

STAC Meeting: 10/20/22

Bartlett, Vanessa - NRCS, Madison, WI
Gerlich, Ryan - NRCS, Madison, WI
Dick Hauser (Guest)
Kevin A Erb
Hurley, Eric - NRCS, Madison, WI
Jeff Mears
Vander Wilt, Jeffrey - NRCS, Huron, SD
Gundlach, David - NRCS, Madison, WI
Jeff Hastings
Heagle, Erik - NRCS, Lancaster, WI
Michael F. Troge
Cynthia Jetzer
Fallat, Coreen R - DATCP
Allness, Eric - NRCS, Madison, WI
Schriefer, Eugene - FPAC-FSA, Madison, WI
Raeder, Tyler - NRCS, Madison, WI
Bartz, Melissa - NRCS, Madison, WI
Krauss, Ian - FSA, Madison, WI
Williams, Meridith - NRCS, Madison, WI
Linnea Rowse (Guest)
Weber, Patrick - NRCS, Rhinelander, WI
Johnson, Abigale (CTR) - FPAC-NRCS, MADISON, WI
Schultheis, Kristin
Brown, Sadie A - DNR
Braun, Allan J - NRCS, Madison, WI
Brian Glenzinski
Brian Glenzinski
Marty Moses
White, John - NRCS, Madison, WI
Tyler Wenzlaff
Tyler Wenzlaff
Steve Richter
Loeffelholz, Brian C - DATCP
Craig Ficenec (Guest)
Francisco Arriaga
Bertjens, Steve - NRCS, Madison, WI
Tom Lochner

16083958402

Craig Ficenec (Guest)
Paolucci, Andrew - NRCS - Madison, WI

State Con Report:

FY23 State Tech dates: Jan 19th, April 20th, July 20th, Oct 19th. 9:30 am.

COVID-19 Update.

Operations: FY22 Field Office Combos completed. Reorganized, but did not change staff or close any field offices. Necessary for shared management—team approach. Compliance Team will be a new team in the state office. Highly erodible land and wetland compliance.

Budget: Continuing Resolution through Dec 16. Bipartisan Infrastructure Law & Inflation Reduction Act. (Overview)

Farm Bill: Future funding.

Stated NRCS priorities. Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities – listed projects by lead partners.

Melissa: Ryan – see slides. RCPP FY 22 & 23.

Amanda: Web modernization. Overview of new website. More responsive, easier to use. New site goes live 10/21.

Greg: See slides

Jen: Updated soils official data on web soil survey. 11 counties with spatial changes.

Subcommittee reports: Forestry-Allan Braun, Soil Health-Andy Paolucci, Wildlife-Steve Bertjens, Source Water Protection-did not meet, Urban & Community Ag-Eric Allness.

Partner Reports: Careen Fallat, DATCP Nitrogen Optimization. Ian Krauss-FSA, CRP Update. Mike Troge, Glacierland. Brian Glenzinski, Ducks Unlimited.



United States Department of Agriculture



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service



FA Programs: Wrapping up FY2022 & Moving Forward to FY2023

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

FA Programs Staff

Melissa Bartz – ASTC – FA Programs

Chris Borden – State Tribal Liaison

Ryan Gerlich – RCPP, CIG

Barry Bubolz- GLRI Field Coordinator

David Gundlach- GLRI, NWQI, MRBI

Meridith Williams – CSP, EQIP-CIC, WLFW, Urban

Meagan Duberstein – Local Work Groups, BF, CPA/DIA/CEMA, Climate Smart, Farmstead, On-Farm Energy, Organic, SD, Source Water, WTCAC





United States Department of Agriculture

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

Conservation Stewardship Program Purpose:

The program encourages producers to address priority resource concerns and improve and conserve the quality and condition of natural resources in a comprehensive manner by—

(i) Undertaking additional conservation activities.

(ii) Improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities across the entire agricultural operation in a manner that increases or extends the conservation benefits in place at the time a contract application is accepted by NRCS.



2022 CSP Sign up Results

		Contracts	\$ Obligated	% Obligated toward HU (By # of Contracts)
CSP-GCI	Total	4	\$12,070	25%
	HU Total	1	\$3,870	
CSP-Renewal	Total	218	\$6,428,629	9%
	HU Total	20	\$278,984	
CSP-Classic	Total	273	\$9,084,331	13%
	HU Total	35	\$743,704	

HU = Historically Underserved (Includes: Limited Resource, Beginning, Socially Disadvantaged, & Veteran Farmers)

Natural Resources Conservation Service



Top 5 CSP Activities



340	Cover Crop	335	153,036.9	Ac
E590A	Improving nutrient uptake efficiency and reducing risk of nutrient losses	318	204,594.3	Ac
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	228	332.4	Ac
666	Forest Stand Improvement	180	1,338.0	Ac
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	163	88,680.7	Ac



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

Looking Forward to 2023 CSP

CSP – GCI :

- Sign up Deadline of October 14th, 2022
- Letters were sent out by National Office to Landowners who are potentially eligible to apply.
- Offices will be working to obligate contracts by End of December

CSP- Renewals:

- Opportunity was given to existing contracts obligated in 2018 to have applications in by April 15th, 2022.
- WI received 585 applications
- Currently offices are working on Assessing these applications, ranking, and signing contracts by End of December

CSP-Classic:

- Sign up timeline TBA

Any Questions:

meridith.williams@usda.gov

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/





United States Department of Agriculture

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

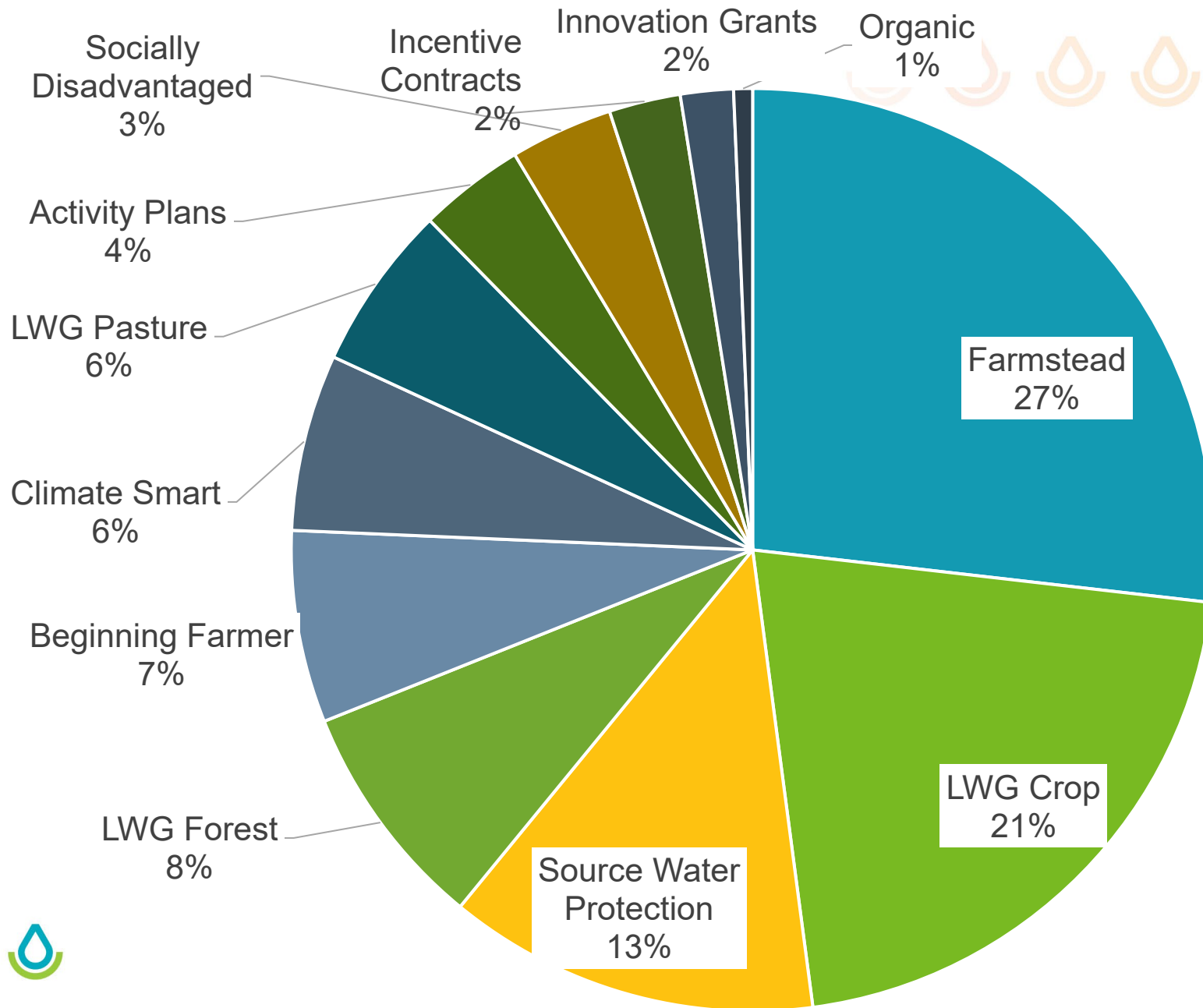
Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The program provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as:

- improved water and air quality
- conserved ground and surface water
- increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation
- improved or created wildlife habitat
- mitigation against drought and increasing weather volatility



FY22 Funds Obligation



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Top 5 EQIP Practices

Code	Practice	Items	Extent	Units
340	Cover Crop	633	312,629.0	Ac
528	Prescribed Grazing	285	11,394.6	Ac
314	Brush Management	275	3,001.7	Ac
484	Mulching	243	162.5	Ac
382	Fence	213	936,899.4	Ft



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

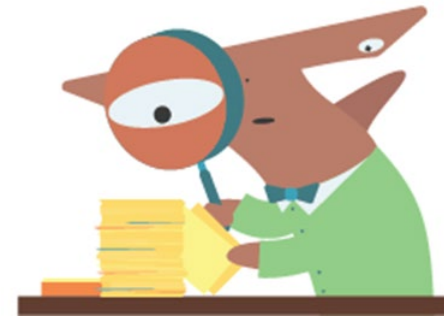
nrcs.usda.gov/



Soil Health in all FY22 EQIP Pools

- **287 contracts with**
 - Conservation Cover (327)
 - Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
 - No-Till (329)
 - Cover Crop (340)
 - Pasture and Hay Planting (512)
 - Nutrient Management (590)
- **\$7.44 million obligated to SH practices**
- **456,000 acres planned**

Just look at the rhizosheaths!!!



Say it
with me,
"GLO-MA-LIN."



EQIP 10% Wildlife Goal

Goal includes:

- **All WLFW-Monarch contracts**
- **All LWG- Forestry and Wildlife contracts**
- **The following practices contracted in other fund pools:**
 - 327 Conservation Cover
 - 391 Riparian Forest Buffer
 - 395 Stream Habitat Improvement & Management
 - 396 Aquatic Organism Passage
 - 420 Wildlife Habitat Planting
 - 472 Access Control
 - 580 Streambank and Shoreline Protection
 - 644 Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
 - 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat management
 - 646 Shallow Water Development and Management
 - 647 Early Successional Habitat Development
 - 649 Structures for Wildlife
 - 657 Wetland Restoration



Wisconsin met goal at 12.2%

LWG – Forestry and Wildlife:

- \$1.7M
- 182 Contracts
 - NW Area: 56
 - NE Area: 43
 - SW Area: 71
 - SE Area: 12

WLFW-Monarch:

- \$381,214
- 59 Contracts
 - NW Area: 17
 - NE Area: 15
 - SW Area: 16
 - SE Area: 11



FY22 Contract Wildlife Practices

Practice Name	Code	# Contracted
Conservation Cover	327	26
Riparian Forest Buffer	391	0
Stream Habitat Improvement & Management	395	2
Aquatic Organism Passage	396	0
Wildlife Habitat Planting	420	108
Access Control	472	4
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	580	15
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	644	6
Upland Wildlife Habitat management	645	49
Shallow Water Development and Management	646	0
Early Successional Habitat Development	647	10
Structures for Wildlife	649	1
Wetland Restoration	657	15



Working Lands for Wildlife – Monarch Butterfly (WLFW-MOBU)

2022 was 1st year we took WLFW-MOBU money in state.

- 59 Applications funded, \$381,214 in conservation

Moving Forward...

- We hope to see increased interest in the program to be able to fund more applications with the allocation NHQ gives us.

Any Questions:

meridith.williams@usda.gov



NRCS & GLRI Focus Areas

FOCUS AREA 2 INVASIVE SPECIES

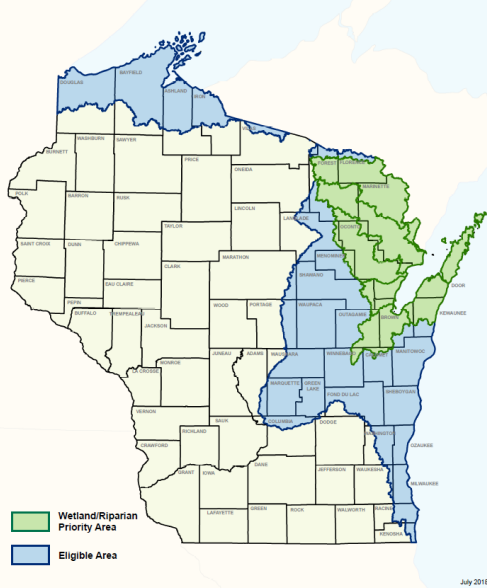
Objective

2.2. Control established invasive species.

Commitment

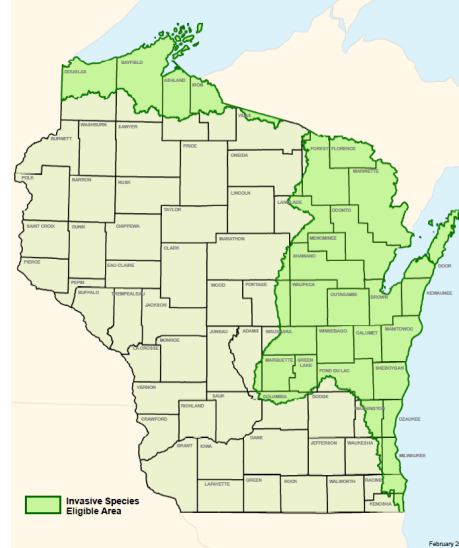
- Implement control projects for GLRI-targeted invasive species.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
Wildlife Habitat



Wildlife Habitat

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
Invasive Species Sign-up



Invasive Species

Long Term Goals for the Great Lakes Ecosystem

- Fish safe to eat
- Water safe for recreation
- Safe source of drinking water
- All Areas of Concern delisted
- Harmful/nuisance algal blooms eliminated
- No new self-sustaining invasive species
- Existing invasive species controlled
- Native habitat protected and restored to sustain native species

FOCUS AREA 4 HABITATS AND SPECIES

Objective

4.1. Protect and restore communities of native aquatic and terrestrial species important to the Great Lakes.

Commitment

- Identify habitats that support important Great Lakes species and take actions to restore, protect, enhance, and/or provide connectivity for these habitats.

Natural Resources Conservation Service



GLRI EQIP Fund Pools



Invasive Species

- Buckthorn, Japanese barberry, phragmites, etc
- Brush Management, Herbaceous Weed Treatment
- Degraded Plant condition and Pest Pressure RCs are eligible
- Eligible across both GLRI basins (Michigan and Superior)



GLRI EQIP Fund Pools



Wildlife Habitat

- Priority has been supporting the Green Bay population of Northern Pike
- All wildlife habitat resource concerns are eligible
- Wetland Restoration, Wildlife Habitat Planting, Tree/Shrub Planting
- Eligible across both GLRI basins (Michigan and Superior)



FY22 GLRI Summary



Invasive Species

- 3 EQIP contracts - \$24,875
- Brush management (314) & Forest stand improvement (666)

Wildlife Habitat

- 11 EQIP contracts - \$139,495
- No pike projects in FY22
- Brush management (314), Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Wildlife Habitat Planting (420)

Looking Ahead to FY23...

- IS funding: \$52,083
- WH funding: \$166,667

Any Questions:

david.gundlach@usda.gov



FY22 GLRI Summary



Nearshore Health

- **\$9.65 million in 153 contracts**
- **No-Till, Cover Crops, Nutrient Management**
- **Conversion to Prescribed Grazing system**
- **Waste Storage and Manure Handling**

Looking Ahead to FY23...

- **\$5.2 million remaining for fall sign up**
- **Additional ~ \$3 million will be available for SU2 spring 2023**

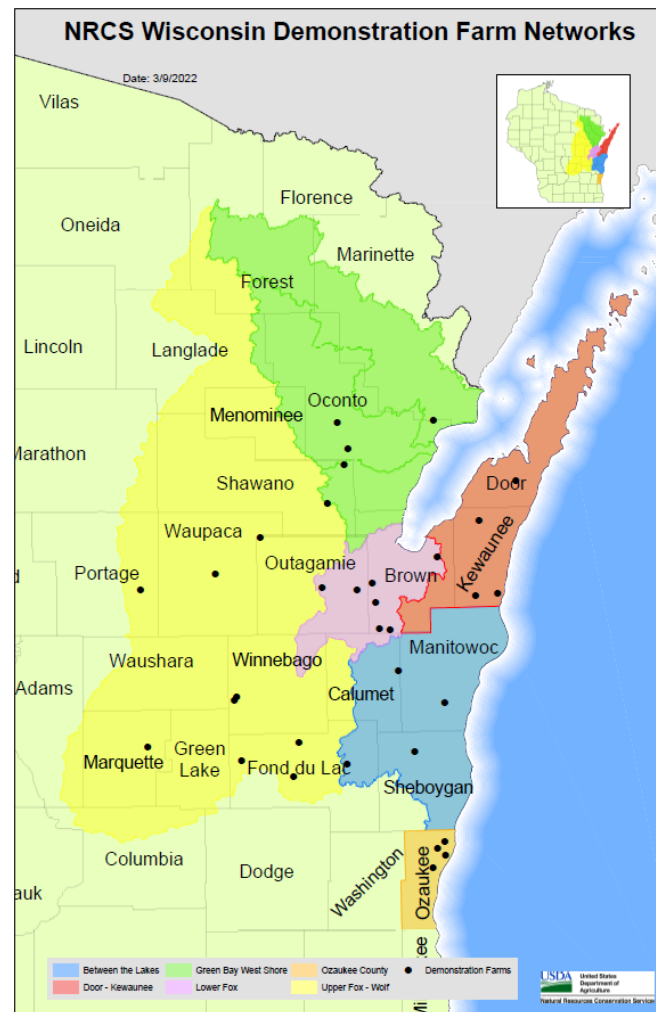


GLRI CTA Funds



Nearshore Health CTA

- **Agreements**
- **UW Extension Natural Resource Educators**
- **Edge of Field Water Quality Monitoring**
- **Establishing and Operating Demo Farm Networks**



GLRI Demonstration Farms

FY22 Field Days

- 16 events across the 6 networks
- Plus Pop-Up field days and Conservation Conversations



Between the Lakes Demo Farms – August 17 Field Day
Cover Crop Establishment, Mobile GPS Manure Hazard Mapping,
Hauling Manure on Shallow Silurian Soils, LDMA Bazooka Demo



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

Looking Forward to 2023 EQIP

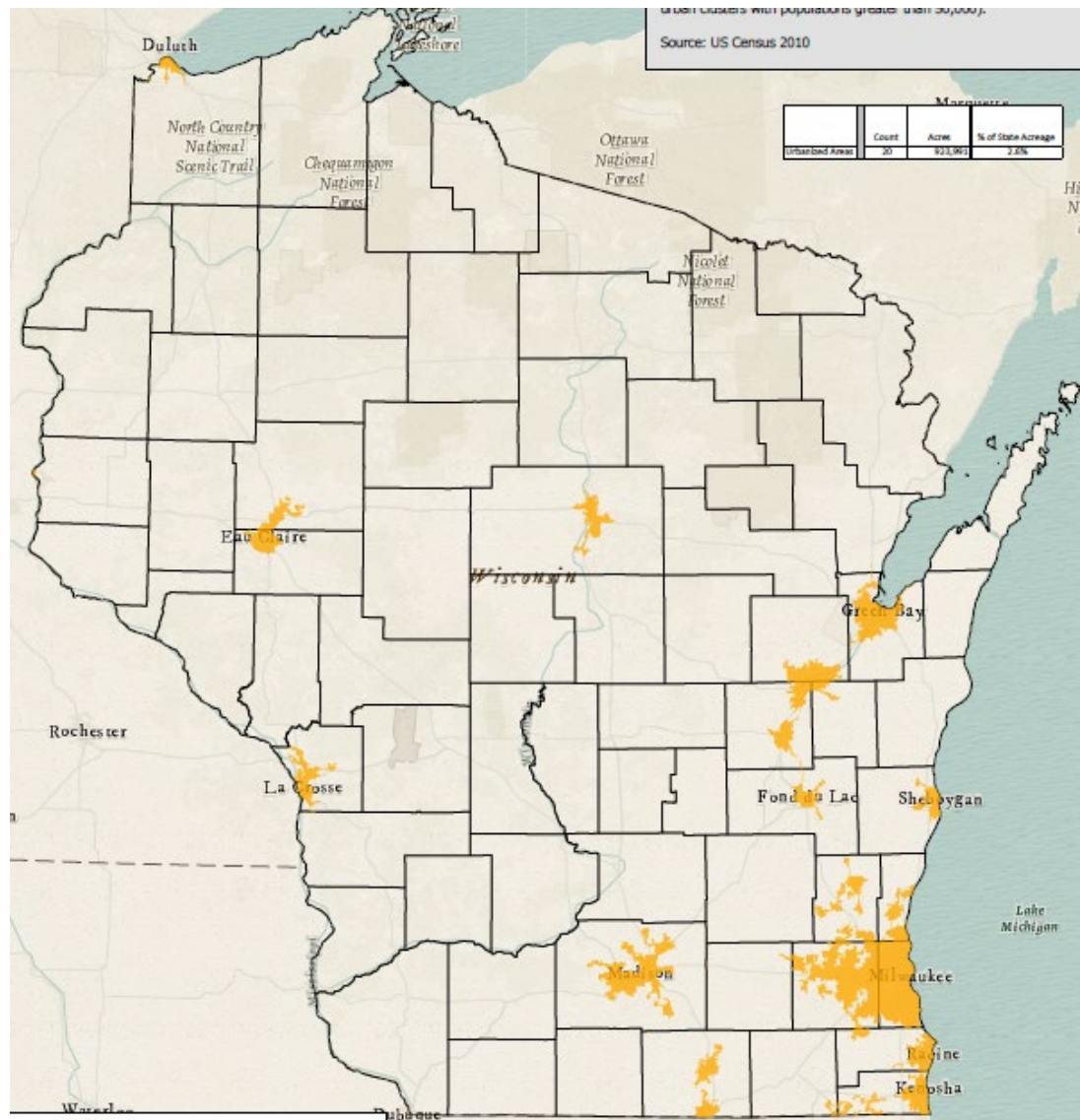


- **Urban Agriculture & Forestry**
- **Joint Chiefs Proposal**
- **Inflation Reduction Act Funding**



Urban Agriculture & Forestry

- FY2023 Will be 1st year for this new fund pool.
- Targeting funding to the areas in Gold.
- All practices will be available in this fund pool



Any Questions:



meridith.williams@usda.gov

Joint Chiefs' Initiative

- Proposal Submitted for 3-year project
- EQIP-like



Any Questions:

meagan.duberstein@usda.gov

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership

➤ Proposal Submitted for 3-year project



- USFS will work on Ntl Forests
- NRCS will work on private land

Any Questions:

meagan.duberstein@usda.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



Inflation Reduction Act



Increased funding in EQIP, CSP, and RCPP

Slight increase for FY23

Large increases planned FY24-26

Fund conservation practices that directly improve soil carbon, reduce nitrogen losses, or reduce, capture, avoid, or sequester carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions, associated with agricultural production





Thank You



Feedback, Comments, Questions

Reminder- EQIP Batching Date November 4

Melissa Bartz

(608) 259-6073

Melissa.Bartz@usda.gov



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/



In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, 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. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.





United States Department of Agriculture



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service



Regional Conservation Partnership Program

October 20, 2022 – Ryan Gerlich, RCPP Coordinator

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) October 2022 State Tech Committee:

- 2022 RCPP Producer Contract Results
- Active 2023 Projects
- Onboarding 2 new projects
- Current RCPP Notice of Funding Opportunity
- Inflation Reduction Act



Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Obligation Results

2021 Results

- \$1.3 Million, 88 contracts, 2,100 acres (all RCPP-EQIP or LMR)

2022 Results

- \$3.0 Million, 110 contracts, 2,712 acres
 - 3 RCPP Entity Held Easements
 - 362.29 acres
 - \$1.35 Million
 - 107 RCPP Land Management and Rental (LMR) Contracts or RCPP-EQIP
 - 2,350 acres
 - \$1.64 Million



2022 Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) by project



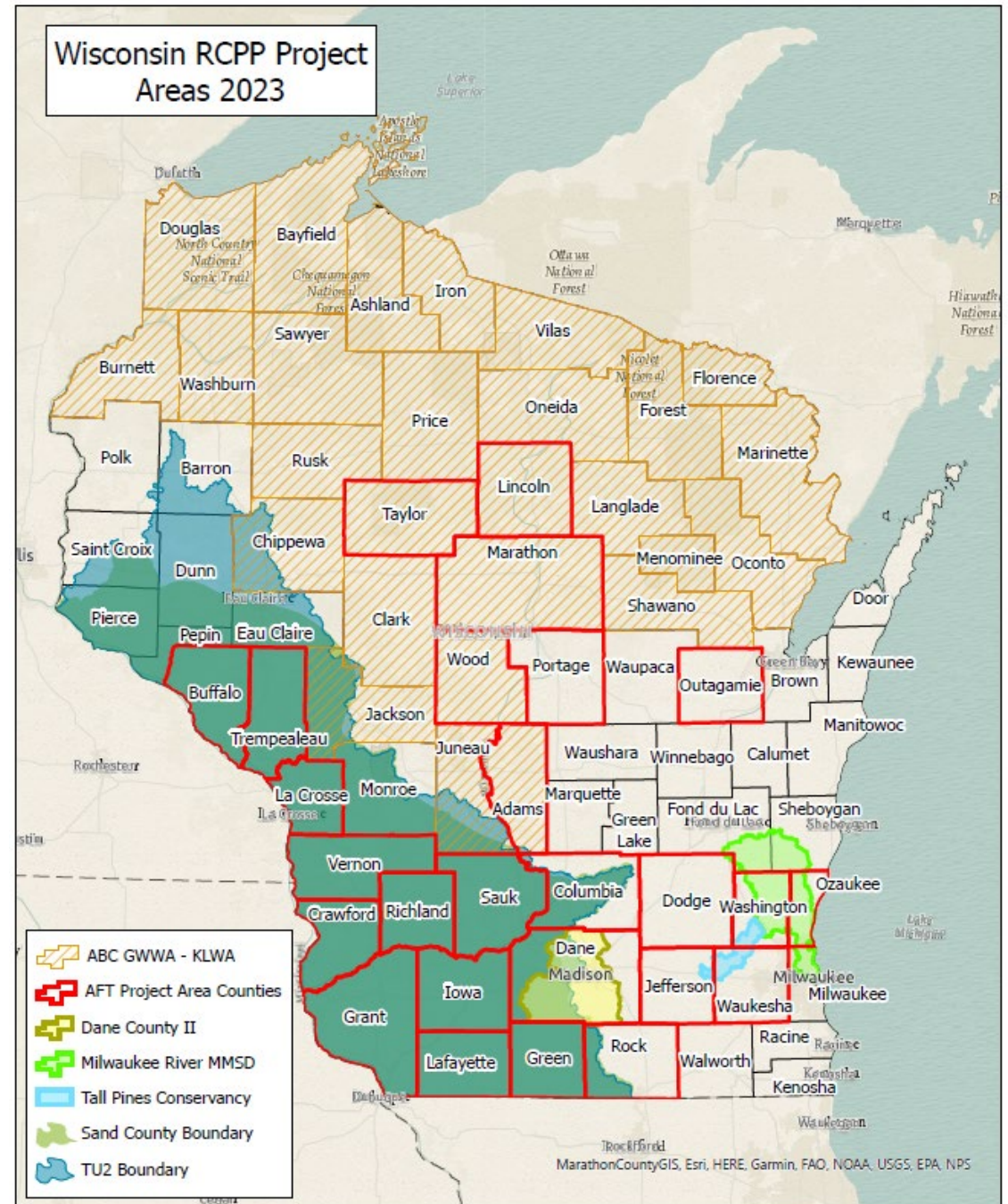
Project	No. Contracts	\$ Obligation
American Bird Conservancy II	32	\$167,000
American Farmland Trust	1	\$7,130
Baraboo II	6	\$71,000
Dane LWRD	15	\$598,000
Milwaukee MSD	19	\$481,000
Oconomowoc II	3	\$44,000
Sand Co. Foundation	22	\$41,000
Trout Unlimited II*	9	\$237,000
Total	107	\$1,646,000

*2014 Farm Bill RCPP managed through RCPP-EQIP type contracts, all other projects are managed as Land Management and Rental type contracts under the 2018 Farm Bill



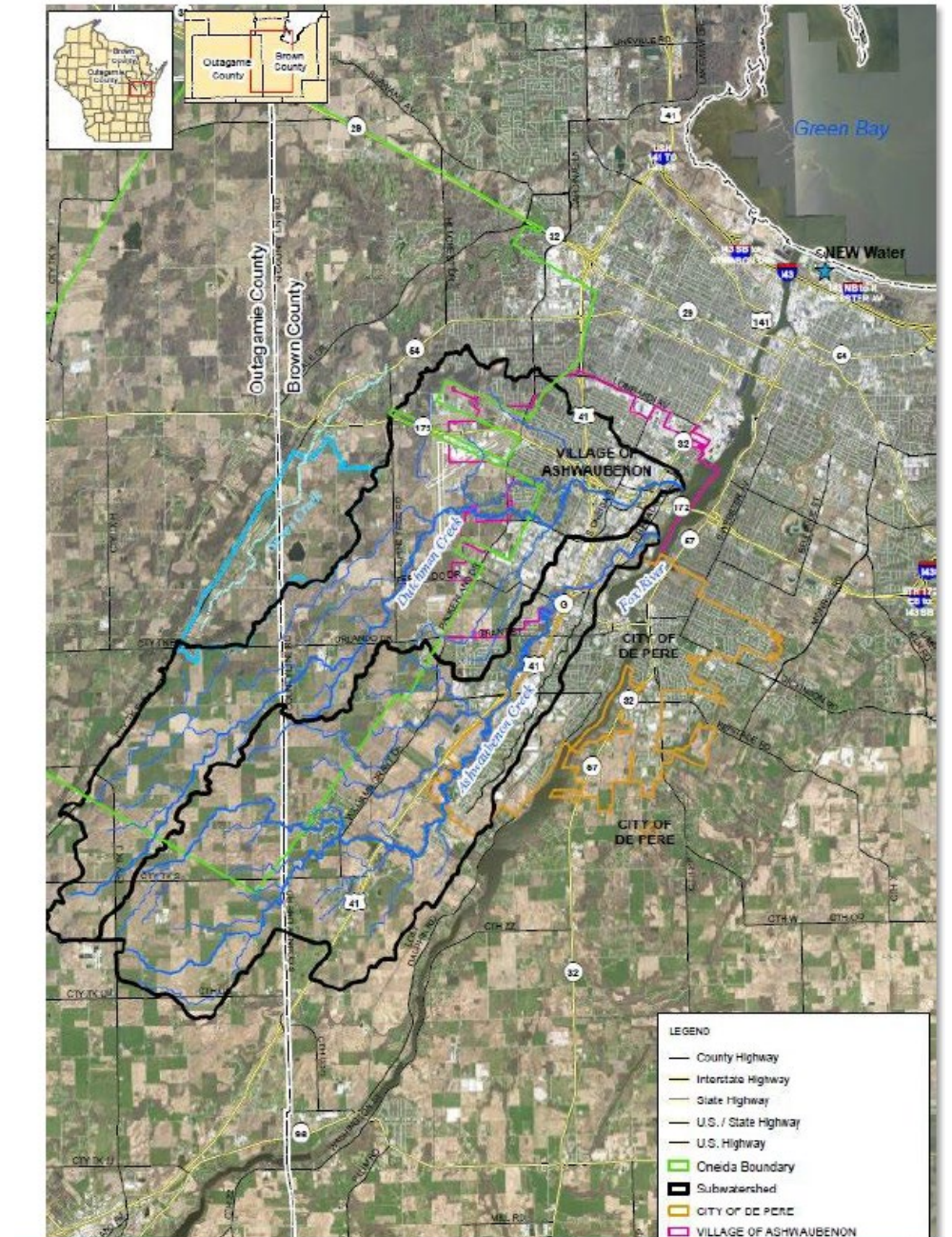
2023 active RCPP Projects

- American Bird Conservancy
- American Farmland Trust
- Dane County LWRD
- Milwaukee Metro Sewerage District
- Sand County Foundation
- Tall Pines
- Trout Unlimited II
-
- +2 new projects



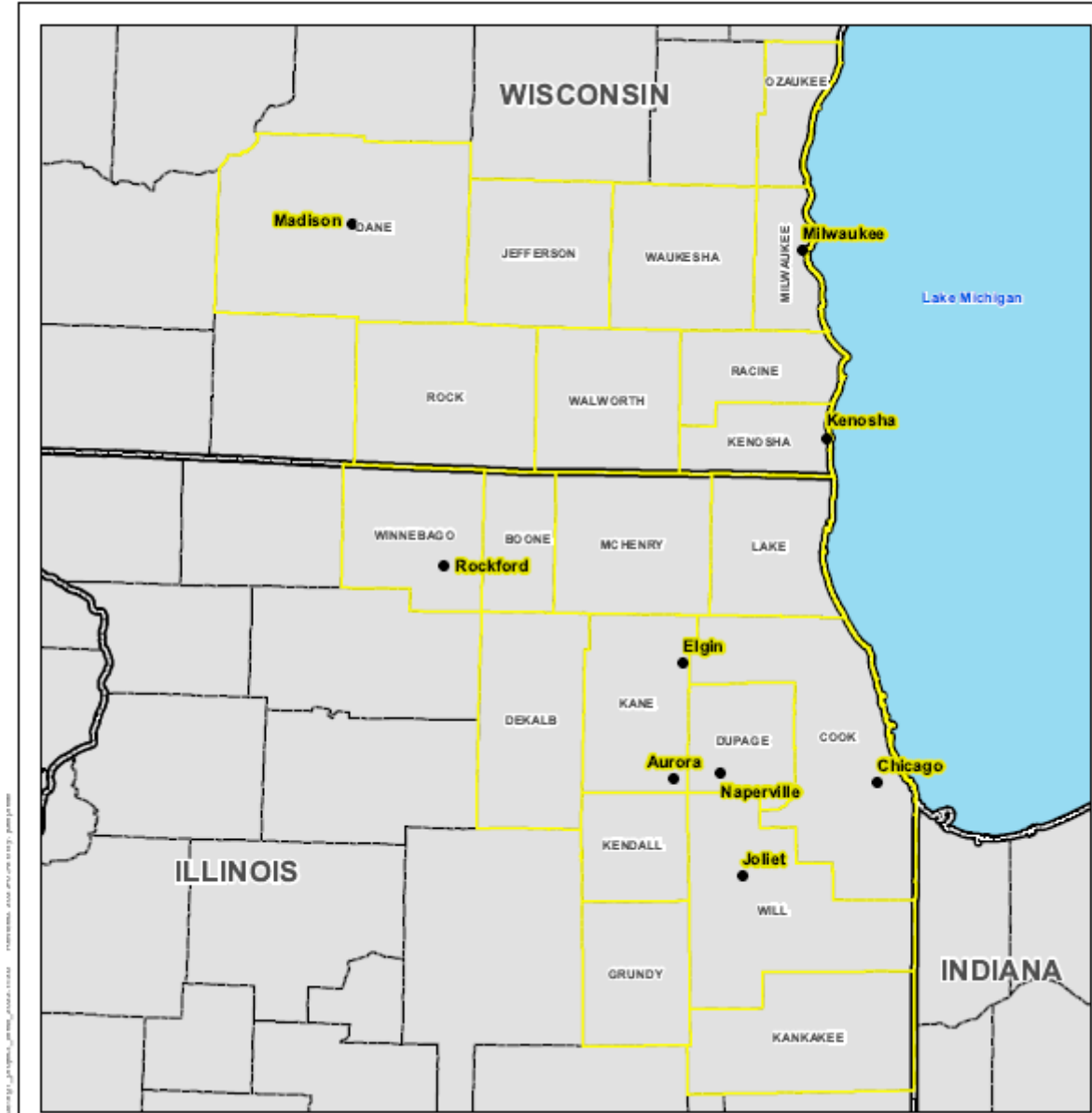
2023 new RCPP Project, Ashwaubenon & Dutchman Creek (called AC/DC)

- Lead Partner: **NEW Water**, Green Bay, WI
- Other Partners
 - Outagamie Co LCD
 - Brown Co (LCD & Airport)
 - Oneida Nation
 - UW-Ext
- Resource Concerns
 - Surface Water Quality (Phos. & Sediment)
 - Soil Erosion
 - Soil Health
 - Wildlife Habitat



2023 new RCPP Project, American Bird Conservancy

- Lead Partner: **ABC**
- Other major Partners
 - Lake County Forest Preserve
 - Morton Arboretum
 - Forest Preserves of Cook County
 - Milwaukee Audubon
 - River Edge Nature Center
 - Tall Pines
 - Prairie Enthusiasts
- Resource Concerns
 - Wildlife Habitat
 - Long-term Protection of Land



Notice of Funding Opportunity

- www.grants.gov
- \$40 Million for Nutrient Management through RCPP AFA
- October 31st Deadline
- 590 Nutrient Management and Alternative Approaches to NM



Regional Conservation Partnership Program



Fiscal Year (FY) 2022

RCPP CCA Grants for Nutrient Management

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NFO)

National Farm Bill Allocation and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) number only (i.e., does not include EQIP, CSP or ACEP), all numbers are approximate

Year	Farm Bill	Inflation Reduction Act	Total
2023	\$250,000,000	\$250,000,000	\$500,000,000
2024	\$250,000,000	\$800,000,000	\$1,050,000,000
2025	\$250,000,000	\$1,500,000,000 (\$1.5 B)	\$1,750,000,000 (\$1.75 B)
2026	\$250,000,000	\$2,400,000,000 (\$2.4 B)	\$2,650,000,000 (\$2.65 B)
Total	\$1,000,000,000 (\$1 B)	\$4,900,000,000	\$5,900,000,000 (\$5.9 B)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



United States Department of Agriculture

Easements



Wisconsin's Conservation Easements 2021 Updates

Easement notes:

This year's sign up for WRE - Oct 31, ALE Dec 1 (for our partners)

Ag Land Easements:

\$404,088 - 4 applications; One dropped so will fund all; Rock/Jeff Co.

Wetland Reserve Easements:

\$2,387,283 – 73 applications (5 new); will likely fund top 3 after skipping the top ranked: project because it costs \$4 mil. We will be requesting additional dollars for our March Funds Assessment.

Stewardship:

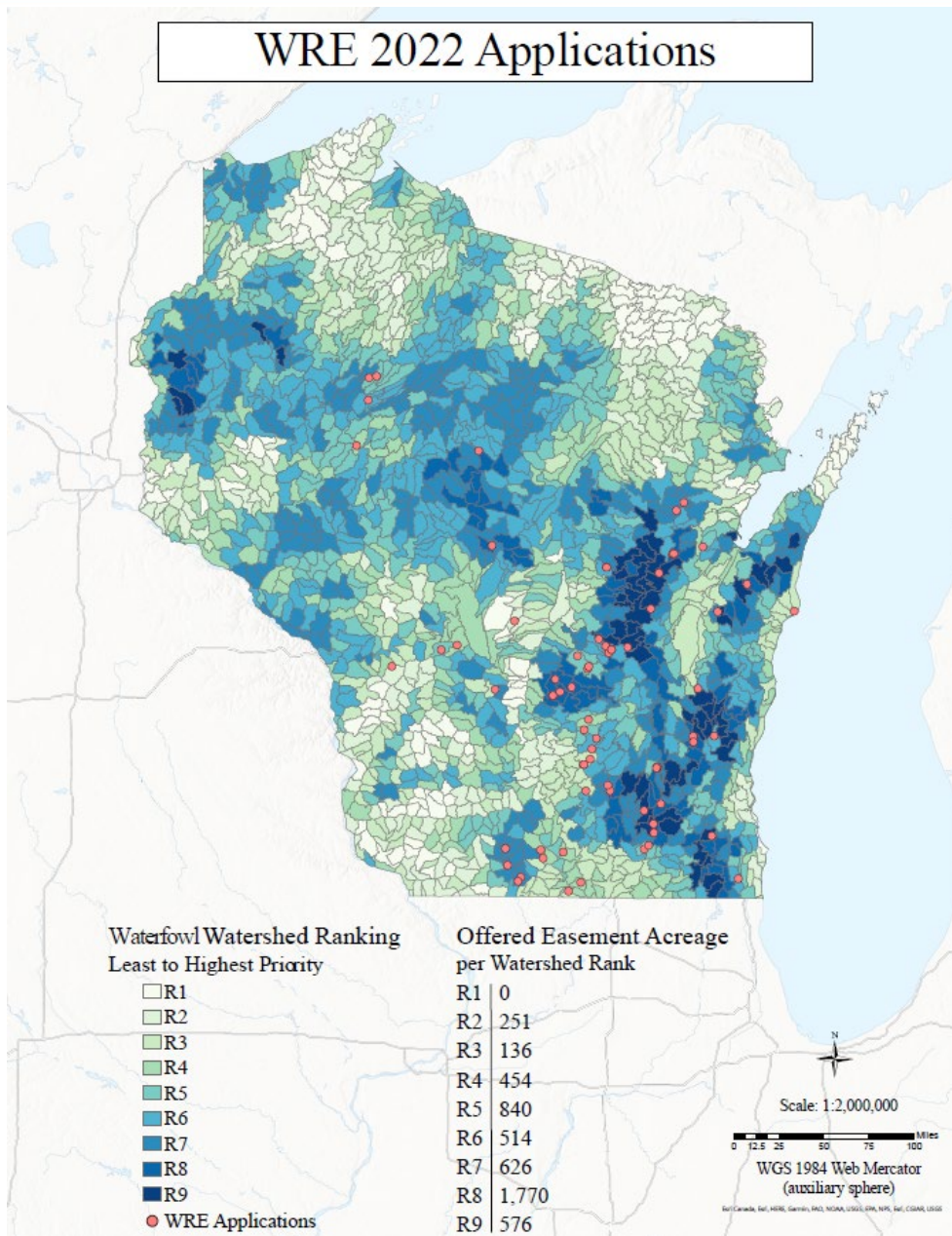
\$837,915 > \$580,000 for repair, maintenance and management of WRE/P

Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easements

Processing 7 easements (down from 19 accepted in 2019)



WRE 2022 Applications



Wisconsin Wetland Restoration and Management Assistance

Fiscal Year (FY) 2022
Wisconsin Wetland Restoration and



Upcoming Notice of Funding Opportunity

- Deliver conservation plan, schedule of operations, quality assurance plan, and project specifications to awardee and request the submission of cost proposal and breakdown.
- Oversee day-to-day implementation and inspection of restoration practices.
- Negotiate with the awardee if the proposed costs are not fair and reasonable relative to the government estimate.
- Identify and prioritize work assignments at the Wisconsin State Office level with consultation from the Wisconsin NRCS Field Offices.
- Oversee restoration professionals' field work to assure that it conforms with federal law according to the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Certify work that restoration professionals have completed to meet NRCS requirements and standards and provide certification to awardee.
- The NRCS will monitor the awardee's progress and suspend work if agreement or conservation plan requirements or NRCS standards and specifications are not met.
- Pay the awardee after receiving request for payment and certifying practices as complete.
- Inform landowner of planned site visits and project status.

Awardee will:

DRAFT

- Provide the government permits that NRCS requests.
- Choose convenient time and date for site showing for NRCS and restoration professionals interested in providing quotes. Invite participants.
- Solicit quotes for implementation of restoration practices.
- Deliver all quotes to NRCS for review.
- Enter contract with restoration professional that NRCS chooses.
- Promptly communicate to NRCS any complications encountered during implementation of restoration practices which may require modifications to the project.
- Receive practice certification from NRCS.
- Pay restoration professionals for NRCS-approved work within 30 days of NRCS providing practice certification or receipt of restoration professionals' invoice, whichever is later.
- Request payment from NRCS. Provide restoration professionals' invoice(s) as part of payment request package.
- Protect landowners' privacy by sharing restoration plans only with prospective quoters and permitting agencies and sharing landowner names and contact information only with permitting agencies and the restoration professional(s) that NRCS chooses for the project.

The authorizing statutes and regulations for this opportunity are:

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program: 16 U.S.C. 3865, 7 C.F.R. 1468 (CFDA 10.931)

Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

