



United States Department of Agriculture

CART

A New Vision for Conservation Planning and Program Delivery

NRCS Oregon



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Streamlining conservation

- **NRCS is on a mission to streamline our conservation delivery process**
- **Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART)**
 - A program neutral, efficient application evaluation and ranking tool to facilitate conservation delivery.



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What is CART?



- **Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART)**
 - One ranking tool!
 - Program neutral
 - Automate application and ranking
 - Reduce paperwork for staff and customers
 - Eliminate program and application redundancy
 - Reduce time between application and implementation



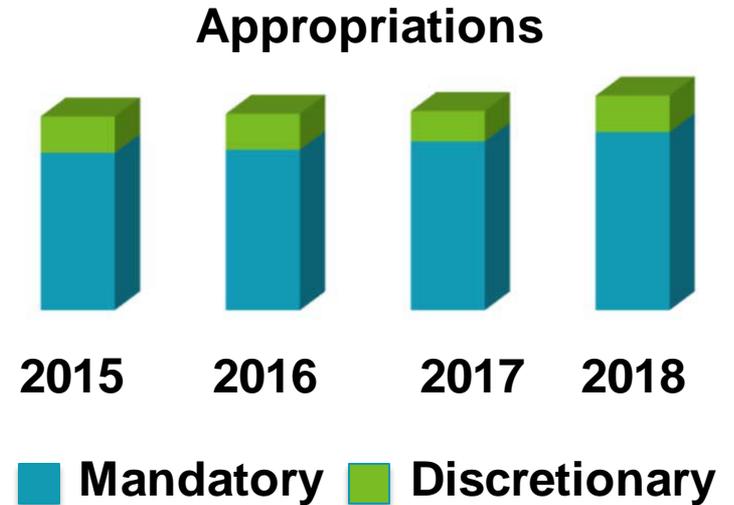
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Why change is needed

- Program delivery an increasing portion of budget
- Excess paperwork and tools



CART Objectives



- **Streamline programs**
 - Integrate financial assistance programs with the conservation planning process. This includes landscape conservation initiatives.
- **Increase efficiency**
 - Improve scientific integrity
 - Reduce field office ranking requirements while achieving greater consistency
 - Maintain and enhance use of conservation tools
 - Automate documentation
 - Reduce and automate program application and ranking requirements
 - Pursue program neutral ranking for all programs at one time
- **Improve customer service**
 - Reduce number of program sign-up periods
 - Decrease time between application for technical and financial assistance, and conservation practice implementation
 - Establish communication framework to manage customer expectations



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How will CART change things?



- **Partners**
 - Straightforward system
 - Less jargon
 - Reduction of multiple deadlines
- **NRCS field staff**
 - Increase efficiency
 - More one-on-one support to farmers
- **NRCS state office**
 - Reduced time from application to implementation
 - Efficient fund management
- **NRCS national staff**
 - Shifting focus from documenting resource concern problems to addressing resource concern solutions



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What won't change?



- **CART will NOT:**

- Eliminate the need for expertise and professional judgement
- Eliminate the need for field visits and face-to-face conversations
- Eliminate the need for site-specific assessments especially for high risk and high cost activities



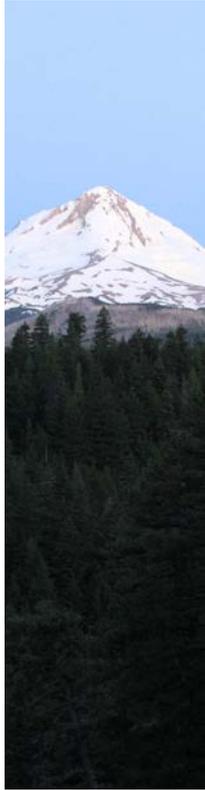
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How will CART work?

- **Geospatial data**
 - Geospatial data will simplify and expedite identification of priority resource concerns and associated resource problems
- **Unified data**
 - CART will capture resource and conservation practice data in a way that may be utilized broadly, rather than on a program-by-program basis.
- **Data access**
 - CART will minimize data entry for by planning staff by accessing data that is already in the system. This will also reduce redundancy of data.



From CART with love



Planning and Policy



Information Technology



Your Input!



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Questions?



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