

# NOMINATIONS FOR RECOGNITION OF 2019 EXCELLENCE IN CONSERVATION PLANNING

## Planner of the Year Award Category

### Objective

The objective is to recognize California NRCS and RCD employees and contractors who have exemplified outstanding service to farmers, ranchers, and forestry landowners in the form of conservation planning assistance. The awards celebrate conservation planning as the foundation of our services and distinguishes individuals, groups, and partnership devoted to improving the science, structure and communication of the conservation planning process. Additionally, the awards recognize that planning is a team effort with volunteers, contractors and partnering agencies. The framework for the awards is found in the document, “Conservation Planning 2.0 Strategy” (February 2014).

### Eligibility

All California NRCS and RCD employees and contractors are eligible to be nominated for the award. Written concurrence by an employee’s supervisor must accompany the nomination. Nominations can be made by anyone active in conservation work such as supervisors, colleagues, RCD Board members, partner organizations, ACES contractors, Farm Bill Assistants, Earth Team volunteers. , such as, or. Individuals can nominate themselves. Concurrence of nominee’s supervisor is required.

### To Submit a Nomination

1. Please describe situations/examples where the nominee displayed excellence with conservation planning within the last three years. The situation can be conservation planning at the watershed level to address a resource concern or a suite of resource concerns, technical assistance with one producer, or an effort to streamline the implementation of a conservation practice. Do not exceed 3 written pages. Use Times New Roman 11 pt. font. Attachments are only allowed to support criteria A – “Communication” and will not count towards the three-page limitation.
2. Please do not include attachments, pictures or other supporting materials except for criteria A – “Communication.”
3. Submit only one award category for each nomination.
4. Follow the format of the example attached and submit by **August 23, 2019** to [Hue.Dang@usda.gov](mailto:Hue.Dang@usda.gov), State Conservation Planning Leader, and [Steve.Hill@usda.gov](mailto:Steve.Hill@usda.gov), Chair of Awards Committee.

### Evaluation of Nominations

Winners will be determined strictly from the written nomination. After scoring, the committee will make recommendations and the State Conservationist will make the final selection. A 100-point evaluation system will be used as follows:

<b>Evaluation Criteria for the situation being described</b>	<b>Scoring Points Maximum per category</b>
A. Communication	10
B. Relations	10
C. Education and Training	20
D. Application of Conservation Planning and Implementation	20
E. Complexity of Work and Mix of Achievements	30
F. Professional Activities	10
<b>Total Possible Points</b>	<b>100</b>

- A. Communication: Provide details of the nominee’s ability to communicate effectively and to cultivate personal and professional relationships with diverse groups of farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, state, local and tribal government officials, non-profit organizations, and businesses relative to conservation planning and implementation techniques. Explain how the nominee engaged with the stakeholders involved and methods needed to be adapted to the audience for this situation. Documentation can include presentations, articles, newsletters, tours, workshops and field days.
- B. Relations: Describe the nominee’s working relationships and development of partnerships with diverse groups of farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, state, local and tribal government officials, non-profit organizations, and businesses relative to conservation planning and implementation techniques.
- C. Education and Training: Describe the nominee’s accomplishments in youth or adult education and training of others in conservation planning and implementation techniques including other staff, partners, local farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners. The nominee should also demonstrate a commitment to continuing own education and professional development.
- D. Application of Conservation Planning and Implementation: Describe the nominee’s assistance and technical contributions that have led to the application of outstanding conservation planning, implementation, and monitoring techniques demonstrating innovation on a variety of land uses to address local resource concerns to improve environmental performance.

- E. Complexity of Work and Mix of Achievements: Describe the nominee's work complexity and highlight the mix of accomplishments in each type of activity. Describe how the nominee provided technical assistance to identify alternatives and assist with the decision-making process to address the resource concern. Please explain if the implementation of the selected alternative was monitored and whether any future improvements to practice implementation were identified. Describe any scientific research promoted or incorporated into the planning process. The write up should illustrate nominee's commitment to and responsibilities in conservation planning and implementation of techniques to address resource concerns to improve environmental performance.
- F. Professional Activities: Describe the nominee's activities and involvement with professional conservation organizations that have assisted the nominee in achieving outstanding application of conservation planning and implementation techniques, such as, but not limited to, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Society of American Foresters, Ecological Restoration Society, the Wildlife Society, Society for Rangeland Management, American Society of Agronomy and American Forage and Grassland Council.

### **Winner Recognition**

Upon selection, the award winners will be contacted to provide additional information including photos and possibly to produce video.

Award winners will be recognized at the California Association for Resource Conservation District Annual Conference.

The Planner of the Year will automatically be nominated for the national Hugh Hammond Bennett Award for Conservation Excellence.

**FORMAT FOR NOMINATION**

Please use this template to for nomination. Do not exceed 3 pages. Use Times New Roman 11 pt. font.

**Award being nominated for:  
PLANNER OF THE YEAR CATEGORY**

Name of Person Nominated: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office and RCD Associated With: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Making Nomination: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe how the nominee has meet the award criteria. Description of a situation/scenario in fiscal year 2017 where the nominee demonstrated excellence in conservation planning assistance:

A. Communication (Attachment showing example of work is accepted for this criterion. This can include presentations, articles, newsletters, tours, workshops and field days):

B. Relations:

C. Education and Training:

D. Application of Conservation Planning and Implementation:

E. Complexity of Work and Mix of Achievements:

F: Professional Activities:

Supervisor signature showing concurrence: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Email: \_\_\_\_\_