

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

Agricultural Act of 2014

Enacted February 7, 2014

Subtitle H of Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985,
as amended by Section 2301 of the Agricultural Act of 2014
(Public Law 113-79)

ACEP 2015

ACEP

The purposes of ACEP include:

- Restore, protect, and enhance **wetlands** on eligible land while maximizing **wildlife habitat**.
- Protect the **agricultural use**, viability, and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting non-agricultural uses.
- Protect **grazing uses** and related conservation values by restoring and conserving eligible land.

ACEP Enrollment Options:

1. Agricultural Land Easements (**ALE**)
 - Permanent Easement

2. Wetland Reserve Easement (**WRE**)
 - Permanent Easement
 - 30 Year Easement
 - 30 Year Contract (Tribal Land)

ACEP

- Landowner and Entity Eligibility and Registry
 - Eligible Entities (ALE)
 - SCIMS registry
 - All
 - HEL/WC compliance
 - Land
 - SAMS/DUNS: DUNS number and current SAM registry
 - Entity receiving funds

ACEP-ALE

Land Eligibility

- Now four types of land eligibility
 - Prime, Unique or Other productive soils
 - Historical or Archaeological Resources
 - Land that furthers a State or Local Policy consistent with ALE purposes
 - Grassland – for the protection of Grazing Uses and Related Conservation Values

ACEP-WRE

Land Eligibility

- Farmed Wetland or Converted Wetland
 - Can include adjacent, functionally dependent lands
- Former or Degraded Wetlands
 - Used for the production of food and fiber
- Lands substantially altered by flooding
 - Creating hydrologic conditions to develop hydric soils and hydrophytic vegetation.

ACEP-ALE Match Requirements and Waiver Process

1. Regular ACEP-ALE

100% Fair Market Value of ALE

Entity Share \geq 100% of NRCS Share

NRCS Share \leq 50% of FMV

Entity Cash \geq 50% of NRCS Share

Qualified Landowner Contribution = Remainder of Entity Share

4. ACEP-ALE GSS—

With GSS waiver and waiver for projects of special significance

100% Fair Market Value of ALE

Entity Share \geq 33.33% of NRCS Share

NRCS Share \leq 75% of FMV

Entity Cash \geq 8.33% of NRCS Share

Voluntary, Qualified Landowner Contribution = Remainder of Entity Share

Entity Certification

- Revised entity certification process to streamline, add flexibility, and encourage participation as a certified entity
 - Certification requests may be submitted at any time
 - ACEP-ALE Grant Agreement with Certified Entities
 - Streamlines the entity certification review process by entity agreeing to use the standard Grant Agreement rather than make changes to their individual specific program procedures to align with ACEP
 - Certified entities will acquire and close on easement without NRCS review prior to closing and payment

ACEP

- **Easement** Plan Requirements:
 - **ACEP-ALE**
 - An agricultural land easement plan is required for all ACEP agricultural land easements and must be completed prior to closing
 - Component Plans required if the parcel contains certain land uses:
 - A Grassland Management Plan: if the land enrolled based on grassland eligibility types
 - A Conservation Plan: if the land contains HEL/WC
 - Forest Land Management Plan: if the forest land is greater than 40 acres or 20 percent of the easement area
 - **ACEP-WRE**: All ACEP-WRE enrollments must have a wetland reserve easement plan of operations (WRPO) completed.

ACEP

- Questions?
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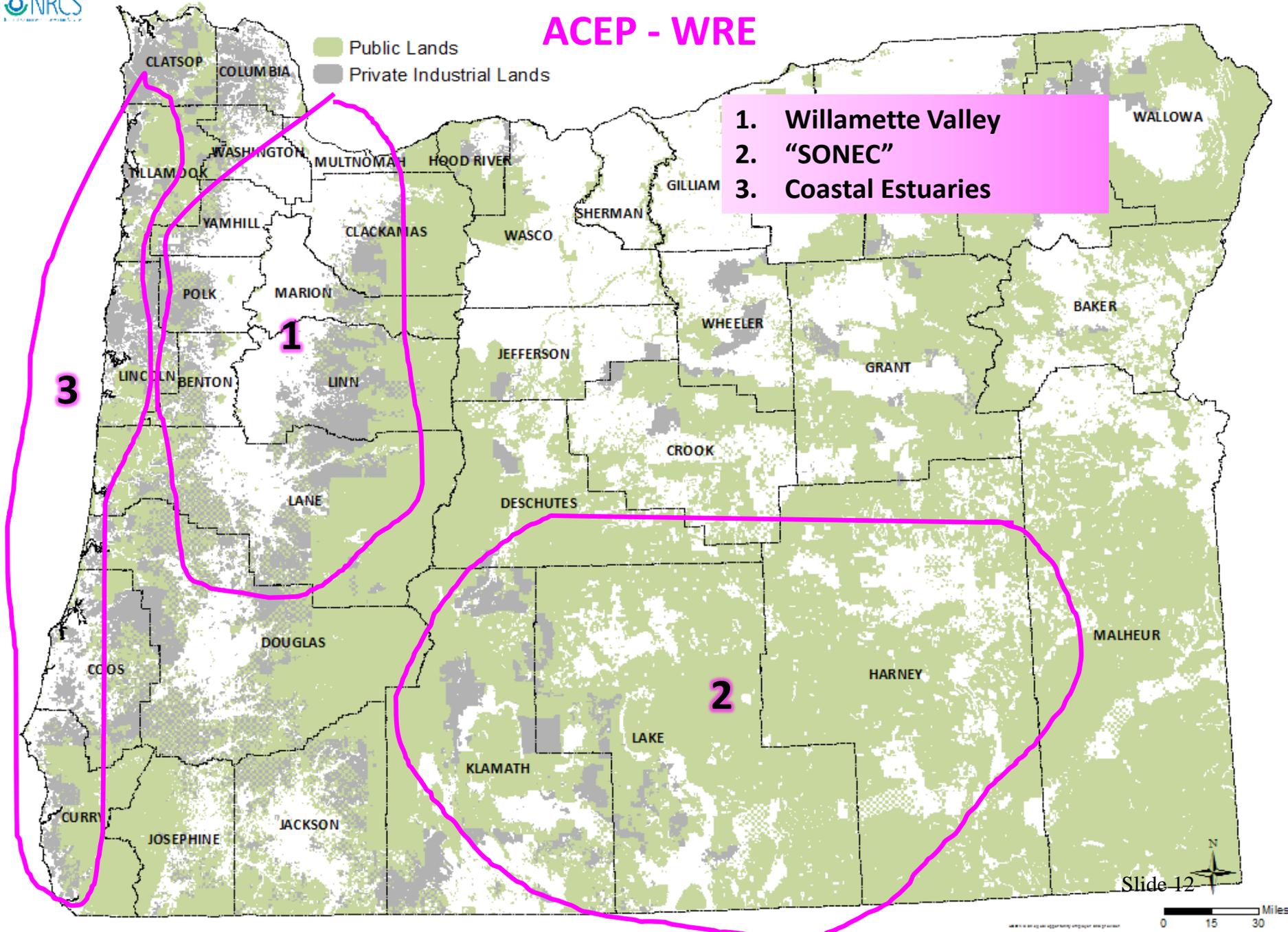
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2016 Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) Oregon Priority Areas.

ACEP - WRE

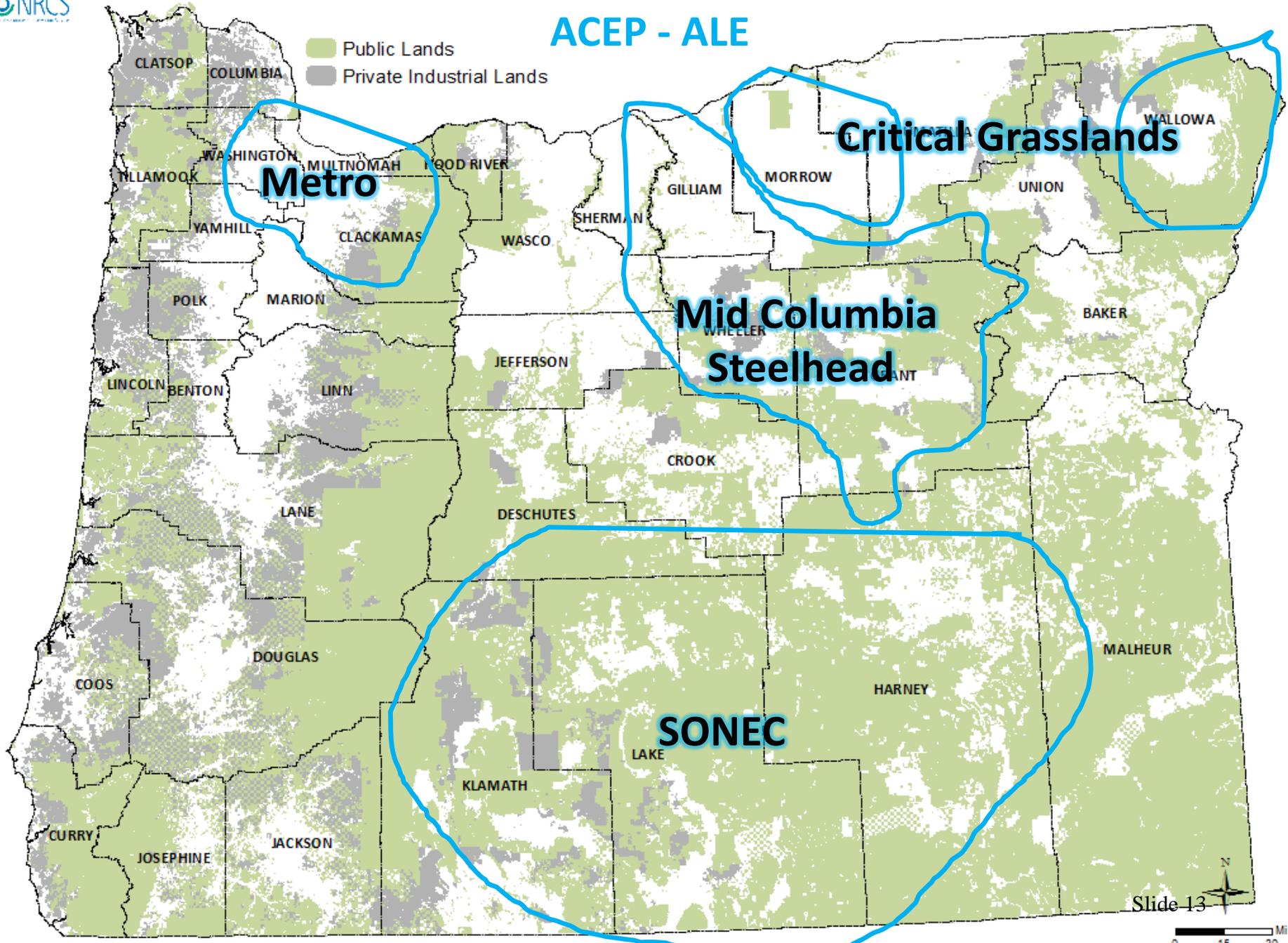
- Public Lands
- Private Industrial Lands

1. Willamette Valley
2. "SONEC"
3. Coastal Estuaries



ACEP - ALE

- Public Lands
- Private Industrial Lands



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