



Design and Implementation Activity

Grazing Management Design

DIA 159

Definition

Production of site-specific conservation practice implementation instructions for grazing management activities contained in a conservation plan.

REQUIREMENTS

General Requirements

A Design and Implementation Activity (DIA) assists a participant with implementing their conservation plan by providing site-specific instructions, requirements, plans, or specifications for putting conservation practices and enhancements on the land.

A DIA may involve providing assistance for a single conservation practice or a combination of structural, vegetative, or land management conservation practices, enhancements, and management activities.

Prior to initiation of the DIA, the Technical Service Provider (TSP) will schedule a conference with the participant and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office staff to ensure an understanding of the participant objectives (including practices to be covered by the DIA), required deliverables, and characteristics of the DIA tasks. The meeting between all parties may take place in person or electronically.

The participant and conservation planner have determined which practices a TSP will provide DIA assistance for. The TSP must have certification in NRCS Registry for each practice they will provide assistance for through this DIA. If not certified for a practice(s), a TSP can use a subcontractor who is a certified TSP for the practice(s). If there are no available certified TSPs, then that practice shall be removed from the scope of the participant's DIA.

DIA assistance is based on the participant's conservation plan and applicable conservation practice standards and related technical guidance provided in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). Each NRCS State Office publishes appropriate technical guidance and reference information in the state's version of the FOTG. DIA assistance must conform with the conservation practice standards included in FOTG, Section 4 for the state where the practice(s) are to be implemented. A TSP may use conservation practice supporting documents found in the applicable state's FOTG, Section 4 to facilitate delivery of appropriate information to the participant.

Examples of conservation practice supporting documents include statements of work (SOW), implementation requirements (IR), practice specifications (PS), standard drawings (SD), General Specifications (GS), Construction Specifications (CS), Material Specifications (MS), and design support tools. The FOTG homepage hyperlink is: <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#>.

DELIVERABLES

The TSP prepares all the following items to fulfill this DIA's requirements:

Cover Page

The cover page must include the following:

- 1) DIA name and number.
- 2) Participant information: Name, farm bill program name, contract number (TSP obtains contract number from participant), land identification (e.g., state, county, farm, and tract number).
- 3) TSP name, TSP number, TSP expiration date, mailing address, phone number, email address.
- 4) A statement by the TSP that services meet the DIA requirements, such as:

I certify the work completed and delivered for this DIA:

- *Complies with all applicable Federal, State, Tribal, and local laws and regulations.*
- *Meets the General and Technical Requirements for this DIA.*
- *The planned practices are based on NRCS Conservation Practice Standards (CPSs) in the state Field Office Technical Guide where the practices are to be implemented.*
- *Is consistent with and meets the conservation goals and objectives for which the program contract was entered into by the participant.*
- *Incorporates alternatives that are both cost effective and appropriate to address the resource issue(s) and participant's objective(s).*

TSP Signature _____ Date _____

- 5) Participant's acceptance statement indicating:

I accept the completed DIA deliverables as thorough and satisfying my objectives.

Participant Signature _____ Date _____

- 6) A designated space for an NRCS reviewer to certify the agency's acceptance of the completed DIA.

NRCS administrative review completion by:

Signature _____ Title _____ Date _____

Notes and Correspondence

- 1) Provide notes, in date-order that:
 - a) Document each interaction with the participant, results of that interaction, and the date of the interaction.
 - b) Document each site visit, those present, the activity completed in the field, and results of each site visit.
 - c) Provide initials of the note-maker, if more than one person provides the assistance.
- 2) Provide copies of correspondence between the TSP and the participant relating to decision-making and completion of this DIA. For example, description of alternatives presented for evaluation and decision-making.

Implementation Maps

Maps for a DIA must include these features:

- a) Map title.
- b) Participant's name.
- c) Assisted By [TSP planner's name].
- d) Name of applicable conservation district, county, and State.
- e) Date prepared.
- f) Map scale.
- g) Information needed to locate the planning area, such as geographic coordinates, public land survey coordinates, etc.
- h) North arrow.
- i) Appropriate map symbols and a map symbol legend on the map or as an attachment.
- j) Locations of planned conservation practices and activities.
- k) Locations of existing conservation practices and activities that support the planned activities- for example existing fence or pipeline that is being connected to by the new, planned practices.
- l) Planning Land Unit (PLU), pasture, paddock, grazing management unit boundaries.

Design or Implementation Details

- 1) Develop site-specific written instructions for implementing each planned conservation practice or activity included in the participant's DIA. Those instructions must:
 - a) Include, as a minimum, all items listed in each CPS "Plans and Specifications" section and the applicable Practice Specification (PS).
 - b) Include all items listed in the "Operations and Maintenance" section.
- 2) Statement of Work documents in a state's FOTG Section 4, include a Design section that lists deliverables needed for the participant's successful implementation.
- 3) Implementation Requirement documents in a state's FOTG Section 4 may be used to prepare and deliver site-specific conservation practice instructions, but are not required to be used.

Supporting Documentation

Provide results of design tools, resource assessments, or other analysis that are required to meet the Criteria in the state's CPS and PS.

Deliver Completed Work

The TSP must:

- 1) Prepare and provide their participant two sets of the items listed in Deliverables.
 - a) One set is for the participant to keep.
 - b) The other set is for sharing with the local NRCS Office.
 - c) The TSP may transmit a set of the Deliverables to the local NRCS Office, if their participant

has authorized it. It is recommended to provide NRCS field office an opportunity to review the DIA deliverables, prior to asking for its acceptance.

- 2) Upload electronic copies of all the Deliverables on NRCS Registry.

References

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Cultural Resources Handbook.

<https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/viewerFS.aspx?hid=42752>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Determining Indicators of Pasture Health (DIPH).

<https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/viewerFS.aspx?hid=45118>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Field Office Technical Guide.

<https://efotq.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Interpreting Indicators of Rangeland Health (IIRH).

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/rangepasture/range/>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. National Planning Procedures Handbook.

<https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/viewerFS.aspx?hid=44407>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. National Range and Pasture Handbook.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/landuse/rangepasture/?cid=stelprdb1043084>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. National TSP Website.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp/>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. National TSP Resources.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/technical/tsp/?cid=nrcseprd1417414>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Pasture Condition Score (PCS).

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/landuse/rangepasture/pasture/?cid=stelprdb1045215>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Jornada Experimental Range and New Mexico State University (NMSU). EDIT Database.

<https://edit.jornada.nmsu.edu/>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Web Soil Survey (WSS).

<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>