

CSP Eligibility, Qualification & Application Steps



Oregon Natural Resources Conservation Service

*You've been taking care of natural resources on your land for years...
...now, you have a chance to be financially rewarded for your work.*

You've decided you want to apply for the Conservation Security Program (CSP). Now what?

Once you've decided you are interested in CSP, you need to complete a number of steps to determine if you meet the basic eligibility criteria and if you are qualified for the program. Individuals who have an existing resource management system (RMS)-level plan with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) may have already completed a number of these steps. The information below will help you determine your next steps.

Informational Meetings & Self-Assessment Workshops

NRCS will be holding Informational Meetings and Self-Assessment workshops throughout the signup. These workshops will help you determine whether you are eligible for CSP, identify the benefits of a CSP contract and assist you with filling out the self-assessment and gathering the required documentation. If you are interested in participating in a workshop, please call your local NRCS office and they will add you to the list.

Complete the Self-Assessment Workbook

A self-assessment is required to apply for CSP. With limited funding available in this year's signup, only those individuals who have an outstanding conservation track record will be funded. The self-assessment workbook helps you determine your basic eligibility for CSP, and walks you through a number of steps to determine whether you qualify. Self-assessment workbooks are available online at www.or.nrcs.usda.gov (select Conservation Security Program). Workbooks will also be available at the workshops and your local NRCS office.

Gather Appropriate Records and Documentation

Many of the questions in the self-assessment require documentation. For example, if you have rangeland, you are required to provide grazing records. Oregon NRCS has developed a 'Conservation Records' publication for your use in gathering and organizing your documentation. You can find this publication on the web at www.or.nrcs.usda.gov (select Conservation Security Program). Limited copies of the 'conservation records' publication will also be available at workshops and at your local NRCS office.



Get a USDA Identification Number

If you have worked with USDA farm programs in the past, you most likely have a USDA Identification Number (also referred to as a SCIMS number). If you do not, the process is very simple: just contact your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office to set up a time to receive a number. They are listed in the phone book under 'Federal Government', Farm Service Agency. FSA office information is also available on the web at www.fsa.usda.gov/or/.

Set up an appointment with your local NRCS staff

After you have participated in a self-assessment workshop and completed your self-assessment workbook, make an appointment with your local NRCS office by using the contact numbers on the right.

You will need to bring both your self-assessment and the required documentation when you meet with your local NRCS office to submit your application. You also need to bring an additional copy of pages 3-16 of the self-assessment with you to leave at the NRCS office.

During your interview, your local NRCS office will confirm the information in your self-assessment and help you determine whether you qualify for the program. They can also help you identify future work you would like to complete to conserve resources on your land.

Based on this information, your local NRCS staff will determine the category in which you are eligible. They will then help you finalize your Conservation Stewardship Plan.

Submit Your Conservation Stewardship Plan

Your information will be transmitted to the NRCS National Headquarters, where funding selections will be made. All applications in Category A will be funded first, followed by categories B, C, etc., until this year's funds for the program are depleted. You will be notified by mail once selections are made.

Complete Your Conservation Stewardship Contract

If you are selected, you will also be contacted by your local NRCS office to finalize and sign your Conservation Stewardship Contract.



**Oregon Natural
Resources Conservation
Service**

**For more information,
check out**

www.or.nrcs.usda.gov

**...or contact your local
NRCS field office**

McMinnville - 503-472-1474

Oregon City - 503-655-3144

St Helens - 503-397-4555

Portland - 503-326-3941

Hillsboro - 503-648-3174

Dallas - 503-623-5534

Eugene - 541-465-6443

Roseburg - 541-673-6071

Coquille - 541-396-2841

The Dalles - 541-298-8559

Hood River - 541-386-2815

Lakeview - 541-947-2367

Heppner - 541-676-5021

Enterprise - 541-426-4521

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To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.