

Conservation Programs



photo: NRCS Oklahoma

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers landowners financial, technical, and educational assistance to implement conservation practices on privately owned land. Using this help, farmers and ranchers apply practices that reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance forest land, wetlands, grazing lands, and wildlife habitat.

Conservation Programs

Conservation Technical Assistance Program

Provides natural resource inventories and assessments, planning assistance, and technical assistance in applying conservation systems and practices to protect and enhance natural resources. Natural Resources Conservation Service has the responsibility to provide conservation technical assistance to individuals, groups, communities, state and local government and other federal agencies.

Small Watershed Program (PL-566)

Helps urban and rural communities improve and develop water and land resources in watersheds up to 250,000 acres. Projects can address flood prevention, erosion and sediment control, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, wetland creation and restoration, irrigation, public recreation, water quality, and land treatment.

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)

Develops opportunities for rural economic development, community improvement, natural resource improvement, recreation, and tourism through a multi-county program led by a local citizen's council and units of government and nonprofit organizations.

Soil Survey

Publishes scientific inventories that name and classify soils according to a national system and provide information on the potential and limitations of the soil for various uses. A target date of 2002 has been set to have all soils in the United States digitized. USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service is the sole source for this information.

National Resources Inventory (NRI)

Provides a national comprehensive survey, which assesses the use, treatment, conditions, and trends of natural resources on nonfederal rural lands at five-year intervals.

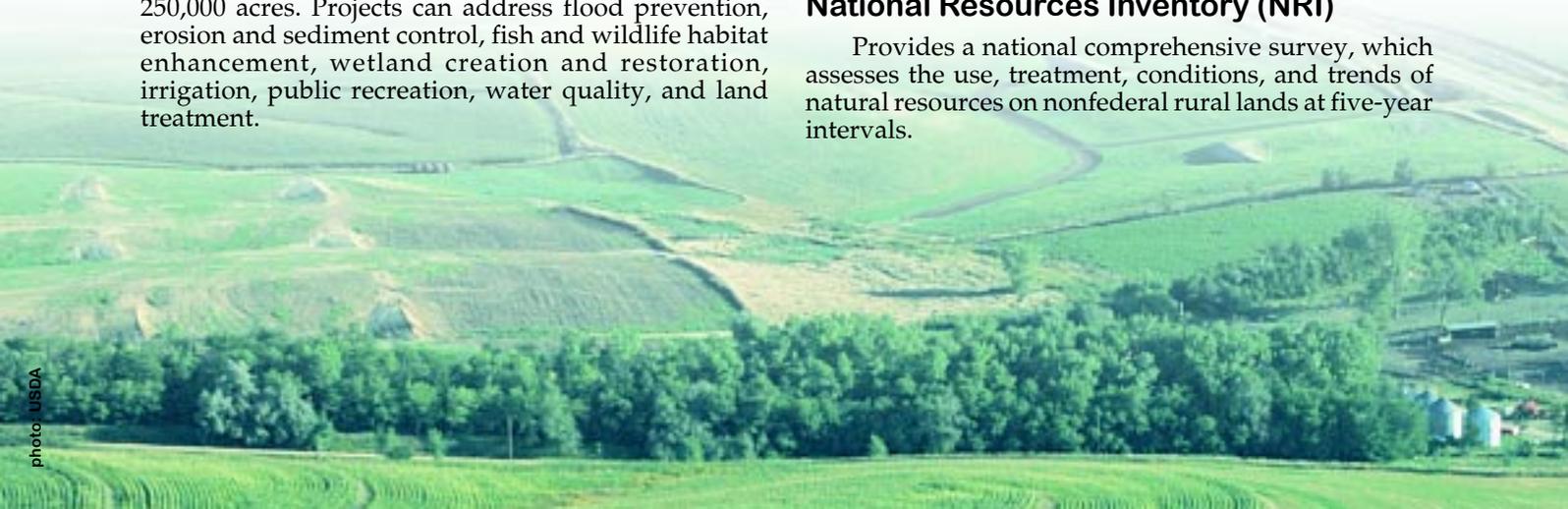


photo: USDA

Plant Materials

At Plant Materials Centers across the country, scientists evaluate the growth and use of plant materials and cultural and management technologies for solving soil and water conservation problems. Plant materials and technologies are needed for range and pastureland, cropland, stream bank and shoreline stabilization, wildlife habitat improvement, wetland enhancement, and revegetation and stabilization of human-caused environmental disturbances, such as construction on urban lands, transportation, transmission, and utility corridors, timber harvest, and strip mining of mineral resources.

Conservation of Private Grazing Land (GLCI)

A program to ensure that technical, educational, and related assistance is provided to those who own and manage private grazing lands.

USDA Cost-Share Programs

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

A voluntary program that results in the planting of sensitive cropland to permanent vegetative cover for 10 to 15 years. Natural Resources Conservation Service provides the technical assistance for the Conservation Reserve Program. CRP contract holders receive annual rental payments from the Farm Service Agency.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

A voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers to address serious threats to soil, water, and related natural resources through 5 to 10 year contracts.

EQIP provides technical, financial, and educational assistance to maximize environmental benefits per federal dollar expended.

Forestry Incentives Program (FIP)

A voluntary cost-share program to help private landowners increase present and future supplies of timber products, improve multipurpose management through tree planting, timber stand improvement, and related practices on nonindustrial private forests.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

A voluntary program to restore and protect wetlands on private property. The program offers options of permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements of a minimum 10-year duration.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

A voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve habitat for fish and wildlife on private lands. WHIP provides both technical and cost-sharing assistance through 5 to 10 year contracts.

State and Other Cost-Share Programs

Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical assistance and program information support to state, conservation districts, and nonprofit organizations, cost-share programs and projects. Landowners, or others interested in the details of these programs, can visit their local Natural Resources Conservation Service office, an office is assigned to assist every county and is found in the government section of your phone book.

For more information on Conservation Programs, check out our website at <http://www.ok.usda.gov>.

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