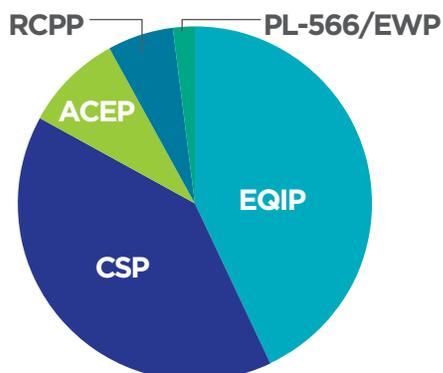


At-a-Glance

Arkansas NRCS • January 2020
 State Conservationist Mike Sullivan
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FY19 TOTAL PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS



ACEP	\$10.8 M	4,339 AC	20 easements
CSP	\$52.1 M	163,559 AC	408 contracts
EQIP	\$47.3 M	218,267 AC	1,311 contracts
RCPP	\$7.3 M	51,270 AC	43 contracts
EWP	\$1 M	—	9 projects
PL-566	\$941 K	—	2 projects
TOTAL	\$119.6 M	437,435 AC	1,762 contracts

Note: This graphic is based on new contract obligations as listed below.

EQIP—Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Active Contracts: 3,438 Acres: 633,389
 New Contracts: 1,311 Acres: 218,267
 Obligations: \$47,392,172

CSP—Conservation Stewardship Program

Active Contracts: 2,714 Acres: 2,444,158
 New Contracts: 408 Acres: 163,559
 Obligations: \$22,071,992
 Previous Year Contract Payments in FY19: \$30,088,172

ACEP—Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Easements: 20 Acres: 4,339
 Obligations: \$8,282,745
 Restoration: \$2,532,927

RCPP—Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Contracts: 43 Acres: 51,270
 Obligations: \$7,320,798

EQIP—Environmental Quality Incentives Program

SUB ACCOUNT	CONTRACTS	ACRES	OBLIGATIONS
Beginning Farmer/Rancher	37	4,958	\$1,731,699
Certified Organic	2	2	\$22,884
Joint Chief's Partnership	70	11,170	\$1,516,439
Limited Resource	11	1,852	\$355,516
Locally Led	608	91,627	\$20,448,244
MRBI	61	12,996	\$3,721,590
NWQI	42	8,458	\$1,638,963
On-Farm Energy	70	2,926	\$3,302,481
Organic Transition	10	219	\$55,234
Planning	30	17,136	\$85,513
Socially Disadvantaged	32	3,928	\$1,980,885
State	139	33,626	\$5,142,566
Strike Force Initiative	68	10,341	\$4,662,525
Wildlife*	100	17,632	\$2,638,654

* Does not include wildlife in other fund codes.



In FY19, Arkansas NRCS worked with **more than 250 partners** to help put conservation on the ground.

Ongoing Program Workload—Active Contracts, Easements

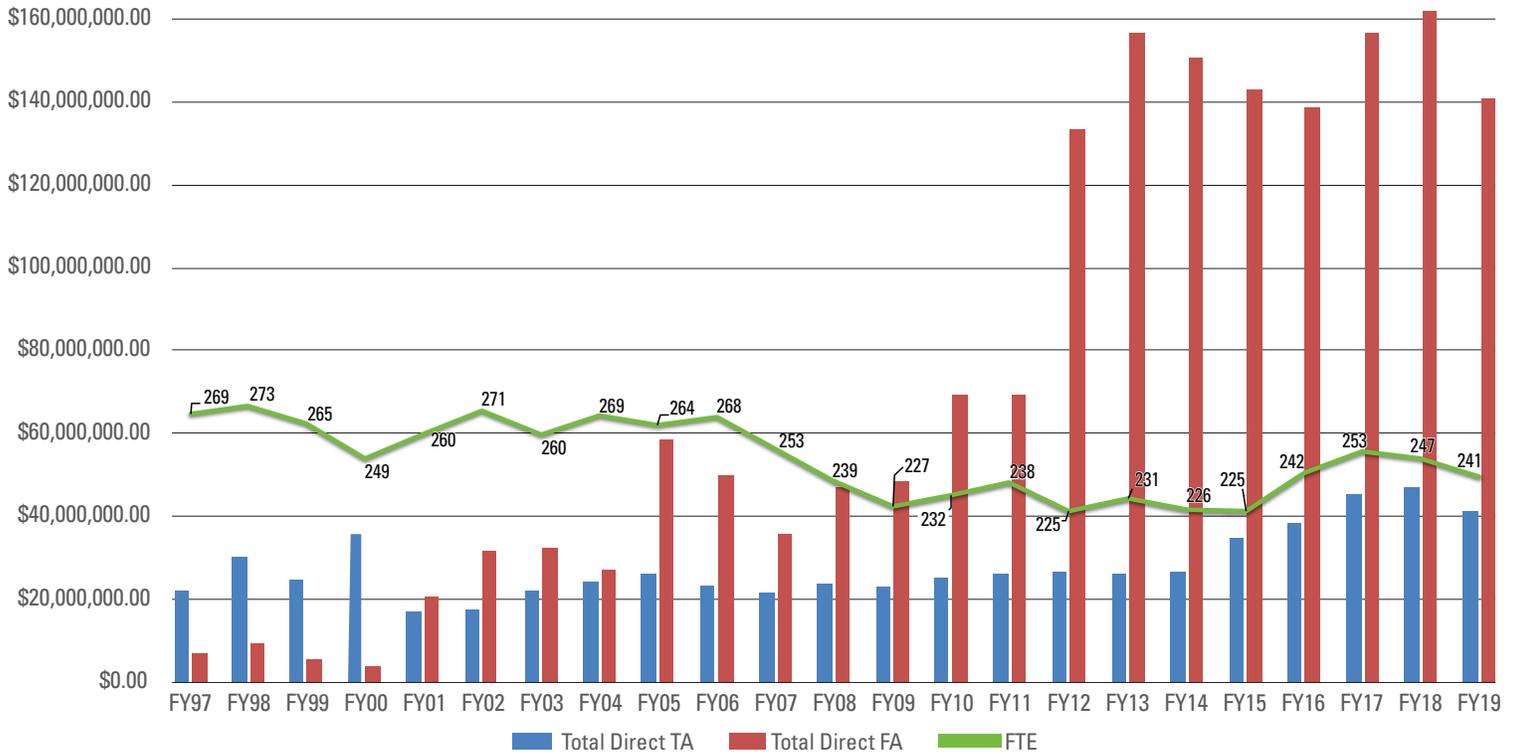


EQIP: 3,438 contracts
CSP: 2,714 contracts
ACEP/WRP: 733 easements

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Total Direct Technical Assistance (TA), Financial Assistance (FA), and Full-Time Equivalents (FTE) FY1997 through FY2019 Allocations



PL-566 Project Along Departee Creek Channel



A hand crew clearing and snagging along the Departee Creek channel.
Photo by Christopher Willis

For almost 26 years, members of the Departee Creek Watershed Improvement District have been working on a way to reduce flooding along Departee Creek in Jackson and Independence counties.

Three sons and one grandson of the original board are current board members and are seeing the work and dedication of their family members come to fruition.

A Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) project began in April 2019 to rehabilitate Departee Creek by removing dead trees and debris from a 13 mile stretch of the stream. The initial project also includes building a weir to ensure Lake Whitstine’s water level isn’t impacted.

“This project aims to alleviate flooding of cropland and grazing lands as well as improve wildlife habitat and water quality,” said Walt Delp, state engineer for the NRCS in Arkansas. “The project will reduce the risk of flooding through a complete system which includes a floodwater reduction dam, conservation easements, selective snagging within the Departee Creek channel and a water control structure for flood control and protection of Lake Whitstine.”

In August 2000, NRCS developed the Departee Creek Watershed Plan. It was

updated and revised in 2018 under authority of PL-566 watershed program. Over the years, NRCS staff has surveyed the area for the dam, performed cultural resources surveys, designed the weir, dam and spillway.

The dam will create a 180-acre lake to control flooding. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will manage the lake to provide recreational fishing.

It is estimated the 100-year frequency flood causes damage to 12,000 acres of crop and pasture in the project area. Crop and pasture flooding averages an estimated \$236,000 of damage.

While the dam will provide recreational activities, it will also provide 6,071 acre-feet of flood retarding capacity, reduce sediment by 90 percent and decrease scour damage by 65 percent. The project will reduce flooding at five road crossings and on school bus routes in the two counties.

“It is great seeing this project start,” said Matt Mendenhall, a current board member whose father, Sy, was on the original board. “It’s because of everyone’s continued support of the last 26 years that we are now able to realize the fruit of our patience and perseverance.”

