

# **Conservation Planning**

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
(NRCS)**

**AFO and Small CAFO Regulations  
Professional Development Training  
West Virginia 2013**

**West Virginia USDA NRCS**

**[www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/](http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/)**

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# Conservation Planning

- **A natural resource problem solving process that considers ecological, economic, social and policy considerations.**

# **NRCS field staff provide:**

**Conservation Planning Technical Assistance**

**Administration of USDA Conservation Programs that provide incentive payments for applying conservation practices to private lands**



# Unintended consequences





**Conservation planning is a voluntary process through the cooperation of the landuser (decision maker) and their local conservation district.**



*Protect and enhance the resources  
that support your operation.*



- **In NRCS our goal in conservation planning is to educate the decision makers to the point that they are the conservationists of their own resources.**



# Resources: SOIL





# WATER



© Mike the Soil Guy



# AIR





# PLANTS





# ANIMALS





# PEOPLE





# ENERGY



# Problems (resource concerns) with soil: erosion by water





# wind erosion





# soil compaction





**water**

**eroded streambanks - sediment**





air





# plants

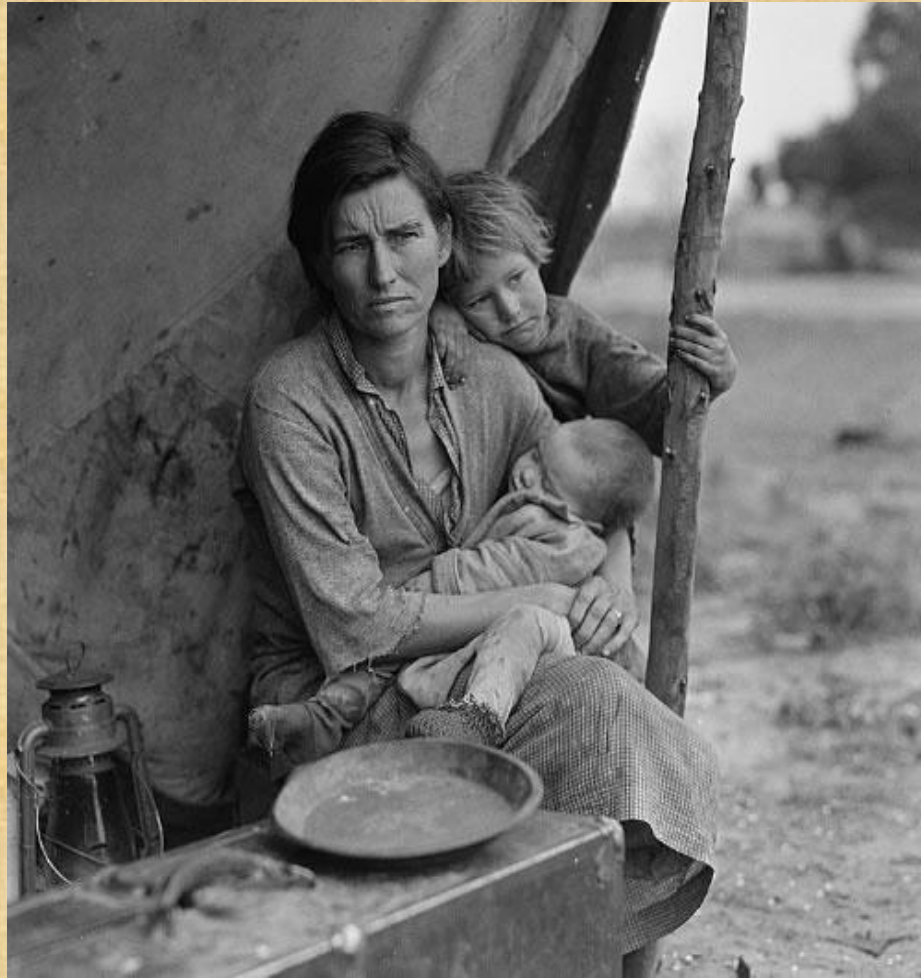




animals

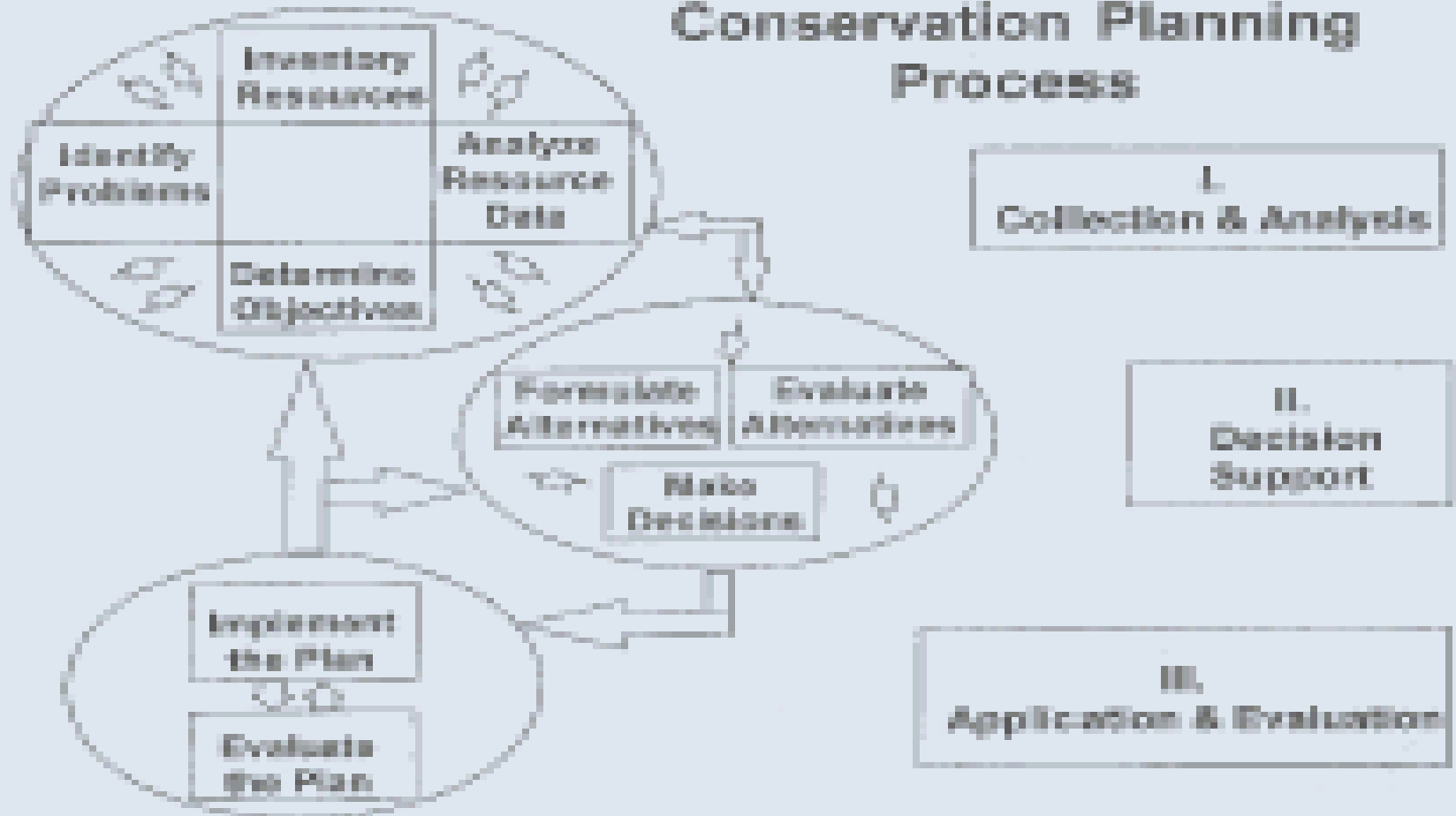


people





# Conservation Planning Process



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. A large, dark brown plowed field is the central focus, surrounded by green pastures and dense green trees. Several farm buildings, including a large white barn and a smaller red barn, are visible. A winding road or path cuts through the fields. The overall scene is a typical rural farmstead.

# Phase 1 – Collection & Analysis

## Understanding the Problems and Opportunities



# 1. Identify the Problem





## 2. Determine Objectives





# 3. Inventory Resources







## 4. Analyze Resource Data



A photograph of a paved road lined with blooming pink cherry blossom trees under a clear blue sky. The road has a white center line and yellow double lines on the sides. The trees are in full bloom, creating a vibrant pink canopy over the road. The background shows a clear blue sky and some distant hills.

**Phase 2 – Decision Support  
Understanding the Solutions**



# 5. Formulate Alternatives







## 6. Evaluate Alternatives



# 7. Make Decisions







**Phase 3 – Application and  
Evaluation  
Understanding the Results**





## 8. Implement the Plan

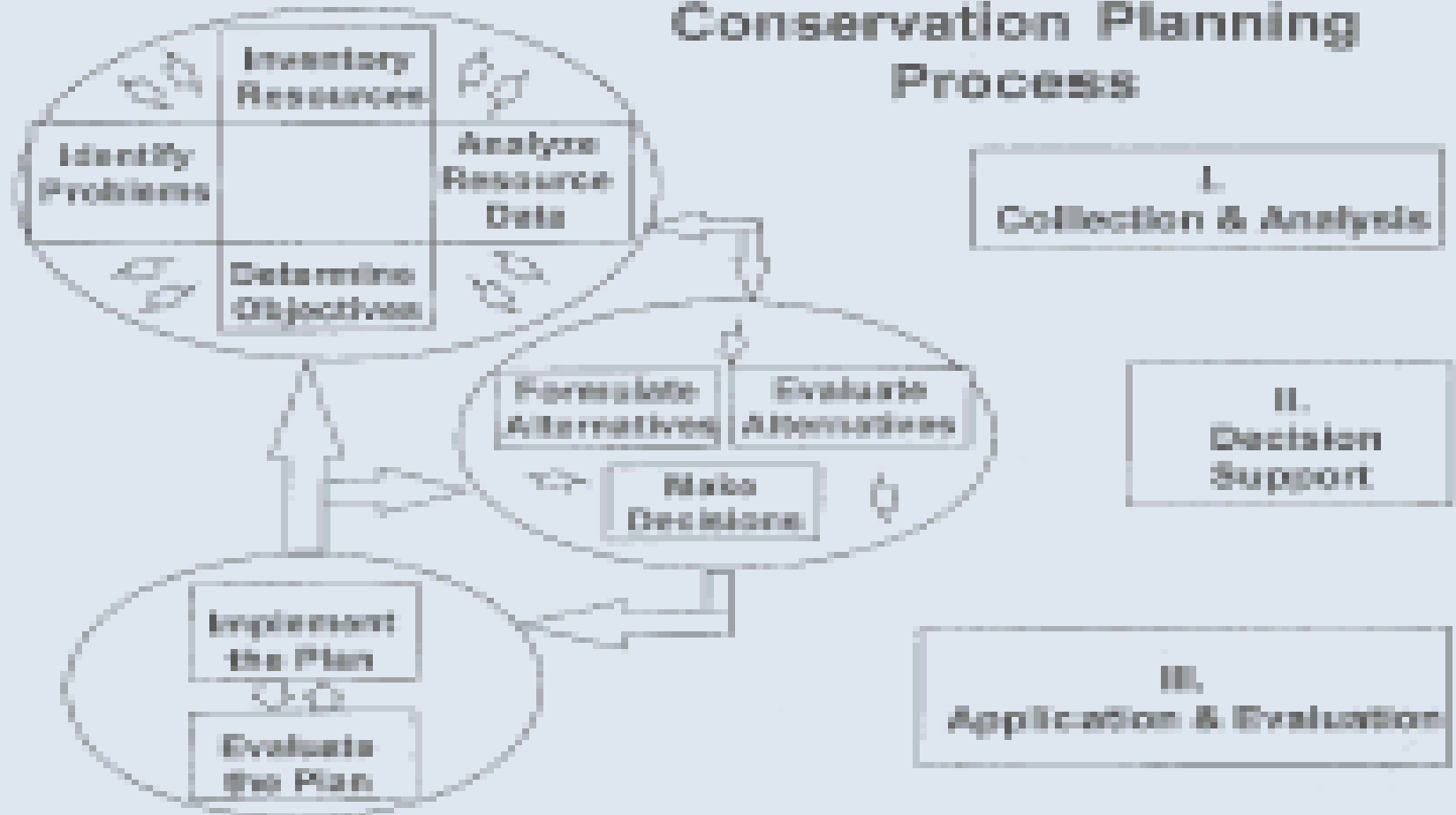




## 9. Evaluate the Plan



# Conservation Planning Process





# What is in a conservation plan?

**Record of landusers resource problems**

**Plan map - (aerial photograph)**

**Soils map and interpretations**

**Topographic map**



**Resource inventories and  
environmental evaluations  
(threatened & endangered  
species)**

**Technical sheets - 'how to' info.  
on woodland, pastureland,  
cropland, water sources,  
erosion estimates, livestock info.**

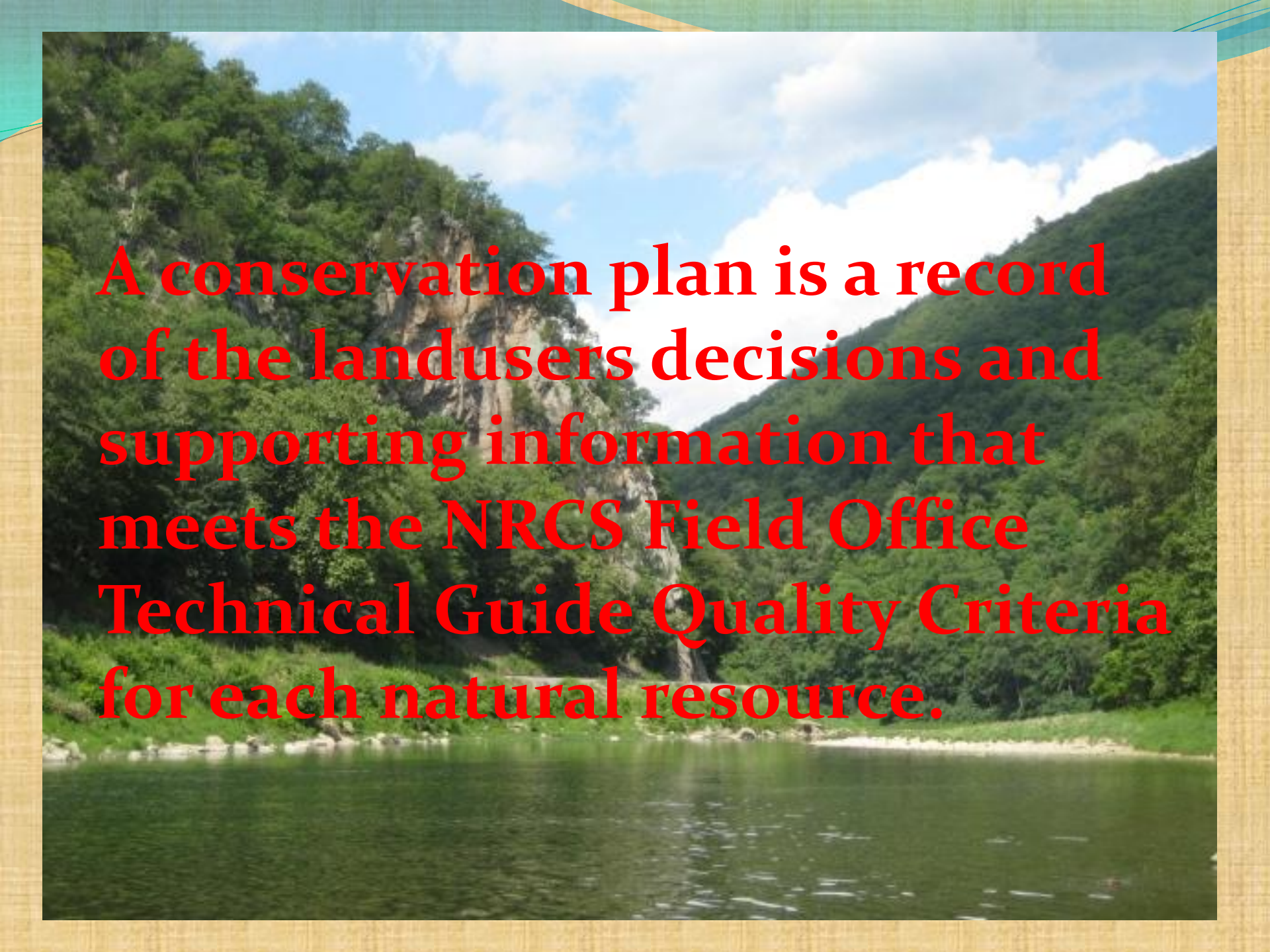


**Engineering designs and cost estimates for conservation practices**

**Record of landusers decisions**

**Schedule of operations**



A scenic landscape featuring a river in the foreground, a rocky cliff on the left, and forested hills in the background under a blue sky with white clouds. The text is overlaid in red on the left side of the image.

**A conservation plan is a record of the landusers decisions and supporting information that meets the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide Quality Criteria for each natural resource.**





# The NRCs Plant Materials Program





**The development and delivery of  
plant science technology to meet  
the Nation's natural resource  
conservation needs.**



# THE END





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