



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



NRCS Programs for Tribal Conservation Districts

NRCS Resource Concerns

A natural resource concern is a problem or issue that impairs the sustainability or intended use of that resource.



Soil

Soil erosion, soil quality degradation, or soil health >



Water

Excess water, insufficient water, or water quality issues >



Plants

Reduced health or quality of plants >



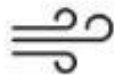
Animals

Inability to meet livestock or wildlife habitat needs >



Energy

Reduced energy efficiency for equipment of field operations >



Air

Air quality issues such as greenhouse gases or odors >



Resource Issues NOT addressed by NRCS

- Sanitation
- Drinking Water / Municipal Water
- Wildlife Populations
- Coastal Erosion Control
- Public Lands Management
- Recreational projects (hiking trails, bike paths, etc.)

Conservation Opportunities on Grazing Lands

- Prevent over-grazing
- Promote healthy forage production
- Improve animal health
- Reduce soil erosion
- Improve soil health
- Improve biodiversity
- Increase sustainability



Conservation Opportunities for Small Scale Agriculture

- Extend growing season
- Improve crop health & production
- Grow wider diversity of crops
- Reduce pest pressure
- Reduce inputs
- Save water
- Build food security



Conservation Opportunities for Forestry

- Reduce pest pressure
- Mitigate Spruce Beetle kill
- Reduce wildfire risk
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Increase biodiversity
- Improve ecosystem resilience



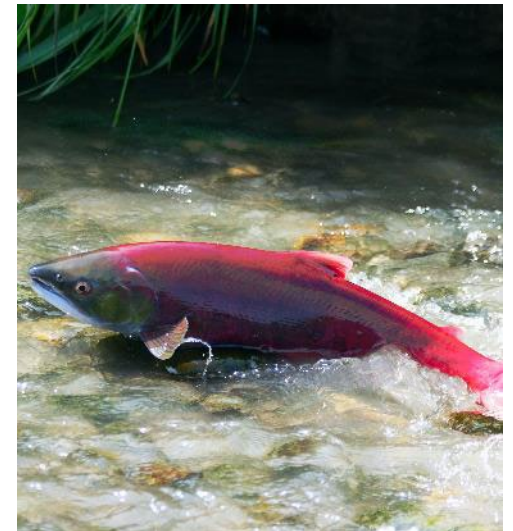
Conservation Opportunities for Salmon Habitat

- Restoring access to spawning and rearing habitat with culverts or bridges
- Enhance long-term stream function
- Restore stream and riparian area function
- Maintain adequate in-stream flows



Salmon Habitat Conservation Practices

- Aquatic Organism Passage
- Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
- Access Road
- Obstruction Removal
- Streambank Protection
- Tree/Shrub Establishment



Wildlife Habitat Development

- Early Successional Habitat Development (willow tipping for moose browse)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Wildlife Habitat Planting
- Brush Management



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Most used program in Alaska
- Great for new clients
- Works like a reimbursement
- Assist with single/multiple conservation practices
- Unique to your operation
- Includes a conservation plan



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Must already show you are doing a baseline level of conservation
- Enrolls your entire operation in the program
- Receive an annual lump sum payment every year for 5 years
- Plus receive payments to install additional conservation activities



Conservation Easements

- Protect farmland from non-ag development
- Keep farmland in agriculture for future generations
- Restore wetlands previously impacted by ag production
- Provide fish and wildlife habitat
- You maintain land ownership and some land rights
- Earn income for the easement



Emergency Watershed Protection Program

- Quick response to severe streambank erosion in rural Alaska
- Responds to imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, storms & natural disasters
- Helps relocate homes away from streambank
- Successful projects in multiple villages



Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Operations

- Long term, multi-year, multi-million \$ projects
- Proactive planning for the future
- Can address “managed retreat”
- May include municipal & industrial water supply
- Currently working with 18 Alaska communities



3 Tiers of Eligibility

- 1. Producer Eligibility**
- 2. Land Eligibility**
- 3. Resource Concern Eligibility**



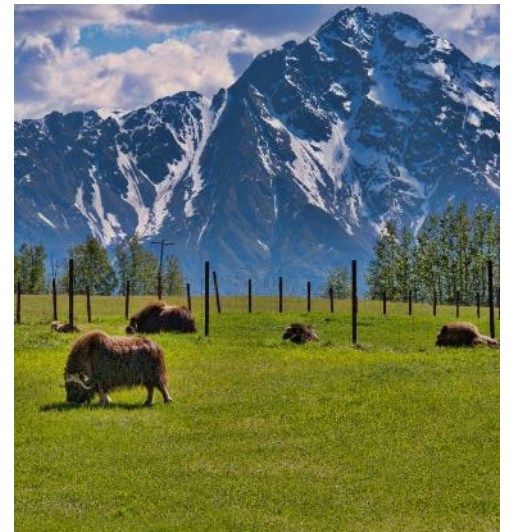
#1: Producer Eligibility

- ❑ Must have **social security number** or employer identification number issued by the IRS. Entities require a Taxpayer Identification Number.
- ❑ Must show **control of the land** for the length of the NRCS contract (lease, deed or other agreement)
- ❑ Must have an **adjusted gross income** of less than \$900,000 (does not apply to Federally-recognized Tribes and Alaska Native regional or village corporations).
- ❑ If the producer is an entity, must have **signature authority** to make management decisions on the land.



#2: Land Eligibility

- ❑ Land must have a use for agricultural production such as cropland, rangeland, grassland, pasture, or non-industrial private forestland. Lands used for subsistence are also considered agricultural lands.
- ❑ Land must comply with USDA Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions. Check with your local USDA Service Center.



#3: Resource Concern Eligibility

- ❑ There must be a valid natural resource problem on the land to receive NRCS financial assistance for the project.

An NRCS conservation planner will help you determine specific natural resource concerns on your property.

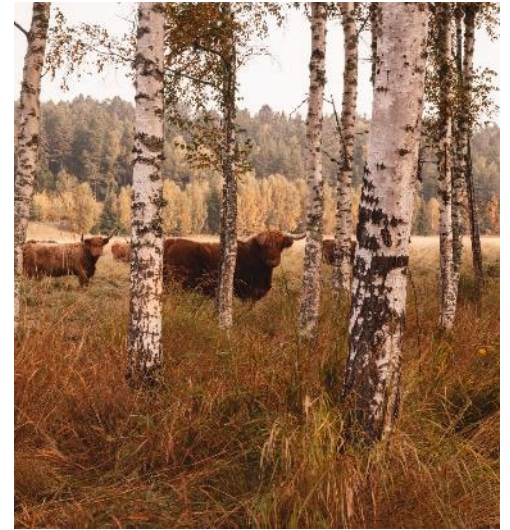


New to NRCS? Establish Your Farm Record with the Farm Service Agency

- New customers must first work with the **USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)** to establish their Farm Record in the USDA system.
- FSA will assist you in filling out paperwork and making a map of your operation.

Central and Southern Office: 907-761-7773

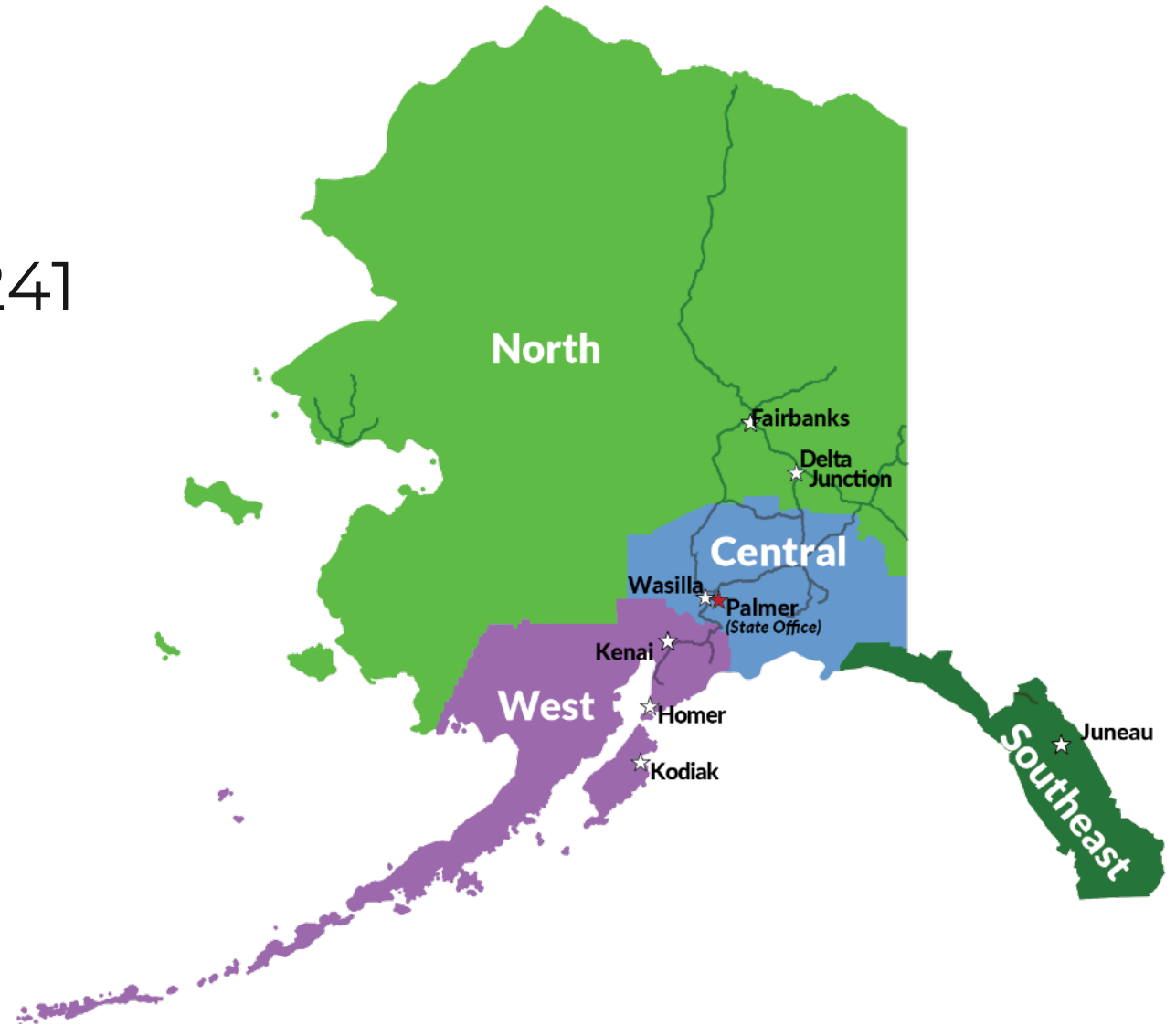
Northern Office: 907-895-4241



Field Offices

- Fairbanks (907) 479-3159
- Delta Junction (907) 895-4241
- Kenai (907) 283-8732
- Homer (907) 235-8177
- Kodiak (907) 486-5598
- Wasilla (907) 373-6492
- Juneau (907) 586-7220

www.nrcs.usda.gov/ak



Programs Contact

Elizabeth Bezinque

Acting Assistant State
Conservationist for Programs

907-795-8253

Elizabeth.Bezinque@usda.gov

www.nrcs.usda.gov/ak

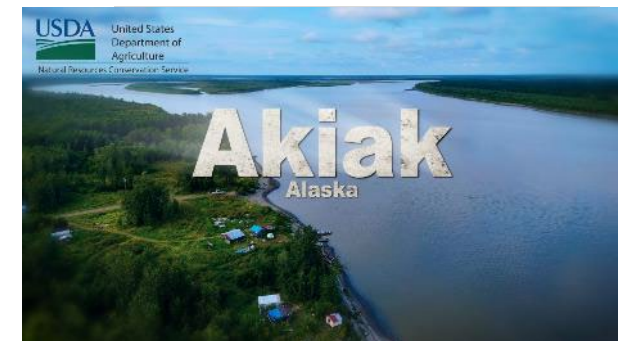
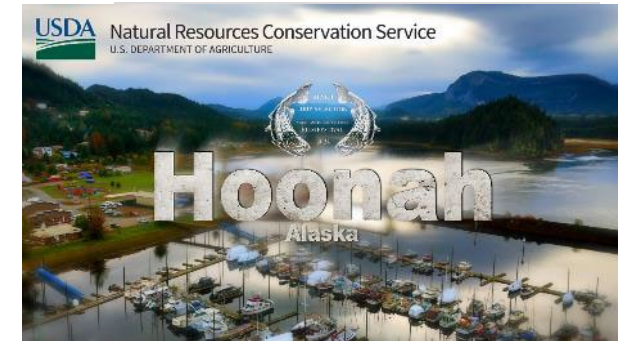


Videos

Watch on NRCS Alaska You Tube Channel



- [Hooper Bay Trail Project \(8:22\)](#)
- [Hoonah Native Forest Health \(6:55\)](#)
- [Protecting Akiak from Erosion \(6:32\)](#)
- [Tyonek Fish Passage \(15:57\)](#)



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.