



United States Department of Agriculture



Caribbean Area

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service



# State Technical Committee; EWP Update

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

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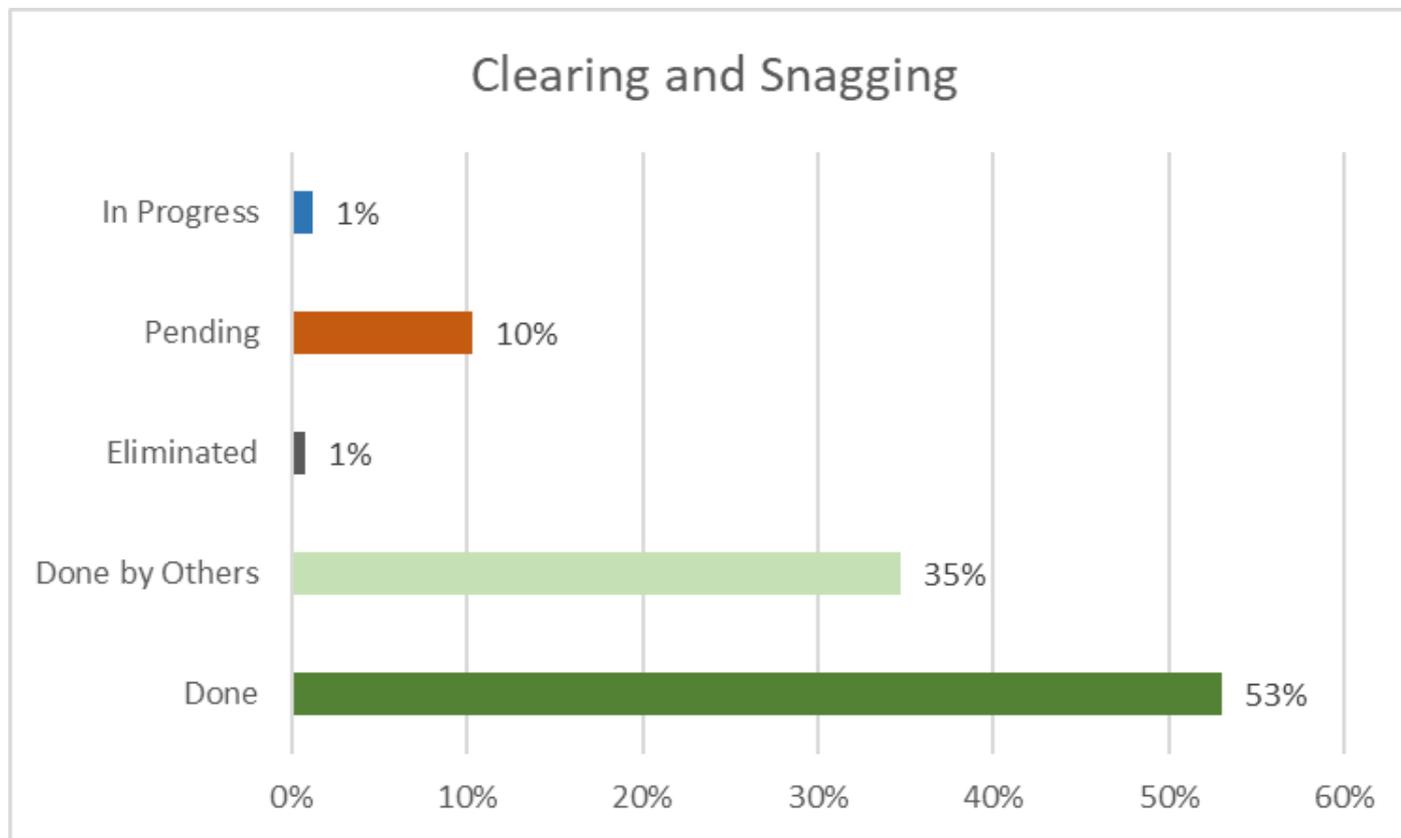
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# Exigency Work Status



## Clearing and Snagging

- **TOTAL 515**



# Exigency Work Status

## Clearing and Snagging

- **Pending 53**
  - Agreement issued - All
  - Pending Permits – 43
- **2 in USVI - Waiting on final quote from the contractor**
  - STC-201-NE
    - Salt Lake Northshore Road Scenic Road
  - STJ-201-NE
    - Calabash Housing/Calabash Boom





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# New EWP



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# Approved Events

## Dorian – USVI

- Letter from USVI DPW received
- 3 Sites Approved

### DSR-VI-STC-400 – Christiansted, Strawberry Hill

Removal of sediments, vegetative and non-vegetative. Clearing under the bridge is included in the work to be performed. Relocate the boulders/rocks that are interfering with the flow. Applies seeding and mulching on channel banks and all disturbed areas.

### DSR-VI-STC-401 – Catherines Rest Granard Road

Removal of sediment and debris. Stabilize the scoured. Clearing under bridge is included in the work to be performed. Applies seeding and mulching on all disturbed areas.

### DSR-VI-STT-400 - Carlota Amalia, Perimeter RD

Stabilizations and clearing and snagging. Applies seeding and mulching on all disturbed areas. PVC Pipes in the channel bottom, apparently are in good working conditions; the Sponsor need to relocate it in advance.

## Isaias – Puerto Rico

- 6 Sponsor Assistance Letters
- DSRs to be prepared in January 2022



# Outreach 2021

- **Potential Sponsors and Supporters**

- Recent meetings
  - Coral Bay Community
  - USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources
- 2021 trainings
  - General Program Understanding
  - Course on logistics
  - Forms to complete

- **Current Sponsors - DPW**

- Refresher Program overall process
- Changes to forms required and sponsor request letters
- Changes to certification forms





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# QUESTIONS

12/09/2020



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# State Technical Committee; Programs Update

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

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# USDA-NRCS 2020 Program Accomplishments



In FY 2020, NRCS processed over 1,400 conservation assistance applications, obligated 374 contracts for over \$8.6 million on over 15,700 acres. NRCS also paid out over \$5.8 million to producers to apply 1,413 conservation practices on more than 18,400 acres in the Caribbean Area under existing contracts.

Program	# Applications	# Contracts	Contract \$ Amount	# Acres
CSP	12	10	\$130,594	1,012
EQIP	1,390	364	\$8,499,251	14,690

Natural Resources Conservation Service





# VI Application Summary Report

Fund Code	County	Account Type	Applications Received	Estimated Cost Requested	Acres	Contracts Obligated	Obligation Amount	Contracted Acres	Contracted Percent
2020 EQIP BFR St Croix - 2020 EQIP BFR St Croix	ST. CROIX	Beginning Farmer/Rancher	<u>2</u>	\$27,878.68	2.50	<u>2</u>	\$27,710.00	2.50	100.00%
2020 EQIP BFR St Croix - 2020 EQIP BFR St Croix	ST. THOMAS	Beginning Farmer/Rancher	<u>1</u>	\$15,588.92	3.00	<u>1</u>	\$15,609.00	3.00	100.00%
2020 EQIP SDFR St Croix - 2020 EQIP SDFR St Croix	ST. CROIX	Socially Disadvantaged	<u>6</u>	\$140,100.80	18.10	<u>6</u>	\$140,112.00	18.10	100.00%
None	ST. CROIX	None	<u>17</u>	\$21,770.00	144.30	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.00%
None	ST. JOHN	None	<u>1</u>	\$0.00	15.00	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.00%
None	ST. THOMAS	None	<u>4</u>	\$0.00	4.90	0	\$0.00	0.00	0.00%
Total:			31	\$205,338.40	187.80	9	\$183,431.00	23.60	29.032%

Note: There were no CSP applications

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# USDA-NRCS Program Accomplishments

NRCS CARIBBEAN AREA  
FY 2020 Contracts  
Puerto Rico



FY 2020 Caribbean Area EQIP-CSP Contracts			
Office	Contracts	Obligation	Acres
Caribbean Area	374	\$ 8,629,844.19	15,701.80
Arecibo Service Center	89	\$ 2,738,750.94	3,841.00
Caguas Service Center	46	\$ 377,898.27	1,964.60
Carolina Service Center	39	\$ 195,736.56	1,330.90
Huamoa Okaz Service Center	42	\$ 1,339,962.00	2,595.30
Mayaguez Service Center	53	\$ 1,477,203.00	2,949.20
San Sebastian Service Center	53	\$ 1,556,932.00	2,006.80
Utuado Service Center	45	\$ 565,412.42	1,811.00

NRCS CARIBBEAN AREA  
FY 2020 Contracts  
US Virgin Islands



FY 2020 Caribbean Area EQIP-CSP Contracts			
Office	Contracts	Obligation	Acres
Caribbean Area	374	\$ 8,629,844.19	15,701.80
St. Croix Service Center	9	\$ 183,431.00	23.60

- Improve water quality on over 13,000 acres,
- Improve soil quality and health on over 6,500 acres,
- Improve over 10,000 acres of grazing land,



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# 2020 CIG On-Farm Trials Awardees

## Grants to help partners implement & evaluate innovative conservation practices with demonstrated benefits on farmland:

- Univ. of Hawaii: \$1,983,479 to establish on-farm Soil Health Management System demos individually tailored, regionally adapted & managed by farmers in Puerto Rico, American Samoa & 3 Hawaiian Islands.
- Ridge to Reefs, Inc.: \$995,991 to bring together a coalition of orgs. in Puerto Rico to help farmers implement improved Regenerative Production Systems using a suite of Enhanced Management Practices.



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# State Technical Committee-Policy

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

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**Provide recommendations to USDA on local and state natural resource priorities**

**Provide criteria for conservation activities and programs**

**Local Working Groups**

**STC Subcommittees**

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# State Technical Committee Responsibilities

**Ensure that a conservation needs assessment is developed using community stakeholder input.**

**Identify priority resource concerns that can be addressed by USDA programs.**

**Identify program funding needs and conservation practices.**



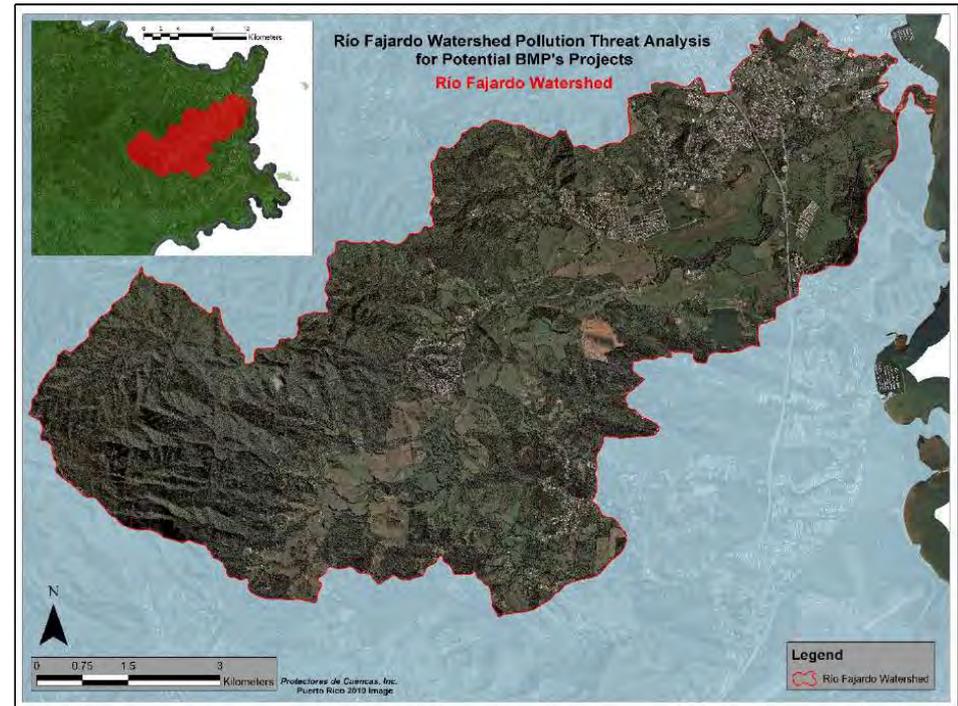
EQIP FY16 ELIGIBLE RESOURCE CONCERNS FOR INDIANA - LOCAL RANKING		
County:		
Category	Resource Concern or Priority	EQIP
1	Soil Erosion	- Sheet, Rill and Wind
	Soil Erosion	- Concentrated Flow
	Soil Erosion	- Excessive Bank Erosion from Streams or Shorelines or Water Conveyance Channels
2	Soil Quality Degredation	- Organic Matter Depletion
	Soil Quality Degredation	- Compaction
	Soil Quality Degredation	- Subsidence
	Soil Quality Degredation	- Concentration of Salts or other Chemicals
3	Water Quality Degradation	- Excess Nutrients in Surface and Ground Waters
	Water Quality Degradation	- Pesticides Transported to Surface and Ground Waters
	Water Quality Degradation	- Excess Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-solids or Compost Applications
	Water Quality Degradation	- Excessive Salts in Surface and Ground Waters
	Water Quality Degradation	- Petroleum, Heavy Metals, and Other Pollutants Transported to Receiving Water Sources
	Water Quality Degradation	- Excessive Sediment in Surface Waters
4	Excess/Insufficient Water	- Elevated Water Temperature
	Excess/Insufficient Water	- Ponding, Flooding, Seasonal High Water Table, Seeps, Drifted Snow
	Excess/Insufficient Water	- Inefficient Moisture Management
5	Excess/Insufficient Water	- Inefficient use of Irrigation Water
	Air Quality Impacts	- Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) and PM Precursors
	Air Quality Impacts	- Emissions of Greenhouse Gasses (GHGs)
	Air Quality Impacts	- Emissions of Ozone (O <sub>3</sub> ) Precursors
6	Air Quality Impacts	- Objectionable Odors
	Degraded Plant Condition	- Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health
	Degraded Plant Condition	- Inadequate Structure and Composition
	Degraded Plant Condition	- Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
7	Degraded Plant Condition	- Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation
	Fish and Wildlife	- Habitat Degradation
8	Livestock Production Limitation	- Inadequate Feed and Forage
	Livestock Production Limitation	- Inadequate Livestock Shelter
	Livestock Production Limitation	- Inadequate Livestock Water
9	Inefficient Energy Use	- Equipment and Facilities
	Inefficient Energy Use	- Farming/Ranching Practices and Field Operations

# State Technical Committee Responsibilities

**Identify high-priority areas needing assistance.**

**Participate in multicounty coordination.**

**Assist NRCS and the SWCD with public outreach and information efforts and identify educational and producers' training needs.**



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# State Technical Committee Responsibilities

**Recommend State and national program policy to NRCS based on resource data.**

**Forward recommendations to the NRCS Caribbean Director or designee, as appropriate.**

**Adhere to standard operating procedures identified in Title 440, Conservation Programs Manual (CPM), Part 501, Subpart B, Section 501.25.**



# Local Workgroup Membership



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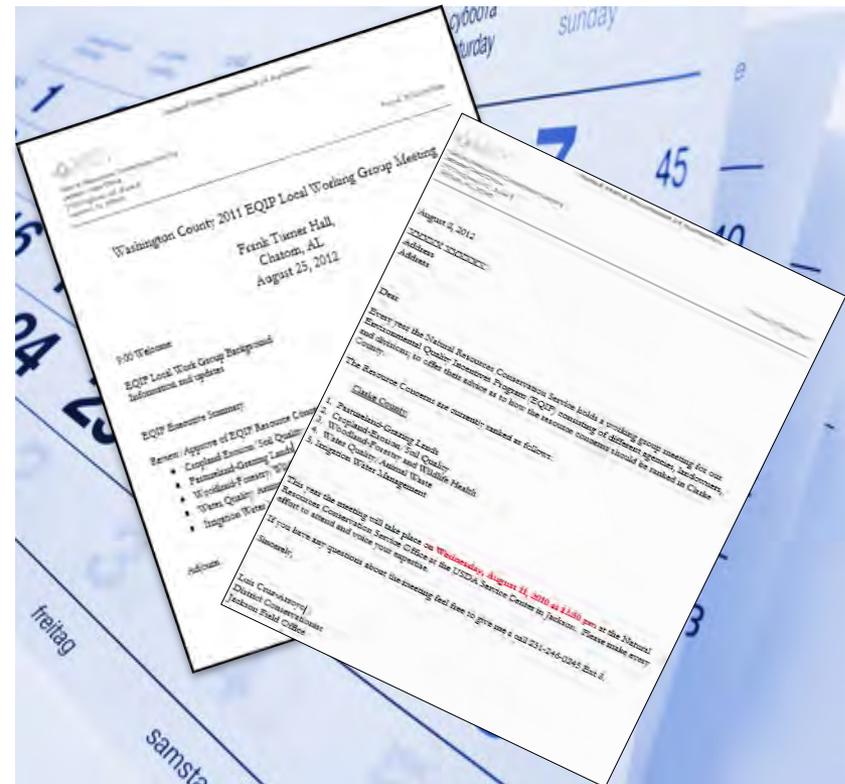
# Standard Operating Procedures

## Meeting Scheduling

- At least twice each year at a time and place designated by the chairperson.

## Meeting Information

- Agendas and information must be provided to the STC members at least 14 days prior to the meeting.



# General Responsibilities

- Ensure the public are provided the opportunity to comment.
- Ensure that the public share the benefits.
- Analyze performance indicators and reports.
- Report the conservation programs' impacts on resources.
- Ensure that recommendations address resource concerns.



# Standard Operating Procedures

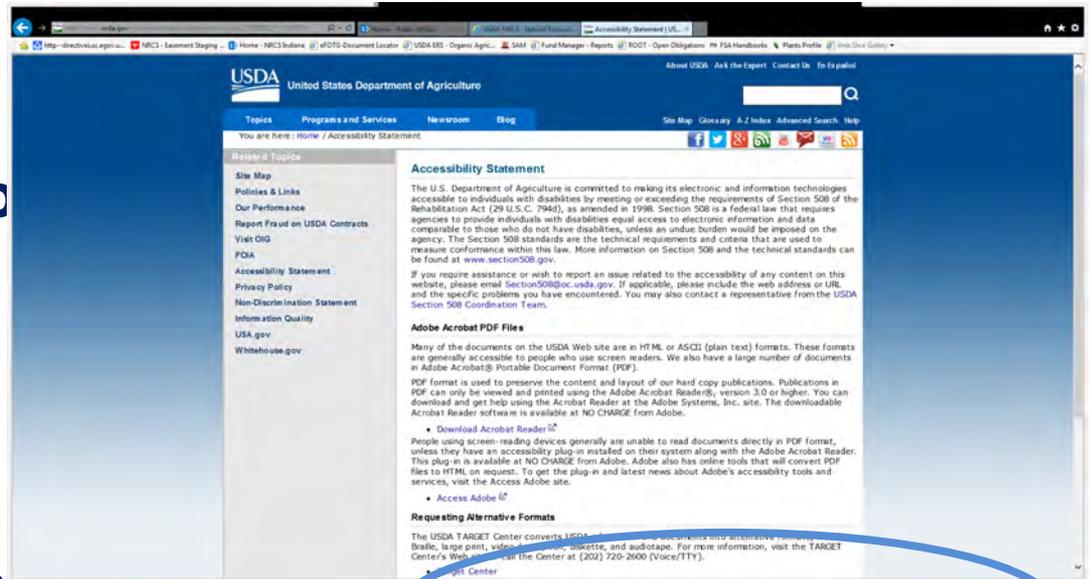
## Public Notification

- Published in one or more newspapers, including recommended Tribal publications.
- Should be provided 14 days prior to the meeting.
- Will include the time, place, and agenda items for the meeting.



# Social Considerations When Advertising

- Know your clients.
- Include statement to contact office for accommodations.
- Ensure USDA EO statement is included on advertisement.



# Standard Operating Procedures

## Conducting Business

- Meetings will be conducted as an open discussion.
- Discussion will focus on the programs and activities identified in 440-CPM, Part 501, Subpart A, Section 501.0C.
- All recommendations will be considered.



# Standard Operating Procedures

## The following guidelines will govern meeting discussions:

- The chairperson will lead the discussion. (STC or designee)
- Each member of the group should be recognized and provided the opportunity to speak.
- Only one person may speak at a time.
- The STC may establish time limits on individual agenda items.
- STC are advisory in nature and all recommendations are considered.
- The chairperson will defer those agenda items not covered because of time limits to the next meeting.



# Standard Operating Procedures

## Public Participation

- Public can address the group.
- Presenters are encouraged to provide written records of their comments to the chairperson.
- Written comments may be accepted if provided to the chairperson no later than 14 days after the meeting.
- Public Participation in Subcommittees are not required except for the LWG



# Standard Operating Procedures

## Record of Meetings

- Summaries for all STC meetings will be available within 30 days.

## Input to State Technical Committee

- Recommendations from LWG and subcommittees are to be submitted to STC chairperson, the designated conservationist, or both within 14 days.

## Response to Subcommittees

- The designated conservationist will inform the Committee members as to the decisions made in response to all recommendations within 90 days.





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# QUESTIONS



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# Overview on Conservation Planning

NRCS 9-Steps of Planning and Business Process

Dec/2020 Mario Rodriguez, SRC

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# Objectives

- **Understand the NRCS planning process and products.**
  - Conservation Planning
  - Planning Tools
  - Conservation Practice Standards
- **Relation to the function of STC and subcommittees**



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# Purpose

NRCS is USDA's technical agency for helping private land managers, conservation districts, Tribes, and other organizations in **planning and carrying out conservation activities and programs**.

None of this two, Planning and Carrying out, can be done without a **proper systemic process**

That is why NRCS have **the 9-step planning process**.



# Terms and Definitions



## *Understanding Conservation Planning Terms*

Natural Resources are delimited by NRCS to include **soil, water, air, plants, animals, energy and human** considerations (SWAPAE +H).

**Resource Concern.**—An **expected degradation of the soil, water, air, plant, or animal resource** base to the extent that the sustainability or intended use of the resource is impaired.

**Resource Management System (RMS).**—An RMS is a **combination of conservation practices and resource management activities for the treatment of all identified resource concerns for SWAPAE+H resources**



# Terms and Definitions



**Conservation Plan**—Record of the client's decisions and supporting information for treatment of a unit of land.

**Conservation Practice**—Specific treatment, such as a structural or vegetative measure, or management technique, commonly used to meet specific needs.

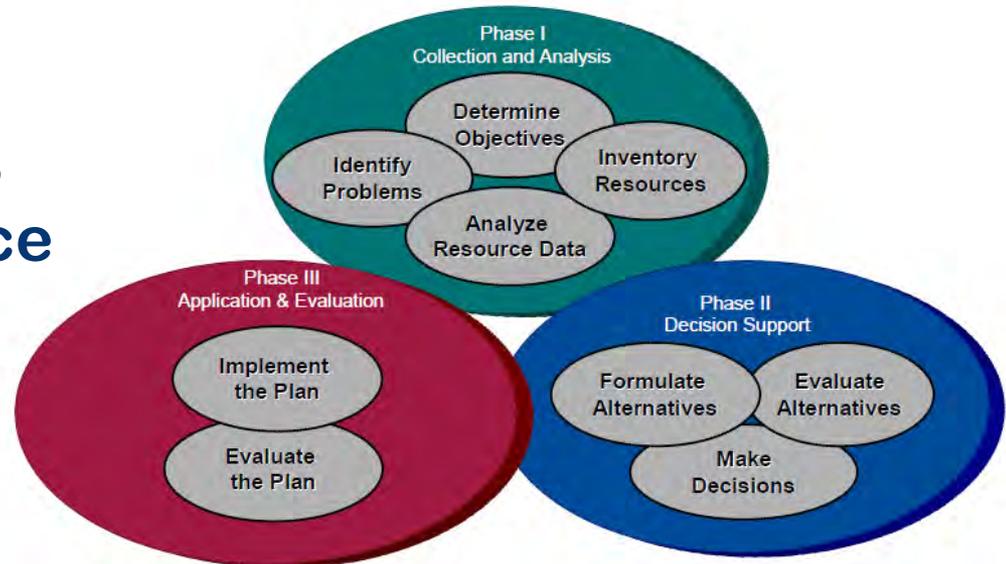
**Conservation System**—A combination of conservation practices and resource management for the treatment of resource concerns.



# The Planning Process

- The planning process **provides the framework for developing a conservation plan based on client objectives**, as well as ecological, economic, social, legal, and policy considerations.
- This approach, which **emphasizes desired future conditions**, helps improve natural resource management, minimize conflict, and address identified resource concerns and opportunities.

## NRCS Planning Process



# Phase I – Collection and Analysis

**Step 1 – Identify Problems and Opportunities - Identify existing resource problems and concerns and potential opportunities in the planning area.**

**– Natural Resources Concerns (SWAPA+H+E)**



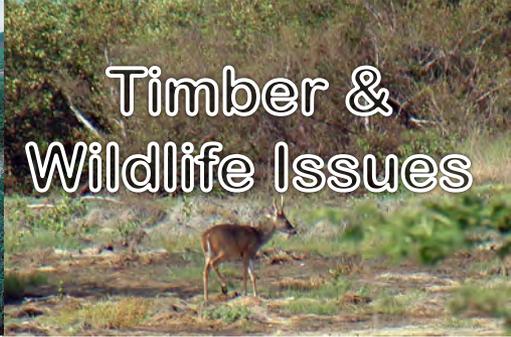
Erosion



Overgrazing



Water Quality



Timber &  
Wildlife Issues

**– Social Concerns**

**– Legal Concerns (Federal, State, or Local Laws and Policies)**



# Understand Land Use

## Land Uses

- Crop
- Forest
- Pasture
- Farmstead
- Designated Protected Area
- Developed Land
- Water
- Associated Agriculture Lands
- Other

## Modifiers;

- Irrigated
- Wildlife
- Grazed



# Phase I – Collection and Analysis



Step 2 – Determine Objectives—Identify and document the client’s objectives.

***“The client's objectives are clearly stated and documented.”***

- Develop a common effort.
- Efforts or actions intended to attain or accomplish.
- It’s a purpose, a goal, a target.
- A quantitative or qualitative statement of the desired future conditions (DFC’s) as determined by the client or the group.

i.e. “Proper water quality for the fish.” or “ Maintain 95% of the current water storage capacity in the reservoir.”



# Phase I – Collection and Analysis

**Step 3 – Inventory Resources.—Inventory and document the natural resources and their current onsite and offsite conditions and effects, as well as the economic and social considerations related to the resources.**



# What is a Sufficient Inventory of Conditions?

- Data and information that **specifically addresses problems, needs, opportunities, and objectives previously determined.**
- **Characterizes historical and current (benchmark) ecological, social, and economic conditions and trends.**
  - Benchmark conditions – **describes existing conditions** which may include description of current crops, farming practices, livestock type, available equipment, and technology, as a point of **reference to measure change for all alternatives (including No-Action).**
  - Includes information relevant to all “**Special Environmental Concerns**”



# NRCS “Special Environmental Concerns”

## ✔ Consultation and/or Permitting Requirements

- Clean Air Act (CAA)
- Clean Water Act (CWA) ✔
- Coastal Zone Mgmt Act (CZMA)
- Coral Reefs (EO 13089)
- Cultural Resources/Historic Properties (NHPA, et.al.) ✔
- Essential Fish Habitat (Magnuson-Stevens Act) ✔
- Environmental Justice (EO 12898) ✔
- Endangered Species Act (ESA), State/Tribal Species of Concern ✔
- Floodplain Management (EO 11988)
- Invasive Species (EO 13112)
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) & Bald/Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) & EO 13186 ✔
- Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)
- Riparian Areas (190-GM, Part 411)
- Wetlands (EO 11990) ✔
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act ✔



# Phase I – Collection and Analysis



**Step 4 – Analyze Resource Data.—Analyze the resource information gathered in Step 3, “Inventory Resources,” to clearly define the existing natural resource conditions, along with economic and social issues related to the resources.**

Information from this step will help to further define and clarify problems, concerns, and opportunities.

DATA ANALYSIS AND  
INTERPRETATION



# Displaying Analyses

**Assess the existing conditions in relation to identified objectives, desired future conditions and planning criteria or other “thresholds” and needs.**

- Quantitative vs. Qualitative Analyses
- “Thresholds” – Desired Future Conditions (DFC), objectives, planning criteria, regulatory limits (policies Federal, State, Local), etc.

*i.e.*

Natural Resource Concern	Description of Concern	National Quality Criteria	State Quality Criteria	Assessment Tools for Quality Evaluation	Evaluation and Assessment Status
<b>SOIL</b>					
Soil Erosion – Sheet and Rill	Detachment and transport of particles by runoff	Sheet and Rill not to exceed Soil Loss Tolerance “T”	Erosion not to exceed “T” for planned rotation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current RUSLE value</li> <li>• WEP value</li> <li>• Soil Quality Test</li> </ul>	Tons/Acre/Yr.



# Displaying Analyses

Helps to verify problems and clarify opportunities

Should clearly establish cause and effect relationships

Provides information on existing conditions

Comparison:	Methods:
Benchmark Conditions	Maps, Graphs, Tables from Tools
Desire Future Conditions	Narratives, Checklists, Diagrams
Evaluation (planning) Criteria	Charts, Photos, Matrices



# Products of Phase I

- **Clear descriptions** of problems and opportunities
- **Clear objectives** in term of desired future conditions and underlying needs
- **Inventory data sufficient** to understand resource conditions and to comply with laws and regulations
- **Meaningful and understandable displays** of all of the above

## State Technical Committee Involvement

- Tools to Inventory and Analyze Data
- Determining Resource Concern Priorities
- Community or Watershed Conservation Objectives



# Phase II – Decision Support

**Step 5 – Formulate Alternatives.—Formulate alternatives that will achieve the client’s objectives, to improve, solve, or enhance identified natural resource concerns, and take advantage of opportunities or protect resource conditions.**



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# Tools

- Natural resources plans (or inventory or evaluation documents) with similar problem analysis
- National Handbook of Conservation Practices
- Manuals and Handbooks developed for specific disciplines, land uses or settings
- Field Office Technical Guide – CPPE (Conservation Practice Physical Effects Matrix)
- **Partners Validated Data Available**

# Phase II – Decision Support



**Step 6 – Evaluate Alternatives.—Evaluate the alternatives to determine their effects in addressing the client's objectives and the identified natural resource concerns and opportunities.**

**NRCS's job is to guide customer through the planning process and provide the best analytical information so the customer can make an informed decision.**

- Evaluate the projected effects on social, economic, and ecological concerns.
- Special attention must be given to those ecological values protected by law or Executive Orders.

**Customer evaluates the alternatives provided to see what will work best for him in the ecological, economical and social context.**



# Phase II – Decision Support

## Evaluation Tools:

- RUSLE 2
- WIN – PST
- Pasture Condition Scoring
- Cultural Resources
- Gully Erosion Equation
- Soil Leachability Index...

Among others..

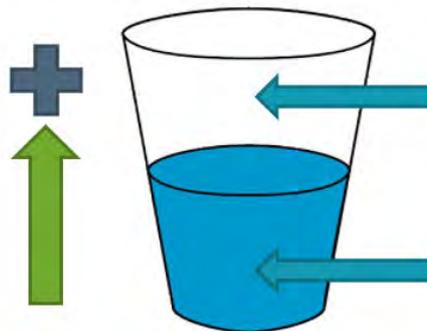


# Step 6 Planning Standard

The effects of each alternative are evaluated and compared to benchmark conditions to evaluate their ability to solve problems, meet planning criteria, and meet the client's objectives.

The analysis includes evaluation of the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects.

Does the alternative bring conditions to DFC?



Desired Future Conditions  
(DFC)  
(Planning Criteria; needs, target values,  
Thresholds, etc.)

Benchmark  
Conditions  
(Based on Inventory)



# DFCs, Indicators and Target Values

Resource Problem -	Soil Erosion
DFC -	Not to exceed soil loss tolerance (T)
Indicator -	Tons per acre per yr. (t/a/yr)
Target Value -	5 t/a/yr (or tolerance by individual soil)
Assessment Tool -	RUSLE 2



## Phase II – Decision Support

**Step 7 – Make Decisions.—**  
The client selects their preferred alternatives and works with the planner to schedule the conservation system and practice implementation.

**“A Conservation System is selected based on the clients clear understanding of the effects for each alternative.”**



# Products of Phase II

- **An evaluation of each alternative** that displays the effect for the client to consider and use the basis for decision making.
- **Cost estimates** for each alternative.
- **List of applicable financial assistance** programs.
- **Conservation Plan** documenting the selected alternative, including potential program(s) or implementation opportunities, and operation and maintenance prepared by a certified conservation planner
- **Schedule of conservation system and practice implementation**
- **NEPA documentation (CPA-52)**
- **Revised conservation Effects information**





PAW PAW SERVICE CENTER  
1035 E MICHIGAN AVE  
PAW PAW, MI 49079-9464  
2696577055 ext. 3

JEFF DOUGLAS  
DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

## Conservation Plan

JEFFREY S DOUGLAS  
LAWRENCE, MI 49064

### OBJECTIVE(S)

Maximize forage use on farm for grazing livestock while developing and maintaining habitat for wildlife.

### Headquarters

Tract: 9999

### Diversion

Construct a channel across the slope with an embankment on the lower side to divert water from its natural flow. This practice will be installed, operated and maintained according to NRCS standards and specifications. See engineering designs for installation details.

Field	Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
HQ	220 ft	9	2007		
Total:	220 ft				

### Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment

Plant single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs at location shown on plan map. This practice will be installed, operated and maintained according to NRCS standards and specifications. See windbreak conservation sheet for installation details.

Field	Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
HQ	180 ft	9	2008		
Total:	180 ft				

4/9/2007

Page 1 of 3

# Conservation Plan



53

4/9/2007

### Wildlife

Tract: 9999

### Pond

Construct a water impoundment to provide water for wildlife. This practice will be installed, operated and maintained according to NRCS standards and specifications. See engineering designs for practice details.

Field	Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
2	1 no	9	2007		
Total:	1 no				

Tract: 9999

on these fields as part of a prescribed grazing system. The type, size, the type of fencing wire used will be in accordance with NRCS standards Conservation Sheet for details.

Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
1840 ft	9	2008		
1840 ft				

ing to a schedule to optimize forage use and minimize soil erosion. A developed according to NRCS Standards and Specifications. The e installed, operated, and maintained according to NRCS Standards and

Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
1.4 ac	9	2009		
1.4 ac	9	2010		
1.4 ac	9	2011		
1.6 ac				

### ement

ed wildlife access to and from surrounding areas. This practice will be ed according to NRCS standards and specifications. See upland wildlife e specifications.

Planned Amount	Month	Year	Applied Amount	Date
0.2 ac	9	2009		
0.2 ac				

CONSERVATION DISTRICT

VAN BUREN CONSERVATION D DATE

### EMENT

ct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a alid OMB control number for this information collections is led to average 45/0.75 minutes per response, including the maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing

. U.S.C 522a). Furnishing this information is voluntary; lding or withdrawal of such technical or financial assistance. ue Service, the Department of Justice, or other state or ate, or administrative tribunal.

### STATEMENT

ograms and activities on the basis of race, color, natione- parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not e alternative means for communication of program ET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410 or tunity provider and employer.\*

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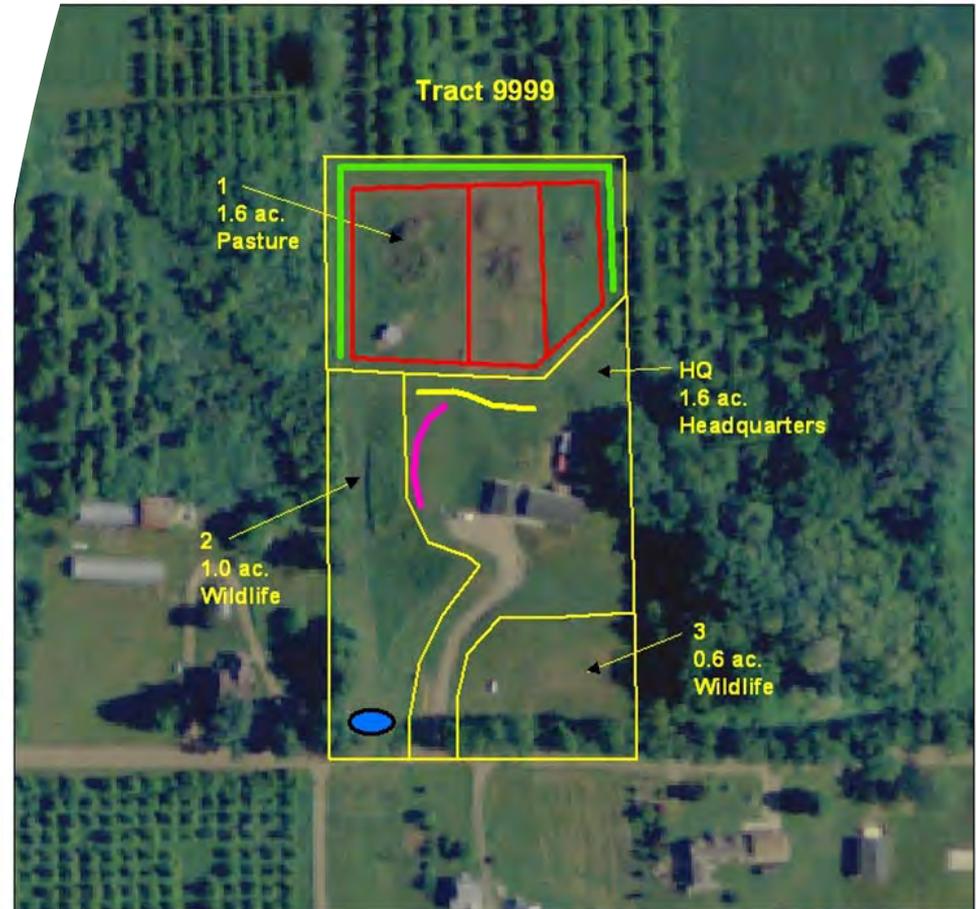
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(S): JEFFREY S DOUGLAS  
/AN BUREN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Field Office: PAW PAW SERVICE CENTER  
Agency: NRCS  
Assisted By: Jeffrey S Douglas  
State and County: MI, VAN BUREN

Description: Arlington Township, Sec 28

# Conservation Plan Map



### Legend

- Land Units
- Wildlife Travel Lane
- Fence
- Windbreak
- Diversion
- Wildlife pond



# State Technical Committee Involvement

- Tools to estimate effectiveness of practices in steeppland or Caribbean cropping systems.
- Recommendation for Interim Practices.
- Agreement recommendations to streamline consultations, permits or mitigations.
- Cultural agricultural practice recommendations



## Phase III – Application and Evaluation

**Step 8 – Implement the Plan—The client implements the selected alternatives.**

**The planner or technical expert provides the land manager with detailed practice implementation information, including engineered designs.**



# Implementation

The client has adequate information and understanding to implement, operate, and maintain the planned conservation system.

Practices implemented with NRCS technical assistance will be installed in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications.



# Implementation Plan

## Who, When, How, How Much?

- Those questions are for the client.

## Planners responsibility is to answer What, Why, Where.

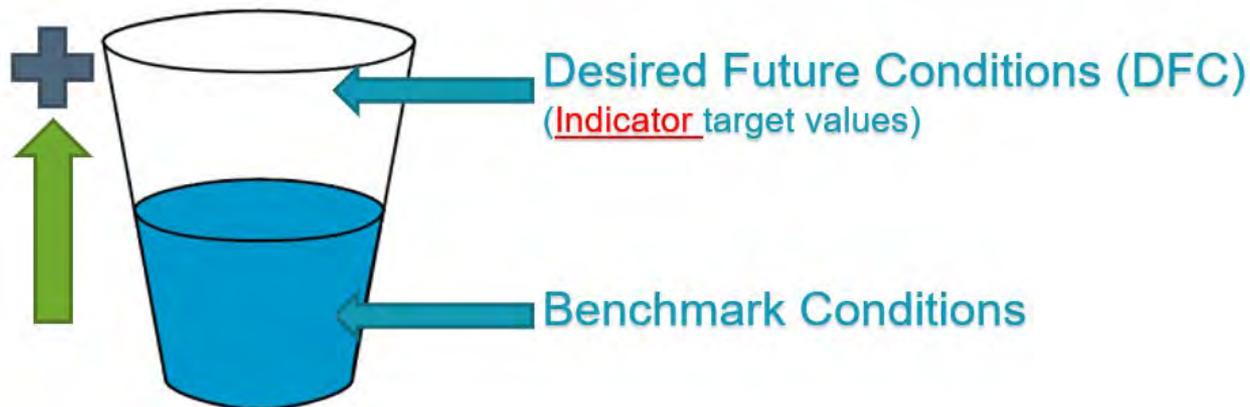
- Information and Education
- Technical Assistance
- Program and Funding alternatives
- Regulations and Guidelines
- Plan Design, layout, Inspection and Certification



# Phase III – Application and Evaluation

**Step 9 – Evaluate the Plan—Evaluate the effectiveness of the plan in solving the resource concerns as it is implemented and work with the client to make adjustments as needed.**

Did the Actions bring conditions to DFC?



# Products of Phase III

- Practice Designs and Implementation Requirements
- Survey Notes
- All necessary Permits
- Financial assistance, program, contract, where applicable
- Practice certification notes
- Technical assistance notes

## State Technical Committee Involvement

- Tailored standards and implementation requirements Conservation Practices in the Caribbean.
- Tools to measure and report conservation outcomes. Ex. Nitrates reduced by %.
- TSP: Design and implementation



# NEPA vs NPPH



NEPA Requirements	NRCS Planning Steps
Statement of the purpose of the proposed action.	Step 2 – Determine Objectives
Statement of the need to be met	Step 1 – ID Problems and Opportunities
Alternative ways to meet the underlying need and discussion of what would happen if we did not meet the need	Step 3 – Inventory of Resources Step 4 – Analyze resource data (including the “No Action” alternative that form basis for true comparison between meeting and NOT meeting the need) Step 5 – Formulate Alternatives
Comparison of impacts of all alternatives (including “No Action” alternative)	Step 6 – Evaluate Alternatives
Factors to be used when making the decision between alternatives	Step 7 – Make Decisions
Make decision as appropriate	Step 7 – Make Decisions (selection of the preferred alternative)
Mitigation and Monitoring adverse effects as outlined in the NEPA document	Step 8 & 9 – Implementation and Evaluation of the plan





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## QUESTIONS

*“The more time you spend contemplating what you should have done... you lose valuable time planning what you can and will do.” – Lil Wayne*



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# Overview on Conservation Programs 2021

Dec/2020 Javier Cruz, ASTC-Programs

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# 2021 Sub-Accounts and Allocations

Not less than 10 % made available across all programs, be used to encourage practices that relate to water quality or water quantity that protect source waters for drinking water while also benefitting agricultural producers.

States must target at least—

- (i) 10 percent of available funds to wildlife habitat related practices.
- (ii) 50 percent of available funds to livestock related practices.
- (iii) 5 percent of available funds for beginning farmers or ranchers (BFR).
- (iv) 5 percent of available funds for socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers (SDFR).



# Allocations



<b>Beginning Farmer</b>		<b>\$490,000.00</b>
2021 EQIP BFR Arecibo	Beginning Farmer/Rancher	\$50,000.00
2021 EQIP BFR Caguas	Beginning Farmer/Rancher	\$50,000.00
2021 EQIP BFR Corozal	Beginning Farmer/Rancher	\$50,000.00
2021 EQIP BFR Juana Diaz	Beginning Farmer/Rancher	\$50,000.00
2021 EQIP BFR Utuado	Beginning Farmer/Rancher	\$100,000.00
2021 EQIP BFR San Sebastian	Beginning Farmer/Rancher	\$90,000.00
2021 EQIP BFR St Croix	Beginning Farmer/Rancher	\$50,000.00
2021 EQIP BFR Mayaguez	Beginning Farmer/Rancher	\$50,000.00
<b>Disater Recovery</b>		<b>\$586,898.00</b>
2021 EQIP Disaster Relief COVID-19 Puerto Rico	Disaster Recovery	\$86,898.00
FY 2021 EQIP Disaster TS Isaias	Disaster Recovery	\$500,000.00
<b>2021 JCLRP Puerto Rico</b>	<b>Forest Service Partnership</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>

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# Allocations



<b>Local</b>		<b>\$770,000.00</b>
2021 EQIP General Arecibo	Locally Led	\$250,000.00
2021 EQIP General Caguas	Locally Led	\$50,000.00
2021 EQIP General Corozal	Locally Led	\$50,000.00
2021 EQIP General Juana Diaz	Locally Led	\$50,000.00
2021 EQIP General Utuado	Locally Led	\$50,000.00
2021 EQIP General San Sebastian	Locally Led	\$250,000.00
2021 EQIP General St. Croix	Locally Led	\$50,000.00
2021 EQIP General Mayaguez	Locally Led	\$20,000.00
<b>FY21 On-Farm Energy</b>	<b>On-Farm Energy</b>	<b>\$100,000.00</b>
<b>Wildlife</b>		<b>\$800,100.00</b>
2021 EQIP Wildlife Puerto Rico	Wildlife 10%	\$800,100.00

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# Allocations



<b>Organic</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
FY21 Organic Certified	Organic Certified	\$0.00
FY21 Organic Transition	Organic Transition	\$0.00
<b>Socially Disadvantage</b>		<b>\$4,060,000.00</b>
2021 EQIP SDFR Arecibo	Socially Disadvantaged	\$1,010,000.00
2021 EQIP SDFR Caguas	Socially Disadvantaged	\$250,000.00
2021 EQIP SDFR Corozal	Socially Disadvantaged	\$250,000.00
2021 EQIP SDFR Juana Diaz	Socially Disadvantaged	\$150,000.00
2021 EQIP SDFR Utuado	Socially Disadvantaged	\$750,000.00
2021 EQIP SDFR San Sebastian	Socially Disadvantaged	\$750,000.00
2021 EQIP SDFR St Croix	Socially Disadvantaged	\$200,000.00
2021 EQIP SDFR Mayaguez	Socially Disadvantaged	\$700,000.00
<b>State</b>		<b>\$1,002,261.00</b>
2021 EQIP Forest Puerto Rico	State	\$100,000.00
2021 EQIP Coffee Special Project	State	\$155,000.00
2021 EQIP HighTunnel	State	\$650,000.00
2021 EQIP Irrigation Project	State	\$90,000.00
2021 EQIP CAPS	State	\$7,261.00

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# Types of Program Opportunities

Individual	Regional	Agreements
EQIP	RCPP	EQIP
CSP	NWQI	CSP
ACEP		RCPP
		NWQI
		ACEP



# Agricultural Conservation Easements Programs

- The **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)** helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements.
- For the **Agricultural Land Easement**, NRCS provides financial assistance to **partners** (American Indian tribes, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations) for purchasing Agricultural Land Easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of land.
- For the **Wetland Reserve Easements**, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance **directly to private landowners and American Indian tribes** to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands through the purchase of a wetland reserve easement.



# Process



**Fill application and eligibility documents-** Applications are taken year-round, but funding is by batching dates which is usually Oct 30.



**Site visit- Conservation Planning**



**Ranking -** Applications are ranked based on state/county priorities and environmental benefits.



**Funding-** Usually around May and is done based on ranking scores--highest to lowest until funds are exhausted.





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# QUESTIONS

12/08/2020



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# State Technical Committee-Subcommittees

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

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# STC- Subcommittees

***Financial Assistance and Program Development (FAPD):*** Purpose is to recommend natural resource priorities, ranking criteria, fund allocation, practices, financial assistance, ranking batches, target outreach, CIG priorities and CIG proposal review for all programs except ACEP.

***Watershed and Water Resources:*** Purpose is to recommend strategies and leverage resources and initiatives to increase area wide planning at watershed level to address specific resource concerns like water quality, source water protection and drought.

***Technical Subcommittee:*** Purpose is to directly assist in the revision of practice standards and specifications and review cost for Puerto Rico.

***Wildlife, Forestry and Wetland Subcommittee:*** Purpose is to recommend natural resource priorities, ranking criteria, fund allocation, practices, financial assistance, ranking batches, review policy and strategize outreach that target wildlife species, increase forestry cover and protect wetlands.



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# STC- Subcommittees

***Financial Assistance and Program Development (FAPD):*** Purpose is to recommend natural resource priorities, ranking criteria, fund allocation, practices, financial assistance, ranking batches, target outreach, CIG priorities and CIG proposal review for all programs except ACEP.

Name	Organization
May Cornwall	Green Cay Farms, LLP
	VIDA

***Technical Subcommittee:*** Purpose is to directly assist in the revision of practice standards and specifications and review cost for USVI.



# STC- Subcommittees

***Wildlife, Forestry and Wetland Subcommittee:*** Purpose is to recommend natural resource priorities, ranking criteria, fund allocation, practices, financial assistance, ranking batches, review policy and strategize outreach that target wildlife species, increase forestry cover and protect wetlands.

**Priorities: State Offsite Wetland Methodology**



Name	Organization
James Yrigoyen	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Lincoln Critchley	Division of Fish and Wildlife
Magaly Figueroa	USDA FS
Nicole Angeli	VI DPNR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Eleanor Gibney	Local Horticulturalist
Kristen Grimes	University of the Virgin Islands (STT)
Leslie Henderson	NOAA
Marlon Hibbert	Director of CZM
Zandy Hill-Starr	US National Park Service (STX)
Dewey Hollister	Botanical Gardens of the USVI
Thomas Kelley	US National Park Service (STJ)
Sean Kelly	VI DPNR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Ivan Llerandi-Roman	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Claudia Lombard	USFWS Sandy Point NWR (STX)
Shane McKinley	USDA/APHIS
Rachel McKinely	Coral Bay Community Council (STJ)
Caroline Pott	East End Marine Park CZM (STX)
Maya Quinones	US Forest Service
Tom Zimmerman	UVI Agricultural Experiment Station
Hilary Lohmann	Coastal Resilience Coordinator

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# STC- Subcommittees



***Watershed and Water Resources:*** Purpose is to recommend strategies and leverage resources and initiatives to increase area wide planning at watershed level to address specific resource concerns like water quality, source water protection and drought.

Name	Organization
Julio Morell	UPR Mayaguez
Sean Kelly	VI DPNR Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Hilary Lohmann	Coastal Resilience Coordinator
Hannah Carty	VIDA
Sharon Coldren	Coral Bay Community Council (STJ)
Lincoln Critchley	Division of Fish and Wildlife

**Priorities: Identify Watershed Planning needs and priorities**





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# QUESTIONS

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