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A. OVERVIEW

A.1 General Requirements

Minnesota state law requires that the entire area of a conservation easement be established and maintained as permanent cover, either with vegetation or water. To achieve this condition, a conservation plan must be developed for each conservation easement acquired. The conservation plan consists of several attachments that identify the location, establishment, and maintenance requirements for each of the approved conservation practices required for the duration of the easement. The term "conservation plan" will refer to this entire package.

The landowner is responsible for establishing and maintaining each conservation practice identified in the conservation plan and referenced in the conservation easement. This obligation transfers to each new owner for the duration of the conservation easement. These activities must be consistent with the standards and specifications described in the *Practice Specifications* subsection of the handbook.

The conservation plan is an agreement signed by the landowner(s) and the SWCD. It is referenced in, and made part of, the conservation easement even though the plan, or any amendment to it, is *not* recorded with the conservation easement. The original, signed copy of the conservation plan must be kept on file at the SWCD office. Any future alterations to the established conservation practices will require the development and signing of a new conservation plan and appropriate attachments.

Since the conservation plan is part of the conservation easement, it is enforceable and must be followed. Any willful action not in compliance with the conservation plan will be considered a direct violation of the conservation easement. Violations should be resolved and/or enforced following the violations procedure in the *Non-Compliance/Violation* subsection of the *Implementation Stage* section of the handbook.

The conservation plan must be developed using the instructions and materials found in this section of the handbook. Specific conservation practice standards and specifications may be obtained from a variety of technical sources. Refer to the *Practice Specifications* subsection of the handbook for more information. General planning requirements are given in the National Conservation Planning Manual (USDA-NRCS) and Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide ("FOTG"; USDA-NRCS).

The conservation plan for the easement area should include the greatest diversity of habitat cover type as practical and possible with cooperation and agreement of the landowner(s). Easement areas should not have only one type of wildlife habitat cover unless there are physically limiting factors such as size, soils, topography or other similar technical limitations. The SWCD technical representative is strongly encouraged to review the easement site and the surrounding habitat conditions with DNR wildlife staff to assess the most practical diversity of habitat cover suited to the proposed easement area. Habitat diversity ensures that most of the essential components necessary to establish and sustain wildlife habitat are provided on the easement area.

A.2 Required Documents

The conservation plan must be prepared with enough detail to allow for the proper establishment and maintenance of the conservation practices identified. More specifically, the conservation plan will contain information that will identify:

- a) The conservation practices that will exist on the conservation easement area,
- b) Where, how, and when these practices will be applied, and
- c) What operation and management requirements will exist for the easement owner.

To accomplish this, the conservation plan will generally consist of the following forms and attachments:

- ❖ Conservation Plan
- ❖ Conservation Easement Financial Worksheet (CEFW)
- ❖ Conservation Practice Plan
- ❖ Conservation Plan Map
- ❖ Planting Plans (establishment of necessary grasses and trees/shrubs)
- ❖ Construction Plans (for structures and/or engineered practices)
- ❖ Operation and Maintenance Requirements
- ❖ Supplementary Information (livestock exclusion plans, etc.)

Conservation Plan

The conservation plan page serves as the cover page of the conservation plan package. It provides a framework for the remainder of the plan. It makes reference to the conservation easement and reminds the landowner(s) that any non-compliance of the conservation plan will be viewed as a violation of the easement. It allows for the selection of a "principal" landowner who is responsible for implementing the conservation plan. It also provides a list of attachments that may be included in the plan and it briefly describes the state's cost-sharing process.

Conservation Easement Financial Worksheet (CEFW)

The CEFW is developed as part of the easement application package. It is used to calculate the easement payment amount and the eligible BWSR cost-share amount for establishing the identified conservation practices. The CEFW should be included with the conservation plan to provide a detailed financial account of the funds available for practice establishment. For more information regarding easement payment information (part B of the CEFW), refer to the Application Stage section of the handbook. This section (item B.2) of the handbook contains information regarding development of the conservation practice payment information (part C of the CEFW).

Conservation Practice Plan and Plan Map

The conservation practice plan and plan map are developed as part of the agreement package. They are used to identify the size, location and year of establishment for the conservation practices identified. They will be developed from the information provided in the CEFW, which is submitted as part of the easement application package. Therefore, consideration must be given to the contents of the conservation practice plan and plan map at the application stage to facilitate development of the CEFW.

A.3 Practice Areas

Practice areas need to be identified for the entire easement area. Separate practice areas shall be identified for each unique or isolated conservation practice that exists or will be established. Practice areas must be included on the CEFW, as well as on the conservation practice plan and plan map. Therefore, they must be identified before submitting the easement application package. Each practice area identified shall be numbered using the most practical and logical sequence.

A.4 Conservation Practice Codes and Descriptions

The codes and general descriptions for all allowed conservation practices on an easement area are identified in Table 1 of section A. This table should be used as a guide when developing the attachments to the conservation plan. Detailed descriptions of the practice codes are provided in the standard operation and maintenance requirements.

A.5 Using and Combining Conservation Practices (Primary & Supporting)

For each conservation practice area identified for the easement area, a primary conservation practice must be designated. The primary conservation practice is the permanent practice cover expected to exist on the easement in the long-term.

Some practice areas will also require the establishment of a supporting practice. Supporting practices are those that, once established, will control erosion and aid in the establishment of the primary practice. Supporting practices can be established over all or portions of the practice area. Refer to table 1 of section A to determine the eligible amounts of program cost-sharing as well as the allowable combinations of primary and supporting conservation practices.

**Table 1
CONSERVATION PRACTICE COST-SHARE
PAYMENT LIMITS**

PRIMARY CONSERVATION PRACTICES			SUPPORTING CONSERVATION PRACTICES		
PRACTICE CODE	MAXIMUM \$ AMOUNT ALLOWED PER ACRE		PRACTICE CODE	MAXIMUM \$ AMOUNT ALLOWED PER ACRE	
	PERPETUAL EASEMENTS	LIMITED EASEMENTS		PERPETUAL EASEMENTS	LIMITED EASEMENTS
RR-1a RR-1b & c	\$100 \$0	75% up to \$75	RR-5 RR-6 RR-7	\$0 \$0 \$0	\$0 \$0 \$0
RR-2a RR-2b & c	\$200 \$0	75% up to \$75	RR-5 RR-6 RR-7	\$0 \$0 \$0	\$0 \$0 \$0
RR-3a RR-3b & c	\$300 \$0	75% up to \$200	RR-5 RR-6 RR-7	\$0 \$0 \$0	\$0 \$0 \$0
RR-4a RR-4b	\$300 \$0	75% up to \$200	RR-1 RR-2a	\$100 \$200	75% UP TO \$75 75% UPTO \$75
RR-5	\$0	\$0	RR-1 RR-2a	\$100 \$200	75% UP TO \$75 75% UPTO \$75
RR-6	\$0	\$0	RR-1 RR-2a	\$100 \$200	75% UP TO \$75 75% UPTO \$75
RR-7	\$0	\$0	RR-1 RR-2a	\$100 \$200	75% UP TO \$75 75% UPTO \$75
RR-8a RR-8b & c	\$300 \$0	\$0	RR-1 RR-2a	\$100 \$200	75% UP TO \$75 75% UPTO \$75
RR-11	\$0	75% up to \$200	RR-1 RR-2a	\$100 \$200	75% UP TO \$75 75% UPTO \$75
RR-12a RR-12b	\$100 \$0	\$0	RR-1 RR-2a	\$100 \$200	75% UP TO \$75 75% UPTO \$75
RR-13	\$0	\$0	RR-1 RR-2a	\$100 \$200	75% UP TO \$75 75% UPTO \$75
RR-14	\$0	\$0	RR-1 RR-2a	\$100 \$200	75% UP TO \$75 75% UPTO \$75
RR-FP	\$0	\$0	---	---	---

CONSERVATION PRACTICE CODE DESCRIPTIONS

RR-1a Introduced Grasses/Legumes To Be Established
 RR-1b Introduced Grasses/Legumes Already Established
 RR-2a Native Grasses To Be Established
 RR-2b Native Grasses Already Established
 RR-3a Tree and/or Shrub Planting To Be Established
 RR-3b Tree and/or Shrub Planting Already Established
 RR-4a Field Windbreak To Be Established
 RR-4b Field Windbreak Already Established
 RR-5 Diversion
 RR-6 Erosion Control Structure

RR-7 Grass Waterway
 RR-8a Wetland Restoration To Be Restored
 RR-8b Wetland Restoration Crop Cessation
 RR-8c Wetland Restoration Previously Restored
 RR-11 Highway Windbreak
 RR-12a Wetland Creation To Be Established
 RR-12b Wetland Creation Already Established
 RR-13 Existing Wetland
 RR-14 Existing Watercourse/Drainage Ditch
 RR-FP Wildlife Food Plot

B. CONSERVATION PLAN PACKAGE DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES

B.1 Introduction

The SWCD technical representative works with landowner(s) to identify the locations and types of conservation practices planned for the conservation easement area. Assistance from other agencies and organizations (e.g., NRCS, DNR, USFWS, Pheasants Forever, etc.) should be sought, if necessary, when planning and identifying the conservation practices to be established. Also, use information from existing resource conservation plans (farm plans), if applicable.

Record pertinent information as discussed with landowner(s) in the file folder notes and use this information to assist your efforts in developing the conservation plan package.

B.2 Developing the Conservation Easement Financial Worksheet (CEFW)

The conservation easement and practice dollars requested at the time of application must be determined as accurately as possible. To assist in making this determination, a Conservation Easement Financial Worksheet (CEFW) must be prepared and submitted with the easement application.

It is suggested that a preliminary conservation plan map be developed on a copy of an FSA aerial photo or digital photo to begin the conservation planning process. It will be much easier to locate and measure the size of practice areas from an aerial photo.

The CEFW is developed once the conservation practice types, locations, practice areas and acreages are defined. The general guidelines listed below should be followed when developing the conservation practice payment calculations (Part C) of the CEFW. The instructions for completing the easement payment calculations (part B) of the CEFW are located in the Application Stage section of the handbook.

- ❖ The information entered on the CEFW may be typed or legibly hand written.
- ❖ The sum of all primary conservation practice acres must equal the total conservation easement area.
- ❖ The acres of a supporting practice do not necessarily need to equal the acres of associated primary practice.
- ❖ For each practice code used, the maximum per acre dollar amount allowed (see table 1) for that practice code must be entered in column 4.
- ❖ The sum of all amounts in column 5 will be the total eligible amount of easement cost-sharing funds available to establish the conservation practices identified. These amounts must be entered and totaled regardless if BWSR cost-share funds will be used to establish the practice.
- ❖ The landowner(s) must be informed of any remaining balances. The SWCD must make sure the landowner(s) understand that this balance is their responsibility. Refer to section C.1 "Financial Requirements" for additional information.

B.3 Developing the Conservation Practice Plan and Plan Map

Using information obtained during development of the easement application, the SWCD technical representative will need to develop the conservation practice plan and plan map. These documents should be prepared following these general guidelines:

- ❖ The completed conservation practice plan must be clearly organized and typed.
- ❖ The conservation practice plan must list the practice areas in consecutive order beginning with practice area 1.
- ❖ The total amount of acres entered in the conservation practice plan must equal the total acres of the conservation easement.
- ❖ For each practice area identified on the conservation practice plan, an associated primary conservation practice is required. Supporting conservation practices, if required, should also be identified.
- ❖ Enter the year the primary and supporting conservation practices will be established. If the primary conservation practice is an existing practice enter the year of the easement application.
- ❖ Copies of the unsigned conservation plan, practice plan and map must be submitted with, or prior to, the central office's receipt of the title commitment.

B.4 Finalizing the Conservation Plan Package

The conservation plan should be provided to the landowner(s) for review at the time the conservation easement is being signed. The delegated principal landowner will be responsible for signing the conservation plan at that time.

In addition to the CEFW, conservation practice plan and plan map, the following additional items need to be developed and reviewed by the landowner(s) before signing the conservation easement and associated conservation plan. These items will be part of the conservation plan given to the landowner upon finalization of the easement. Refer to section A.2 for additional instructions regarding contents of the conservation plan.

Planting Plans

All RR-1, RR-2, RR-3, RR-4, RR-11, and RR-FP conservation practices must have a written planting plan developed for each practice area.

Practice areas with the same planting requirement may be combined in one planting plan but should be so indicated. It is suggested that planting plans be developed using a copy of an aerial photo for specific planting location reference. The conservation plan map developed for the conservation plan will not likely be detailed enough for this purpose.

Construction Plans

All RR-5, RR-6, RR-7, RR-8, and RR-12 conservation practices must have a specific construction plan developed for each conservation practice area. When necessary, planting requirements should be included in the construction plan. Multiple practice areas may be included in one construction plan.

Operation and Maintenance (O & M) Requirements

All conservation practices should have an O & M plan. The standard conservation easement operation and maintenance packet should be reviewed and any additional items should be added where appropriate.

Supplementary Information

This could include specific descriptions of operation and/or maintenance plans for livestock exclusion, trail use (snowmobiles, horses, walking/jogging, biking; frequency of use, etc.), or any other issues concerning the easement area. Recreational use of the easement area is not regulated by the terms of the easement. However, the easement does not allow wildlife habitat to be altered. Therefore locations of above items, such as trails, should appear on the conservation plan map so they can be monitored for compliance.

All financial information should again be reviewed with the landowner(s) when the conservation easement is signed. This is especially important if the landowner(s) have any financial responsibilities associated with establishing the conservation practices, or if any revisions to the CEFW have been made since the easement application was submitted.

The conservation plan is signed along with the conservation easement. However, no part of the conservation plan package should be recorded with the easement.

A copy of the signed conservation plan along with the corresponding CEFW, conservation practice plan, and conservation plan map should be sent to the BWSR along with the recorded conservation easement and final title insurance policy. Planting plans, operation and maintenance requirements and other supporting information do not need to be submitted. A current "signed and dated" conservation plan with attachments must be kept on file at the SWCD office. A copy of the conservation plan and all attachments should be given to the landowner(s).

B.5 Summary

APPLICATION STAGE	Complete and submit copy of CEFW with application package.
AGREEMENT STAGE	Complete and submit copies of "unsigned" conservation plan, conservation practice plan and plan map by the time the title commitment is sent to the central office.
EASEMENT SIGNING STAGE	All attachments to the conservation plan are prepared for landowner review. The principal landowner and authorized SWCD representative sign and date conservation plan.
EASEMENT RECORDING STAGE	Do not record conservation plan or any of its attachments. Submit copies of the final "signed" conservation plan, CEFW, conservation practice plan, and plan map to BWSR. Prepare conservation plan "package" and give to principal landowner for implementation.

C. CONSERVATION PLAN TECHNICAL & FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

C.1 General Conservation Practice Requirements

Technical Requirements

An SWCD technical representative will be responsible for developing the conservation plan and attachments. They will work with the landowner(s) to select the most appropriate conservation practice(s) for the conservation easement area. The SWCD technical representative may be an SWCD technician, Soil Conservation Service employee or other representative designated by the SWCD who has an appropriate technical approval authority.

The responsibilities of the technical representative include:

- a) Preparation of the conservation plan and attachments;
- b) A technical on-site inspection/review of the proposed conservation easement and corresponding practice area(s) to assess the adequacy of the proposed practices and their compliance with the Conservation Easement Practice Specifications; and
- c) Technical certification that the approved practices has been adequately installed.

Financial Requirements

Activities necessary to successfully establish an approved conservation practice may be eligible for easement cost-share assistance from the BWSR. Cost-sharing for the conservation easement programs is only available up to the maximum payment limits shown in table 1 in part A of this section. Any actual costs that exceed the total easement cost-share funds allocated are the responsibility of the landowner(s). However, landowners can reduce their contribution to the actual costs by seeking and receiving financial assistance from other contributors (e.g., other state and federal cost-share programs, conservation organizations, etc.). Note: the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) does not allow ACP cost-sharing on acres accepted to be enrolled, or enrolled, in a conservation easement.

Refer to the *Practice Specifications* subsection of the handbook for a specific list of cost-shareable and non-cost-shareable activities associated with each conservation practice.

C.2 Permanent Vegetative Cover -- To Be Established

- | | |
|------|-------------------------------|
| RR-1 | Introduce grasses and legumes |
| RR-2 | Native grasses |

Technical Requirements

If a planned conservation practice of permanent vegetative cover (RR-1 or RR-2) cannot be immediately established on a practice area or is delayed for a specific management purpose and weed and/or erosion control is necessary, temporary cover must be established on the area.

Refer to the [*Practice Specifications*](#) section of the handbook for more information on establishing permanent vegetative cover or on establishing temporary cover.

Financial Requirements

Cost-sharing is available thru BWSR Easement programs to establish permanent vegetative cover as either a primary or supporting conservation practice. Refer to table 1 for the maximum payment limits for these practices.

The cost for establishing temporary cover prior to establishing the permanent vegetative cover is an allowed cost-shareable item. However, the costs incurred to establish temporary cover must be included as part of the RR-1 or RR-2 establishment costs; refer to the [*Practice Specifications*](#) subsection of the handbook for additional information.

C.3 Permanent Vegetative Cover -- Already Established

RR-1b/RR-2b Introduced/Native Vegetative Cover - Grass and/or Legumes -
Already Established

RR-3b Vegetative Cover - Trees and/or Shrubs - Already Established

RR-13 Wetland - Existing

Technical Requirements

Primary conservation practices of existing cover must be in adequate condition at the time of enrollment. These practices must meet the specific criteria associated with each practice as identified in the [*Practice Specifications*](#) subsection of the handbook.

The RR-13 practice includes existing wetlands, wildlife ponds, and livestock ponds.

Note: Previously restored wetlands being enrolled into a BWSR easement program should be considered as an RR-8c practice, not an RR-13 practice.

The size of the practice area for an existing wetland (RR-13) should be greater than the wetland's water surface area since a wetland's area, when delineated, will normally extend beyond any surface water that may be present. The size of the wetland practice area should be determined using the best resources available (historic/current photos, soil maps, topography, site investigation, etc.) or other acceptable delineation methods.

Refer to the Practice Specification subsection of the handbook for more information regarding permanent vegetative cover that is already established.

Financial Requirements

Cost-sharing is not available thru BWSR Easement programs to establish or maintain any of these conservation practices; refer to the [*Practice Specifications*](#) subsection of the handbook for additional information.

C.4 Tree and/or Shrub Plantings

RR-3 Tree and/or Shrub Planting

RR-4 Field Windbreak

RR-11 Highway Windbreak

Technical Requirements

An SWCD technical representative is responsible for developing a tree/shrub planting plan. The area DNR Forester should be consulted as needed for assistance in developing the planting plans. Each planting plan for a RR-3, RR-4 or RR-11 practice should be reviewed by a DNR Wildlife representative to ensure wildlife, benefits are addressed prior to incorporating it into the conservation plan.

If the existing vegetative cover within a planned woody planting is inadequate, permanent vegetative cover shall be established. The permanent vegetative cover must be identified on the CEFW and in the conservation practice plan as a supporting RR-1 or RR-2 conservation practice. On non-erosive land, the planting of grasses between tree and/or shrub rows may be delayed to aid in their establishment. The planting of grasses shall be delayed no longer than three years after planting of the trees.

Trees and/or shrubs should not be established within the right-of-way area of any utility. It is advisable to check with the utility owner to determine if any additional right-of-way requirements may exist.

Refer to the *Practice Specifications* subsection of the handbook for more information regarding establishing tree and/or shrub plantings.

Financial Requirements

Cost-sharing is available thru BWSR Easement programs to establish tree and/or shrub plantings as primary conservation practices only. Refer to table 1 for maximum payment limits for these practices.

A supporting practice of permanent vegetative cover (RR-1 or RR-2) is a separate, cost-shareable item when associated with a primary practice of a tree and/or shrub planting (see C.2 and table 1).

C.5 Structural and/or Engineered Conservation Practices

- RR-5 Diversion
- RR-6 Erosion Control Structure
- RR-7 Grass Waterway
- RR-8 Wetland Restoration
- RR-12 Wetland Creation
- RR-13 Existing Wetland
- RR-14 Existing Watercourse Drainage Ditch

Technical Requirements

A SWCD technical representative is responsible for designing, or coordinating the design, of the specified structural and/or engineered conservation practice(s). The BWSR Engineering Section must review and approve the design prior to the establishment of the conservation practice or the conveyance of the conservation easement, whichever occurs first. Existing structural and/or engineered conservation practice(s) being enrolled must be reviewed by a SWCD technical representative to determine if the practice complies with the associated practice specifications.

If a primary structural and/or engineered conservation practice (RR-8 or RR-12) cannot be immediately established on a conservation practice area and weed and/or erosion control is necessary, the practice area must be established with a temporary or permanent vegetative cover (see C.2 Technical Requirements).

The size of the practice area for wetland practices (RR-8 or RR-12) should be greater than the wetland's water surface area since a wetland's area, when delineated, will normally extend beyond any surface water that may be present. The size of the wetland practice area should be determined using the best resources available (historic/current photos, soil maps, topography, site investigation, etc.) or other accepted delineation methods.

Any supporting structural and/or engineered conservation practice (RR-5, RR-6, or RR-7) to be established must be associated with an existing or planned primary vegetative conservation practice. The associated primary conservation practice and its corresponding practice area should be the area that is best protected by the supporting practice. The size of the supporting structural and/or engineered conservation practice (RR-5, RR-6, or RR-7) should be determined and noted on the CEFW as follows:

RR-5	Diversion	"0.0" acres
RR-6	Erosion Control Structure	"0.0" acres
RR-7	Grass Waterway	Actual acres within easement area

Refer to the *Practice Specifications* subsection of the handbook for more information on establishing structural and/or engineered conservation practices.

Financial Requirements

Cost-sharing is available thru BWSR Easement programs to establish structural and/or engineered conservation practices (RR-8 and RR-12) as primary conservation practices only. Refer to table 1 for maximum payment limits for these practices.

A supporting conservation practice of permanent vegetative cover (RR-1 or RR-2) is a separate, cost-shareable item when associated with a primary structural and/or engineered conservation practice (see C.2 and table 1). The cost of establishing the supporting conservation practice of permanent vegetative cover could also be included in the total overall cost of the primary structural and/or engineered conservation practice.

The cost of establishing temporary cover is only cost-shareable if included in the total overall construction cost of the primary structural and/or engineered conservation practice.

Cost-sharing is not available thru BWSR Easement programs to construct supporting structural and/or engineered conservation practices (RR-5, RR-6, or RR-7). However, the cost of establishing the associated primary vegetative conservation practices is cost-shareable (see C.2 and table 1). Other funding sources should be sought to help finance the establishment of these supporting practices (e.g., other state and federal cost-share programs, conservation organizations, etc.).

C.6 Wildlife Food Plot

RR-FP Wildlife Food Plot

Technical Requirements

Food plots do not need a permanent vegetative cover as long as they are managed and maintained for wildlife. A temporary cover must be established on the practice area if weed and/or erosion control is necessary and the food plot cannot be immediately planted.

If a food plot is discontinued, it must be established to a permanent vegetative cover and the associated establishment costs are the responsibility of the landowner(s).

Refer to the *Practice Specifications* subsection of the handbook for more information on establishing wildlife food plots.

Financial Requirements

Cost-sharing is not available thru BWSR Easement programs to establish food plots or temporary cover on the food plot area.

C.7 Uncompensated (Donated) Land

Technical Requirements

Land donated to a conservation easement must have, or be established to, permanent cover. Any allowable combination of the conservation practices identified in table 1 may be applied on donated lands.

Financial Requirements

Cost-sharing, up to the maximum limits shown in table 1, is available thru BWSR Easement programs for conservation practices established on the donated portion of the easement area.

C.8 Livestock Exclusion

Technical Requirements

Any measures needed to exclude livestock from the easement area should be included as a specific additional item "Livestock Exclusion Plan" to the conservation plan package. A description of all necessary measures including planting requirements and/or other supplementary information should be provided.

Financial Requirements

Cost-sharing is not available thru BWSR Easement programs to establish any fences, gates, or stream crossings to exclude livestock from the easement area. All costs for any necessary measures to exclude livestock are at the expense of the landowner(s). Other funding sources should be sought to help finance the exclusion of livestock (e.g., other state and federal cost-share programs, conservation organizations, etc.).

C.9 Operation and Maintenance

Technical Requirements

All activities required or necessary to comply with operation and maintenance requirements of a conservation practice are typically the responsibility of the landowner. The state and/or SWCD will provide technical assistance to the landowner when necessary. These activities include such items controlled burning, noxious weed control, mowing around trees, etc. Reseeding, replanting, and repairing practices that failed for reasons within the landowner(s) control are also considered operation and maintenance activities.

Refer to the *Practice Specifications* subsection of the handbook for more information regarding allowable operation and maintenance activities associated with each conservation practice.

Financial Requirements

Cost-sharing is not available thru BWSR Easement programs for performing operation and maintenance activities. Refer to the Conservation Plan Implementation subsection of the Implementation Stage section and the *Practice Specifications* subsection of the handbook for additional information regarding availability of cost-sharing for operation and maintenance activities.