Introduction to NRCS

Inspired by a shared desire for a healthy environment, the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) collaborates with landowners to protect natural resources on private lands. Working side-by-side with our customers, we identify natural resource concerns, such as wildlife habitat, water quality and fish passage, soil erosion, and lowland degradation. Together, we develop unique conservation plans for restoring and protecting resources.

Funds to implement these plans are made available from Farm Bill programs that share the cost of conservation for the benefit of all.

Overview

Streams are critical to our well being. They provide wildlife habitat, recreation, and groundwater recharge for wells. Healthy streams require healthy streambanks.

Streambanks can become unstable from four wheeler crossings, livestock crossings, channel alterations, and tree or shrub removal. Unstable banks cause accelerated erosion leading to poor water quality, sediment deposits, and property loss.

Stable streambanks directly benefit healthy landscapes and wildlife habitat both in and out of the water. NRCS can help protect and restore streambanks with vegetation, access control (gates or fences), constructed stream crossings, and water control structures.

NRCS can also help improve fish passages and streambed quality for fish migration, rearing, and spawning.

Assistance

- You may be eligible for federal financial assistance.
- There is no charge for our technical assistance.
- Experienced conservationists work for NRCS.
- All programs and services are voluntary and non-regulatory.