

Conservation Planning: Protect and Enhance Your Land

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VINEYARD TEAM
Promoting Sustainable Winegrowing



What is a Conservation Plan?

A conservation plan is a living document a landowner creates to help them manage the resource conservation issues on their property. By identifying areas of the property that require attention over time, the landowner can prioritize where to put their conservation efforts.

What are the Benefits of a Conservation Plan?

The benefits of having a conservation plan include:

- Protecting the natural resources on your property for a sustainable future.
- Conserving soil and water.
- Preventing off-site impacts.
- Increasing the value of your property.
- Making your land more attractive and promoting good neighbor relations.

What is in a Conservation Plan?

The first step in creating a conservation plan is to state your long-term vision for your property. You then list your long-term and short-term objectives in the areas of natural resources, production, and economics. This is the most important part of the document because it directs how the plan is constructed and how decisions are made in the future.

Maps

Having a map and using it are critical to resource conservation. Mark areas on the map where you have identified an issue and would like to take some action. Knowing the types of soil on your property is important for identifying areas that may be more prone to erosion than others. Generating maps with soil types is easy to do online through the [USDA Web Soil Survey](#) or [Google Earth](#).

Best Management Practices

Once you have identified issues and areas you would like to improve, you can decide on Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs are practices that are known to be effective and practical ways of achieving a conservation objective while taking cost into account. Examples include planting cover crops, planting filter strips, installing culverts, and setting aside habitat areas like oak woodlands and riparian corridors.

Conservation Plan Template

In collaboration with the Templeton office of the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District, Vineyard Team has created a [template](#) to assist in the writing of a conservation plan. The template includes your vision for your property, your long-term and short-term goals in the areas of soil, water, air, vegetation and wildlife, BMPs to

achieve those goals, and timetables for implementation.

Technical Assistance

Technical and possible financial assistance is available from the NRCS and your local Resource Conservation District (RCD). The NRCS is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The mission of the NRCS is to address natural resource conservation on private lands by working with landowners to find solutions that work for them. Resource Conservation Districts are local non-profit organizations with a similar mission, but they are not government agencies. Both the NRCS and your local

RCD can provide technical support from professional conservationists, biologists, and engineers. Some projects may be eligible for financial assistance from USDA programs.

Helpful Resources:

[Vineyard Team Conservation Plan Template](#)

["Your Land, Your Plan"- Sustainable Winegrowing Podcast](#)

["Conservation Assistance"- Sustainable Winegrowing Podcast](#)

[Natural Resource Conservation Services Offices](#)

[NRCS Conservation Planning Website](#)

[Resource Conservation Districts \(Coastal California\)](#)