

# Forestry Technical Service Providers: A Natural Resource Conservation Service Certification

## What is a Technical Service Provider?

Forestry technical service providers (TSPs) offer services to non-industrial private forest landowners on behalf of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). TSPs help these producers plan, design, and implement conservation practices or develop conservation activity plans to improve their operations.

TSPs expand the number and availability of conservation technical experts capable of offering customized, one-on-one conservation advice on behalf of the NRCS.

## Who can become a forestry TSP?

Any Registered Professional Forester can apply to become a TSP. Specific experience in forest management plan development will be documented in the form of:

- ◆ Two sample plans based on current NRCS Conservation Activity Plan criteria and deliverables.
- ◆ Two references from customers who have received technical forestry services from you, and who can verify your experience and proficiency in the planning, design, installation, and checkout of conservation practices.

## Why become a forestry TSP?

California currently has very few forestry TSPs while the need for forestry technical assistance continues to grow. TSPs are better able to work in collaboration with NRCS.

Landowners participating in NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) may be eligible to receive financial assistance to work with TSPs to develop conservation activity plans (forest management plans) or design, provide implementation assistance and certify completion of conservation practices

## What do forestry TSPs do?

TSP conservation work falls into two broad categories:

- ◆ conservation practice design, implementation assistance and certification for completion
- ◆ conservation activity plan (forest management plan) development

TSPs are an extension of NRCS staff, providing assistance to landowners in planning and implementing conservation practices that are supported by the EQIP program. Landowners may be able to extend the services of an RPF/TSP to help them comply with regulations, permit requirements, or other assistance beyond the EQIP program.

## How to become a forestry TSP?

- Go to the TSP website ([techreg.usda.gov](http://techreg.usda.gov)) and click the link for "how to become a TSP" and follow the instructions.
- Reach out to TSP program coordinator Steve Hill <[steve.hill@usda.gov](mailto:steve.hill@usda.gov)> for further instructions.

Following instructions and with guidance as needed you will:

- Verify your id and get access to the TSP system
- Fill out an online form, including a resume and a request for certification
- Take 2-3 online trainings that normally take a few hours to complete

## Where to go for more information:

- ◆ [Technical Service Providers @ NRCS](#)
- ◆ [TSP Certification Requirements](#)
- ◆ Contact Steve Hill, the NRCS-CA TSP Coordinator <[steve.hill@usda.gov](mailto:steve.hill@usda.gov)>
- ◆ Contact the CARCD Forestry Committee <[forestry-committee@carcd.org](mailto:forestry-committee@carcd.org)>



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Natural Resources Conservation Service