



# Mapping Riverscapes to Support Productive and Resilient Working Lands

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Conservation Outcomes Webinar Series | May 2, 2024



## Conservation Effects Assessment Project

USDA's Conservation Effects Assessment Project, CEAP, is a multi-agency effort led by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that builds the science base for voluntary conservation efforts nationwide. CEAP findings are used to guide conservation program development and support conservationists, producers and other land managers, and partners in making informed management decisions backed by data and science. Assessments are carried out at the national, regional, and watershed scales for conservation efforts related to cropland, grazing land, wetlands, and wildlife.

## CEAP Wetland Assessments

Through CEAP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service assesses the effects of voluntary conservation efforts on wetlands in agricultural landscapes across the nation. Findings from CEAP Wetlands Assessments empower farmers, ranchers, other private land managers and partners to identify how and where to strategically invest limited resources, quantify results and assess conservation outcomes, and leverage lessons learned to improve future conservation delivery to benefit both people and natural resources.

## May 2024 Conservation Outcomes Webinar

Healthy riverscapes, with connected floodplains and rich riparian wetlands, are critical pieces of natural infrastructure that reduce the risk of floods, drought, and wildfire, and increase the resiliency of water resources, working lands, and rural economies. Managing rivers and streams as systems that include riparian wetlands helps maximize these benefits.

This webinar will provide key takeaways from a study, co-developed by Utah State University and USDA's Conservation Effects Assessment Project, on leveraging the Valley Bottom Extraction Tool (VBET) to identify current wetland and riverscape health in key Western U.S. watersheds, create tools to inform conservation, and document outcomes of restoration efforts. Findings may be used to support conservation planning and assessment, and on-the-ground management decisions, in riverscapes across the region.

## May 2024 Webinar References

Conservation Effects Assessment Project Wetland Assessments

Water Is Life: Importance and Management of Riparian Areas for Rangeland Wildlife

Working Lands for Wildlife

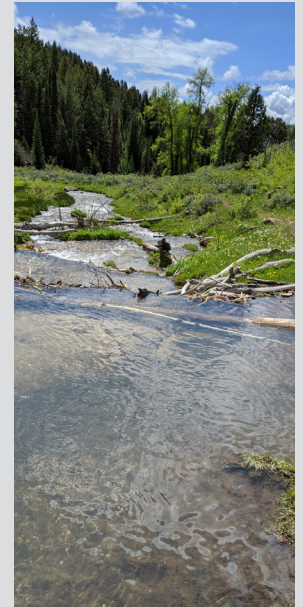
Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration of Riverscapes

## Conservation Outcomes Webinar Series

This series provides key findings, data, and tools to support producers and partners in pursuing voluntary conservation efforts across the nation.

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Photos by Dr. Joe Wheaton, Utah State University.