

SARE TSP Training 2015

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Natural Resources Conservation Service

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wa/home/>

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Soil Conservation Service

- Established in 1935
- Provide Soil & Water Conservation
- Dust Bowl Era
- Changed name to NRCS in 1994
- Better describes the resources we work with

NRCS Mission

- Helping People Help the Land

“...provides products and services that enable people to be good stewards of the Nation’s soil, water, and related natural resources on non-Federal lands. With our help, people are better able to conserve, maintain, or improve their natural resources.”

Purpose

- Provide Technical & Financial Assistance
- TA – Foresters, Soil Scientist, Conservations, Agronomist
- FA – Cost-share incentive programs
 - EQIP, CSP
 - Easement programs
 - Initiatives – RCPP

EQIP

Environmental Quality Incentive Program

- Incentive payment to improve resources
- Targets non-industrial private forest landowners
- Treats Resource Concerns
- Main funding source for Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) & TSP's

What Makes Us Different?

- Targets non-Federal, State or Public Lands
 - USFS, BLM, State, County, Cities, Tax-funded organization – Do not qualify
- Voluntary
- Non-regulatory

Farm Bill Funding

- National
 - SWAPA+HE
 - Soil, Water, Air, Plant, Animal, Human, Energy
- State
 - State Priority Assessment
- Local
 - Local Working Group Priorities

State Priority Resource Concerns

WA State Resource Assessment

[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/
FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_033900.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_033900.pdf)

WA NRCS State Resource Assessment 2011: Priority Resource Concerns

| Priority | Resource Concern | Land Use |
|--|---|--|
| Soil Erosion | Sheet, rill and wind erosion | Crop |
| Water Quality Degradation | Excessive sediment in surface waters | Crop Forest Other associated ag lands |
| Water Quality Degradation | Excess nutrients in surface and ground waters | Crop Pasture Other associated ag lands |
| Degraded Plant Condition | Undesirable plant productivity and health | Range Pasture Forest |
| Insufficient Water | Inefficient use of irrigation water | Crop Pasture |
| Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife | Habitat degradation | Range Pasture Forest Other associated ag lands |
| Degraded Plant Condition | Excessive plant pest pressure | Range Forest Other associated ag lands |
| Water Quality Degradation | Excess pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications | Other associated ag lands |
| Water Quality Degradation | Pesticides transported to surface and ground waters | Crop |
| Degraded Plant Condition | Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation | Forest |
| Energy | Inefficient energy use | Equipment and facilities Farming/ranching practices and field operations |

Puget Sound Team LWG Priorities

- Water Quality - Sediment in Surface Waters
 - Forest Roads
- Fish & Wildlife – Habitat Degradation
 - Stream Crossings, Wildlife structures
- Degraded Plant Condition – Productivity & Health
 - Pre-commercial Thinning, Reforestation
- Degraded Plant Condition Plant/Pest pressure
 - Invasive control

Local Working Groups

“Local Working Groups are composed of agricultural producers, owners/operators of nonindustrial private forestland and individuals representing a variety of disciplines as they relate to the soil, water, wetland, plant, forestry and wildlife sciences who are familiar with agricultural issues in the local community.”

Local Working Group Cont.

“...annual meeting of stakeholders at a unique event and is essential in identifying the various natural resources conservation priorities and objectives for the Puget Sound Area of Washington in 2015...contain information pertaining to programmatic and policy changes”

EQIP Application Process

- Contact your local USDA/NRCS Service Center to start the process
 - One located in each County throughout the Nation

<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>

EQIP Application Required Doc's

- CPA-1200 EQIP Application
- AD -1026 HELC/WC certification
- ESA/NHPA Waiver
- SF1199AD – Direct Deposit
- SCIMS Info sheet – FSA Document

EQIP Eligibility

- Control or own eligible land
- Comply with adjusted gross income limitation (AGI) provisions
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements
- Develop an NRCS EQIP plan of operations

EQIP Application Cont.

- Site visit to determine Resource Concerns & establish a conservation plan.
- Screen Applicants
- Rank based off of resource concerns
- Fund highest ranked first

Typical Funded Projects

- Pre-commercial Thinning
- Reforestation
- Stream Crossings
- Forest Roads
- Pruning for disease & fire
- Invasive Treatment
- Fuel Break

Conservation Activity Plans

- CAP 106 Forest Management Plan
- CAP 142 Fish & Wildlife Habitat Management Plan
- Other CAPs for Landscape, Headquarters, Energy, etc...











Questions?

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