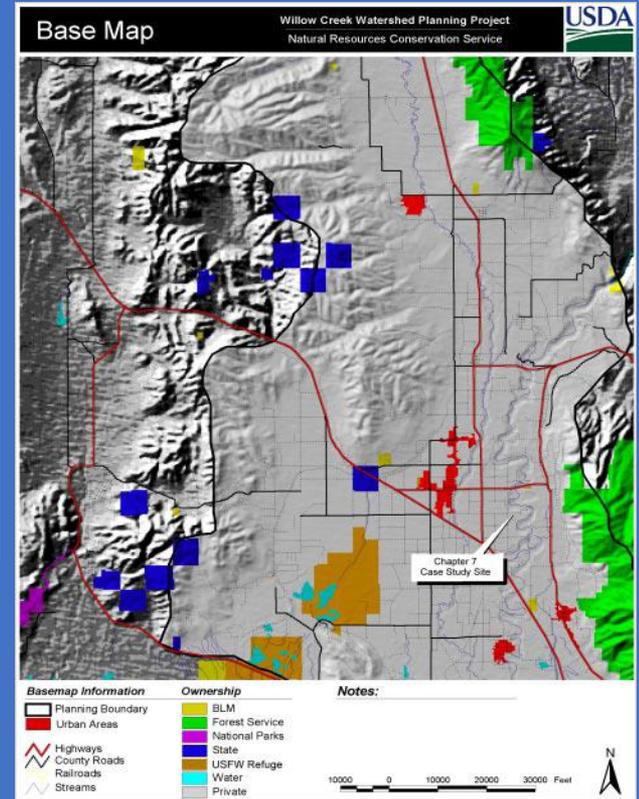
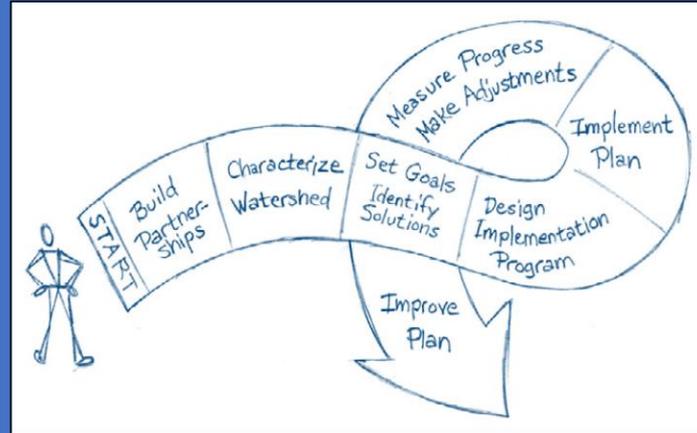


# NRCS PL-566 Watershed Planning

November 2017



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Watershed Resources & Planning  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



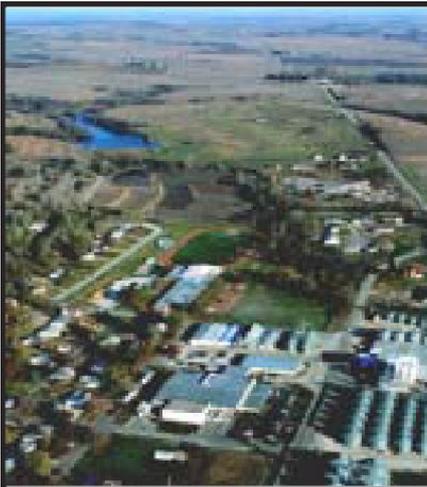
# **Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (PL 83-566)**

- ✓ **Authorized by Congress in 1954**
- ✓ **Managed by the US Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**
- ✓ **Provides technical and financial assistance to projects that will address water conservation, aquatic species habitat, public safety and other eligible concerns... while supporting existing agricultural land use**



# **New PL-566 Watershed Funding Available**

- ✓ **Congress appropriated \$150 million to the program in FY2017-18**
  
- ✓ **SWCD's, Irrigation Districts, Watershed Councils, Water Control Districts, and others are eligible**
  
- ✓ **To qualify Project Sponsors must have an NRCS Authorized Final Watershed Plan**
  - a) **Includes significant public input**
  - b) **Satisfies requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**



# The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program

## Program Purposes

- Helps units of federal, state, local and tribal of government (project sponsors) protect and restore watersheds up to **250,000 acres**
- **1,271 active or completed watershed projects** in the 50 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the Pacific Basin.

# **Watershed Program Eligibility**

## **Eligible Project Purposes**

- **Flood Prevention (Flood Damage Reduction)**
- **Watershed Protection**
- **Public Recreation**
- **Public Fish and Wildlife**
- **Agricultural Water Management**
- **Municipal and Industrial Water Supply**
- **Water Quality Management**
- **Watershed Structure Rehabilitation**



# **Watershed Planning Process**

- 1. Identify a Sponsoring, Local Organization(s) and Build Partnerships.**
- 2. Characterize the watershed to identify problems and resource concerns.**
- 3. Set goals and identify solutions.**
- 4. Design an implementation program.**
- 5. Implement the watershed plan.**
- 6. Measure progress and make adjustments.**

**Key to a successful watershed project is the Sponsoring, Local Organization**

# The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program

Some Current Oregon NRCS Watershed Planning Projects and Priorities include:

- ✓ **Lower Columbia Watershed, in Columbia Co.**
  - Improve water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife
- ✓ **DBBC's Central Oregon Irrigation Districts (X7)**
  - Water conservation, security, public safety, and reliability
- ✓ **Dam Rehabilitation**
  - Clear Branch Dam, MFID
  - Cooper Creek & Plat I, Sutherlin Water Control District



# **The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program**

The Future:

Oregon NRCS Watershed Planning...

- It's expected that interest in PL566 will exceed NRCS capacity to meet everyone's needs and requests.
- Provide guidance to enable Sponsors and associated entities, able to do required Watershed Planning needed to secure USDA-NRCS funding.

# Get Involved in Watershed Planning

- Your involvement can help local organizations, groups, and individuals take the initiative required to tackle the PL-566
- Talk with your counterparts across the state and NW about their experience with NRCS's PL-566 Watershed Program
- Contact Local and State NRCS offices for more information

## NRCS Contact Information:

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