



Farmland Protection Policy Act Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024

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Irrigation system and the Cascade Mountains in eastern Oregon (NRCS Oregon).

Progress of Federal Agencies in Implementing Farmland Protection Policy Act

Under the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA), Federal agencies are required to evaluate the impacts of federally funded projects that may involve permanently converting prime and important farmlands to nonagricultural uses and to consider alternative actions that would lessen the effects of converting that productive agricultural land. In complying with the FPPA, Federal agencies request assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) by submitting a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form (Form AD-1006 or CPA-106). The requesting agency then conducts a Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) of the project area. NRCS provides the land evaluation information necessary for the responsible Federal agency to complete the site assessment portion of the analysis. To implement the FPPA, Federal agencies address the potential conversion of agricultural land when reviewing internal projects or providing assistance to local communities.

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is available for these uses. The land could be cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forestland, or other land but not developed urban land or water. Land used for a specific high-value food or fiber crop is classified as “unique farmland.” Generally, additional “farmlands of statewide importance” include those that are nearly prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. In some local areas, there is concern for certain additional farmlands, even though these lands are not identified as having national or statewide importance. These farmlands are identified as being of “local importance” through ordinances adopted by local government. The NRCS State Conservationist reviews and certifies lists of farmland of State and local importance. These lists, along with State and locally established LESA systems, where applicable, are used by Federal agencies to review and evaluate activities that may impact farmland.

As defined in 7 CFR part 657, important farmland encompasses prime and unique farmland as well as farmland of statewide and local importance. Table 1 summarizes the proportion and amount of important farmland considered for conversion as a part of Federal projects under the FPPA in fiscal years 2008 through 2024.

Table 1.—Important Farmland Evaluated Under FPPA in Fiscal Years 2008 Through 2024

Fiscal year	Acres of important farmland within land evaluated	Percent of important farmland within land evaluated	Number of agencies that submitted requests
2008	87,902	71%	25
2009	58,106	67%	23
2010	54,103	38%	30
2011	99,386	49%	29
2012	36,146	33%	33
2013	245,972	60%	33
2014	106,136	67%	32
2015	44,886	48%	34
2016	32,370	77%	22
2017	42,561	63%	35
2018	31,557	50%	36
2019	47,297	67%	31
2020	43,416	54%	35
2021	97,416	63%	35
2022	48,610	39%	32
2023	27,131	53%	34
2024	53,330	65%	36

In fiscal year 2024, NRCS received 3,157 AD-1006 or CPA-106 forms from 36 Federal departments and agencies and 7 states requesting assistance to evaluate the impact of proposed conversions of lands that would result from their projects. A total of 82,401 acres of land in 50 states and U.S. Territories were proposed for conversion to nonagricultural uses. Of the acres reviewed, about 65 percent (53,330 acres) were identified as important farmland (as defined in 7 CFR part 657). Of the important farmland, 42,558 acres were prime or unique farmland, and 10,772 acres were state or locally important farmland.

Florida and Nebraska had the highest number of important farmland acres proposed for conversion, with 10,534 acres and 8,093 acres, respectively (table 2). Four states reported no acres, and 10 states reported less than 100 acres of important farmland proposed for conversion (table 3).

In fiscal year 2024, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reported the largest number of important farmland acres proposed for conversion, with 11,790 acres (table 4). This accounts for about 22 percent of all important farmland acres proposed for conversion in 2024.

Table 2.—Top Five States or Territories with Acres of Farmland Proposed for Conversion by Federal Projects

State	Acres
Florida	10,538
Nebraska	8,093
Arkansas	4,111
South Dakota	3,395
Texas	2,979

Table 3.—Acres of Farmland Proposed by State or U.S. Territory for Conversion by Federal Projects

State	Total acres proposed	Percent of total acres compared to national total	Acres of important farmland proposed	Percent of acres of important farmland compared to the total nationwide total proposed important farmland
Alabama	299	0.4%	217	0.4%
Alaska	7	0.0%	0	0.0%
Arkansas	7,136	8.7%	4,111	7.7%
Arizona	941	1.1%	871	1.6%
California	3,196	3.9%	2,429	4.6%
Caribbean	1,813	2.2%	1,613	3.0%
Colorado	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Connecticut	36	0.0%	28	0.1%
Delaware	151	0.2%	91	0.2%
Florida	13,983	17.0%	10,538	19.8%
Georgia	651	0.8%	297	0.6%
Idaho	17	0.0%	17	0.0%
Illinois	2,042	2.5%	1,331	2.5%
Indiana	985	1.2%	971	1.8%
Iowa	1,540	1.9%	1,301	2.4%
Kansas	1,003	1.2%	1,003	1.9%
Kentucky	3,488	4.2%	2,367	4.4%
Louisiana	2,199	2.7%	979	1.8%
Maine	336	0.4%	130	0.2%
Maryland	194	0.2%	69	0.1%
Massachusetts	4	0.0%	2	0.0%
Michigan	353	0.4%	265	0.5%
Minnesota	812	1.0%	509	1.0%
Mississippi	2,570	3.1%	1,759	3.3%
Missouri	3,647	4.4%	1,599	3.0%
Montana	39	0.0%	144	0.3%
Nebraska	7,506	9.1%	5,823	10.9%
Nevada	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
New Hampshire	152	0.2%	57	0.1%
New Jersey	12	0.0%	15	0.0%
New Mexico	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
New York	1,421	1.7%	522	1.0%
North Carolina	961	1.2%	684	1.3%
North Dakota	212	0.3%	191	0.4%
Ohio	497	0.6%	400	0.7%
Oklahoma	3,209	3.9%	1,777	3.3%
Oregon	1,726	2.1%	1,630	3.1%
Pennsylvania	169	0.2%	117	0.2%
Pacific Island Area	52	0.1%	52	0.1%

State	Total acres proposed	Percent of total acres compared to national total	Acres of important farmland proposed	Percent of acres of important farmland compared to the total nationwide total proposed important farmland
Rhode Island	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
South Carolina	1,152	1.4%	654	1.2%
South Dakota	8,093	9.8%	3,395	6.4%
Tennessee	526	0.6%	257	0.5%
Texas	3,678	4.5%	2,979	5.6%
Utah	114	0.1%	114	0.2%
Vermont	47	0.1%	17	0.0%
Virginia	296	0.4%	113	0.2%
Washington	187	0.2%	171	0.3%
West Virginia	2,062	2.5%	1,220	2.3%
Wisconsin	2,884	3.5%	498	0.9%
Wyoming	4	0.0%	4	0.0%

Note: Alaska, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Rhode Island reported 0 acres of proposed important farmland. Alaska proposed a total of 7 acres, the remaining three had 0 total proposed acres. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest acre. Due to this, there is a slight discrepancy between the overall total and the sum of state totals for “Total acres proposed.” This note also applies to the acreage totals for “No. of acres proposed for conversion” in table 4.

Table 4.—Breakdown of Acres and AD-1006 or CPA-106 Forms Received by Federal Agencies and Other Entities in Fiscal Year 2024

Federal agency and other entities	Number of form requests to NRCS	Number of acres proposed for conversion	Number of acres identified as important farmland	Of which prime or unique	Of which state or locally important
Appalachian Regional Commission	16	20	2	2	0
Department of Agriculture					
Agricultural Marketing Service	2	1	1	1	0
Natural Resources Conservation Service	29	12,690	9,264	8,018	1,246
Other (Unspecified)	18	903	751	564	186
Rural Development	622	10,290	7,359	4,514	2,846
Rural Utilities Service	264	5,453	3,531	2,008	1,523
Department of Commerce					
Economic Development Administration	27	703	263	49	214



Federal agency and other entities	Number of form requests to NRCS	Number of acres proposed for conversion	Number of acres identified as important farmland	Of which prime or unique	Of which state or locally important
National Telecommunications and Information Administration	21	97	2	0	2
Department of Defense					
Other (Unspecified)	7	0	0	0	0
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	124	17,139	11,790	11,744	43
Department of Energy					
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	5	70	41	41	0
Other (Unspecified)	28	1,867	1,807	1,465	342
Department of Health and Human Services					
Health Resources and Services Administration	8	0	0	0	0
Indian Health Services	35	0	0	0	0
Other (Unspecified)	3	4	2	2	0
Department of Homeland Security					
Federal Emergency Management Agency	50	107	100	85	16
Department of Housing and Urban Development					
Federal Housing Administration	2	1,174	998	976	22
Other (Unspecified)	523	2,787	1,518	1,013	504
Department of Interior					
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	7	492	196	154	41
Bureau of Indian Affairs	17	189	109	56	53
National Park Service	15	429	92	71	21
Department of Justice					
Other (Unspecified)	1	0	0	0	0
Department of Transportation					
Federal Aviation Administration	29	1,304	1,151	630	521
Federal Highway Administration	502	12,641	6,567	4,628	1,948
Federal Railroad Administration	8	2,351	1,916	1,299	617
Other (Unspecified)	79	2,282	1,452	1,271	182
Environmental Protection Agency	178	6,043	1,481	1,261	220
General Services Administration	3	13	10	3	7
Other	18	778	637	587	49
Tennessee Valley Authority	2	0	0	0	0
Veterans Administration	3	0	0	0	0

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