

ABOUT NRCS

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a federal agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. We help private landowners care for their land, use it productively, and excel as stewards for the future. We offer technical and financial assistance to private landowners to address natural resource issues on their land. Whether it's reducing erosion, improving soil health, protecting streams and rivers, restoring fish and wildlife habitat, establishing pollinator presence, improving air quality, or conserving energy, we're here to help you achieve your conservation goals.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

It all starts with a call or visit to your local USDA Service Center. Find your nearest USDA Service Center by going to www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center



Helping People Help the Land



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Helping Alaskans Help the Land

Voluntary conservation programs available for Alaska private landowners including farmers, ranchers, backyard gardeners, homesteaders, forestland owners, Tribes, Alaska Native village and regional corporations, and other tribal organizations.



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NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
www.nrcs.usda.gov/AK

WHAT PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE?

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

EQIP is our most widely-used program in Alaska and is ideal for new farmers and for clients who are new to working with NRCS. Seasonal high tunnels are a common practice under this program, as well as other popular conservation activities such as forest stand improvement, nutrient management, trails, fish passage, riparian habitat improvement, and more. EQIP can be used on specific parts of your operation such as a particular field, forest stand, or stream.

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

CSP is designed to reward producers already implementing conservation activities who would like to take their environmental stewardship to a higher level. CSP participants enroll their entire operation into the program. They can implement conservation practices as well as enhancements, which go above and beyond regular NRCS conservation practice standards. CSP is a 5-year contract with the landowner and provides annual payments both for maintaining current conservation efforts and for installing additional conservation activities.

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP)

ACEP helps landowners, land trusts and other entities protect working farms and ranches, and restore and protect wetlands, through conservation easements. There are two components of the program: Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) and Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE). ACEP-ALE protects farmland from non-ag development and ensures the land remains in agriculture for future generations. ACEP-WRE takes wetlands out of agricultural use and restores and/or enhances them, and protects them from future development.

REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP)

RCPP is a partner-driven approach to conservation that funds solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural land. It can help address natural resource issues on a landscape or watershed scale by enlisting multiple landowners and partner organizations to work together to implement similar practices within a community or region.



CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS (CIG)

CIG is a grant program that provides matching funds to an individual or partner organization to stimulate the development and adoption of new and innovative approaches or technologies that apply to conservation on agricultural lands. CIG can include pilot projects and field demonstrations. Many CIG projects lead to the development of new NRCS conservation practices or enhancements that can be widely adopted across the nation; for example, utilizing satellite-based virtual fencing to rotate livestock through remote rangelands and improve range condition. There are two national-level CIG competitive evaluations: Classic and On-Farm Trials; and one state-level competitive evaluation.

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM (EWP)

EWP is a recovery program that relieves imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms and other natural disasters. All projects must have a project sponsor which may be a city, borough, conservation district, or any Federally-recognized Tribe. NRCS may cover up to 75 percent of the cost of the project. In Alaska, EWP is commonly used to relocate homes and buildings away from severe streambank erosion. Other examples of EWP work can include removing debris clogging stream channels and stabilizing eroding streambanks. It does not require a federal or state disaster declaration to qualify; the State Conservationist makes the determination after receiving a request for assistance from a qualifying sponsor.

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS PROGRAM (WFPO)

WFPO provides technical and financial assistance to local governments and Tribes to plan and implement watershed-scale projects. These are long term, multi-year projects that address proactive solutions to issues that cannot be addressed with any other NRCS program. Projects can address flood prevention, watershed protection, public recreation, public fish and wildlife, agricultural water management, municipal and industrial water supply, and water quality management. NRCS provides engineering and technical assistance as well as planning and installation/construction assistance. This program can be used to assist rural villages with managed retreat and/or village relocation efforts which are some of the most pressing needs in many threatened communities across Alaska.