



# Technical Service Providers

## Overview

Technical Service Providers (TSPs) are individuals or businesses certified to help agricultural producers plan and apply conservation practices on their land. TSPs work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to ensure conservation services are delivered quickly and efficiently.

When working with NRCS, TSPs can:

- Develop specialized conservation plans to identify resource concerns on the farm or ranch;
- Design, lay out and install conservation practices to address resource concerns; and
- Inspect completed practices for certification and payment, as applicable.



## Join Our TSP Team

There is a growing demand for TSPs with a variety of specialized skills in conservation planning and design. To become a certified TSP with NRCS, register and submit an application describing your qualifications for approval through our online directory, TechReg, accessible from the NRCS website. Information about online and classroom trainings required for TSP certification and a step-by-step guide for becoming a TSP is also available on the NRCS website.

Applicants must meet all requirements listed for the specific technical services they wish to provide. Once certified by NRCS, TSPs are placed in TechReg as approved to provide specific technical services in their selected states or counties. Certification is valid for three years and TSPs are responsible for maintaining qualifications and licenses during that period.

TSPs are responsible for providing technical services that comply with all state, Federal, Tribal, and local law requirements.



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## Conservation Activity Plans

A Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) is a specialized conservation plan a TSP can develop for producers to identify conservation practices needed to address specific natural resource concerns on their land. There are more than a dozen CAPs, each with individual TSP certification requirements.

Primary CAPs Include:

- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
- Nutrient Management Plan
- Forest Management Plan
- Grazing Management Plan
- Intergrated Pest Management Plan
- Irrigation Water Management.Plan
- Agricultural Energy Management Plans-Headquarters and Landscape
- Prescribed Burning
- Drainage Water Management Plan
- Organic Agriculture Management Plan
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan
- Pollinator Habitat Plan
- Feed Management Plan

### More Information

Visit the NRCS Website:  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)  
Search: Technical Assistance

Find our local NRCS Service Centers: <http://offices.usda.gov>.

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

*In 2013, NRCS provided over \$57M to clients for TSP services.*

## Develop Conservation Activity Plans as a TSP

To become certified as a TSP to develop CAPs you must complete the mandatory TSP Orientation and Conservation Planning training, and satisfy the certification criteria for each of the areas of technical service and CAPs applied for, including any additional requirements as required by state, local or Tribal laws or regulations.

To become certified:

- TSPs should identify the CAPs and their practice(s) where they wish to be certified, and review the Eligibility Criteria document available on the TSP website.
- TSPs must meet all federal, state and local licensing or certification requirements, for each CAP and practice, where they wish to provide service.

### Benefits to TSPs

- Expand business opportunities by offering conservation technical services to new and existing clients.
- Develop CAPs that assist producers in achieving conservation goals such as better soil health, improved water and air quality, sustainable plant communities, and wildlife habitat.
- Create additional value-added conservation services to clients, from initial planning through implementation of conservation practices and follow-up.