cultural presentation of the property for the community and general public in exhibit or other public education form);

**Excavation** - (essential part of data recovery, specifically applied to archeological resources);

**Other** - (treatments negotiated and agreed upon with the State Historic Preservation Officer and, perhaps, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation);

**None** - (again, agreed upon by the NRCS and SHPO as an acceptable loss).

## **PURPOSE**

This performance measure permits NRCS to track the number of cultural sites evaluated, salvaged, restored, or protected.

## **DATA ENTRY FIELDS**

**Record Reference** – Optional field, which you may use to enter identifiers or other information at your discretion. This field may be useful for identifying a reason for entering a record.

**Date** – The date the assistance or service to the customer took place.

**Cultural Sites Evaluated** –

- Enter the number of cultural sites evaluated during the fiscal year.

- Enter the total number of acres for the cultural sites evaluated during the fiscal year.

through direct action to maintain the site's historical integrity

**Cultural Resource Information –**

- Enter the number of acres of undertakings reviewed.
- Enter the number of acres of field investigations conducted.
- Enter the number of acres and treatment type for sites identified and treated:

**EXAMPLE**

*What can be reported?*

**OTHER ISSUES**

**Program Category(s)** – Enter all programs through which the instance(s) of customers reached have occurred.

**Identify Location** – – Select the state location where the customer(s) action occurred.

**PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS**

**Cultural Sites Evaluated** – The total number of cultural sites evaluated. Evaluations apply the National Register of Historic Places criteria in an historic context to determine the significance of a cultural resource. Evaluations consider all tangible and intangible traces- tangible traces such as districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects; less tangible traces such as dance forms, aspects of folklife, landscapes, vistas, cultural or religious practices; and historical documents.

**Cultural Resource Information** – The total number of cultural sites salvaged, restored, or protected as warranted by the findings of the cultural evaluation performed. Sites salvaged include those where alterations or additions are undertaken to add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character. Sites restored include those where the area or property is returned to a condition equivalent to a particular period of time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods. Sites protected include those where degradation or other disruption is prevented

## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: WATERSHED & GROUP PLANNING

### DEFINITION

Watershed or community group program-neutral planning efforts completed at the area-wide level provided to meet an identified natural resource concern, such as water supply, water quality, habitat loss, loss of prime and unique farmland, or other concerns. This can include locally led conservation planning efforts. This includes all acres where NRCS had a role in the planning process, including initiating the process, participating in the planning, providing information for the process, or directly engaged in activities that supported the planning process..

### PURPOSE

Healthy watersheds providing clean and abundant water supplies for people and the environment.

By 2002, NRCS and our partners will be completing 100 priority watershed projects each year that meet the goals set by communities for water supply, water quality, or flood protection.

By 2000, we will have helped landowners and communities establish 2 million miles of buffer strips to protect watersheds and water supplies.

### DATA ENTRY FIELDS

**Record Reference** – Optional field, which you may use to enter identifiers or other information at your discretion. This field may be useful for identifying a reason for entering a record.

**Date** – The date the assistance or service to the customer took place.

#### **Enter Program Neutral Watershed & Group Plans –**

Enter the number of program neutral watershed and group plans for the fiscal year:

Enter the total number of acres of planned program neutral watershed and group plans for the fiscal year:

#### **Select Resource Concern -**

**Identify Location** – – Select the state location where the customer(s) action occurred

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Program Neutral Watershed & Group Plans*

Enter the number of program neutral watershed and group plans for the fiscal year:

Enter the total number of acres of planned program neutral watershed and group plans for the fiscal year:

### EXAMPLES

Healthy watersheds providing clean and abundant water supplies for people and the environment.

By 2002, NRCS and our partners will be completing 100 priority watershed projects each year that meet the goals set by communities for water supply, water quality, or flood protection.

By 2000, we will have helped landowners and communities establish 2 million miles of buffer strips to protect watersheds and water supplies.

#### *What may be reported?*

## PERFORMANCE MEASURE: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### DEFINITION

The total number of: applications, acres covered, cost-share percentage, and dollars requested to establish contracts, easements, or other agreements through USDA conservation programs.

### PURPOSE

The intent is to provide a single point of entry for field or state staff to enter status information for financial assistance programs. There are numerous Program-specific attributes and terminology which must be incorporated in the final version.

See Customers Assisted Performance Measure for explanation of data to enter for the following elements:

Record Reference	Assistance Date
First Service in FY	Customer Type
Customer Status	Program Category
Identify Location	

### *Habitat Type:*

### PERFORMANCE ELEMENTS

#### *Applications Received*

Enter the amount of funding requested:

Enter the total number of acres offered:

#### *Contract or Agreement Approved*

Enter the amount of funding obligated:

Enter the total number of acres authorized:

Enter the total cost:

#### *Cost-Share and Incentive Payment*

First payment in Fiscal Year:

Enter the actual amount of dollars expended:

Enter the actual number of acres completely treated or protected:

Select the agreement status:

#### *Easement Activity (WRP, EWP, and FPP Easement only)*

Easement Acquisition Cost:

Administrative Cost:

Total Cost:

Acres Acquired:

#### *Easement Projects Restored (WRP and EWP only)*

Habitat Types – Existing/Restorable

#### *NRCS Restoration Cost:*

### EXAMPLES

Number of acres under FIP contracts by Cong. District. Numbers, acres, and dollars obligated for WRP easements in the Midwest, 1999 Ratio of EQIP dollars obligated vs. dollars spent by customer status, by state, 1999-2001

#### *What may be reported?*

Applications Received Contract or Agreement Approved Cost-Share and Incentive Payment Contract or Agreement Approved Easement Activity (WRP, EWP, and FPP Easement only) Easement Projects Restored (WRP and EWP only)

