



United States Department of Agriculture



NRCS Technical and Financial Assistance

March 2021

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

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Presentation Topics



Pamela Pavek

Resource Conservationist
Moscow Field Office

- **NRCS Mission**
- **Staff**
- **Types of Assistance**
- **Programs**



Bree Whitehead

Soil Conservationist
Sandpoint Field Office

- **Example Conservation Practices:**
 - Forestry
 - Organic/Small Farms
 - Crops
 - Animal Production
 - Wildlife
- **Contact us!**



Who is NRCS?



- **Natural Resources Conservation Service**
- **Agency within US Department of Agriculture (USDA)**
- **Formerly known as Soil Conservation Service (SCS)**



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NRCS Mission



“Helping People Help the Land”

By providing technical and financial assistance for conservation planning and implementation



NRCS Principles



- **Voluntary Conservation**
 - On private land
- **Locally Led**
 - Soil and Water Conservation Districts
 - Local Work Groups



NRCS Mission



Resource Concerns: **SWAPA + H**

- Soil
- Water
- Air
- Plants
- Animals
- + Humans



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NRCS Staff

- **Biologists**
- **Agronomists**
- **Soil Scientists**
- **Rangeland Specialists**
- **Water Quality Specialists**
- **Economists**
- **Engineers**



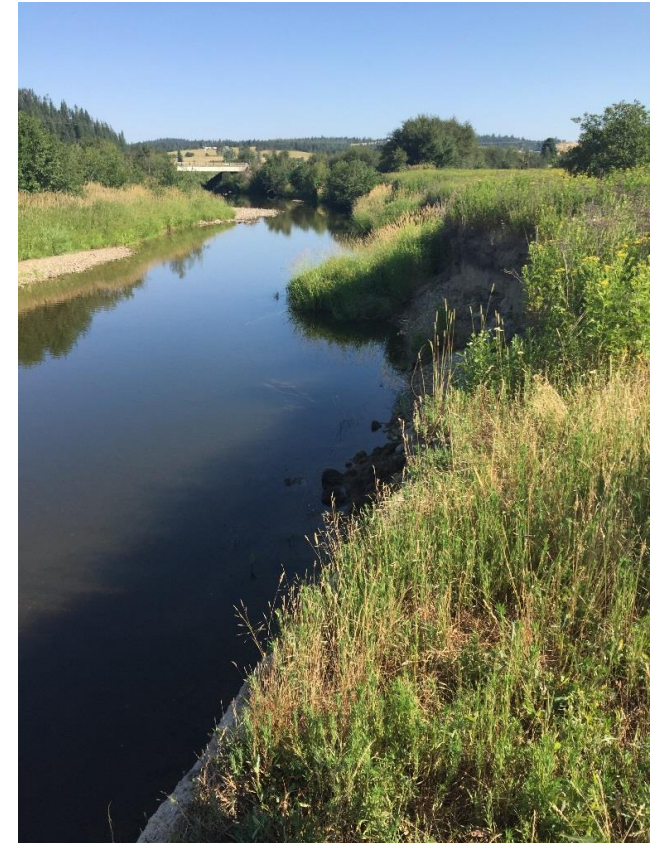
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Types of Assistance

- **Technical Assistance**
 - Free advice
 - Foundation of agency
- **Financial Assistance**
 - Farm Bill Program Contracts
 - Started in 1996
- **Both funded by the Farm Bill**
 - Most recent Farm Bill: 2018



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NRCS Programs



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- **Started in 1985**
- **Administered by FSA**
 - NRCS is Technical Agency
- **Original objectives:**
 - Increase commodity crop prices by decreasing supply
 - Reduce soil erosion
- **Current objective:**
 - Wildlife habitat



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NRCS Programs



Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

- **Started in 2014**
- **Includes:**
 - Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)
 - Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)
- **Objectives:**
 - Restore wetlands and protect ag lands



NRCS Programs



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Started in 1996
- Objective:
 - Solve resource problems with Conservation Practices



EQIP Program



- **Develop a Conservation Plan**
 - Schedule of practices to be implemented
- **We provide practice specifications, engineering designs**
- **Sign a contract**
- **Once you complete practices, we certify and pay a cost-share payment (50% - 75% of implementation cost)**
 - Flat rate payment



EQIP Program



- **Applications accepted year-round**
 - Contact us for application
- **Applications batched by fiscal year**
 - (Oct 1 – Sept 30)
- **Sign Up deadline: typically November**
- **Multiple Fund Pools**
 - Dryland Crop, Irrigated Crop, Organic Crop, Forestry, Streambank/Wildlife, Pasture/Grazing
- **Applications are ranked based on priorities set by the Local Work Group**
- **Highest ranked applications are funded**



NRCS Programs



5 Steps to Assistance

How to Get Assistance from NRCS for Farms, Ranches and Forests

- 1 PLANNING**
Visit your local NRCS field office to discuss your goals and work with staff on a conservation plan.
- 2 APPLICATION**
With the help of NRCS, complete an application for financial assistance programs.
- 3 ELIGIBILITY**
As part of applying, we'll file paperwork to ensure you're eligible for assistance.
- 4 RANKING**
NRCS ranks applications according to local resource concerns.
- 5 IMPLEMENTING**
Put conservation to work by signing a contract and implementing conservation practices.





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Questions?



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Conservation Practice Examples

Sharing the cost of preserving our nation's resources.



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Conservation Practice Examples

LARGE FARMS

Natural Resource Problem:

Nutrients/Pesticides in Surface Water

Inventory:

- Nutrient and Pesticides Applications, Soil Types, Slopes

Solutions:

- Precision Nutrient Management
- Integrated Pest Management
- Filter Strips/Buffers



Conservation Practice:
Filter Strip, Introduced Species (code 393):

2021 EQIP Cost-share: \$126.20/ac

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Conservation Practice Examples

LARGE FARMS

Natural Resource Problem: Soil Erosion

Inventory:

- Tillage Practices, Rotations, Gullies

Solutions:

- Mulch Till
- Grade Stabilization Structures

Conservation Practice:
Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Field
Operation (code 345)

2021 EQIP Cost-share: \$35.82/ac



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Conservation Practices for: ORGANIC / SMALL FARMS



USDA
United States
Department of
Agriculture

GROWING ORGANIC

NRCS ASSISTANCE FOR ORGANIC FARMERS

Rich Casale
NRCS District Conservationist
Santa Cruz County, CA

Jeanne Byrne
High Ground Organics Farm
Watsonville, CA

brassicas

"sweet alyssum"

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In partnership with



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Conservation Practice Examples

ORGANIC/SMALL FARMS

Natural Resource Problem: Insufficient Crop Production

Inventory:

- Soil Health, Crop Rotations, Irrigation Practices

Solutions:

- High Tunnel, Drip System



Conservation Practice: High Tunnel System (Code 325)
2021 EQIP Cost-share: Non-HU \$3.44/sqft cap \$5,000
HU \$4.13/sqft cap \$5,000



Conservation Practice Examples

ORGANIC/SMALL FARMS

Natural Resource Problem:

Insect Pests/ Poor Crop Pollination

Inventory:

- Xerces Assessment Forms

Solutions:

- Beneficial Insect/Pollinator Habitat
 - Hedgerows, Field Borders, Native Ecosystem Restoration



Conservation Practice:
Conservation Cover – Pollinator Species
(Code 327)

2021 EQIP Cost-share:
Non-HU \$\$519.58/ac
HU \$\$623.50/ac

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Conservation Practice Examples

FORESTRY

Natural Resource Problem:

Wildfire Risk, Poor Stand Health, Poor Species Composition

Inventory:

- Forest stand composition and density, disease

Solutions:

- Planting, Fuel Break, Thinning, Pruning, Slash Treatment

Conservation Practices:

Forest Stand Improvement & Woody Residue Treatment.

2021 EQIP Cost-share: Non-HU

Forest Stand Improvement (code 66): \$413.09/ac
Woody Residue Treatment (code 384): \$110.14/ac



Conservation Practice Examples

FORESTRY

Natural Resource Problems: Poor forest condition, limited production & profitability.

Inventory:

- Stems/ac, species, shrub/weed establishment

Solutions:

- Tree/Shrub Establishment



Conservation Practice Examples



PASTURE / RANGE

Natural Resource Problems:

Plant/livestock production

Inventory:

- Water, plants, soils, livestock, feed/forage balance

Solutions:

- Pasture/Range Seeding, Weed Control, Water Development, Fence, Grazing Plan

Conservation Practice: Cover Crop

2021 EQIP Cost-share:

Non-HU Multiple species \$62.02/ac

HU Multiple species \$74.47/ac



Conservation Practice Examples

PASTURE / RANGE

Natural Resource Problems:

Soil Erosion, Sediment/Nutrients to Surface Water, Plant Condition, Livestock Production

Inventory:

- Plant Quality & Quantity, Waterbody Assessment, Livestock Assessment

Solutions:

- Fence and Water Facility.

Conservation Practice: Watering Facility & Fence

2021 EQIP Cost-share:

Non-HU \$2.17/gal 500-1k gallons

Non-HU \$1.95/ft Barbed/smooth



Conservation Practice Examples

AFOs: Animal Feeding Operations

Natural Resource Problem:
Surface Water Contamination

Inventory:

- Site assessment

•Solutions:

- Covered Winter Feeding Area, Compost Facility, Heavy Use Area Protection

Conservation Practice:
Waste storage facility, Composting Facility
and/or Roofs and Covers.

2021 EQIP Cost-share:
Non-HU Composting Facility \$15.57/Sqft
Non-HU Waste Facility \$12.81/Sqft
Non-HU Roofs & Covers \$11.81/Sqft



Conservation Practice Examples

WILDLIFE

Natural Resource Problems:

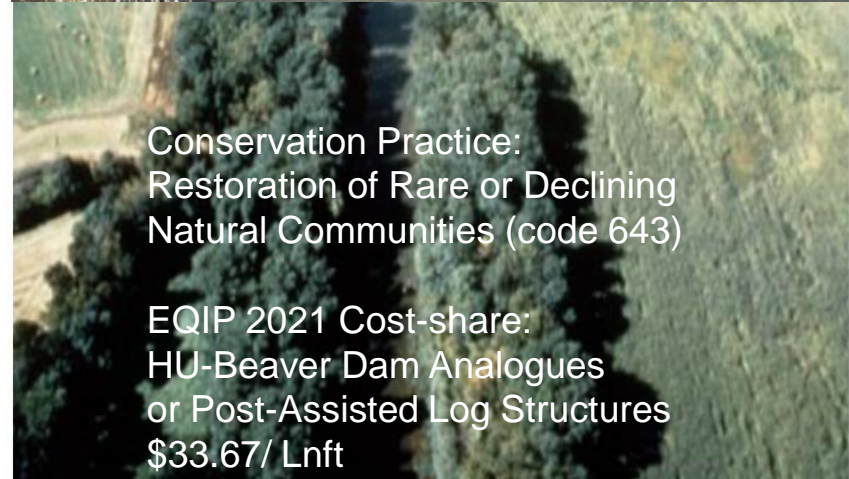
Inadequate Wildlife Cover, Shelter, Water, Continuity

Inventory:

- Habitat Quality & Quantity

Solutions:

- Conservation Cover, Tree/Shrub Planting, Riparian Buffer, Weed Control, Beaver Dam Analogs, Wetland Restoration



Conservation Practice:
Restoration of Rare or Declining
Natural Communities (code 643)

EQIP 2021 Cost-share:
HU-Beaver Dam Analogues
or Post-Assisted Log Structures
\$33.67/ Lnft



CONTACT US

North Idaho NRCS Field Offices

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