

Texas State Technical Committee Virtual Meeting

September 8, 2026

The Texas State Technical Committee held a virtual meeting on September 8, 2026, to collect recommendations for the Regenerative Pilot Program (RPP). The meeting was called to order by State Resource Conservationist Charles Kneuper at 10:30a.m. State Conservationist Kristy Oates provided a welcome and the object of the meeting. Charles Kneuper facilitated a discussion on evaluation of resource concerns, land uses, and primary practices. The following input was provided by committee members:

1. Evaluation of Resource Concerns - Soil and Water

Are there any resource concerns that should be considered as critical or non-critical for Texas?

- Prioritize:
 - Bank erosion from Streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels.
 - Runoff from forest roads and degraded stream cover/ health - all are sources of sediment soil loss and watershed degradation.
 - Structure of the Soil, Biological activity.
 - Soil health resource concerns were emphasized.
 - Soil Erosion Concerns-
 - The importance of stabilizing head cuts was noted.
 - Groundwater depletion, sediment transportation, nutrient transportation, sheet & rill erosion, bank erosion, soil organism habitat degradation.
 - "Seeps" and "Drifted Snow" could be removed as "critical".
 - For the soil category at least organic matter depletion should be deemed critical as it aids in addressing the other concerns.

2. Land Uses:

Are there any additional land uses that should be included in RPP?

- Forest - should include "woodlands".
- Question about Community gardens in urban areas: Can be identified with an "urban modifier" under the land use selected (cropland, pasture, etc.).
 - Land Use modifiers can give additional information on how the land is managed.
 - Ex. wildlife, urban, irrigated, grazed, etc.
- Protected lands are also an important area of focus and should be considered for RPP, as efforts to improve soil and ecosystem health will be ensured to be beneficial forever.
- Crop, forest, range and pasture are main priorities.
 - A committee member mentioned that Rangeland concerns were met in their region but generally cropland wasn't addressed or picked for participation in the programs.

- SRC clarified that while NRCS has 10 land uses, identified in our technical guidance, only 4 land uses are eligible for financial assistance in the RPP: crop, pasture, range, forest. Associated ag land may only be included in the application if it is directly associated with one of the 4 eligible land uses.
- Feedback from the pilot year is that it is difficult to meet the thresholds for cropland, therefore less cropland applications were selected for financial assistance in the RPP.

3. Additional Primary Practices:

Are there any other conservation practices that should be added to the primary practices list?

- Prescribed Burning – 338
 - For rangeland
- Critical Area Planting – 342
- Annual Forages for Grazing – 810/513
 - State Resource Conservationist (SRC) clarified that this practice has been used in Texas as an interim conservation practice, meaning it is available for use by states for a limited amount of time. Based on the feedback provided by the states, interim conservation practice standards may be converted into permanent practices for long term use. 810 is no longer available as an interim conservation practice standard, but it has been approved by the national office to be converted to a permanent practice. The permanent practice code will be changed from 810 to 513. The permanent practice standard will be different than the one used during the trial period. At the time of this meeting, the updated conservation practice standard for 513 was not yet released to the states for consideration of permanent adoption.
- Brush Management – 314
 - A committee member stated they did not think we should include practices that we already frequently use in Texas as a primary practice in the RPP. Specifically, brush management is a practice Texas uses more than any other practice, so we do not need to include it in the RPP list, because we should use that list as an opportunity to encourage producers to try different practices.
 - SRC clarified that the previous use of any given practice is not relevant to the RPP primary practice selection. Explained the purpose of the list is to identify primary conservation practices that have a direct impact on soil and water resource concerns. National criteria outline the primary conservation practices must:
 - Have a direct impact on soil and water resource concerns
 - NOT be considered supporting/facilitating activity for a conservation practice that is currently on the list.

- Example: Brush management is a supporting practice for 528. It can already be included in a RPP plan when it is associated with 528. Therefore, recommending it as an additional primary practice would be redundant.
- Herbaceous Weed Treatment – 315
 - Critical for managing invasive plant pressures that actively degrade soil health and prevent the recovery of robust, erosion-resistant root systems.
- Water development- (Watering facility- 614; Livestock pipeline – 516; etc.)
- Pasture and Hay Planting (512): Establishes resilient forage, improves soil structure, and increases moisture retention.
 - Grass planting practices: Address multiple resource concerns by stabilizing soil, improving moisture, and supporting highest conservation outcomes in the region.

Kristy Oates provided closing remarks and the meeting concluded at 11:25 a.m.