

CONSERVATION PLAN

CONTACT INFORMATION

WHAT IS IT?

A tool designed to help you better manage the natural resources on your farm.

WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?

- An aerial photo or diagram of your fields
- A list of your management decisions
- The location of and schedule for applying new conservation practices
- A soil map and soil descriptions
- Information sheets explaining how to carry out your specific management decisions
- A plan for operation and maintenance of practices, if needed



NRCS District Conservationist

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VERDE NRCD CLERK

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VERDE NRCD ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

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WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Protect soil and farm's productivity
- Help improve quality of the water in the area
- Improve soil's fertility and manage soil moisture
- Attract desirable wildlife by creating nesting sites and winter cover
- Protect the productive value of land for the future generations
- Be more readily comply with environmental regulatory requirements
- Be eligible for USDA farm programs

Verde

Natural Resource Conservation District

NRCD

MISSION

Promote the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources by facilitating technical and financial assistance to district cooperators. The District is committed to conserving our ecological heritage through interactive promotion of educational activities and outreach.

Verde NRCD 5-year Strategic Plan

Improve water availability for on-farm irrigation needs

- Convert on-farm inefficient irrigation systems to highly efficient irrigation systems that will provide increased economic benefit to farmers.
- Assist residential surface water users, through education and technical assistance, to convert to efficient irrigation practices and systems

Preserve agricultural heritage

- Secure conservation easements
 - Support local farmer's markets
- Assist agricultural producers to improve economic outcomes

Improve fish and wildlife habitat

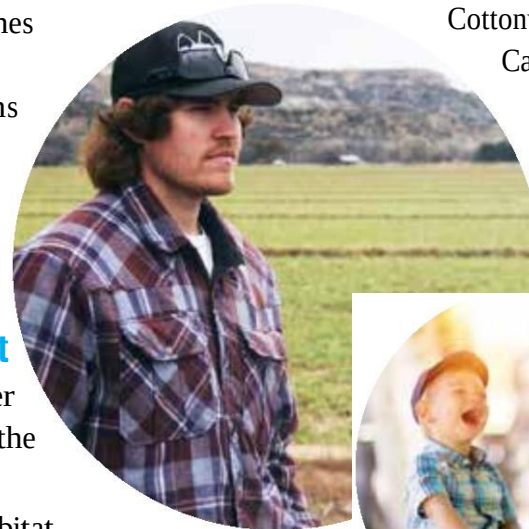
- Improve irrigation efficiency to improve stream flow for fish and wildlife
- Partner with the Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition to restore habitat through treatment of invasive plant species

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- A new program in the 2014 Farm Bill
- Encourages partners & producers to collaborate with NRCS to:
 - Increase restoration and sustainable use of soil, water, wildlife & related natural resources
 - Focus on regional or watershed scales
- Combines funds from existing programs

VERDE RCPP OBJECTIVE

1. **Restore and protect** flows in the Verde River with an emphasis on the Verde Valley.
2. **Improve** riparian habitat primarily through the removal of invasive plants, erosion control and native plant re-vegetation.
3. **Equip** farmers and ranchers with the tools and resources needed to be sustainable into the future.
4. **Enable** long-term farming operations in the Verde Valley to preserve the rural landscape, open space and protect investment in conservation projects.



VERDE NRCD ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Nonprofit organization serving the Verde Valley offering FREE water and agricultural programs to teachers. The Ed Center is committed to providing conservation, environmental, natural resource and sustainable agriculture education. Visit our Discovery Center and Pollinator Garden in Cottonwood for a hands-on adventure. Call 928-963-0238 for hours.

ED PROGRAMS

- Kids Conserve Water
 - Water Stewardship and Sustainable Water
 - Farm to Plate
 - Agricultural Literature in the Classroom Food Connections
 - Arizona Five Cs

