The Planning Process

- Phase I – Collection & Analysis
  - Identify Problems and Opportunities
  - Determine Objectives
  - Inventory Resources
  - Analyze Resource Data
- Phase II – Decision Support
  - Formulate Alternatives
  - Evaluate Alternatives
  - Make Decisions
- Phase III – Application and Evaluation
  - Implement the Plan
  - Evaluate the Plan

Conservation Planning
Basic Field Information Collection Sheet
Planning Aid ver. 8/11

On every site visit bring the following items at a minimum:
- Clipboard w/Aerial Photo
- Soils Map & Legend
- Inventory of Planning Area Form & Instructions
- Assistance Notes
- Extra Pen/Pencil, Calculator
- Clinometer, GPS Backpack, Camera
- Cell phone

Note: Planner may need more than one site visit.

THINGS TO NOTE, MARK WITH GPS, OR DRAW ON AERIAL PHOTO

- ACRES
- FARM/TRACT NUMBER
- LAND USE
- PROPERTY LINES
- UTILITIES
- EASEMENTS
- OUTLETS
- EXISTING CONSERVATION PRACTICES
- PADDOCK SIZES & LOCATIONS
- FEEDING, HANDLING, & WATERING AREAS
- DITCHES/DRAINS
- LOG LANDINGS
- ROADS
- CULVERTS
- WET SPOTS
- CULTURAL RESOURCES
- ETC.

GENERAL FIELD INFORMATION TO GATHER
(Apply the following as questions to yourself or landowner)

HEADQUARTERS
- Renter
- Chemicals Stored
- Nozzle Tips, Hoses, Gauges
  - Checked regularly
- Proper Disposal of Rinse
- Water after Cleanup
- Calibrate Equipment

FOREST
- Forest Management Plan
  - (younger than 10 years)
- Forest Type
  - (dominant species)
- Even Aged Stand
  - (year planted stand)
- Last Harvest
  - (pre-commercial/ selection/ clear-cut)
- Last Prescribed Burn
- Applied Chemicals or Organic
  - More in depth info needed
  - with forestry inventory tools

IRRIGATION
- Source for Irrigation
- Irrigation System Type

CROP/ PASTURE/ HAY/ ORCHARDS/ VINEYARDS/ CHRISTMAS TREES
- Conservation Plan
- Prescribed Grazing Plan
- Pest Management Plan
- CNMP or NMP

- Crop Rotation
- Tillage
- Time of Tillage
- Tillage Implements
- Yields & RYE
- Percent Residue
- Representative Slope
- Length of Slope
- Ridge Height
  - (for each crop)
- Distance between. Rows
- Spacing within Rows
- Furrow/Row Grade
- Noxious Weeds
- Target Pests
- Pest Control Method
- Pesticides
  - (specific brand/AI)
- Last Soil Test

GENERAL LIVESTOCK
- Livestock Type & Breed
- Number of Animals
- Average Weight
- Months on Farm
- Dates Confined
- Dates Grazed
- Mortality Handled
- Manure Type
- How Manure Spread
- Application Rate

FEEDLOT/DAIRY
- Type of Waste Storage
- Waste Storage Roofed
- Type of Bedding
- Type of Waste Separator

- Desired Waste Storage Time
- Existing Solid Storage Dimensions
- Bulk Tank/ Milk house/ Parlor/ Pipeline/ Holding Area/Lot
- Number of Washes & Gallons/Wash
- Lot Area/ Paved Area
- contribution to Storage
- Silage Leachate

GRAZED LAND
- Feed Supplemented
- Number of Paddocks
- Size of Paddocks
- Type & Quality of Vegetation
- Planned Weight of Livestock
- Current Stocking Rate
- Planned Stocking Rate
- How often Moved
- Dates Grazed

NATURAL AREAS
- Wildlife Management Plan
- Type(s) of Wild Game or Fish Managed
- Recent Habitat Mgt. Actions
- Area(s) Designated for Habitat Mgt.

Use the CPA-52 to Document Client’s Objectives and
all the Resource Concerns you observe…
not just the concerns the client calls attention to
GENERAL INFORMATION TO GATHER IN THE FIELD FOR SPECIFIC TOOLS

**USLE (HEL DETERMINATIONS ONLY)**
- Crop Rotation
- Slope
- Length of Slope
- Ridge Height (for each crop)
- Tillage Practice
- Time of Tillage (Month & Date)
- Furrow/Row Grade

**RUSLE (VERSION 1.04) (PLAT CALCULATIONS ONLY)**
- Crop Rotation
- Slope
- Length of Slope
- Tillage Practice
- Time of Tillage (Spring/Fall)
- Furrow/Row Grade

**RUSLE II (SOIL LOSS CALCULATIONS, SCI, STIR)**
- Crop Rotation
- Average Yield
- Slope
- Length of Slope
- Tillage Practice
- (i.e. Chisel/ Disk? No. of times?)
- Time of Tillage (Spring/Fall)
- Tillage Equipment
- Rock Cover Percent
- Manure/Compost applied
  (tons/gallons/acre)
- Mulch/ Surface Residue Applied or Removed
tons/acre)
- Number of years in pasture
- Location, type, & height of existing vegetative or structural wind barrier
  (WEPS only)

**GULLY CALCULATION**
- Length of Gully (ft.)
- Top Width (ft.)
- Bottom Width (ft.)
- Depth (ft.)

**WIN-PST**
- Crop Rotation and Pesticides used
  (pesticide information from landowner or crop-specific from NC Ag Chemicals manual)
- Pesticides (Specific brand names or Active Ingredients needed)

**PLAT/NLEW**
- All RUSLE (Version 1.04) Information
- Realistic Yield Expectation
- Unfertilized Crops
- Soil Test
- Existing/Planned Buffers (ft.), Ponds, Water Control Structures, and other runoff trapping devices & Acres served by those Practices
- Method of application & Rates of inorganic fertilizers
- Manure Type, Method of Application & Rates Applied
- Waste Analysis Report (optional)
- Drainage Spacing (ft.) & Depth (in)

**WILDLIFE HABITAT EVALUATION PROCEDURE**
- Pine Forest: Grazed/Raked; Basal Area & Stocking Rate; % of Forest in permanent wildlife openings
  (Approx. 0.5-2ac.); Burning Frequency (every ? yrs); % Hardwoods ≥ 10”DBH
- Hardwood Forest: Grazed; Size Class(es) (mixed/homogeneous) & Canopy Coverage;
  Types of tree species; Number of snags or cavity trees ≥ 10”DBH; % ≤ 3ft tall native under story cover;
  Presence of invasive species restricting regeneration or causing damage
- Cropland: % residue in fall; Crop Rotation; Avg. field size (ac.); % of unharvested crops;
  % of field perimeter in permanent wildlife Field Borders (20’ min. width) with native veg.
- Old Fields: Avg. field size(ac.); No. times area burned, disked, chopped, or mowed/5 years;
  Species types of canopy of grass and forbs at mature height; % of area dominated
  by woody vegetation
- Pasture & Hayland: Species composition (0.5 ac. min.); Avg. field size (ac.); No. hay harvests/year or length of grazing system; % of field perimeter in
  permanent wildlife Field Borders (20’ min. width) with native vegetation
- Orchards, Christmas Trees & Nurseries: Avg. field size(ac.); % of field perimeter in
  permanent wildlife Field Borders (20’ min. width) with native veg.; Mgmt between rows;
  Plant composition between rows

**PASTURE CONDITION EVALUATION**
- North Carolina Score Card for Pasture Condition Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farm Name:</th>
<th>North Carolina Score Card for Pasture Condition Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Weighted by indicator weight for determining score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weighted by indicator weight for determining score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weighted by indicator weight for determining score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weighted by indicator weight for determining score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weighted by indicator weight for determining score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weighted by indicator weight for determining score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>Weighted by indicator weight for determining score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weighted by indicator weight for determining score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weighted by indicator weight for determining score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weighted by indicator weight for determining score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weighted by indicator weight for determining score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weighted by indicator weight for determining score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weighted by indicator weight for determining score</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Weighted by indicator weight for determining score</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CGRAZE**
- Animal Type
- Number of Head
- Average Body Condition Score for herd/flock
- Weight of adult animals
- Percent of females birthing in 1rst month
- Birthing Efficiency (percent of herd that will give birth)
- Month birthing begins (calving season)
- Birth weight of baby
- Weaning age (months) and weight
- If animals are not moved off farm at weaning, what is the weight when moved off farm?
- Number of animals culled each year
- When animals are culled
- Number of females kept as replacements, weight of replacements, when are the extras sold or are replacements purchased
- Average grazing efficiency (length of grazing period)
- Target grazing height post grazing or heights when animals move off pasture
- Supplemental hay/forage brought onto the farm (tons of dry matter)
- Feed used that is not accounted for in the pasture
- Is owner interested in changing herd size, farm layout, fence locations, watering facilities, lanes, etc.

- Need Soil Test to identify causes of poor plant vigor or factors affecting plant vigor