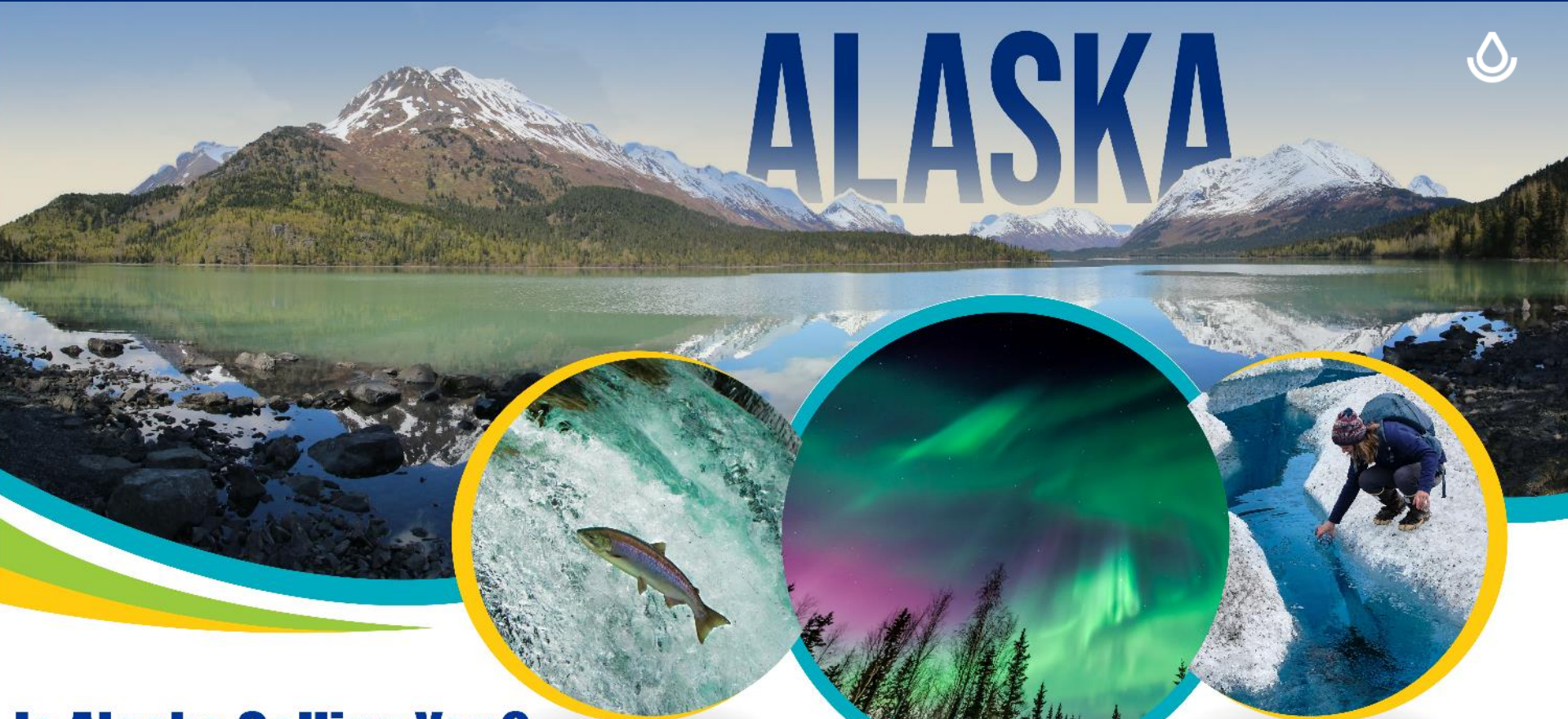




United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# ALASKA



## Is Alaska Calling You?

Have you ever wanted to experience the wilderness first hand? Do you want to live life unlike anywhere else in the U.S.? Alaska has it all...fresh mountain air, beautiful Northern Lights, epic winter recreation, breathtaking marine life sightings, remote travel by small planes and boats, unique wildlife encounters, and diverse Alaska Native cultures.

**Natural Resources  
Conservation Service**

# Is Alaska Calling You?



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**ALASKA**

*Join  
our  
Team*

Have you ever wanted to experience the wilderness first hand?  
Do you want to live life unlike anywhere else in the U.S.?

**There's literally an adventure waiting to happen everyday when you live in the Last Frontier State!**

You can live on the grid, off the grid or live in a camper year-round. We have options! If you want to add some life to your life, consider Alaska. It's not a state for the faint of heart, and some will say you either love Alaska or you hate it....but for those of us who answer the call of the wild, we absolutely love it, and we wouldn't have it any other way!

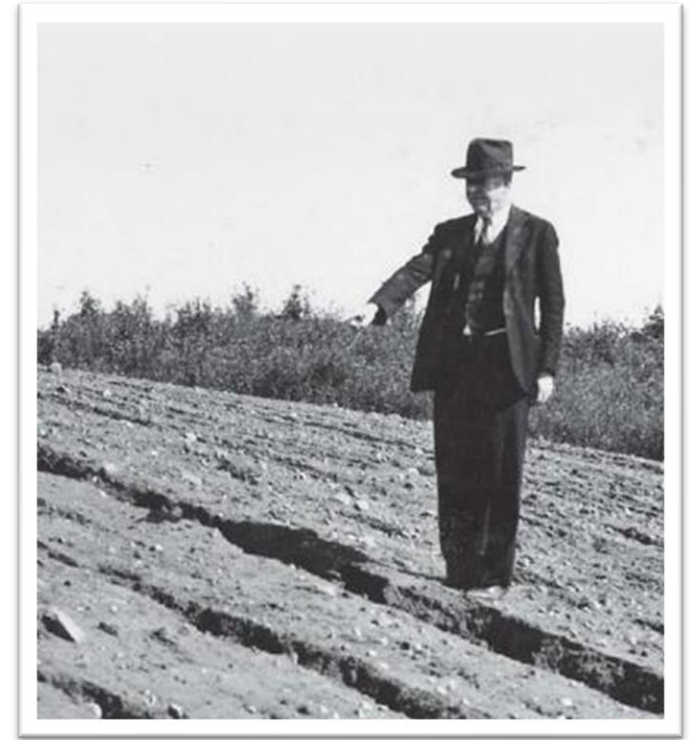
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# Our History

- We are a federal government agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Founded in 1935 in response to the Dust Bowl
- Soil Conservation Service (SCS) changed to NRCS in 1994
- Rich history of 80+ years (70+ years in Alaska) working with farmers and local Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- SCS started in Palmer, Alaska Feb. 19, 1948
- We provide technical and financial assistance to private agricultural producers to conserve soil, water, air, plants, animals & energy.
- NRCS assistance programs are funded through the Farm Bill every 5 years.
- Participation in NRCS programs is entirely voluntary.



*Hugh Hammond Bennet, the 'father of soil conservation' and founder of SCS.*

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# NRCS Office Locations

## Alaska Service Areas

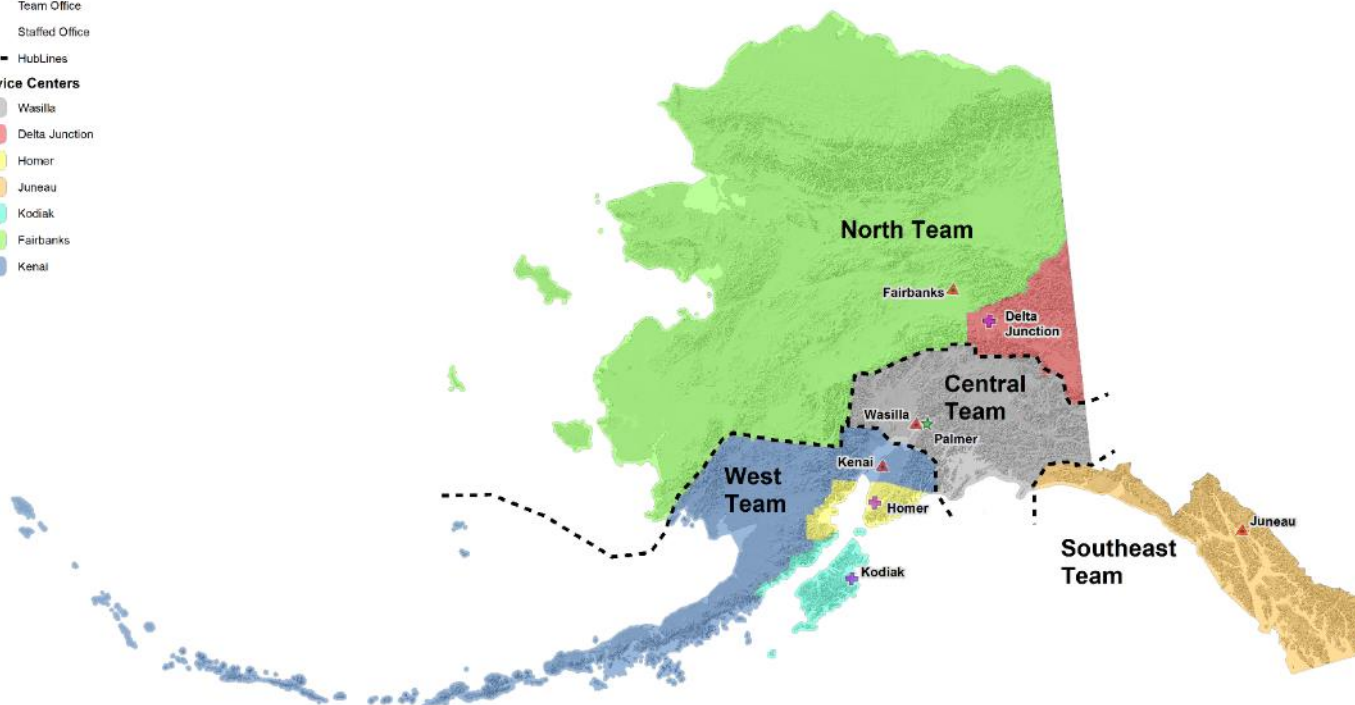
### Offices

- ★ State Office
- ▲ Team Office
- ✚ Staffed Office

### HubLines

### Service Centers

- Wasilla
- Delta Junction
- Homer
- Juneau
- Kodiak
- Fairbanks
- Kenai



Created by:  
Alaska NRCS State Office  
Geographic Information Systems  
April 2022

0 100 200 400 600 800 Miles

  
Map Updated 4/26/2022

NRCS Alaska is  
organized into 4  
Teams with 7 field  
offices and 1 state  
office.

We also have 3 Soil  
Survey Offices in  
Fairbanks, Wasilla  
and Homer.

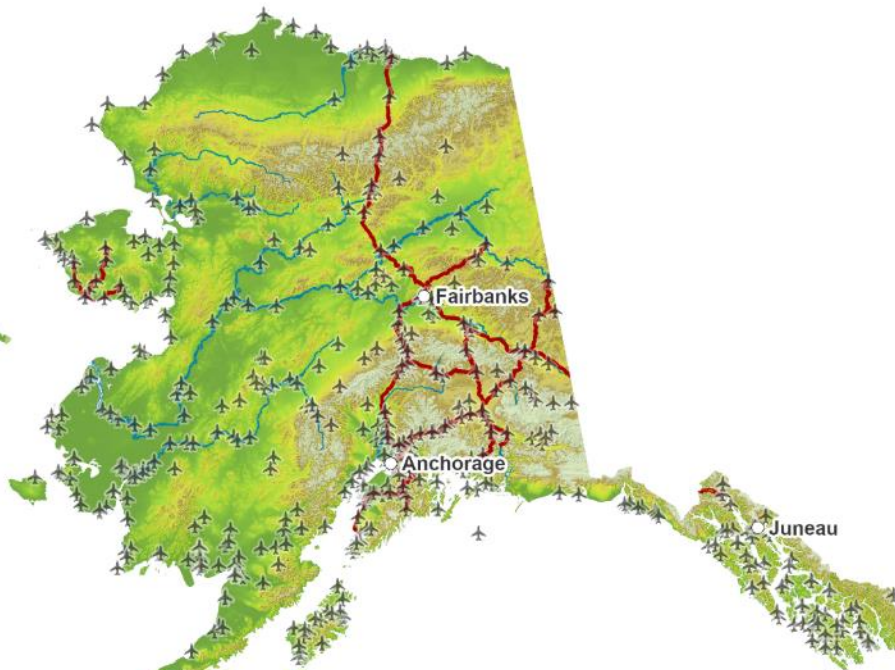
We have between  
40 – 55 employees  
across the state.  
Our most populated  
office is the state  
office in Palmer.

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# Travel is a BIG part of the job!



Only 20% of  
Alaska  
communities are  
accessible by the  
road system.

The remaining  
80% of  
communities can  
only be accessed  
by air or water.

This makes  
traveling to visit  
customers a  
logistical challenge!

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# We use many modes of transportation!



We travel by commercial jets, private planes (including small planes & float planes), helicopters, boats, ferries, trucks, cars, snow mobiles, four-wheelers, snowshoes, skis, fat tire bikes, and on-foot.

Our limited road system requires non-traditional modes of travel to visit our customers and perform field work.

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# We serve customers off the road system



Many of the people we serve live in remote villages off the road system. Maintaining basic services such as housing, electricity, water supply, internet, and food supply is challenging. Subsistence is critical for survival.

We also serve people who live on off-road homesteads who maintain gardens and livestock to sustain their families.

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# We work in bear & moose country



In Alaska, we humans are not at the top of the food chain. We work among large populations of black and brown bear.

Our staff routinely receive firearms training and wildlife safety training. Many of our staff are required to carry firearms during field work for protection from aggressive bear or moose.

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# We prepare for extreme weather



Alaska's winters are long, dark and cold. Snowfall generally starts in October (sometimes earlier!) and ends in April (sometimes later!)

We work in snow, rain, wind, ice, and cold. But we also work in pleasantly warm & sunny summer days!

Preparing for field work in Alaska's variable weather is critical. There's no such thing as bad weather, only bad gear!



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# We enjoy long summer days



Alaska's summer days are long, with nearly 24 hours of daylight in our northernmost office in Fairbanks.

Summer temperatures in Fairbanks can reach the 80s & 90s but the highs are generally lower (60s and 70s) in south central and southeastern parts of the state.

Summer affords opportunities for fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, boating & other outdoor activities.

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# We embrace winter



Just as the summer days are long, winter days are drastically opposite. The shortest day in Fairbanks is 3 hours and 42 minutes of daylight, and in Anchorage the shortest day is 5 hours and 28 minutes.

Fairbanks winter temps can dip to -30 or below, while Anchorage lows are usually warmer with lows in the single digits, sometimes below zero.

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Winter affords opportunities for skiing, ice skating, riding snow machines, sled dog races, ice fishing, fat tire biking, viewing ice sculptures, ice climbing, observing the Northern Lights, and other uniquely Alaskan experiences!



# We support diverse agriculture



**There are 990 farms in Alaska with an estimated 849,753 acres of farmland.**

Farm products include a variety of vegetables (kale, lettuces, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, etc.) berries, apples, potatoes, dry beans and grains including barley, hay, nursery and greenhouse products including peonies.

Livestock production includes reindeer, yak, bison, musk ox and beef cattle.

Source: 2017 Ag Census.

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# We install conservation practices



Nutrient Management



Cover Crops



Obstruction Removal



Fuel Break



Grazing Management



Aquatic Organism Passage

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is often used in Alaska improve habitat for salmon, moose and other species which directly supports subsistence.

Forestry practices in Alaska also support subsistence uses of the land by improving forest health, resiliency and biodiversity.

EQIP practices also help grow local food and enhance food security.

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# More conservation practices...



Forest Stand Improvement



Woody Residue Treatment



Tree/Shrub Establishment



Trails and Walkways



High Tunnel



Irrigation System



Irrigation Water Management



Conservation Crop Rotation

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# Delta Junction Field Office



The City of Delta Junction is Alaska at its finest, located in the fertile Tanana River Valley and surrounded by 3 spectacular mountain ranges!

To the west, the Delta River provides scenic adventure for site-seers and unrivaled opportunity for outdoor sports enthusiasts.

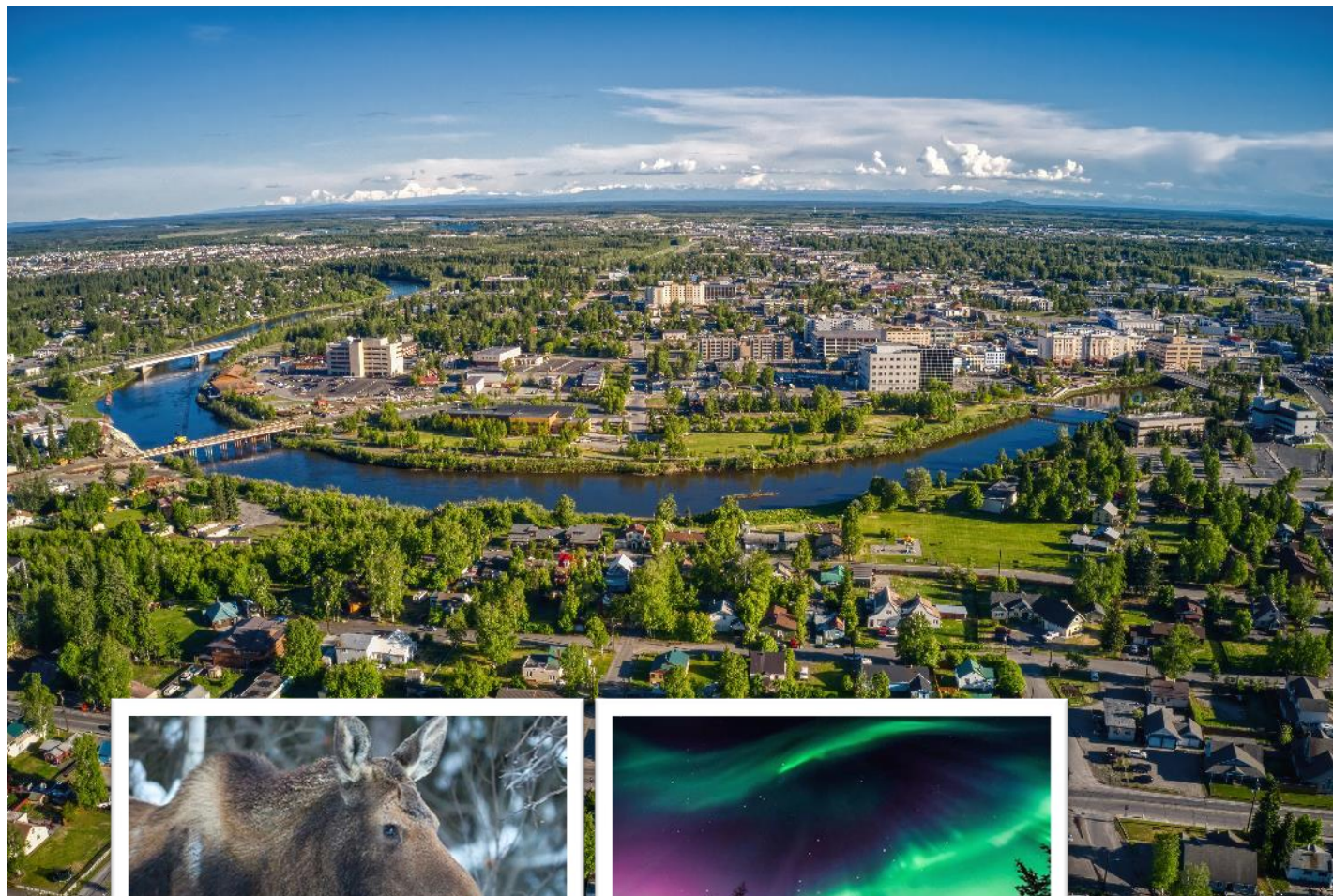
The Delta area has many small farms and several large-scale farms, producing agricultural products such as hay, barley, oats, grasses for forage and seed, potatoes, vegetables, and livestock including bison and caribou.

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# Fairbanks Field Office



In Fairbanks, the sky takes on a capricious life of its own—a canvas for the aurora borealis, the midnight sun and sunsets and sunrises that last forever!

Here there are serious mountain ranges, pristine rivers and lakes, abundant wildlife and a certain poignant solitude that is found nowhere else on earth.

Agriculture in the Fairbanks area and the nearby Tanana Valley includes vegetables, peonies and other flowers, birch syrup, hay, barley and livestock including bison and caribou.

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# Homer Field Office



Located near the southern tip of the Kenai Peninsula, Homer is variously described as “where the land ends and the sea begins,” “the cosmic hamlet by the sea,” an arts community, and a fishing community.

Commercial fishing remains a vital part of the local economy. Homer lands more halibut than any other port in the world, earning the title of “Halibut Capital of the World.”

Agriculture in the Homer area includes diverse farms producing a variety of vegetables, peonies and other nursery crops and flowers, and of course, seafood!

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# Kenai Field Office



Kenai is located on the Kenai Peninsula where the world-famous Kenai River meets Cook Inlet. It is surrounded by spectacular scenery and wildlife and has a rich history of native and Russian settlements and culture.

The Kenai River is known for its world-class King Salmon fishing.

Agriculture on the Kenai Peninsula has expanded rapidly in the last 15 years and includes production of vegetables, peonies and other nursery crops and flowers, hay, cattle and of course seafood!



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# Juneau Field Office



Situated in the rainy climate of Southeast Alaska, downtown Juneau sits snugly between Mount Juneau, Mount Roberts, and Gastineau Channel.

The waterfront bustles with cruise ships, fishing boats, and floatplanes zipping in and out. With no road access to Juneau, it is the only state capital in the United States that can only be reached by airplane or boat.

Agriculture in Southeast Alaska primarily involves forestry products as well as hydroponics, vegetable production and of course seafood! Southeast Alaska includes many islands and servicing customers in the area necessitates travel by boats and planes.

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# Wasilla Field Office



Nestled between two lakes, Wasilla is home to the world-famous Iditarod Sled Dog Race Headquarters and is a bustling hub of the Mat-Su Valley.

It is one of the fastest-growing areas in Alaska, but it still retains a small-town feel. With its sister city, Palmer, the area is considered the "Core Area" of the Mat-Su Valley, representing the largest population base of the 23,000-square foot Mat-Su Borough.

Agriculture in the Wasilla area includes vegetable production, hay, peonies and other flowers and nursery crops, birch syrup production, forestry products and livestock.

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# Palmer State Office

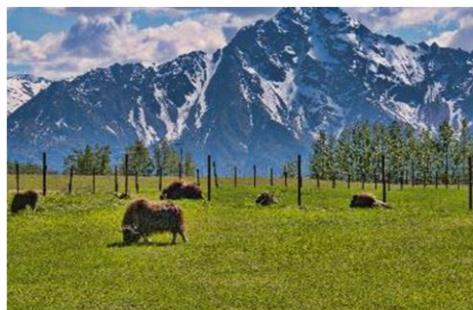


Located at the mouth of the Matanuska River, Palmer is the agricultural hub within the state.

The unique microclimate produces amazing giant vegetables, found on display annually at the home of the Alaska State Fair. Agriculture in Palmer and the surrounding Matanuska-Susitna Valley includes vegetable production, peonies and nursery crops, flowers, hay, and livestock including Musk Ox, caribou/reindeer, yak, and beef cattle.

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# Careers with NRCS



- **Administrative**
- **Agricultural Economist**
- **Agronomist**
- **Archaeologist**
- **Biologist**
- **Computer Specialist**
- **District Conservationist**
- **Engineer**
- **Environmental Specialist**
- **Forester**
- **Geologist**
- **Geographic Information Specialist**
- **Natural Resource Specialist**
- **Partnership Liaison**
- **Plant Materials Specialist**
- **Program Specialist**
- **Public Affairs**
- **Rangeland Management Specialist**
- **Resource Conservationist**
- **Soil Conservationist**
- **Soil Conservation Technician**
- **Soil Scientist**
- **Snow Survey Hydrologist**
- **Tribal Liaison**
- **Wildlife Biologist**
- **...and many more!**





# Soil Conservationist

As an NRCS soil conservationist, you'll spend most of your time in the field working with farmers, ranchers, foresters and other landowners. You'll offer conservation planning and technical help to everyone from family farmers to Tribes to local government officials. You'll suggest to them ways to conserve the soil, improve water quality, manage nutrients, restore wetlands, and protect and improve wildlife habitat.

You'll make presentations and demonstrate conservation to clubs and organizations and provide outreach for NRCS programs. You'll assist in setting local conservation priorities and then help carry them out. And you'll be able to see the results of your work on the land.



# Qualifications for Soil Conservationist

Bachelor's degree or higher that includes a major field of study (including 300 level courses) in soil conservation or a related agricultural or natural resource discipline such as agronomy, soil science, forestry, agricultural education, or agricultural engineering.

The study must include 30 semester hours in a natural resource or agricultural field, including at least 12 semester hours in a combination of soils and crops or plant science of which 3 semester hours must be in soils and 3 semesters hours in crops or plant science.



# Biologist

As an NRCS biologist, you'll spend most of your time onsite working with private landowners, other agencies, Tribes and units of government. You'll provide technical support and advice on fish and wildlife habitat development or restoration.

You'll suggest ways to manage fish and wildlife populations, restore streams and wetlands, and improve habitat.



# Qualifications for Biologist

A bachelor's degree or higher in the biological sciences, agriculture, natural resource management, chemistry, or other related disciplines appropriate to the position.



# Rangeland Management Specialist

NRCS rangeland management specialists help plan grazing systems that improve the quality of forage and other grazing land functions. You'll suggest ways to use grazing animals as tools to improve and sustain natural resources. You'll offer advice on water management, invasive species control, and sustainable forage production.

Whether landowners want to use their lands to support livestock, wildlife, recreation or a combination of these, you'll tailor conservation plans that will help landowners meet their goals.



# Qualifications for Rangeland Management Specialist

A bachelor's degree or higher in range management or a related discipline that includes at least 42 semester hours in a combination of plant, animal, and soil sciences and natural resource management, with at least 18 semester hours in range management including courses in basic principles of range management, range plants, range ecology, range inventories and studies, range improvements, and ranch or rangeland planning;

At least 15 semester hours of directly related courses in the plant, animal, and soil sciences, including at least 1 hour in each of these three scientific areas in courses such as plant taxonomy, plant physiology, plant ecology, animal nutrition, livestock production, and soil morphology or soil classification are acceptable;

And at least 9 semester hours of course work in related resource management subjects in areas such as wildlife management, watershed management, natural resource or agricultural economics, forestry, agronomy, forages, and outdoor recreation management.



# Soil Conservation Technician

NRCS soil conservation technicians work directly with farmers, ranchers, Tribes and foresters. You'll advise landowners on the effectiveness of applying soil and water conservation practices or assist in research efforts. You'll survey and design conservation practices, oversee their installation, and ensure they meet our quality standards. Your work is key to the success of NRCS, because most everything you do results in on-the-ground practices that directly improve, conserve or restore our natural resources.



# Qualifications for Soil Conservation Technician

Knowledge of farm or ranch operations, or work experience that makes you familiar with conservation practices such as installing and maintaining soil and water conservation measures on farms, ranches, or agricultural land.

Knowledge of installing and maintaining conservation measures on public or privately owned land including parks, shoreline, refuse waste sites, dams and reservoir areas, water and sewer sites, road embankments, forests, and wildlife habitats.



# Soil Scientist

As an NRCS soil scientist, you'll map and classify soils. You'll identify problems such as soil moisture and erosion. You'll use digital and satellite imagery to map soils and write descriptions. You'll sample soils and evaluate their quality, and work with information on watersheds, water quality, and changes in land-use patterns.

Your work will include scientific work in the investigation of soils, their management, and their adaptation for alternative uses. Such work requires knowledge of chemical, physical, mineralogical and biological properties and processes of the soils and their relations to climate, physiographic, and biological influences.



# Qualifications of Soil Scientist

A bachelor's degree or higher in soil science or a closely related discipline that included 30 semester hours or equivalent in biological, physical, or earth science with a minimum of 15 semester hours in subjects such as soil genesis, pedology, soil chemistry, soil physics, and soil fertility.



# Engineer

NRCS employs many engineers who have specialized skills in erosion control, water management, structural design, construction, hydraulics, soil mechanics, and environmental protection. We also employ those with general engineering skills. Your job assignments may include restoring streams, controlling erosion, developing water systems for livestock, improving and conserving irrigation water, or restoring wetlands.

As an NRCS engineer, you will help solve a host of natural resource problems and may also become involved in helping communities recover from natural disasters.



# Qualifications of Engineer

A bachelor's degree or higher in engineering. To be acceptable, the program must (1) lead to a bachelor's degree in a school of engineering with at least one program accredited by ABET; or (2) include differential and integral calculus and courses (more advance than first-year physics and chemistry) in five of the following seven areas of engineering science or physics:

- statics, dynamics;
- strength of materials (stress-strain relationships);
- fluid mechanics, hydraulics;
- Thermodynamics
- electrical fields and circuits
- nature and properties of materials (relating particle and aggregate structure to properties); and
- any other comparable area of fundamental engineering science or physics, such as optics, heat transfer, soil mechanics, or electronics. Specialties include agricultural, environmental and civil engineering.

# Engineering Technician

As an NRCS engineering technician, you'll be involved in planning, design and construction work. You'll help with surveying the land, plotting survey information, and laying out construction measures. You'll gather data, make computations, and prepare maps and cross sections of profiles. You may serve as a construction inspector on a wide variety of projects.





# Qualifications for Engineering Technician

Experience on a survey crew running levels and transits or on construction layout and inspection. Experience including technical work in drafting, surveying, construction estimating, physical science, mathematics, and chemicals, electrical or mechanical systems.

# How to Apply for Jobs



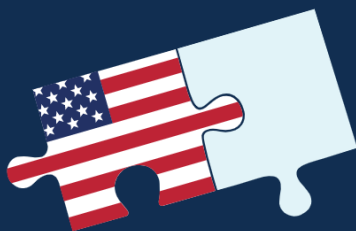
An official website of the United States government

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# Students & Recent Grads



## Pathways Internship Program

For current students in high school, college, trade school or other qualifying educational institution. Offers paid opportunities to work in federal agencies and explore federal careers while completing your education.

## Recent Graduates Program

For those who have graduated within the past two years from a qualifying educational institution or certificate program. Offers career development with training and mentorship. You must apply within two years of getting your degree or certificate (veterans have up to six years to apply due to their military service obligation).

## Presidential Management Fellows (PMF) Program

For recent graduates with an advanced degree—either a professional or graduate degree such as a master's, Ph.D. or J.D.

Learn more about  
federal jobs for  
students and recent  
grads on  
[USAJobs.gov](https://www.usajobs.gov)

In the job announcement look for the **This job is open to** section. When a job is open to **Students** you'll see the Students icon. When a job is open to **Recent graduates**, you'll see the Recent graduates icon. There may be other groups listed that can also apply.

You can also select the **Students or recent graduates** filter. Your results will display all jobs open to students and recent graduates.

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

