

NRCS

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

2008 Farm Bill

OREGON SUMMARY AND REVIEW

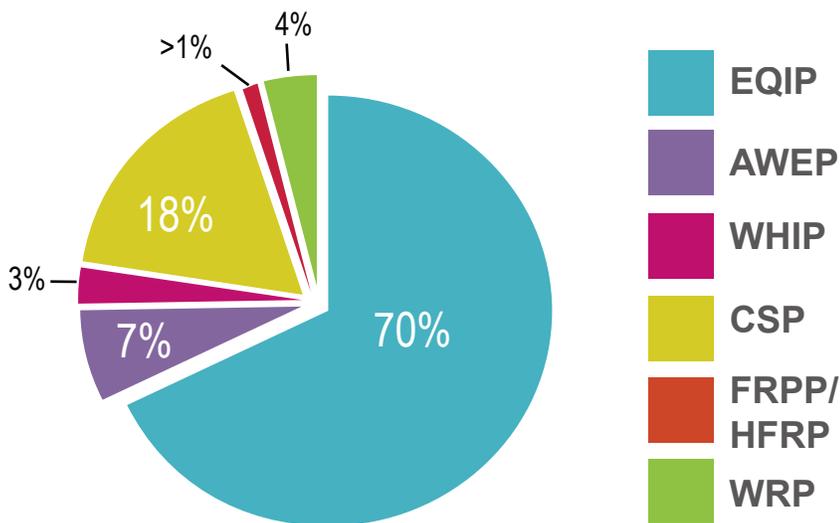


Seventy percent of the land in the United States is privately owned. Farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, tribes and others who own rural lands make daily decisions about natural resource use and management, impacting soil, water, and air quality and wildlife habitat. NRCS provides technical assistance and offers financial assistance to producers who install conservation practices through Farm Bill programs.

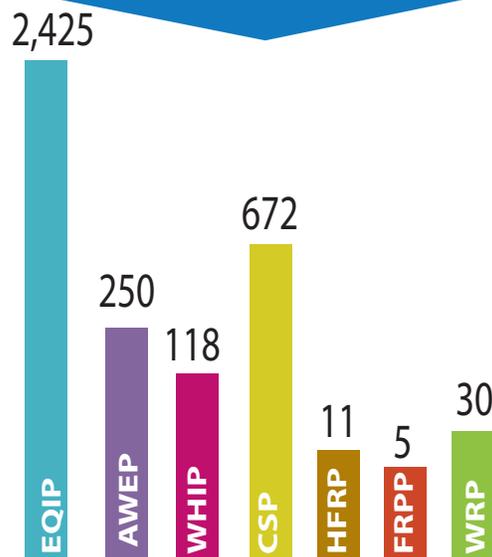
OREGON Quick Facts

- 151** Number of NRCS Employees
- 32** Number of NRCS Field Offices
- 12.7** million acres of Private Forestland or 20% of the state
- 9.4** million acres of Rangeland or 15% of the state
- 4.1** million acres of Cropland or 6.6% of the state
- 1.7** million acres of Pastureland 2.7% of the state

2008 Oregon Farm Bill Percentage of Contracts/Easements by Program



2008 Oregon Farm Bill Total Contracts/Easements by Program



2008 Farm Bill Payments by Program

EQIP	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	\$43,477,237
AWEP	\$ \$ \$ \$	\$9,461,538
WHIP	\$ \$	\$3,363,289
CSP	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	\$31,800,632

2008 Farm Bill



NRCS OFFERS FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE to help agricultural producers make and maintain conservation improvements on their land.

EQIP

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits, such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

CSP

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns.

AWEP

The Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) provides financial and technical assistance to implement agricultural water enhancement activities on agricultural land for the purposes of conserving surface and ground water and improving water quality. As part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), AWEP operates through contracts with producers to plan and implement conservation practices in project areas established through partnership agreements.

WRP

The purpose of the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is to preserve, protect, and restore the nation's valuable wetlands. Wetland protection will improve wildlife and migratory bird habitat, improve water quality, and provide flood water retention.

WHIP

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) provides both technical and financial assistance to non-federal landowners and tribes to create, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife habitats.

FRPP/ HFRP

The purpose of the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) is to protect agricultural lands by limiting non-agricultural uses, while the Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) was established for the purpose of restoring and enhancing forest ecosystems.

Sage-Grouse Initiative

The Oregon Sage-Grouse Habitat Improvement Initiative, developed collaboratively with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, focuses on treating threats to sage-grouse on private lands through strategic use of conservation programs.

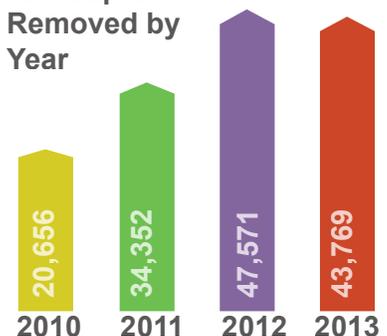
In Oregon, SGI focuses financial assistance on the removal of juniper in the early stages of succession to alleviate the threat of juniper expansion to sage-grouse and prevent further resource degradation. Other threats to sage-grouse may be addressed concurrently in juniper treatment areas if present, such as, invasive weeds, problematic fences, stock water troughs without wildlife escape ramps, and inadequate herbaceous cover.

146,00+

Acres Treated for juniper removal in Oregon from 2010-2013



Total Acres of Juniper Removed by Year



“Long-term, the only way we’ll have a chance to be sustainable is to invest in the quality and health of the soil.”

—Peter Kenagy, landowner



photo courtesy E.M. Owens

Producer Profile

Name: Peter Kenagy

NRCS Program: CSP, EQIP

Most of the crops Peter Kenagy grows on his 325-acre family farm in the heart of Oregon’s Willamette Valley are typical of the area, yet his production methods are anything but conventional. Recognizing that productivity requires sustainability, Kenagy has joined a growing number of farmers in implementing conservation practices that promote soil health. Cover crops are a notable example.

“Without something growing in the field you are wasting sunlight,” Kenagy said. “Plus cover provides habitat for wildlife and forage for grazing.”

With help from Oregon State University (OSU) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Kenagy has experimented with a number of techniques for protecting and enriching the soil, including an addition of a number of diverse cover crops, minimum tillage, strip tillage, no-till, and green manures. Based on these trials, he settled on a cover crop system that successfully suppresses weeds, captures essential soil nutrients, and maintains soil organic matter levels with minimal soil disturbance.

My dad used cover crops as part of his planting system,” Kenagy said. “It made sense to me to continue working to figure out the best possible method.”

Kenagy enrolled in the NRCS administered Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) in 2010 to do just that.

“Kenagy is a good operator, and takes a holistic approach to managing his operation,” said Benton county district conservationist Thomas Snyder. “He’s been working to improve the soil as part of his regular routine for quite some time.”

Soil scientists have found that cover crops not only help increase organic matter and improve soil health by adding living roots to the soil throughout the year, but also help improve water infiltration, and protect the soil against erosive heavy rains and strong winds.

Kenagy’s work with NRCS over the years has helped him fully realize the lasting benefits of soil health practices.

“Long-term, the only way we’ll have a chance to be sustainable is to invest in the quality and health of the soil,” Kenagy said.

Oregon’s Strategic Approach to Conservation

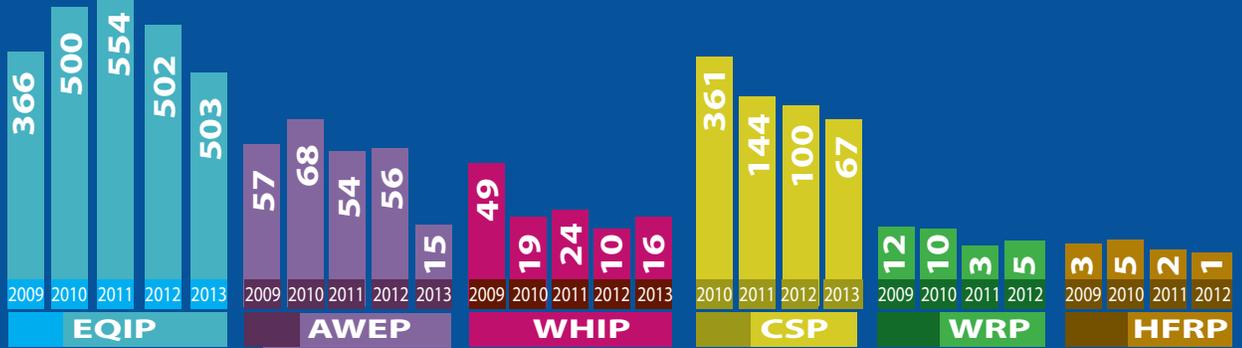
In 2010, NRCS Oregon implemented a process to enhance our ability to strategically identify and solve high priority, local natural resource concerns across the state, enhancing the landscape and improving quality of life for Oregonians.

This **Strategic Approach to Conservation** is designed to clearly identify priority resource problems, how to solve them and the expected outcome or goal. This process helps NRCS effectively prioritize and leverage partner resources and skill sets, and strategically deliver our conservation investments to achieve the greatest benefit to the landscape. It also incorporates processes to address emerging priority resource needs and to encourage participation of non-traditional land managers.

Oregon’s Strategic Approach to Conservation compliments NRCS’s core values that revolve around comprehensive conservation planning, cooperation and partnerships to provide a high level of customer service in a fiscally responsible manner.

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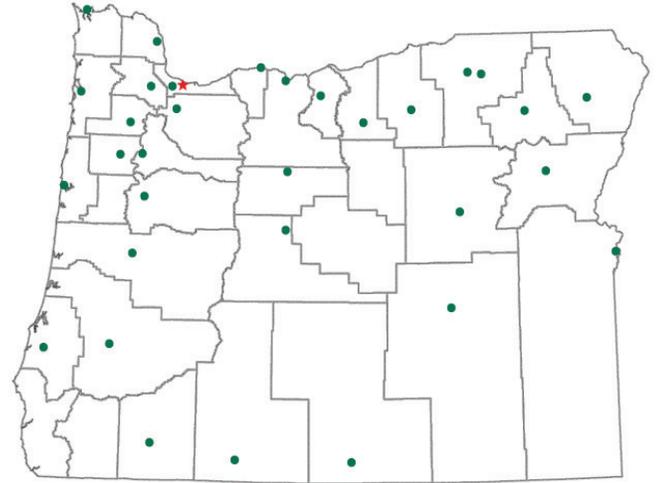
Farm Bill
Contracts/
Easements
by Program
by Year



NRCS technical assistance is supported with discretionary and mandatory funds. Discretionary funding, provided annually through the Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA), is pivotal to NRCS' success. CTA supports everyday operations, scientific research, technology transfer, and is key to the development of individual conservation plans. The land user, in consultation with NRCS specialists, develops a conservation plan that is suited to his or her individual operation. Once a producer has a conservation plan, he or she can implement it with or without further assistance from NRCS.

Financial assistance is available to eligible applicants to implement their conservation plans. Mandatory funds provided through Farm Bill programs are used to cover the costs of detailed planning needed to implement conservation practices and provide financial assistance to help defray some of the costs of conservation practices installation.

OREGON NRCS Service Centers



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