



USDA Update

National CAFO Roundtable



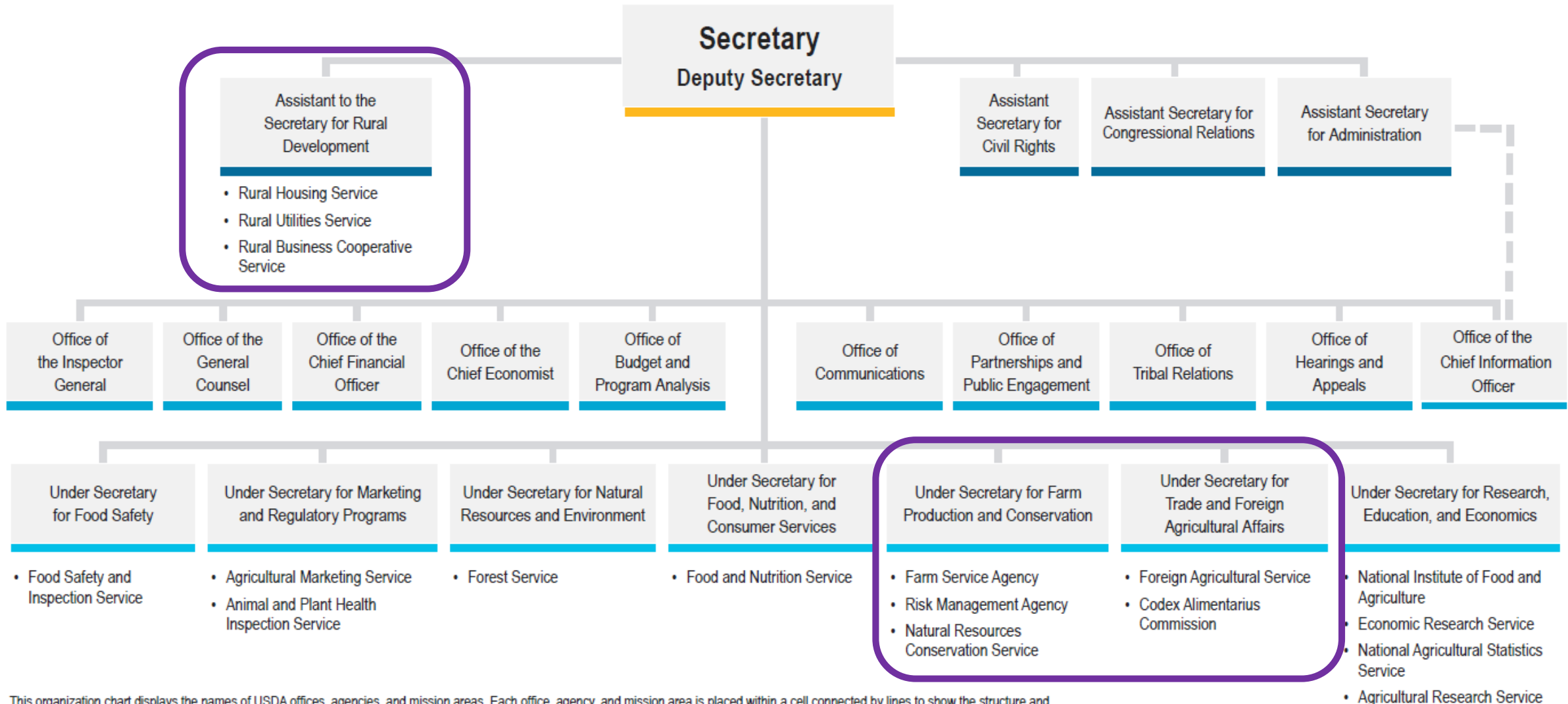
USDA Update

National CAFO Roundtable

USDA under Sec. Purdue

- OneUSDA
- Emphasis on Customer Service
 - Faster & easier service
 - Reducing regulatory burdens
 - Effective & efficient
- “Do right and feed everyone”

USDA Organization Chart



This organization chart displays the names of USDA offices, agencies, and mission areas. Each office, agency, and mission area is placed within a cell connected by lines to show the structure and hierarchy (Under Secretary, Deputy Secretary, or Secretary) for which they fall under. An HTML version that lists [USDA Agencies and Offices](#) and [USDA Mission Areas](#) is also available on [usda.gov](#).



NRCS Update

National CAFO Roundtable

NRCS Reorganization

► Transition in structure...

- New USDA mission area: 'Farm Production and Conservation' (FPAC)
 - ❖ NRCS
 - ❖ Farm Service Agency (FSA)
 - ❖ Risk Management Agency (RMA)
- Creation of the FPAC Business Center to cover 15 mission support areas for all three agencies

► NRCS Finally Hiring

- USAJobs
- Emphasis on “field facing” staff

► Streamlining of products (faster and easier service)

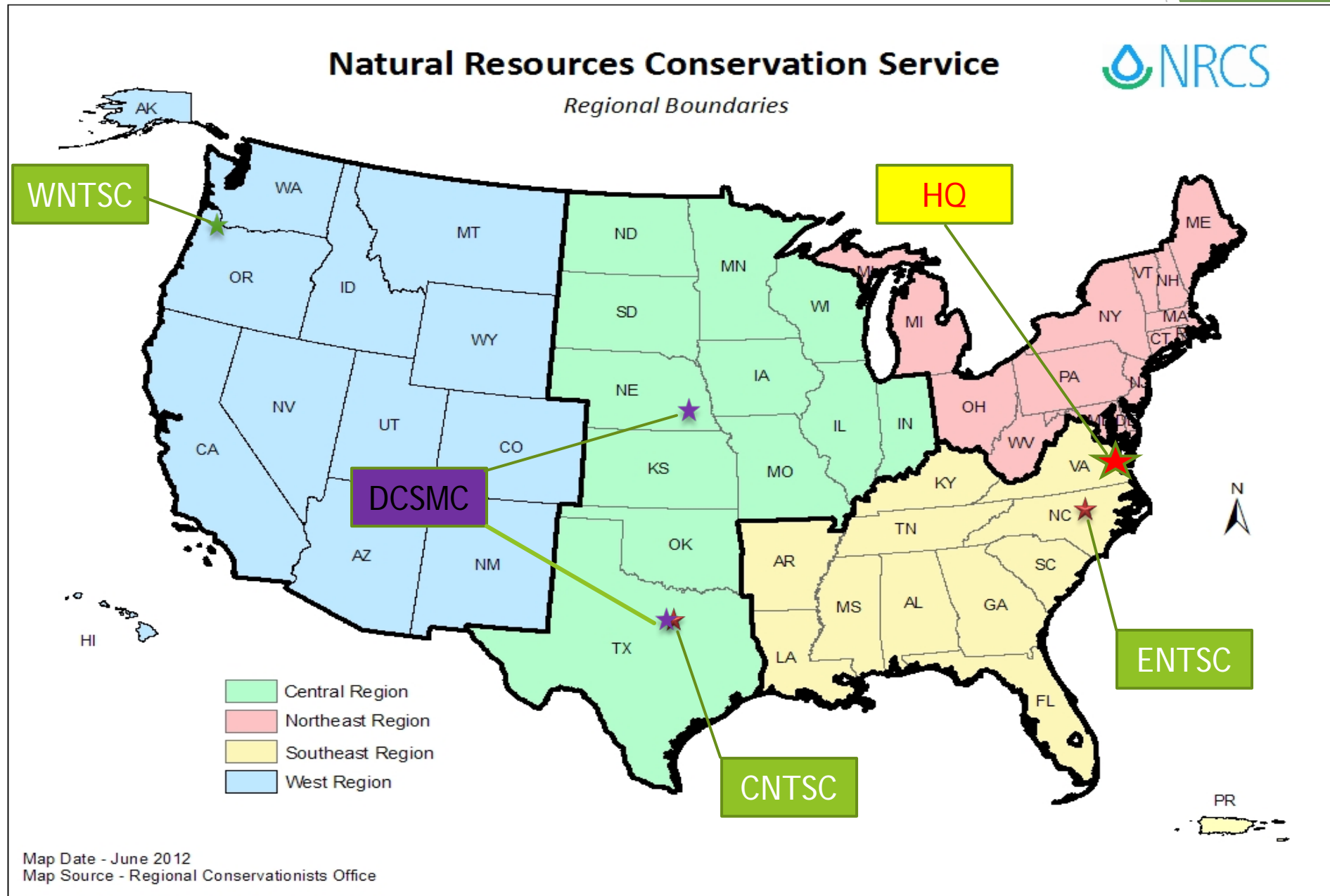
- A new Assessment and Ranking Tool
- Better harmonization of Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) documents
- Reevaluation of Resource Concerns, Planning Policy and Certification requirements

► Improved Communications (simplified access)

- Farmer's website: www.farmers.gov



NRCS Science & Technology



- ▶ **National Standards – national guidance on conservation practices**

- ▶ https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/technical/cp/ncps/?cid=nrcs143_026849

- ▶ **State Standards – used to plan, design, or install a conservation practice**

- NEW “face” for FOTG (as of Sept. 19,2018)**

- ▶ <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

- ▶ **CPD-DMS:** NRCS system for updating our standards and related documents. You’ll see an “old” and new part of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) as we transition to this new system.

NRCS Standards



Welcome to NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

Select a state for documents.

State:

Select...

SUBMIT



Select state here

About FOTG

Technical guides are the primary scientific references for NRCS. They contain technical information about the conservation of soil, water, air, and related plant and animal resources.

Technical guides used in each field office are localized so that they apply specifically to the geographic area for which they are prepared. These documents are referred to as Field Office Technical Guides (FOTGs).

Appropriate parts of the Field Office Technical Guides are automated as databases, computer programs, and other electronic-based materials such as those included in these web based pages.

FOTG Sections

Section I - General References

- General state maps.
- Descriptions of Major Land Resource Areas, watershed information, and links to NRCS reference manuals and handbooks.
- Links to researchers, universities, and agencies we work with.
- Conservation practice costs, agricultural laws and regulations, cultural resources, and information about protected plant and animal species.

Section II - Natural Resources Information

- Detailed information about soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.
- NRCS Soil Surveys, Hydric Soils Interpretations, Ecological Site Descriptions, Forage Suitability Groups, Cropland Production Tables, Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guides, Water Quality Guides, and other related information can be found here as it becomes available.

Section III - Conservation Management Systems


- NRCS Quality Criteria, which establish standards for resource conditions that help provide sustained use.

Section IV - Practice Standards and Specifications

- NRCS Conservation Practice Standards that define the practice and where it applies. Practice specifications are detailed requirements for installing the practice in the state.

Section V-Conservation Effects

- Background information on how Conservation Practices affect each identified resource concerns in the state.

 FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE

SupportHelpLogin

Welcome to NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)
Select a state for documents.
State:

Document TreeDocument SearchRecently Changed

Keyboard navigation instructions

- Section I
- Section II
- Section III
- Section IV
- Conservation Practice Standards & Support Documents
- Old Section IV**
- Section V

Old Section IV

Documents (0)

Document Title	Type	Pub Date	Subject	Keywords	Abstract	Size (kB)	Actions
No documents to show.							



-Select 'Conservation Practice Standards and Support Documents' for new and updated standards that have been entered into the Conservation Practice Document (CPD-DMS) system.

-Select 'Old Section IV' for current standards that have not been migrated to the new system yet.

On the **Federal Register** for review and comment

Docket Number NRCS-2018-0005 ([comments due Oct 5th](#))

- ▶ 360 – Waste Facility Closure
- ▶ 372 – Combustion System Improvement
- ▶ 373 – Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surface
- ▶ 420 – Wildlife Habitat Planting (New Standard)
- ▶ 590 – Nutrient Management
- ▶ 594 – Pesticide Mitigation (New Standard)
- ▶ 595 - Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- ▶ 606 – Subsurface Drain

NRCS National Standards

- ▶ **Reviewed internally, no substantive changes**

- ▶ 310 - Bedding

- ▶ **Currently under Internal Review**

- ▶ 629 – Waste Treatment
- ▶ 460 – Land Clearing
- ▶ 609 – Surface Roughening
- ▶ 627 – Milkhouse Waste Treatment (New Standard)
- ▶ 561 – Heavy Use Area

NRCS National Standards

► **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**

- Currently under the FY 2014 Farm Bill
- Provides funding to address resource concerns through a Conservation Plan.
 - Voluntary Program to manage national resources sustainably.
 - Applications taken year round, but cut off dates are established for funding.
 - Contract period of 1 – 10 years.
 - Landowner/Operator must apply, eligibility is determined, application is ranked.
 - Ranking is based on local, state and national priority.
 - Payments are based on typical scenarios, not on the actual costs associated with practice implementation.

NRCS Programs

- EQIP helps producers install or implement structural, vegetative, and management practices on eligible agricultural land, but...
- Agricultural Act of 2014 Payment Limitation –
 - **\$450,000**
 - person or legal entity
 - aggregate from all contracts/sources in fiscal years 2014 through 2018



EQIP

FY19:

- ▶ Payment Schedules and Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) Criteria for FY 19 have been developed. Process will be much the same as the previous year.

FY20:

- ▶ Harmonize and implement new CAP requirements
- ▶ Implement the new streamlined process for ranking

Stay tuned! Farm Bill 2018

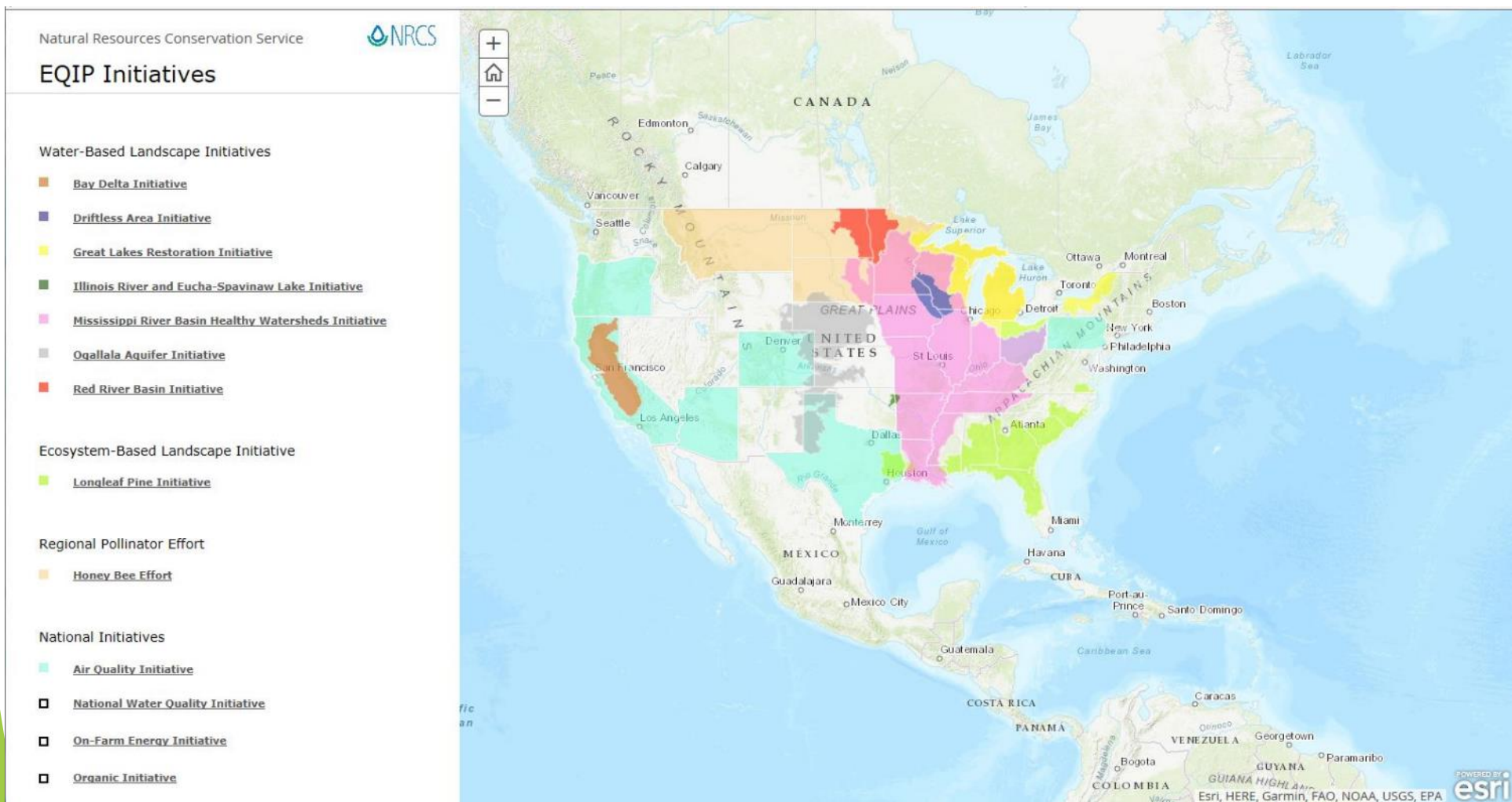
- Proposed increase in funding for EQIP over the life of the Farm Bill



EQIP

EQIP Initiatives

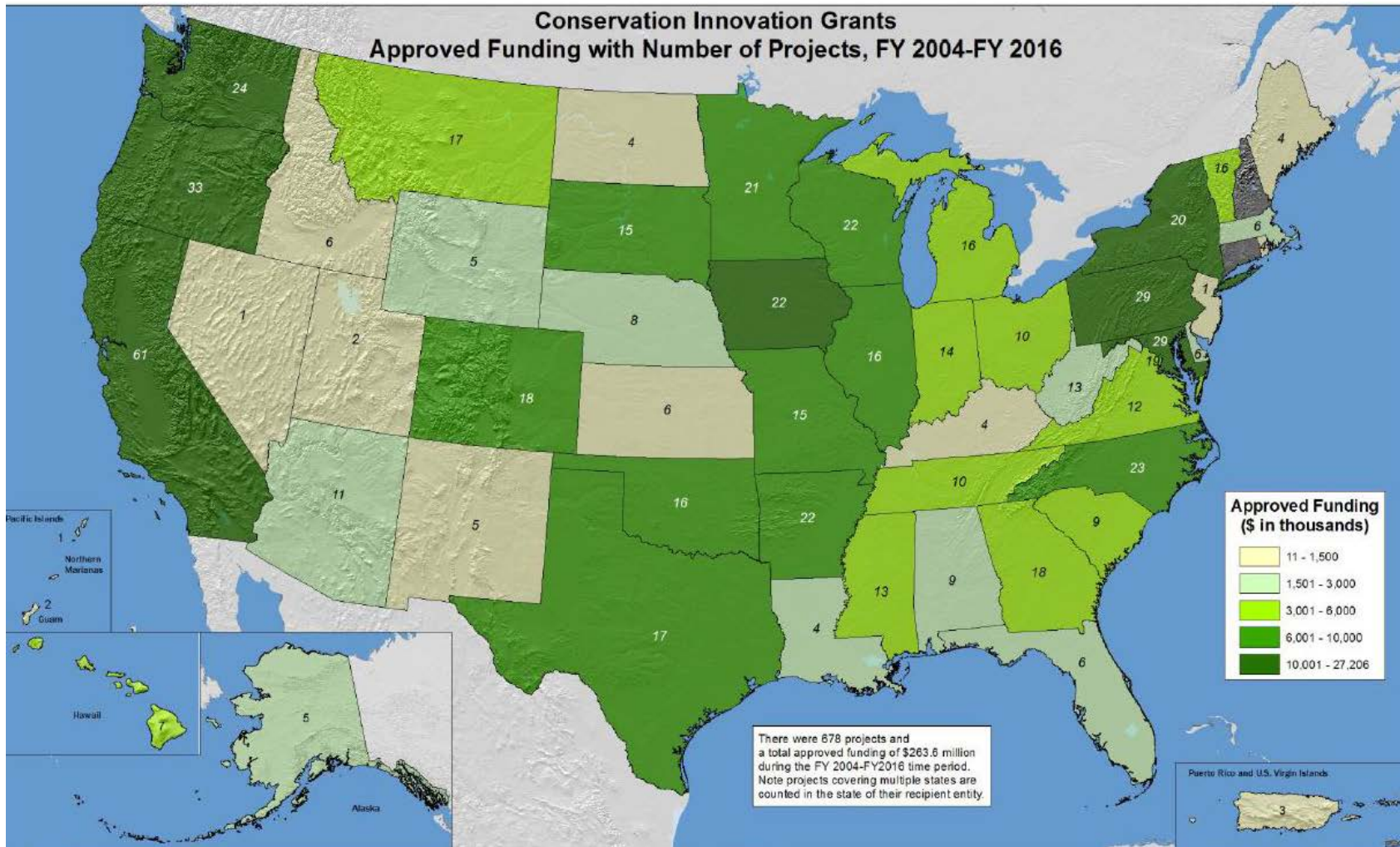
Funds targeted to focus on particular resource concerns



<http://nrcs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=aafc7aeef0494e7e8b2d667aca0fe5cc>

Conservation Innovation Grants

Conservation Innovation Grants are competitive grants that stimulate the development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies for conservation on agricultural lands.



Conservation Innovation Grants

- Demonstration of an Advanced Distillation and Nutrient Separation Processor for Dairy Wastewater (WA)
- Deploying CERT: Integrating Satellite and Field Measures for Improved Grazing Land Management at Ranch Scales (ID)
- A National Grazingland Information System: Expanding GlobalRangelands.org Through a Grazingland Thesaurus and Mobile Content Access (ID)
- Afognak Island Innovative Silvopastoral & Subsistence Management Project (AK)

<http://nrcs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Shortlist/index.html?appid=0d3905be706d4d4e8b928543db49c530>

Conservation Innovation Grants

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service: Conservation Innovation Grants

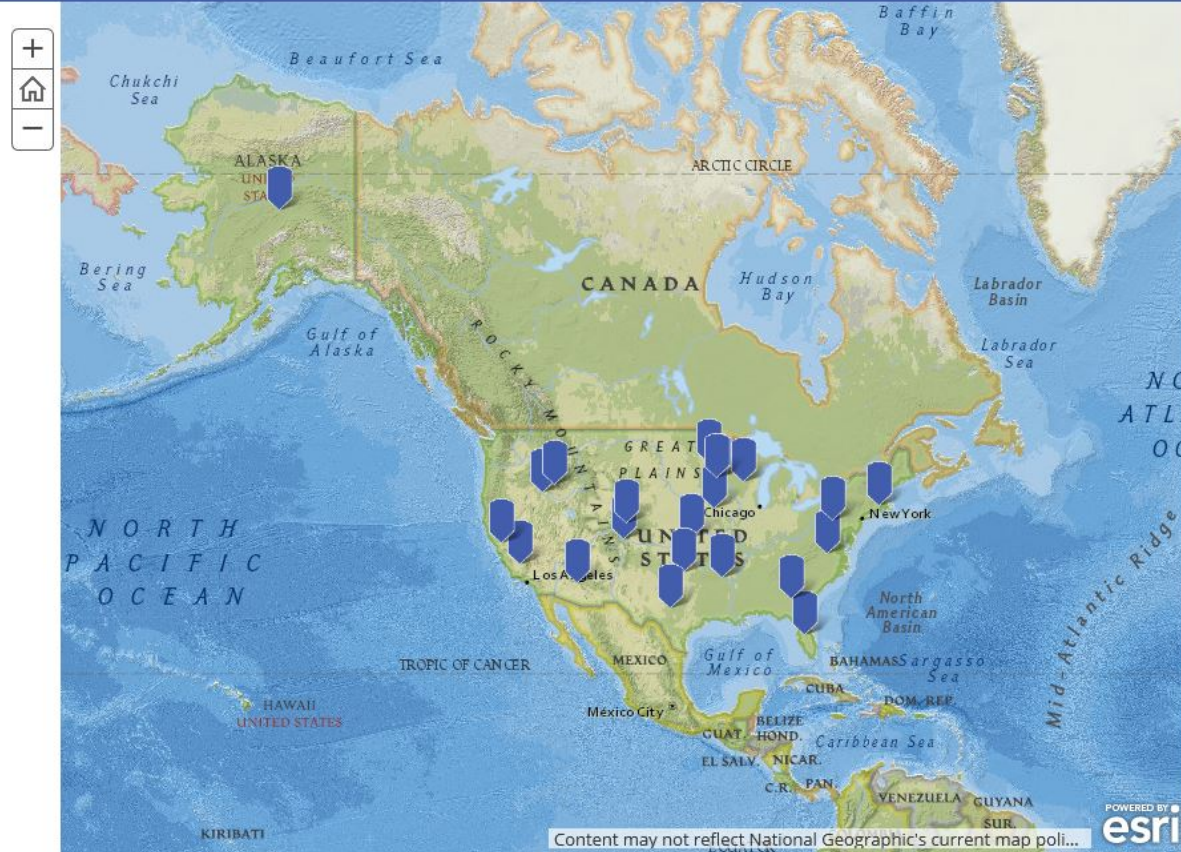
In 2018, the NRCS will award over \$10.6 million in national CIG funding for 22 projects in conservation finance and pay-for-success models, water management and data analytics as well as for historically underserved communities. Learn more about those projects through the storymap. (Note: Map locations for projects are estimates only to protect producer and partner privacy.) The competitive NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants or CIG program - which drives public and private sector innovation in resource conservation - helps develop the tools, technologies, and strategies to support next-generation

Investing in Innovation



2018 CIG Projects

2017 CIG Projects



<http://nrcs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Shortlist/index.html?appid=0d3905be706d4d4e8b928543db49c530>