UPDATE: ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES JOB APPROVAL AUTHORITY (ESJAA)
ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES
JOB APPROVAL AUTHORITY (ESJAA)

- Review what it is, why we have it, and the process to obtain it
- Update you on current status
- Talk about what it will mean for you as our partners in applying conservation
Client

Land

Planner
Nine Step Planning Process

Phase I
Collection and Analysis
1. Identify Problems
2. Determine Objectives
3. Analyze Resource Data
4. Inventory Resources

Phase II
Decision Support
5. Formulate Alternatives
6. Evaluate Alternatives
7. Make Decisions

Phase III
Application & Evaluation
8. Implement the Plan
9. Evaluate the Plan
ESJAA Policy

Definitions

**ESJAA**—The certification granted to an individual that has demonstrated the appropriate knowledge, skill, and abilities to plan, design, and certify installation of a given ES conservation practice

**Job Class**—A subdivision within ESJAA for conservation practices based on Controlling Factor(s)

**Knowledge, Skills & Abilities (KSAs)**—Competencies required for ESJAA to plan, design, install and certify the conservation practice according to the requirements of the conservation practice standard

**Controlling Factors**—Elements which describe the scale, complexity or hazard potential associated with a given practice

**Practice Phase**—ESJAA applies to three practice phases:

1. **Inventory and evaluation (I & E) Planning**
2. **Design** and development of conservation practice requirements
3. **Installation** oversight and certification
To obtain planning job approval the planner must -
  ▶ have the ability to properly inventory and evaluate a planning area
  ▶ identify and document resource concerns related to the practice
  ▶ select practices to will work together in an alternative system that will treat those resource concerns

To obtain design job approval the planner must -
  ▶ understand how to design a planned practice in accordance with the criteria of that practice’s standard
  ▶ communicate the implementation requirements with the client

To obtain construction/certification job approval the planner must -
  ▶ be able to oversee the installation of the practice
  ▶ know how and where to document the installation specifications
JAA Requires
Planners must know: **Section IV:**

1. Definition
2. Purpose
3. Criteria
4. Considerations
5. Plans & Specs
6. Operation & Maintenance

CPS=Conservation Practice Standard

AND...
JAA Requires
Planners must know:  Section IV:

- Job Sheet (Documentation)
- Technical references (Technical Notes)
- Statement of Work (Deliverables)
- Specifications
How does this all fit together?

ESJAA & EJAA

Quality Assurance Process Relating to CPS

Conservation Planning Certification Process
The ESJAA Process and how it works....

- Employee gains knowledge and experience just as they do with Engineering JAA
- Area resource conservationist or other designee agrees with the planner on levels of approval be authorized
- Job approval is entered into central tracking database
- Employee’s Supervisor concurs with ESJAA
- State Engineer and State Resource Conservationist concur with JAA as needed
- The employee gets a final copy of their combined job approvals
How Does this work with Partners?

- ESJAA for Partner Employees will be evaluated and assigned an appropriate ESJAA on the same basis as NRCS employees.

- NRCS must obtain a written request from immediate supervisor or manager one level above that the partner employee has permission to pursue ESJAA. These requests should be sent to the ASTC-FO.

- At this time ESJAA is only required for practices that are planned, designed, implemented as part of an NRCS program.
Current Status.

- All ecological sciences practices planned, designed, or implemented after October 1, 2018 must be approved by someone with proper job approval.

- NRCS planners should all have job approval levels set and approved.

- Documentation requirements have been set and communicated to staff, state instruction is currently being written.

- Next priority is to work through partners that wish to obtain ESJAA.
In the mean time...

- Just as in Engineering, employees who do not have ESJAA are allowed to plan, design and install practices, with approval from someone with proper ESJAA.

- Ecological sciences practices that are planned in support of an engineering practice may be co-approved on the construction plan.
ESJAA QUESTIONS??
Reviewing the effectiveness of conservation practices - Eric Hurley
NRCS - Helping People Help the Land
Productive Lands, Healthy Environment

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