

**NB.450.7.13, TCH – STATE LEVEL FIELD REVIEW OF DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR NRCS/USACE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

National 450-7-13  
Bulletin:

July 17, 2007

Subject: TCH – STATE LEVEL FIELD REVIEW OF DRAFT ACTION PLAN  
FOR NRCS/USACE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

**Action Required By: September 1, 2007**

**Purpose.** To receive feedback from NRCS State Offices concerning collaborative communication with local Corps Districts on Implementation of The National Partnership Agreement.

**Expiration Date.** September 30, 2007

**Background.** A partnership agreement was signed between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on July 7, 2005. The purpose of the agreement is to promote a long-term working relationship on collaborative efforts to improve the management of water and related natural resources under the missions and authorities of NRCS and USACE. Initially, collaboration has focused on three areas at the National level: 1) Watershed planning and implementation; 2) Wetland creation, restoration, and enhancement; and 3) Natural disaster recovery. The agencies also agreed to coordinate other programs and activities including the Wetland Conservation Compliance (Swampbuster) and the Regulatory program (Section 404 of the Clean Water Act). Both agencies have designated liaisons to assist with the collaborative process to support implementation of the National Partnership Agreement.

To facilitate the implementation of the NRCS/USACE partnership agreement an Action Plan is being jointly developed which identifies initiatives that both agencies can collaboratively and cost-effectively pursue. A draft of the action plan has been jointly developed by NRCS and USACE National Headquarters Staff. The items in the draft plan are national in scope and range from the policy and programmatic issues to the development and application of technology, tools, and training. The action plan will be finalized through a two-staged review and input process. The first review was recently completed by a small team from NRCS and USACE that provided input regarding items identified to date. The second review is a "Field Level Review", and it is designed to obtain input on potential field projects and/or activities to be included in the Action Plan. NRCS and USACE are conducting this field level review of the NRCS/USACE Draft Action plan simultaneously. Lawrence E. Clark, NRCS, Deputy Chief for Science and Technology and Steve Stockton, USACE, Deputy Director of Civil Works both support the review of the draft action plan at the field level in an effort to promote collaboration at all levels of each organization.

**Explanation.** NRCS State Offices are asked to communicate with local Corps District Offices and provide feedback to the questions listed below. The Corps Districts are being asked to provide the same. Suggestions or comments provided should be based on input resulting from NRCS State discussions with their Corps District counterpart and current or past collaborative working relationships. The information gathered from the NRCS State and Corps District Offices will be considered for inclusion in the NRCS/USACE Action Plan which will be used to assist with the implementation of the National Partnership Agreement.

1. Based on your review of the draft action plan, what items should be added or deleted. Please document why items should be added or deleted to the USACE/NRCS partnership draft action plan. Any proposed new action items should have an accompanying, short summary of explanation included in your feedback response.
2. What issues and/or concerns have been encountered with NRCS/USACE partnering activities, or potential collaborative efforts and how can these issues/concerns be minimized or resolved in the future?
3. Do you have a collaborative project(s) that could be included in the National Action Plan as a potential demonstration or pilot project? If so, please list each project and a brief statement of how it supports the cooperative conservation approach for NRCS and USACE in their efforts to collaboratively achieve desired water and natural resource objectives.

Electronic responses to the questions above should be submitted to Doris Washington, NRCS Liaison to the USACE at [doris.washington@ar.usda.gov](mailto:doris.washington@ar.usda.gov) by **September 1, 2007**. If you have questions you may reach Doris at (501) 210-8910.

**Contact.** For further information, please contact the NRCS Liaison to the USACE at (501) 210-8910.

/s/

LAWRENCE E. CLARK  
Deputy Chief for Science and Technology

[Attachment](#)