

**OREGON NRCS**

# **SIGNATURES on the Land**

## **OREGON NRCS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES HELP PEOPLE HELP THE LAND**

**T**his year the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is proud to celebrate 75 years helping people help the land. Initially known as the Soil Erosion Service, the agency traces its history back to 1935 when it was first established to implement soil conservation practices at the height of the dust bowl. The agency immediately set to work providing locally based, voluntary conservation assistance to private landowners and tribes. Not surprisingly, Oregon's farmers and ranchers have been there from the beginning and were among the nation's first working lands conservationists.

These pioneers sowed the seeds of a legacy of conservation—a legacy that continues today as made evident by the hard work and dedication of NRCS' customers, tribes, employees and conservation partners.

President Franklin Roosevelt once said "The nation that destroys its soil, destroys itself." NRCS understands the unique relationship between the land and the people. The nation's very livelihood depends on the soil's immense bounty, and it's NRCS's mission not only to cultivate the land's potential, but also protect a remarkable national resource.

Over the course of the years, NRCS has provided technical and financial assistance to countless farmers and ranchers through conservation programs. In so doing, NRCS has helped protect the soil and other natural resources on which the nation depends for commerce and culture.

As populations increase, production becomes more critical—as does the parallel endeavor of conserving and protecting our natural resources. *Signatures on the Land* provides an at-a-glance look at just some of those conservation achievements in Oregon.

## **2010 CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT A GLANCE**

*Sage-Grouse Habitat Restored:*  
20,600 acres

*Land Restored by Improved  
Irrigation Efficiency:*  
31,370 acres

*Comprehensive Nutrient  
Management  
Plans Implemented:*  
48 plans

*Wetlands Created, Enhances  
or Restored:*  
7,825 acres

*Improved Cropland Health:*  
125,487 acres

*Improved Rangeland Health:*  
318,359 acres

*Improved Wildlife Habitat*  
19,703 acres

# 2010 CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT A GLANCE

## *Environmental Quality Incentives Program*

Contracts: 509  
Acres: 148,476  
Financial assistance: \$12.7 million  
(includes Sage-Grouse Initiative)

## *Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program*

Contracts: 18  
Acres: 12,602  
Financial Assistance: \$854,781

## *Grasslands Reserve Program*

Easements: 6  
Financial Assistance: \$387,665

## *Conservation Stewardship Program*

Contracts: 170  
Acres: 481,019  
Financial Assistance: \$4.5 million

## *Conservation Innovation Grants Program*

Contracts Awarded: 2  
Financial Assistance: \$135,000

## *Wetlands Reserve Program*

Easements/ Contracts: 60  
Acres: 26,684  
Financial Assistance: \$11.8 million

The numbers are impressive. Yet, behind every conservation plan and contract is a farmer, a family, a business, and a nation. NRCS is proud to be a part of this community, and America's continuing legacy of conservation.

## *2008 FARM BILL PROGRAMS*

While NRCS' technical assistance provided the resources for sound conservation planning, a portfolio of voluntary conservation programs authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill provided financial and technical assistance funding to farmers and ranchers to implement needed conservation measures. Following is a brief overview of some of those programs.

### *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)*

Through EQIP, farmers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land.

### *Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)*

WHIP provides financial incentives to develop habitat for fish and wildlife on private lands.

### *Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)*

GRP provides support for grazing operations to enhance plant and animal biodiversity and protect grassland under threat of conversion to other uses.

### *Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)*

CSP encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities; and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

### *Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)*

This program is intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production.

### *Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)*

WRP offers landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. Through this program, NRCS provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts.

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