

# Conservation Planning Process

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# 9-Step Planning Process



1. Identify Concerns and Opportunities



2. Determine Objectives

3. Inventory Resources

4. Analyze Resource Data

5. Formulate Alternatives



6. Evaluate Alternatives

7. Make Decisions



8. Implement the Plan

9. Evaluate the Plan

# Step 1: Identifying Concerns and Opportunities

The conservation planning process begins when the producer identifies a concern or opportunity

- Soil erosion
- Poor irrigation efficiency
- Inadequate water for livestock
- Dust problems
- Energy use



# Step 2: Determine Goals and Objectives

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## Description of Operation

- General location
- Size of grazing pastures
- Products / Produce

## Goals

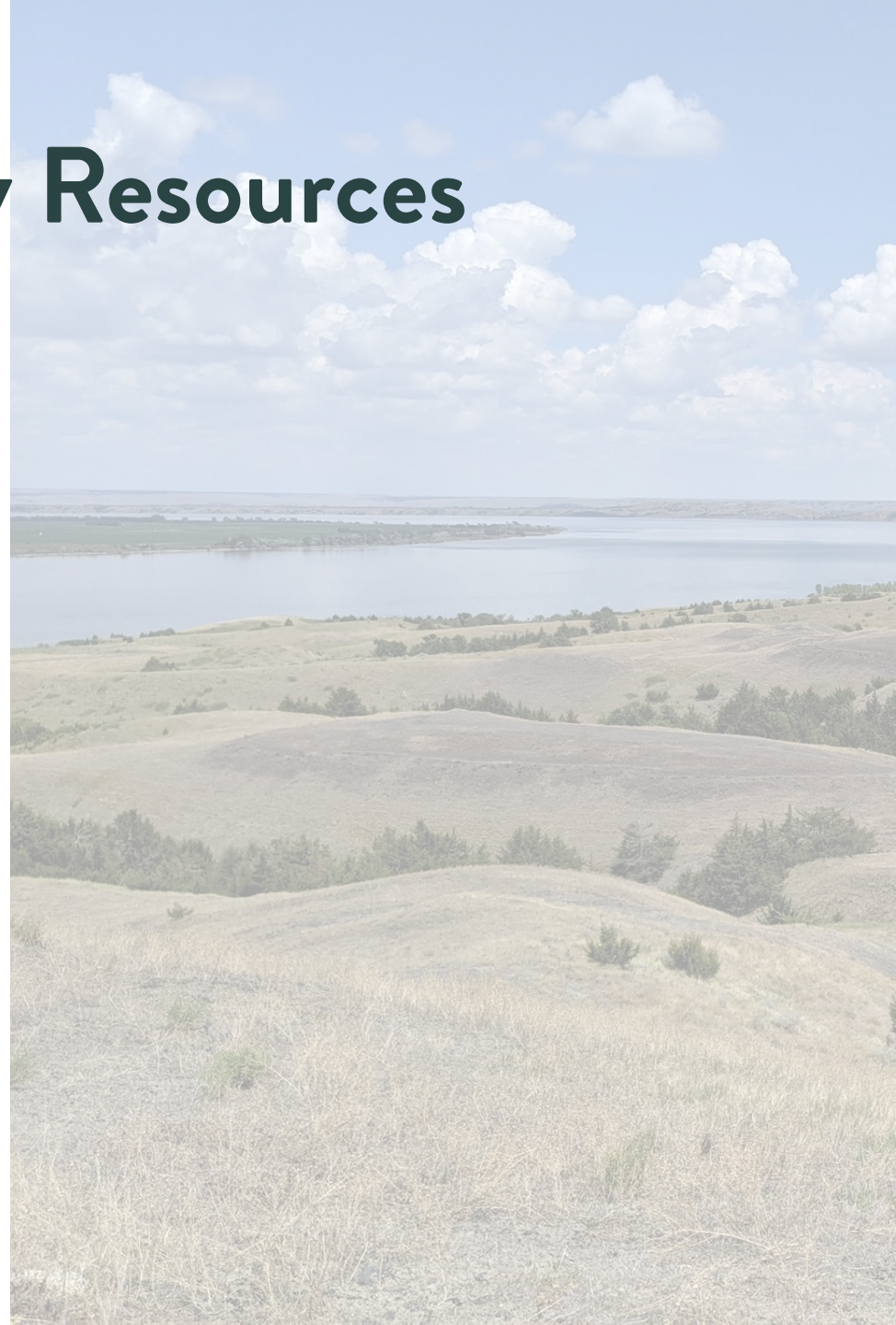
- Economic
- Ecological
- Social

## Objectives

- Measurable steps needed to achieve conservation plan goals

# **Step 3: Inventory Resources**

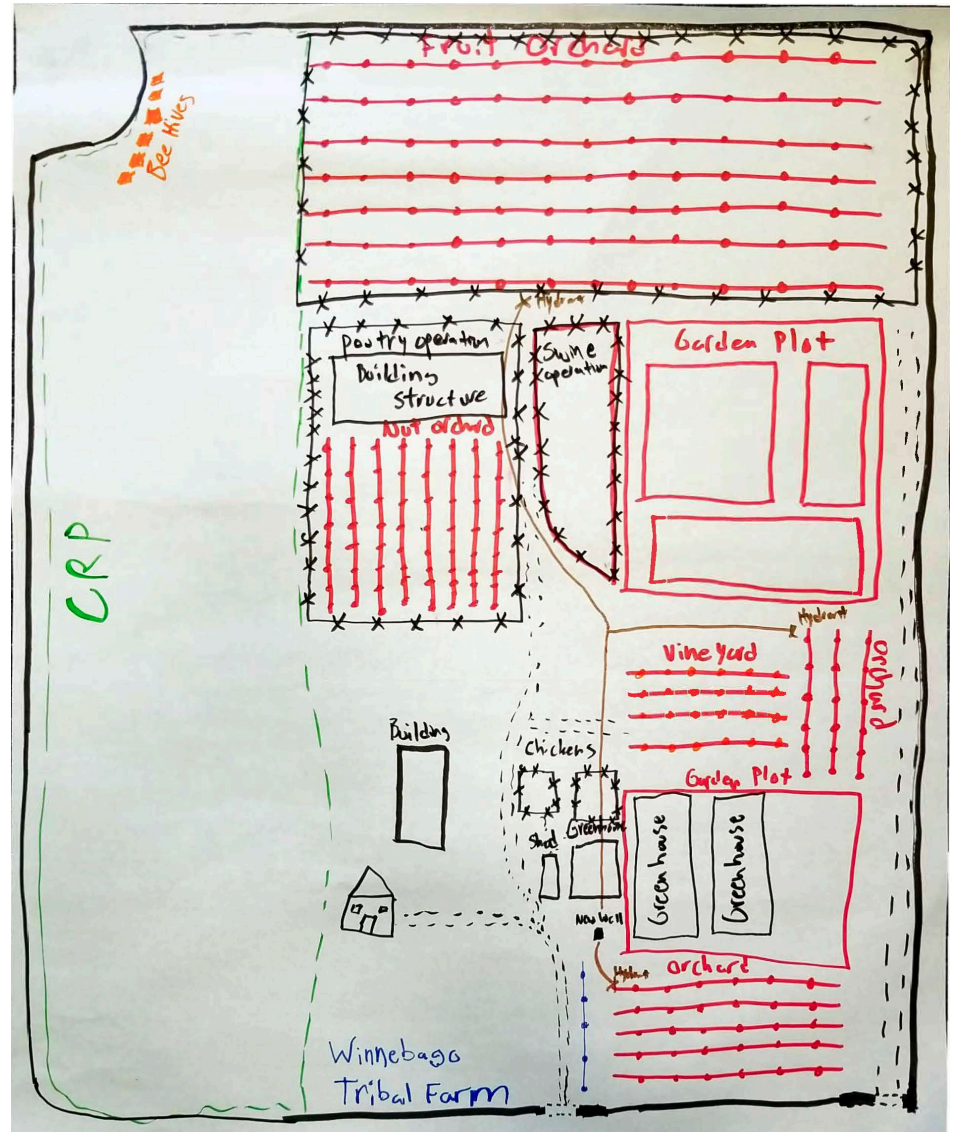
- **Soil erosion**
- **Water**
- **Air**
- **Plant**
- **Animal**
- **Energy resources**



# Develop a Benchmark Inventory

## Map

- Existing fields and pastures
- Location of existing structural practices
- Show direction of water flow



# Additional Inventory Items

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- Crop rotation
- Planting dates
- Yields
- Nutrient management
- Soil testing
- Pest management
- Irrigation management
- Economics
- Grazing system used
- Forage production
- Forage demand
- Wildlife habitat
- T&E species
- Cultural resources

# **Step 4: Analyze Resource Data**

**Compare the benchmark conditions with quality criteria to identify resource concern**

**Compare the benchmark system with your goals**

# Step 5: Formulate the RMS Alternative

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**RMS – Resource Management System**

**Identify all the goals and resource concerns that need to be addressed**

**Identify all the conservation practices needed to achieve the goals and address all the resource concerns**

# **Step 6: Evaluate Alternatives**

- **Understand the cause of the problems**
- **If the cause is not clear, return to Phase I to gather and analyze additional information**
- **Develop conservation management system alternatives**
- **Include environmental, economic, and social considerations in the evaluation process**

# **Step 7: Make Decisions**

**Document your decisions in your conservation plan:**

- **Goals and objectives, including resource concerns to be addressed**
- **Practice schedule showing planned practices and time of installation**
- **Narratives for each planned practice that describes the purpose and plan**

# Develop the Conservation Plan Map

- Planned field and pastures
- Existing structures and treatment
- Planned structural practices
- Planned vegetative or management practices



# **Step 8: Implement the Plan**



# **Step 9: Evaluate the Plan**

- **Sustainability is the basic goal of conservation**
- **Clearly stated goals and objectives provide the framework for what to monitor, where to monitor, and how often**
- **Monitoring provides decision makers with information about changes over time**



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# THANK YOU

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