

Level 1 Conservation Planner – Course Requirements

All Level 1 coursework is required for attendance at the 2026 Grand Rapids Training Pilot, with the exception of *Conservation Planning Business Tool Training* and the *State-Specific Requirements*. See table below for details. **These are exceptions for attendance at this training only** - you will still need to address all requirements in order to complete your Level 1 Planner.

Course ID	Course Title	Delivery	Hrs	Notes	Required Prerequisite for Grand Rapids Training Pilot
Conservation Planning Basics					
NRCS-NEDC-000019	Conservation Planning, Part 1	AgLearn/Web-based	3–4		Yes
		— or —			
NRCS-NEDC-000191	TSP Orientation and Conservation Planning	AgLearn/Web-based	3–4	TSPs only	
Conservation Planning Business Tool Training					
NRCS-NHQ-000008	Planning Criteria Training	OJT/State/National	8		Yes
		— or —			
NRCS-NEDC-000486	Using Planning Criteria in Conservation Planning	AgLearn/Web-based	3		
Conservation Planning Business Tool Training (Exempt)					
NRCS-NHQ-LOCAL-000002	Conservation Planning Business Tool Training	OJT/Local – Self-Certified	8	Must cover through step 7. TSPs and partners without NRCS tool access exempt.	No
		— or —			
NRCS-NHQ-000068	Conservation Desktop (CD) & CART Hands-on Training	Local/State Hands-on	32	Must cover through step 7. TSPs and partners without NRCS tool access exempt.	
Field Office Technical Guide Basics					
NRCS-NEDC-000149	Introduction to the Field Office Technical Guide	AgLearn/Web-based	4	Proficiency Exam: NRCS-NHQ000081 Field Office Technical Guide Basics	Yes
		— or —			
NRCS-NEDC-000191	TSP Orientation and Conservation Planning	AgLearn/Web-based	4	TSPs only	
Conservation Communication Basics					
NRCS-NEDC-000501	Conservation Skills for Conservation Professionals: The Art of Helping People Help the Land	AgLearn/Web-based	4		Yes
Cultural Resources Basics					
NRCS-NEDC-000141	Cultural Resources Training Series, Part 1	AgLearn/Web-based	4		Yes

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Environmental Evaluations Basics					
NRCS-NHQ-000011	Env. Evaluation Webinar No. 1: Primer on NRCS Environmental Compliance	S&T Library; self-certified in AgLearn	2	Both No. 1 & No. 2 required. Proficiency Exam: NRCS-NHQ000075 Level 1 Environmental Evaluation	Yes
NRCS-NHQ-000012	Env. Evaluation Webinar No. 2: Documenting the Environmental Evaluation	S&T Library; self-certified in AgLearn	2	Both No. 1 & No. 2 required	Yes
Soils Basics					
NRCS-NHQ-000009	Basic Soils and Web Soil Survey to Interpret Land Capabilities & Limitations	AgLearn/Instructor Led (State)	4	Proficiency Exam: NRCS-NHQ000077 Soils Interpretations	Yes
— or —					
NRCS-NEDC-000416	Using Basic Soil Survey Information in Conservation Planning	AgLearn/Web-based	4		
Water Quality Basics					
NRCS-NHQ-000038	Overview of Water Quality for Conservation Planners – No. 1	AgLearn/Web-based	4–7	All four (No. 1–4) required. Proficiency Exam: NRCS-NHQ000078 Level 1 Water Quality Resource Assessment	Yes
NRCS-NHQ-000039	Nitrogen Management and Concerns – No. 2	AgLearn/Web-based			Yes
NRCS-NHQ-000040	Phosphorous Management and Concerns – No. 3	AgLearn/Web-based			Yes
NRCS-NHQ-000041	Sediment Management for Water Quality – No. 4	AgLearn/Web-based			Yes
State-Specific Requirements					
NRCS-NHQ-000024	State-Specific Training & Required Deliverables – Level 1 Conservation Planner	OJT/State/TSP Website; self-certified in AgLearn	Varies	Includes any state-mandated training/licensing. TSPs must complete state module for each state.	No
Verification					
NRCS-NHQ-000025	Supervisor Certification for Level 1 Conservation Planner Role	Completion marked in AgLearn	N/A	TSPs: verification in NRCS Registry meets this requirement.	No