

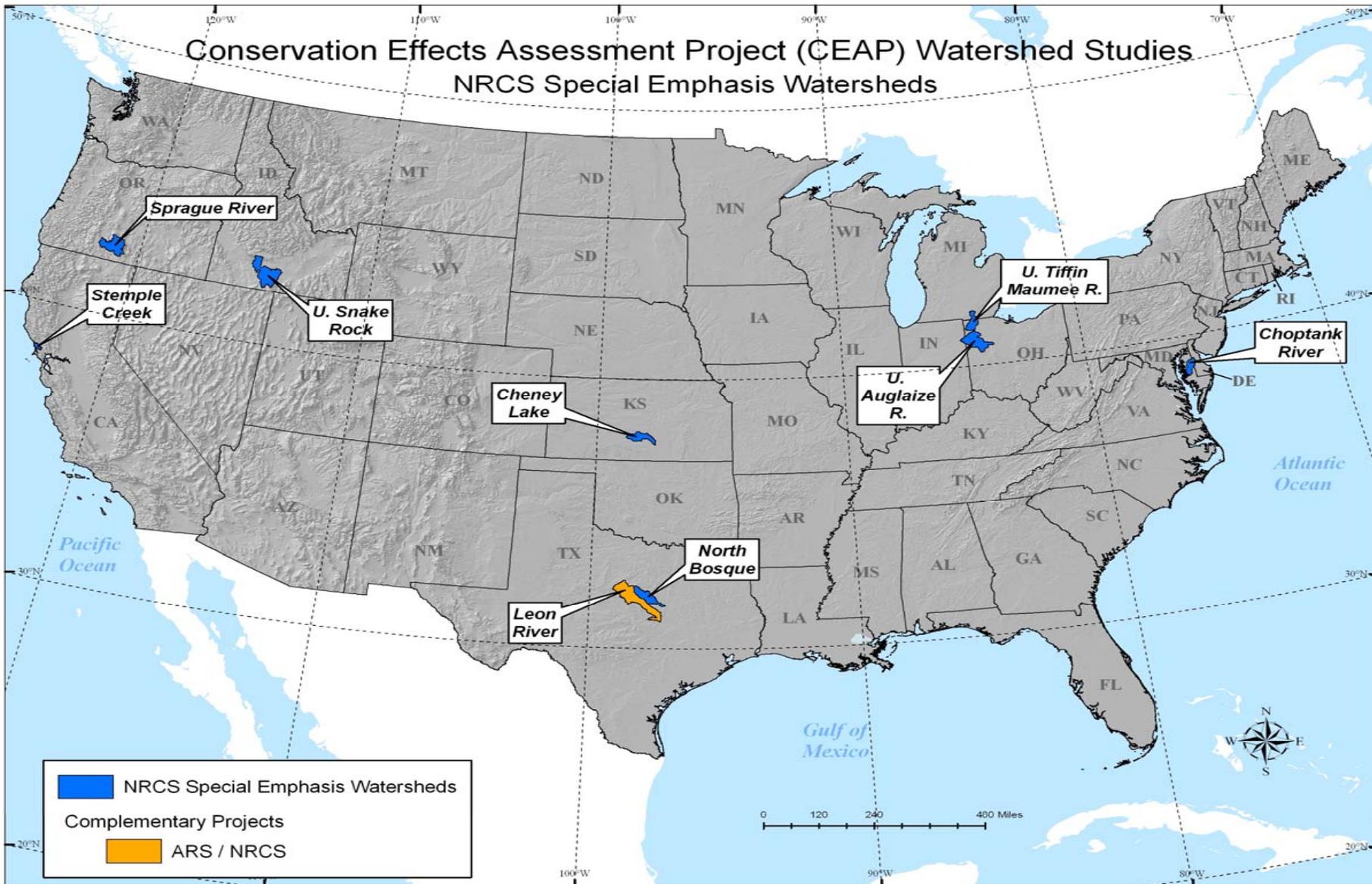
Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)

Measuring the Environmental Benefits of Conservation

NRCS- Special Emphasis Watersheds

- Currently 10 projects- 3 year studies
- Addressing specific resource concerns
 - Land application of manure
 - Arid region stream flow
 - Irrigation
 - Subsurface Drainage
 - Grazing
- Provide monitoring data for future

Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) Watershed Studies
NRCS Special Emphasis Watersheds



NRCS- Special Emphasis Watersheds

- Update
 - More than half way thru study duration
 - Some will transition to ARS Benchmark so work can continue on long term basis
 - Coordinators conference on May16-17 and presentations of preliminary findings

NRCS- Special Emphasis Watersheds

Draft Final Report Outline (Dec.2007)

- **CEAP Overview** – quantify environmental effects of conservation practices on a watershed basis to address resource concerns towards meeting environmental goals
- **Methodology (Data collection & Evaluation)**
 - include collaboration, peer review, strengths and weaknesses of models utilized, assess uncertainty
- **Alternative solutions-** findings
- **Recommendations/Implications** – what can be done to solve identified problems, research needs

NRCS- Special Emphasis Watersheds

- Future Plans
 - Dependent upon FY07 funding
 - Continue those that made good progress
 - Add a few to address new issues such as:
 - Agricultural watersheds impacting coral reefs
 - NOAA is interested in partnering with us, ARS and possibly CSREES

NRCS- Special Emphasis Watersheds

- Communicating Study Findings
 - Many high expectations
 - Justify investment made to date
 - Upcoming opportunities
 - SWCS Annual Conference, Colorado
 - October CEAP Conference, Kansas City
 - For use in Farm Bill Debates

Utilizing CEAP Watershed Study Findings

- Make conservation programs more effective in achieving environmental goals
 - Field level: more effective in developing conservation plans with producers
 - State level: better program design and incentives to install the right practices

Utilizing CEAP Watershed Study Findings

- Integrate into existing NRCS Technology and tools such as
 - Conservation Practice Physical Effects
 - Matrix of conservation practices and resource concerns (10,000 cells)
 - Numeric Value (-5 to +5) of a practice impact to each resource concern
 - Tally cumulative effect for each practice

CEAP Watershed Component

- **Goals and Objectives**
 - Quantify environmental effects of conservation practices
 - Science based information
 - Optimize placement of practices on the landscape

CEAP Watershed Component

- **ARS Benchmark Research**- foundation for modeling support, long term work
- **CSREES Competitive Grant**- modeling, socio-economic influences
- **NRCS Special Emphasis**- fill in some of gaps with diverse land use/landscapes

CEAP Watershed Component

- **Relevant Research Watersheds**
 - Capture those projects of other agencies that are similar to CEAP, such as USGS
 - Purpose is to share knowledge
 - Website links
 - No CEAP endorsement or funding

Relevant Research Watersheds

- **Template Contents**
 - Name of Project
 - Location (watershed)
 - Principle Investigator (contact info)
 - Website
 - Purpose (goals and objectives)
 - Description (models, landscape, practices)

CEAP- Future

- Incorporate Blue Ribbon Panel recommendations
- Satisfy high expectations
- Communicate our findings
- Continue our strong partnerships

- Questions ???
- CEAP Web site:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/nri/ceap>
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