2026 USDA EXPLANATORY NOTES - NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

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PREFACE

This publication summarizes the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Budget for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout this publication any reference to the "Budget" is in regard to the 2026 Budget, unless otherwise noted. All references to years refer to fiscal year, except where specifically noted. The budgetary tables throughout this document show actual amounts for 2023 and 2024, Full-Year Continuing Resolution levels for 2025, and the President's Budget request for 2026. Amounts for 2025 estimated levels include: non-enacted amounts such as Full-Time Equivalent levels, fleet levels, information technology investment levels, recovery levels, transfers in and out, balances available end of year, and obligation levels.

Throughout this publication, the "2018 Farm Bill" is used to refer to the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. Most programs funded by the 2018 Farm Bill are funded through 2025, as extended by the American Relief Act, 2025 (P.L. 118-158, Division D). Amounts shown in 2025 and 2026 for most Farm Bill programs reflect those confirmed in the baseline.

Pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, sequestration is included in the numbers for mandatory programs in 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026.

In tables throughout this document, amounts equal to zero (0) are displayed as dashes (-). Amounts less than 0.5 and greater than zero are rounded and shown as a zero (0). This display treatment is used to prevent the masking of non-zero amounts that do not round up to one (1).

AGENCY-WIDE

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The mission of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is "Helping People Help the Land." The agency accomplishes this mission by providing products and services that enable people to be good stewards of the Nation's soil, water, and related natural resources on non-Federal lands. The establishment of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) marked the beginning of the Federal Government's enduring commitment to assisting in the conservation of natural resources on private lands. Originally authorized by Congress in 1935, the agency was later renamed the NRCS in the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-354, 7 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.) to better reflect the broad scope of the agency's mission. From the beginning, the agency brought a national focus to the emerging resource issues of the Dust Bowl era: prevention of wind and water erosion. Desperate to retain its productive soils, the Nation turned to SCS for technical guidance and advice on minimizing the impacts of erosion. Although the Dust Bowl has passed, the relationship between landowners and the agency remains.

Over time, the agency's suite of programs expanded and NRCS provides leadership to address all resource concerns across all natural resources: soil, water, air, plants, and animals. NRCS supports the Nation's communities by helping urban and rural agricultural landowners and producers, including Indian tribes, protect the natural resource base on their lands. Technical assistance provided to farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners supplies the knowledge and tools they need to conserve, maintain, and restore the natural resources on the lands they manage. Financial assistance partially offsets the cost to install conservation practices necessary to safeguard natural resources and improve wildlife habitat.

According to the National Resources Inventory (NRI), about 71 percent of the land in the United States is privately owned, making stewardship by private landowners and land managers critical to the health of our Nation's agricultural economy. These are the people who make day-to-day decisions about natural resource use and management on non-Federal lands, and NRCS offers them technology, and technical and financial assistance needed to benefit the resources, sustain productive lands, and maintain healthy ecosystems.

Science and technology are the critical foundation for effective conservation. NRCS experts from many disciplines come together to help landowners conserve natural resources in efficient, smart, and sustainable ways. Whether developed in a laboratory or on the land, NRCS science and technology helps landowners make the right decisions for every natural resource concern.

NRCS's Conservation Delivery System provides services directly to the landowner or land manager in cooperation with conservation districts. Conservation districts are units of local government created by State law and exist in every county and territory of the United States. Conservation districts are responsible for providing guidance to the agency on local resource concerns and serving as the voice of the local community on resource issues. NRCS also works in partnership with State and local agencies, locally elected or appointed farmer committees, Federal agencies, tribal governments, and private sector organizations to encourage cooperation and facilitate leveraging of the financial and technical resources these groups can offer. In a time of rising federal budget deficits, this Budget request relies even more on these groups that have a common and vested interest in the local landscape, community, or watersheds. NRCS resources consider where federal dollars are best able to leverage the work that is being done appropriately by State and local agencies. This facilitates continued collaboration among groups that collectively support farmers and maintaining natural resource quality.

Under this umbrella of agency mission and local cooperation, NRCS employees provide targeted assistance. This budget transparently show the cost of NRCS employees providing these services through field offices at USDA Service Centers. This Budget collectively recommends the funding level from all sources to deliver NRCS primary mission, in cooperation with State and local entities.

NRCS Authorities

Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1935, P.L. 74-46 (16 U.S.C. 590a-590f)

Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (16 U.S.C. 2001-2009), as amended.

Sections 1240 through 1240G and Section 1241(a) of the Food Security Act of 1985

Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill).

Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 (33 U.S.C. 701b-1), as amended, and Sections 403-405 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203-2205), as amended.

Flood Control Act of 1944 (Public Law 78-534) and the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (Public Law 83-566).

Section 14 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1012), as amended.

Private Lands Conservation Operations (PLCO)
The PLCO account is a discretionary account that provides one source of funding for NRCS technical assistance to deliver the NRCS Mission. NRCS staff provide technical assistance supported by science-based technology and tools that help people conserve, maintain, and improve the Nation's natural resources. In addition, NRCS delivers the Soil Survey Program; Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program; and Plant Materials Centers.

Soil Survey Program
NRCS's soil survey program provides the public with information on the properties, capabilities, and conservation treatment needs of their soils through collection of data, creation of soil maps and interpretive analyses. The program's science-driven products help people make informed land use and management decisions that take into consideration various soil characteristics, such as soil carbon, and capabilities to ensure soil is healthy and productive. In addition, the soil survey program provides soil and ecological site information and tailored interpretations to public stakeholders, policy decision-makers, communities, States, and others to facilitate the wise use and management of soil resources. NRCS conducts soil surveys cooperatively with other Federal agencies, Land Grant Universities, State agencies, Tribes, and local governments.

NRCS's major soil survey program objectives are to:

- Inventory and map the soil and ecological resource on all lands of the United States;

- Keep soil surveys relevant to meet emerging and ever-changing National needs such as mitigation of the impacts of climate change and greater resiliency of working agricultural lands;
- Interpret the data and make soil survey information available to meet public needs;
- Lead the dynamic soil properties for soil health projects (formerly known as the science of soil health) and other related collaborative efforts to advance the science of the soil survey;
- Contribute to all aspects USDA soil health monitoring and assessment efforts including the soil health monitoring network;
- Provide technical assistance on a voluntary basis in the use of soil survey information to maximize conservation outcomes; and
- Lead the National Cooperative Soil Survey Program.

The soil survey program information is the foundation of resource planning conducted by land-users and policy makers. The soil survey program provides vital information needed to support sustainable and productive soils in the United States. Emerging environmental issues (e.g., soil carbon measurement, nutrient management, and soil health initiatives) require that the soil survey program collect and interpret new data to best inform decision makers.

In addition to providing soil survey and ecological site data to the public, NRCS also maintains a National Soil Survey Center that provides information for the effective application of the soil survey to help make good land management possible. The National Soil Survey Center develops national soil policy, technical guidance, procedures, and standards for soil survey, ecological site descriptions, and laboratory activities. The Center staff conduct soil research investigations, operate a soil survey laboratory, develop handbooks and manuals, provide training, develop, and maintain soil survey data systems, and plan regional work conferences.

Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting (SSWSF) Program
The SSWSF Program and partners collect high elevation snow and climate data in the western United States, apply these data to produce water supply forecasts, and disseminate the snowpack information and forecasts to the public. Snowmelt accounts for approximately 70 percent of the West's water supply meeting agricultural, municipal, and other needs. NRCS staff and cooperators collect and review snowpack and precipitation data at nearly 2,000 mountain sites across the West. Presently, 957 of these remote sites, referred to as SNOTEL or SNOLITE, are automated, providing near real-time publicly available information on snow depth, snow water equivalent (SWE), and other parameters such as precipitation, air temperature, and soil moisture. Snow courses and aerial markers supply snowpack information on a monthly basis primarily between January and June (i.e., snow accumulation and melt season). Data are analyzed to assess annual water availability, drought conditions, and flooding potential.

The SSWSF Program has operated under USDA since 1935, with 12 western States, including Alaska, providing seasonal water supply forecasts essential for the national economy and resource management.

Snow and climate data and water supply forecasts are used by farmers, ranchers, and irrigation districts; municipal and industrial water providers; hydroelectric power utilities; fish and wildlife management; reservoir managers; recreationists; Tribal Nations; Federal, State, and local government agencies including transportation departments; and contribute to international treaties.

Program objectives:

- Provide reliable, accurate, and timely seasonal surface water supply forecasts for agricultural producers, water managers, and water users in the West.
- Obtain, manage, and disseminate high quality data and related information on snow, water, climate, and hydrologic conditions.
- Provide climate data supporting NRCS conservation planning tools.

Additionally, the Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN) provides climate information as well as soil moisture and temperature data at relatively lower elevations across the country. SCAN consists of 214 sites in the 48 contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands, including 25 sites on tribal lands.

Plant Materials Centers (PMCs)
NRCS's network of 25 PMCs identify, evaluate, and demonstrate the performance of plants and plant technologies to solve natural resource problems and improve the utilization of our Nation's natural resources. PMCs continue to build on their long and successful history of releasing plants for resource conservation that are instrumental at increasing the commercial availability of appropriate plant materials to the public. PMC activities contribute to reducing soil erosion; enhancing climate change resiliency; increasing cropland soil health and productivity; restoring wetlands, improving water quality, improving wildlife habitat (including pollinators); protecting streambank and riparian areas; stabilizing coastal dunes; producing forage; improving air quality; and addressing other conservation treatment needs.

The results of studies conducted by PMCs provide much of the basis for NRCS vegetative recommendations and conservation practices. PMC work ensures that NRCS vegetative recommendations and conservation practices are science based, NRCS field staff are well-trained, and recommended conservation practices meet new and emerging natural resource issues. PMCs carry out their work cooperatively, as needed, with State and Federal agencies, universities, tribes, commercial businesses, and seed and nursery associations. PMC activities directly benefit private landowners as well as Federal and State land management agencies.

Mandatory-Farm Bill Programs:

Mandatory Salaries and Expenses
The Farm Bill authorizes multiple conservation programs that provide funding for financial assistance and the cost to deliver these programs. These financial assistance programs recognize and include funding for program delivery. These funds are included in each Farm Bill program listed below and are in addition to the discretionary funding provided in the CTA account above. Taken together, these funds provide the total funding available for NRCS technical assistance.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
EQIP advances the voluntary application of conservation practices to promote agricultural production, forest management, and environmental quality as compatible land uses. Conservation practices funded through EQIP help producers improve the condition of soil, water, air, and other natural resources. The program assists owners and operators of agricultural and forest land with the identification of natural resource problems and conservation opportunities in their operation and provides financial assistance to solve such identified problems in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. These enhancements include adding soil testing and remediation as EQIP practices, further supporting advance payments for qualified producers, lowering the livestock set-aside to 50 percent, raising the organic EQIP payment limit, introducing conservation incentive contracts, and allowing identified water management entities to participate in certain EQIP projects. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) amended the 2018 Farm Bill to extend funding for all EQIP activities through 2031.

Although EQIP specifically addresses resource concerns on working farms and ranches, implementation of the program can create benefits that extend well beyond the farm. Conservation practices funded through EQIP contracts accrue significant environmental benefits, including improved grazing lands, improved air quality, enhanced fish and wildlife habitat, sustainable plant and soil conditions, improved water quality and quantity, reduced soil erosion, and energy conservation that provide important ancillary economic and social benefits.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
CSP encourages producers to improve, maintain and manage existing conservation activities and address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities. The program provides opportunities to both recognize excellent stewards and deliver

valuable new conservation that increases or extends the conservation practices of the producer's operation. The program is authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 as amended by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill) and implemented through the CSP regulation at 7 CFR Part 1470. The IRA amended the 2018 Farm Bill to extend CSP funding for all CSP activities through 2031.

CSP is a voluntary program available through a continuous sign-up process, with announced cut-off dates for ranking and funding applications. This allows producers to submit their applications at any time. Applications are evaluated relative to other applications within similar geographic areas to facilitate a competitive ranking process among applications that face similar resource challenges. The 2018 Farm Bill prescribed the following factors for evaluating and ranking CSP applications:

- Requires that at least two resource concern categories meet or exceed a science-based stewardship threshold at the time of contract offer and meet or exceed one additional resource concern category by the end of the contract.
- Level of conservation treatment on all applicable natural resource concern categories at the time of application.
- Degree to which the proposed conservation activities increase natural resource conservation and environmental benefit.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
The ACEP is authorized by subtitle H of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by Section 2301 of the 2014 Farm Bill (P. L. 113-79) and sections 2601-2605 of the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill). ACEP consolidates the purposes and functions of three former easement programs that are no longer authorized: Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Lands enrolled under these former easement programs are enrolled in ACEP. ACEP is funded by the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and administered by NRCS. The IRA amended the 2018 Farm Bill to extend ACEP funding for all ACEP activities through 2031.

ACEP is a voluntary program through which NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands, and their related benefits by directly acquiring or funding the acquisition of conservation easements on private or tribal lands. ACEP has two components - ACEP-Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE) and ACEP-Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE).

ACEP-ALE helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. The program also protects grazing uses and related conservation values by conserving or restoring grassland, including rangeland, pastureland and shrubland. Eligible entities include Indian tribes, State governments, local governments, or nongovernmental organizations, which have farmland or grassland protection programs that purchase agricultural land easements for the purpose of protecting agricultural use, grazing uses, and related conservation values, by limiting conversion to non-agricultural uses of the land. To enroll land through ACEP-ALE, NRCS enters into agreements with eligible entities that include the terms and conditions under which the eligible entity is permitted to use ACEP cost-share assistance.

Through ACEP-WRE, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners and Indian tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through the purchase of a wetlands reserve easement or 30-year contract. Wetlands restored and protected on wetland reserve easements provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species; improve water quality by filtering sediments and chemicals; and reduce flooding, recharge groundwater, protect biological diversity, and provide opportunities for educational, scientific, and recreational activities.

To enroll land through ACEP-WRE, NRCS enters into a purchase agreement with eligible private landowners or Indian tribes that includes the right for NRCS to develop and implement a wetland reserve restoration plan. This plan restores, protects, and enhances the wetlands functions and values of the land. NRCS may authorize enrolled land to be used for compatible uses, including activities such as hunting and fishing, managed timber harvest, or periodic haying or grazing if such uses are

consistent with the long-term protection and enhancement of the wetland resources for which the easement was established.

ACEP is administered locally through NRCS field and state offices, where applicants apply directly for 2018 Farm Bill and the IRA. States rank all eligible applications received in an announced application batching period based on programmatic and resource criteria.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
The RCPP promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address. The IRA amended the 2018 Farm Bill to extend RCPP funding for all RCPP activities through 2031.

Through agreements with partners and conservation program contracts directly with producers, RCPP helps implement conservation projects that may focus on water quality and quantity, soil erosion, wildlife habitat, drought mitigation and flood control or other regional priorities. RCPP is authorized by Sections 1271 through 1271F of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill). The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized RCPP as a stand-alone program and expanded authority for the use of grants or Alternative Funding Arrangements, with lead partners accepting nearly all project implementation responsibilities. It also directs the Secretary to allocate 50 percent of funds to a State/Multistate pool, and 50 percent to projects in Critical Conservation Areas.

RCPP partners include agricultural or silvicultural producer associations or other groups of producers, State or local governments, Indian tribes, farmer cooperatives, municipal water treatment entities, irrigation districts, conservation driven nongovernmental organizations, and institutions of higher education. On a voluntary basis, RCPP projects may be carried out on agricultural and nonindustrial private forest lands, or associated lands. RCPP projects may consist of any combination of five eligible conservation activities; land management, land rental, entity-held easements, U.S.-held easements, and public works activities.

RCPP is administered through funding announcements that include funding from the 2018 Farm Bill and the IRA. Lead partners submit proposals that are evaluated based on three criteria: impact, partner contributions, and partnership and management. All lead partners must report on the environmental outcomes of their projects.

Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)
The AMA program provides technical and financial assistance in 16 States: Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming. The AMA program is funded through the CCC and is permanently authorized by Section 524(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b)), as amended. Under the AMA program, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to producers to construct or improve water management structures or irrigation structures; plant trees for windbreaks; and take actions to improve water quality. In addition, the Risk Management Agency has collaborated with NRCS to provide financial assistance for producers to implement high-tunnel conservation practices. The Agricultural Marketing Service also provides AMA financial assistance to program participants receiving certification or continuation of certification as an organic producer.

Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP)
The VPA-HIP was authorized by Section 1240R of the Food Security Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-198), as amended (16 U.S.C. 3839bb-5). The program was reauthorized by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018. The Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-22) extended authorization through 2024. The program encourages private landowners to voluntarily make their land available to the public for wildlife-dependent recreation, such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. States and Tribes are eligible for VPA-HIP and compete for funding by submitting

proposals to NRCS. VPA-HIP funding can be used both to expand public access to private lands and to improve or enhance wildlife habitat on lands enrolled in the program. The overall goal of VPA-HIP is to enhance wildlife habitat and management and to boost local economies through activities that attract wildlife enthusiasts.

Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program
The program is authorized by Sections 2408 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-334). The Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (P.L. 118-22) extended authorization through 2024. The program is implemented by NRCS and the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service to address the threat that feral swine poses to agriculture, native ecosystems, human health, and animal health.

Programmatic and Landscape Conservation Activities
NRCS and its partners have established programmatic and landscape-scale activities to address nationally and regionally important conservation needs by focusing voluntary conservation assistance for private lands where those resources can most effectively meet conservation priorities. NRCS has targeted funding to support activities through a variety of Farm Bill conservation programs. NRCS staff provides technical assistance that is funded through multiple sources; partners may also provide technical and financial support.

Each activity is intended to raise awareness of a specific resource concern or opportunity, stimulate interest and commitment for voluntary action, help focus funding, and optimize conservation outcomes. NRCS's coordination efforts with other Federal agencies, State and local governments, and other stakeholder groups optimize efficiency and effectiveness; generate additional partner resources to expand capacity and accelerate action; and establish mutual support for core conservation practices and systems that benefit the watershed, ecosystem, or species of concern. Examples of NRCS landscape conservation initiatives include:

Longleaf Pine Initiative
Longleaf pine forests once covered more than 90 million acres in the Southeastern United States. Stretching along eastern Texas, through central Florida, and northern to southern Virginia, these forests represent one of the world's most unique and biologically diverse ecosystems. However, 97 percent of the historic forests have been lost. According to Forest Services Forest Inventory and Analysis data, only 3.4 million acres of longleaf pine and mixed longleaf pine/oak forest types remained in 2008. These remaining forests provide critical habitat for 29 threatened and endangered species. In 2009, America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative released the Range-Wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine. The plan called for restoring, improving, and maintaining eight million acres of longleaf pine by 2024. This ambitious goal was not reached in 2024, but more than 1.8 million acres of longleaf pine forest have been restored through establishment, and over 200,000 acres of land has been protected since the plan's creation. In 2023, NRCS and initiative partners published a revised Range-Wide Conservation Plan updating the collaboration's goals, objectives, strategies, and key recommendations to achieve the eight-million-acre goal by 2040. This revised plan incorporated lessons learned over the past 15 years and builds on the collaboration's successes across the range. Also in 2023, USDA, Department of Defense, and Department of the Interior signed a new Memorandum of Understanding reaffirming their shared commitment to restoring the longleaf pine ecosystems in the southeast. Over the past 14 years, NRCS has enrolled more than 4.5 million acres of longleaf conservation practices on private lands. These enrolled acres can include multiple conservation practices contracted on the same acre. For example, site prep and tree planting on a 20-acre parcel that is followed two years later by firebreak installation and prescribed burning. Alternatively, a degraded but mature stand of longleaf pine may only require selective tree and brush thinning through the forest stand improvement conservation practice.

Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) & National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)
Through both MRBI and NWQI NRCS works with farmers and ranchers in small watersheds throughout the Nation to improve and protect water quality where this is a critical concern. NRCS works collaboratively with the Environmental Protection Agency at the national level to facilitate

selection of high-priority watersheds and source water protection areas where NRCS and partners target outreach and assistance and demonstrate improvements in water quality. NRCS identifies priority watersheds through the help of local partnerships and state agencies.

MRBI is available in the 10 States along the Mississippi River that are part of the Hypoxia Task Force, and the initiative is aligned with Nutrient Reduction Strategies developed by each State to address nutrient losses to the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. NWQI is available nationwide and is targeted to address impaired surface waters and to improve and protect sources of drinking water. Since the inception of both of these initiatives (NWQI in 2012 and MRBI in 2010) through 2023, NRCS has obligated $813 million in EQIP assistance treating approximately 3.3 million acres. These investments have resulted in improved water quality across the nation as demonstrated by monitoring in NWQI watersheds and the removal of streams in MRBI and NWQI from the list of impaired waterbodies under the Clean Water Act.

WaterSMART Initiative (WSI)
The WSI activity is a collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to coordinate investments in priority areas for improving water conservation and drought resilience. Reclamation makes their WaterSMART programs available across the Western U.S. and other areas to help States, Tribes, and local entities modernize water infrastructure and otherwise build drought resilience. NRCS uses EQIP-WSI to complement Reclamation WaterSMART investments by helping eligible farmers and ranchers make improvements that align with the paired Reclamation WaterSMART project. The WSI activity began in 2011 with a pilot in California. With the success of the pilot effort, multi-state coordination began in 2016. NRCS has identified WSI projects in 14 different States. The agencies work together to document successful results of their collaboration and illustrate the benefits of coordinating investments for ensuring water is conserved for use during droughts or other needs in the community.

Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW)
The WLFW activity is designed to provide targeted financial and technical assistance to improve habitat for identified wildlife species and ecosystems through a shared vision with agricultural stakeholders. Two-thirds of the land in the lower 48 States is privately owned and includes working farms, ranches, and forests that produce much of the country's food and fiber. These working lands also provide much of our Nation's open space and the habitats that wildlife need. NRCS assists agricultural producers who want to voluntarily make wildlife-friendly improvements on their land. These conservation activities or practices benefit fish and wildlife while boosting the land's resilience and production. WLFW includes species-specific initiatives and ecosystem-wide conservation frameworks. As of 2025, there were five national initiatives or pilots and three frameworks that communicate regional conservation strategies. The conservation of at-risk or Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species can protect private landowners from regulation as well as benefit wildlife. Producers have conserved millions of acres of wildlife habitat from the sagebrush and grasslands of the West to forests in the East. This work has led to the rebound and recovery of many species, including the Oregon chub, Louisiana black bear, New England cottontail, and greater sage-grouse. In October 2022, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife published a finding that another WLFW species, the gopher tortoise, was not warranted for listing under ESA. This was due in part to the nearly one million acres of voluntary conservation measures put in place with NRCS assistance.

Technical Service Provider Assistance (TSP)
Under the TSP program, individuals or entities are certified by NRCS to assist landowners and agricultural producers in applying conservation practices on the land. TSPs expand and accelerate NRCS's ability to plan and apply conservation practices that enhance, restore, or conserve the Nation's soil, water, and related natural resources on non-Federal land.

Use of third parties to conduct conservation work is authorized under Section 1242 of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, which requires the Secretary of Agriculture to provide technical assistance under the Food Security Act Title XII conservation programs to a producer eligible for that assistance 1) directly; 2) through an agreement with a third-party provider; or 3) at the option of the producer, through a payment to the producer for an approved third-party provider, if available.

Section 1242 also requires that USDA establish a system for approving individuals and entities to provide technical assistance to carry out conservation programs and establish the amounts and methods for payments for that assistance. Technical assistance includes conservation planning and conservation practice design and implementation.

Workforce Status and Locations
As of September 30, 2024, NRCS had 11,503 employees with permanent appointments. Of this total, 191 employees were in the National Capital Region, and 11,312 employees were located outside of the National Capital Region.

Accountability
NRCS regularly collects program performance data that provide information to support agency strategic planning, budget formulation and execution, workforce planning, and performance accountability. NRCS uses a variety of web applications that track and evaluate field- and State-level conservation planning efforts, practice implementation, contract implementation, and other key performance indicators. Further, practice implementation is verified and documented by NRCS through the practice certification process prior to issuing any payments.

Compliance Activities
There were five Office of Inspector General (OIG) audits open at the start of 2024, and 10 audits added during the same year, leaving a total of 15 audits in 2024. NRCS closed eight of 15 active OIG audits for a year-end closure rate of 53 percent. There are no current Government Accountability Office audits to report.

OIG AND GAO REPORTS

Table NRCS-1. Closed, Implemented Reports

ID	Date	Title	Result
10702-0001-23	11/01/2023	Hurricane Disaster Assistance Emergency Watershed Protection Program	Recommendation 3 – OIG recommended that NRCS review 15 DSRs was completed and provided a bill of collection of any funds being recovered and evidence that receivables have been entered in the NRCS accounting records that equal the total overpayments. To implement the recommendation, NRCS reviewed the 15 DSRs and determined that all the sponsors that received EWP funding through cooperative agreements met the definition of a project sponsor, and therefore, were found to be eligible sponsors.
10403-0004-11	12/01/2023	Financial Statement for Fiscal Years 2021 & 2022	Recommendation 9 – OIG recommended that NRCS develop a workgroup to explore the elimination of data calls and an estimate methodology to record expense accruals. An SOP to document the Lookback

ID	Date	Title	Result
			Analysis process was developed. Monitoring and follow-up were performed with States/Divisions. Outreach was performed and training provided to raise awareness of agency roles and responsibilities to States/Divisions on the importance of and fundamentals for recording accruals completely and accurately. Documentation showing FPAC worked with NRCS to review, validate, and update the point of contact list for NRCS agency field offices. Evidencing that within workgroup, the Easement related current accrual process was reviewed and analysis conducted in conjunction with Easement Program Division to determine if an estimation methodology can be utilized to replace the current data call process. Documentation showing that for all other types of contracts/agreements, and the current accrual process was reviewed by utilizing the developed Lookback analysis to determine if an estimation methodology can be utilized to replace the current data call processes. Evidencing a revised SOP documenting any process changes. Training was provided to all stakeholders on all process changes adopted. To implement the recommendation, NRCS updated the SOP as required, and provided required follow up with States/Divisions, and provided required training.
03-0005-11	02/22/2024	Financial Statement for Fiscal Years 2022 & 2021	Recommendation 6 – OIG recommended that NRCS provide documents causing invalid UP/DOWN

ID	Date	Title	Result
			adjustments. Documentation evidencing the quality control steps added to the adjustment process. Documentation that a standard operating procedure on UP/DOWN adjustments were developed that includes 1) criteria for identifying the list of documents causing invalid UP/DOWN adjustments; and 2) quality controls steps for ensuring the adjustments are complete and accurate and were distributed to stakeholders. To implement the recommendation NRCS updated the SOP on UP/DOWN adjustments as required.
50601-0005-23	09/26/2024	Conservation Stewardship Program-Participants Control of Land	Recommendation 1 – OIG recommended that NRCS provide a copy of the issued guidance Control of Land that will highlight policy changes and updated forms. To implement the recommendation, NRCS provide the policy changes and forms as required. Recommendation 2 – OIG recommended that NRCS provide a copy of the training agenda and materials used to train state, area, and field offices on the policy changes and checklists, along with documentation which supports completion of the training by staff. To implement the recommendation, NRCS provided the required training to state, area, and field office staff. Recommendation 3 – OIG recommended that NRCS document the review to ensure that field offices are following the newly issued guidance and properly

ID	Date	Title	Result
			completing the updated forms. To implement the recommendation, NRCS completed the review addressing newly issued guidance and completing updated forms.

AVAILABLE FUNDS AND FTES

Table NRCS-3. Available Funds and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs
Account 1: Private Lands Conservation Operations:								
Discretionary Appropriations	$941,124	3,300	$914,899	2,885	$895,754	3,109	$112,259	473
Mandatory Appropriations	-	531	-	1,130	-	1,200	-	1,061
Account 2: Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations:								
Discretionary Appropriations	75,000	46	35,000	34	14,650	30	-	14
Mandatory Appropriations	47,150	-	47,150	6	47,150	16	47,150	42
Supplemental Appropriations	925,000	118	-	75	-	57	-	54
Account 3: Emergency Watershed Protection Program:								
Supplemental Appropriations	-	7	-	4	920,000	19	-	17
Account 4: Watershed Rehabilitation:								
Discretionary Appropriations	2,000	4	1,000	1	1,000	1	-	1
Mandatory Appropriations	-	14	-	8	-	7	-	3
Supplemental Appropriations	-	6	-	8	-	6	-	3
Account 5: Water Bank:								
Discretionary Appropriations	4,000	3	2,000	3	2,000	2	-	-
Account 6: Healthy Forests Reserve:								
Discretionary Appropriations	7,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Account 7: Urban Agriculture Innovative Production:								
Discretionary Appropriations	8,500	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Account 8: Farm Security and Rural Investments Programs:								
Discretionary Appropriations	5,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	1	-	-
Mandatory Appropriations	4,575,082	6,143	6,807,332	6,770	9,372,570	7,192	11,211,420	6,241
Total Discretionary Appropriations	1,042,624	3,354	954,899	2,923	915,404	3,143	112,259	488
Total Adjusted Mandatory Appropriations	4,622,232	6,688	6,854,482	7,914	9,419,720	8,415	11,258,570	7,347
Total Supplemental Appropriations	925,000	131	-	87	920,000	82	-	74
Total Adjusted Appropriation	6,589,856	10,173	7,809,381	10,924	11,255,124	11,640	11,370,829	7,909
Balance Available, SOY	8,496,657	-	6,129,788	-	5,463,287	-	4,102,920	-
Rescinded Balances	-	-	-58,000	-	-30,000	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other	589,435	-	574,573	-	-52,016	-	-57,734	-
Total Available	15,675,948	10,173	14,455,742	10,924	16,636,395	11,640	15,416,015	7,909
Lapsing Balances	-10,537	-	-8,999	-	-	-	-	-
Balance Available, EOY	-6,129,788	-	-5,463,287	-	-4,102,920	-	-4,511,289	-
Total Obligations	9,535,623	10,173	8,983,456	10,924	12,533,475	11,640	10,904,726	7,909
Other Federal Funds:								
Gulf Coast Restoration Revolving Fund	1,633	3	5,231	8	2,000	5	2,000	5
Other Federal and Non-Federal Reimbursements	93,309	83	65,806	84	64,800	70	64,800	86
Total, Other Federal Obligations	94,942	86	71,037	92	66,800	75	66,800	91
Total Available, NRCS	15,770,890	10,259	14,526,779	11,016	16,703,195	11,715	15,482,815	8,000

This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies. The decrease in FTEs compared to 2025 is based on
NRCS's Agency Reorganization and Reduction Plan (ARRP) Phase II projected footprint after reorganization.

PERMANENT POSITIONS BY GRADE AND FTES

Table NRCS-4. Permanent Positions by Grade and FTEs

Item	2023 Actual HQ	2023 Actual Field	2023 Actual Total	2024 Actual HQ	2024 Actual Field	2024 Actual Total	2025 Estimated HQ	2025 Estimated Field	2025 Estimated Total	2026 Estimated HQ	2026 Estimated Field	2026 Estimated Total
SES	14	2	16	16	2	18	17	3	20	17	3	20
GS-15	43	67	110	48	70	118	46	66	112	31	45	76
GS-14	40	273	313	51	293	344	47	299	346	32	204	236
GS-13	7	587	594	18	601	619	10	590	600	7	403	410
GS-12	11	2,766	2,777	55	2,935	2,990	15	3,052	3,067	10	2,084	2,094
GS-11	11	2,095	2,106	22	2,362	2,384	12	2,430	2,442	8	1,659	1,668
GS-10	-	43	43	6	62	68	-	76	76	-	52	52
GS-9.....	9	2,224	2,233	52	2,288	2,340	8	2,463	2,471	5	1,682	1,687
GS-8.....	2	301	303	5	353	358	1	352	353	1	240	241
GS-7.....	2	1,513	1,515	25	1,538	1,563	-	1,555	1,555	-	1,062	1,062
GS-6.....	-	197	197	-	194	194	-	256	256	-	175	175
GS-5.....	-	221	221	3	333	336	-	306	306	-	209	209
GS-4.....	-	141	141	2	327	329	-	287	287	-	196	196
GS-3.....	-	172	172	2	149	151	-	131	131	-	89	89
GS-2.....	-	32	32	2	52	54	1	46	47	1	31	32
GS-1.....	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	2	2	-	1	1
Other Graded	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Permanent	139	10,637	10,776	307	11,562	11,869	157	11,914	12,071	113	8,137	8,249
Total Perm. FT EOY	139	10,637	10,776	307	11,562	11,869	157	11,914	12,071	113	8,137	8,249
FTE.....	256	10,003	10,259	269	10,747	11,016	152	11,563	11,715	109	7,891	8,000

Note: Total FTEs are all inclusive of workforce categories including temporary positions.
This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies.
The decrease in FTEs compared to 2025 is based on NRCS's Agency Reorganization and Reduction Plan (ARRP) Phase II projected footprint after reorganization.

VEHICLE FLEET

Motor Vehicle Fleet

As a field-based agency, NRCS has a significant number of employees who require vehicles to visit field offices, job sites (farms and ranches) and other areas where public transportation is non-existent, uneconomical, or inadequate. Driving takes place on agricultural land and in an assortment of operating conditions for the purpose of providing technical assistance to farmers and ranchers, which often involves transporting large engineering and other field equipment, thereby requiring employees to have access to pickup trucks and sport-utility vehicles.

NRCS maintains a fleet of vehicles distributed among service centers and field, area, and State offices in the 50 States, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Basin areas. The majority of the vehicles are owned by the agency, while others are leased through the General Services Administration (GSA). Office locations are assigned vehicles, where multiple employees share vehicles to carry out mission requirements.

Replacement Criteria

To ensure that vehicles are safe and reliable, NRCS requires annual vehicle inspections. Federal Management Regulation 102-34.280 sets forth the minimum number of years or number of miles an agency must keep its vehicles before replacement. The agency policy is to replace motor vehicles based on economy and safety requirements.

Reductions to Fleet

The optimal fleet inventory for NRCS has been identified. The agency will attain and maintain this optimal fleet inventory through one-for-one vehicle replacements, additions and eliminating non-essential vehicles through excess and transfer.

Looking ahead, NRCS will continue to optimize its fleet by:

• Maximizing its participation in an existing and successful vehicle-sharing program that is rapidly expanding.

• Continuing to implement and utilize telematics to simplify vehicle usage recording for field staff.

• Vehicle right-typing, ensuring that the fleet inventory reflects a blend of vehicles that are a proper match to the mission and offer best value back to the Government.

Table NRCS-5. Size, Composition, and Annual Costs of Motor Vehicle Fleet

Item	Sedans and Station Wagons	Vans	SUVs	Light Trucks 4X2	Light Trucks 4X4	Medium Duty Vehicles	Buses	Heavy Duty Vehicles	Total Vehicles	Annual Operating Costs
2018 End of Year Operating Inventory.....	**406**	**-**	**-**	**1,558**	**5,184**	**570**	**-**	**17**	**7,735**	**$21,109,000**
2023 End of Year Operating Inventory.....	**318**	**95**	**136**	**953**	**6,488**	**575**	**-**	**14**	**8,579**	**$20,513,854**
2024 Actual Acquisitions.....	10	5	197	-	1,019	128	-	-	1,359	
2024 Actual Disposals	36	6	199	228	778	111	-	1	1,359	
2024 End of Year Operating Inventory.....	**292**	**94**	**134**	**725**	**6,729**	**592**	**-**	**13**	**8,579**	**$26,149,723**
2025 Planned Acquisitions	32	12	194	73	642	12	-	7	972	
2025 Planned Disposals.....	32	12	194	73	642	12	-	7	972	
2025 End of Year Operating Inventory.....	**292**	**94**	**134**	**725**	**6,729**	**592**	**-**	**13**	**8,579**	**$26,934,215**
2026 Planned Acquisitions	30	10	63	150	430	11	-	6	700	
2026 Planned Disposals.....	30	10	63	150	430	11	-	6	700	
2026 End of Year Operating Inventory.....	**292**	**94**	**134**	**725**	**6,729**	**592**	**-**	**13**	**8,579**	**$27,742,241**

Note: Number of vehicles by type include vehicles owned by the agency and leased from commercial sources or GSA.
Annual Operating Costs excludes acquisition costs and gains from sale of vehicles as shown in FAST. Costs are expected to decrease for future years due to FTE reductions.

Table NRCS-6. Statement of Proposed Acquisition of Passenger Motor Vehicles

Fiscal Year	Net Active Fleet, SOY	Disposals	Replacements	Additions	Total Acquisitions	Net Active Fleet, EOY
2023	318	30	30	-	30	318
2024	318	36	10	-	10	292
2025	292	32	32	-	32	292
2026	292	30	30	-	30	292

SHARED FUNDING PROJECTS

Table NRCS-7. Shared Funding Projects (thousands of dollars)

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
Working Capital Fund:				
Administrative Services:				
AskUSDA	$307	$660	$655	$655
Material Management Service	44	50	52	53
Mail and Reproduction Services	725	816	973	945
Integrated Procurement Systems	1,110	943	631	630
General Counsel Legal Compliance	-	-	145	1,796
Procurement Operations Services	1,571	2,044	2,085	2,104
Fleet Charge Card Services	-	-	188	203
Human Resources Enterprise Management Systems	208	721	917	949
Subtotal	3,965	5,234	5,646	7,335
Communications:				
Creative Media & Broadcast Center	278	476	340	285
Finance and Management:				
National Finance Center	2,832	3,205	3,030	3,093
Personnel and Document Security	513	591	634	634
Financial Shared Services	16,639	17,708	18,789	18,825
Internal Control Support Services	83	162	144	144
Subtotal	20,067	21,666	22,597	22,696
Information Technology:				
Client Experience Center	111,684	104,747	86,149	92,638
Enterprise Cybersecurity Services	4,255	7,659	8,342	8,342
Enterprise Data and Analytics Services	5,246	15,724	15,909	15,902
Department Administration Information Technology Office	445	684	453	453
Digital Infrastructure Services Center	22,542	23,131	20,965	20,928
Enterprise Network Services	14,403	34,151	40,467	37,813
Subtotal	158,575	186,096	172,285	176,076
Office of the Executive Secretariat	151	158	69	176
Total, Working Capital Fund	183,036	213,630	200,937	206,568
Department-Wide Shared Cost Programs:				
Advisory Committee Liaison Services	5	6	5	5
Agency Partnership Outreach	778	845	1,065	1,065
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility	211	300	79	-
Intertribal Technical Assistance Network	378	411	-	-
Medical Services	55	41	63	63
National Capital Region Interpreting Services	18	16	21	21
Office of Customer Experience	339	344	428	428
Physical Security	479	541	820	820
Security Detail	532	615	1,127	1,127
Security Operations Program	736	857	1,048	1,048
Talent Group	382	381	471	471
TARGET Center	175	186	225	225
Employee Experience	363	427	398	398
Total, Department-Wide Reimbursable Programs	4,451	4,970	5,750	5,671
E-Gov:				
Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business	10	11	11	11
E-Rulemaking	7	16	21	19
Financial Management Line of Business	22	23	23	23
Geospatial Line of Business	13	13	13	13
Benefits.gov	66	45	-	-
Grants.gov	51	115	138	169
Human Resources Line of Business	31	34	34	34
Integrated Acquisition Environment	16	19	18	19
Total, E-Gov	216	276	258	288
Agency Total	187,703	218,876	206,945	212,527

ADVERTISING EXPENDITURES

Table NRCS-8 Advertising Expenditures (thousands of dollars)

Item	2024 Actual Number of Contracts	2024 Actual Dollars Obligated	2025 Estimated Number of Contracts	2025 Estimated Dollars Obligated	2026 Estimated Number of Contracts	2026 Estimated Dollars Obligated
Total Contracts for Advertising Services.....	5	$169,926	-	-	-	-
Contracts for Advertising Services to Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Small Businesses.....	1	82,151	-	-	-	-
Contracts for Advertising Services to Women-Owned and Minority-Owned Small Businesses	1	82,151	-	-	-	-

ACCOUNT 1: PRIVATE LANDS CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

APPROPRIATIONS LANGUAGE

The appropriations language follows (new language underscored):

Conservation Operations

For necessary expenses for carrying out the provisions of the Act of April 27, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 590a-f), including preparation of conservation plans and establishment of measures to conserve soil and water (including farm irrigation and land drainage and such special measures for soil and water management as may be necessary to prevent floods and the siltation of reservoirs and to control agricultural related pollutants); operation of conservation plant materials centers; classification and mapping of soil; dissemination of information; acquisition of lands, water, and interests therein for use in the plant materials program by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed $100 pursuant to the Act of August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 2268a); purchase and erection or alteration or improvement of permanent and temporary buildings; and operation and maintenance of aircraft, $112,259,000 to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for construction and improvement of buildings and public improvements at plant materials centers, except that the cost of alterations and improvements to other buildings and other public improvements shall not exceed $250,000: Provided further, That when buildings or other structures are erected on non-Federal land, that the right to use such land is obtained as provided in 7 U.S.C. 2250a.

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table NRCS-9. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2025	$895,754,000
Change in Appropriation	-783,495,000
Budget Estimate, 2026	112,259,000

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table NRCS-10. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Approp:											
Conservation Technical Assistance	$826,865	2,753	$795,640	2,355	$776,495	2,546	-	-	-$776,495	-$2,546	(1)
Soil Survey	86,757	423	86,757	396	86,757	421	$86,757	362	-	-59	(2)
Snow Survey	16,751	45	14,751	57	14,751	61	14,751	49	-	-12	(3)
Plant Materials	10,751	73	10,751	71	10,751	75	10,751	62	-	-13	(4)
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program*	-	4	7,000	5	7,000	5	-	-	-7,000	-5	(5)
Healthy Forests Reserve Program	-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-1	(6)
Subtotal	941,124	3,300	914,899	2,885	895,754	3,109	112,259	473	-783,495	-2,636	
Mandatory Approp:											
Conservation Technical Assistance (IRA)	-	531	-	1,124	-	1,194	-	1,055	-	-139	
Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Assessment (IRA)	-	-	-	6	-	6	-	6	-	-	
Subtotal	-	531	-	1,130	-	1,200	-	1,061	-	-139	
Total Adjusted Approp	941,124	3,831	914,899	4,015	895,754	4,309	112,259	1,534	-783,495	-2,775	
Total Appropriation	941,124	3,831	914,899	4,015	895,754	4,309	112,259	1,534	-783,495	-2,775	
Recoveries, Other	23,441	-	22,888	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Rescinded Balances	-	-	-30,000	-	-30,000	-	-	-	+30,000	-	
Bal. Available, SOY	4,777,530	-	1,849,170	-	1,090,564	-	364,376	-	-726,188	-	
Total Available	5,742,095	3,831	2,756,957	4,015	1,956,318	4,309	476,635	1,534	-1,479,683	-2,775	
Lapsing Balances	-9,768	-	-6,516	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, EOY	-1,849,170	-	-1,090,564	-	-364,376	-	-102,641	-	+261,735	-	
Total Obligations	3,883,157	3,831	1,659,877	4,015	1,591,942	4,309	373,994	1,534	-1,217,948	-2,775	

Note: The project statement and Budget Appendix discrepancy is due to reimbursable funding and FTEs, which are not included in the project statement.
*The 2025-2026 Budget funds are requested in the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program Stand-alone account.
The decrease in FTEs compared to 2025 is based on NRCS's Agency Reorganization and Reduction Plan (ARRP) Phase II projected footprint after reorganization.

Table NRCS-11. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Conservation Technical Assistance	$762,725	2,753	$866,804	2,355	$838,616	2,546	-	-	-$838,616	-2,546
Soil Survey	84,216	423	90,250	396	86,757	421	$86,757	362	-	-59
Snow Survey	10,318	45	17,964	57	16,148	61	14,751	49	-1,397	-12
Plant Materials	11,228	73	10,750	71	13,635	75	10,751	62	-2,884	-13
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program*	6,695	4	6,661	5	7,339	5	-	-	-7,339	-5
Healthy Forests Reserve Program	2,963	2	1,432	1	1,217	1	-	-	-1,217	-1
Watershed Projects Program	4	-	-	-	314	-	-	-	-314	-
Watershed Protection Program	1,955	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Disc Obligations	880,104	3,300	993,861	2,885	964,026	3,109	112,259	473	-851,767	-2,636
Mandatory Obligations:										
Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities	2,797,034	-	235,894	-	324,571	-	-	-	-324,571	-
Conservation Technical Assistance (IRA)	200,761	531	320,664	1,124	201,937	1,194	184,026	1,055	-17,911	-139
Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Assessment (IRA)	5,258	-	109,458	6	101,408	6	77,709	6	-23,699	-
Subtotal Mand Obligations	3,003,053	531	666,016	1,130	627,916	1,200	261,735	1,061	-366,181	-139
Total Obligations	3,883,157	3,831	1,659,877	4,015	1,591,942	4,309	373,994	1,534	-1,217,948	-2,775
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances	9,768	-	6,516	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Available, EOY:										
Conservation Technical Assistance	167,188	-	81,681	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soil Survey	13,056	-	7,990	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Survey	7,302	-	3,847	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plant Materials	2,832	-	2,884	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program*	-	-	339	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Healthy Forests Reserve Program	4,037	-	3,013	-	1,796	-	1,796	-	-	-
Watershed Projects Program	308	-	314	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities	560,466	-	324,571	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Conservation Technical Assistance (IRA)	799,239		480,032		278,094	-	94,068		-184,026	
Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Assessment (IRA)	294,742	-	185,893	-	84,486	-	6,777	-	-77,709	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY	1,849,170	-	1,090,564	-	364,376	-	102,641	-	-261,735	-
Total Available	5,742,095	3,831	2,756,957	4,015	1,956,318	4,309	476,635	1,534	-1,479,683	-2,775
Less:										
Recoveries, Other	-23,441	-	-22,888	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rescinded Balances	-	-	30,000	-	30,000	-	-	-	-30,000	-
Bal. Available, SOY	-4,777,530	-	-1,849,170	-	-1,090,564	-	-364,376	-	726,188	-
Total Appropriation	941,124	3,831	914,899	4,015	895,754	4,309	112,259	1,534	-783,495	-2,775

Note: The project statement and Budget Appendix discrepancy is due to reimbursable funding and FTEs, which are not included in the project statement.
*The 2025-2026 Budget funds are requested in the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program Stand-alone account.
The decrease in FTEs compared to 2025 is based on NRCS's Agency Reorganization and Reduction Plan (ARRP) Phase II projected footprint after reorganization.

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

Private Lands Conservation Operations

A net decrease of $783,495,000 and a decrease of 2,636 staff years in the Private Lands Conservation Operations Account ($895,754,000 and 3,109 staff years available in 2025).

(1) A decrease of $776,495,000 and a decrease of 2,546 Staff years in the Conservation Technical Assistance Program ($776,495,000 and 2,546 staff years available in 2025).

No new funding request in 2026. Farmers will continue to receive conservation technical and financial assistance, but with efficiencies that reflect greater reliance on State and local conservation districts. There are also sufficient mandatory funds to provide CTA.

(2) No change in funding and a decrease of 59 staff years for the Soil Survey Program ($86,757,000 and 421 staff years available in 2025).

No change in funding. The program will focus on high priority projects identified by states, technical soil services, and maintaining the soil and ecological inventories and databases for use by the farmers and producers.

(3) No change in funding and a decrease of 12 staff years for the Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program ($14,751,000 and 61 staff years available in 2025).

No change in funding. The Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program will continue to provide western water resources information, serving large economic benefits to agricultural production and supporting critical public safety with regards to fire, floods, and drought.

(4) No change in funding and a decrease of 13 staff years for the Plant Material Centers Program ($10,751,000 and 75 staff years available in 2025).

No change in funding. The program will continue to focus on high priority plant materials needs and increasing efficiencies to maximize the potential of each Plant Materials Center to support NRCS conservation delivery to the extent of their staffing.

(5) A decrease of $7,000,000 and a decrease of 5 staff years in the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program ($7,000,000 and 5 staff years available in 2025).

No new funding request in 2026. This decrease in funding and staff years will require the Department to administer the program. This is in line with our ARRP Phase II plan.

(6) No change in funding and a decrease of 1 staff year for the Healthy Forests Reserve Program (No funding and 1 staff year available in 2025).

No change in funding.

NRCS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Table NRCS-12. NRCS Technical Assistance (millions of dollars)

NRCS Technical Assistance [1]	2023 Enacted	2023 % of Total	2024 Enacted	2024 % of Total	2025 Estimated[2]	2025 % of Total	2026 Estimated	2026 % of Total
Discretionary Programs (Source: 2025 USDA Budget Estimates)								
Conservation Operations: [3]								
Conservation Technical Assistance	$827	18.29%	$796	16.39%	$746	13.29%	-	0.00%
Soil Surveys	87	1.92%	87	1.79%	87	1.55%	$87	1.76%
Snow Surveys	17	0.37%	15	0.31%	15	0.27%	15	0.30%
Plant Materials	11	0.24%	11	0.23%	11	0.20%	11	0.22%
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program	-	-	7	0.14%	7	0.12%	-	0.00%
Healthy Forests Reserve Program	-	-	-	0.00%	-	0.00%	-	0.00%
Other Discretionary Program (Source: General Provisions and Carryover Funding)								
Wetland Mitigation Banking Program	1	0.02%	1	0.02%	1	0.02%	-	-
Total, Discretionary Programs	$942	20.84%	$917	18.88%	$867	15.45%	$112	2.27%
Mandatory Programs (Source: 2025 USDA Budget Estimates and NRCS Actual and Preliminary Carryover Balances)								
Farm Bill Programs (Technical Assistance): [4]								
Environmental Quality Incentives Program	635	14.04%	729	15.01%	683	12.17%	558	11.33%
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	235	5.20%	196	4.04%	195	3.47%	142	2.89%
Regional Conservation Partnership Program	393	8.69%	355	7.31%	387	6.90%	98	1.99%
Conservation Stewardship Program	474	10.48%	462	9.51%	427	7.61%	263	5.34%
Agricultural Management Assistance [5]	1	0.02%	1	0.02%	1	0.02%	1	0.02%
Conservation Reserve Program Tech. Assist	269	5.95%	256	5.27%	296	5.27%	221	4.48%
Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program	-	-	-	0.00%	-	0.00%	-	0.00%
Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot	1	0.02%	-	0.00%	-	0.00%	-	0.00%
Agriculture Water Enhancement Program	5	0.11%	-	0.00%	-	0.00%	-	0.00%
Farm and Ranchland Protection Program	32	0.71%	81	1.67%	78	1.39%	-	0.00%
Grassland Reserve Program	12	0.27%	12	0.25%	11	0.20%	-	0.00%
Wetland Reserve Program	5	0.11%	4	0.08%	4	0.07%	-	0.00%
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program	5	0.11%	1	0.02%	1	0.02%	-	0.00%
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program	4	0.09%	-	0.00%	-	0.00%	-	0.00%
Healthy Forests Reserve Program	1	0.02%	1	0.02%	2	0.04%	-	0.00%
Total, Mandatory Programs	$2,072	45.82%	$2,098	43.20%	$2,085	37.15%	$1,283	26.04%
Supplemental Program (Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Funds) (Source: IRA Spend Plan, 2024 Authorized Levels, and NRCS Estimated Carryover) [6]								
Conservation Technical Assistance ($1B)	1,000	22.11%	799	16.45%	480	8.55%	278	5.64%
Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Assessment ($300M)	300	6.63%	295	6.07%	186	3.31%	78	1.58%
Environmental Quality Incentives Program ($8.45B)	77	1.70%	312	6.43%	1,040	18.53%	1,634	33.15%
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program ($1.4B)	27	0.60%	47	0.97%	113	2.01%	116	2.35%
Regional Conservation Partnership Program ($4.95B)	25	0.55%	296	6.10%	619	11.03%	997	20.23%
Conservation Stewardship Program ($3.25B)	79	1.75%	92	1.89%	222	3.96%	430	8.72%
Total, IRA Program Funds	$1,508	33.35%	$1,841	37.91%	$2,660	47.40%	$3,533	71.68%
Total, Technical Assistance	$4,522	100.00%	$4,856	100.00%	$5,612	100.00%	$4,929	100.00%

NRCS Technical Assistance [1]	2023 Enacted	2023 % of Total	2024 Enacted	2024 % of Total	2025 Estimated[2]	2025 % of Total	2026 Estimated	2026 % of Total
Full-time Equivalents (FTEs) - Direct FTEs Only (Source: 2025 USDA Budget Estimates)								
Discretionary FTEs:								
Conservation Operations	3,300	33.09%	2,885	26.75%	3,109	27.03%	473	6.08%
Mandatory FTEs:								
Farm Bill Programs	5,834	58.49%	4,842	44.90%	5,143	44.72%	4,464	57.41%
Supplemental FTEs:								
Inflation Reduction Act	840	8.42%	3,058	28.35%	3,249	28.25%	2,838	36.50%
Total FTEs	9,974	100.00%	10,785	100.00%	11,501	100.00%	7,775	100.00%

[1] This table reflects the total staff resources necessary to implement private lands conservation programs administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This table includes the total for discretionary technical assistance and associated science and technology programs provided through the Private Lands Conservation Operations account in addition to the total technical assistance necessary to implement Farm Bill and the Inflation Reduction Act programs.

[2] The discretionary funding is based on a Full Year Continuing Resolution. Mandatory and Supplemental funding are based on Authorized levels and Actual carryover. Note the Conservation Technical Assistance includes the $30 million recission in 2024 and 2025.

[3] The Conservation Operations Account includes the Congressionally Directed Projects funding for 2024 Enacted ($19.145 million in Conservation Technical Assistance). FY 2025 does not include any Congressionally Directed Projects.

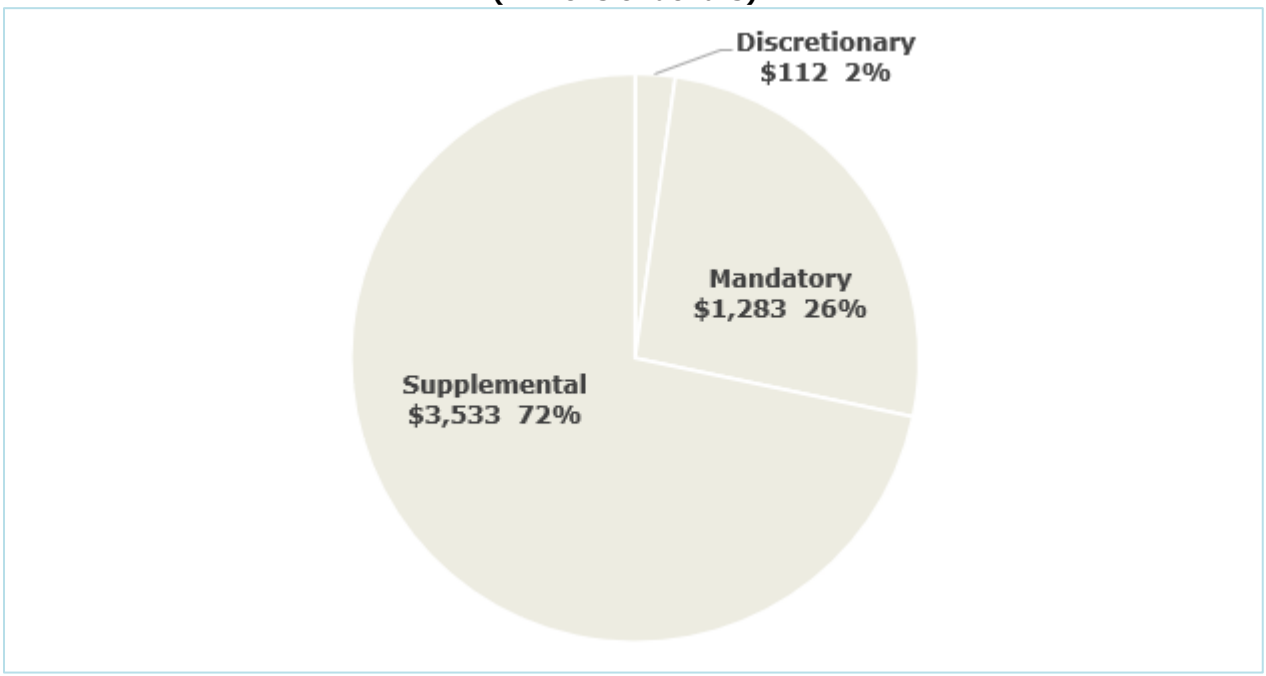
[4] The 2026 Budget assumes an estimated carryover of $0.1 million in discretionary funds for the Wetlands Mitigation Banking Program.

[5] NRCS is authorized to receive 50 percent of total AMA funding. The balance of the funds is allocated to the Risk Management Agency and the Agricultural Marketing Service.

[6] The 2026 Budget assumes estimated carryover of $1.074 billion in supplemental funding.

Note: The decrease in FTEs compared to 2025 is based on NRCS's Agency Reorganization and Reduction Plan (ARRP) Phase II projected footprint after reorganization.

NRCS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
(millions of dollars)



GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTES

Table NRCS-13. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory /Country	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs
Alabama	$8,235	44	$13,626	70	$13,068	75	$3,070	27
Alaska	7,111	30	7,586	35	7,276	38	1,709	13
Arizona	8,977	52	10,116	58	9,702	62	2,279	22
Arkansas	18,827	107	23,138	114	22,191	122	5,213	44
California	31,443	170	24,863	159	23,845	171	5,602	61
Colorado	17,675	81	13,050	84	12,516	90	2,940	32
Connecticut	7,734	36	5,131	30	4,921	32	1,156	11
Delaware	5,642	22	4,704	24	4,511	26	1,060	9
District of Columbia	3,193,091	325	953,235	237	914,221	254	214,777	91
Florida	10,099	49	13,757	48	13,194	52	3,100	18
Georgia	18,524	104	17,588	102	16,868	109	3,963	39
Hawaii	10,005	46	11,436	47	10,968	50	2,577	18
Idaho	12,457	73	15,274	74	14,649	79	3,441	28
Illinois	15,058	63	18,002	78	17,265	84	4,056	30
Indiana	23,311	86	10,335	109	9,912	117	2,329	42
Iowa	23,065	107	20,547	108	19,706	116	4,630	41
Kansas	14,639	100	21,042	106	20,181	114	4,741	40
Kentucky	10,321	67	12,372	67	11,866	72	2,788	26
Louisiana	11,170	68	15,020	78	14,405	84	3,384	30
Maine	8,959	41	5,279	45	5,063	48	1,189	17
Maryland	8,427	45	17,424	49	16,711	53	3,926	19
Massachusetts	5,704	25	5,332	29	5,114	31	1,201	11
Michigan	12,995	75	18,571	81	17,811	87	4,184	31
Minnesota	20,737	69	16,794	84	16,107	90	3,784	32
Mississippi	21,786	78	23,120	89	22,174	96	5,209	34
Missouri	23,740	138	23,411	150	22,453	161	5,275	57
Montana	18,096	88	13,434	70	12,884	75	3,027	27
Nebraska	20,607	122	19,807	137	18,996	147	4,463	52
Nevada	6,043	29	5,047	31	4,840	33	1,137	12
New Hampshire	5,123	33	3,838	37	3,681	40	865	14

State/Territory /Country	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs
New Jersey	5,684	30	8,393	38	8,049	41	1,891	15
New Mexico	10,726	45	13,462	31	12,911	33	3,033	12
New York	13,941	58	10,157	79	9,741	85	2,289	30
North Carolina	9,600	67	13,733	69	13,171	74	3,094	26
North Dakota	15,482	100	18,863	106	18,091	114	4,250	40
Ohio	10,911	59	17,071	62	16,372	67	3,846	24
Oklahoma	13,967	85	16,374	109	15,704	117	3,689	42
Oregon	15,779	62	13,501	75	12,948	80	3,042	29
Pennsylvania	13,672	84	11,797	61	11,314	65	2,658	23
Puerto Rico	4,490	26	6,754	26	6,478	28	1,522	10
Rhode Island	4,249	14	3,966	19	3,804	20	894	7
South Carolina	8,997	36	10,072	38	9,660	41	2,269	15
South Dakota	18,474	102	13,742	105	13,180	113	3,096	40
Tennessee	14,897	86	12,534	93	12,021	100	2,824	36
Texas	45,051	251	46,838	267	44,921	287	10,553	102
Utah	10,172	33	10,577	49	10,144	53	2,383	19
Vermont	5,966	32	4,665	39	4,474	42	1,051	15
Virginia	10,450	64	9,577	65	9,185	70	2,158	25
Washington	10,888	58	15,162	70	14,541	75	3,416	27
West Virginia	8,530	48	10,000	55	9,591	59	2,253	21
Wisconsin	20,749	60	18,937	80	18,162	86	4,267	31
Wyoming	7,442	58	9,263	49	8,884	53	2,087	19
Distribution Unknown	3,439	-	1,560	-	1,496	-	351	-
Obligations	3,883,157	3,831	1,659,877	4,015	1,591,942	4,309	373,994	1,534
Lapsing Balances	9,768	-	6,516	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY	1,849,170	-	1,090,564	-	364,376	-	102,641	-
Total, Available	5,742,095	3,831	2,756,957	4,015	1,956,318	4,309	476,635	1,534

Note: The decrease in FTEs compared to 2025 is based on NRCS's Agency Reorganization and Reduction Plan (ARRP) Phase II projected footprint after reorganization.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table NRCS-14. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	$9,413	$5,139	$5,652	$1,996
	Personnel Compensation, Field	306,898	339,353	373,239	131,821
11	Total personnel compensation	316,311	344,492	378,891	133,817
12	Personal benefits	144,935	154,908	171,581	55,212
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	34	31	26	14
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	461,280	499,431	550,498	189,043
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	19,296	19,140	19,672	6,554
22.0	Transportation of things	3,681	3,742	4,032	544
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	10,002	4,713	3,705	839
23.2	Rental payments to others	23,228	6,254	11,796	3,419
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	1,476	1,097	986	870
24.0	Printing and reproduction	526	188	274	36
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	-1	-	-	-
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	302,298	669,639	543,740	134,014
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	13,160	55,107	3,696	48
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	198,460	101,560	71,939	21,635
25.5	Research and development contracts	-2,354	853	947	211
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	1,559	1,006	1,448	22
26.0	Supplies and materials	10,706	15,577	12,964	5,416
31.0	Equipment	30,451	16,360	12,661	10,288
32.0	Land and structures	12,090	22,003	28,997	1,055
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	2,797,035	235,894	324,571	-
42.0	Insurance Claims and Indemnities	261	-110	10	-
43.0	Interest and Dividends	4	7,423	6	-
44.0	Refunds	-1	-	-	-
	Total, Other Objects	3,421,877	1,160,446	1,041,444	184,951
99.9	Total, new obligations	3,883,157	1,659,877	1,591,942	373,994
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3)	$1,405	$447	$447	$48
	Information Technology Investments:				
	FBC-1001 Cust Engagement & Mgmt Svcs				
25.2	External Labor (Contractors)	$6,764	-	-	-
	Total FBC-1001 Cust Engagement & Mgmt Svcs	6,764	-	-	-
	FPAC-1002 Geospatial Services				
25.2	External Labor (Contractors)	10,947	-	-	-
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting)	272	-	-	-
31.0	Hardware	-	-	-	-
	Total FPAC-1002 Geospatial Services	11,219	-	-	-
	FPAC-1003 Information Management				
25.2	External Labor (Contractors)	-	-	-	-
	Total FPAC-1003 Information Management	-	-	-	-
	FSA-129 Program Financial Services				
25.2	External Labor (Contractors)	35	-	-	-
	Total FSA-129 Program Financial Services	35	-	-	-
	NRCS-1401 Natural Resources & Mgmt Info				
11.0	Internal Labor	-	$47	$47	$8
25.2	External Labor (Contractors)	-	6,753	6,753	1,146
	Total NRCS-1401 Natural Resources & Mgmt Info	-	6,800	6,800	1,154
	NRCS-1402 Conservation Field Delivery Programs				
11.0	Internal Labor	-	117	117	20
25.2	External Labor (Contractors)	-	15,039	15,039	2.551
	Total NRCS-1402 Conservation Field Delivery Programs	-	15,156	15,156	2,571
	NRCS-CDSI Conservation Delivery Streamline Initiative			-	-
11.0	Internal Labor	-	172	172	29

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
25.2	External Labor (Contractors)	2,525	1,588	1,588	269
	Total NRCS-CDSI Conservation Delivery Streamline Initiative	2,525	1,760	1,760	298
	Toal Major Investments	20,543	23,716	23,716	4,023
	Mission Area Non-Major Investment Totals	57,891	-	-	-
	Mission Area Standard Investment Totals	23,280	-	-	-
25.3	Mission Area WCF Transfers	100,655	-	-	-
	Total Non-Major Investment	181,826	-	-	-
	Total IT Investments	202,369	23,716	23,716	4,023
	Cybersecurity				
	Sector Risk Management	-	$25	$25	$4
	Identify	$454	37	44	8
	Protect	4,430	248	254	46
	Detect	183	18	20	4
	Respond	758	44	45	8
	Recover	467	32	31	6
	Total Cybersecurity	6,292	404	419	76
	Position Data:			-	-
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	$191,976	$199,722	$203,716	$203,716
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	$77,835	$81,013	$82,633	$82,633
	Average Grade, GS Position	10.0	10.0	10.3	10.3

Note: The position data reported above is representative of data collected across all funding sources provided to NRCS, including, but not limited to, Private Lands Conservation Operations, Watershed Rehabilitation (Technical Assistance), Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (Technical Assistance), Water Bank Program (Technical Assistance), and Farm Security and Rural Investment Program (Technical Assistance).

This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies.

Note: The decrease in FTEs compared to 2025 is based on NRCS's Agency Reorganization and Reduction Plan (ARRP) Phase II projected footprint after reorganization.

STATUS OF PROGRAMS

PRIVATE LANDS CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

Private Lands Conservation Operations (PLCO) is authorized by the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1935 (P.L. 74-46; 16 U.S.C. 590a-590f) and the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (RCA) (16 U.S.C. 2001-2009). PLCO provides technical assistance supported by science-based technology and tools that help people conserve, maintain, and improve the Nation's natural resources. PLCO has four major program components - Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA); Soil Survey; Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting (SSWSF); and Plant Materials Centers (PMCs).

Soil Survey Program

The soil survey program provides essential soil survey and ecological site data for national, regional, and local conservation planning. Scientists, conservationists, land managers, and policy makers use soil survey and ecological site information to study environmental impacts, to assess, select, and implement conservation practices, to recognize thresholds of irreversible change in managed ecosystems, and to evaluate the sustainability and environmental effects of land use and management practices. The soil survey program provides data for computer simulation models to predict the dynamics of carbon, nutrients, and water in soils. Planners, engineers, farmers, ranchers, forest managers, developers, and homeowners use soil survey program information to evaluate soil and land suitability for various land uses and covers; to respond to disasters, to provide climate change adaptation and resilience strategies; and to make management decisions for farms, home sites, subdivisions, commercial and industrial sites, and wildlife and recreational areas.

National Cooperative Soil Survey

NRCS is the lead Federal agency for the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS), a partnership of Federal land management agencies, tribes, State agricultural experiment stations, private consultants, and State and local governments. The NCSS promotes the use of soil and ecological site information and develops policies and procedures for conducting soil surveys, ecological site inventories, and producing soil and ecological site information. The Agency provides the scientific expertise to enable the NCSS to develop and maintain a uniform system for mapping and assessing soil resources and ecological site descriptions that allows soil survey program information from different locations to be shared regardless of which agency collects it. The Agency provides most of the training in soil surveys to Federal agencies and assists with their soil inventories on a reimbursable basis.

Four regions comprise the NCSS and correspond to the agricultural experiment station regions: North Central, Northeast, Southern, and Western. The conference steering committee publishes the conference proceedings and distributes copies to regional NCSS cooperators and others. Each region convenes a soil survey conference in even-numbered years, while national conferences occur in odd-numbered years. National Cooperative Soil Survey business is generally generated at the regional conferences and acted on at the national conference level.

Standards and Mechanisms for Soil Survey Program Information

The NRCS Soil and Plant Science Division (SPSD) is responsible for developing the standards, guidelines, definitions, policy, responsibilities, and procedures for conducting the NCSS in the United States. The Agency establishes required standards by defining technical criteria, methods, processes, or practices that must be accomplished or adhered to in order to ensure mission objectives are being met. NCSS standards ensure consistency and repeatability of field, analytical, and office procedures so user needs and processes are repeatable in all locations. Standards also apply to the results, performance, and output of soil survey program information and data.

The SPSD provides the leadership to produce and deliver scientifically based soil and ecological site information to help society understand, value, and wisely manage global resources. Soil survey data is gathered and delivered using a national tabular and spatial data infrastructure, which is required by Executive Order 12906. The NRCS is continually enhancing the National Soil Survey Information System (NASIS) database and producing soil survey publications that are accessible to the public through the NRCS webpages. The NRCS houses some archived soil survey data on the Soil Data

Warehouse and distributes all of the official published soil surveys using Web Soil Survey, for free daily public access. The NRCS refreshes the official NCSS data annually for modelers and researchers in addition to meeting NRCS and Departmental conservation compliance program requirements and Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool (CART) needs. The Agency continues to support the SoilWeb mobile application which is a popular tool used by individuals to derive soil information at Global Positioning System (GPS) located points and web-based delivery mechanisms that simplify the interpretation and increase the delivery of soil and ecological site data.

Current Activities

The primary focus of the soil survey program is to provide current and consistent interpretations and data sets of the soil and ecological site resources of the United States. This includes providing useful information to the public in a variety of formats (e.g., electronic, and web-based). The program will continue to focus on maintaining quality soil and ecological information and helping people understand and use resources in a sustainable manner. The NCSS is integral to maintaining quality soil and ecological site information. Key program elements include the following:

Soils Inventory

Mapping procedures are based on physiographic rather than administrative boundaries. Soil surveys based on natural landscape boundaries are more efficient to produce, and provide consistent, quality data for assessing and planning the use and protection of landscape units (watersheds or ecosystems). Physiographic surveys provide consistent data that can be easily used by users with interest in multiple jurisdictions, or by community, State, or regional planners. A primary challenge is to complete the initial soil survey for the entire country. This challenge also includes completing surveys on tribal land holdings and on public lands controlled by the Forest Service (FS), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), Department of Energy (DOE), and Department of Defense (DOD). Public lands are important to include with private lands when planning land use and conservation for watersheds, landscapes, or ecological sites. NRCS is working cooperatively within the NCSS to accomplish these goals.

In 2022, SPSD published a National Instruction institutionalizing the collection of Dynamic Soil Properties (DSP) data as part of SPSD operations. DSPs are those properties that change with land use and management and are used to measure and predict the response of soils to disturbances caused by human and non-human factors. Dynamic soil properties link traditional soil inventories to advancing areas of soil health, conservation, and management practices. There is an increasing demand for dynamic soil property data to inform management activities, to better assess the effect of ecosystem services, and to provide more detailed and site-specific information for model development and applications.

Ecological Inventory

Ecological sites (ES) are subdivisions of working landscapes defined and mapped by their associations with soil properties. These management-scale units are defined by inherent site properties, (soils, hydrology, geomorphology, climate, and organisms) which determine the likelihood of a site to respond predictably to natural and management changes. Each ES is documented in an Ecological Site Description (ESD) containing information resource managers can use to: 1) verify the ES for their area of interest; 2) conduct inventories of soil properties, vegetation dynamics and land use/management interpretations for conservation planning; 3) identify management objectives; and 4) evaluate outcomes. All ES information is stored and managed in a common platform, the Ecological Dynamics Interpretive Tool (EDIT). The Ecological Dynamics Interpretive Tool is connected to other NRCS databases and platforms.

By policy, ES are used as a technical resource for inventories, assessments, and to make and document management decisions by NRCS, Bureau of Land Management, and Forest Service on rangelands. These agencies have a long history of collaboration at national and local projects including training, database development, on-the-ground implementation, national inventory, and research.

To get ESDs to end users quickly, the Provisional Ecological Site (PES) initiative was established to organize all the existing soil survey map units across the continental United States into provisional ecological sites suitable to guide conservation planning decisions. Science review of the PES projects

was nearly completed in 2024. These projects require every major soil component to be correlated to an ES in the national soils database, and for all PES in the MLRA to undergo Science Review and be published online in the EDIT database. The PES tracker developed in 2023 streamlined the process, resulting in 88 percent completion of PES projects nationwide completion of CONUS PES projects in early 2025.

Kellogg Soil Survey Laboratory (KSSL)
The dominant focus of the KSSL in 2024 was moving to a new facility. KSSL staff embraced the heavy lift of preparing the KSSL Soil Archive for the move through the transfer of samples to new containers to meet Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regulation where 107,383 APHIS regulated samples were transferred and labeled; reviewing storage box and sample container integrity after decades of storage where 16,997 boxes of samples were relabeled/refreshed, and 1,567 boxes of samples were inspected; relabeling samples to conform to current, more robust archive labeling where 133,033 unregulated samples were relabeled to conform to current archive labeling; and soil sample database reconciliation to confirm sample numbers and preparations where 1,818 boxes of samples were reconciled in the database but did not require relabeling or transfer.

The KSSL also integrated soil samples (1959 - 1974) from the SCS Riverside Soil Survey Laboratory, Riverside CA, into the KSSL Soil Archive. This included 645 sample boxes created, 9,720 samples were relabeled and transferred from original containers to standardized Archive containers and labels. This effort began in 2023 and is now completed adding 10,980 samples with data to the Collection.

All told, KSSL staff laid hands on over a quarter of a million soil samples in 2024 to ensure a smooth transition of one of the world's largest soil Collections to the KSSL.

In 2024, the KSSL conducted analysis and validation on 1,837 soil samples collected from individual soil horizons that represent 249 soil profiles (pedons). The soil samples analyzed come from NRCS and other Agency clientele that include Soil Survey Field Offices, State Soil Scientists, Resource Soil Scientists, University Cooperators, non-governmental organizations, Plant Materials Centers, the National Resource Inventory Soil Monitoring Network, the National Ecological Observatory Network, and outreach activities such as collegiate soil judging and the United Nations-Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO). During 2024, the KSSL recorded over 34,000 analytical results on chemical, physical, mineralogical, and biological soil properties by more than 50 different analytical methods. This quantitative data is essential for the NCSS and NRCS programs such as Conservation Technical Assistance and Farm Bill Programs. National programs and research projects depend on KSSL data for soil classification, soil screening and assessment, soil health, and dynamic soil properties.

KSSL is the primary laboratory providing quantitative analyses to support NCSS and NRCS activities around the Nation. In addition, the KSSL develops and maintains standard soil laboratory procedures specifically applicable to soil assessment programs and provides technical consultation and reference samples to other soil laboratories as participants in lab testing comparison studies.

The quantitative soil data produced by the KSSL serves as input for models and interpretations for land use and management, baseline data to assess soil health, and measures values to determine effectiveness of conservation practices and programs (e.g., CEAP, Environmental Policy Integrated Climate model, Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation).

The NCSS Characterization Database is maintained and delivered by the Kellogg Soil Survey Laboratory of the SPSD. It delivers a comprehensive soil laboratory dataset of chemical, physical, and mineralogical properties from over 64,000 sample sites, which are the result of 125 years of inventorying soils of the United States and Territories. The database is used by a wide range of customers, including farmers, ranchers, forest managers, internal USDA staff, other Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, state and local governments, and university partners.

The KSSL participates in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Global Soil Partnership (GSP), Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN) (http://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/glosolan/en/), that facilitates harmonization of methods of analysis and standards for laboratory quality control, and improves the capacity of laboratories worldwide to perform soil

analysis. The KSSL also participated in the 7th annual GLOSOLAN meeting, (Fifth GLOSOLAN meeting | Global Soil Partnership | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (fao.org)).

Over the last 14 years, the KSSL has been assembling a mid-infrared (MIR) spectral library to use soil infrared spectrometry as a low-cost tool for the rapid prediction of soil carbon and other properties. The growing KSSL MIR spectral library represents over 100,000 legacy samples from the KSSL soil archive, the largest public collection in the United States with over 400,000 specimens. Local calibration models are being developed for use by NRCS soil survey field offices for rapid prediction of organic carbon for soil health and soil resource assessment. MIR spectrometry allows rapid data collection while assuring data quality and consistency with a tool that any NRCS field soil scientist can use for soil survey and soil health investigations.

Based on its demonstrated capacity to produce quality measured and spectral data as well its open data policy, the KSSL plays a key role in the GLOSOLAN soil spectrometry initiative (https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/glosolan-old/soil-analysis/dry-chemistry-spectroscopy/en/). Work continues toward the establishment of a global spectral calibration library, a soil property estimation service, and on capacity building in soil spectrometry, on national and global levels. Standard operating procedures are in place for sample preparation and MIR spectral data collection, that will also help GLOSOLAN regional champion laboratories support capacity building activities in soil spectrometry.

National Soil Survey Center
In 2023, the Soil Survey Program entered into agreements with multiple NCSS partners to use their expertise in innovative research and new technology development to achieve efficiencies in assessing and delivering soil and ecological site information. These investments are the foundation for information delivery in the future.

A branch of the National Soil Survey Center is the Soil Research Branch which coordinates research by and for soil survey. This includes meeting agency needs for soil information, improving SPSD techniques and guidance, and promoting cooperation across the National Cooperative Soil Survey. The Research Branch intends to continue to build capacity in the areas of soil biology, soil climate (including moisture and hydrology) and proximal sensing. This expertise is leveraged through collaborative research with all SPSD and NCSS scientists. In 2024, the Research Branch:

- Lead the development and deployment of the Soil Carbon Monitoring Network
- Set up new independent Research Branch Laboratory with capabilities for the measurement of soil biology
- Developed and utilized database for the data from Science of Soil Health projects
- Provided leadership to regional NCSS Research Priorities committees
- Lead the review of proposals and development of cooperative agreements for 20 new cooperative research agreements

Technical Soil Services
Technical Soil Services (TSS) provides five basic types of service: technical policy and program services; planning services; site-specific soil investigations, testing, interpretation, and evaluation; expert services for judicial requests; and information services. These services are primarily provided through the USDA Service Centers. Technical Soil Services also support new and innovative models of conservation delivery such as the Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool (CART) and Conservation Desktop. In 2024, over 125,000 hours of TSS were delivered to internal and external customers. Wetland and highly erodible land compliance, onsite investigations, technical consultations, and delivering maps, presentations, and training were dominant services delivered.

Web Soil Survey
The Web Soil Survey website, https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/, provides soil data and information produced by the NCSS to the public. The Agency operates the website that provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. The NRCS's soil maps and data are available online for 96 percent of the continental United States. The site is updated and maintained as the single authoritative source of soil survey information. The Web Soil Survey is used

directly for conservation planning via Conservation Desktop.

Digital Soil Surveys
The NCSS develops and maintains two scales of soil surveys:

- Soil Survey Geographic Data Base (SSURGO) is used primarily by landowners, townships, counties or parishes, and watershed hydrologic units for planning and resource management. SSURGO contains the most detailed level of soil information; with vector and raster formation available for SSURGO; and
- United States General Soil Map, which is used primarily for State, multi-county river basin planning, resource management and monitoring.

Acres Mapped
During 2024, soil scientists mapped or updated 84 million acres bringing the total of soil survey acres mapped to 2.18 billion acres in the United States. About 96 percent of private lands are completed and 80 percent of Federal lands have a soil survey inventory.

Soil mapping priorities are directed toward completion of all previously unmapped private, Federal, and Tribal lands and updating mapping and interpretations to meet current user needs and requirements.

Soils Information and Soil Surveys used interactively online.
In 2024, soils and plant information on the NRCS web site had 1 million page views. The total number of visits was over 3.8 million. The top information requests are: Soil Surveys by State, Soil Texture Calculator, Soil Survey, Soils homepage, and Soil Classification.

Soil surveys used interactively online are accessed via Web Soil Survey, SoilWeb, and Soil Data Access. Users can view summaries of soil types for any geographic location where NRCS soil data exists. In 2024, the Web Soil Survey (https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm) logged over 3.8 million user visits and accessed data for over 3.54 million areas of interest. Customers generated about 1.0 million printed documents. Customers downloaded data over 475,000 soil datasets. Users can view summaries of soil types for any geographic location where NRCS soil data exists. SoilWeb was developed in collaboration with the University of California-Davis Soil Resource Lab and NRCS. The website is available at http://casoilresource.lawr.ucdavis.edu/soilweb. The various SoilWeb interfaces received about 767,000 visits with approximately 5,000 unique queries per day made within the desktop application and approximately 800 queries per day via moile applications (iOS and Android). Soil Data Access (SDA) is the name of a suite of web services and applications whose purpose is to meet requirements for requesting and delivering soil survey spatial and tabular data that are not met by the Web Soil Survey and Geospatial Data Gateway websites. Customers queried soil data using SDA over 103 million times.

Soil Resource Assessment for Conservation Planning
NRCS soils information is foundational for the Agency to continue to provide technical assistance and support to landowners efficiently and effectively. The increasing availability of geospatially referenced natural resource data (e.g., soil, climate, land cover) and the expansion of computing resources and web-based services provide field staff with an unprecedented amount of information to help support and inform their discussions with landowners. The CART business software modernizes and streamlines NRCS's conservation planning and program delivery and improves the customer experience by creating an efficient assessment and application process. The tool combines and analyzes geospatially referenced data and site-specific information provided by the landowner within a decision support system framework.

In 2024, soils information was accessed over 5 million times in the resource assessment part of CART. Documentation for soils data inputs into CART are at https://jneme910.github.io/CART/.

Dynamic Soil Properties
Dynamic Soil Properties (DSP) are soil properties that change in response to land use, management, and natural disturbance. DSPs include soil organic carbon, infiltration, and structure and are drivers of soil functions. DSPs can indicate past management as well as predict responses and guide decisions made by land managers.

Since 2020, NRCS is mandated to collect DSP data across all U.S. states and territories focusing on "benchmark" soils – soils of great extent and importance for their contribution to local economies, livelihoods, and recreation. Over 400 DSP projects have been initiated or completed. Our projects leverage partnerships with NRCS field staff, conservation partners, universities, Federal partners (USFS, BLM, NPS, etc.) and many private landowners.

Already the data from individual projects are answering local conservation questions and enabling our field staff to "sell" conservation at the local level. The data aggregated from DSP projects provides the scientific basis for our future dynamic soil survey that will integrate soil function and change into soil survey products and decision support tools.

Dynamic Soil Survey
Dynamic soil survey (DSS) is the foundation of land-use planning and management and is an evolving and iterative approach to soil survey that seamlessly integrates ecology, hydrology, and temporal soil properties with improvements in digital technology. The DSS uses the practice of complementary soil survey project administration within the same geographical footprint or overlap. All current and future soil survey projects contribute to the DSS. The DSS is leveraged when a soil survey inventory, ecological site, or a dynamic soil property project is conducted coincident with a research and/or a monitoring project. The full potential for DSS is realized when the products of these coincident projects are paired with a raster soil survey (high resolution pixel format) and used to deliver enhanced interpretation of all soil survey data and information. Past soil survey work provides data on static soil properties in a vector (line/polygon format). Digital technology allows better capture and visualization of the variability and diversity of static soil properties at multiple scales, as well as the modeling of temporal soil properties and soil moisture. Collection of temporal soil properties affected by soil biology and land use management allow DSS to illustrate the interaction of the ecosystem and leverage the development of ecological state and transition models and linkage of climate data. The combination of these data allows the improvement of soil interpretation and support of conservation practices.

Dynamic Soils Hub
The Dynamic Soils Hub (DS Hub) was initiated in 2021 and became live in 2024. The DS Hub is an innovative, high-end, geospatial data user interface that builds new data products from a wide variety of existing data sets. It will support the Conservation Innovation Grants, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, and Soil Health programs. It is focused on rapidly responding to customer requests for science-based soil property data at the Deputy Chief, Chief, and Under Secretary levels. The DS Hub expands USDA capacity to model and report on soil properties that change with conservation management. It will empower the collection, storage, and delivery of data related to dynamic soil properties and conservation management. The DS Hub will link soil and conservation databases, providing the ability to assess outcomes in conservation programs by accessing otherwise siloed data and models across Agency divisions. The DS Hub is a flagship innovation that expands USDA capacity to model and report on soil properties that change with conservation management on a human time scale.

Several models and interpretations were developed to support the NRCS SMART Nutrient Management initiative, a soil sensitivity index (interpretation) was developed to rate soils based on their sensitivity for nutrient runoff. The index can be used in conservation planning to assist in identifying soils and areas with greater vulnerability to nutrient runoff. The most sensitive soils are those that are most vulnerable, or highly susceptible to nutrient runoff and water quality. Models and interpretations included:

- Nutrient Sensitive Areas Analysis - provides a science-based methodology, a tool and visualization for the conservationists to use with clients in Conservation Desktop.

- Water Quality Models - a public version of the nutrient management soil threshold results used in CART.
    - Allows access by Technical Service Providers (TSPs) to assist in the conservation planning and implementation process.
- Dynamic Soils Hub Development
    - Worked with the DS Hub development team to help develop and accelerate the release of new tools and data for DSS initiatives.
    - Interface that builds new data products from a wide variety of existing data sets
    - Supports a variety of conservation programs.

Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting (SSWSF) Program

The SSWSF Program collects high elevation snow data in the Western U.S. and produces snowpack information, water supply forecasts, and other climatic data for a myriad of water managers and users. Snowmelt in the West delivers approximately 70 percent of the regional water supply, vital to the continued success of Western agriculture. NRCS field staff and cooperators measure snow depth, snow water equivalent (SWE), and other parameters such as precipitation, air temperature, and soil conditions at thousands of remote mountain sites. Further analysis provides estimates for water supply and usefulness related to planning, drought, flooding, wildfire, and avalanche risk.

The 2024 analytics indicate SSWSF data and associated products comprise approximately 75 percent of all NRCS webpage traffic. The SSWSF information systems are designated as a High Value Asset according to the Department of Homeland Security because of the critical data provided in support of mission essential functions at twelve Federal agencies. Federal partners include the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), National Weather Service (NWS) River Forecasting Centers and other National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) departments, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Department of Energy (DOE), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Other considerable customers include farmers and irrigation districts, municipalities, hydroelectric utilities, fish and wildlife managers, recreationists, and Tribal Nations.

The SSWSF Program furnishes water and climate information and direct assistance for natural resource management in 13 States: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The National Water and Climate Center (NWCC) located in Portland, Oregon provides leadership and technology backing for NRCS State Offices supporting field equipment, data collection, database management, and water supply forecast delivery.

Because snowmelt is the greatest source of water supply in the semi-arid West, information provided by SSWSF is critical. Competition continues to intensify over water for irrigation, municipal, and industrial uses, along with in-stream requirements such as river-based recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, fish and wildlife habitat, and hydroelectric power generation. Recent high temperatures, prolonged droughts, and more damaging wildland fires further stress this valuable resource. Increasing water demands require more precise management starting with snowpack evaluation.

NRCS Snow Survey data are routinely used in matters of commerce and public safety in addition to Western water supply management. Road closure determinations, flooding or drought potential, avalanche risk mitigation, wildfire prediction and risk mitigation, NOAA weather modeling, and streamflow forecasting all rely on SSWSF data. With much of the West often in drought, SSWSF data, products, and forecasts are extensively used. Drought impacts or flood damages are mitigated with early preparation based on snowpack information and streamflow forecasts.

Established in 1935, the cooperative SSWSF Program is widely recognized for its historical record of high-elevation snow data. SSWSF provides consistent and accurate water supply forecasts. The Program accomplishes this by operating and maintaining a world-renowned snowpack monitoring system with over 1,100 manually measured snow courses, aerial markers, and cooperator sites in the U.S. and in watersheds draining into the U.S. SSWSF also maintains 957 automated SNOTEL (Snow

Telemetry) and SNOLITE sites. Additionally, the NWCC, in cooperation with the NRCS Soil and Plant Science Division, operates 214 automated Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN) stations across the U.S., including 25 sites on tribal lands. Although most of the funding and field efforts occur through the agency, partners and cooperators provide a share of financial burden and contribute to data-collection activities.

Snow courses are locations where snow is manually measured, typically on a monthly schedule during winter months. SNOTEL sites automatically collect a suite of hydrometeorological data in high-elevation settings reporting real-time information on hourly intervals via telemetry. Sensor measurements typically include SWE, snow depth, precipitation, and air temperature. Soil moisture sensors are being added at many SNOTEL sites, along with wind speed and wind direction, relative humidity, snowpack temperature profiles, and net solar radiation. SNOLITE sites have fewer sensors on a smaller site footprint. Automated telemetered sites provide continuous up-to-date information and reduce costs and safety concerns versus use of field personnel for manual measurements in remote locations. SCAN stations focus on gathering soil and climate information. A limited number of SCAN stations collect snow depth in addition to the typical suite of sensors. Valuable data play a key role in flood and drought forecasting, water supply determination, understanding wildfire risks and post-fire mitigation, and for evaluating climate change.

Snow Survey information and water supply forecasts also are used extensively in hydroelectric power operations, in reservoir management, to project water quantity available for crops, to project probability of flooding, to determine available water for aquifer recharge, to predict flows for wildlife and recreation, and to inform the public about mountain conditions including avalanche likelihood. No other products in the Western U.S. fulfill these informational needs. Past assessment of SSWSF Program economic and societal values are outlined in an agency-released report "A Measure of Snow."

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-11/MeasureofSnowSummary_0.pdf

Current Activities

Water Supply Forecasts

Water supply forecasts predict snowmelt runoff volume and are issued from January - June in collaboration with the NWS and other Federal and State agencies. Seasonal forecasts for 600 streamflow locations were delivered during 2024. SSWSF also distributed peak flow, recession, and threshold forecasts with surface water availability index values. The program published 6,175 water supply forecasts during the 2024 water year.

Site Upgrades and Installations

In 2024, 12 new SNOTEL and four SNOLITE sites were installed. Three new SNOTEL sites in Colorado are at or above 11,500 feet and one is considered glacier adjacent. This year, more accurate air temperature sensors were installed across the Program. Offices continued to investigate future SNOTEL site locations, although the lengthy permitting process delayed installations and maintenance.

To ensure accurate data are available, summer maintenance for SNOTEL sites was prioritized to reset, repair, or replace sensors, precipitation gages, data loggers, transmitters, transducers, antennas, plumbing, electrical wiring, solar panels, batteries, shelters, and snow pillows. Hazardous trees that could potentially damage stations were removed. SCAN sites were updated and maintained across the country this past year.

SNOTEL Sites Affected by Disasters and Vandalism

Western U.S. wildfires remain a concern, and the SSWSF works to protect sites ahead of approaching fire, if possible. One SNOTEL site in Idaho was destroyed this summer. Numerous other sites in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington were damaged or had nearby canopy loss from fire. After a fire moves through, the altered landscape affects snow accumulation, snowmelt, and resulting streamflow runoff. The historical relationship between snow and streamflow forms the foundation for water supply forecasts.

In addition to fire this year, bear activity in Alaska and Montana led to three ruined, ten-foot-wide snow pillows and two wrecked, large precipitation gages. Also, another precipitation gage was smashed by a dead tree. Rodents often are attributed to damaged plumbing and wiring.

Outreach and Partnerships

In 2023, SSWSF entered a two-year $1 million agreement with the University of New Hampshire to evaluate the potential of an automated weather and snowpack monitoring network in the northeastern U.S. This on-going study is examining partnerships, goals, number of sites, sensors, site location criteria, warehouses, vehicles, and staff needed to install and maintain a network, potentially similar to the current western SNOTEL system.

Multiple SSWSF State offices are strengthening relationships with tribes to coordinate on installing sites, providing operational support, and/or participating in educational outreach. The Alaska office installed a snow course in partnership with, and at the request of, the Igiugig Village Council. In addition, two new SNOTEL sites were installed on native land including one to help forecast village water supply in the Gartina Basin. Idaho is a member of The Confluence Project coordinating outreach to local high schools as part of a collaboration with the Coeur d'Alene tribe and other agencies and non-profits. New Mexico partnered with the Zuni Pueblo, Taos Pueblo, and the Navajo Nation to complete data collection within the tribal lands and supported Navajo Nation staff attendance at the West-wide Snow School training. Colorado is working with the Navajo Nation to convert snow courses to automated measuring sites. And Utah also is pursuing installation of a new SNOTEL site on Navajo Mountain. Montana has continued its collaboration with the Northern Arapaho to expand monitoring on their land in the Wind River range and has begun talks with the Flathead irrigation project, Confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes, for additional monitoring in the Mission Mountain Range. Nevada gave a SNOTEL site tour and discussed products with the Summit Lake Paiute tribe's Natural Resources staff. Oregon and Washington are considering expanding automated monitoring on the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and Yakama Nation land, respectively.

SSWSF offices in each State perform extensive outreach around snow and water conditions. A broad illustration of SSWSF work and data availability is shown in this video developed by the Nevada office:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWm5TeASLY8

Multiple collaborations continue to be established with private and public partners. More examples include: The Oregon office established the Oregon Soil Monitoring Initiative to enhance drought monitoring and streamflow forecasts. Colorado has a project with the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council to install soil moisture sensors at SNOTEL sites. Utah contributed to the multi-agency Drought Monitor evaluation group and began forecasts for Great Salt Lake inflow. Idaho, Oregon, and Washington partnered with the USACE to install enhanced sensors at SNOTEL sites for climate monitoring and water management. Arizona worked with the Salt River Project on collecting snow water equivalent data. The Wyoming office contributed to research on sub-seasonal snowpack and water supply prediction.

The NWCC began a contract to generate spatially distributed snowpack data for nearly 50,000 square miles of priority water supply producing basins, supporting research and development efforts to improve water supply forecasting skill and to identify ground-based monitoring gaps. Note also that the NRCS SNOTEL and snow course data play a critical role in ground truthing airborne lidar data and providing accurate snow density measurements.

Within SSWSF, a formalized monitoring research and development unit was created to investigate and test new sensors, telemetry and data collection systems. Three test platforms were installed, and three additional site locations were identified, at various elevation bands and snow climates, to evaluate infrastructure for the current SNOTEL network along with expansion into non-traditional monitoring locations such as the alpine zone. In addition, significant improvements were made in collection of data telemetered by satellite communication systems, supporting critical expansion of the SNOTEL network into more complex environments.

Plant Materials Centers (PMC)

The NRCS network of PMCs is the only national organization that develops and tests vegetation to address our Nation's natural resource challenges. The agency operates 25 PMCs and works closely with other entities for the development of plant materials products needed by the agency. Each PMC addresses the high-priority conservation concerns within unique ecological areas. When appropriate, PMCs coordinate among locations to evaluate vegetative technology and solutions that influence large regions of the United States.

PMCs develop vegetative solutions to critical natural resource concerns. PMCs focus on priorities such as soil stabilization, soil health and productivity, water and air quality, enhancement of pollinator habitat to support agricultural production, habitat for at-risk species such as sage grouse and monarch butterflies and restoring productivity to degraded landscapes. PMCs directly support the agency mission by providing scientifically sound plant information and tools used by conservation planners, partners, producers, and private landowners. PMCs develop technology and information for the use, establishment, and maintenance of plants for a wide variety of natural resource conservation practices; provide training and education to staff, partners, and the public; assess and characterize plant attributes to provide data and information important in the operation of predictive models and effective management of climate impacted plant resources; and assemble, evaluate, and release seed and plants to provide for the commercial production of plant materials that protect and conserve our natural resources.

The Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) delivers Plant Materials Program information directly to field staff and partners in conservation planning. PMC staff tailor vegetative information to the unique conditions of the areas they serve and provide extensive training to field staff and partners on the selection and establishment of vegetation adapted to specific resource concerns. Program information is available to the public at https://www.plant-materials.nrcs.usda.gov.

Plant Materials Program information improves the condition of natural resources on private and public lands. On private lands, program information supports the successful implementation of programs such as the EQIP and CSP administered by NRCS and CRP administered by the Farm Service Agency.

The Plant Materials Program uses a multidisciplinary approach to solving natural resource problems, drawing from staff expertise in agronomy, biology, soils, forestry, and horticulture. Plant Materials Program activities are coordinated with NRCS technical specialists, other governmental agencies, nongovernment organizations, and the private sector. The program regularly cooperates with the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the Forest Service, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and Fish and Wildlife Service, and State and local departments of transportation, wildlife, and natural resources. Nongovernmental organizations include universities, native plant societies, wildlife organizations, and industry partners such as commercial seed and plant growers. These partnerships enhance the development of plant materials information, accomplishing work that would not be possible for PMCs or their partners acting alone. These partnerships also provide a conduit for sharing technical information developed by PMCs to audiences well beyond NRCS conservation planners and customers.

Current Activities

In 2024, NRCS continued its efforts to improve the operations and mission of PMCs to produce products needed by field staff and conservation partners. The following are highlights of PMC activities:

Technology Development and Transfer. PMCs provide agency staff, conservation partners, and the public with information needed to successfully get natural resource conservation on the ground. Plant Materials Program studies resulted in over 79 new technical documents to the plant materials website. PMCs continue to increase efforts to tailor plant materials information for specific conservation purposes and to support the agency initiatives. PMCs transferred the results of studies through 15 new study reports, the application of PMC vegetative information in ten new technical notes or conservation practice implementation requirements, and information on the use, establishment, and management of conservation plants in nine new or revised plant guides. The program continues its

efforts to provide relevant, high quality vegetative information for NRCS conservation planners and customers to assist with implementing conservation practices. One example from 2024 is "Native Pollinator Plants of East Texas and the Western Coastal Plain", prepared by the Nacogdoches, Texas PMC, and includes propagation methods, growth requirements, and plants used by pollinator species to assist with selecting plants for pollinator habitat plantings.

At the end of 2024, there were over 2,700 documents and detailed information on over 440 conservation plants available on the PMCs' website. The website enhancement continues, with special features, improved linkages to technical topics, national and regional program documents, and connections with other NRCS websites. Plant Materials updates, released as GovDelivery emails to over 95,000 subscribers, continue to disseminate new information monthly. These actions are improving the accessibility and usefulness of the plant materials website for all users.

Plant Materials Program staff conducted 79 technical training sessions for 2,328 field staff and conservation partners. Training included: 1) selecting, planting, and managing cover crops; 2) selecting and establishing conservation plants; 3) plant identification; 4) planning a conservation planting; 5) enhancing wildlife and pollinator habitat; 6) improving the productivity of range and pastureland; 7) managing weeds in conservation plantings; 8) importance of vegetative covers for preventing erosion; and 9) specialized topics such as plant materials adapted to coastal flooding and saltwater intrusion. NRCS field staff technical knowledge is improved by holding many of these PMC trainings in conjunction with Conservation Planner Certification training sessions. For example, in 2024 the California PMC held a cover crop seeding field day which highlighted innovative seeding technology, management methods, and evaluations underway to promote the use of cover crops in California, and the Knox City, Texas PMC initiated a training series to provide conservation planners resources for developing seed mixes, the importance of using named varieties, and seedbed preparation and equipment.

PMCs provided field days, tours, and presentations over 6,400 participants including NRCS employees, Federal and State government employees, farmers, ranchers, and the public. For example, the West Virginia PMC shared results of their grazing study to support pasture and hayland efforts in the Appalachian region at regional and national conferences with farmers, researchers, and other State and Federal agency personnel. PMCs had considerable outreach events to Native Americans, such as to inform tribal partners on the resources available from PMCs (Montana PMC) and to tribal youth on seed gathering and plant propagation (North Dakota PMC).

The NRCS Soil Health Division and Plant Materials Program also continued their partnership to deliver "Cover Crops for Soil Health" at the PMCs in California and Georgia, providing training on cover crop selection, management, and integration with agricultural cropping systems and livestock to over 70 NRCS employees from across the country. Plans are underway to hold 2025 training at the PMCs in New York and Washington.

Conservation Plants. PMCs have selected and released 753 conservation plants over the past 85 years, of which 563 are active and commercially available today. These plants are tools used to support conservation practices that stabilize soil, improve pollinator and wildlife habitat, provide livestock forage, and increase the diversity in conservation plantings. All PMC plant releases support NRCS conservation activities on private lands as well as the National Seed Strategy, a Federal interagency effort to develop appropriate plants for restoration and conservation on both public and private lands. The PMC program and the ARS Forage and Range Research Laboratory in Logan, Utah, are working together to develop information which will support decisions to maintain the genetic diversity of new conservation plant development, so they are better adapted to changing environments.

PMCs did not release any new conservation plants in 2024 but are actively working on several new conservation plants to release to the public in 2025. For example, the Idaho PMC will release a curlycup gumweed (*Grindelia squarrosa*) for use as an early seral species to increase rangeland diversity. They recently completed a report on evaluations of phenotypic and genotypic characteristics that will be used to select accessions with traits suited for predicted future conditions due to climate

change. Curlycup gumweed will be one of the first plant releases from the PMC program to use genetic analysis to assist in decision making to develop appropriate conservation plants.

PMC continue to expand the testing and utility of many of the conservation plants released in past years. For example, PMCs in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, and Washington are planning to test the adaptation and performance of conservation plant releases in different soil and climatic conditions to prepare for potential changes in recommendations due to projected climate change, similar to the current study at PMCs in Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, Texas (Nacogdoches), and West Virginia.

ACCOUNT 2: WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS PROGRAM

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table NRCS-16. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2025	$14,650,000
Change in Appropriation	-14,650,000
Budget Estimate, 2026	-

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table NRCS-17. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Approp:											
Small Watershed P.L. 83-566:											
Technical Assistance	$19,250	39	$7,000	31	$6,558	28	-	14	-$6,558	-14	
Financial Assistance	35,750	-	28,000	-	8,092	-	-	-	-8,092	-	
Subtotal	55,000	39	35,000	31	14,650	28	-	14	-14,650	-14	
Flood Prevention Operations P.L. 78-534:											
Technical Assistance	3,500	5	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-2	
Financial Assistance	6,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	10,000	5	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-2	-
Rural Water Operations Program:											
Technical Assistance	3,500	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Financial Assistance	6,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	10,000	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Discretionary Appropriations	75,000	46	35,000	34	14,650	30	-	14	-14,650	-16	(1)
Mandatory Approp:											
Technical Assistance	9,394	-	9,394	6	28,561	16	28,290	42	-271	+26	
Financial Assistance	37,756	-	37,756	-	18,589	-	18,860	-	+271	-	
Subtotal	47,150	-	47,150	6	47,150	16	47,150	42	-	+26	
Supplemental Approp:											
Small Watershed P.L. 83-566 (IIJA):											
Technical Assistance	-	14	-	7	-	7	-	4	-	-3	
Financial Assistance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	-	14	-	7	-	7	-	4	-	-3	-
Emergency Watershed Protection Program:											
Technical Assistance	185,000	104	-	68	-	50	-	50	-	-	
Financial Assistance	740,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	925,000	104	-	68	-	50	-	50	-	-	
Total Supplemental Approps	925,000	118	-	75	-	57	-	54	-	-3	-
Total Adjusted Appropriations.	1,047,150	164	82,150	115	61,800	103	47,150	110	-14,650	+7	
Discretionary Approp:											
Sequestration	2,850	-	2,850	-	2,850	-	2,850	-	-	-	
Total Appropriation	1,050,000	164	85,000	115	64,650	103	50,000	110	-14,650	+7	
Sequestration	-2,850	-	-2,850	-	-2,850	-	-2,850	-	-	-	
Recoveries, Other	130,520	-	88,885	-	-21,928	-	-57,734	-	-35,806	-	
Rescinded Balances	-	-	-28,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, SOY	1,057,470	-	1,409,041	-	885,999	-	636,803	-	-249,196	-	
Total Available	2,235,140	164	1,552,076	115	947,872	103	626,219	110	-299,652	+7	
Lapsing Balances	-139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, EOY	-1,409,041	-	-886,000	-	-636,803	-	-323,169	-	+313,634	-	
Total Obligations	825,960	164	666,076	115	289,068	103	303,050	110	+13,982	+7	

Note: The project statement and Budget Appendix discrepancy is due to reimbursable funding and FTEs which are not included in the project statement.

Table NRCS-18. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Small Watershed P.L. 83-566:										
Technical Assistance	$59,870	39	$50,771	31	48,470	28	14,315	14	-$34,155	-14
Financial Assistance	109,493	-	61,693	-	40,046	-	26,812	-	-13,234	-
Subtotal	169,363	39	112,464	31	88,516	28	41,127	14	-47,389	-14
Flood Prevention Operations P.L. 78-534:										
Technical Assistance	5,413	5	4,520	2	4,468	2	3,500	-	-968	-2
Financial Assistance	31,883	-	73,496	-	5,000	-	2,555	-	-2,445	-
Subtotal	37,296	5	78,016	2	9,468	2	6,055	-	-3,413	-2
Rural Water Operations Program:										
Technical Assistance	2,333	2	117	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Financial Assistance	-	-	21,743	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	2,333	2	21,860	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal Disc Obligations	208,992	46	212,340	34	97,984	30	47,182	14	-50,802	-16
Mandatory Obligations:										
Technical Assistance	2,706	-	28,163	6	28,561	16	28,290	42	-271	+26
Financial Assistance	44,316	-	18,789	-	18,589	-	18,860	-	+271	-
Subtotal Mand Obligations	47,022	-	46,952	6	47,150	16	47,150	42	-	+26
Supplemental Obligations:										
Small Watershed P.L. 83-566 (IIJA):										
Technical Assistance	33,528	14	17,294	7	23,276	7	57,676	4	+34,400	-3
Financial Assistance	84,478	-	-	-	7,500	-	4,133	-	-3,367	-
Subtotal Supp Obligations	118,006	14	17,294	7	30,776	7	61,809	4	31,033	-3
Emergency Watershed Protection Program:										
Technical Assistance	70,235	104	37,737	68	21,651	50	27,712	50	-17,227	-
Financial Assistance	381,705	-	351,753	-	91,508	-	119,197	-	-136,250	-
Subtotal Supp Obligations	451,940	118	389,490	75	113,159	50	146,909	50	-153,477	-
Total Obligations	825,960	164	666,076	115	476,296	103	303,050	110	-173,246	+7
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances	139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Available, EOY:										
Small Watershed P.L. 83-566	187,242	-	114,993	-	41,127	-	-	-	-41,127	-
Flood Prevention Operations P.L. 78-534	93,226	-	15,523	-	6,055	-	-	-	-6,055	-
Rural Water Operations Program	24,604	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Watershed Protection Program	998,086	-	662,899	-	527,812	-	323,169	-	-204,643	-
Small Watershed P.L. 83-566 (IIJA)	105,883	-	92,585	-	61,809	-	-	-	-61,809	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY	1,409,041	-	886,000	-	636,803	-	323,169	-	+416,560	-
Total Available	2,235,140	164	1,552,076	115	925,871	103	626,219	110	-299,652	+7
Less:										
Sequestration	2,850	-	2,850	-	2,850	-	2,850	-	-	-
Recoveries, Other	-130,520	-	-88,885	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	-1,057,470	-	-1,409,041	-	-885,999	-	-636,803	-	+249,196	-
Total Appropriation	1,050,000	164	85,000	115	64,650	103	50,000	110	-14,650	+7

Note: The project statement and Budget Appendix discrepancy is due to reimbursable funding and FTEs which are not included in the project statement.

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations

(1) A decrease of $14,650,000 and a decrease of 14 staff years for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program ($14,650,000 and 28 staff years available in 2025).

No new funding requested in 2026. This will allow NRCS to focus remaining funds to be prioritized to fund active approved watershed projects. There is permanent funding of $50 million provided annually through the Farm Bill to support watershed projects.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTES

Table NRCS-19. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory /Country	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs
Alabama	$24,944	-	$168	1	$73	1	$76	1
Alaska	1,203	1	762	-	331	-	347	-
Arizona	40,432	1	11,016	-	4,781	-	5,012	-
Arkansas	21,096	10	4,922	9	2,136	8	2,239	9
California	5,734	1	93,582	-	40,612	-	42,577	-
Colorado	16,254	1	14,244	4	6,182	4	6,481	4
Connecticut	417	-	2,085	1	905	1	949	1
Delaware	89	-	1	-	0	-	0	-
District of Columbia	18,551	28	8,702	8	3,777	7	3,959	8
Florida	88,974	1	23,881	1	10,364	1	10,865	1
Georgia	1,389	1	22,104	2	9,593	2	10,057	2
Hawaii	393	1	19,791	5	8,589	4	9,004	5
Idaho	189	-	1,026	-	445	-	467	-
Illinois	1,164	1	4,210	-	1,827	-	1,915	-
Indiana	1,032	-	5,257	-	2,281	-	2,392	-
Iowa	2,330	7	2,385	2	1,035	2	1,085	2
Kansas	588	1	1,895	1	822	1	862	1
Kentucky	55,590	12	66,952	14	29,056	13	30,462	13
Louisiana	15,664	2	4,025	3	1,747	3	1,831	3
Maine	33	-	752	-	326	-	342	-
Maryland	47	-	-2	-	-	-	-	-
Massachusetts	20,859	3	2,556	2	1,109	2	1,163	2
Michigan	579	1	5,569	1	2,417	1	2,534	1
Minnesota	109	-	46	-	20	-	21	-
Mississippi	169,418	6	93,626	3	40,632	3	42,598	3
Missouri	8,726	6	21,240	5	9,218	4	9,664	5
Montana	4,453	1	2,572	2	1,116	2	1,170	2
Nebraska	3,794	6	3,013	2	1,308	2	1,371	2
Nevada	47	-	84	-	36	-	38	-
New Hampshire	31	-	916	-	398	-	417	-
New Jersey	456	1	2,870	1	1,246	1	1,306	1
New Mexico	142,092	10	79,452	10	34,481	9	36,149	10
New York	39,654	18	48,875	6	21,211	5	22,237	6
North Carolina	20,486	4	6,002	1	2,605	1	2,731	1
North Dakota	1,563	1	1,847	2	802	2	840	2
Ohio	708	-	308	1	134	1	140	1
Oklahoma	1,271	4	760	2	330	2	346	2
Oregon	31,727	7	8,566	2	3,718	2	3,897	2
Pennsylvania	488	1	3,159	1	1,371	1	1,437	1
Puerto Rico	2,919	2	8,849	3	3,840	3	4,026	3
Rhode Island	33,102	2	9,597	2	4,165	2	4,366	2
South Carolina	16,177	1	863	1	375	1	393	1
South Dakota	127	-	9	-	4	-	4	-
Tennessee	9,229	3	2,441	2	1,059	2	1,111	2
Texas	2,077	5	10,526	6	4,568	5	4,789	6
Utah	12,712	7	40,040	4	17,377	4	18,217	4
Vermont	533	-	10,978	1	4,764	1	4,995	1
Virginia	49	-	476	-	207	-	217	-
Washington	343	-	4,727	-	2,051	-	2,151	-
West Virginia	5,555	6	5,976	3	2,594	3	2,719	3
Wisconsin	248	1	64	-	28	-	29	-
Wyoming	315	-	2,311	1	1,003	1	1,051	1
Obligations	825,960	164	666,076	115	289,068	103	303,050	110
Lapsing Balances	139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

State/Territory /Country	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs
Bal. Available, EOY..	1,409,041	-	885,999	-	636,803	-	323,169	-
Total, Available....	2,235,140	164	1,552,075	115	925,871	103	626,219	110

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table NRCS-20. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	$575	$17	$16	$18
	Personnel Compensation, Field	15,972	13,662	13,161	15,036
11	Total personnel compensation	16,547	13,679	13,177	15,054
12	Personal benefits	6,601	5,538	5,323	6,010
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	2	-	-	-
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	23,150	19,217	18,500	21,064
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	979	877	475	693
22.0	Transportation of things	-1	2	3	3
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	498	14	-	-
23.2	Rental payments to others	1,447	-14	-	-
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	1,529	-54	-	-
24.0	Printing and reproduction	8	-	-	-
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	52,094	45,935	4,881	7,773
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	128,736	96,997	91,977	97,701
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	200	116	-	-
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	16,616	20,019	14,678	11,917
25.5	Research and development contracts	-	10	-	-
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	-	6	7	7
26.0	Supplies and materials	153	292	43	25
31.0	Equipment	710	888	343	42
32.0	Land and structures	5,107	25,279	1,860	7,620
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	594,734	456,488	156,301	156,205
42.0	Insurance Claims and Indemnities	-	4	-	-
	Total, Other Objects	802,810	646,859	270,568	281,986
99.9	Total, new obligations	825,960	666,076	289,068	303,050
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3)	$55	-	-	-
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	$191,976	$199,722	$203,716	$203,716
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	$77,835	$81,013	$82,633	$82,633
	Average Grade, GS Position	10.0	10.3	10.3	10.3

Note: The position data reported above is representative of data collected across all funding sources provided to NRCS, including, but not limited to, Private Lands Conservation Operations, Watershed Rehabilitation (Technical Assistance), Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (Technical Assistance), Water Bank Program (Technical Assistance), and Farm Security and Rural Investment Program (Technical Assistance).

This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies.

ACCOUNT 3: EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table NRCS-23. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2025	$920,000,000
Change in Appropriation	-920,000,000
Budget Estimate, 2026	-

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table NRCS-24. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Supplemental Approp:											
Emergency Watershed Program:											
Technical Assistance	-	-	-	-	$29,100	15	-	15	-$29,100	-	
Financial Assistance	-	-	-	-	890,900	-	-	-	-890,900	-	
Emergency Watershed Program (IIJA)											
Technical Assistance	-	7	-	4	-	4	-	2	-	-2	
Financial Assistance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Appropriation	-	7	-	4	920,000	19	-	17	-920,000	-2	(1)
Recoveries, Other	$3,245	-	$11,982	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, SOY	97,951	-	95,305	-	43,159	-	$875,183	-	+832,024	-	
Total Available	101,196	7	107,287	4	963,159	19	875,183	17	-87,976	-2	
Bal. Available, EOY	-95,305	-	-43,159	-	-875,183	-	-458,623	-	+416,560	-	
Total Obligations	5,891	7	64,128	4	87,976	19	416,560	17	+328,584	-2	

Table NRCS-25. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Supplemental Obligations:										
Emergency Watershed Program:										
Technical Assistance	-	-	-	-	$18,728	15	$59,149	15	+$40,421	-
Financial Assistance	-	-	-	-	48,500	-	335,000	-	+286,500	-
Emergency Watershed Program (IIJA)										
Technical Assistance	$1,527	7	$4,521	4	5,702	4	6,723	2	+1,021	-2
Financial Assistance	4,364	-	59,607	-	15,046	-	15,688	-	+642	-
Total Obligations	5,891	7	64,128	4	87,976	19	416,560	17	+328,584	-2
Bal. Available, EOY:	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Emergency Watershed Program	-	-	-	-	852,772	-	458,623	-	-394,149	-
Emergency Watershed Program (IIJA)	95,305		43,159	-	22,411	-	-	-	-22,411	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY	95,305	-	43,159	-	875,183	-	458,623	-	-416,560	-
Total Available	101,196	7	107,287	4	963,159	19	875,183	17	-87,976	-2
Recoveries, Other	-3,245	-	-11,982	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	-97,951	-	-95,305	-	-43,159	-	-875,183	-	+832,024	-
Total Appropriation	-	7	-	4	920,000	19	-	17	-920,000	-2

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTES

Table NRCS-26. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory /Country	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs
Alabama	$68	-	$9	-	$12	-	$59	-
Arizona	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
California	266	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colorado	343	2	74	-	102	-	483	-
Kentucky	1,322	1	51,092	-	70,092	-	331,881	-
Louisiana	331	-	382	3	524	14	2,480	13
Mississippi	1,747	-	109	-	149	-	706	-
Missouri	-	-	10,083	-	13,832	-	65,495	-
Montana	-	-	6	-	8	-	40	-
New Jersey	405	1	13	-	18	-	85	-
New Mexico	1,348	1	2,320	1	3,182	5	15,067	4
New York	48	-	40	-	54	-	257	-
North Dakota	-	-	1	-	2	-	8	-
Tennessee	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermont	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Washington	-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Obligations	5,891	7	64,128	4	87,976	19	416,560	17
Bal. Available, EOY	95,305	-	43,159	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available	101,196	7	107,287	4	87,976	19	416,560	17

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table NRCS-27. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Personnel Compensation, Field	$696	$439	$2,128	$1,961
11	Total personnel compensation	696	439	2,128	1,961
12	Personal benefits	273	210	1,017	938
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	969	649	3,145	2,899
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	15	21	30	215
22.0	Transportation of things	-	-	5	5
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	-	32	10,534	85,047
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	192	3,825	20,880	61,337
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	5	2	5	-
26.0	Supplies and materials	15	2	25	111
31.0	Equipment	331	23	320	1,225
32.0	Land and structures	41	10	32	100
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	4,323	59,564	53,000	265,620
	Total, Other Objects	4,922	63,479	84,831	413,660
99.9	Total, new obligations	5,891	64,128	87,976	416,560
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	$191,976	$199,722	$203,716	$203,716
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	$77,835	$81,013	$82,633	$82,633
	Average Grade, GS Position	10.0	10.3	10.3	10.3

Note: The position data reported above is representative of data collected across all funding sources provided to NRCS, including, but not limited to, Private Lands Conservation Operations, Watershed Rehabilitation (Technical Assistance), Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (Technical Assistance), Water Bank Program (Technical Assistance), and Farm Security and Rural Investment Program (Technical Assistance).

This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies.

ACCOUNT 4: WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table NRCS-2. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2025	$1,000,000
Change in Appropriation	-1,000,000
Budget Estimate, 2026	-

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table NRCS-30. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Approp:											
Technical Assistance	$2,000	4	$1,000	1	$1,000	1	-	1	-$1,000	-	
Subtotal.....	2,000	4	1,000	1	1,000	1	-	1	-1,000	-	(1)
Mandatory Approp:											
Technical Assistance	-	14	-	8	-	7	-	3	-	-4	
Subtotal.....	-	14	-	8	-	7	-	3	-	-4	
Supplemental Approp:											
Technical Assistance	-	6	-	8	-	6	-	3	-	-3	
Subtotal.....	-	6	-	8	-	6	-	3	-	-3	
Total Appropriation	2,000	24	1,000	17	1,000	14	-	7	-1,000	-7	
Recoveries, Other	11,828	-	1,534	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, SOY.....	92,255	-	50,345	-	33,176	-	$17,556	-	-15,620	-	
Total Available	106,083	24	52,879	17	34,176	14	17,556	7	-16,620	-7	
Lapsing Balances	-32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, EOY.....	-50,345	-	-33,176	-	-17,556	-	-46	-	+17,510	-	
Total Obligations	55,706	24	19,703	17	16,620	14	17,510	7	+890	-7	

Note: The project statement and Budget Appendix discrepancy is due to reimbursable funding and FTEs which are not included in the project statement.

Table NRCS-31. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Technical Assistance	$2,809	4	$1,365	1	$1,371	1	$381	1	-$990	-
Financial Assistance	-	-	-	-	-	-	998	-	+998	-
Subtotal Disc Obligations	2,809	4	1,365	1	1,371	1	1,379	1	+8	-
Mandatory Obligations:										
Technical Assistance	8,852	14	9,332	8	6,079	7	3,138	3	-2,941	-4
Financial Assistance	-	-	2,056	-	2,050	-	2,092	-	+42	-
Subtotal Mand Obligations	8,852	14	11,388	8	8,129	7	5,230	3	-2,899	-4
Supplemental Obligations:										
Technical Assistance	25,553	6	4,773	8	2,920	6	4,413	3	+1,493	-3
Financial Assistance	18,492	-	2,177	-	4,200	-	6,488	-	+2,288	-
Subtotal Supp Obligations	44,045	6	6,950	8	7,120	6	10,901	3	+3,781	-3
Total Obligations	55,706	24	19,703	17	16,620	14	17,510	7	+890	-7
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Available, EOY:										
Watershed Rehabilitation Program	1,945	-	1,749	-	1,378	-	-	-	-1,378	-
Small Watershed Rehabilitation Program.	23,401	-	13,378	-	5,249	-	18	-	-5,231	-
Watershed Rehabilitation Program (IIJA).	24,999	-	18,049	-	10,929	-	28	-	-10,901	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY	50,345	-	33,176	-	17,556	-	46	-	-17,510	-
Total Available	106,083	24	52,879	17	34,176	14	17,556	7	-16,620	-7
Less:										
Recoveries, Other	-11,828	-	-1,534	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	-92,255	-	-50,345	-	-33,176	-	-17,556	-	+15,620	-
Total Appropriation	2,000	24	1,000	17	1,000	14	-	7	-1,000	-7

Note: The project statement and Budget Appendix discrepancy is due to reimbursable funding and FTEs which are not included in the project statement.

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

Watershed Rehabilitation Program

(1) A decrease of $1,000,000 and no change in staff years in the Watershed Rehabilitation Program ($1,000,000 and 1 staff year available in 2025).

No new funding requested in 2026. Renovating locally owned dams is the responsibility of the local dam owners, not the taxpayer. In addition, this program received funding though IIJA which the agency is still working to outlay.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTES

Table NRCS-32. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory /Country	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs
Arizona	$106	-	$51	-	$43	-	$45	-
California	68	-	21	-	18	-	19	-
Colorado	-	-	6	-	5	-	5	-
Connecticut	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delaware	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia	471	3	598		504	3	531	2
Georgia	158	1	154	1	130	1	137	0
Illinois	123	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Kansas	18	-	4	-	3	-	4	-
Kentucky	1,946	-	19	-	16	-	17	-
Maine	1,109	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryland	448	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Massachusetts	286	1	800	1	675	1	711	0
Mississippi	1,373	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Montana	223	-	17	-	14	-	15	-
Nebraska	1,620	-	1,789	-	1,509	-	1,590	-
Nevada	10	-	20	-	17	-	18	-
New Hampshire	22	-	73	-	62	-	65	-
New Jersey	63	-	2,369	-	1,998	-	2,105	-
New Mexico	4	-	760	-	641	-	675	-
New York	795	-	108	-	91	-	96	-
North Carolina	471	-	57	-	48	-	51	-
North Dakota	899	-	257	-	217	-	228	-
Ohio	180	-	-4	-	-	-	-4	-
Oklahoma	2,649	4	2,889	1	2,433	1	2,567	0
Oregon	26	-	17	-	14	-	15	-
Pennsylvania	188	-	134	-	113	-	119	-
Puerto Rico	82	-	33	-	28	-	29	-
South Carolina	100	-	827	1	698	1	735	0
Tennessee	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Texas	19,025	12	2,712	*5*	2,288	4	2,410	2
Utah	6	-	1,831	-	1,544	-	1,627	-
Vermont	2	-	2,700	-	2,278	-	2,399	-
Virginia	2,453	1	50	-	42	-	44	-
West Virginia	20,722	2	1,411	4	1,190	3	1,254	2
Obligations	55,706	24	19,703	17	16,620	14	17,510	7
Lapsing Balances	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY	50,345	-	33,176	-		-	-	-
Total, Available	106,083	24	52,879	17	16,620	14	17,510	7

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table NRCS-33. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Personnel Compensation, Field	$3,206	$2,379	$2,010	$1,032
11	Total personnel compensation	3,206	2,379	2,010	1,032
12	Personal benefits	1,213	945	800	417
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	4,419	3,324	2,810	1,449
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	344	138	6	10
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	4,806	764	2,700	4,200
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	28,510	8,167	5,535	5,509
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	3,679	3,834	2,014	956
26.0	Supplies and materials	3	7	4	7
31.0	Equipment	259	-	1	1
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	13,686	3,469	3,550	5,378
	Total, Other Objects	51,287	16,379	13,810	16,061
99.9	Total, new obligations	55,706	19,703	16,620	17,510
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	$191,976	$199,722	$203,716	$203,716
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	$77,835	$81,013	$82,633	$82,633
	Average Grade, GS Position	10.0	10.3	10.3	10.3

Note: The position data reported above is representative of data collected across all funding sources provided to NRCS, including, but not limited to, Private Lands Conservation Operations, Watershed Rehabilitation (Technical Assistance), Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (Technical Assistance), Water Bank Program (Technical Assistance), and Farm Security and Rural Investment Program (Technical Assistance).

This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies.

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ACCOUNT 5: WATER BANK PROGRAM

LEAD-OFF TABULAR STATEMENT

Table NRCS-36. Lead-Off Tabular Statement (In dollars)

Item	Amount
Estimate, 2025	$2,000,000
Change in Appropriation	-2,000,000
Budget Estimate, 2026	-

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table NRCS-37. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Approp:											
Technical Assistance	$400	3	$200	3	$200	2	-	-	-$200	-2	
Financial Assistance	3,600	-	1,800	-	1,800	-	-	-	-1,800	-	
Total Appropriation	4,000	3	2,000	3	2,000	2	-	-	-2,000	-2	(1)
Recoveries, Other	43	-	178	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, SOY	1,305	-	460	-	233	-	-	-	-233	-	
Total Available	5,348	3	2,638	3	2,233	2	-	-	-2,233	-2	
Bal. Available, EOY	-460	-	-233	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Obligations	4,888	3	2,405	3	2,233	2	-	-	-2,233	-2	

Note: Funding was provided in the 2023 Enacted Budget through General Provision Section 762 and the 2024 Enacted Budget funding was provide through General Provision Section 753.

Table NRCS-38. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Technical Assistance	$324	3	$374	3	$319	2	-	-	-$319	-2
Financial Assistance	4,564	-	2,032	-	1,914	-	-	-	-1,914	-
Total Obligations	4,888	3	2,406	3	2,233	2	-	-	-2,233	-2
Balances Available, EOY:										
Water Bank Program	460	-	233	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY	460	-	233	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available	5,348	3	2,639	3	2,233	2	-	-	-2,233	-2
Less:										
Recoveries, Other	-43	-	-179	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, SOY	-1,305	-	-460	-	-233	-	-	-	233	-
Total Appropriation	4,000	3	2,000	3	2,000	2	-	-	-2,000	-2

JUSTIFICATION OF CHANGES

Water Bank Program

(1) A decrease of $2,000,000 and a decrease of 2 staff years for the Water Bank Program ($2,000,000 and 3 staff years available in 2025).

No new funding in 2026. This will impact three States.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTES

Table NRCS-39. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/ Country	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs
North Dakota	$4,329	3	$1,286	3	$1,194	2	-	-
South Dakota	559	-	1,120	-	1,039	-	-	-
Obligations	4,888	3	2,406	3	2,233	2	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY	460	-	233	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available	5,348	3	2,639	3	2,233	2	-	-

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table NRCS-40. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Personnel Compensation, Field	$227	$268	$214	-
11	Total personnel compensation.....	227	268	214	-
12	Personal benefits.....	97	106	85	-
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits.....	324	374	299	-
	Other Objects:				
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	-	-	20	-
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	4,564	2,032	1,914	-
	Total, Other Objects.....	4,564	2,032	1,934	-
99.9	Total, new obligations.....	4,888	2,406	2,233	-
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	$191,976	$199,722	$203,716	-
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position.....	$77,835	$81,013	$82,633	-
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	10.0	10.3	10.3	-

Note: Funding was provided in the 2023 Enacted Budget through General Provision Section 762 and the 2024 Enacted Budget funding was provide through General Provision Section 753.

The position data reported above is representative of data collected across all funding sources provided to NRCS, including, but not limited to, Private Lands Conservation Operations, Watershed Rehabilitation (Technical Assistance), Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (Technical Assistance), Water Bank Program (Technical Assistance), and Farm Security and Rural Investment Program (Technical Assistance).

This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies.

ACCOUNT 6: HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table NRCS-41. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated	Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Approp:						
Technical Assistance	$2,313	-	-	-	-	
Financial Assistance	4,687	-	-	-	-	
Subtotal	7,000	-	-	-	-	
Total Appropriation	7,000	-	-	-	-	
Bal. Available, SOY	-	$7,000	$7,000	-	-$7,000	
Total Available	7,000	7,000	7,000	-	-7,000	
Bal. Available, EOY	-7,000	-7,000	-	-	-	
Total Obligations	-	-	7,000	-	-7,000	

Table NRCS-42. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated	Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:					
Technical Assistance	-	-	$2,310	-	-$2,310
Financial Assistance	-	-	4,690	-	-4,690
Total Obligations	-	-	7,000	-	-7,000
Balances Available, EOY:					
Healthy Forests Reserve Program	$7,000	$7,000	-	-	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY	7,000	7,000	-	-	-
Total Available	7,000	7,000	7,000	-	-7,000
Bal. Available, SOY	-	-7,000	-7,000	-	+7,000
Total Appropriation	7,000	-	-	-	-

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTES

Table NRCS-43. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/Country	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
Distribution Unknown	-	-	$7,000	-
Obligations	-	-	7,000	-
Lapsing Balances	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY	$7,000	$7,000	-	-
Total, Available	7,000	7,000	7,000	-

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table NRCS-44. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	-	-	$2,171	-
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	-	-	139	-
32.0	Land and structures	-	-	4,690	-
	Total, Other Objects	-	-	7,000	-
99.9	Total, new obligations	-	-	7,000	-

Note: The position data reported above is representative of data collected across all funding sources provided to NRCS, including, but not limited to, Private Lands Conservation Operations, Watershed Rehabilitation (Technical Assistance), Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (Technical Assistance), Water Bank Program (Technical Assistance), and Farm Security and Rural Investment Program (Technical Assistance).

This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies.

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ACCOUNT 7: URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION PROGRAM

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table NRCS-46. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.	Chg Key
Discretionary Approp:											
Technical Assistance ..	$8,500	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Appropriation ...	8,500	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Available	8,500	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Lapsing Balances.....	-48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Obligations	8,452	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Note: The 2024 Enacted Appropriations was funded under the Private Lands Conservation Operations Account.

Table NRCS-47. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Technical Assistance	$8,452	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Obligations	8,452	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances.....	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Available	8,500	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriation	8,500	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: The 2024 Enacted Appropriations was funded under the Private Lands Conservation Operations Account.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTES

Table NRCS-48. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory/Country	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs
District of Columbia.....	$8,452	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Obligations.....	8,452	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lapsing Balances	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, Available.....	8,500	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table NRCS-49. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	$186	-	-	-
11	Total personnel compensation	186	-	-	-
12	Personal benefits	68	-	-	-
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	254	-	-	-
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	18	-	-	-
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	8,159	-	-	-
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	21	-	-	-
	Total, Other Objects	8,198	-	-	-
99.9	Total, new obligations	8,452	-	-	-
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position	$191,976	-	-	-
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	$77,835	-	-	-
	Average Grade, GS Position	10.0	-	-	-

Note: The 2024 Enacted Appropriations was funded under the Private Lands Conservation Operations Account.

The position data reported above is representative of data collected across all funding sources provided to NRCS, including, but not limited to, Private Lands Conservation Operations, Watershed Rehabilitation (Technical Assistance), Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (Technical Assistance), Water Bank Program (Technical Assistance), and Farm Security and Rural Investment Program (Technical Assistance).

This table assumes a reduced 2026 FTE baseline due to 2025 voluntary staff separations and administrative cost efficiencies.

ACCOUNT 8: FARM SECURITY AND RURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMS

PROJECT STATEMENTS

Table NRCS-50. Project Statement on Basis of Appropriations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Approp:										
Wetlands Mitigation Banking	$5,000	-	$2,000	-	$2,000	1	-	-	-$2,000	-1
Subtotal	5,000	-	2,000	-	2,000	1	-	-	-2,000	-1
Mandatory Approp:										
Environmental Quality Incentive Program	1,878,838	2,643	1,878,838	2,303	1,873,473	2,447	$1,873,473	2,115	-	-332
Conservation Stewardship Program (2018)	921,816	990	921,816	888	918,119	944	918,119	840	-	-104
Conservation Stewardship Program (2014)	-	347	-	15	-	16	-	-	-	-16
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	416,043	365	416,043	300	414,593	319	414,593	269	-	-50
Regional Conservation Partnership Program	282,900	196	282,900	231	282,900	246	282,900	215	-	-31
Conservation Reserve Program (TA Only)	220,770	1,283	220,770	1,094	220,770	1,162	220,770	1,019	-	-143
Agricultural Management Assistance	4,715	4	4,715	5	4,715	6	4,715	6	-	-
Environmental Quality Incentive Program – IRA	250,000	175	1,650,250	1,168	2,829,000	1,241	3,253,350	1,070	+424,350	-171
Conservation Stewardship Program – IRA	250,000	73	471,500	398	943,000	423	1,414,500	369	+471,500	-54
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – IRA	100,000	35	188,600	108	471,500	115	565,800	101	+94,300	-14
Regional Conservation Partnership Program – IRA	250,000	26	754,400	254	1,414,500	270	2,263,200	237	+848,700	-33
Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Prg.	-	1	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program	-	4	7,500	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	4,575,082	6,143	6,807,332	6,770	9,372,570	7,192	11,211,240	6,241	+1,838,850	-951
Total Adjusted Approp	4,580,082	6,143	6,809,332	6,770	9,374,570	7,193	11,211,240	6,241	+1,836,850	-952
Add back:										
Transfers In and Out, Rescissions	60,228	-	60,228	-	60,228	-	70,740	-	+10,512	-
Sequestration	228,805	-	414,055	-	570,805	-	681,955	-	+111,150	-
Total Appropriation	4,869,115	6,143	7,283,615	6,770	10,005,603	7,193	11,964,115	6,241	1,958,512	-952
Transfers Out:										
NRCS/ACEP	-8,307	-	-8,307	-	-8,307	-	-9,757	-	-1,450	-
NRCS/CSP	-21,184	-	-21,184	-	-21,184	-	-24,881	-	-6,697	-
NRCS/EQIP	-30,737	-	-30,737	-	-30,737	-	-36,102	-	-5,365	-
Total Transfers Out	-60,228	-	-60,228	-	-60,228	-	-70,740	-	-10,512	-
Sequestration	-228,805	-	-414,055	-	-570,805	-	-681,955	-	-111,150	-
Recoveries, Other	420,358	-	449,106	-	-30,088	-	-	-	+30,088	-
Bal. Available, SOY	2,470,146	-	2,718,467	-	3,403,156	-	2,209,002	-	-1,194,154	-
Total Available	7,470,586	6,143	9,976,905	6,770	12,747,638	7,193	13,420,422	6,241	672,784	-952
Lapsing Balances	-550	-	-2,483	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY	-2,718,467	-	-3,403,156	-	-2,209,002	-	-3,626,810	-	-1,417,808	-
Total Obligations	4,751,569	6,143	6,571,266	6,770	10,538,636	7,193	9,793,612	6,241	-745,024	-952

Note: The project statement and Budget Appendix discrepancy is due to reimbursable funding and FTEs which are not included in the project statement.

Table NRCS-51. Project Statement on Basis of Obligations (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

Item	2023 Actual	FTEs	2024 Actual	FTEs	2025 Estimated	FTEs	2026 Estimated	FTEs	Inc. or Dec.	FTE Inc. or Dec.
Discretionary Obligations:										
Wetlands Mitigation Banking	$4,260	-	$21	-	$9,852	1	$132	-	-$9,720	-1
Subtotal Disc Obligations	4,260	-	21	-	9,852	1	132	-	-9,720	-1
Mandatory Obligations:										
Environmental Quality Incentive Program	2,175,674	2,643	2,110,900	2,303	2,345,713	2,447	1,873,473	2,115	-472,240	-332
Conservation Stewardship Program (2018)	899,696	990	929,092	888	1,255,532	944	918,119	840	-337,413	-104
Conservation Stewardship Program (2014)	101,932	347	77,745	15	54,751	16	-	-	-54,751	-16
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program	483,617	365	466,505	300	743,703	319	414,593	269	-329,110	-50
Regional Conservation Partnership Program	240,225	196	351,580	231	1,348,441	246	282,900	215	-1,065,541	-31
Conservation Reserve Program (TA Only)	241,327	1,283	183,055	1,094	295,998	1,162	220,770	1,019	-75,228	-143
Agricultural Management Assistance	4,165	4	4,431	5	4,715	6	4,715	6	-	-
Environmental Quality Incentive Program – IRA	223,309	175	1,603,750	1,168	2,510,505	1,241	3,007,655	1,070	+497,150	-171
Conservation Stewardship Program – IRA	247,243	73	449,516	398	863,630	423	1,131,208	369	+267,578	-54
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – IRA	96,397	35	176,750	108	457,135	115	544,361	101	+87,226	-14
Regional Conservation Partnership Program – IRA	22,461	26	193,836	254	536,878	270	1,395,686	237	+858,808	-33
Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Prg.	137	1	9,465	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot Program	858	4	5,744	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Agricultural Water Enhancement Program	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program	5,913	-	2,992	2	77,763	2	-	-	-77,763	-2
Grassland Reserve Program	1,230	-	708	-	17,222	-	-	-	-17,222	-
Wetlands Mitigation Banking Program	68	-	47	-	639	-	-	-	-639	-
Wetlands Reserve Program	2,869	-	5,053	-	8,204	-	-	-	-8,204	-
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program	123	1	76	1	2,449	1	-	-	-2,449	-1
Healthy Forests Reserve Program	4	-	-	-	5,506	-	-	-	-5,506	-
Subtotal Mand Obligations	4,747,309	6,143	6,571,245	6,770	10,528,784	7,192	9,793,480	6,241	-735,304	-951
Total Obligations	4,751,569	6,143	6,571,266	6,770	10,538,636	7,193	9,793,612	6,241	-745,024	-952
Add back:										
Lapsing Balances	550	-	2,483	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balances Available, EOY:										
Discretionary EOY	6,005	-	7,984	-	132	-	-	-	-132	-
Mandatory EOY	2,712,462	-	3,395,172	-	2,208,870	-	3,626,810	-	+1,417,940	-
Total Bal. Available, EOY	2,718,467	-	3,403,156	-	2,209,002	-	3,626,810	-	1,417,808	-
Total Available	7,470,586	6,143	9,976,905	6,770	12,747,638	7,193	13,420,422	6,241	+672,784	-952
Less:										
Total Transfers Out	60,228	-	60,228	-	60,228	-	70,740	-	10,512	-
Sequestration	228,805	-	414,055	-	570,805	-	681,955	-	111,150	-
Recoveries, Other	-420,358	-	-449,106	-	30,088	-	-	-	-30,088	-
Bal. Available, SOY	-2,470,146	-	-2,718,467	-	10,005,603	7,193	11,964,115	6,241	1,958,512	-952
Total Appropriation	4,869,115	6,143	7,283,615	6,770	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: The project statement and Budget Appendix discrepancy is due to reimbursable funding and FTEs which are not included in the project statement.

GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF OBLIGATIONS AND FTES

Table NRCS-52. Geographic Breakdown of Obligations and FTEs (thousands of dollars, FTEs)

State/Territory /Country	ACEP	AMAP	CRPG	CSTP	EQIP	FRPP	FSCP	GRPG	RCPP	VPAP	WHIP	WMBP	WRPG	IRA-ACEP	IRA-EQIP	IRA-RCPP	IRA-CSTP	HFRP	CBWP	AWEP	CSPG
Alabama	7,456	-	1,548	17,112	39,529	-	375	-	9,763	-	-	-	-	2,382	29,429	320	9,613	-	-	-	-
Alaska	4,111	-	96	1,048	11,764	-	-	-	945	-	-	-	-	245	16,957	313	674	-	-	-	-
Arizona	3,582	-	116	4,874	18,793	-	-	-	23,166	273	-	-	-	6,214	11,904	364	1,652	-	-	-	-
Arkansas	2,936	-	1,598	58,851	76,607	-	1,081	-	7,518	488	-	-	-	18,768	50,552	1,129	13,622	-	-	-	-
California	16,585	-	298	15,162	103,067	-	-	-	13,109	-	10	-	-	1,090	73,706	1,972	8,391	-	-	-	-
Colorado	11,771	-	4,153	15,682	40,175	-	-	-	3,591	-	-	-	-	228	31,936	1,115	9,272	-	-	-	-
Connecticut	5,295	153	110	1,662	9,299	-	-	-	1,724	-	-	-	-	184	8,344	296	1,392	-	-	-	-
Delaware	2,495	115	861	358	7,466	-	-	-	105	-	-	-	-	162	11,534	167	450	-	-	-	-
District of Columbia	98,982	-	15,790	177,404	295,623	2,992	13	713	43,770	-92	-	70	2,870	22,420	136,069	45,811	30,066	-	-	-	-
Florida	40,859	-	260	12,173	30,562	-	433	-	3,079	-	-	-	-	407	32,796	3,890	7,100	-	-	-	-
Georgia	4,067	-	2,531	30,826	75,786	-	-	-	1,969	-	-	-	-	941	49,125	15,528	14,410	-	-	-	-
Hawaii	1,286	151	163	3,659	12,359	-	-	-	2,987	-	-	-	-	191	15,188	720	1,768	-	-	-	-
Idaho	13,748	-	1,076	12,097	61,153	-	-	-	3,861	209	-	-	-	2,089	19,754	420	4,885	-	-	-	-
Illinois	3,516	-	13,727	24,000	30,157	-	-	-	13,877	467	-	3	-	2,275	29,550	16,217	14,701	-	-	-	-
Indiana	10,315	-	7,824	17,949	37,087	-	-	-	2,091	174	-	-	106	8,697	30,275	1,660	9,995	-	-	-	-
Iowa	11,507	-	27,068	23,115	40,899	-	-	-	12,587	349	-	-2	-	5,101	38,119	15,333	13,219	-	-	-	-
Kansas	4,993	-	9,130	23,742	42,734	-	-	-	4,381	489	-	-	-	198	38,852	614	11,693	-	-	-	-
Kentucky	12,588	-	3,114	11,306	24,558	-	-	-	916	-	3	-	-	3,862	27,291	544	6,487	-	-	-	-
Louisiana	24,731	-	1,529	24,002	24,545	-	812	-	1,545	-	57	-	-	11,242	26,344	585	13,766	-	-	-	-
Maine	307	893	154	2,305	16,313	-	-	-	4,795	-	-	-	-	233	13,914	1,048	1,354	-	-	-	-
Maryland	2,346	319	1,813	3,516	14,690	-	-	-	7,578	-	-	-	-	164	15,918	1,274	1,856	-	-	-	-
Massachusetts	5,204	202	115	2,146	7,668	-	-	-	2,061	-	2	-	-	178	6,825	707	519	-	-	-	-
Michigan	3,903	-	1,888	17,540	25,219	-	-	-	5,459	369	-	-	-	2,414	28,818	1,630	10,523	-	-	-	-
Minnesota	2,459	-	12,891	38,640	75,729	-	-	-	6,971	583	-	-	-	419	33,887	1,004	16,552	-	-	-	-
Mississippi	25,030	-	4,428	44,310	81,877	-	980	-	278	-	-	-1	-	21,227	47,769	10,021	16,139	-	-	-	-
Missouri	12,756	-	7,501	30,559	39,203	-	791	-	11,809	519	-	-	1,678	1,449	43,370	1,737	16,751	-	-	-	-
Montana	24,449	-	2,089	23,412	42,012	-	-	-	13,455	441	-	-	-	10,240	31,792	1,653	15,058	-	-	-	-
Nebraska	5,848	-	7,295	29,322	45,616	-	-	-	3,415	698	-	-0	-	374	33,517	1,704	16,794	-	-	-	-
Nevada	138	316	47	1,883	9,427	-	-	-	109	-	-	-	-	93	7,021	213	862	-	-	-	-
New Hampshire	4,348	129	102	2,412	6,731	-	-	-	2,684	-	-	-	-	179	7,950	308	2,092	-	-	-	-
New Jersey	810	313	217	1,691	17,528	-	-	-	818	-	-	-	-	352	13,363	962	935	-	-	-	-
New Mexico	861	-	926	16,312	29,302	-	-	-	6,843	-	-	-	-	146	33,755	323	9,705	-	-	-	-
New York	2,732	305	631	6,621	18,337	-	-	-	1,027	-	-	-	-	225	20,899	341	3,651	-	-	-	-
North Carolina	5,223	-	825	17,486	28,348	-	-	-	2,880	-	-	-	97	7,720	33,917	585	9,455	-	-	-	-
North Dakota	3,378	-	5,876	38,396	40,779	-	-	-	1,639	-	-	0	-	293	26,616	953	17,195	-	-	-	-
Ohio	7,193	-	8,549	14,927	35,004	-	-	-	24,407	426	-	-	-	283	35,014	439	4,778	-	-	-	-
Oklahoma	1,678	-	2,161	21,015	36,818	-	-	-	244	698	-	-	-	700	37,369	560	11,893	-	-	-	-
Oregon	2,154	-	1,627	21,838	41,118	-	-	-	12,754	664	-	-	-	365	23,148	3,376	13,240	-	-	-	-
Pennsylvania	2,987	289	2,155	11,701	39,991	-	-	-5	15,695	156	4	-	-	226	35,739	1,993	5,096	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	121	-	45	1,810	15,072	-	-	-	171	-	-	-	-	184	15,751	267	1,182	-	-	-	-
Rhode Island	1,168	154	109	1,355	5,937	-	-	-	1,688	-	-	-	-	205	1,944	292	662	-	-	-	-
South Carolina	7,885	-	408	20,053	35,354	-	535	-	503	97	-	-	-	174	34,628	795	9,343	-	-	-	-
South Dakota	5,098	-	11,183	31,935	29,226	-	-	-	4,606	506	-	-1	-	3,475	25,759	27,087	16,540	-	-	-	-
Tennessee	8,362	-	1,567	20,494	75,332	-	-	-	2,281	-	-	-	-	305	38,038	3,755	10,975	-	-	-	-
Texas	10,216	-	7,350	22,336	140,023	-	725	-	13,308	453	-	-	-	6,586	126,561	5,140	12,254	-	-	-	-
Utah	5,421	122	226	11,662	27,948	-	-	-	20,324	-	-	-	-	26,366	19,501	1,235	6,425	-	-	-	-
Vermont	4,135	141	199	2,558	12,357	-	-	-	2,624	-	-	-	100	197	13,807	2,302	1,321	-	-	-	-
Virginia	4,495	-	1,078	16,279	27,497	-	-	-	3,607	697	-	-	-	330	32,082	7,933	10,719	-	-	-	-
Washington	3,230	-	3,253	15,177	34,941	-	-	-	8,455	-	-	-	199	228	24,076	586	9,420	-	-	-	-
West Virginia	1,808	714	403	7,750	15,286	-	-	-	179	-	-	-	-	611	14,998	424	3,909	-	-	-	-
Wisconsin	9,132	-	4,555	30,675	28,069	-	-	-	9,732	443	-	-0	2	3,764	32,666	5,170	15,643	-	-	-	-
Wyoming	10,807	115	397	3,699	29,985	-	-	-	8,197	358	-	-	1	349	15,613	1,020	3,519	-	-	-	-

State/Territory /Country	ACEP	AMAP	CRPG	CSTP	EQIP	FRPP	FSCP	GRPG	RCPP	VPAP	WHIP	WMBP	WRPG	IRA-ACEP	IRA-EQIP	IRA-RCPP	IRA-CSTP	HFRP	CBWP	AWEP	CSPG
Obligations	466,505	4,431	183,055	1,006,837	2,110,900	2,992	5,745	708	351,580	9,465	76	68	5,053	176,750	1,603,750	193,835	449,516	-	-	-	-
Lapsing Balances..	-	284	-	-	-	-	1,756	-	-	443	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bal. Available, EOY.....	332,427	-	75,228	393,522	477,219	77,763	-	17,222	1,056,124	4,112	6,492	8,623	8,204	24,725	78,883	788,109	27,301	5,506	8,255	6,293	7,148
Total, Available* .	798,932	4,715	258,283	1,400,359	2,588,119	80,755	7,501	17,930	1,407,704	14,020	6,568	8,691	13,257	201,475	1,682,633	981,944	476,817	5,506	8,255	6,293	7,148

*Total Available balance does not include reimbursable unobligated balances.

CLASSIFICATION BY OBJECTS

Table NRCS-53. Classification by Objects (thousands of dollars)

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
	Personnel Compensation:				
	Washington D.C.	$23,368	$32,361	$36,299	$32,448
	Personnel Compensation, Field	452,102	527,329	591,506	528,741
11	Total personnel compensation	475,470	559,690	627,805	561,189
12	Personal benefits	206,922	239,883	271,660	242,818
13.0	Benefits for former personnel	87	105	81	70
	Total, personnel comp. and benefits	682,479	799,678	899,546	804,077
	Other Objects:				
21.0	Travel and transportation of persons	14,881	14,806	18,522	68,633
22.0	Transportation of things	1,521	829	1,189	1,742
23.1	Rental payments to GSA	21,274	27,926	33,593	32,794
23.2	Rental payments to others	56,163	74,773	101,076	107,827
23.3	Communications, utilities, and misc. charges	13,847	-256	18,301	17,965
24.0	Printing and reproduction	63	770	592	5,116
25.1	Advisory and assistance services	-918	83	89	69
25.2	Other services from non-Federal sources	334,635	371,713	1,580,615	1,238,704
25.3	Other goods and services from Federal sources	45,826	162,429	122,579	46,858
25.4	Operation and maintenance of facilities	353,893	333,301	297,553	378,503
25.5	Research and development contracts	-197	355	444	347
25.7	Operation and maintenance of equipment	277	338	444	347
26.0	Supplies and materials	7,950	7,154	9,562	18,082
31.0	Equipment	60,159	105,549	155,483	359,584
32.0	Land and structures	231,185	267,089	398,882	458,556
41.0	Grants, subsidies, and contributions	2,928,530	4,404,167	6,899,277	6,253,781
42.0	Insurance Claims and Indemnities	-	561	888	624
43.0	Interest and Dividends	1	1	1	3
	Total, Other Objects	4,069,090	5,771,588	9,639,090	8,989,535
99.9	Total, new obligations	4,751,569	6,571,266	10,538,636	9,793,612
	DHS Building Security Payments (included in 25.3)	$3,396	$2,809	$2,809	$1,858
	Information Technology Investments:				
	FBC-1001 Cust Engagement & Mgmt Svcs				
25.2	External Labor (Contractors)	$9,163	-	-	-
	Total FBC-1001 Cust Engagement & Mgmt Svcs	9,163	-	-	-
	FBC-1002 Geospatial Services				
25.2	External Labor (Contractors)	14,828	-	-	-
25.2	Outside Services (Consulting)	368	-	-	-
	Total FBC-1002 Geospatial Services	15,196	-	-	-
	FBC-129 Program Financial Services				
25.2	External Labor (Contractors)	48	-	-	-
	Total FBC-129 Program Financial Services	48	-	-	-
	NRCS-1401 Natural Resources & Mgmt Info.				
11.0	Internal Labor	-	$296	$296	$338
25.2	External Labor (Contractors)	-	42,397	42,397	48,454
	Total NRCS-1401 Natural Resources & Mgmt Info. .	-	42,693	42,693	48,792
	NRCS-1402 Conservation Field Delivery Prg.				
11.0	Internal Labor	-	740	740	846
25.2	External Labor (Contractors)	-	94,422	94,422	107,910
	Total NRCS-1402 Conservation Field Delivery Prg. .	-	95,162	95,162	108,756
	Total Major Investments	24,407	137,855	137,855	157,548
	Mission Area Non-Major Investment Totals	78,418	-	-	-
	Mission Area Standard Investment Totals	31,536	-	-	-
	Mission Area WCF Transfers	136,346	-	-	-
	Total IT Investments	270,707	137,855	137,855	157,548
	Cybersecurity				
	Identify	$223	$234	$277	$313
	Protect	198	1,553	1,595	1,804
	Detect	158	117	119	135
	Respond	34	272	279	316
	Recover	106	197	201	226
	Human Capital	-	1	1	-
	Sector Risk Mgmt	-	155	156	177
	Total Cybersecurity	719	2,529	2,628	2,971

Item No.	Item	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Estimated	2026 Estimated
	Position Data:				
	Average Salary (dollars), ES Position.....	$191,976	$199,722	$203,716	$203,716
	Average Salary (dollars), GS Position	$77,835	$81,013	$82,633	$82,633
	Average Grade, GS Position.....	10.0	10.3	10.3	10.3

Note: The position data reported above is representative of data collected across all funding sources provided to NRCS, including, but not limited to, Private Lands Conservation Operations, Watershed Rehabilitation (Technical Assistance), Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (Technical Assistance), Water Bank Program (Technical Assistance), and Farm Security and Rural Investment Program (Technical Assistance).

AGENCY-WIDE PERFORMANCE

Introduction

The Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) mission area is USDA's focal point for the nation's farmers and ranchers and other stewards of private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest lands. FPAC agencies implement programs designed to mitigate the significant risks of farming through crop insurance services, conservation programs and technical assistance, and commodity, lending, and disaster programs. These agencies include the Farm Service Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Risk Management Agency, and the FPAC Business Center.

FPAC BC's Office of the Chief Operating Officer (OCOO) leads the mission area in Strategic Planning, Performance Management, Evidence and Evaluation, and Enterprise Risk Management (ERM). OCOO works closely with each of the FPAC agencies to develop performance related practices and products. This office frequently works directly with USDA leadership and represents FPAC on the Department's Performance, Evaluation, Evidence and Risk committee and the ERM Committee, which are facilitated by the USDA Office of Budget and Program Analysis. FPAC's Enterprise Risk and Strategy Committee, comprised of executives from each of the FPAC agencies, oversees and provides accountability for performance functions across the mission area.

Alignment to USDA Strategic Plan

NRCS activities contribute to the success of USDA's overall mission to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues using sound public policy, the best available science, and effective management, to the benefit of all Americans. USDA is currently developing the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan and will report alignment in the 2027 Explanatory Notes.

SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

USDA is currently developing the 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, including new KPIs. A more detailed report of the performance plan can be found at https://www.usda.gov/our-agency/about-usda/performance.