



United States Department of Agriculture



NRCS: The Role of Conservation Planning in Climate Mitigation and Social Equity



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Who We Are

**An Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
with offices in every state & territory.**



Mission: We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.



Vision: A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.



What We Do



NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to voluntarily put conservation on the ground to help the environment and benefit farmers.

Soil, Water, Air, Plants, Animal & Energy



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Objectives:

- Healthy and productives soils
- Reduce soil erosion
- Improve water quality
- Healthy and balanced plant and animal communities.
- Clean air
- Sustainable farm operations

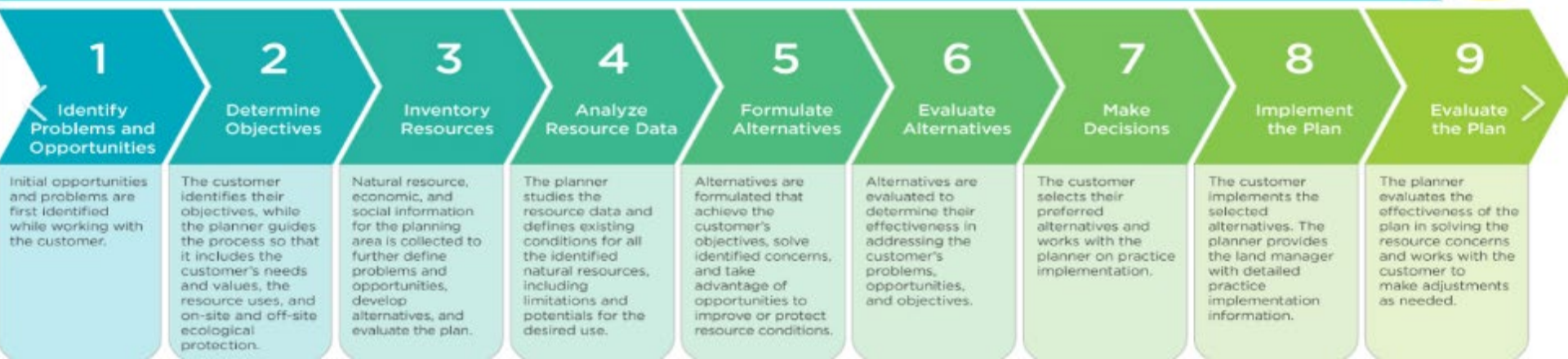


9-Step Planning Process



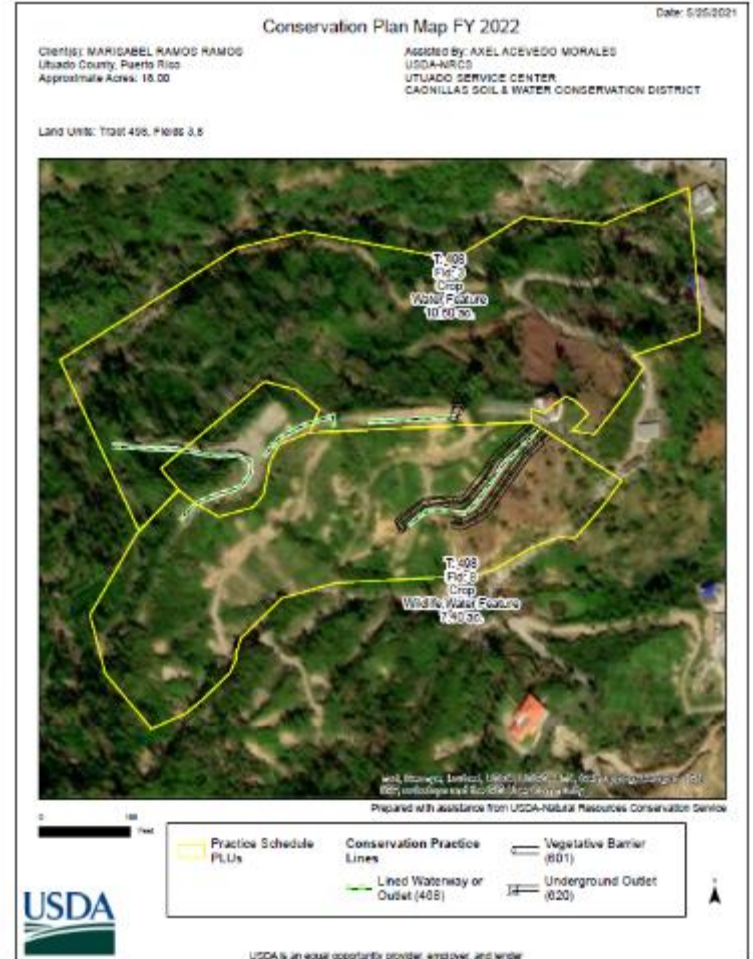
1. Identify Problems and Opportunities
2. Determine Objectives
3. Inventory Resources
4. Analyze Resource Data
5. Formulate Alternatives
6. Evaluate Alternatives
7. Make Decisions
8. Implement the Plan
9. Evaluate the Plan

HOW CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKS A NINE-STEP PROCESS



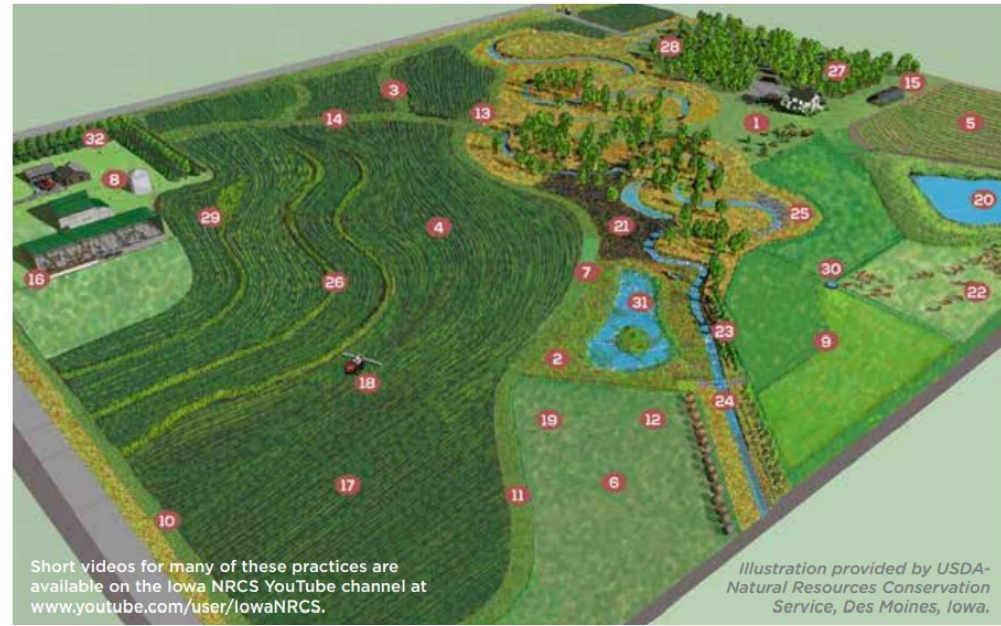
NRCS Products

- Conservation Plan for your Farm



Recommended Practices

- **Reduced Tillage (329)**
- **Contour Farming (330)**
- **Cover Crops (340)**
- **Nutrient Management (590)**
- **Pest Management (595)**
- **Vegetative Barriers (601)**
- **Filter Strips (393)**
- **Hedgerow Planting (422)**
- **Obstruction Removal (500)**
- **Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)**
- **Pond (378)**
- **Irrigation Water Management**
- **Heavy Use Area (561)**
- **Riparian Forest Buffer (391)**





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Climate and Equity



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USDA Priorities



Today, containing the pandemic, **ensuring racial justice and equity**, responding to a mounting hunger and nutrition insecurity crisis, rebuilding the rural economy, strengthening and building markets for farmers and producers, **and addressing the impacts of climate change** are our top priorities. Amid these challenges, we are tasked with delivering fundamental services— safe and nutritious food, clean water and last-mile broadband, energy security, sound infrastructure, business services, and tackling the climate crisis. ***In rural America—which holds a special claim to USDA’s mission—we must build back better, stronger, and more resilient and equitably than ever before.***

Statement by **Thomas J. Vilsack Secretary of Agriculture** Before the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives April 14, 2021



USDA to Invest \$50 Million in New Cooperative Agreements for Racial Justice and Equity

Supporting Historically Underserved Farmers & Ranchers



Projects to expand the delivery of conservation assistance to beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers to implement natural resources conservation practices that:

- Improve soil health;
- Improve water quality;
- Provide habitat for local wildlife species of concern;
- Improve environmental and economic performance agricultural land
- Build and strengthen local food projects.



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Priority Areas

1. Increase **Soil Health**
2. Look for opportunities to look for **Climate Smart Practices**
3. **Identify and address resource concerns at Landscape level.**



Soil Health Principles

- Minimize Soil Disturbance
- Maximize Soil Cover
- Maximize Biodiversity
- Maximize Presence of Living Roots





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Benefits of Soil Health

- Increase Organic Matter in Soil
- Increase Microbiological Activity
- Increase Nutrient Recycling
- Increase Water Retention in Soils
- Improves Water Quality
- Minimizes Energy Consumption
- Reduce Soil Erosion

USDA-NRCS SOIL HEALTH INFOGRAPHIC SERIES #002

what's underneath

unleash the
SECRETS
OF SOIL

healthy soil has amazing water-retention capacity.



Every

1%

increase in organic
matter results in
as much as



25,000

gal of available
soil water per acre.

Source: Kansas State Extension Agronomy • Updated, November 2011, July 6, 2012



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Want more soil secrets?
Check out www.nrcs.usda.gov

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Adapting to Climate Change

- Maximize water capture
- Maximize irrigation efficiency
- Interconnect systems like a tool to manage risk.



Santa Isabel, PR



Watershed level projects

- Drains one of the largest watersheds in Puerto Rico covering 164,480 acres.
- Ranked 5 on the list of impaired watersheds in the Puerto Rico Unified Watershed Assessment.
- Some of these pollutants are related to ag sources such as fertilizers, pesticides and manure from crop and pasture lands.
- Initiative will address Concentrated erosion, Degraded plant condition, Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss, and Aquatic and Terrestrial habitat loss.



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Other Programs

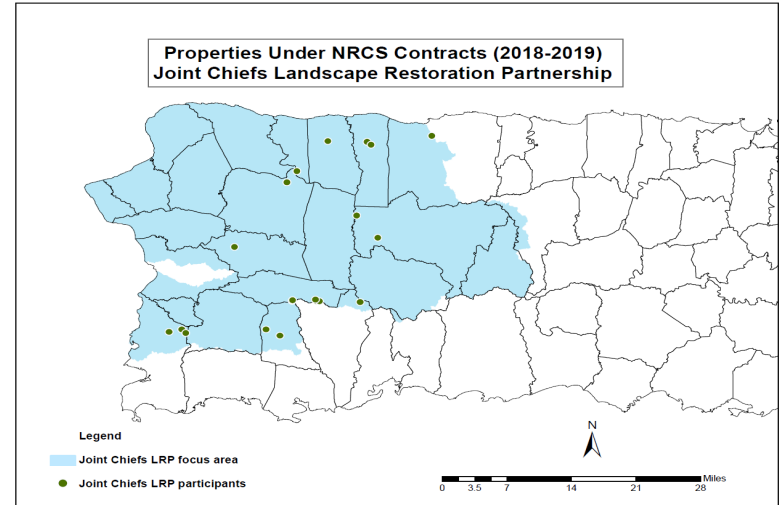
Joint Chief Initiative

Partnership with DNER, USFWS, Distrito de Conservacion, PLN, Envirosurvey, Protectores de Cuentas and Cafiesencia.

6 completed and certified Stewardship Management Plans from the 24 planned to be completed at the end of this initiative.

2,000 acres to be impacted from the first 20 farms from FY 2018 and 2019.

6, 500 native trees planted.



Some of our Results

- **18,405** impacted acres
- **6,516** impacted acres in Soil Health
- **13,079** acres impacting water quality
- **8,000** planted trees
- **767** acres of habitat improvement



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Get Involve

- Local Working Groups
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Partnership Opportunities



Cultural Heritage
Innovation Program



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NRCS Field Offices



Puerto Rico



US Virgin Islands



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ST. CROIX: 340-692-9662 | Serving St. Croix, St. John, St. Thomas and Water Island

UTUADO: 787-894-1480/ 4567/ 2416 | Serving Adjuntas, Ciales, Jayuya & Utuado

Caribbean Area Offices

- ★ State Office
- ★ Mayaguez Field Office
- ★ Arecibo Field Office
- ★ San Sebastian Field Office
- ★ Caguas Field Office
- ★ St Croix Field Office
- ★ Corozal Field Office
- ★ Utuado Field Office
- ★ Juana Diaz Field Office



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Caribbean Area Website - www.pr.nrcs.usda.gov

Bee-Friend Pollinators for National Pollinator Week June 22-28!

Did you know 75% of the world's flowering plants & more than 30% of the world's food crops depend on pollinators to reproduce? Find out how **YOU** can help our pollinators! *¡Descubre cómo TÚ puedes ayudar a nuestros polinizadores!*



¡Feliz Semana Nacional de los Polinizadores!

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Popular Topics

- > [Financial Assistance](#)
- > [Technical Resources](#)
- > [Caribbean Area Soils](#)
- > [Caribbean Area Plants](#)
- > [Caribbean Area Publications](#)

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In the News

Events & Deadlines

- OP ED: Caribbean Area Farmers Use Conservation Practices to Protect Pollinator Habitat, Boost Crop Production

Highlights

- Caribbean Landscape Initiatives
- Climate & Drought in the Caribbean Area
- Hurricane Recovery
- Soil Health



Conservation Compliance

Conservation Compliance

Caribbean Area Social Media

-  Twitter: www.twitter.com/nrcs_caribbean
-  YouTube: www.youtube.com/nrcscaribbean
-  Facebook: www.facebook.com/nrcs.caribbean



Edit profile

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Through a network of local field offices, USDA Natural Resources Conservation



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