

## Exhibit 4 – Level 4 Certified Conservation Planner Core Competencies and Course Requirements

Figure 409E-4: Level 4 Certified Conservation Planner Core Competencies and Course Requirements

Core Competency	Course Requirement(s)	Training Source	Hours	Proficiency Exam
Prerequisite	Level 3 Certified Conservation Planner Designation			
Conservation Planning Procedures	<b>NRCS-NHQ-000017</b> Assist with two state quality assurance reviews	OJT; Completion marked/self-certified in AgLearn		N/A
Conservation Planning Procedures	<b>NRCS-NHQ-000018</b> Serve as an instructor along with one or more Level 4 conservation planners or designee*  <i>Note: For two training sessions (may be state or national level courses). One may be outside of the planner's home state.</i>	OJT; Completion marked/self-certified in AgLearn		N/A
Advanced Conservation Communication	<b>Complete one of the following courses:</b> NRCS-NEDC-000045, NRCS-NEDC-000090, NRCS-NEDC-000147, NRCS-NEDC-000262, NRCS-NEDC-000334, NRCS-NEDC-000378, NRCS-NEDC-000247, NRCS-NHQ-000130, NRCS-NHQ-000137, NRCS-NEDC-000092  <i>Note: If one of these courses was taken in Level 3, that meets this requirement.</i>	AgLearn/Instructor Led	varies	<b>NRCS-NHQ-000072</b> Conservation Communication

Core Competency	Course Requirement(s)	Training Source	Hours	Proficiency Exam
Advanced Conservation Economics	<p><b>NRCS-NEDC-000505</b> Advanced Economics for Conservation Planners</p> <p>(ARCHIVED NRCS-NEDC-000017 Economics of Conservation Planning also meets this requirement)</p>	AgLearn/Instructor Led	24	<p><b>NRCS-NHQ-000074</b> Conservation Economics</p>
Advanced Resource Concerns and Discipline Knowledge	<p><b>NRCS-NHQ-000136</b> Advanced Resource Concerns and/or Discipline Knowledge Training Tracking – Level 4 Conservation Planner</p> <p><i>Note: Complete at least 5 advanced natural resources or discipline knowledge courses. Courses meeting this requirement must be from the list of approved sources below and approved by the state conservationist or their designee. See description in AgLearn for more information.</i></p> <p><i>Approved Sources: AgLearn/Instructor Led/Web-based/State-Led; State Departments of Agriculture; Cooperative Extension Services; State Natural Resource Agencies; Tribal Natural Resource Agencies; Scientific discipline-related professional organizations and societies; Community Colleges, Colleges, and Universities.</i></p>	Completion marked/self-certified in AgLearn	varies	N/A

<b>Core Competency</b>	<b>Course Requirement(s)</b>	<b>Training Source</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Proficiency Exam</b>
State-Specific Requirements	<b>NRCS-NHQ-000029</b> State-Specific Training & Required Deliverables – Level 4 Certified Planner	OJT/State; Completion marked/self-certified in AgLearn		N/A
Verification	<b>NRCS-NHQ-000026</b> Supervisor Certification for Level 4 Certified Conservation Planner Role	Completion marked in AgLearn	N/A	N/A