

**PROTECT YOUR WAY OF LIFE.**



# Natural Resources Conservation Service

*providing conservation solutions to protect your way of life*

## Our Mission

Guided by the mission of *helping people help the land*, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) collaborates with farmers, ranchers, communities and other individuals and groups to protect natural resources on private lands. Working side by side with our customers, we identify natural resource concerns, such as water quality and quantity issues, soil erosion, air quality, wetlands and wildlife habitat, and develop unique solutions for restoring and protecting these resources.

## Who We Are

Our workforce consists of a diverse group of skilled natural resource professionals. With representatives in nearly every county, we have a thorough, first-hand understanding and appreciation of the challenges, limitations and special needs unique to the Oregon landscape. These skills enable us to develop solutions that best match our customers' goals with the needs of the land.

NRCS also conducts soil surveys and the National Resources Inventory nationwide, to provide the basis for conservation planning activities and an accurate assessment of the land's condition.

## What We Do

As an agency, our goal is to help landowners develop conservation plans and provide advice on the design, layout, construction, management, operation, maintenance and evaluation of voluntary conservation practices. Our activities include farmland protection, natural resource improvement, urban conservation and local community projects to improve social, economic and environmental conditions.

## How We Do It

Funds to implement these activities are made available to land managers through Farm Bill programs that share the cost of conservation for the benefit of farm, watershed and community. Conservation easement programs, also in the Farm Bill, provide long-term easement options.

## How to get involved

Participation is voluntary. If you are interested in learning more about our conservation programs and services, contact your local NRCS service center. Find us online at:

[www.or.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov)





## Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

NRCS delivers technical assistance through its voluntary Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA). Through CTA, NRCS employees provide conservation options and recommendations, as well as planning and engineering assistance to farmers, ranchers, local governments and urban landowners. Although CTA does not include financial or cost-share assistance, landowners may develop plans that can, in turn, serve as a springboard for future participation in conservation programs.

## Programs

NRCS's natural resources conservation programs offer agricultural producers and nonindustrial private forest landowners both financial and technical assistance to voluntarily conserve natural resources on privately-owned farm and ranch lands. The following is a summary of the various conservation programs funded through the Farm Bill and other federal programs:

Cost Share Programs	<b>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)</b> Assistance for a broad spectrum of conservation practices that promote agricultural production, forest management and environmental quality
	<b>Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)</b> A subprogram of EQIP focused on water conservation and quality
	<b>Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)</b> A partnered program that uses 6% of EQIP, WHIP and CSP funds to address resource concerns in priority areas
	<b>Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)</b> Assistance to improve wildlife habitat on private agricultural, forest and Tribal lands.
Easement and Long-Term Rental	<b>Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)</b> Allows productive lands to remain in agricultural production under private ownership
	<b>Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)</b> Restores wetlands and wetland habitat on marginal agricultural land
	<b>Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)</b> Assists landowners in restoring and protecting grassland, rangeland and pastureland, and maintaining viable ranching operations
	<b>Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP)</b> Restores and enhances forest ecosystems for biodiversity and more
	<b>Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)</b> Pays farmers to plant trees, grass and brush on highly erodible/ environmentally sensitive cropland — (NRCS provides only technical assistance)
	<b>Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)</b> Helps agricultural producers protect environmentally sensitive land, decrease erosion, restore wildlife habitat and safeguard ground surface water
Stewardship	<b>Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)</b> Encourages producers to embrace long-term comprehensive conservation by maintaining and improving existing practices
Watershed/Community-Wide Programs	<b>Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)</b> Undertakes emergency measures on watersheds damaged by fire, flood and other natural calamities to prevent erosion and runoff that could endanger lives and property

