

Formal Agreement with our Partners – Mutual, Cooperative and Working Agreements.

Section Overview: Understanding the basis for relationship with our traditional partners and expectations of each other through review of representative samples.

Preamble: The NRCS relationship with districts is formalized through a Mutual Agreement and Cooperative Working Agreement. In addition, some districts and NRCS have formalized Operational Agreements. These agreements formalize the many facets of our working relationships and mutual commitments. They are updated periodically to reflect current thinking. The Mutual Agreement was last updated in 1996. States are responsible to update their Cooperative Working Agreements as often as necessary to meet current needs.

Power Point: [Cooperative relationships between NRCS and Districts](#)

Activity:

- 1) Review your District's Mutual Agreement, Cooperative Working Agreement and Operational Agreement.
- 2) What do you believe are the primary messages in each agreement? Are there items in the agreements that do not fit today's reality? Is there an aspect(s) in the agreements that the partnership could improve upon locally? In the state? Discuss with your supervisor.

Optional Activity:

Schedule to review these documents with your district board in a manner that educates and leads to discussion. (Note: if some of your district supervisors or district staff are new, they may never have seen these documents. DCs are required to review CWA annually with District Boards to be sure they understand their Civil Rights responsibilities.)

Summary: After this lesson you should be aware of each type of agreement and be familiar with mutual commitments described.

Section Completed

Date

District Conservationist Initials

Date

Supervisor Initials