

NRCS State Technical Committee Meeting
9:00am Tuesday, May 11, 2021
Virtual ZOOM Meeting

Meeting called to order at 9:00am by Amanda Mathis, AR NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships. Thanks to UADA-CES, Dr. Julie Robison and Ms. Rita Watson, for the zoom and technical support provided.

Members present: (Registration list attached – 73 participants)

Opening Remarks – Mike Sullivan, State Conservationist

- Priorities will include climate smart ag with emphasis on voluntary conservation and racial equity
- Announced Dr. Dewayne Goldmon's new position with USDA.
- Office operating status still impacted due to Covid
- Hired 50 new employees with plans to hire another 10+ employees.
- Challenges with new employees will be training needs, etc.

Subcommittee Reports

- Grassland – Jeremy Huff, Grazing Specialist
 - Recommendations from fall are being implemented, included adjustments to heavy use areas (length, slope and compaction). Engineering updating standard drawings to reflect changes.
 - Subcommittee reviewed and support the new interim practice for annual plantings
 - Brush Management – implementation acres doubled in 2020 to 17,000 acres.
 - Fence slightly increased, 1M ft.
 - Pasture planting acres dropped slightly.
 - Prescribed grazing increased in 2020.
 - CSP participation is still quite low for pasture/grassland producers.
 - Implemented a weekly technical education opportunity program
 - Participation has reached 300+ and continues to grow with additional trainings in the evening directed to Producers.
- Water Quality Report – Roger Cousins, Partnership Program Specialist
 - Current NWQI/MRBI Projects in Implementation Phase
 - 3 – NWQI
 - 9 – MRBI
 - Readiness Phase (Watershed Assessment Phase)
 - 1-year phase to do plan at the 12-digit HUC level
 - 8 MRBI Assessments in progress
 - 5 NWQI Assessments in progress
 - Upper Village Creek Recommended as a 2021 Readiness Phase for NWQI
 - Randolph and Lawrence County Conservation Districts
 - Turbidity TMDL

- MRBI – Potential Implementation Phase –
 - Will review current plans in readiness phase and select projects to move to implementation phase, likely will need to prioritize and submit priority watersheds
- Potential MRBI Project for submission as FY22 Planning Phase projects
 - Cache in Craighead County- five 12-digit HUCs, three of which would be new to MRBI.
 - Located in the Nutrient Reduction Strategy
- Energy Report – Britt Hill
 - Recommendations include adding one scenario option to practice code 374 and eliminating an outdated technology scenario.
 - Code 374 – remove scenario for CLF bulb from lighting.
 - CPC 670 – auto controlled lighting to provide options for controlling the lighting while growing the birds – return on investment shown at within 2 years.
 - Invited others to participate in this subcommittee, would like input from nurseries and greenhouses.

Soil Health – Keith Scoggins

- Outstanding attendance in Spring Meeting (74)
- Several other states have asked about starting their own Soil Health Alliance and asked for information on how to start.
- Old business – Sunn Hemp research was not funded last year but is now moving forward with Dr. S. Green and Dr. A. McWhirt, research to get sunn hemp removed from the restricted list.
- Updating the New Soil Health Manual with partners involved. This will be on the web page when completed.
Cover crop recommendation guide under development for newer farmers. This will be developed in cooperation with universities.
- Code 808 – adding carbon amendments (interim standard) subcommittee asked that we look at poultry litter, but storage options is a concern. Asked for research on storage options.
- New CSP enhancement– would like enhancement specifically for early season above canopy
 - Aerial application for 2023

Alternative Crop – Troyce Barnett

- Code 808 – the committee likes the practice and recommends AR adopt the interim standard.
- Committee will meet this summer to review more.

Water Quantity – Shanon Griffin

- Recommendation #1 - 464 Land Leveling – Recommended to be considered –lower cubic yardage threshold to allow a field to be eligible for EQIP, must be part of IWM plan.
- Recommendation #2 – Interim Practice Standard for Aquifer Recharge
 - Do not have guidance for Arkansas yet, recommend a review to see how/if this may benefit AR.
 - Dr. Michelle Reba is working on this issue.
- Recommendation #3 – Look at practices where practice life span may not match what is being implemented on the ground
 - Example- CPC533 used for pump automation but carries a 15-year life span on pumping plant and may not align with automation technology life (which would be less)
 - Reduce the life span of the 533 Pumping Plant to reflect new technology.

Wildlife Subcommittee – James Baker

- Created a new Waterfowl Working Group
- HQ is attempting to codify definition of farmed wetlands.
 - Farmed prior to 1985.
 - Opportunity to codify this to choose the ones which best fit this scenario.
 - Comments needed by June 1, 2021
 - Lean heavily on long term ponding, etc.
 - Evaluate the best drain condition – prior to Dec. 23, 1985.

Feral Swine Eradication & Control Program – J.P. Fairhead, ADA

- Technicians – 10 currently hired.
- 12 counties over 4 project areas
- 15 traps in operation with 3 provided by AR Farm Bureau, does not include APHIS traps
- 506 hogs removed by district traps in March.
- Education and Outreach
 - Modified the budget in Year 1 for equipment and supplies.
 - NRD grants to district funds \$100,000 annually
 - 11 traps delivered to CD Jan 2021
 - Centralized Education and outreach
 - Sebastian County will provide materials to all project areas.
 - Ashley, Bradley and Drew Tri-County landowners meeting on April 12, 2021 with AGFC, AACD, APHIS, USFWS, etc.
 - Supplemental Funding has been approved
 - Modify existing NRCS agreement.
 - Amend the CD MOUs
 - Develop MOU with AACD to assist with the non-federal match documentation.
 - Advance payment options with NRCS being explored
 - Develop Outreach Components
 - U of A developed the surveys coordinated with national survey.'

- 2 surveys completed in Drew County.
- Education and Outreach (FY22)
 - Focus on collaborative landowner workshops and outreach within project areas.
 - West Arkansas River Valley workshop planned for June 2021.
- Task Force
 - Legislative Session – modified definition of feral hog to assist with enforcement with penalties.
 - Provision to allow ADA permit fees for aerial permitting.
 - Clarified language to allow possession of feral swine on property where hogs were captured.
 - Education and Outreach
 - Communication Plan (4 press releases scheduled)
 - Survey 123 data collection and removal maps housed on AFETF website.
 - 23,000 Feral Hog Handbooks distributed
 - Management and Control (Discussion Items)
 - Promote outreach effort to discourage use of box style traps to reduce non-target catch.
 - Educational effort to retrofit the traps and why they are not effective long term.
 - Develop consistent message regarding the use of bait within the CWD zones.

Forestry Report – Doug Akin

- Spring Meeting (43 participants)
- No recommendations from Fall or Spring Meeting
- CRP Program practices that need management exemptions were reviewed.
- Forest Action Plan was presented by Chandler Barton, AFC
- Joint Chief's Projects – new proposal due in Summer 21
- Silvopasture Practices- additional training needed.

Comments

- Adam Chappell –
 - Code 808 with poultry litter (6 universities have already done researched on storage options across the nation), why wait 1 year?
 - Practices are geared toward either row crop or grazing but not combining the two, producers need assistance with integrating livestock in row crop to support soil health.
 - Financial support needed but banks want to separate row crop and grazing as well them which puts the farmer at a disadvantage.

- Mike Sullivan talked about the lack of inclusion of row crop with grazing – need some thought on what steps need to be taken.
- Amanda Mathis asked Doug Akin about a new Joint Chief’s proposal to be submitted in Summer 2021. Doug stated that it is still in early stage but meeting on Friday, May 14, 2021 to clarify
 - May focus on infrastructure needs such as road and bridge needs, like low water bridges.
 - Mike Sullivan good example of great success with Joint Chief’s projects but lots of opportunities
 - Plug in early and consider the drinking water sources.
- Mike Sullivan – Waterfowl Working Group is good, but we need to take stock of current activities and need recommendation quickly if they are to be included in future planning.
 - James Baker – group met twice, and they decided to not pursue some of the practices previously discussed.

Conservation Incentive Contracts (EQIP-CIC) – Clyde Williams (Information document attached)

- Exciting new opportunity – last piece of the Farm Bill 2018
- Program components
 - Purpose –increase producer interest in areas where CSP participation has been low
 - Contract life is not less than 5 but not more than 10 years.
 - FY21 all contracts will be 5 years.
- Payments
 - EQIP like practices will be paid after implementation, Enhancement (like CSP) will be paid annually
 - Practices will be funded at 75% rate, Enhancements at 100%.
- Payment limitation - \$200,000 which is separate from the EQIP “Classic.”
 - Person limitation- \$200,000
 - Joint Operation - \$400,000
- Scheduled deadlines May 15 – June 15, 2021
- Obligations by September 2021
- High Priority Areas
 - Resource Concern Categories
 - Pasture - Land Use was identified.
 - Priority given to applications which target 3 identified concerns.
 - Three Teams identified (3,6 & 9)
 - Teams which have had historically high implement the prescribed grazing from EQIP thus well suited for CSP like enhancements
 - Practices & Enhancements defined proposal document
 - Call for input and Q&A
 - Mike Sullivan – apologized to the committee due to short notice.

- Farm Bill 2018 said it must be targeted with 5% of general EQIP allocation which will be approximately \$2 million.
- Appears the options available to forestry are limited could this be changed in the future.
- Clyde Williams recommended that the discussion on forestry need to start now for future planning for future EQIP CIC.
- Streambank stabilization was considered but lack of funding was a deterrent due to the high cost of doing this type of work.

Wetland Mitigation Bank – Helen Denniston

- NRCS was tasked to develop wetland mitigation banks with partners to comply with the Food Security Act.
 - In 2016, NRCS selected 10 mitigation bank proposals for funding.
 - The banks were established through partnerships between private and public entities.
 - Mitigation banks were installed in multiple states but not Arkansas.
- New call for proposals to establish more banks came out in 2020
 - Minton Environmental Consultants was awarded a project to develop a bank in Arkansas - funding (\$9 million)
 - Bradley and Davis Minton, farmers in MO and one of the first to get a mitigation banks up and running.
 - Targeted land along the Mississippi River
- Arkansas Wetland Mitigation Bank
 - Allow farmers to purchase mitigation credits for small (less than 5 acres) cropped, seasonal, temporary, degraded, and isolated wetlands that landowners want to convert from wetlands.
 - Landowners who purchase credits to mitigate wetland losses will remain in compliance with wetland provisions of the Food Security Act (FSA).
 - Bank does not cover Clean Water Act sites- only for FSA sites.
 - Credits vary in cost and price per credit. It is negotiated between the bank and landowners.
 - A functional assessment is done by NRCS staff to determine the number of credits required to mitigate at each site.
 - Landowners have the option to mitigate on their own property, but the bank provides an alternative option.
 - The Minton's are currently evaluating their properties in NE Arkansas to determine the suitable site.
 - They will establish a service area so it will be available for most of the state but mainly on Eastern Arkansas.
 - Credits purchased include the restoration of the site.

Program Updates

- **EQIP** – Corey Cornelious
 - FY2021 Implementation Schedule
 - Application Deadline – Dec. 2020
 - Ranking Deadline – April 9, 2021
 - Initial Preapprovals – April 20, 2021
 - Obligation Deadline – July 16, 2021
 - CCC-902 Requirements
 - NRCS must work with new and existing NRCS program applicants and participants, now both individuals and legal entities must file a 902 with FSA
 - Clarification on Producer Representation
 - Customers should present their operations the same way for USDA programs.
 - For easements - the participant must be the owner.
 - Clarification for Joint Ventures
 - Must have a determined CCC-902 by the end of FY2021.
 - New form shown CCC-902I – *Individual* or CCC-902E for Entities.

Local Led Process – Lori Barker

- CIG Deadline was May 10, 2021 to submit to Grants.gov.
 - On Farm Demonstration Deadline on going
 - Classic CIG to be announced.
- LLWG Updates
 - CART
 - Vulnerability score (how many do not address planned criteria)
 - Planned Practice affects score.
 - Practice points and selected resource concerns
 - Resource Priorities (17 categories) (See power point)
 - Ranking component weight x 200 pts for resource questions
 - Program Priorities
 - Ranking component weight x 200 pts for program questions
 - 2022 LLWG Program
 - Tentative Timeline:
 - TBD - Provide training to field offices on 2022 process to collect their LLWG information.
 - TBD – LLWG Meetings
 - TBD - Submit county information to programs.
 - Information to be collected from LLWG.
 - Land Uses to be addressed:

- CAFO, Pasture, Crop and Forest
- Based on percentages
- Suggestions for projects regarding impaired watersheds
- Suggestions for additional project within county such as MRBI, NWI, RCPP
- Other suggestions for improvement
- Guidance is established by Farm Bill and should include districts, stakeholders and partners.
- NRCS is hopeful they will receive guidance in July 2021.

Partnership Programs (RCPP/MRBI) – Roger Cousins for Dianne Schlenker

- **MRBI Assessments**
 - Implementation Phase Funding
 - 9 projects – currently being implemented.
 - Other proposed MRBI projects where a watershed assessment has already been completed – July 9, 2021 Deadline to submit new projects for implementation phase
- **RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program)**
 - Three projects with FA for 2021
 - West Fork/White River - \$221,783
 - North AR Quail Focal - \$222,096
 - Buffalo River Watershed Partnership - \$400,000
 - New RCPP Projects
 - AR-MS Conservation - \$2.5 million (easement work)
 - Restore the Earth - \$7 million (easement work)
 - AR-LA CDN Open Pine Landscape Restoration - \$5.9 million (wildlife)
 - Another call for RCPP will probably be in Fall 2021.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – Clyde Williams**
 - Application deadline - April 16, 2021
 - Obligations – August 27, 2021
 - Contract Renewal
 - During the first half of the fifth year of the initial contract period, NRCS may allow a participant to apply and compete for the opportunity to renew the contract.
 - If participant does not enter into a renewal contract, they are not eligible for two years.
 - Whether does not apply for renewal or applies and not selected, the 2 year period applies.
 - Resource Conserving Crop and Resource Conserving Crop Rotation
 - Error found in the CSP final rule – two slightly different definitions for RCC.
 - Changes are being made to clarify a single definition.
 - CSP Organic Opportunities

- Organic and Transitioning producers continue to have a unique opportunity to apply for CSP.
- Separate allocation for the Organic and Transitioning Application
- **Easements and Watersheds Programs – Randy Childress**
 - Watershed Program – fully staff watershed planning team in place
 - \$117 million in watershed funding
 - Muddy Fork Site #1 – Washington County
 - Departee Creek – dam to build there.
 - Rehab on Ozane Creek – bank stabilization project
 - West Fork/White River – Construction and design plans
 - Grand Prairie I & D - \$61 million
 - Bayou Meto I & D – \$58 million for design and construction
 - Lake Bennett – Woolley Hollow State Park – historical restoration
 - Two studies – preliminary study on historically underserved communities (looking for recommendations on areas which are impacted by flooding, flooding cropland, etc.)
 - Quick to determine if there are barriers to enhancement.
 - Lee County is being looked at related to flooding.
 - Benton County is asking for streambank stabilization.
 - Easements – funding has dropped \$10 million from last year
 - Restoration is getting ready to start.
 - 7 easements bought this year
 - One is 5,000 acres which adds to currently existing easements.
 - Pollinator work is going on with warm native grasses.
 - TNC and MS River Trust – two WREP projects funding which leverage partnership funds with NRCS - \$19.5 million to be split between three states.
 - WREP – seek out a minority landowner to work with.
 - Working with Wilbur Peer, KKKAC, and others to identify landowner suitable for easements.
 - GARC rate caps (2021 GARC Map shown)
 - AR River Valley - \$900 - \$2,600/acre
 - MS River Valley - \$900 - \$3,200/acre
 - Gulf Coast Plain - \$800 - \$2,900/acre
 - To be recommended to Mike Sullivan for approval
 - WREP Priority Areas
 - Wetland Restoration Guideline – has been developed and is in draft stage for comments prior to submit to Mike Sullivan.

Open Discussion and Comments

- Randy Rush, Region 6 EPA

- WOTUS – new administrator has committed to stay with the current version.
- Working on policy regarding surface water getting into groundwater
- Exemption on the use of floredom (chemical for pigweed targeting peanuts)
- Complimented AR for their work on Unpaved Roads

Closing Comments by Mike Sullivan, NRCS State Conservationist

- Impressed by the work of the Subcommittee with more participants and discussions.
- Fall recommendations will move forward.
- Spring recommendations will be discussed at greater length.
- Encouraged the group to reach out whenever they have concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm

State Technical Committee Meeting Agenda

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

May 11, 2021

Registration link- required to receive virtual meeting coordinates:

<https://uada.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwodO6uqiovH9RVsFpjCWmVdcrutaPtUKBv>

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Call to Order

Amanda Mathis

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Mike Sullivan

Subcommittee Reports

Grassland

Jeremy Huff

Water Quality

Roger Cousins

Energy

Britt Hill

Soil Health

Keith Scoggins

Alternative Crop

Troyce Barnett

Water Quantity

Shanon Griffin

Wildlife

James Baker

Feral Swine Program

Forestry

Doug Akin

Break

Conservation Incentive Contracts (EQIP-CIC)

Clyde Williams

Wetland Mitigation Bank

Helen Denniston

Program Updates-

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Corey Cornelious

Local Led Workgroup

Lori Barker

Partnership Programs (RCPP/MRBI)

Dianne Schlenker

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Clyde Williams

Easements and Watersheds Programs

Randy Childress

Open Discussion

All Attendees

Closing Remarks & Adjourn

Mike Sullivan



United States Department of Agriculture



NRCS 2020 Spring Water Quality Subcommittee- State Technical Committee Report

Roger Cousins
NRCS Water Quality Specialist
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Telework: 870-805-8073



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Topics Discussed in the Spring Water Quality Subcommittee Meeting

Landscape Initiatives Updates: MRBI, RCPP, and NWQI

- Discussed Implementation Phase Projects, Readiness Phase Projects, and Proposed Projects, Dianne Schlenker and Roger Cousins

CNMP Certification Process for NRCS employees and Partners

- Roger Cousins discussed the national and state requirements

Nutrient Reduction Strategy Update Status

- Breegan Anderson discussed methodology and current status in the process

Source Water Protection Priority Areas in Arkansas

- Edgar Mersiovsky discussed the current priority areas and the possibility for high priority practices in the future with 90% cost share rate

590-Nutrient Management Practice Standard Update, Water Quality Related Payment Rate Changes FY19-FY20, CSP Nutrient Management Enhancements

- Roger Cousins discussed how the CPS update will need stakeholder engagement, discussed significant payment rate changes in 591 and 333, discussed new CSP enhancements

Arkansas Cropland Phosphorus Index

- Dr. Karl Vandevender discussed the current status and methodology, discussed areas of concern

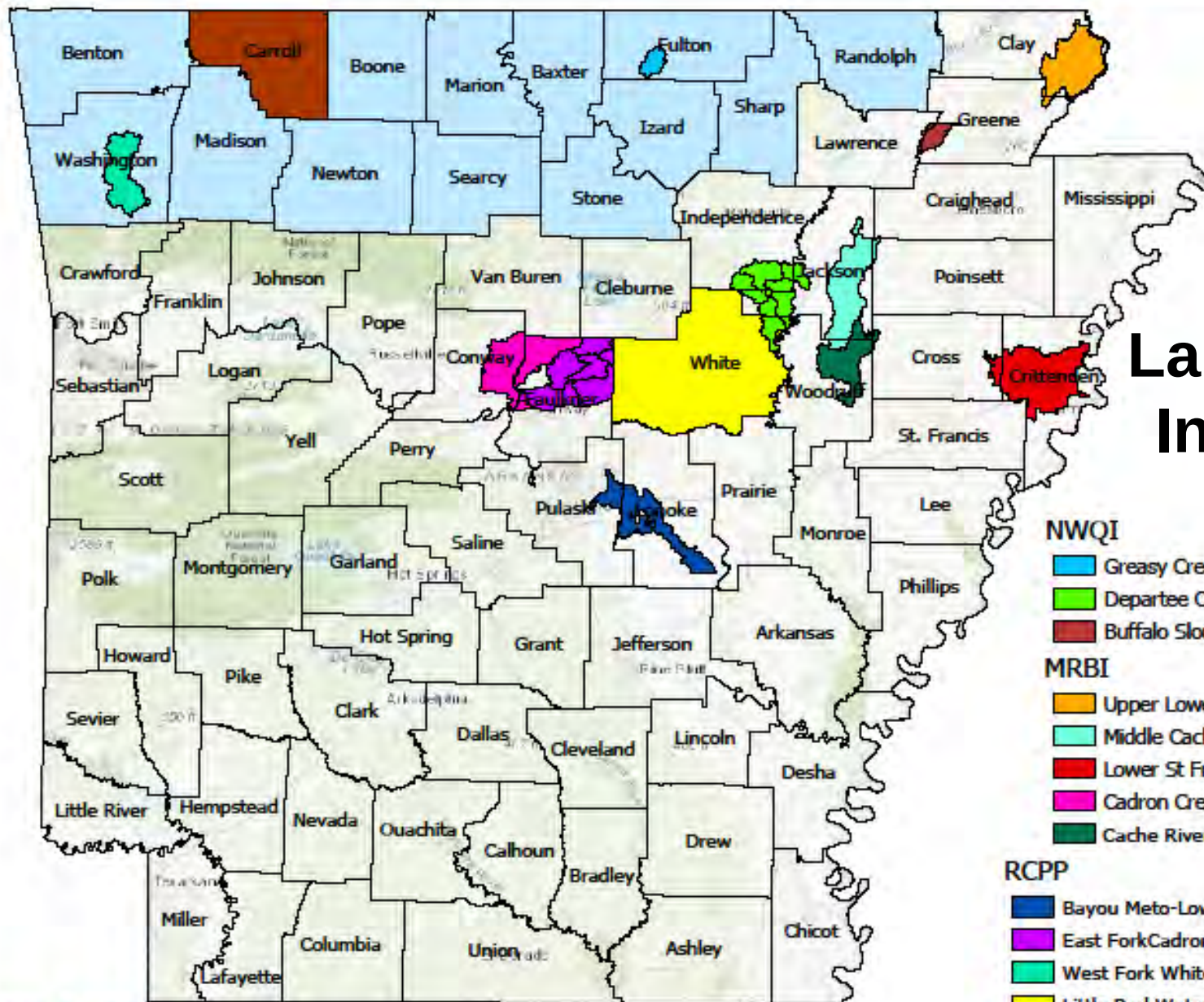




April 24th Water Quality Subcommittee Meeting Action Items

- North Fork Cadron Creek NWQI Project Area Recommendation-received before meeting
- Bayou Bartholomew NWQI Project Area Recommendation-received before meeting
- Little Strawberry NWQI Project Area Recommendation-received before meeting
- Cossatot River NWQI Project Area Recommendation-received before meeting
- Saline Headwaters NWQI Project Area Recommendation-received before meeting
- Did not have any new recommended watersheds at the meeting





Landscape Initiatives

NWQI

- Greasy Creek Strawberry River
- Departee Creek
- Buffalo Slough Cache River

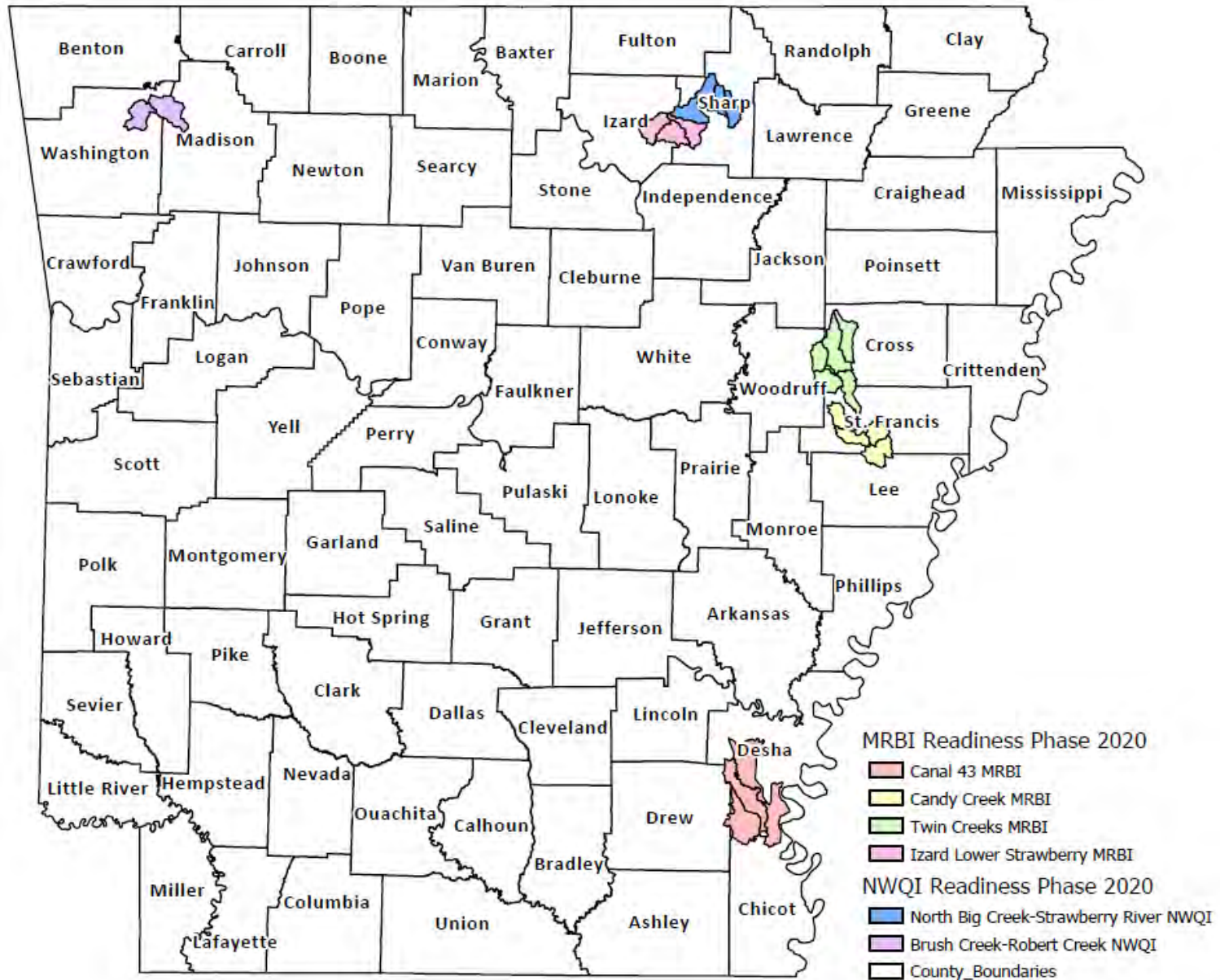
MRBI

- Upper Lower St Francis
- Middle Cache
- Lower St Francis
- Cadron Creek BrewerLake
- Cache River

RCPP

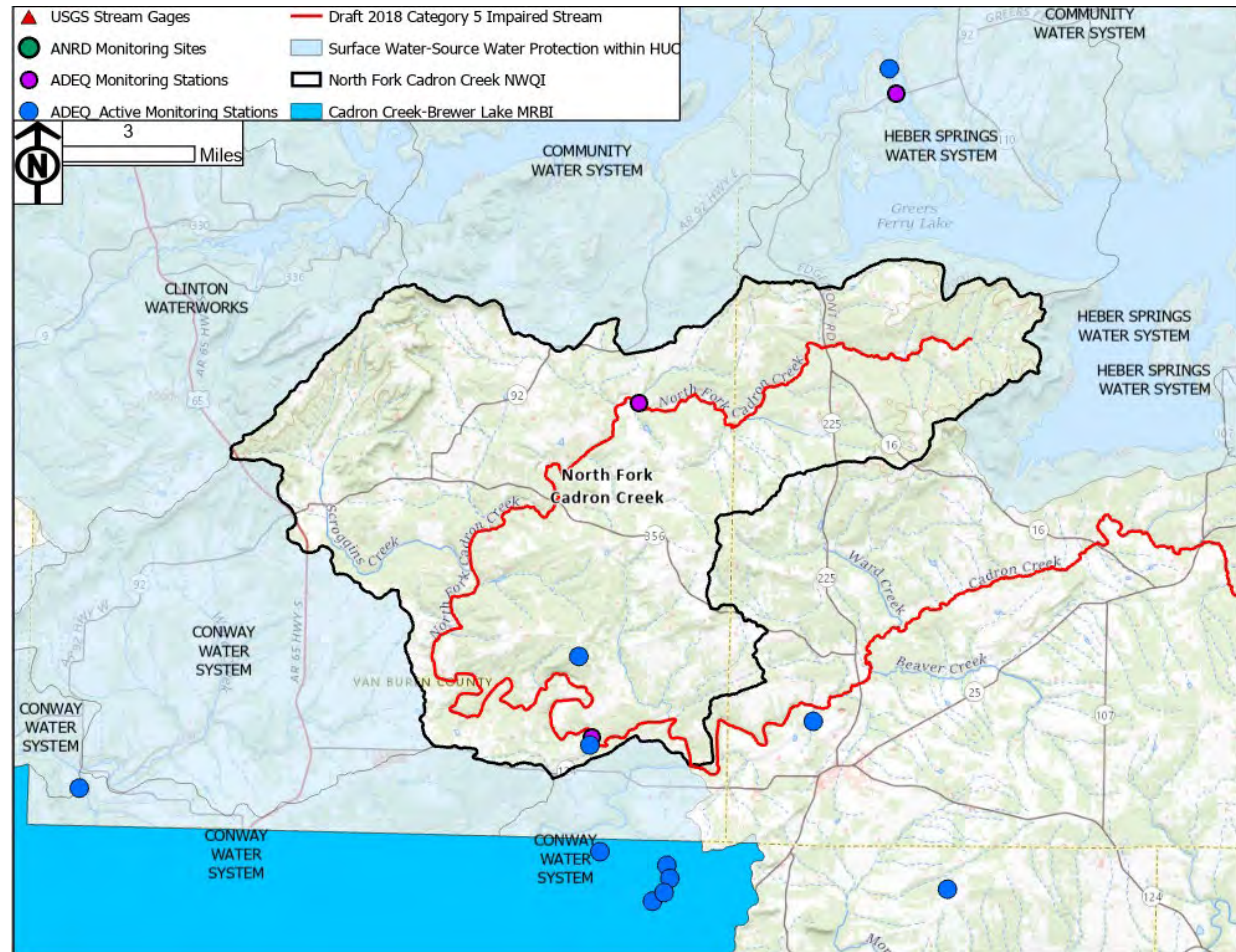
- Bayou Meto-LowerArkansas
- East ForkCadron Creek
- West Fork White River
- Little Red Water Improvement Project
- Carroll County White River Resource Conserv.
- North Arkansas Quail Focal Landscape Project

MRBI/NWQI Readiness Phase 2020



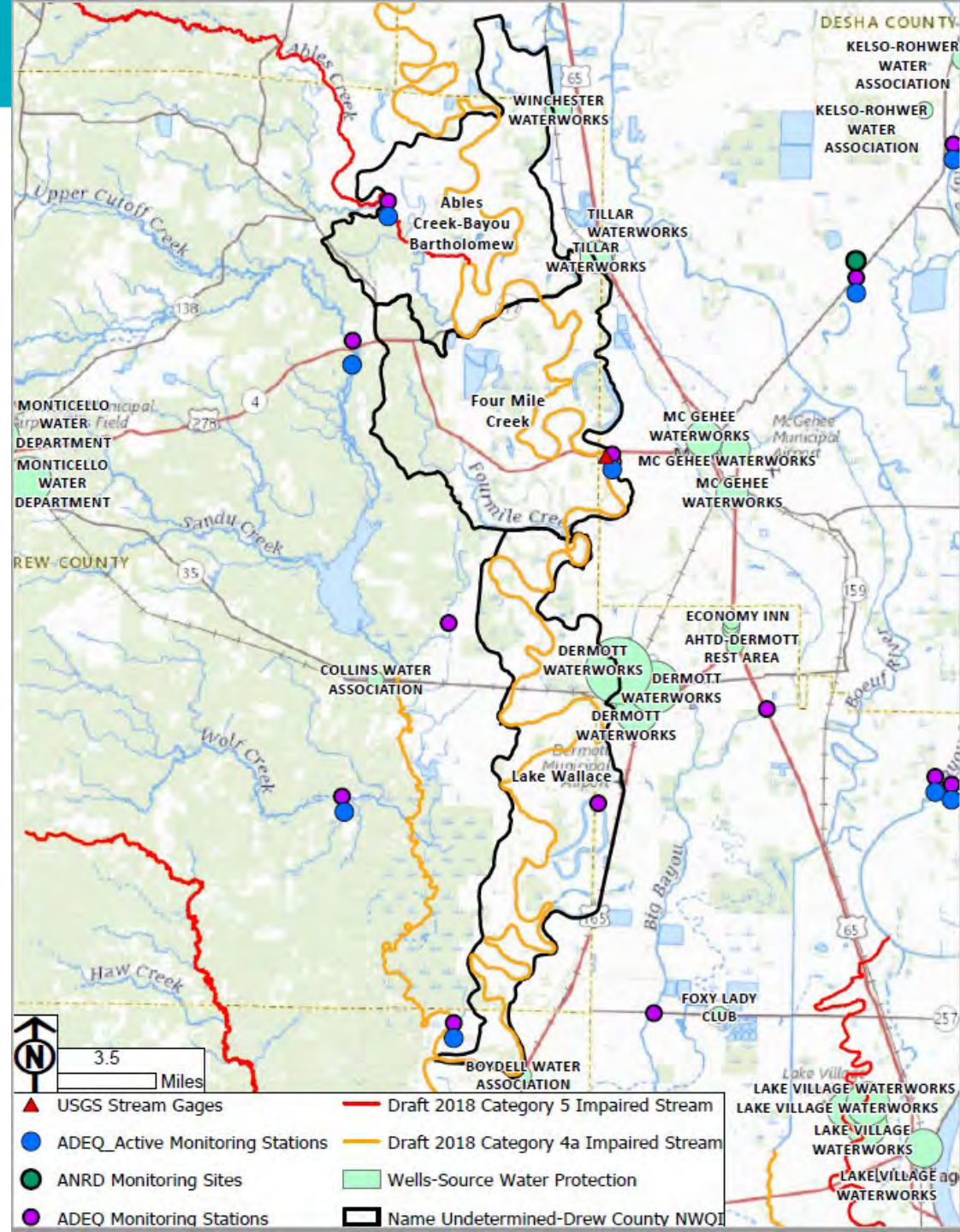
North Fork Cadron Creek Proposed NWQI

- Brought forth by the Van Buren County Conservation District Board and District Conservationist
- North Fork Cadron Creek is a Category 5 impaired stream with low Dissolved Oxygen levels.
- Surrounded by SWP HUCs.
- Van Buren and Cleburne Counties
- Extraordinary Resource Waterbody



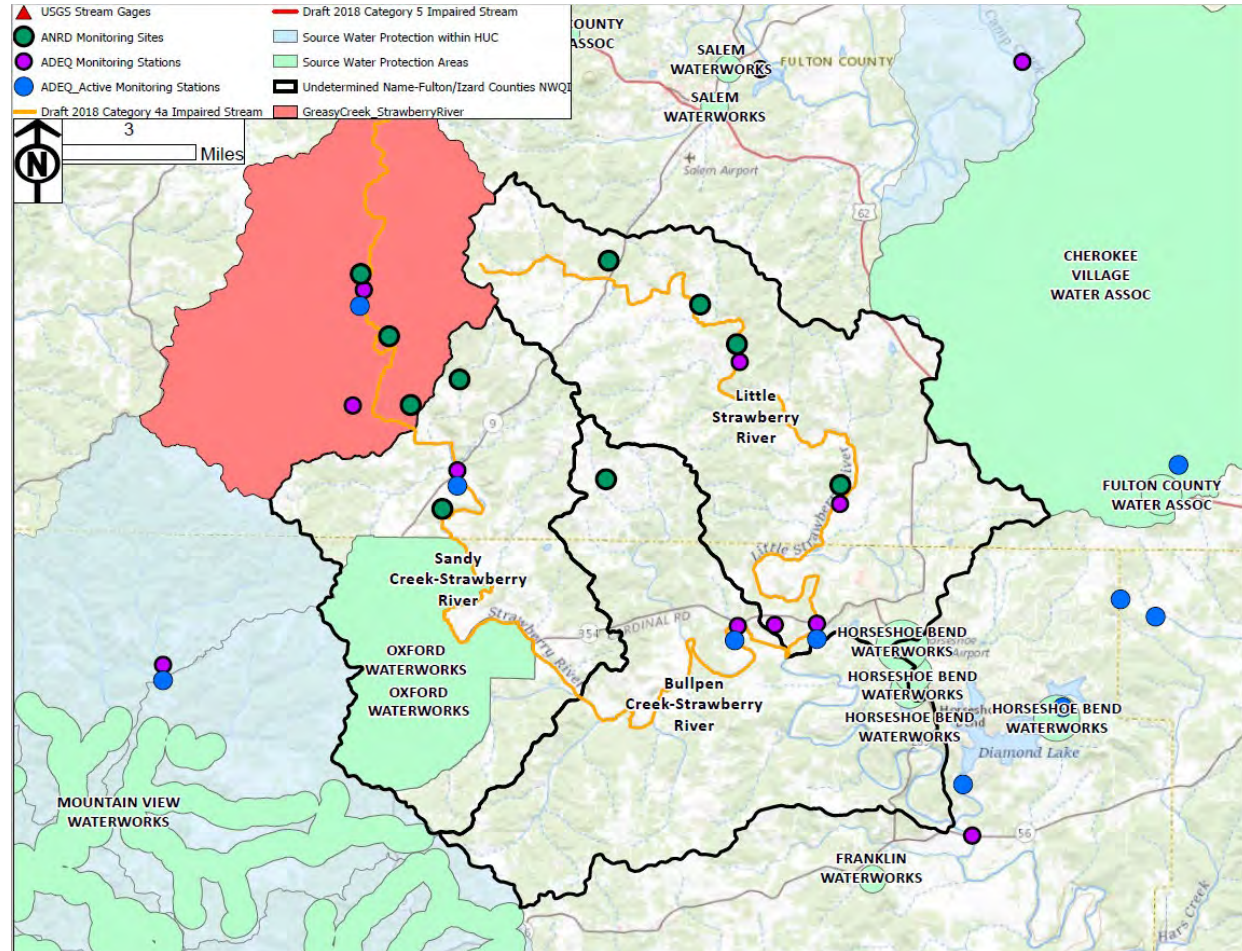
Bayou Bartholomew Proposed NWQI

- Brought forth by the Drew County Conservation District Board and the District Conservationist
- Bayou Bartholomew is a Category 4a impaired stream (impaired with a TMDL) (Turbidity, Mercury in Fish Tissue, Pathogens, Chloride, Sulfate, TDS)
- SWP Wells nearby.
- Non-Point Source Pollution Management Plan Priority Watershed, Nutrient Reduction Strategy Priority Watershed.



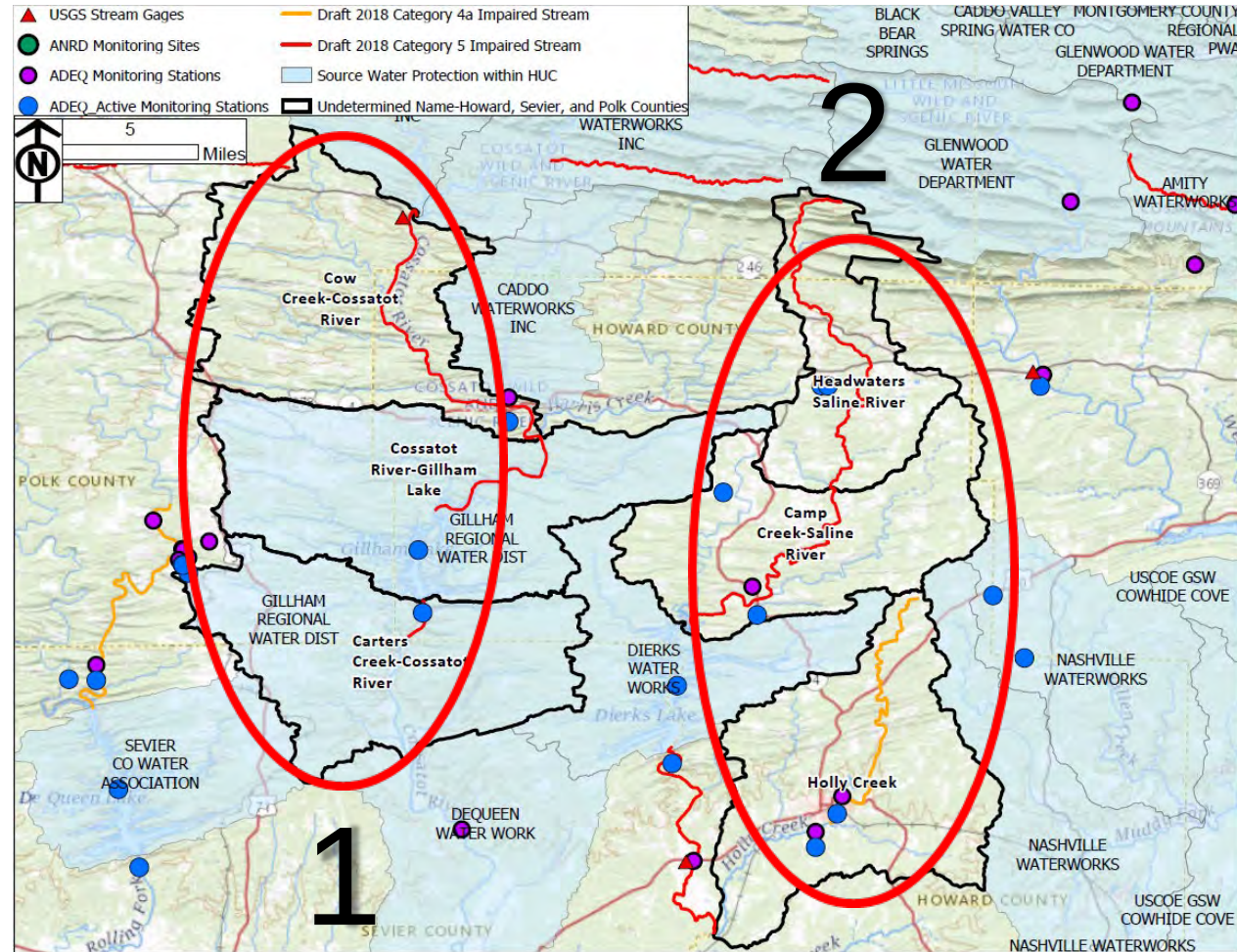
Little Strawberry Proposed NWQI

- Brought forth by the Fulton County Conservation District Board and District Conservationist
- Category 4a Strawberry River has a TMDL for Silt Turbidity and Pathogens. Category 1b Little Strawberry with a TMDL for Pathogens.
- Nearby SWP HUCs.
- Fulton and IZard Counties.
- Non-Point Source Pollution Management Plan Priority Watershed, Nutrient Reduction Strategy Priority Watershed, Mississippi River Basin Initiative Focus Area.
- Strawberry River-Extraordinary Resource Waterbody, Natural and Scenic Waterway, Ecologically Sensitive Waterbody-River Darter



Cossatot River and Saline Headwaters Proposed NWQIs

- Brought forth by the Howard County Conservation District Board and District Conservationist
- Category 5 Cossatot River impaired stream with low Dissolved Oxygen levels. Holly Creek Category 4a, impaired with a TMDL, Pathogens.
- SWP HUCs, Gillham Regional Water District.
- Non-Point Source Pollution Management Plan Priority Watershed, Little Lower HUC8.
- Howard, Polk, Sevier Counties
- Cossatot River-Extraordinary Resource Waterbody, Natural and Scenic Waterway, Ecologically Sensitive Waterbody-Leopard Darter





What is the process for proposing a watershed for a water quality related landscape initiative?

- Contact me: Roger Cousins, Arkansas NRCS Water Quality Specialist 870-805-8073. We can work through your proposed HUCs and determine eligibility then I will present the watershed to the subcommittee for comments and recommendations. I need to have time to present the watershed to partners before submission deadlines. (and/or)
- Contact Dianne Schlenker, Arkansas NRCS Initiatives Coordinator, with MRBI and RCPP watershed Questions.
- Recommend your watershed at the Fall or Spring Water Quality Subcommittee Meeting
- Recommended projects from the Water Quality Subcommittee Meeting will then be presented to the State Technical Committee. A decision will be made which projects we move forward with in request Readiness or Implementation Phase from NHQ.



Water Quantity Subcommittee Meeting

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Recommendation # 1

- *464 Land Leveling*
- *Recommendation to be considered – intent was originally to encourage more land leveling for water savings, but lower cubic yardages may need to be included in practices as it may increase efficiency. Remove restriction from thresholds on size of cubic yards and dependent on the individual fields. More funding is needed for fields which had previously been land leveled.*

464 Land Leveling considerations

- In the past getting the most bang for our buck we have considered only offering land leveling to new customers to get the most benefit in water conservation. It also made sure that returning customers don't preclude allocated funding to spread the money.
- this suggestion came about because Missouri is using a 464 land smoothing scenario that we don't offer which allow the scenario unit cy/acre less than 100 cy. Since then Missouri has changed their cy/acre requirement to 125 cy/acre. Also, Missouri does not have restrictions on return customers because they feel that much of their customers has participated in the practice.
- The subcommittee mentioned that there was a significant savings from going to contoured or precision levee rice farming to zero grade.

Recommendation # 2

- Interim Aquifer Recharge practices – Handouts for Code 815 & Code 817
- *Recommendation – study the benefits of adoption of these standards for Arkansas to determine interest in adoption.*

Recommendation # 2

- California introduced 2 Interim (digital version available upon request)
- Subcommittee is for adopting these practices to not allow this opportunity to
- Dr. Michelle Reba is currently working on a study to initiate one of these practices. The other deals with aquifer recharge through on field ag production with deep percolation.
- We not have published guidance on how we use it implement it in Arkansas. This could be a handful if we adopt this before we have significant specifications/details.

Recommendation # 3

- *449 Irrigation Water Management*
- *Recommendation - study the different timeframes related to IWM equipment that can become outdated faster than the specs allow. i.e. pump automation software is tied to the pumping plant practice but the life span of the technology is no where close to that of the practice which was established for a pump and not automation.*
- *See attachment*

Recommendation # 3

Typically our IWM
devices fall under
449 scenario

Pumping plant
automation fall I
with 533 Pumping
Plant

449 = 1 yr

533 = 15 year

Farmed Wetland (FW) Hydrology Indicators When Area Is Not a Playa, Pocosin, or Pothole¹

INTRODUCTION

The controlling regulations to the Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended, are provided in 7 CFR Part 12, “Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation.” These regulations define a FW (in part) as

“a wetland that prior to December 23, 1985, was manipulated and used to produce an agricultural commodity at least once before December 23, 1985, and on December 23, 1985, did not support woody vegetation, and met the following hydrologic criteria: (i) If not a playa, pocosin, or pothole, experienced inundation for 15 consecutive days or more during the growing season or 10 percent of the growing season, whichever is less, in most years (50 percent chance or more), which requisite inundation is determined through:...”

To effectively make the decision if an area supports the required long-term inundation² for a FW that is not identified as a playa, pocosin, or pothole, the regulations then provide three options. They are:

- A. “Observation of wetland hydrology indicators as identified in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide;
- B. Procedures identified in State Off-Site Methods for wetland identification set forth in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; or
- C. The use of analytic techniques, such as the use of drainage equations or the evaluation of monitoring data.”

When Option A is utilized, this document provides indicators of long-term inundation (ponding or flooding) to be used by NRCS in the assignment of the FW exemption (or label).

OVERVIEW OF THE NRCS WETLAND DETERMINATION PROCESS

The regulations also explain the three-step wetland determination process used by NRCS:

- Step 1: Wetland Identification
- Step 2: Determination of Wetland Type, via the assignment of WC labels
- Step 3: Determination of Size

¹ For farmed wetlands (FW) that **are** playas, pocosins or potholes, the regulations provide that their hydrology criteria (which includes saturation as well as inundation) are met if they are found to support wetland hydrology through Step 1 of the wetland determination process. The same is true for farmed wetland pasture (FWP).

² When referring to farmed wetland hydrology indicators for areas that are not playas, pocosins, or potholes, the use of the term “long-term inundation” means inundation that lasts 15 consecutive days or more during the growing season or 10 percent of the growing season, whichever is less, in most years.

Step 1: Wetland Identification. During this step, NRCS determines if the area under consideration, or sampling unit³, supports each of the three wetland diagnostic factors; a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation, a predominance of hydric soils, and wetland hydrology under normal circumstances (NC). The consideration of NC, as detailed in the Food Security Act Wetland Identification Procedures (FSA Procedures, National Food Security Act Manual Part 514.8) paragraphs (3-3) to (3-5), is two-pronged. The first is disturbance-based and the second is climate-based. Both are critical in the evaluation of wetland hydrology.

Regarding disturbance-based considerations, NRCS must evaluate hydrology (under NC) in the context of the drainage history of the site and the best drained condition, if applicable⁴. Best drained condition is defined in the regulation as “the hydrologic conditions with respect to depth, duration, frequency, and timing of soil saturation or inundation resulting from drainage manipulations that occurred prior to December 23, 1985, and that exist during the wet portion of the growing season during normal climatic conditions.” In summary:

- If drainage⁵ occurred prior to December 23, 1985 and the area did not support woody vegetation on that date, the NC include the hydrologic conditions (depth, duration, frequency and timing of inundation or soil saturation) resulting from the pre-1985 drainage.
- If drainage occurred after December 23, 1985, the NC include the hydrologic conditions, without the effect of the post-1985 drainage action.
- If the area is not impacted by drainage, such as areas cleared of woody vegetation but not drained, then the NC include the contemporary hydrologic conditions.

Regarding climate-based considerations, NRCS must evaluate hydrology (under NC) in the context of normal environmental conditions (NEC). The FSA Procedures provide that hydrology under NEC consists of the hydrologic conditions or characteristics that would exist in a typical situation on a site during the wet portion of the growing season in a normal climatic year. To aid in determining what those conditions or characteristics are, the regulations define normal climatic conditions as “the normal range of hydrologic inputs on a site as determined by the bounds provided in the Climate Analysis for Wetlands Tables or methods posted in the Field Office Technical Guide.”⁶ In summary, NRCS must make a decision on each of the three wetland diagnostic factors based on the hydrologic conditions expected to normally occur during

³ A sampling unit, as defined in the Food Security Act Wetland Identification Procedures, is the smallest portion of the area subject to the wetland determination. Sampling units are identified based on having (or would have under normal circumstances) similar plant communities resulting from similar soil properties, hydrologic regimes, and landscape positions. Each sampling unit differs (landscape position, hydrology, soils, and vegetation) from other sampling units within the subject area.

⁴ The regulations provide that “[w]hen a wetland is affected by drainage manipulations that occurred prior to December 23, 1985, and did not support woody vegetation on December 23, 1985, such that production of an agricultural commodity on that date was possible, wetland hydrology shall be identified on the basis of the best-drained condition resulting from such drainage manipulations.”

⁵ Drainage is defined in the FSA Procedures as “any human-induced, onsite or offsite, activity that results in an altered depth, duration, frequency, or timing of the hydrologic condition (inundation or saturation by surface or ground water) of the site.”

⁶ The regulations also provide that “[w]hen making a decision on wetland hydrology, NRCS will utilize a fixed precipitation date range of 1971-2000 for determining normal climatic conditions.”

the wet portion of the growing season when recent weather has not created abnormally wet or dry conditions.

Preliminary data gathering and synthesis is helpful in determining the conditions that best represent NC, and NRCS is required by policy in the FSA Procedures, FSA Variance (5-9), to conduct preliminary data gathering and synthesis to determine whether a typical or atypical situation exists.

The wetland identification decision from Step 1 is documented on the wetland determination base map, delineating different areas (sampling units) as either wetland or non-wetland (meeting all three wetland diagnostic factors or not).

Step 2: Determination of Wetland Type. During this step, information discovered during preliminary data gathering and synthesis regarding past drainage actions and other land use history will also be utilized when assigning the appropriate WC label. Particularly, the findings from the hydrology portion of Step 1 may aid in the Step 2 decision if the area under NC meets the specific FW hydrology criteria⁷. It is important to note that wetlands, meeting the hydrology factor in Step 1 but not supporting long-term inundation, would fail to meet the FW hydrology criteria for wetlands that are not a playa, pocosin, or pothole. These areas would normally receive the prior converted cropland (PC) exemption (or label) if all other conditions of the label are met.

NRCS must consider the possibility of false positives and false negatives⁸ when evaluating wetland hydrology in both Step 1 and Step 2. Guidance for identifying false positives and negatives is provided for in the user cautions section of each FW hydrology indicator. Also, care should be exercised to ensure that the FW hydrology indicators be applied to the inundation type (e.g. ponding of closed depressions⁹ and surface flooding by out of bank floodwater) described in the criteria section of each FW indicator.

Step 3: Determination of Size. NRCS determines the size of each area delineated as a sampling unit on the wetland determination base map. Those delineations and sizing are then used to determine the size of areas with different WC labels identified on the certified wetland determination map.

⁷ The regulations state that wetland hydrology shall be identified on the basis of the best-drained condition resulting from any pre-1985 drainage manipulations. This includes the wetland hydrology decisions made in both Step 1 and Step 2.

⁸ False positives and negatives are discussed in the Regional Supplements to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual. A false positive occurs when an indicator is observed, but it is not indicative of conditions under NC. A false negative occurs when an indicator is not observed, but the area supports wetland hydrology under NC.

⁹ As used here, the term closed depressions are depressional landscape features that pond water following precipitation events, snow melt, or over-bank flooding of a nearby stream or river. Closed depressions can occur in upland landforms and floodplains.

FARMED WETLAND HYDROLOGY INDICATORS

When conducting Step 2 on areas not in a playa, pocosin, or pothole landform, and when the area meets all other FW label criteria (i.e. was manipulated prior to December 23, 1985, used to produce an agricultural commodity at least once before December 23, 1985, and on December 23, 1985, did not support woody vegetation), NRCS must determine if the sampling unit(s), identified as wetland under NC in Step 1, supports long-term inundation. NRCS in Arkansas will use the following Farmed Wetland Hydrology Indicator to make or assist in making this decision:

FW-N07: Evidence of Long-Term Ponding Visible on Aerial Imagery

Adoption Date: 7-1-2021

Farmed Wetland (FW) Hydrology Indicator: FW-07 Evidence of Long-Term Ponding Visible on Aerial Imagery

General Description: This indicator consists of ponding observed on aerial imagery taken during the growing season. The imagery indicates the area would experience long-term inundation (ponding) under normal environmental conditions (NEC) as defined in the Food Security Act Wetland Identification Procedures (National Food Security Act Manual Part 514.8).

Criteria: Observation of ponding on two or more years of aerial imagery taken during the growing season, where conditions are determined to be reflective of normal or drier than normal climatic conditions.

User Notes:

- 1) Procedures found in Title 210, Part 650, Engineering Field Handbook, Chapter 19, can be used to evaluate normal climatic conditions prior to the photo date.
- 2) This indicator will not be applied to flood irrigated fields, as such observations are likely to be false positives.
- 3) This indicator will not be applied with the use of aerial photography taken during the dormant season, as such observations are likely to be false positives.

User Cautions:

- a) Care must be used in applying this indicator because short-term ponding may be present on a wetland immediately after a heavy rain or during periods of unusually high precipitation, runoff, or river stages.
- b) Long-term ponding normally present under NEC may be absent from a wetland during the normal dry season or during extended periods of drought.
- c) Shallow ponding, particularly in semi-arid and arid regions can be short-lived during the growing season. Consideration of hydrologic inputs (watershed size, groundwater influence, frequency and amount of normal precipitation events), evaporation-transpiration rates, and depth of ponding observed in the field can assist with the application of this indicator.

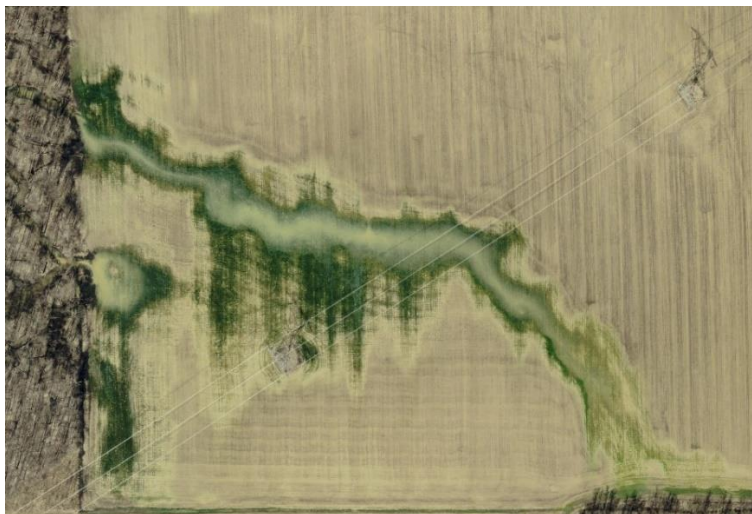


Figure 7 An aerial image showing ponded areas during the growing season on a field that was manipulated and converted to cropland prior to 1985.

Feral Swine Control Project Update



Feral Swine Control Project Update

- USDA NRCS Feral Swine Control Project
 - Technicians
 - 10 Program Technicians currently hired:
 - Start date range: July 20 through September 13
 - Logistics and field coordination ongoing with USDA APHIS and CDs
 - Data collection using USDA APHIS Collector App
 - 15 traps in operation (3 provided by Farm Bureau)
 - 506 hogs removed by district traps and technicians
 - Education and Outreach (FY 21):
 - Modify Education and Outreach budget in year one for equipment and supplies
 - NRD grants to district funds \$100,000.00 annually
 - 11 traps delivered to CDs January 2021
 - Centralized Education and Outreach
 - Sebastian County: provide applicable material to all pilot project areas as needed
 - Ashley, Bradley and Drew Tri-County landowner meeting/workshop:
 - April 12, 2021, Hermitage

Feral Swine Control Project Update

- USDA NRCS Feral Swine Control Project Continued
 - Next Steps:
 - Supplemental Funding:
 - Modify existing NRCS agreement
 - Amend CD MOUs
 - Develop MOU with AACD to assist with non-federal match documentation
 - Advance payment options with NRCS
 - Develop Outreach Components
 - University of Arkansas: Division of Agriculture/Surveys
 - Surveys started week of April 12
 - 40 landowner contacts
 - 2 surveys completed (Drew County)
 - Education and Outreach (FY 22):
 - NRD grants to district funds \$100,000.00 annually
 - Focus on collaborative landowner workshops and outreach within project areas
 - WRV workshop planned for June 2021

Feral Swine Control Project Update

- Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force:
 - Legislative:
 - Modified definition of feral hog to assist enforcement of transport and release statutes
 - Allow for civil/administrative penalties through ALPC administrative hearing process
 - Provision to allow ADA permit fees for aerial permitting
 - Clarified language to allow possession of feral swine on property where hogs were captured
 - Education and Outreach:
 - Communications Plan: Press release schedule approved
 - Survey 123 data collection and removal maps housed on AFETF website
 - 23,000 Feral Hog Handbooks distributed
 - Management and Control: (Discussion items)
 - Promote outreach effort to discourage use of box style traps to reduce non-target catch
 - Develop consistent message regarding the use of bait within CWD zones

Questions?

j.p.fairhead@agriculture.arkansas.gov

870.253.3721

Arkansas NRCS FY 2021 EQIP- Conservation Incentive Contracts (CIC) Proposal

Background

The 2018 Farm Bill introduced EQIP incentive contracts to expand resource benefits for producers through incentive conservation practices such as cover crops, transition to resource conserving crop rotations, and precision agriculture technologies along with a similarly broad suite of incentive practices for ranchers and nonindustrial private forest operators. Every region within a State will have identified high-priority areas and each of these areas will target up to three priority resource concerns by land use. EQIP incentive contracts can be a steppingstone for producers between EQIP classic and Conservation Stewardship Program contracts.

States determine the EQIP CIC High Priority Area(s) (HPA) and Priority Resource Concerns (PRC):

- High priority areas have identified priority resource concerns that represent a significant concern in a State or region.
- A high priority area may encompass an entire State or overlap with other high priority areas such that a given parcel of land may exist in multiple high priority areas.
- States may identify up to three PRCs for each land use within a given high priority area. The same PRCs may be used for more than one land use within the same high priority area.
- For each priority resource concern, States identify the subset of incentive practices and enhancements available for payment under an EQIP CIC contract. Participants must effectively address at least one PRC.

Program Details/Rules

EQIP CIC Contract Length:

- An appropriate length to achieve the desired conservation benefits: not less than 5 years and not more than 10 years.
- FY 2021 contracts will have an initial contract length of 5 years

EQIP CIC Payments:

- Payments will be available for installation and adoption of conservation practices
 - Includes structural, vegetative, and management practices
 - Practices are paid after certification (same as EQIP 'Classic')
 - Practices will be funded at the EQIP 75 rate
- Annual Payments for managing and improving the incentive practices (Enhancements)
 - Enhancements are paid the FY after certification (same as CSP)
 - Enhancements may begin in any year of the contract and must be planned each subsequent year of the contract, as practicable
- EQIP CIC contracts can have either enhancements only, or a combination of practices and enhancements. Contracts can NOT have only practices.
- Historically Underserved (HU) Payments:
 - HU payment rate (EQIP 90) available for practices only in contracts.
 - Advanced payment option is available, but only for practices in contracts.

EQIP CIC Payment Limitation:

- \$200,000 Payment Limitation, separate from EQIP 'Classic'

EQIP CIC Contract Limitation:

- Person or legal entity = \$200,000 Contract Limit
- Joint Operations (bus type 2 or 3) = \$400,000 Contract Limit

FY 2021 Implementation of EQIP-CIC

Proposed Implementation Schedule

Action	Date
Present proposal to State Technical Committee	5/11/2021
1 st Training with NRCS Field Offices included in proposal: Intro	5/13/2021
State Rollout/Press Release of FY 2021 EQIP CIC	5/17/2021
2 nd Training with NRCS Field Offices included in proposal: Planning	5/20/2021
3 rd Training with NRCS Field Offices included in proposal: Ranking	6/10/2021
National Application Deadline	6/18/2021
4 th Training with NRCS Field Offices included in proposal: Contracting	6/22/2021
Ranking Deadline	7/30/2021
Preapproval	8/3/2021
Obligation	September 2021

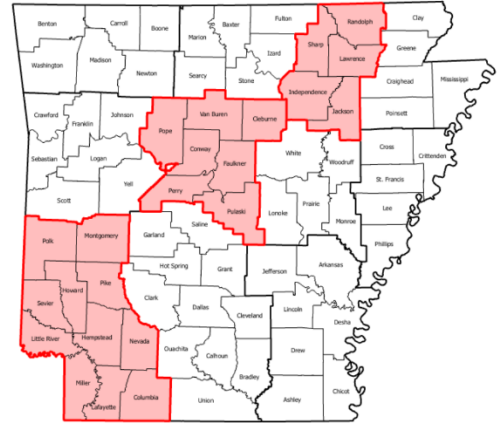
EQIP-CIC Ranking Criteria

- High Priority Areas
 - Each HPA must have its own ranking pool
- Resource Concern Categories
 - Ranking pools will only include up to three RCC's, and the weights of all selected RCC's must equal 100%
- The following must be used when developing the program and resource questions within the ranking:
 - Priority should be given to applications that address eligible priority resource concerns
 - How effectively and comprehensively the planned conservation practices or activities address the identified natural resource concerns
 - The magnitude of the expected conservation benefits resulting from the conservation practices or activities and the priority of the natural resource concerns.
 - Use of approved conservation practices or activities that provide long-term conservation benefit.
 -
- Conservation Reserve Program-Transition Incentive Program (CRP-TIP)
 - States must include the following ranking question under the “program questions” for all EQIP-CIC ranking pools to provide preference points for covered producers (Beginning Farmer or Rancher, Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher, or Veteran Farmer or Rancher) participating in the Conservation Reserve Program-Transition Incentive Program (CRP-TIP) during the two-year period covered by the CRP-1R, “CRP-TIP Contract”
 - *Is the applicant a covered producer participating in the CRP-TIP and NRCS is evaluating the assessment during the two-year period covered by the CRP-1R?*

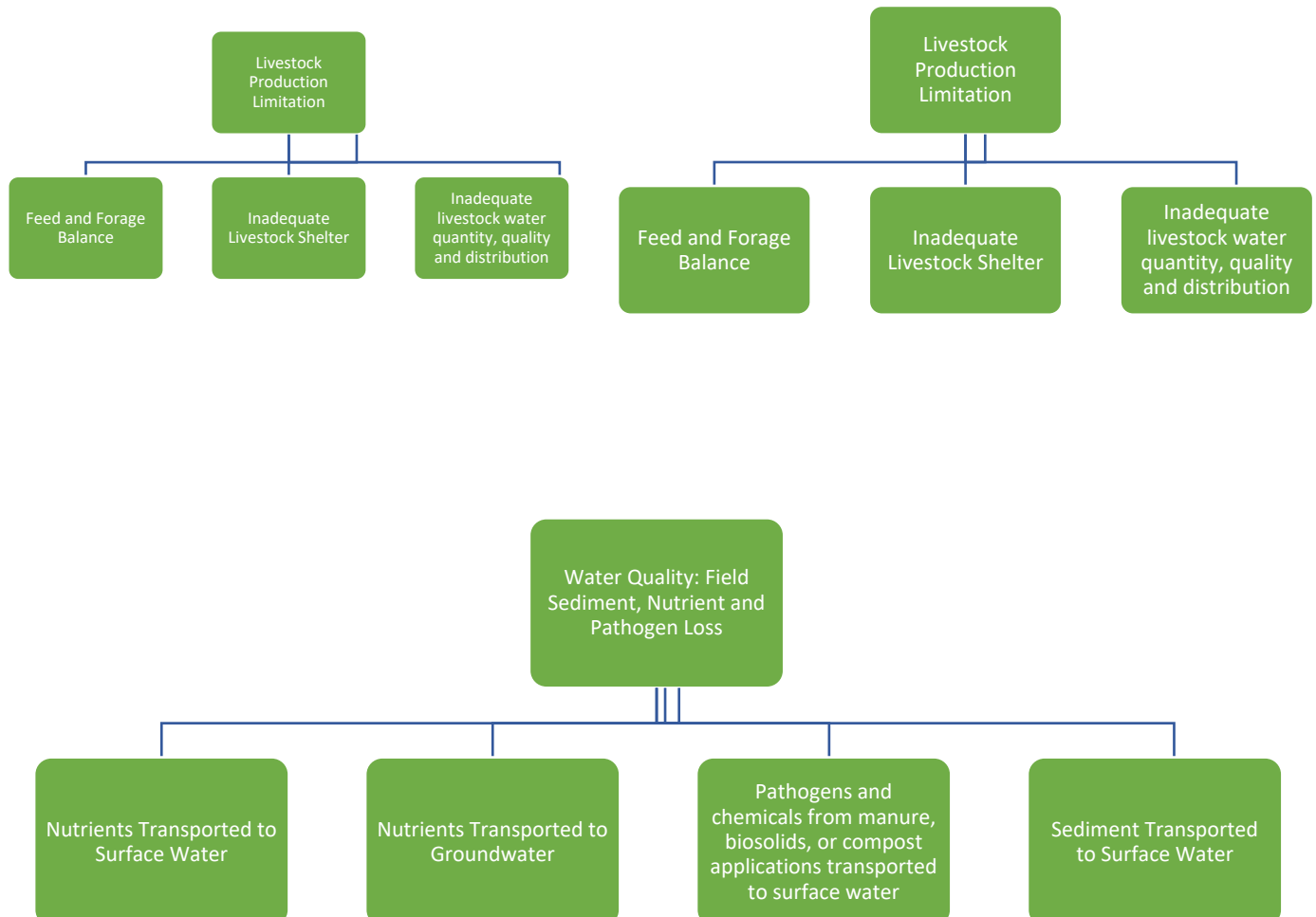
FY 2021 EQIP-CIC Proposal

Focus: To increase awareness of Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) for livestock producers so increased participation will lead to enhancement implementation that addresses resource concerns related to livestock production, plant condition, and threats to water quality.

High Priority Area(s): Randolph, Sharp, Lawrence, Independence, Jackson, Cleburne, Van Buren, Pope, Conway, Faulkner, Perry, Pulaski, Polk, Montgomery, Pike, Howard, Sevier, Little River, Hempstead, Nevada, Miller, Lafayette, and Columbia counties. (Team 3, Team 6, and Team 9)



Priority Resource Concerns: Degraded Plant Condition, Livestock Production Limitation, and Field Sediment, Nutrient and Pathogen Loss.



Practices

Code	Practice Name
382	Fence
516	Livestock Pipeline
561	Heavy Use Area
614	Watering Facility
512	Pasture Planting
528	Prescribed Grazing
642	Well
533	Pumping Plant
378	Pond
484	Mulching
342	Critical Area Planting
315	Herbaceous Weed Control
472	Access Control

Enhancements

Code	Enhancement Name
E382B	Installing electrical fence offsets and wire to facilitate cross-fencing for improved grazing management
E472A	Manage livestock access to waterbodies to reduce nutrients or pathogens to surface water
E512G	Native grass or legumes in forage base
E528F	Stockpiling cool season forage to improve structure and composition or plant productivity and health
E528I	Grazing management that protects sensitive areas – surface or ground water from nutrients
E528J	Prescribed grazing on pastureland that improves riparian and watershed function
E58O	Clipping mature forages to set back vegetative growth for improved forage quality
E528P	Implementing Bale or Swath Grazing to increase organic matter and reduce nutrients in surface water
E528Q	Use of body condition scoring for livestock on a monthly basis to keep track of herd health
E528R	Management Intensive Rotational Grazing

NRCS WETLAND MITIGATION BANKING PROGRAM



The 2014 Farm Bill provided funding for NRCS to operate a program or work with third parties to establish agricultural wetland mitigation banks.



- In 2016, NRCS selected 10 mitigation bank proposals for funding. The banks were established through partnerships between private landowners and NRCS.
- NRCS sponsored Mitigation Banks were installed in Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio and South Dakota



Minton Environmental Consultants were selected in 2016 to develop an NRCS mitigation bank in Missouri. They will be developing the Arkansas Mitigation bank under the 2020 funding.



Bradley and Davis Minton, brothers from Dexter, MO, developed the first agricultural wetland mitigation bank in the US in 2016.



- The Minton's farm 5,000 acres and raise rice, corn, soybeans, wheat and sunflowers.
- They first became interested in wetland conservation in the late 1980s.
- The Minton's developed and manage the NRCS 73-acre Missouri Agricultural Wetland Mitigation Bank and an additional 160-acre Wetland Mitigation Bank for the Missouri DOT.

Arkansas Wetland Mitigation Bank

- The bank will allow farmers to purchase wetland mitigation credits for small (<5 acres) cropped, seasonal, temporary, degraded, and isolated wetlands that landowners want to convert from wetlands.
- Landowners who purchase credits to mitigate wetland losses will remain in compliance with the wetland provisions of the Food Security Act.



Arkansas Wetland Mitigation Bank

- Credits vary in cost and price per credit is negotiated between the bank managers and landowners.
- A functional assessment is done by NRCS staff to determine the number of credits required to mitigate at each site.
- Landowners have the option to mitigate on their own property, but the bank provides an alternative option.

Arkansas Wetland Mitigation Bank

- The Minton's are currently evaluating their properties in NE Arkansas to determine the site most suitable for the development of the Arkansas bank.
- Their experience in wetland restoration and mitigation bank development will ensure that the Arkansas' bank is successful.



The Minton's Philosophy

“We brought the land full circle,” Davis Minton said. “In the 1950s, we filled it in, cleared the bottomland, hardwood timber, graded it and farmed it for 40 years. Then to create a wetlands, we dug out the fill dirt, hewed out the ground, built the levees back and reestablished the hydrology.”

Questions?





United States Department of Agriculture

EQIP Updates

Corey Cornelious
EQIP Program Manager



FY 2021 EQIP Implementation Schedule

Application Deadline	Eligibility Deadline	Ranking & Cost Estimate Deadline	Initial Preapprovals	Obligation
18-Dec-20	26-Mar-21	9-April-21	20-April-21	16-Jul-21

CCC-902 Requirements

- Per NB 300-21-7, NRCS staff must work with new and existing NRCS program applicants and participants, including persons and legal entities, that do not have a form CCC-902 and COC determination recorded in FSA Business file to complete this action early enough during FY 2021 to avoid issues with obligations in FY2021 or issues with payments in FY2022.

Determining Basic Producer Eligibility

- FSA determines farm/tract structure and status of a producer as an operator, owner, or other tenant in accordance with FSA handbook 10-CM.
- FSA determines producer eligibility in accordance with 6-PL. Program applicants and participants will file form CCC-902 with FSA and FSA will issue a determination of producer eligibility.
- NRCS determines who the eligible contract participant is in accordance with the respective Conservation Program requirements.

Clarification on Producer Representation

- Customers should represent their operations (including payment shares) the same way for USDA programs. However, depending on the program authority there could be legitimate differences on how a customer participates in NRCS programs. Examples:
- For Easements, the participant must be the landowner.
- For EQIP, producers who are operators, owners, or other tenants may be eligible.
- For CSP, participant must be the operator, owner or other tenant in FSA's farm records system.

Clarification for Joint Ventures (JV) (Formal or Informal)

- NRCS Program Contracts with JVs that already have a determined CCC-902 with FSA **-do not need to file a new CCC-902.**
- NRCS Program Contracts enrolled with members of a JV as individuals instead of JV **–the individuals must have a determined CCC-902.**
- The NRCS participant (individual or entity) must have a determined CCC-902 by the end of FY2021

Summary

- In general, a CCC-902 will be required from whomever will be the NRCS program participant, consistent with previous guidance.
- If the NRCS contract is with an entity (includes JV or GP), the entity must have a determined CCC-902 with FSA.
- If the NRCS contract is with an individual, the individual must have a determined CCC-902 with FSA
- FSA will accept the CCC-902 regardless if the individual already has a determination of eligibility as part of the JV.
- FSA National Office issued clarification to their County Offices.



Parts of the CCC- 902 Applicable to NRCS Customers

CCC-902I for Individuals

Completing Farm Operating Plans (CCC-902) for NRCS-Administered Programs

The following tables identify the parts of CCC-902 that must be completed for persons and legal entities applying for NRCS conservation programs.

Table 1. Completing CCC-902I (individual person) for NRCS Conservation Programs

Part A Basic Information	Part B Additional Information	Part C Land	Part D Capital Sources	Part E Equipment Information	Part F Custom Services	Part G Labor	Part H Management	Part I Certification
✓	✓	✓				✓ _{1/}		✓

^{1/} Labor is required if the person identified in Part A is a foreign person

- CCC-902I - Only for NRCS customers applying or participating as an individual person
 - Not for individual persons that are members of a legal entity, those are captured on the CCC-902E

CCC-902I for Individuals

Part A, Required for all listed NRCS programs: AMA, AWEF, CBWI, CSP, EQIP, WHIP, ACEP, RCPP

OMB Control Number: 0560-0297
 Expiration Date: 03/31/2021
 (See Page 4 for Privacy Act Statement)

This form is available electronically.

CCC-902I (09-28-20) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Commodity Credit Corporation FARM OPERATING PLAN FOR AN INDIVIDUAL For "actively engaged in farming" and other payment eligibility and limitation determinations.	1. County	3. Program Year	
	2. State		
<i>This form is to be completed by, or on behalf of, an individual who is seeking benefits from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) as an individual (and not as part of an entity) under one or more programs that are subject to the regulations at 7 CFR Part 1400. This form collects farming and other information about the individual who receives program benefits directly using the social security number identified in Part A. Payment eligibility for the individual is based upon the contribution level of certain inputs to a farming operation such as land, capital, equipment, labor, and management by the individual identified in Part A. The information on this form will be used by FSA to determine payment eligibility and limitation of payments by direct attribution.</i>			
PART A – BASIC INFORMATION			
1. Individual's Name and Address (Include Zip Code)	2. Social Security Number (If the social security number or taxpayer ID number is on file, only the last 4 digits are required)		

CCC-902I for Individuals

Part B, Required for all listed NRCS programs: AMA, AWEF, CBWI, CSP, EQIP, WHIP, ACEP, RCPP

PART B - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION			
1. Is this individual a U.S. citizen? ☐ YES. Go to Item 4A ☐ NO. Go to Item 2		2. Is this individual an alien lawfully admitted into the U.S.? ☐ YES, must present a Resident Alien Card (I-551). ☐ NO	
		3. FOR COUNTY FSA USE ONLY (Was a Resident Alien Card, I-551 shown?) ☐ YES ☐ NO	
MINORS	4A. Is this individual under 18 years of age as of June 1 of the program year that is specified in Item 3? ☐ NO. Go to Part C ☐ YES, continue with Item 4B		4B. Enter Date of Birth (MM-DD-YYYY)
	5. Enter the name, address, and social security number of parent or guardian:		
	A. Parent's or Guardian's Name	B. Parent's or Guardian's Address	C. Social Security Number of Parent or Guardian (If the social security number or taxpayer ID number is on file, only the last 4 digits are required)
	D. Does this individual maintain a separate household from parent or guardian? ☐ YES ☐ NO		
	6. List the direct and indirect interests in all farming operations of this individual's parents or guardians:		
A. Parent's or Guardian's Name	B. Name of Farming Interest	C. Tax ID Number of Farming Interest (If the social security number or taxpayer ID number is on file, only the last 4 digits are required)	D. County and State Where Farming Interest is Located

CCC-902I for Individuals

Part C, Required for all listed NRCS programs: AMA, AWEF, CBWI, CSP, EQIP, WHIP, ACEP, RCPP

CCC-902I (09-28-20)
 Name of Individual (as identified in Part A):
 Page 2 of 4

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTS C THROUGH H. Only include information for the individual identified in Part A.

PART C - LAND

1. **Land:** Enter the following information for ALL land farmed by the individual identified in Part A and not as part of an entity.
If land is cash leased from an individual or entity with an interest in the crop or crop proceeds, include the rental rate in \$/acre Column F; otherwise enter "cash."

A. Farm No.	B. Location (County and State)	C. Check As Applicable			D. Name of Individual or Entity Whom Land is Leased to and/or From (Includes names of landowners and landlords)	E. Acres Owned or Leased	F. Rental Rate \$ per Acre or % of Crop Share	G. Check here if same land interest was held last year
		Owned	Leased To	Leased From				
		☐	☐	☐				☐
		☐	☐	☐				☐
		☐	☐	☐				☐
		☐	☐	☐				☐
		☐	☐	☐				☐
		☐	☐	☐				☐

For additional space for land, complete CCC-902 Continuation and attach to this form.
 Check here ☐ if attached.

CCC-902I for Individuals

Part B, For all listed NRCS programs: AMA, AWEF, CBWI, CSP, EQIP, WHIP, ACEP, RCPP
Labor is only required if the person identified in Part A is a foreign person

PART G – LABOR	
For the farms listed in Part C, enter the information for contributions of active personal labor which will be provided by the individual identified in Part A, hired laborers; or by others:	
Type	Amount
1. Active personal labor. Enter the percentage or hours to be provided by the individual identified in Part A. If the individual identified in Part A performs 1,000 or more hours of labor for this farming operation, enter “1,000” hours.	%
	hrs
2. Hired labor. Enter the percentage or hours of labor that will be hired.	%
	hrs
A. Will any of the hired labor originate from the same source as leased equipment shown in Part E? ☐ NO ☐ YES <i>If “YES”, acceptable documentation to prove such relationship may be required for compliance purposes.</i>	
B. Will any of the hired labor be included in the custom farming services shown in Part F? ☐ NO ☐ YES <i>If “YES”, acceptable documentation to prove such relationship may be required for compliance purposes.</i>	
3. Other labor. Enter the percentage of labor to be donated by family members or others. <i>(No payment will be owed).</i>	%

CCC-902I for Individuals

Part I, Required for all listed NRCS programs: AMA, AWEF, CBWI, CSP, EQIP, WHIP, ACEP, RCPP

PART I – CERTIFICATION

I certify that all the information entered on this document and any supporting documentation is true and correct. I understand furnishing incorrect information will result in forfeiture of payments and may result in the assessment of a penalty. I will timely provide written notification to the Farm Service Agency committees for the county and State listed on this form of any changes in this farming operation. By signing this form, I acknowledge that:

- all supporting documentation has been submitted as required.*
- I have read and understand all definitions and requirements on Page 4.*
- all information contained on this form will be considered in effect continuously unless changes or revisions are submitted.*
- it is my responsibility to timely notify FSA in writing of any changes in the farming, ranching or forestry operation, or financial status that may affect these representations.*
- evidence such as tax records, certified public accountant's certification, or other documentation may be required to validate these representations and that I will take all necessary actions to provide such materials to FSA if requested.*

1. Signature (By)	2. Title/Relationship of the Individual Signing in Representative Capacity	3. Date (MM-DD-YYYY)



United States Department of Agriculture

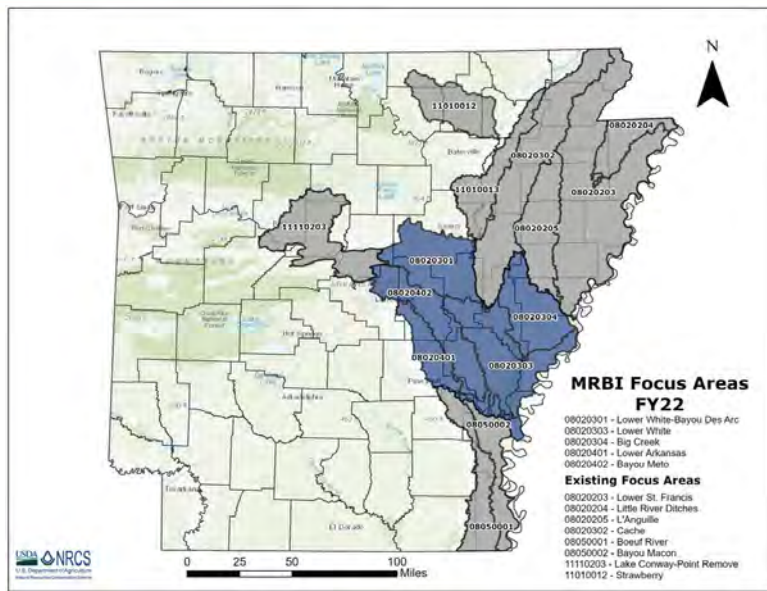


Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) Update

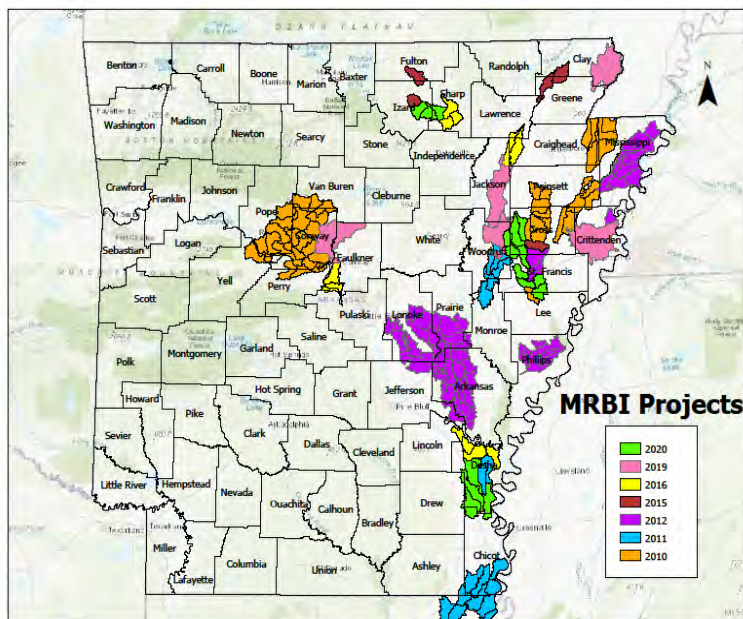


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Priority Watersheds



MRBI activity Since 2010

Natural
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2 Phase Process

Readiness Phase: First year fact finding-gather information through the watershed assessment.

Implementation Phase:

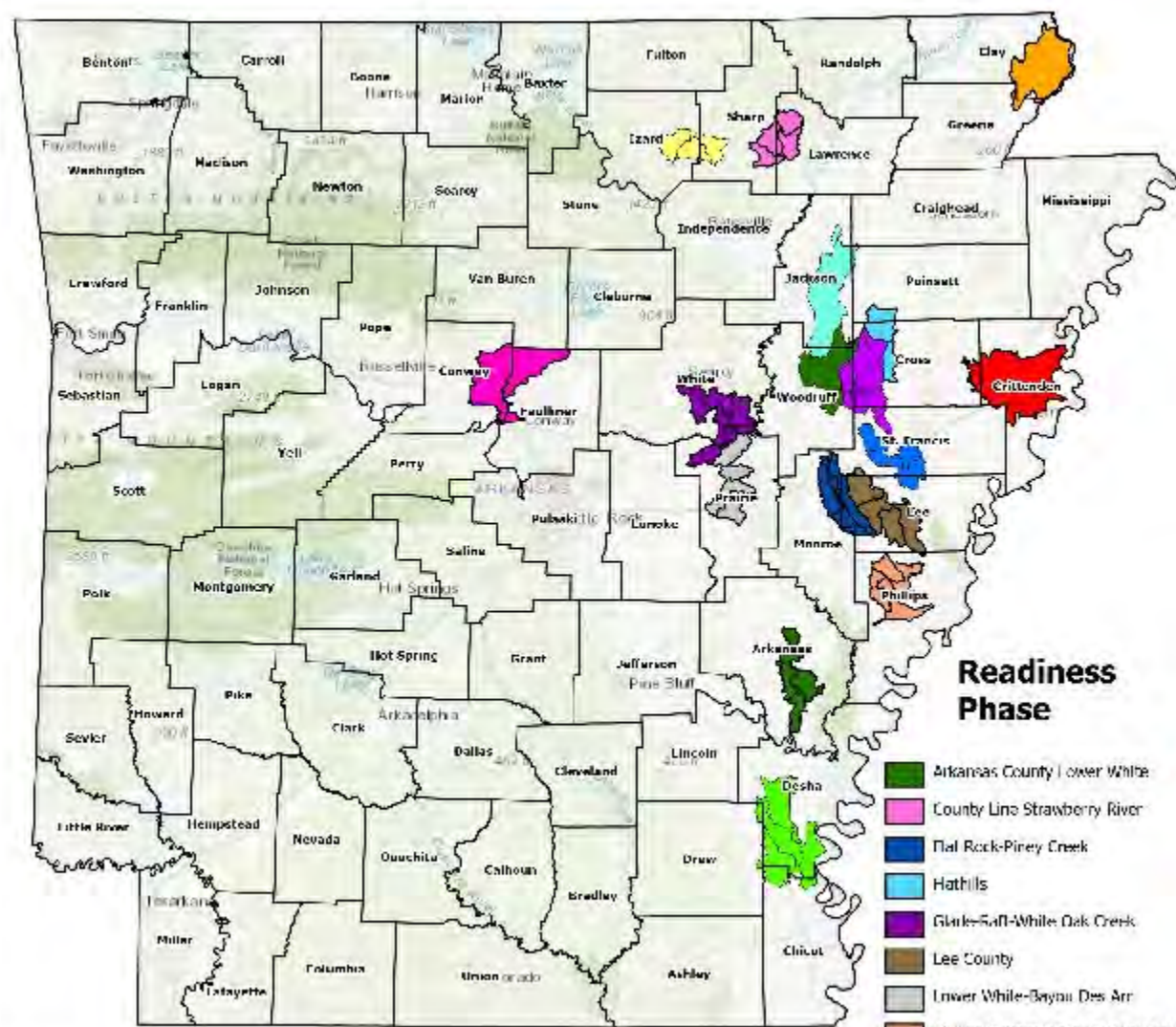
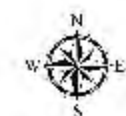
Second year starts managing the program with funding cycles for conservation practices



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

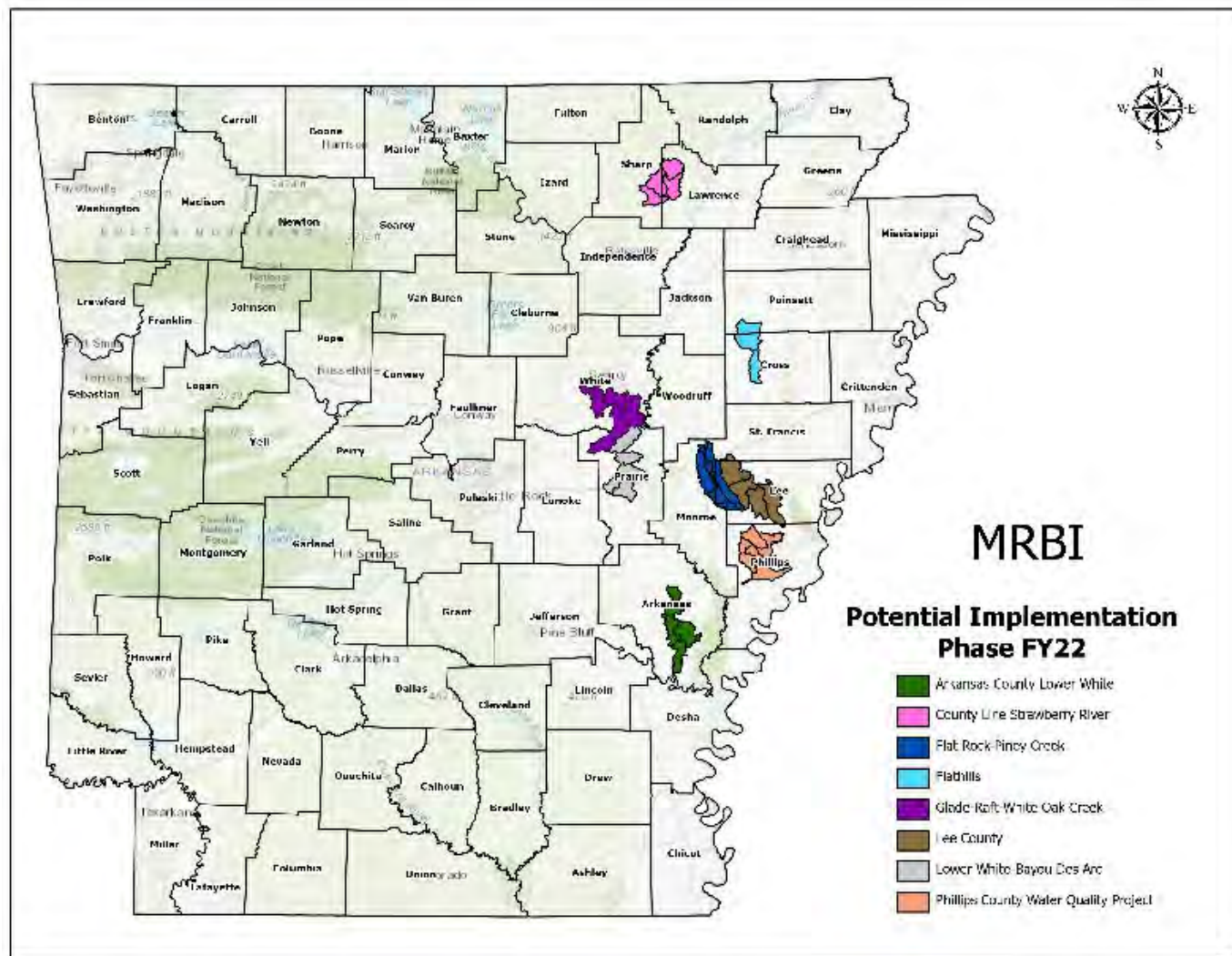
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Planning Phase



Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

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Implementation Phase:
Second year starts
managing the program
with funding cycles for
conservation practices



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Implementation Phase

Multi year managing program

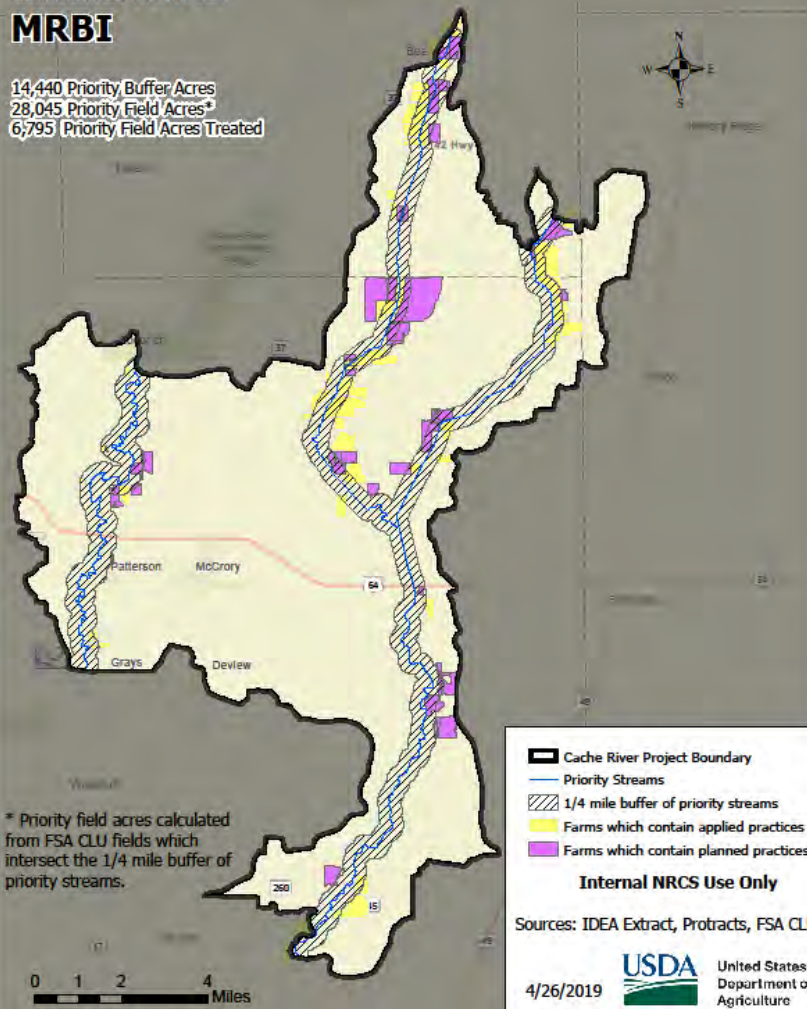
- 4 year budget
- EQIP and CSP
- Financial Assistance for EQIP 75/25
- Concentrates on system approach using core and supporting practices
- Adaptive management
- Target producers in the watershed
- Outreach
- Goals are developed with obtainable outcomes
- Partner support through in-kind or cash



Targeting in the Watershed

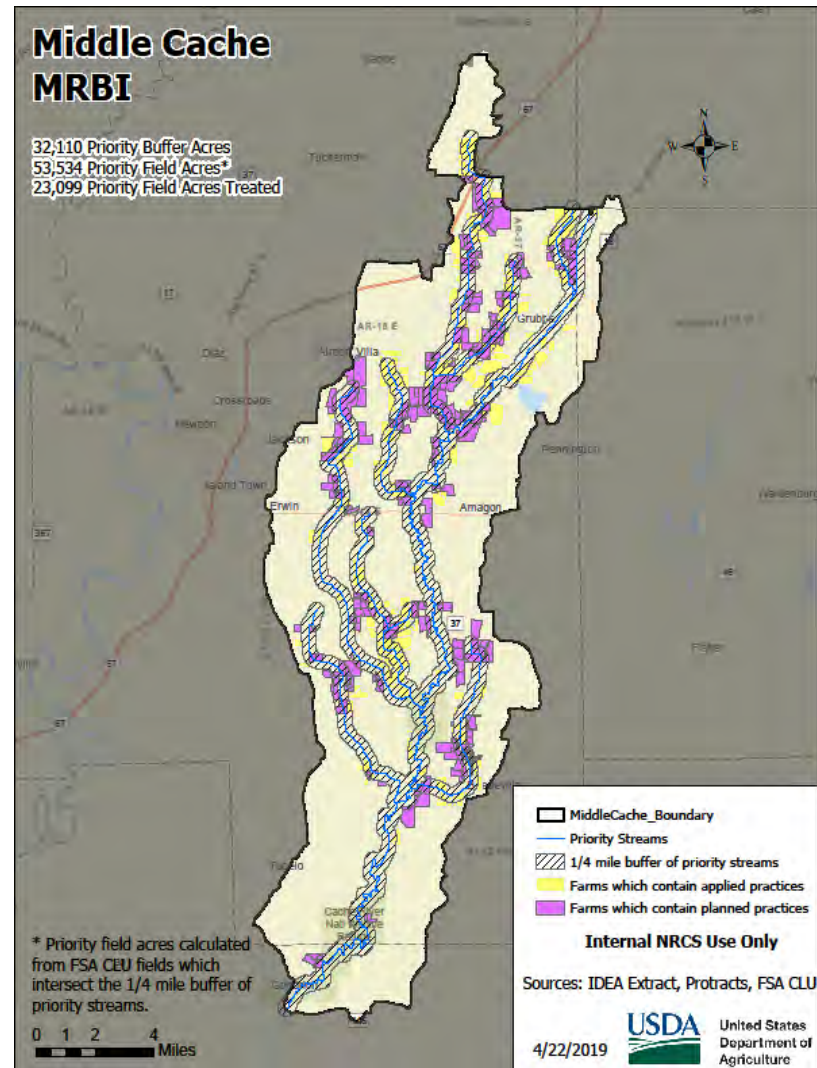
Cache River MRBI

14,440 Priority Buffer Acres
28,045 Priority Field Acres*
6,795 Priority Field Acres Treated



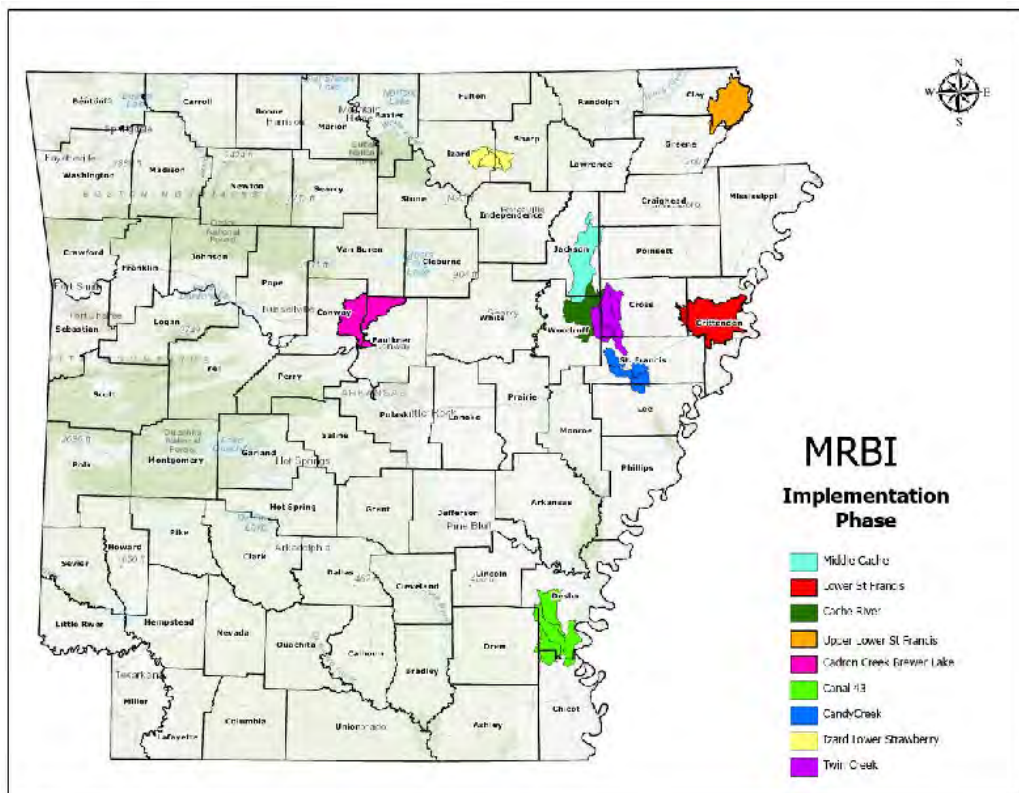
Middle Cache MRBI

32,110 Priority Buffer Acres
53,534 Priority Field Acres*
23,099 Priority Field Acres Treated





Implementation Phase Funding

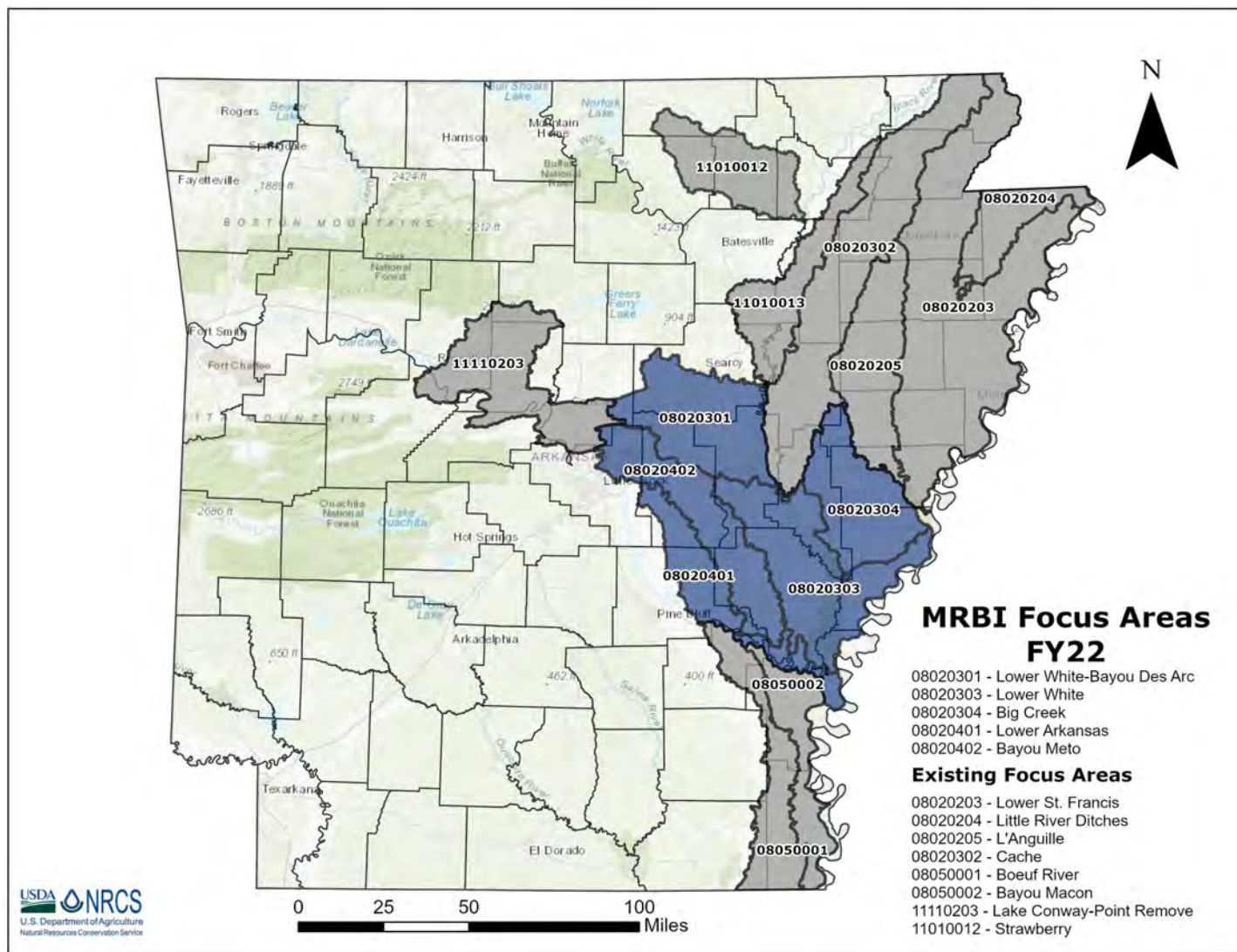


MRBI Project	EQIP	CSP
Twin Creek	\$1,270,516	\$0
Izard Lower Strawberry	\$400,000	\$0
Candy Creek	\$350,000	\$0
Canal 43	\$1,500,003	\$0
Cache	\$909,407	\$0
Middle Cache	\$953,490	\$0
Lower St. Francis	\$1,009,047	\$1,500,000
Upper Lower St. Francis	\$950,000	\$0
Brewer Lake	\$1,499,618	\$0
Total	\$8,842,080	\$1,500,000





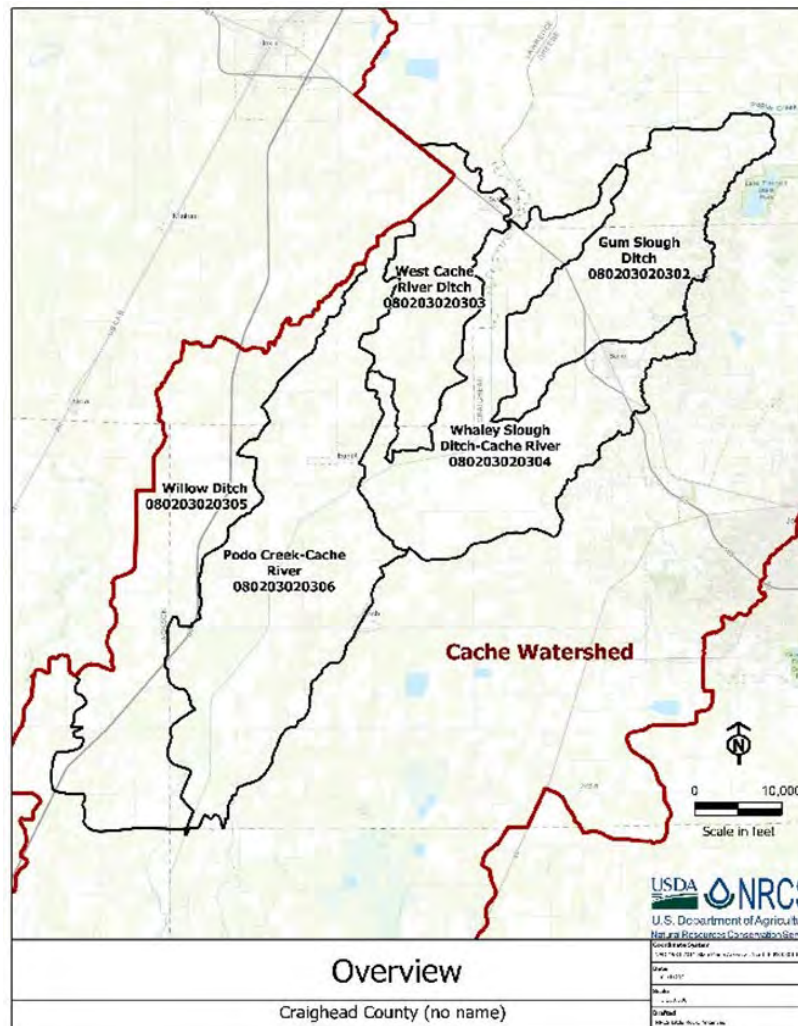
Priority Watersheds





Potential MRBI for FY22 Watershed Assessment

Eligible due to Cache TMDL for turbidity
3 of the 12 digit HUCs are new to MRBI.
Producer interest
Partner Interest
Critical Groundwater
Source Water Protection





Other Proposed MRBI's?





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Regional Conservation Partnership (RCPP) Update

Dianne Schlenker
Initiatives Coordinator
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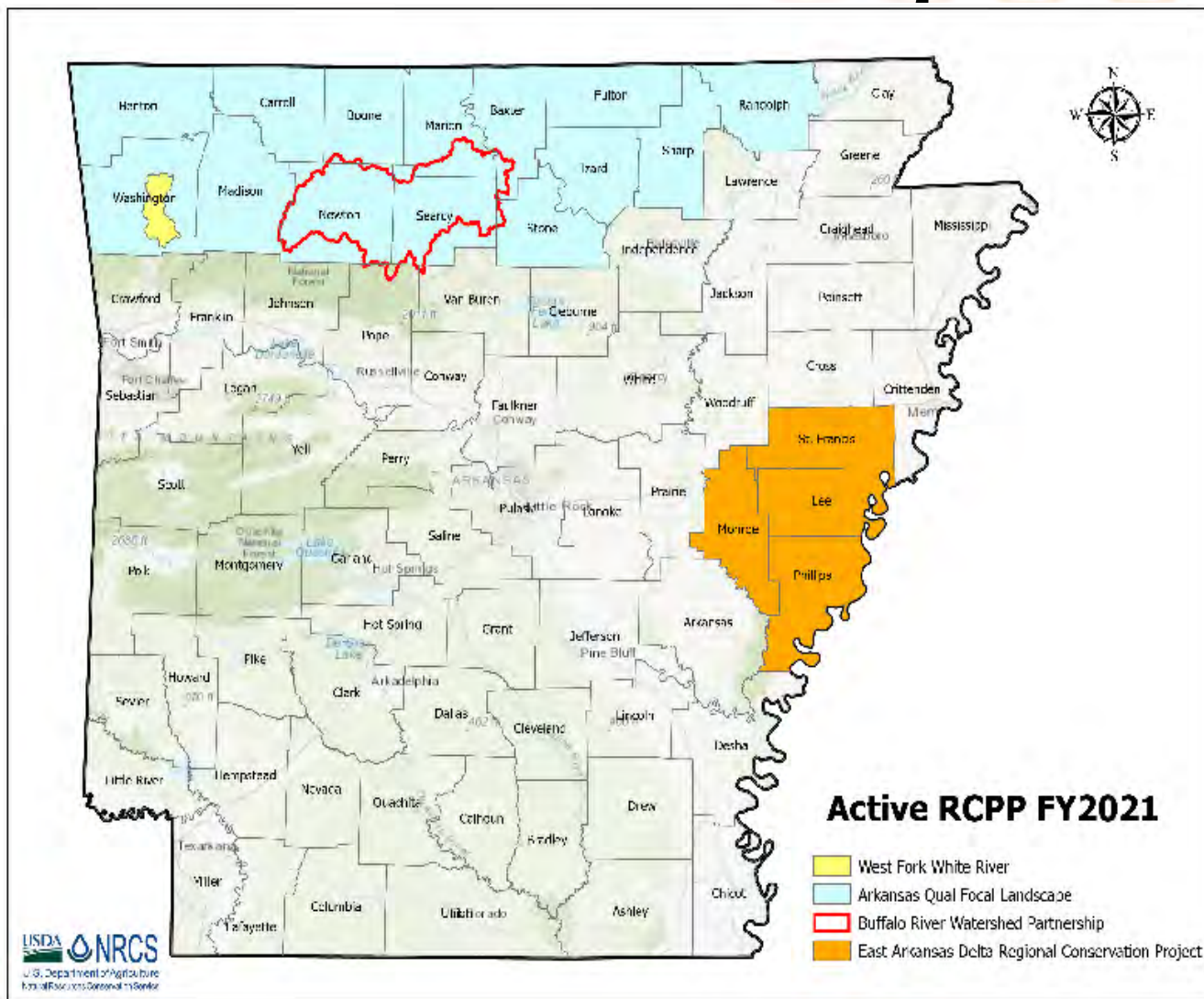


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RCPP Active Projects



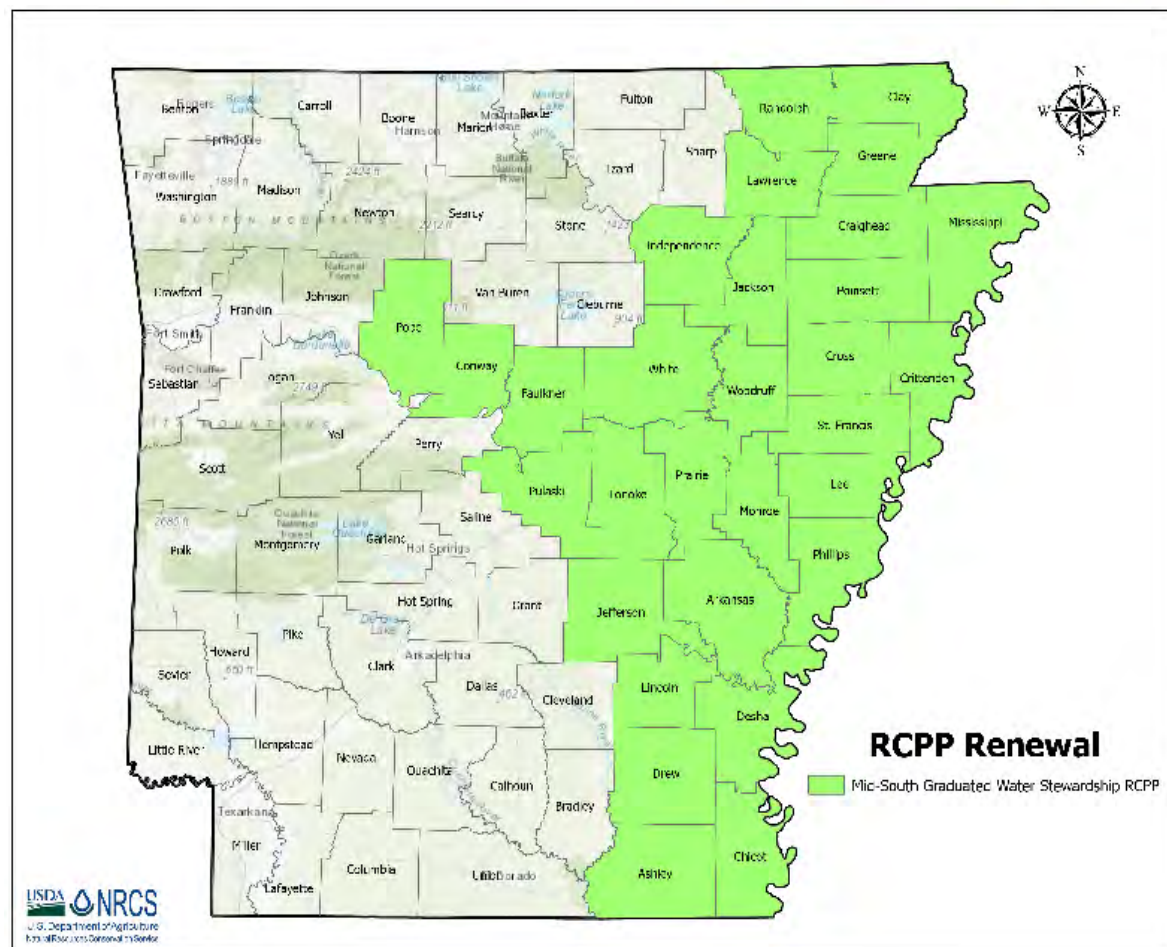
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RCPP Renewal

Fiscal Year	Funding for Arkansas
FY21 FY22	Outreach \$2,660,000



RCPP



Project	EQIP/Land Management Funding	Financial Assistance Rate
Buffalo River Watershed Partnership	\$400,000	75/25
East Arkansas Delta Regional Conservation Project	\$0 for FY21 \$2,800,000 for FY22 \$2,800,000 for FY24	75/25
West Fork White River	\$221,783	75/25
Mid-South Rice Renewal	\$0 for FY21 \$2,660,000 for FY22	75/25
North Arkansas Quail Focal	\$222,096	75/25
Total funding for FY21	\$843,879	

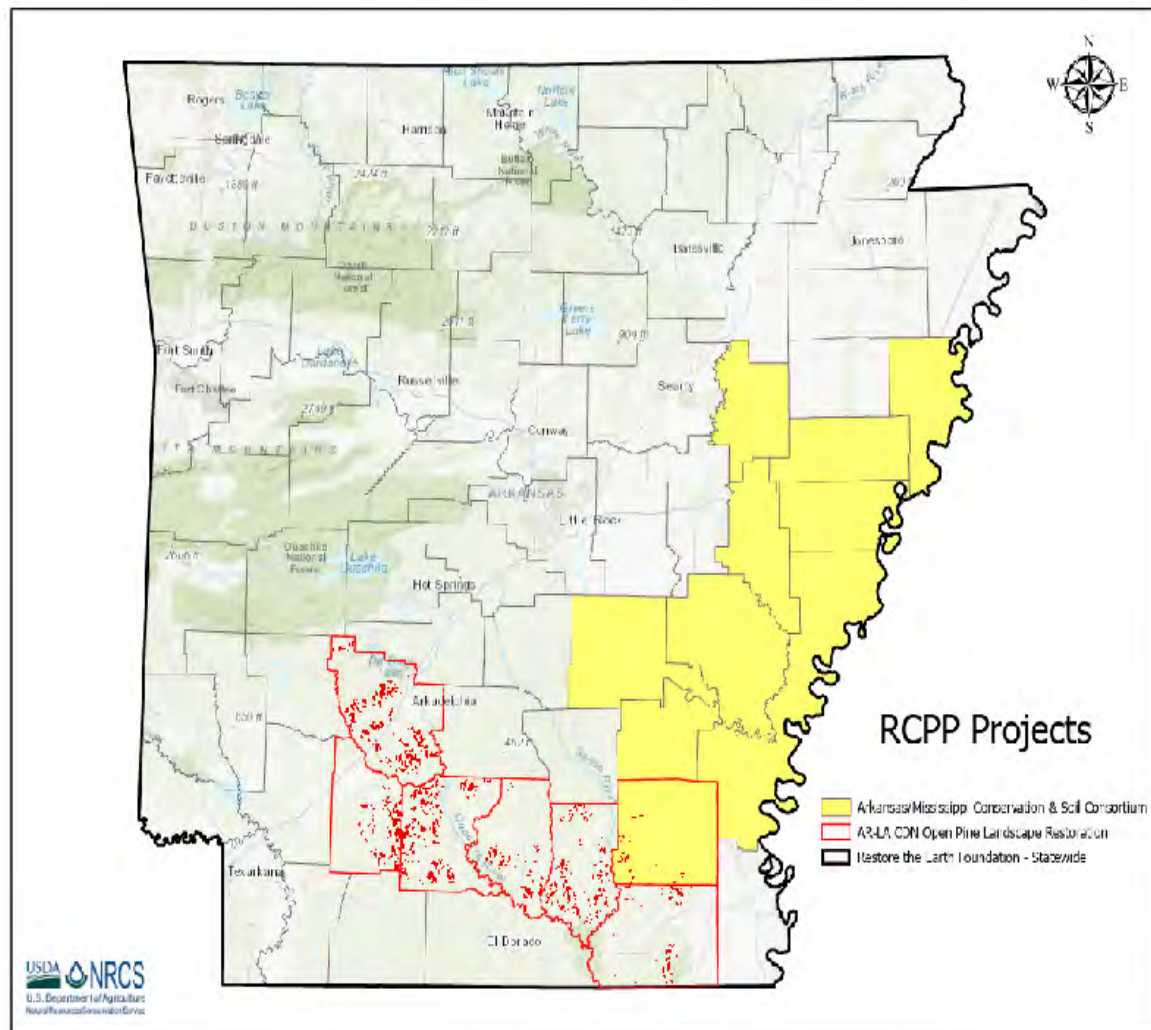




RCPP FY20/21 Projects



Project	Awarded
AR-MS Conservation and Soil Consortium	\$2.5 million easement work
AR-LA CDN Open Pine Landscape Restoration	\$5.9 million wildlife
Restore the Earth	\$7 million easement work





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Questions



Roger Cousins
Partnership Program Specialist
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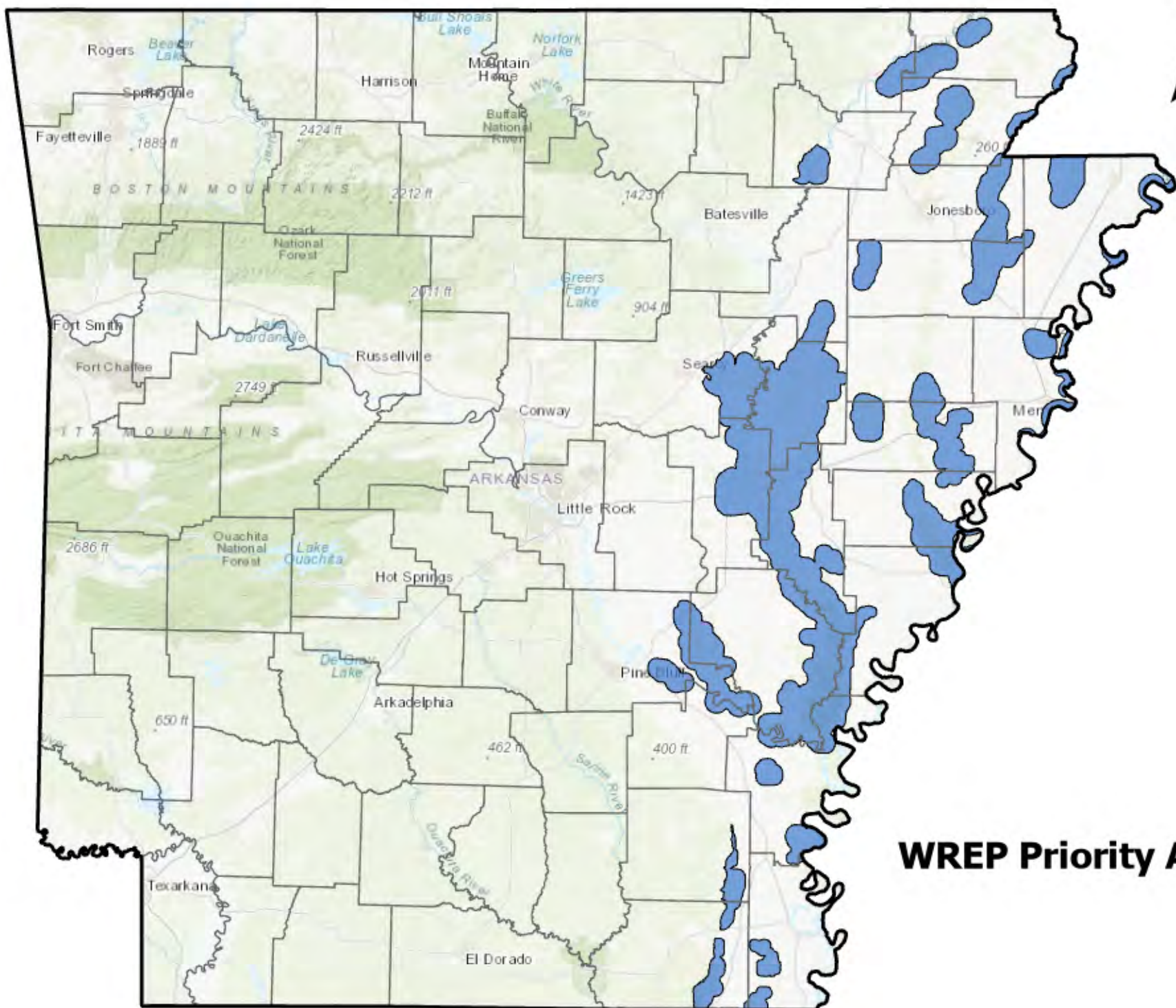
Dianne Schlenker
Initiatives Coordinator
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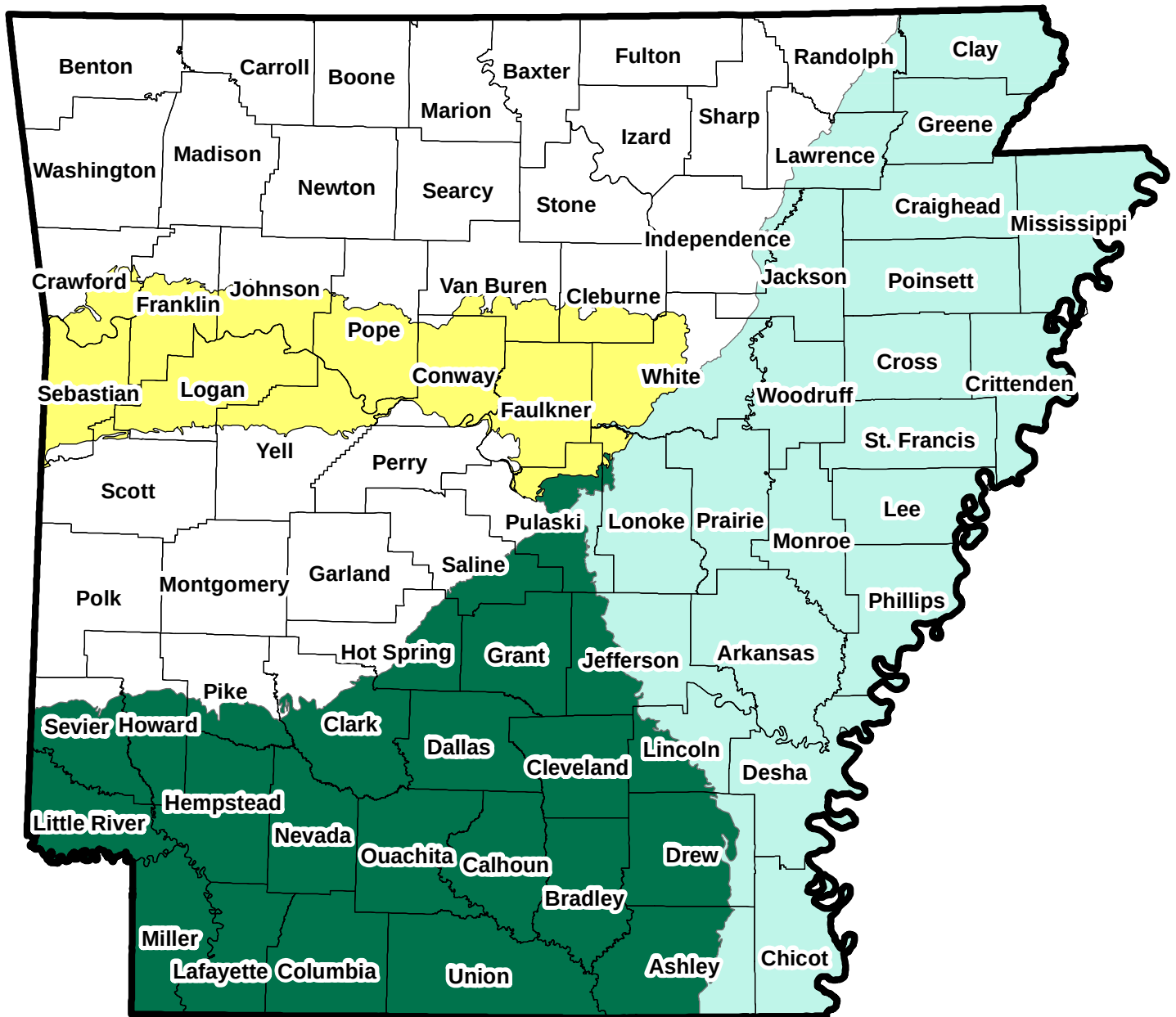
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WREP Priority Areas

Arkansas WRE and FPE - FY 2021 Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC)



ACEP-WRE and FPE Market Areas

Arkansas River Valley

Irrigated Cropland	\$2,600.00
Non-Irrigated Cropland	\$2,000.00
Wooded Non-CRP and Incidental Land	\$900.00
Wooded-CRP Planted Lands	\$1,200.00
Pasture Land	\$2,100.00

Mississippi River Valley

Irrigated Cropland	\$3,200.00
Non-Irrigated Cropland	\$2,500.00
Wooded Non-CRP and Incidental Land	\$900.00
Wooded-CRP Planted Lands	\$1,400.00
Pasture Land	\$1,900.00

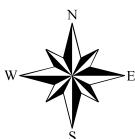
Gulf Coastal Plain

Irrigated Cropland	\$2,900.00
Non-Irrigated Cropland	\$1,800.00
Wooded Non-CRP and Incidental Land	\$800.00
Wooded-CRP Planted Lands	\$1,000.00
Pasture Land	\$1,300.00

Remainder Of State

80% of Appraisal, not to exceed \$3,000/ac.

Values shown are per acre units



State Technical Committee -Registered Attendees- May 11 2021

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Adam	Shea	Riceland Foods, Inc.
Adam	Chappell	Chappell Brothers Farm LLC.
albert	Jones	alcdc
Amanda	Mathis	USDA NRCS
Andrew	Grobmyer	Agricultural Council of Arkansas
Belinda	Bell	USDA Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement
beth	kadwell	usda-nrcs
Bill	Bartush	Lower MS Valley Joint Venture
Breegan	Andersen	The Nature Conservancy
Britt	Hill	NRCS
Bubba	Groves	AGFC
Bubba	Groves	AGFC
Chandler	Barton	Arkansas Forestry Division
Charley	Williams	Charley Everett Williams
Clyde	Williams	USDA-FPAC-NRCS
Corey	Cornelius	USDA-NRCS
Cynthia	Edwards	Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Danielle	Hill	Chicot County Conservation District
Danny	Hoots	USDA FSA
Darcia	Routh	ADH
Darren	Spinks	Forestry Division
Debbie	Moreland	Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts
Diana	Colvard	USDA Farm Service Agency
Dianne	Schlenker	NRCS
Don	White	University of Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station
Doug	McClellan	NRCS
Doug	Akin	NRCS
earl	smith	Conservation District
Edgar	Mersiovsky	NRCS
Eugene	Young	usda nass
Gary	Bennett	USDA/NRCS
Helen	Denniston	USDA NRCS
Henry	English	University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
Jake	Spears	Ducks Unlimited
James	Baker	USDA
Jason	Milks	The Nature Conservancy
Jennifer	Kitchens	Clark County Conservation Dist
Jeremy	Huff	NRCS
Jerry	Clark	AACD
Jerry	Clark	AACD
Jimmie	Kersh	Chickamauga Nation
John	Benefield	Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
Johnny	Mendoza	NRCS
Jonathan	Baxter	USFWS
Joseph	Schafer	Winrock International
Josh	Hankins	USA Rice
Joy	Wasson	Arkansas Forests and Drinking Water Collaborative
JP	Fairhead	Arkansas Department of Agriculture
Julie	Robinson	University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture
Kanesha	Bartee	Johnson County Conservation District
Karen	Thompson	USDA-NRCS
Keith	Scoggins	USDA/NRCS
KEITH	STOKES	ARKANSAS SENATOR COTTON STATE STAFF
Kelly	Robbins	Arkansas Rice
Kevin	Cochran	USDA/NRCS
Kevin	McGaughey	Ark. Dept. of Agriculture- Division of Natural Resources
Kyle	Lapham	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Levell	Foote	Conservation Consultant
Lori	Barker	NRCS
Marcus	Asher	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Martha D.	Manley	Lee County Conservation District
Matt	Lindsey	Delta Plastics of the South LLC
Michael	tucker	Arkansas Land and Community Development Corporation
Michael	Sullivan	USDA-NRCS
not (ZoomTest)	Attending	Community, Professional & Economic Development
Oluwayinka	Iseyemi	DEQ
Paul	Dunavant	Paul & Stacy Dunavant Farms
Randy	Easley	CAW
Randy	Childress	USDA - NRCS
Randy	Rush	EPA
Ray	Sufczynski	USDA/NRCS
Reginald	Jackson	USDA NRCS
Rick	Monk	U.S. Forest Service
Rita	Hulen	Crittenden Conservation District
Robert	Byrd	APHIS
Roger	Cousins	NRCS
Ron	Seiss	TNC
Ryan	Diener	Quail Forever
SAMANTHA	CLOWERS	NRCS
Scott	Whittingham	Sebastian County Conservation District
Shanon	Griffin	NRCS
Shelby	Spence	NRCS
Steve	Brock	Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture
Susan	Rupp	Enviroscapes Ecological Consulting, LLC
Tejon	Mays	The KKAC Organization
Troyce	Barnett	USDA/NRCS
Vic	Ford	University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture
Vincent	Gregory	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Willard	Ryland	KKAC Foundation
William	Kinkaid	NRCS
zach	taylor	nrcs