



NRCS ALASKA FY23 ANNUAL REPORT



Fiscal year 2023 (FY23) marked the beginning of a new era for NRCS with the passing of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Nationwide, NRCS received \$19.5 billion in IRA funds that will supplement our existing conservation programs beginning in FY23 and ramping up over the next four years. IRA nearly doubled the agency’s budget and represents a once-in-a-lifetime investment in conservation.

Alaska’s FY23 IRA allocation was an **additional \$1.8 million** for our Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) on top of our normal EQIP allocation of about **\$10 million**. The IRA funds are in addition to otherwise available program funds; however, IRA funds are only available for specific conservation practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase storage of carbon in soil and trees. This year’s IRA-EQIP funds were successfully obligated and will support forestry carbon sequestration.

In FY24, we anticipate receiving an **additional \$15 million** in IRA-EQIP on top of our normal EQIP allocation, plus **additional IRA funds** for our other Farm Bill programs such as the Conservation Stewardship Program. There is tremendous opportunity in Alaska for producers, Tribes, and other entities to implement conservation projects with IRA funding.

Our watershed programs are going strong, with two Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) projects completed this year and five more in progress. These are critical projects that protect lives and property in rural Alaskan communities impacted by natural disasters.

We are building partnerships to support our programs including new grants and agreements. We are always looking for new and creative ways to partner with various organizations to accomplish more together. Thanks to all of our producers and partners for your support!



Alan D. McBee
State Conservationist

ALASKA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

EQIP FY23

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

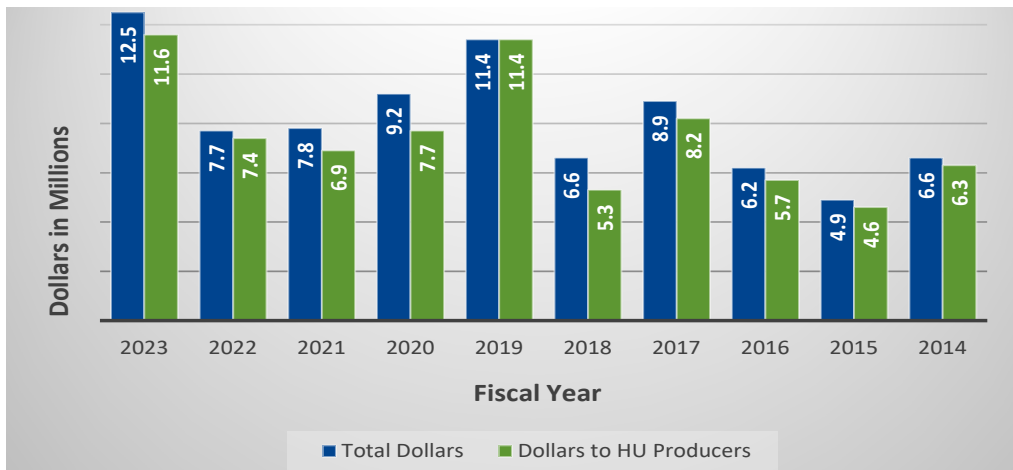
68 APPLICATIONS
42 CONTRACTS
\$12.5M OBLIGATED
83% OF CONTRACTS WITH HU PRODUCERS
 (TOTALING \$11.6M)

EQIP FY14-23

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

1,573 APPLICATIONS
858 CONTRACTS
\$81.8M OBLIGATED
92% OF CONTRACTS WITH HU PRODUCERS
 (TOTALING \$75.2M)

ALASKA EQIP DOLLARS 2014 - 2023
 (State totals and Historically Underserved)



HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED (HU) PRODUCER GROUPS

- Socially Disadvantaged**
 Member of a socially disadvantaged group that has been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. Includes American Indians or Alaska Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders and Hispanics.
- Beginning Farmer/Rancher**
 Has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years, and who will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.
- Limited Resource Farmer/Rancher**
 A producer with direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years.
- Veteran Farmer/Rancher**
 Served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, including the reserve component thereof and was released from service under conditions other than dishonorable; and has not operated a farm or ranch, or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years; or who first obtained status as a veteran during the most recent 10-year period.

ALASKA CONSERVATION PRACTICES

TOP 5 PRACTICES BY PAYMENTS

- 01 FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT - \$3.6M
- 02 TREE/SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT - \$2.4M
- 03 TRAILS AND WALKWAYS - \$2.3M
- 04 AQUATIC ORGANISM PASSAGE - \$596K
- 05 WOODY RESIDUE TREATMENT - \$352K



Katie Russell inspects a fish passage bridge project that improves salmon habitat in Juneau, Alaska.

TOP 5 PRACTICES BY COUNT

- 01 FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT — 113
- 02 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT — 84
- 03 HIGH TUNNEL SYSTEM — 67
- 04 TREE/SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT — 52
- 05 CONSERVATION CROP ROTATION — 30



Staff inspect a fencing project to assist with livestock grazing management on Sitkinak Island.



Kris Nichols and Karin Sonnen perform a site assessment for a critical area planting to protect sand dunes on Akun Island.



ALASKA WATERSHED PROGRAMS

EWP FY23

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION (EWP)

7 PROJECTS TOTTALLING **\$7.1M**

2 NEW PROJECTS FUNDED:

\$6.6M

- Buckland
- Huslia

3 PROJECTS IN PROGRESS:

\$416K

- Alakanuk
- Chevak
- Hooper Bay

2 PROJECTS COMPLETED:

\$116K

- Akiak
- Glennallen



WFPO FY23

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS (WFPO)

PHASE 1 PROJECTS TOTAL **\$40.3M**

COMPLETED PHASE 1

development of a Preliminary Investigation and Feasibility Report (PIFR) in the following communities (all projects will move forward to Phase 2 for development of a Watershed Plan):

1. Akiak
2. Alakanuk
3. Atka
4. Atmautluak
5. Fort Yukon
6. Golovin
7. Hooper Bay

PHASE 1 IN PROGRESS

in the following communities:

8. Kotlik
9. Kwigillingok
10. Levelock
11. McGrath
12. Napakiak
13. Shishmaref
14. Tuntutuliak
15. Tununak
16. Tyonek
17. Unalakleet
18. Valdez

EWP funding amounts shown are federal cost share and do not include the value of NRCS conservation technical assistance or required sponsor contributions.



Streambank erosion in Akiak, Alaska

ALASKA SURVEYS

SNOW SURVEY FY23

Alaska's snow survey team and partners successfully performed 512 snow course and aerial marker readings this year and maintained 77 data stations/sites. We started transitioning primary air temperature sensors to a new sensor that is more accurate and removes an existing bias in the temperature data. A third of the stations have transitioned. We have also expanded the improved snow depth sensor to 20 sites and started testing three new snow-water-equivalent sensors at the Frostbite Bottom Snow Telemetry site.



Keegnan Krantz at Alexander Lake Snow Course.

SOIL SURVEYS COMPLETED IN FY23

- AK638 - Cantwell Area, Alaska
- AK686 - White Mountains Area, Alaska
- AK716 - Alaska Peninsula - Port Heiden and Port Moller Area, Alaska*
- AK747 - Arctic National Wildlife Refuge - Beaufort Coastal Plain Area, Alaska*
- AK748 - Arctic National Wildlife Refuge - Brooks Range East Area, Alaska*
- AK759 - Brooks Foothills - Killik, Chandler, and Anaktuvuk Rivers Area, Alaska*
- AK760 - National Petroleum Reserve - Beaufort Coastal Plain Area, Alaska*
- AK761 - National Petroleum Reserve - Brooks Foothills North Area, Alaska*
- AK762 - Beaufort Coastal Plain - Deadhorse Area, Alaska*
- AK763 - White Hills - Kuparuk River Area, Alaska*



Cathy Wang and Mike Sousa perform a soil survey at Mentasta Lake.

*Soil survey area contains generalized order 5 soil mapping, published at a 1:250,000 scale. For comparison, most soil surveys contain detailed order 2 or order 3 soil mapping at the 1:24,000 scale.

SOIL SURVEY FY23

47 MILLION ACRES MAPPED

ALASKA TEAM

