

Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activity (CEMA) 222 - Indigenous Stewardship Methods Evaluation

CEMA 222 is to assist agricultural producers in gathering knowledge about Indigenous Stewards Methods suitable for land they manage.

CEMA 222 is a Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activity (CEMA) offered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). It provides scientific assessment and monitoring tools to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation practices. CEMA 222 helps landowners, tribal communities, and NRCS professionals make data-driven decisions to improve conservation outcomes.

How Tribal Communities Can Use CEMA 222

- **Tribal Ecological Knowledge Integration** – Supports conservation planning by incorporating Indigenous knowledge and land management practices and perspectives.
- **Habitat and Cultural Resource Protection** – Assists in monitoring and preserving native plant and animal species vital to tribal traditions.
- **Water and Soil Resource Management** – Provides tools to help manage water sources and soil conditions for agriculture and traditional land uses.
- **Long-term Stewardship** – Ensures that conservation efforts align with community goals for future generations.

Key Uses of CEMA 222

- **Conservation Practice Effectiveness** – Measures the impact of conservation efforts on soil health, water quality, and habitat improvement.
- **Baseline Data Collection** – Establishes benchmarks to assess changes over time.
- **Adaptive Management** – Provides data to refine and enhance conservation strategies, which refines practice implementation.
- **Sustainability Monitoring** – Tracks long-term resource sustainability and land productivity.

How CEMA 222 Supports Conservation Work

- **Resource Condition Monitoring** – Identifies shifts in resource conditions to support land and stewardship efforts in restoring natural communities of local cultural importance.
- **Culturally Significant Plan Restoration** – Evaluates current plant community health for culturally significant uses.
- **Water Quality Assessments** – Analyzes nutrient runoff, sedimentation, and water filtration capabilities.
- **Wildlife and Habitat Monitoring** – Assesses biodiversity, habitat restoration success, and species presence.



When To Use CEMA 222

- Tribal Nations and communities integrating conservation efforts.
- Farmers and ranchers implementing NRCS conservation practices.
- Conservation planners and NRCS staff assessing program effectiveness.
- Landowners wanting long-term environmental monitoring.
- Researchers and organizations studying conservation impacts.

Examples of How CEMA 222 Can Be Used

- Cultural burning.
- Managing, restoration, and enhancement of culturally important foods, fibers, and medicine.
- Managing Habitat for Wildlife Species of Cultural Importance to Tribe.

Examples of CEMA 222 Projects

- CEMA 222 was used for evaluating camas stands in Southern Idaho for future restoration work.
- CEMA 222 was used in Northern California to evaluate forest stands for the need of restoration work and the potential reintroduction of prescribed burn systems through cultural burning.

How to Access CEMA 222

CEMA 222 is available through NRCS conservation programs such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Landowners and tribal communities can request assistance from their local NRCS office in integrating CEMA 222 into their conservation plans.

More Information

For more details on CEMA 222 and how it can benefit your conservation efforts, contact your local NRCS office or visit the NRCS website at www.nrcs.usda.gov.