



**NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE**
Helping People Help the Land
www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov

SIGNATURES ON THE LAND

GETTING CONSERVATION ON THE GROUND

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provided a wide range of programs and services to enable Washington landowners to implement conservation practices and management activities in 2012. According to NRCS State

Conservationist Roylene Rides at the Door, these programs and services are providing Washington landowners with technical and financial resources to help them protect and improve soil, water and air quality, as well as wildlife habitat.

“In Fiscal Year 2012,” Rides at the Door said, “landowners continued to use a wide range of conservation programs and services to get more conservation on the ground.”

Rides at the Door said that thanks to the continued utilization of key conservation programs made possible through the 2008 Farm Bill, as well as NRCS’ conservation technical assistance activities (CTA), land owners improved irrigation efficiency on some 26,203 acres of land and improved soil quality on 280,676 acres. **In total, \$44,442,333 was allocated in financial assistance for Washington producers.**

In addition, she said individual conservation plans were written covering over half a million acres of land in Washington.

Through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Washington’s farmers and ranchers received close to \$17 million in financial assistance, including nearly \$2 million committed to salmon recovery in Washington State.

“To protect over 20,000 acres of important Sage Grouse habitat, the NRCS provided \$1.2 million through the EQIP Sage Grouse Initiative and the Working Lands for Wildlife incentive,” Rides at the Door said. Additionally, the NRCS provided \$2.4 million for restoration on existing projects through the Wetlands Reserve Program.



SOIL
280,676 acres of cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality.



WATER
26,203 acres of improved irrigation efficiency.



LAND
185,987 acres of grazing and forest land protected through conservation.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS AT-A-GLANCE

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

New contracts: 586 Acres: 239,048
Financial assistance: \$16,680,960
(includes all initiatives)

EQIP Sage Grouse Initiative

Contracts: 5 Acres: 8,299
Financial assistance: \$537,479

EQIP Energy Initiative

Contracts: 151 Acres: 111,440
Financial assistance: \$4,392,615

EQIP Organic Initiative

Contracts: 42 Acres: 946
Financial assistance: \$418,035

EQIP High Tunnel Initiative

Contracts: 67 Acres: 413
Financial assistance: \$430,508

EQIP Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Partnership

Contracts: 20 Acres: 19 miles of fish passage/stream habitat opened, 17.8 acres of new buffers
Financial assistance: \$1,972,955

Working Lands for Wildlife (Sage Grouse)

New contracts: 7 Acres: 12,482
Financial assistance: \$748,622

Conservation Stewardship Program

Contracts: 77 Acres: 195,462
Financial assistance: \$13,691,015

Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program

Easements: 28 Acres: 1506
Funding: \$3,822,292

Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

Contracts: 13 Acres: 4,025
Funding: \$806,932

Conservation Innovation Grants Program

Number awarded: 4
Funding: \$149,091

Wetlands Reserve Program

Agreements: 2 Acres: 51
Funding: \$214,978 for new restoration; \$2,375,702 for restoration on existing agreements

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.

WORKING LANDS FOR WILDLIFE (WLFW)

WLFW is a new partnership between NRCS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to use agency technical expertise combined with \$33 million in financial assistance from the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program to combat the decline of seven specific wildlife species whose decline can be reversed and will benefit other species with similar habitat needs.

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.

FARM AND RANCH LAND PROTECTION PROGRAM (FRPP)

This program provides matching funds to help purchase development rights to keep productive farm and ranch land in agricultural uses. Working through existing programs, USDA partners with state, tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations to acquire conservation easements or other land interests from landowners.

AGRICULTURAL WATER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (AWEP)

AWEP is a voluntary conservation initiative that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to implement agricultural water enhancement activities on agricultural land to conserve surface and ground water and improve water quality.

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.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

