National Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Projects (as of March 2014)

Fiscal Year CIG Project Approved	State or Nationally Selected	Name of Organization/Entity	CIG Project Title	Brief Project Description/Deliverables	Project Purpose	Products	Associated web links
2006	WA, OR, ID	Washington Association of Wheat Growers	Demonstrate & Advance the Under cutter Method for Winter Wheat - Summer Fallow.. (OR & WA)	Project is to engage seventeen (17) conservation districts to identify eligible growers to demonstrate the use of under cutter method/technology. Project will provide outreach and awareness on the benefits of under cutters methods and conduct demonstration of the technology.	The purpose of this project is to demonstrate the use of under cutter technology as a viable method to improve soil health.	Report	http://wawg.org/
2007	OR	Farmers Conservation Alliance	Farmers Screen Project	The project is to design, install and demonstrate 56 Farmers fish screens in various environments and regions throughout NW to keep fish and debris in rivers from entering irrigation systems.	The purpose of this project is to stimulate the development and adoption of the farmers fish screen as well as demonstrate the benefits for agricultural production, environmental enhancement, and environmental protection of aquatic species.	Designs, and specifications	http://farmerscreen.org/
2007	OR	Forest Restoration Partnership	Oregon Aspen Project	The project will develop an aspen management manual, promote outreach to private landowners and conduct demonstration tours and workshops on the management and restoration of aspen stands.	The purpose of this project is to improve technology transfer to producers on methods to manage and restore aspen stands in Eastern Oregon.	Aspen Management Manual	http://www.wiser.org/organization/view/691fd90ad1dca3f8eafceae56c5842f0
2007	OR	Oregon Department of Agriculture	Grower Assisted Inspection Program	The Project is to develop and Implement a growers inspection program for *Phytophithora* species for the nursery industry. The pilot program will involve 25 nurseries in Oregon. O-GAIP standards will be used to determine if the program effectively reduces the level of *Phytophithora* species.	The purpose of this project is to mitigate the risk of spreading non-native plant *pathogen Phytophthora* ramorum into forest and other naturalized areas through infested nursery stock.	http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/NURSERY/docs/pdf/gaip_bcps.pdf	http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/NURSERY/pages/gaip.aspx
2007	OR, WA, ID	Oregon State University	Regional Evaluation of We-Based Irrigation Advisory Service	Project is to adapt existing OISO system for general use in the PNW, promote and facilitate the use of the web-based tool on production farms in the region and evaluate users effectiveness of the tool.	The purpose is to fully test the web-based irrigation advisory service and make it available for general use throughout the Pacific Northwest states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.	http://oiso.bioe.orst.edu/RealtimeIrrigationSchedule/index.aspx	http://oregonstate.edu/
2008	OR	The Nature Conservancy	Protecting Biodiversity Through Early Detection and Rapid Response to Invasive Species	The project will develop an Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) network composed of overlapping EDRR programs at multiple sites of various sizes through out the state and hold training workshops through out the state.	The purpose of this project is to create Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) network that will assist in invasive species management.	Anticipated product in 2014	http://www.nature.org/
2008	AK, WA, OR, ID, CA, WY, CO, NM, AZ, SD, ND, NE, OK, WI, MT, MN, UT, KS	Inter Tribal Bison Cooperative	Grassland Restoration and Bison Management on American Indian Lands	The project will provide identification, evaluation, and implementation of new/current management practices/techniques/technologies that will assist tribes in providing information on maintaining, restoring and enhancing grasslands while sustaining bison productivity and ecosystem biodiversity on current tribal lands.	The purpose of this project is to improve ecological condition, value, and cultural enhancement on tribal lands that will increase the vitality of bison recruitment provide spiritual revitalization and be compatible with tribal traditional beliefs and practices.	Anticipated product in 2014	http://www.itbcbuffalo.com/

2009	OR, PA	Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation	Develop and Test Pollinator Habitat Job Sheets for Six Regions of the U.S.	Project is to evaluate effectiveness, utility and cost-benefit of buffer plantings by establishing protocols and standards in pollinator habitat.	The purpose of this project is to evaluate the effects of habitat restoration for crop pollinating native bee, natural enemies of crop pest and crop productivity and development guides and specifications	http://www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/agriculture/pollinator-habitat-installation-guides/	http://www.xerces.org/
2010	ID, MT, OR, WA	American Bird Conservancy	Intergrading Management for Forest Health and Cavity Nesting Bird Conservation in Ponderosa Pine Forest	Project is to provide management techniques for cavity nesting bird in ponderosa pine stands. Demonstrate techniques through workshops and develop technical notes, handbooks and brochures that will be used as outreach tools and educational products.	The purpose of this projects is to implement innovative habitat management activities for bird conservation within the context of standard management practices for forest health specifically to support ecological and economic goals in Ponderosa pine habitats on private lands.	Anticipated product in 2014	https://www.abcbirds.org/
2011	AZ, AR, CA, CO, FL, GA, ID, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, NJ, NY, NC, OR, PA, SC, TX, WA, WI	Sure Harvest	Stewardship Index for Specialty Crops	Project will publish an initial suite of core metrics which will include: Energy, Water Use Efficiency, Soil Organic Matter Potential, and nutrient management. Project will also create an on-line tool to enable users to assess their own operation using the metrics, compare themselves to others in their sector, and, where users report assessments to buyers, trade associations, certifiers, customers or other interested parties.	The purpose of the project is to develop a system for measuring sustainable performance throughout the specialty crop supply chain.	Anticipated product in 2014	http://www.sureharvest.com/
2011	OR	The Freshwater Trust	Northwest Environmental Markets Initiative: Applying Proven Market Tools to Benefit Rural Communities and Farmers	The project will demonstrate real on-ground projects and transactions of verified and registered credits a self-sustaining market infrastructure that can be replicated in other parts of the country. It will also develop a planning tool to be integrated into "Stream Bank" that will gather, hold, analyze, package and archive information needed to calculate, validate and register multiple types of ecosystem credits.	The purpose of this project is to increase the capacities of existing conservation incentive programs with viable eco-markets.	Anticipated product in 2014	http://www.thefreshwatertrust.org/
2011	OR	Ecotrust	Managing Forestland for Productivity and Environmental Health: Decision Support Tools for Producers	The project will design/create an on-line/web-based support platform. The program will allow producers to input different pricing information and then generate financial information describing how revenues could change over time under different pricing scenarios. An interactive interface will allow producers to adjust inputs to determine productivity, ecosystem services, impacts to annual revenue.	The purpose of this project is to allow forest producers visualize, plan, and market their products and services and manage for multiple objectives such as carbon, habitat, tax credits, and timber.	Anticipated product in 2014	http://www.ecotrust.org/
2011	OR, WA	Northwest Natural Resource Group	Monitoring Environmental Benefits for Aggregated Small Forest Landowners	Project will develop scientifically rigorous protocols to monitor a variety of environmental services. This will lead to increased access to carbon markets and other environmental services market and incentives programs and provide new decision making tools for both foresters and landowners to determine which variables to measure and at what scale and if measurement will be cost effective.	The purpose of this project is designed to assist small tree farmers and other small-acreage (less than 1,000 acres) landowner groups across the nation looking to measure and value their environmental services contributions in a more cost effective, accurate, and efficient manner in order to participate in carbon markets.	Anticipated product in 2014	http://nnrg.org/about
2011	OR	Oregon State University	Implementation of an irrigation management program for energy conservation	Project will evaluate the use of IMO success as a tool for optimum irrigation management on large, high profile, high energy use collaborating farms that have already demonstrated an interest in managing irrigation to minimize energy costs and Implement a vigorous outreach/marketing effort to maximize both user and consultant interest in supporting the program for economic benefit.	The purpose of the project is to promote wider adoption and use the IMO-Energy program to maximize net economic returns by focusing on energy conservation in irrigated agriculture.	Anticipated product in 2014	http://oregonstate.edu/
2012	National	American Society of Agronomy	Assessment of Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Nutrient Management Projects and Recommendations for Future Adoption and Incorporation into Practice Standards	The project will assess 36 national and 6 state completed nutrient management and water quality CIG projects to determine project effectiveness and technologies that work.	The purpose of this project is to evaluate 36 projects, resulting in recommendations and practice standards to be incorporated in NRCS policy, materials and technical guides; and establish a "Evaluation Rubic" to be used for future CIG project evaluations.	Anticipated product in 2015	https://www.agronomy.org/

2012	National	National Association of State Conservation Agencies	Developing National Assessment Standards for Agricultural Certainty to Operate	Project is to develop a summary document detailing every existing agricultural certainty program in the country. This document will include a description of the program, where it is implemented, environmental improvements afforded by the program, eligible cooperators, cooperating regulatory agencies, and the degree of certainty offered by the program.	The purpose of this project is to provide a template that will aid states and stake holders in developing agricultural certainty programs.	Anticipated product in 2015	http://www.nascanet.org/
2012	CO, WY, UT, MT, NV, ID, OR, ND, SD	Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory	Informing Habitat Enhancement and Fence-Marking Projects to Increase Greater Sage-grouse and Other Sagebrush Obligate Bird Populations	Project will develop a decision support tool that incorporates existing management planning methods and scientifically sound bird monitoring data to ensure land managers are using an integrated and standardized framework for evaluating and managing the sagebrush landscape.	The purpose is to provide a management process/ tool that will evaluate most cost effective techniques for sagebrush obligate birds on sagebrush landscapes.	Anticipated product in 2015	http://rmbo.org/v3/
2012	CA, OR, MN, MI, WI, NJ, PA, MA, NH, FL, WY, MT, IN, TX	Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation	Next Steps in Pollinator Conservation: Operations and Maintenance, Organic Habitat Restoration, Expanding Seed Mix Choices, and Assessing Conservation Effectiveness	Project will develop five to six long-term operations and maintenance technical guides for pollinator habitat for New England, the Mid-Atlantic, Pacific Northwest, California, and Florida, provide demonstration sites at organic farms, development production guidelines for previously unavailable pollen and nectar resource plants, and provide training to user groups.	The purpose of this project is to develop technical materials to aid in the effectiveness of restoration of pollinator communities.	Anticipated product in 2015	http://www.xerces.org/
2012	OR	Wy'East Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc	Variable Speed Drive Energy Optimization	The project will take a proven practice, add an innovative approach, and obtain substantial energy efficiency improvements. The project will, established criteria for the operation of a VSD, increased efficiency and adoption of VSDs for agricultural irrigation, provide methodology for the simplified use of the practice, and is adaptable to all irrigation systems that have load variation.	The purpose of this project will detail the best practices for irrigation pumps with an existing variable speed drive (VSD) and future VSD systems. The information and data provided can be used for NRCS agricultural energy management plans.	Anticipated product in 2015	http://www.wyeast-rcd.org/
2012	OR, WA, ID	Willamette Partnership	Multi-State Agency Guidance for Water Quality Trading (Joint Regional Water Quality Trading Agreement): State Agencies Building Shared, Regional Trading Policies for the Pacific Northwest and Beyond	The project is to secure multi-state consensus and Environmental Protection Agency support for a Joint Regional Agreement that will include: multi-state agency guidance; general restoration project and best management practices quality standards; credit tracking procedures; and accounting methods for “credits” that can be used in water quality trading for nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) and temperature in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.	The purpose of this project is to build clear and consistent guidance from state regulatory agencies that will provide regulated utilities a mechanism to confidently participate as buyers in water quality trading programs, and producers will be better able to confidently participate as voluntary sellers of water quality credits.	Anticipated product in 2015	http://willamettepartnership.org/
2013	OR, NV, ID	The Nature Conservancy	Sage-Grouse Conservation: Linking Practices to Habitat Metrics	This project will merge and refine existing models linked to important ecological sites; review and summarize existing literature about the effectiveness and benefits of key conservation practices for sage-steppe ecosystems and sage-grouse habitat; and incorporate our findings into existing models.	The purpose of this project is to develop new tools for land managers to more effectively and efficiently conserve and restore sagebrush habitat in the Interior West.	Anticipated product in 2016	http://www.nature.org/
2013	US	U. S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities	Assessing CIG Source Water Protection in Forested Watersheds: Synthesizing Lessons Learned to Improve the Effectiveness of Future Projects	Cutting-edge comparative analysis of NRCS CIG-funded and other incentive-based programs for source water protection (SWP) in forested watersheds in the United States.	The purpose of this project is to increase the pace, scale, and longevity of sustainable, incentive-based SWP approaches—thereby enhancing the nation’s water security and providing additional assistance and supplemental income to rural landowners for conservation measures.	Anticipated product in 2016	http://www.usendowment.org/
2013	SD, WY, ND, MN, IA, KS, NE, OK, WI, AK, WA, OR, ID, MT, UT, CA, CO, NM, AZ	Inter Tribal Buffalo Council	Native Capacity Building to Address Effective Drought Management	The project will develop an on line databases created for the Tribes that include a resource library for drought management including links to entities that forecast drought, assistance for drought response, and technical data that will enable the Tribes to adequately prepare system responses to drought.	The purpose of this project is to enhance Tribal system resilience to drought by developing models using the Tribal Bison Programs that can be used to demonstrate various technology transfer means and methods for use by other Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers and Indian Tribes.	Anticipated product in 2016	http://www.itbcbuffalo.com/