

# ALTERNATIVE BOUNDARY MANAGEMENT

A New Approach for Boundary Protection

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# OVERVIEW

- Why?
- Regional Conservation Partners Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Healthy Forest Reserve Program
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Agricultural Management Assistance
- Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program
- Conservation Reserve Program
- The Forest Stewardship Program
- The Forest Legacy Program
- Endangered Species Grants Program
- Working Lands for Wildlife
- The Coastal Program



# WHY?



- Incentivize adjacent landowners
- Creates good neighbors
- Good for the Project
- Good for the environment

- Not feasible in most urban settings BUT could be significant in areas not yet under development pressure



# NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE PROGRAMS



# REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERS PROGRAM (RCPP)

- Administered by NRCS
- Goal is to design and implement voluntary conservation solutions that address
  - excess/insufficient water, water quality degradation, soil quality degradation, inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife, air quality impacts, Degraded Plant Condition, energy, Climate Change
- Contracts and easement agreements are implemented through four existing NRCS programs authorities.



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQUIP)

- Allows agricultural producers to take part in and benefit from conservation
- Offers technical and financial assistance
- Eligible person(s) include:
  - Agricultural producers, owners of non-industrial private forestland, Indian tribes, and those interested in agricultural or forestry operations
- Eligible land includes:
  - Cropland/hayland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland, and other farm or ranch lands
- Contracts vary; typically 3-5yrs but up to 10





# HEALTHY FOREST RESERVE PROGRAM (HFRP)

- Helps landowners restore, enhance, and protect forest resources on private lands via easements and financial assistance
  - 10yr cost-share, 30yr easement, 30yr contract, permanent easement
- Goals: recovery of T/E species, improving biodiversity, & enhancing carbon sequestration
- Land Easements must be privately owned or owned by Indian tribe(s)



# AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP)

- Provides financial and technical assistance for conserving agricultural lands and wetlands
- Two types of easements
  - Wetland Reserve Easements
    - Eligible land includes wetlands that have been farmed or converted and can be successfully and cost-effectively restored.
    - Option for private owners and Indian tribes
  - Agricultural Easements
    - Eligible land includes grassland, pastureland, rangeland, cropland, and nonindustrial private forest.
    - Option for private owners, Indian tribes, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations



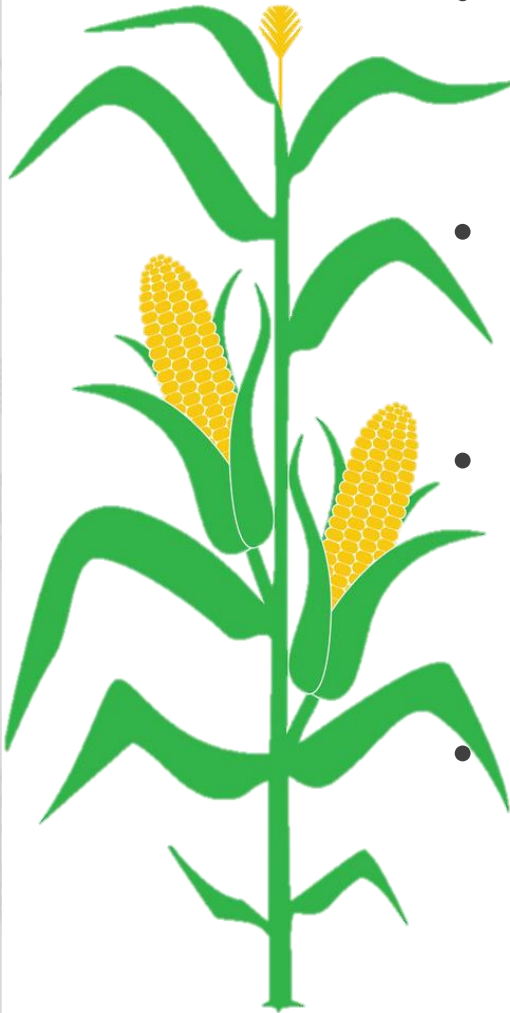


# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)

- Encourages stewards to improve conservation performance
- Participants receive an annual payment congruent to operation-level environmental benefits
- Eligible individuals:
  - Operators in FSA record system (some exceptions)
  - Control land for length of contract (5 years)
  - AGI less than \$900,000
- Eligible lands:
  - Cropland, pasture, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest
- Applications accepted on a continuous basis



# AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE (AMA)



- Provides financial and technical assistance for water management, water quality, and erosion control
- Eligible Individuals
  - Engaged in livestock/agricultural production
  - Control the land for term of contract
- Eligible Land
  - Land on which agricultural commodities/livestock are produced
  - Private non-industrial forestland
- Pays up to 75% of installation cost
  - Max of \$50,000 per year



# VOLUNTARY PUBLIC ACCESS AND HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM (VPA-HIP)

- Competitive grants program for states and tribal government
  - Increase public access to private lands for wildlife-dependent recreation
  - Improve habitat on lands in public access program
- Participants may receive rental payments or technical and conservation services
- NRCS will periodically publish a Request for Applications (RFA) on the Federal Government's grants portal



# GETTING STARTED WITH NRCS

- Contact your local office
  - [Interactive map](#) available online to locate your office
  - Discuss your vision for your land one on one
- Log on the [Conservation Client Gateway](#)
  - Track payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance, and electronically sign documents.
  - NRCS on your time
- NRCS walks individuals through the application process
- If selected, individuals can choose whether or not to sign contract



# OTHER NATIONAL PROGRAMS





# CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

- FSA gives participants an annual payment for removing environmentally sensitive land from production and planting species to improve environment
- Contracts are 10-15 years
- Eligible land
  - Cropland that was planted with an agricultural commodity 4 crop years (of last 6) and must be capable of being planted in a normal manner for an agricultural commodity
  - Certain marginal pastureland that is suitable for use as a riparian buffer or for similar water quality purposes
- Enrollment is done through local FSA office



# THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (FSP)

- Connects private landowners with information and tools
- Goal is to enhance and sustain multiple forest resources and support healthy, resilient landscapes
- Eligible persons included individuals, tribes, group, association, corporation, tribe, or private legal entity
- Eligible land includes rural land and wildland urban interface that has or can grow tree cover
- Contracts vary but can be up to 10 years
- Enroll through local Forest Service Office



# FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM (FLP)

- USFS protects important forest areas from development and fragmentation
  - Permanent conservation easements
  - Fee-simple land purchases



- FLP is open to private landowners (industrial and nonindustrial)
- Land must be environmentally important forest
- Enrollment is competitive first at the state level then at the national level
- Contact local FLP representative to enroll





# ENDANGERED SPECIES GRANTS

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offers grants to states and territories which in turn may be given to private landowners
- Funds can be used for species and habitat conservation on non-federal lands
- 4 different grant programs
  - Conservation Grant
  - Recovery Land Acquisition
  - Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance
  - Habitat Conservation Plan Land Acquisition
- Contact local USFWS specialist



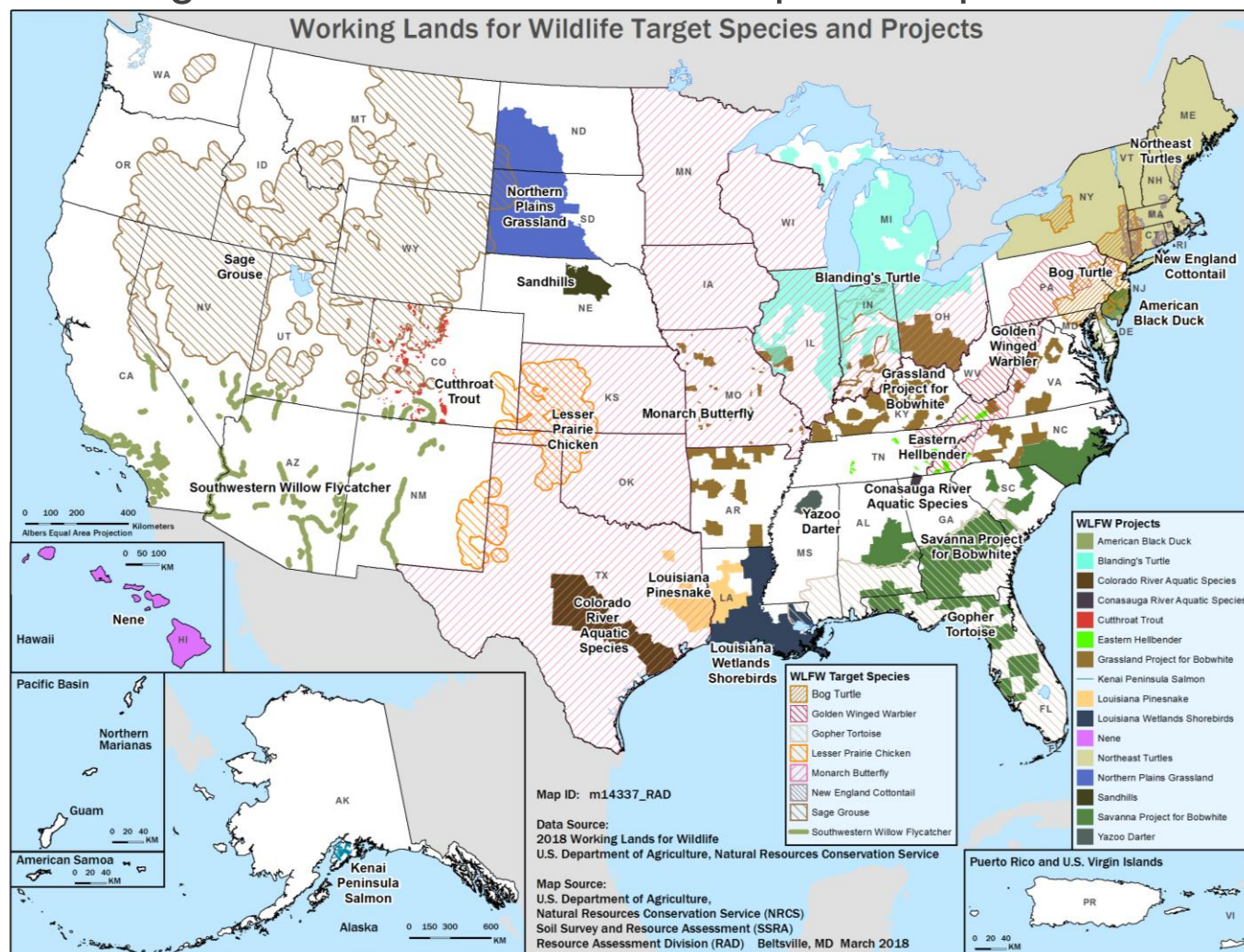
# REGIONAL/STATE SPECIFIC PROGRAMS





# WORKING LANDS FOR WILDLIFE (WLFW)

- Program under USDA with 26 species-specific initiatives



Sage Grouse  
 Lesser-Prairie  
 Chicken  
 Gopher Tortoise  
 New England  
 Cottontail  
 Golden-Winged  
 Warbler  
 Southwestern  
 Willow Flycatcher  
 Bog Turtle  
 Monarch Butterfly



# THE COASTAL PROGRAM

- Administered by USFWS
- Technical and Financial assistance
- 24 priority coastal areas
  - Atlantic & Pacific Ocean
  - Gulf of Mexico
  - Great Lakes
  - Caribbean
- Conservation occurs within coastal watersheds from headwaters to nearshore
- Contact local office





# QUESTIONS?

