



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS Update
STAC meeting
June 28, 2016

Easement update

- What have we accomplished this fiscal year?
 - All FRPPs are now closed
 - 2 FY14 ALEs Funded
 - 1 is now closed, 1 remaining
 - 2 FY15 ALEs
 - Working toward closing on schedule

Easement update

- 2016 ALE Applications
 - 10 applications
 - 7 ranked
 - 3 deferred applications cancelled
 - 19,873 acres
 - Total Cost:
\$5,939,714.75
- FY16 Allocation
 - ALE-General: \$1,339,500
 - ALE-SGI: \$660,500
 - Total: \$2,000,000
 - Requested additional:
\$2,748.813
 - Received
 - ALE-General:
\$1,419,875
 - ALE-SGI: \$328,938

These are proposed funded projects currently being reviewed by Internal Controls Team

Easement update

- Easement Authority Transition
 - Delegation of Authority to the West Regional Conservationist April 1, 2016.
 - WY NRCS completes all work with EPD review
 - EPD staff reviews and sends to RC for approval and signature

RCP Update FY2104-15 Projects

- Water Quality and Habitat Improvements: Tongue River Watershed – Sheridan County
 - Held a sign-up period earlier this spring. Received 11 applications. 4 applications have been preapproved and are undergoing the review process prior to approval. 1 application was cancelled, and the remaining 6 applications were screened low. Intend to obligate \$193,378 of EQIP FA
- Upper North Platte Watershed Restoration: Carbon County
 - Held a sign-up period earlier this spring. Received 1 application, but was later cancelled because it was funded through other efforts. Held another sign-up period ending June 17th. Received 1 application that is currently going through the pre-approval review process. Intend to obligate \$80,000 of EQIP FA
- Upper Bear River Stream Restoration and Irrigation Efficiency Project – Uinta County
 - Have announced a sign-up period that will end July 15th. We intend to obligate any eligible applications received during the sign-up before the end of the fiscal year

RCPP Update FY 2016

Southeast Wyoming Wetland Partnership – SE Wyoming Counties (but most likely Albany/Carbon County)

- Currently working on the agreement. Submitted our updated draft on 6/21/2016 to NHQ. Waiting for the go-ahead from NHQ to sign and finalize the agreement
- Work scheduled to begin FY2017
- Financials
 - \$1,000,000 total (FA&TA)
 - \$490,000 ACEP (FA&TA)
 - \$254,000 ACEP-WRE (FA&TA)
 - \$256,000 EQIP (FA&TA)

RCPP Update FY2017

Pre-Proposals

- Wyoming received 4 pre-proposals. All pre-proposals have been reviewed and evaluated. Comments have been sent back to NHQ
- The chief will announce the pre-proposal that are invited to submit full-proposals sometime during the week of July 18th
- Full-proposals will be due September 19th
- All partners that submitted pre-proposals will be provided feedback from NHQ sometime after the chief announces the selected pre-proposals.

Conservation Client Gateway

- Updated version release July 7, 2016
- New, enhanced user interface
 - Simpler and more intuitive by using large icons to perform common tasks
- Designed to work on Safari on smartphones and tablets and Android devices
- Displays the boundaries of the NRCS easements on the map

Conservation Stewardship Program



- Starting as the Conservation Security Program in 2002, a complex watershed-based pilot with just 2 million acres in its first year, the Conservation Stewardship Program has evolved to a nationwide program that has enrolled more than 70 million acres since 2010.
- Our goal is a program that is clear and understandable, is flexible, and accommodates local priorities. We want it to be customer friendly, while providing more conservation options to a wide variety of producers.

What's New in CSP?

- Straightforward Conservation Process- redesigning CSP tools to create a clearer and more logical process – from initial program eligibility stewardship assessment to application ranking and payments
- Better Integrated with Other NRCS Programs
- Better Connection to Our Conservation Standards- Enhancements now are linked closely to the conservation practices. Even more opportunities for conservation are offered through the program, with up to 40 percent more enhancements (173 total) and 100 percent more conservation practices
- Accommodating Local Priorities

Programs update

- AMA- Initial allocation \$154, 437
 - Total obligated: \$92,291
 - Returned- \$62,146
- EQIP (General)
 - Total allocation \$10,838,974
 - Final allocation \$10,861,850)
- State Initiatives and subaccounts
 - Initial obligation: \$2,577,200
 - Final allocation: \$2,359,224
- Division accounts:
 - Initial allocation: \$4,417,960
 - Final allocation: \$4,658,812

Programs update

- Landscape initiatives:
 - Initial allocation : \$3,303,814
 - Final allocation: \$3,843,814
 - NWQI Final allocation: \$668,189
 - SGI
 - Final allocation: \$2,504,221. Requested an additional \$504,000.
 - Total allocation: \$3,044,221
 - CORSCA-
 - Initial allocation: \$131,404

CSP update

- Initial allocation- 41,688.4 ac
- General- 4,347.6 ac
- Ogallala Aquifer- 982.6 ac
- Sgi- 36,358.2 ac
- Additional acres requested
- 15,561 ac
- 10 ac
- 57,877.9 ac

Broader Application of Working Lands for Wildlife



- Beginning in fiscal year 2017, we will have the opportunity to use the proven WLFW model to identify more target species and priority landscapes. This change will enable state offices to merge their species conservation efforts into WLFW and attract more partners that share the agency's vision.
- Conservation partners are an integral part of WLFW. We will need your help to identify target species for us to submit a proposal.
- If we want to participate we need to submit our proposals by August 31, 2016. Multi-state projects are highly encouraged. Proposals should identify the priority landscape, target species, threats, goals, timelines, applicable Farm Bill programs, applicable conservation practices and a narrative on how the six critical elements of the WLFW conservation model will be addressed. Please submit your species of concerns with answer to the 6 critical elements to Clayton Schmitz by August 1, 2016.

WLFW's Six Critical Elements

- **Trust and Credibility:** Taking a community, grassroots approach to conservation that is based on the principles of neighborliness.
- **Shared Vision:** Finding the common link between wildlife and agriculture that invites cooperation over conflict.
- **Strategic Approach:** Directing resources where the biological returns are the highest.
- **Accountability:** Using science to measure conservation effectiveness and quantify resulting outcomes.
- **Leverage:** Multiplying investments through partnerships that achieve more conservation.
- **Regulatory Predictability:** Endangered Species Act predictability providing peace of mind to participating landowners that they can enact conservation without concern over additional regulations.

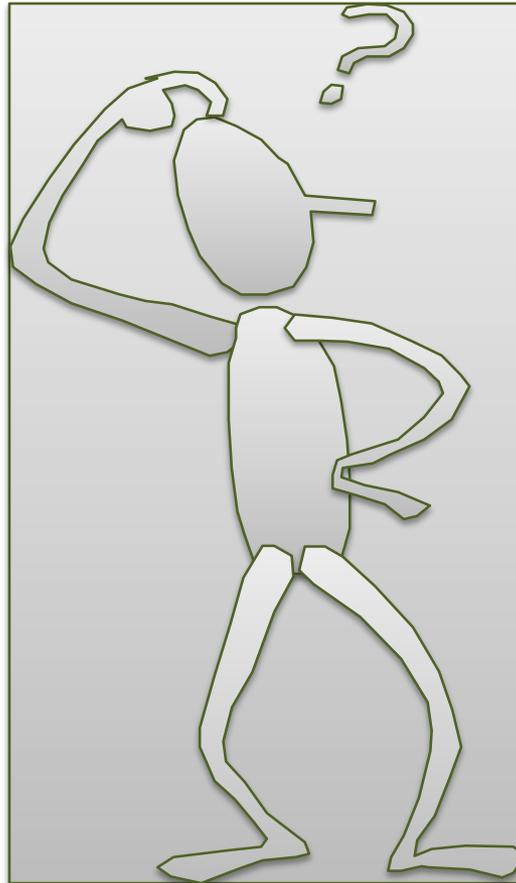
Vacancies

- Chief Weller provided to state with additional funding to hire planners.
- WY received funding to hire 7 planners
- Positions were advertised and we are waiting for panels.
- Locations:
- Torrington, Wheatland, Casper, Buffalo, Greybull, Riverton and Afton.
- First time in 4 years our Leadership team is fully staffed
 - Michael Neuenschwander is our ASTC M&S
 - Clayton Schmitz new SRC
- This year we have 3 summer interns
 - Jesus Vargas- Riverton
 - Elizabeth de la Cruz Torres-Powell
 - Marc Sanchez- Casper SO

Vacancies (cont.)

- Waiting for panels for selection
 - DC- Riverton
 - Farm Bill Program Specialist- Casper SO
 - Program support specialist- Casper SO
 - Soil Conservationist Cheyenne
 - Range Conservationist Saratoga

Questions



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