



Technical Soil Services

National Report | Fiscal Year 2025



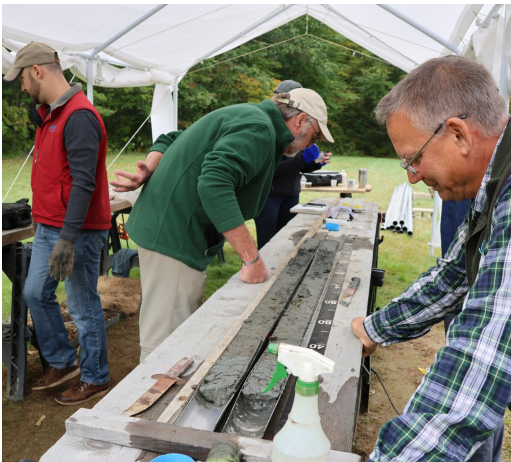
Nondiscrimination Statement

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.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Contents

Highlights	4
Introduction	4
Results	5
Discussion	6
Graphics	7
Appendix	13



Highlights

Instances and hours of technical soil service (TSS) activities reported increased in fiscal year (FY) 2025 when compared to FY 2024. States and areas continue to deliver the majority of TSSs nationwide with the Soil and Plant Science Division (SPSD) providing over 14 percent of the total on a per instance basis and 25 percent on a per hour basis. This is up 2 percent for SPSP in each category from FY 2024.

Instance-based reporting differs from time-based reporting because activities take different amounts of time to complete. For example, National Resources Inventory (NRI) accounted for 23 percent of all reported instances but only represented 8 percent of the total time spent on TSS activities, while on-site conservation planning support accounted for 5 percent of the total instances of TSS activities but made up 11 percent of the total time spent on TSS activities.

- ◆ NRCS reported over 46,000 instances of TSS activities.
- ◆ NRCS reported over 128,000 staff hours of TSS activities.
- ◆ The most reported TSS activities by instance were
 - NRI support,
 - highly erodible land determinations and appeals,
 - technical consultations,
 - off-site wetland determinations, and
 - public education and outreach.
- ◆ The most reported TSS activities by hours were
 - public education and outreach,
 - on-site wetland determinations, delineations, and appeals,
 - off-site wetland determinations,
 - on-site conservation planning support, and
 - highly erodible land determinations and appeals.

Introduction

A TSS is defined as (1) assisting users with understanding and properly using the soil survey information and (2) providing users with predictions and interpretations about the behavior of each kind of soil mapped or identified under defined situations. USDA NRCS soil scientists provide TSSs throughout the United States to NRCS, cooperating agencies, and the public.

For FY 2025, SPSPD leadership requested that all NRCS soil scientists report both the number of TSS activities and amount of time (hours) related to those activities using the National Soil Information System (NASIS) database. SPSPD staff (SPSPD soil survey region and major land resource area office staff) were required to use the database to report TSS activities. Other NRCS staff (primarily state soil scientists, assistant state soil scientists, and resource soil scientists) were strongly encouraged, but not required, to enter TSS activities into NASIS.

A total of 420 NRCS staff reported at least 1 TSS activity. All 50 states as well as the Pacific Islands Area (PIA), which includes Hawaii, and the Caribbean (CB) area, which includes Puerto Rico, reported TSS activities. TSS activities are tracked by staff affiliation, which is split between those affiliated with NRCS SPSPD offices and those affiliated with NRCS state offices.

Results

This report combines 22 different types of reported TSS activities into 15 categories and summarizes, in both written and graphical form, TSS activities reported in NASIS for FY 2025. The report includes data for NRCS states, which, for the purpose of this report, include the PIA and the CB area. The report also includes an appendix, which contains detailed tabular results.

Results by Instances

NRCS staff reported a total of 46,045 instances of TSS activities, ranging from 16 to 4,805 instances per state (fig. 1). As shown in figure 1, the total amount of TSS instances completed by SPSPD-affiliated staff compared to state-affiliated staff varies, with each group at times representing the majority of TSS instances reported for a particular state.

Figure 2 highlights the TSS instances completed in each of the 15 categories. The five most reported TSS categories by instance are NRI support (23 percent), highly erodible land determinations and appeals (17 percent), technical consultation, including in-office, in-field, phone, and email interactions (13 percent), off-site wetland determinations (9 percent), and public education and outreach (8 percent).

Nationwide, 72 percent of TSS instances directly supported some aspect of NRCS program delivery, and 28 percent of TSS instances provided service to non-NRCS customers. For both state-affiliated and SPSPD-affiliated staff, most instances of TSS activities reported directly supported NRCS program delivery, 75 percent and 51 percent respectively.

TSS activities provide valuable support to a variety of NRCS programs (fig. 3). In FY 2025, the top five programs identified by NRCS staff by TSS instance were for Conservation Technical Assistance (57 percent), NRI (24 percent), the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (6 percent), the Farmland Protection Policy Act (5 percent), and soil survey and ecological site development (5 percent). Often, TSS activities reported as Conservation Technical Assistance lead to future Farm Bill program delivery. Typically, these types of TSS activities are part of the first three steps of conservation planning: (1) identify problems and opportunities, (2) determine objectives, and (3) inventory resources.

Results by Hours

NRCS staff reported a total of 128,451 hours of TSS activities ranging from 64 to 10,082 hours per state (fig. 4). Similar to instances, the total amount of TSS hours completed by SPSPD-affiliated staff compared to state-affiliated staff varies, with each group at times representing the majority of TSS hours reported for a particular state (fig. 4).

Figure 5 highlights the 15 TSS categories and percentage of TSS hours completed in each category. Because some TSS activities take more time than others, the distribution based on the amount of staff time (fig. 5) differs from the distribution based on instances (fig. 2). The five most reported TSS categories by hour were public education and outreach (17 percent), on-site wetland determinations, delineations, and appeals (15 percent), off-site wetland determinations (11 percent), on-site conservation planning support (11 percent), and highly erodible land determinations and appeals (10 percent).

Nationwide, approximately 67 percent of TSS hours directly supported some aspect of NRCS program delivery, and 33 percent provided service to non-NRCS customers. As with the results by instance, the most time spent on TSS activities directly supported NRCS program delivery by both state-affiliated and SPSPD-affiliated staff, with 72 percent and 54 percent respectively.

Figure 6 shows NRCS staff time spent on TSS activities to support NRCS programs. NRCS staff reported spending the most time on Conservation Technical Assistance, which also had the most TSS instances, representing 73 percent of the hours spent on NRCS programs. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (8 percent), NRI (7 percent), soil survey and ecological site development (5 percent), and the Farmland Protection Policy Act (2 percent) round out the hours spent in support of the top programs, which is a departure from the percent of instances by program (fig. 3)

Discussion

The mandatory use of NASIS for reporting TSS activities by SPSPD-affiliated staff continues to increase the consistency of the data from that group. Reporting by state-affiliated staff remained variable nationwide, as evidenced by the wide range in the number of TSS activities reported. Higher workloads and shifting staff capacity may explain some variability.

While reported TSS activities increased in FY 2025 compared to FY 2024, there is still variability in overall reporting. To help address this concern, the national TSS team continues to review and update the “Technical Soil Services Handbook,” provide encouragement and ample time for reporting, and provide all necessary assistance on the topic.

Across the NRCS, the staff that provide TSSs ensure that valuable and actionable soils information is available to all levels of NRCS, cooperating agencies, and the public. The national TSS team continues to compile case studies that highlight TSS activities. Spotlights of TSS activities completed by SPSPD staff nationwide are available on the [NRCS SPSPD Technical Soil Services](#) web page.

Graphics

Figure 1.—TSS Instances by NRCS Region, State, and Affiliation

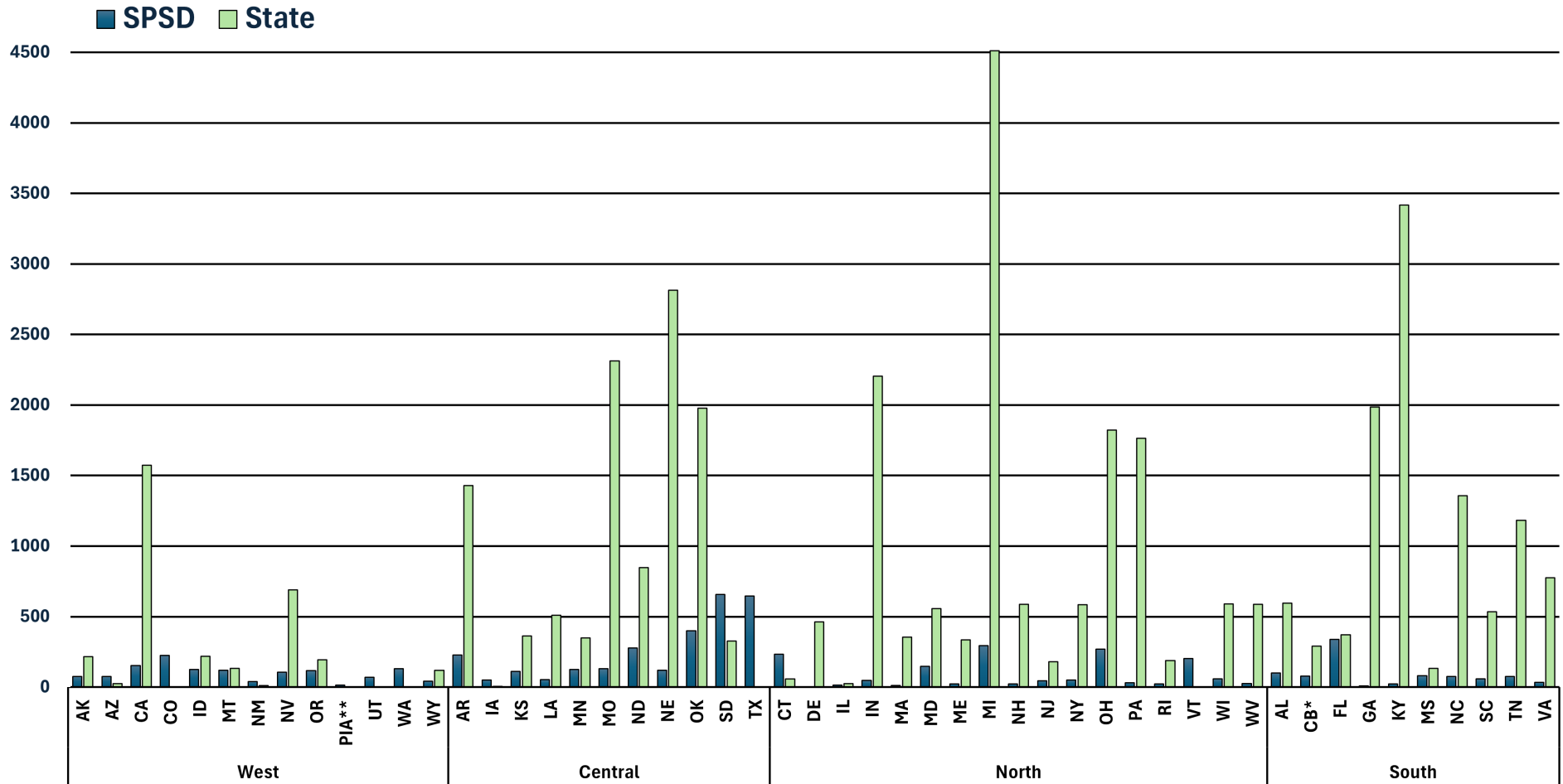


Figure 2.—TSS Instances by Activity Type

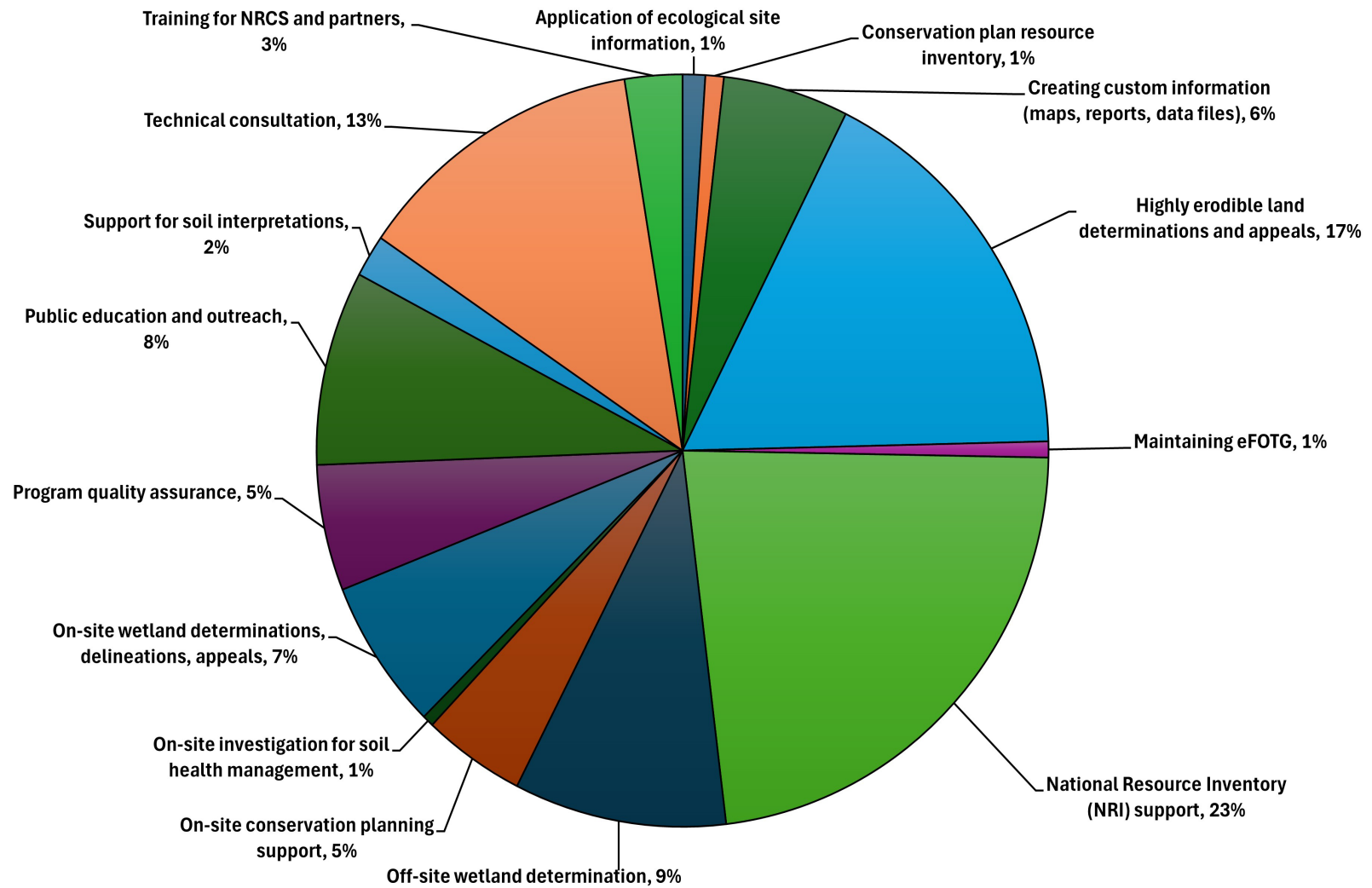


Figure 3.—TSS Instances by Program

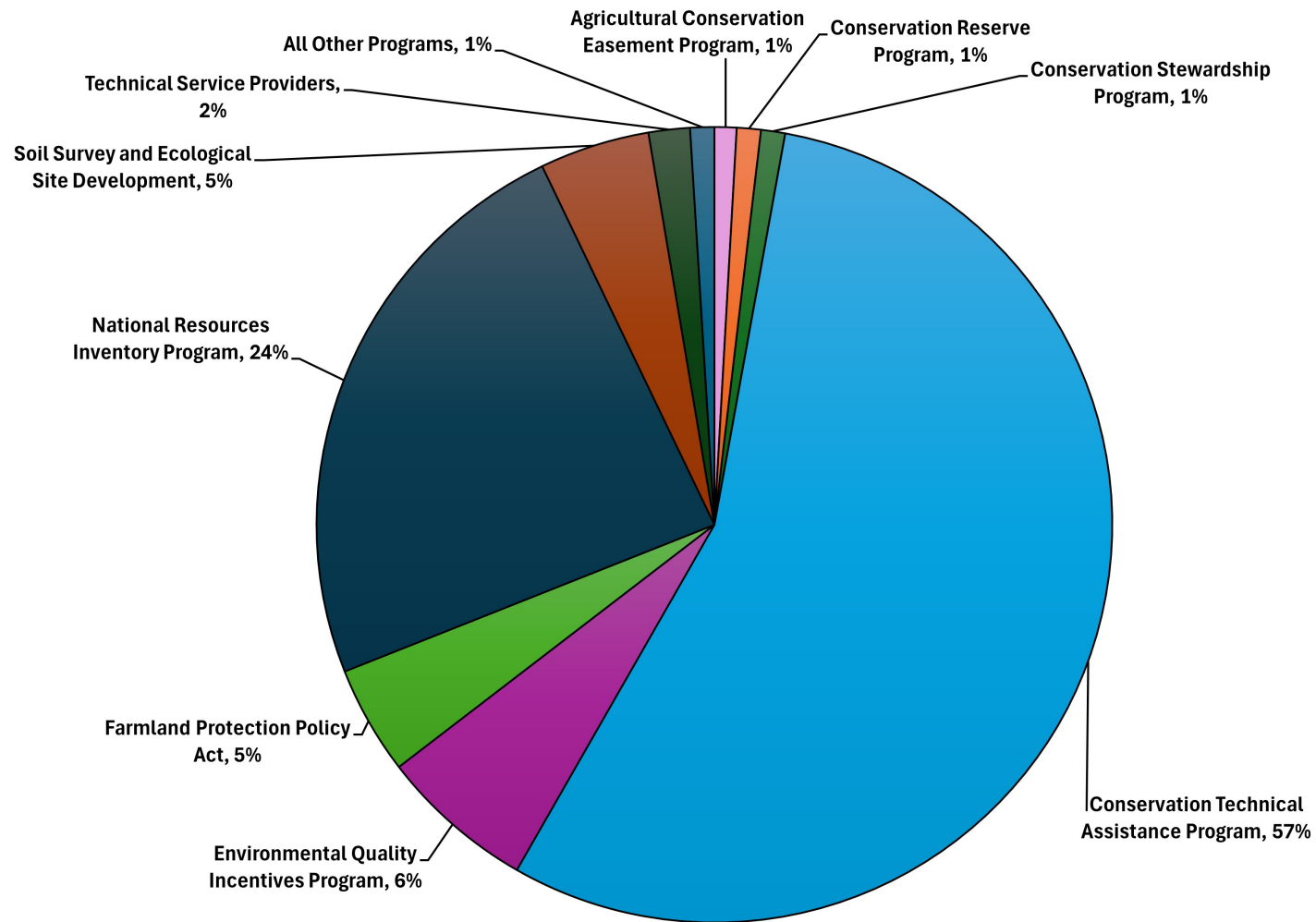


Figure 4.—TSS Hours by NRCS Region, State, and Affiliation

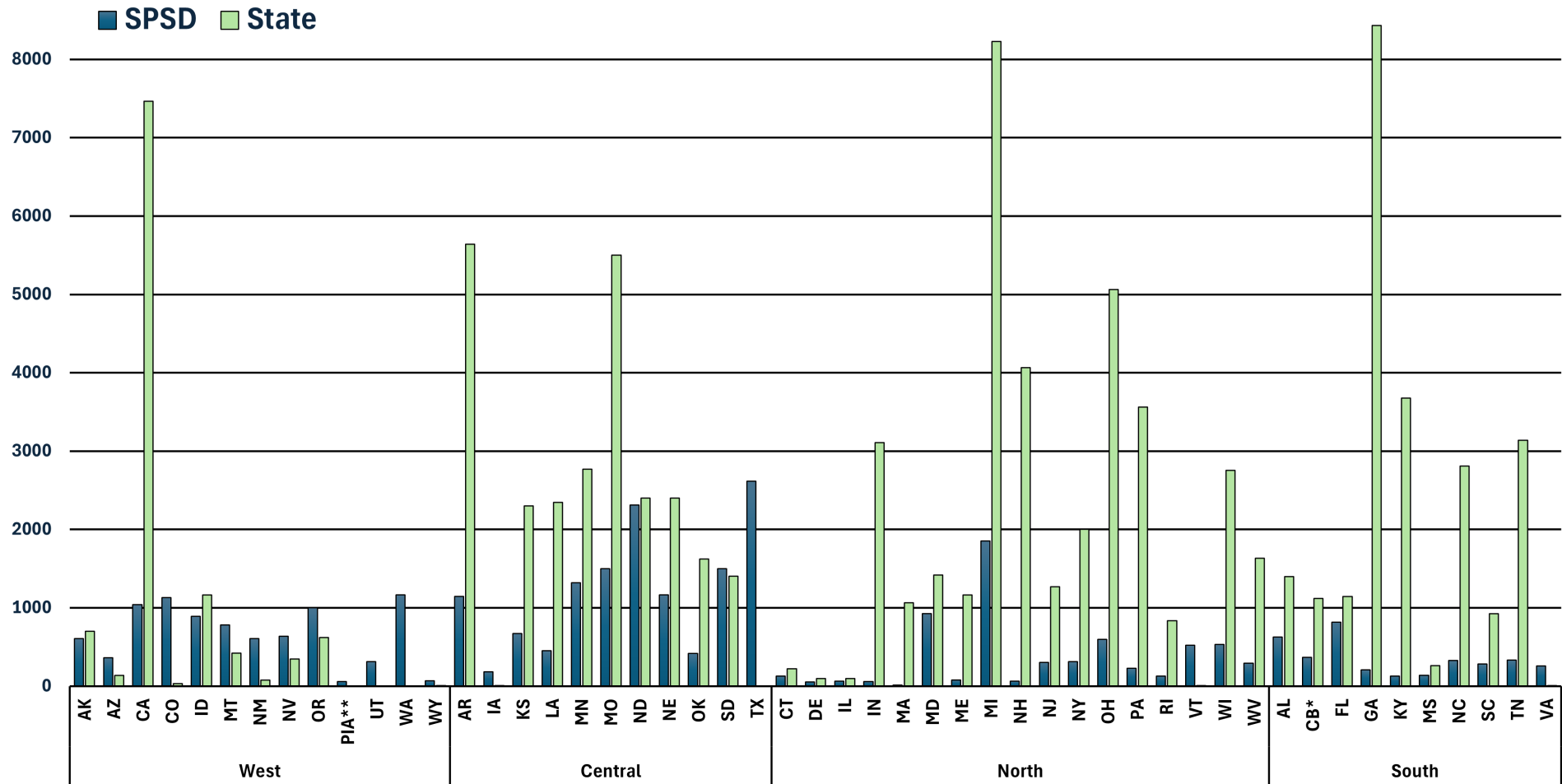


Figure 5.—TSS Hours by Activity Type

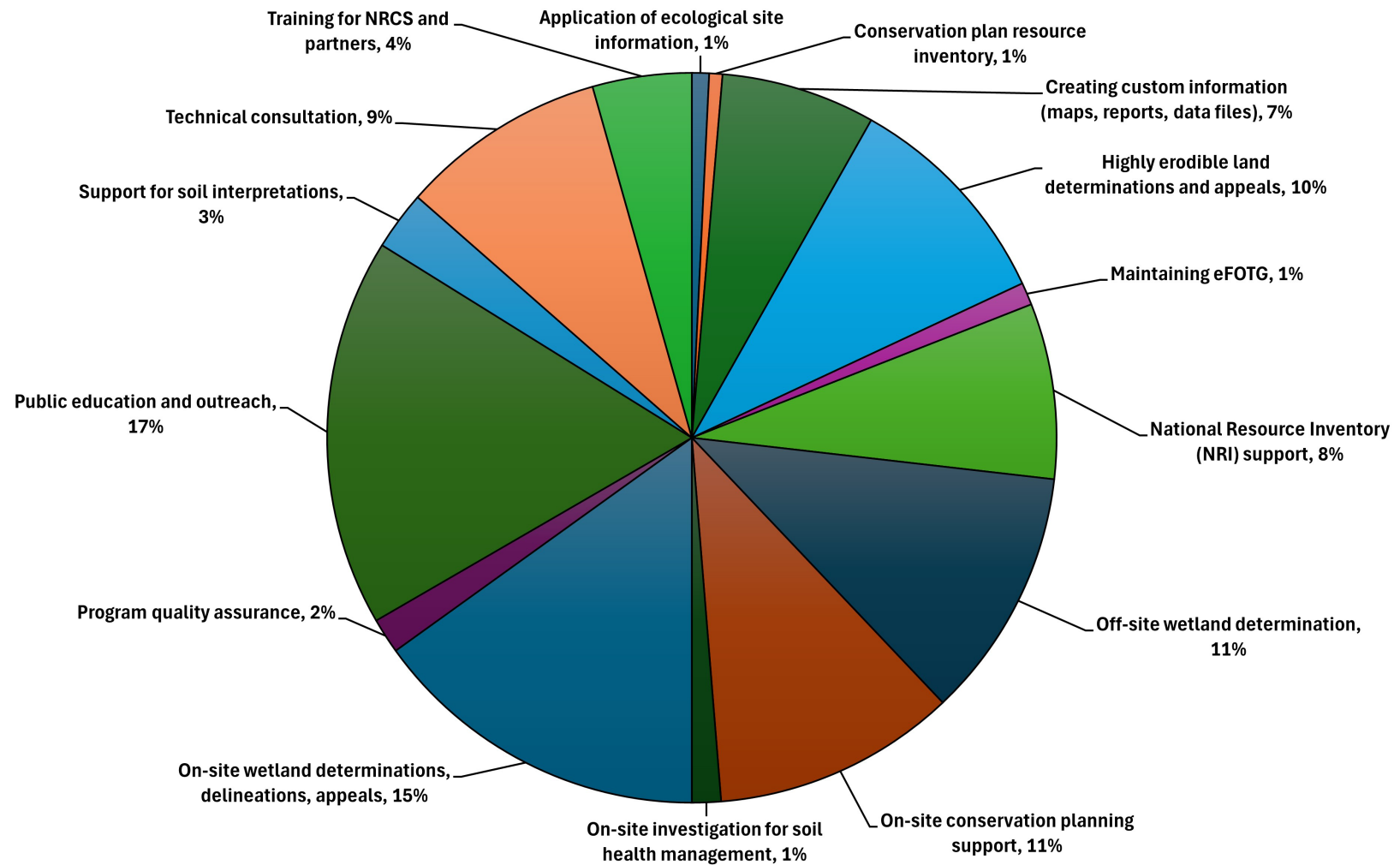
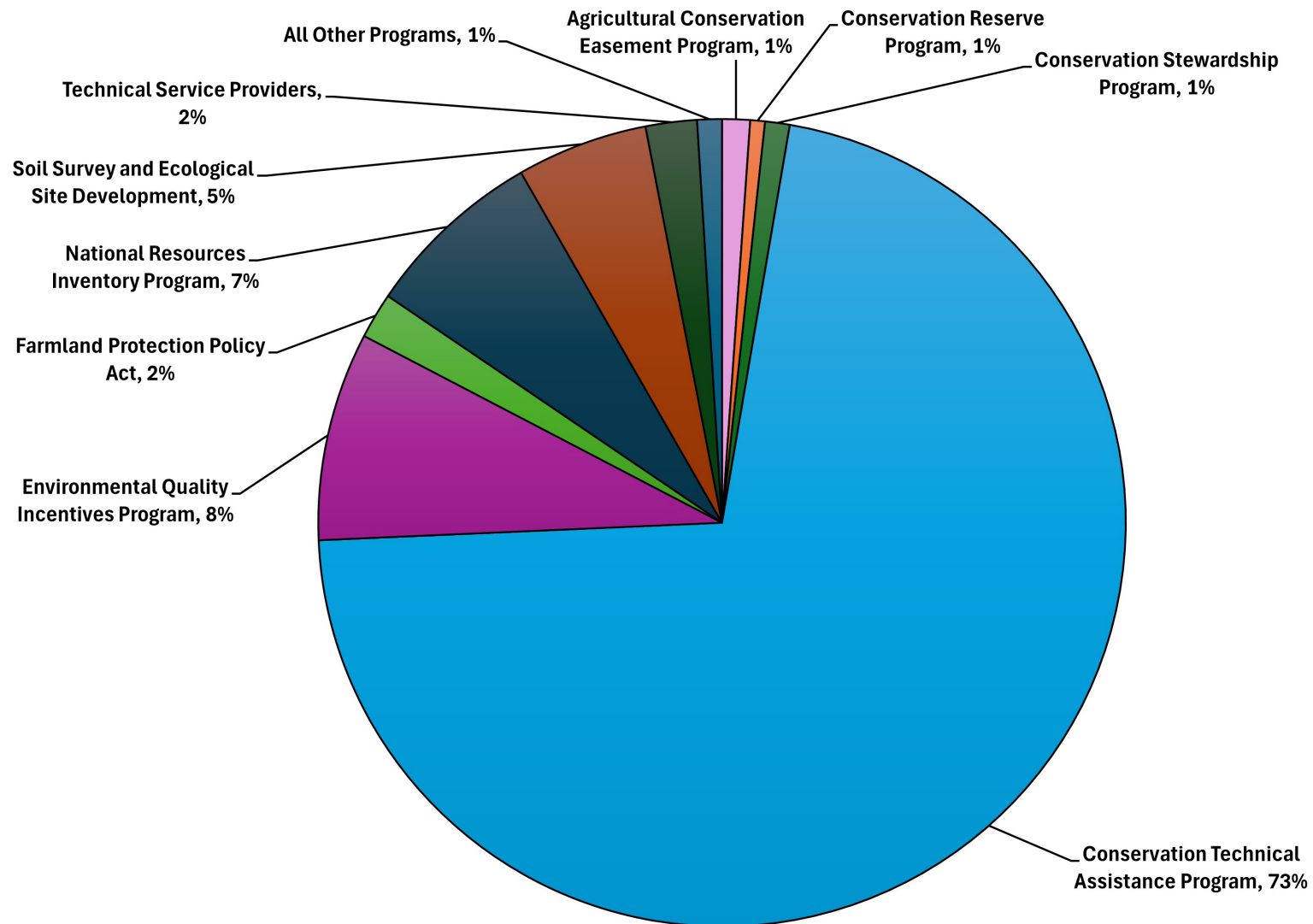


Figure 6.—TSS Hours by Program



Appendix: TSS Reporting Details

Table 1a.—TSS Instances for NRCS West Region by State and Employee Affiliation

State Name	SPSD	State	Total
Alaska	76	216	292
Arizona	74	25	99
California	152	1,573	1,725
Colorado	226	4	230
Idaho	124	219	343
Montana	120	133	253
New Mexico	39	10	49
Nevada	107	691	798
Oregon	118	194	312
Pacific Island Area	15	1	16
Utah	70	0	70
Washington	131	0	131
Wyoming	43	118	161
Total	1,295	3,184	4,479

Table 1b.—TSS Instances for NRCS Central Region by State and Employee Affiliation

State Name	SPSD	State	Total
Arkansas	229	1,430	1,659
Iowa	50	6	56
Kansas	112	362	474
Louisiana	54	509	563
Minnesota	126	349	475
Missouri	130	2,313	2,443
North Dakota	278	847	1,125
Nebraska	119	2,815	2,934
Oklahoma	399	1,977	2,376
South Dakota	656	326	982
Texas	645	0	645
Total	2,798	10,934	13,732

Table 1c.—TSS Instances for NRCS North Region by State and Employee Affiliation

State Name	SPSD	State	Total
Connecticut	232	59	291
Delaware	2	462	464
Illinois	14	24	38
Indiana	48	2,204	2,252
Massachusetts	12	355	367
Maryland	147	558	705
Maine	22	336	358
Michigan	293	4,512	4,805
New Hampshire	22	588	610
New Jersey	44	180	224
New York	51	586	637
Ohio	269	1,822	2,091
Pennsylvania	30	1,764	1,794
Rhode Island	23	188	211
Vermont	202	3	205
Wisconsin	60	589	649
West Virginia	25	587	612
Total	1,496	14,817	16,313

Table 1d.—TSS Instances for NRCS South Region by State and Employee Affiliation

State Name	SPSD	State	Total
Alabama	99	597	696
Caribbean Area	79	290	369
Florida	339	372	711
Georgia	10	1,986	1,996
Kentucky	22	3,419	3,441
Missouri	81	132	213
North Carolina	75	1,357	1,432
South Carolina	58	534	592
Tennessee	76	1,184	1,260
Virginia	34	777	811
Total	873	10,648	11,521

Table 2.—Grand Total of TSS Instances by Region

NRCS Region	SPSD	State	Total
West	1,295 (3%)	3,184 (7%)	4,479 (10%)
Central	2,798 (6%)	10,934 (24%)	13,732 (30%)
North	1,496 (3%)	14,817 (32%)	16,313 (35%)
South	873 (2%)	10,648 (23%)	11,521 (25%)
Total	6,462 (14%)	39,583 (86%)	46,045 (100%)

Table 3a.—TSS Hours for NRCS West Region by State and Employee Affiliation

State Name	SPSD	State	Total
Alaska	605	702	1,306
Arizona	362	139	501
California	1,038	7,466	8,504
Colorado	1,128	33	1,161
Idaho	893	1,165	2,058
Montana	783	423	1,206
New Mexico	606	76	682
Nevada	637	349	986
Oregon	1,002	620	1,622
Pacific Island Area	60	4	64
Utah	315	0	315
Washington	1,163	0	1,163
Wyoming	71	7	78
Total	8,662	10,982	19,644

Table 3b.—TSS Hours for NRCS Central Region by State and Employee Affiliation

State Name	SPSD	State	Total
Arkansas	1,143	5,643	6,787
Iowa	183	6	189
Kansas	672	2,300	2,972
Louisiana	451	2,344	2,795
Minnesota	1,320	2,771	4,091
Missouri	1,498	5,503	7,001
North Dakota	2,312	2,403	4,714
Nebraska	1,166	2,401	3,567
Oklahoma	417	1,623	2,040
South Dakota	1,498	1,406	2,904
Texas	2,617	0	2,617
Total	13,276	26,400	39,676

Table 3c.—TSS Hours for NRCS North Region by State and Employee Affiliation

State Name	SPSD	State	Total
Connecticut	126	224	350
Delaware	52	97	149
Illinois	62	99	161
Indiana	59	3,107	3,166
Massachusetts	15	1,065	1,080
Maryland	925	1,421	2,346
Maine	79	1,164	1,243
Michigan	1,854	8,228	10,082
New Hampshire	63	4,064	4,126
New Jersey	301	1,269	1,570
New York	313	2,000	2,312
Ohio	596	5,062	5,658
Pennsylvania	229	3,564	3,793
Rhode Island	127	835	962
Vermont	522	10	531
Wisconsin	533	2,756	3,288
West Virginia	291	1,635	1,926
Total	6,144	36,597	42,741

Table 3d.—TSS Hours for NRCS South Region by State and Employee Affiliation

State Name	SPSD	State	Total
Alabama	629	1,400	2,029
Caribbean Area	367	1,118	1,485
Florida	815	1,144	1,959
Georgia	208	8,431	8,639
Kentucky	128	3,677	3,805
Missouri	137	262	399
North Carolina	326	2,810	3,135
South Carolina	283	923	1,206
Tennessee	332	3,138	3,470
Virginia	258	8	266
Total	3,481	22,909	26,390

Table 4.—Grand Total of TSS Hours by Region

NRCS Region	SPSD	State	Total
West	8,662 (7%)	10,982 (9%)	19,644 (15%)
Central	13,276 (10%)	26,400 (21%)	39,676 (31%)
North	6,144 (5%)	36,597 (28%)	42,741 (33%)
South	3,481 (3%)	22,909 (18%)	26,390 (21%)
Total	31,563 (25%)	96,888 (75%)	128,451 (100%)

Table 5.—TSS Instances by Activity Type and Employee Affiliation

Activity Type	SPSD	State	Total	Percent of Total
Application of ecological site information	77	124	201	1%
Conservation plan resource inventory	68	309	377	1%
Creating custom information (maps, reports, data files)	356	2,214	2,570	6%
Highly erodible land determinations and appeals	391	7,597	7,988	17%
Maintaining eFOTG	11	307	318	1%
National Resource Inventory (NRI) support	593	9,964	10,557	23%
Off-site wetland determination	161	4,182	4,343	9%
On-site conservation planning support	480	1,612	2,092	5%
On-site investigation for soil health management	82	150	232	1%
On-site wetland determinations, delineations, appeals	337	2,664	3,001	7%
Program quality assurance	2	2,447	2,509	5%
Public education and outreach	2,047	1,825	3,872	8%
Support for soil interpretations	35	802	837	2%
Technical consultation	1,467	4,504	5,971	13%
Training for NRCS and partners	295	882	1,177	3%
Total	6,462	39,583	46,045	100%

Table 6.—TSS Hours by Activity Type and Employee Affiliation

TSS Activity Hours by Activity Type and Employee Affiliation	SPSD	State	Total	Percent of Total
Application of ecological site information	25	554	979	1%
Conservation plan resource inventory	198	559	757	1%
Creating custom information (maps, reports, data files)	1,889	6,944	8,833	7%
Highly erodible land determinations and appeals	731	12,005	12,736	10%
Maintaining eFOTG	34	564	598	0%
National Resource Inventory (NRI) support	2,219	7,820	10,039	8%
Off-site wetland determination	402	13,947	14,349	11%
On-site conservation planning support	3,682	10,256	13,938	11%
On-site investigation for soil health management	832	823	1,655	1%
On-site wetland determinations, delineations, appeals	2,677	16,797	19,474	15%
Program quality assurance	187	1,838	2,025	2%
Public education and outreach	11,497	10,714	22,211	17%
Support for soil interpretations	1,105	2,265	3,370	3%
Technical consultation	3,962	7,857	11,819	9%
Training for NRCS and partners	1,724	3,946	5,670	4%
Total	31,563	96,888	128,451	100%

