

## STATE RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

### **State Resource Assessment Project Overview:**

The State Resource Assessment (SRA) will provide a science-based, qualitative and quantitative picture of the extent and geographic distribution of natural resource concerns within a state. SRAs are based on the best available natural resource data by utilizing a foundation of national geospatial data and enhanced by additional regional and State level geospatial data. The goal of the State Resource Assessment is to prioritize NRCS activities statewide based upon our specific resource concerns summarized at the watershed level.

The resource assessment will be completed using existing (digital) GIS datasets. We have been gathering existing GIS datasets that provide the best available statewide metrics for each of the following NRCS resource concern land uses: Crop, Pasture, Forest, and Other Agricultural Land.

### **State Resource Assessment Purpose:**

- Identify and document the extent and geographic distribution of potential resource concerns within a State.
- Assist national, regional, and State leadership, including State Technical Committees, establish priorities to help achieve our natural resource objectives and improve the use of agency technical and financial resources.

### **State Resource Assessment Uses:**

- Resource-based performance planning
- Workforce planning
- Budget and allocation formulation

### **State Resource Assessment Process:**

- Inventory potential natural resource concerns statewide utilizing geospatial data.
- Quantify the extent and geographic distribution of each potential resource concern by land use.
- Identify what has already received conservation treatment.
- Prioritize the State's resource concerns.
- Engage partners, such as the State Technical Committee or local workgroups, to assist in the assessment, evaluation, and prioritization of identified potential resource concerns.
- Identify priority treatment areas geospatially utilizing 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) boundaries located within the state boundaries.
- Determine how many acres to address within the next 3 years.
- Submit to NRCS NHQ by June 1, 2011.

**Both the Statewide Assessment and Priority Treatment Areas will need to be evaluated for:**

- Potential At Risk Acres
- Acres Needing Treatment
- Priority Rank
- Priority Treatment Acres

**DEFINITIONS**

**RESOURCE CONCERN** – A resource concern is an expected degradation of the soil, water, air, plant or animal resource base to an extent that the sustainability or intended use of the resource is impaired. NRCS quantifies and describes resource concerns as part of the comprehensive planning process.

**RESOURCE CONCERN CATEGORIES** - National Bulletin 405-11-6, November, 2010 identifies 9 major resource concern categories designed to support efforts to streamline the delivery of conservation assistance: 1) soil erosion, 2) soil quality, 3) excess or insufficient water, 4) water quality, 5) degraded plant condition, 6) inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife, 7) livestock production limitation, 8) inefficient energy use and 9) air quality impacts. There are a total of 31 natural resource concerns within those nine major categories.

**AT RISK ACRES** – Land that is vulnerable to the resource concern regardless of whether any conservation treatment has been applied and maintained.

**TREATED ACRES** – Land that has documented treatment with conservation practices.

**ACRES NEEDING TREATMENT** – “Treated Acres” subtracted from “At Risk Acres”.

**PRIORITY TREATMENT ACRES** – Estimate of the acres to be treated for specific resource concern/land use combinations during the 3 year period from FY2012 through FY2014.

**PRIORITY TREATMENT AREAS** – Portions of a state where the resource assessment indicates future conservation treatments will have greater impact on a landscape basis.

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