



IMPAC





IMPAC

Improving Management of Program Applications and Contracts

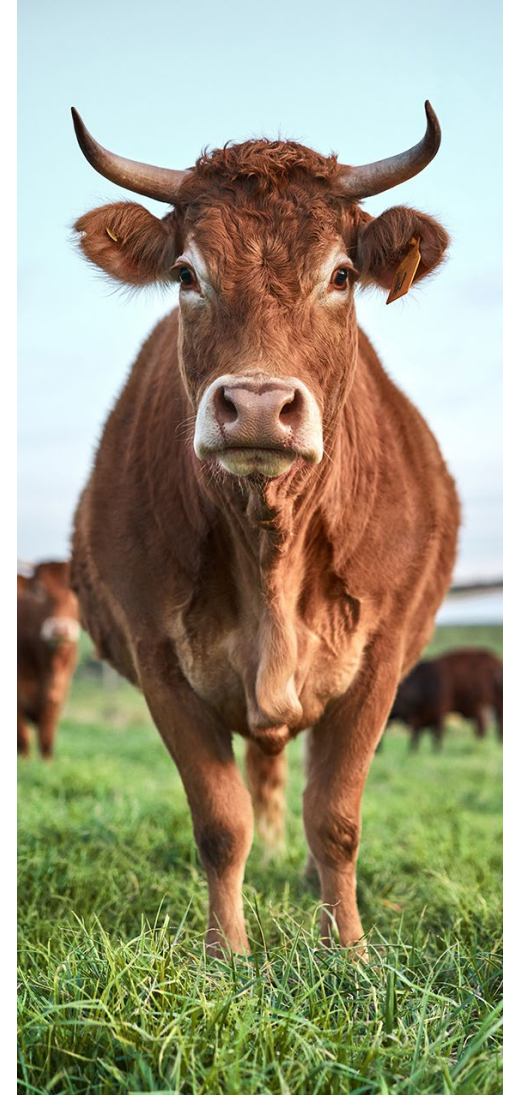


Enable faster and more responsive service to customers



Increase time for Field Staff to perform technical assistance activities

Utah is 1 of 9 states selected for this Pilot

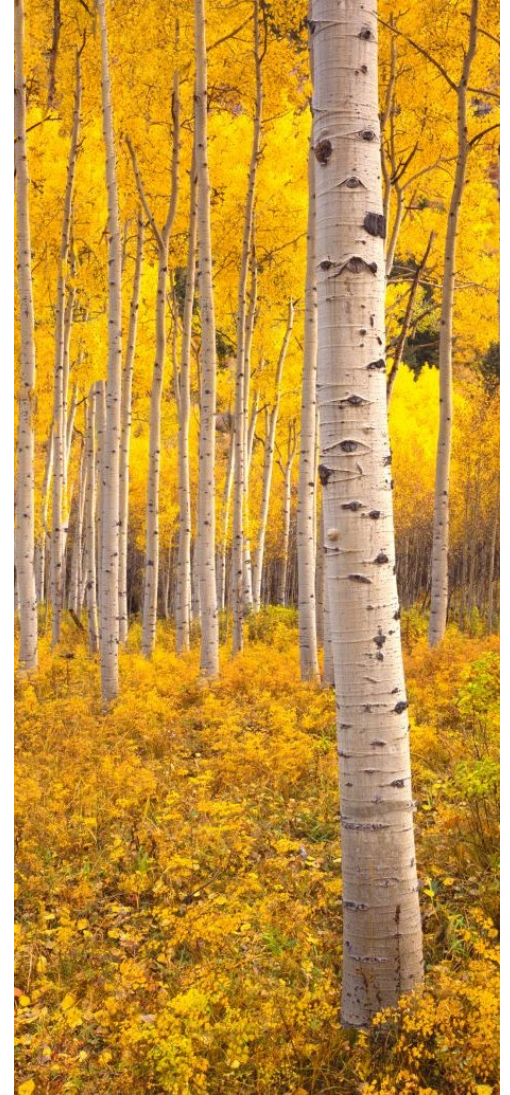


IMPAC “Farmer First, Field Focused” Pilot

- Intended Benefits
 - Save time through streamlined processes.
 - Repurpose field staff time towards higher-value field work.
 - Ensure local priorities are factored into program decisions.
 - Improved quality of products (plans, contracts, management)
 - Improved accountability
 - Focused training
 - Learn from Piloting States what works best and where guidance may need to be strengthened

NRCS Priorities – Chief Buckley

- 1) Preserve & Protect Agricultural Land
- 2) Outcome-Based Conservation & Farmer Empowerment
- 3) Recenter Field Engagement & Technical Assistance
- 4) Expand Wildlife Conservation & Outdoor Access
- 5) Strengthen Partnerships via Streamlined Processes & Accountability
- 6) Optimize Mission Delivery by Strengthening Workforce Culture
- 7) Modernize NRCS Infrastructure & Technology



Locally Led Conservation



Support local stakeholders & conservation districts via Local Working Groups



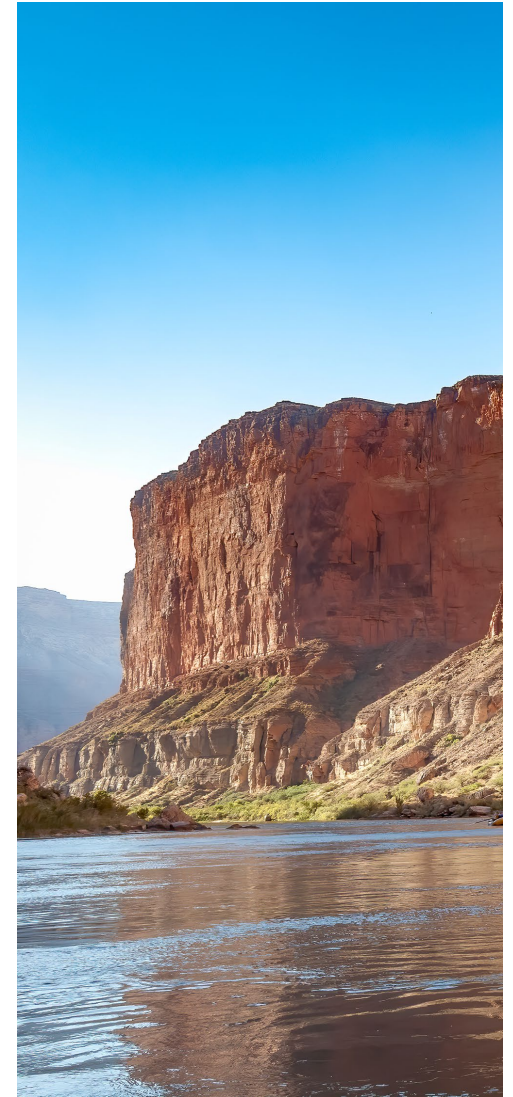
Conservation Action Plan identifies priority resource concerns



Utah's Focused Opportunities - Develop proposals to address local needs



Additional training forthcoming to improve LWG process and the Action Plan





What's Changing (At-a-Glance)

Field-first engagement with streamlined processes

Every applicant receives a Conservation Plan

Locally Led priorities drive proposals for funding through Utah's Focused Opportunities

Deferral letters to unfunded applicants; cancel nonresponses

Workload Prioritization Tools to focus high-impact plans; no rankings

Clear separation of technical field work vs. contract administration

Earlier funding decisions and contract obligations

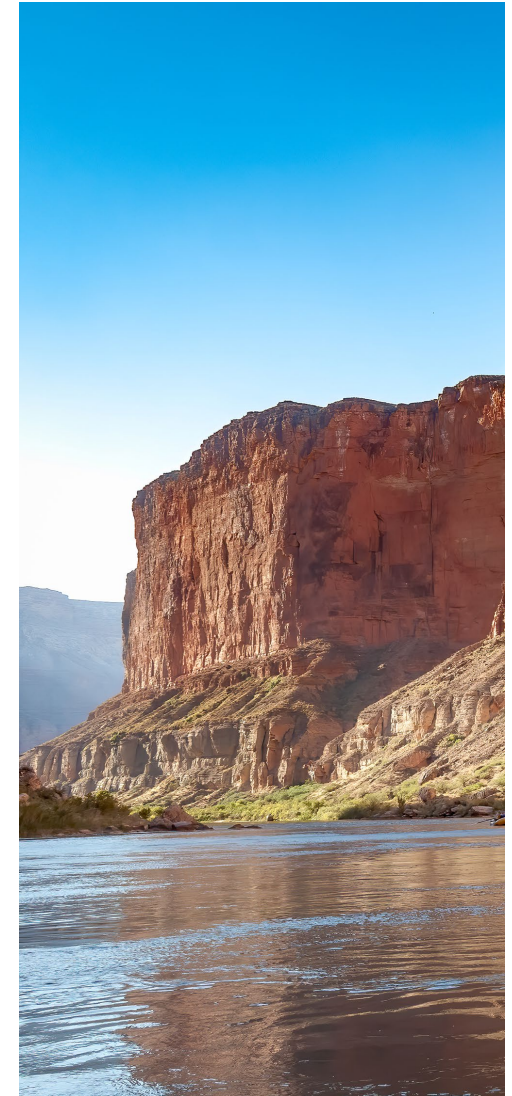
Conservation Plans

Completed for every applicant or
technical assistance request



Plan components:

Conservation Plan & Map	Implementation Requirements	Preliminary Design (as applicable)	Conservation Assistance Notes	NRCS-CPA-52 and other NEPA/ESA documents	Supporting inventory & references
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Obligations



AIM FOR EFFICIENT OBLIGATIONS TO
ENABLE MORE FIELDWORK



COMPLETE PLANNING IN ADVANCE
BUT AVOID RUSHING, GOAL IS QUALITY
CONSERVATION PLANNING



GOAL: CONSERVATION PLANS ARE
READY PRIOR TO PRE-OBLIGATION



Separation of Technical & Administrative Work



Technical staff are responsible for technical accuracy, conservation planning, practice certification, and participant engagement.



PAs & PSSs to perform administrative, eligibility, documentation, tracking, and contract-processing tasks.

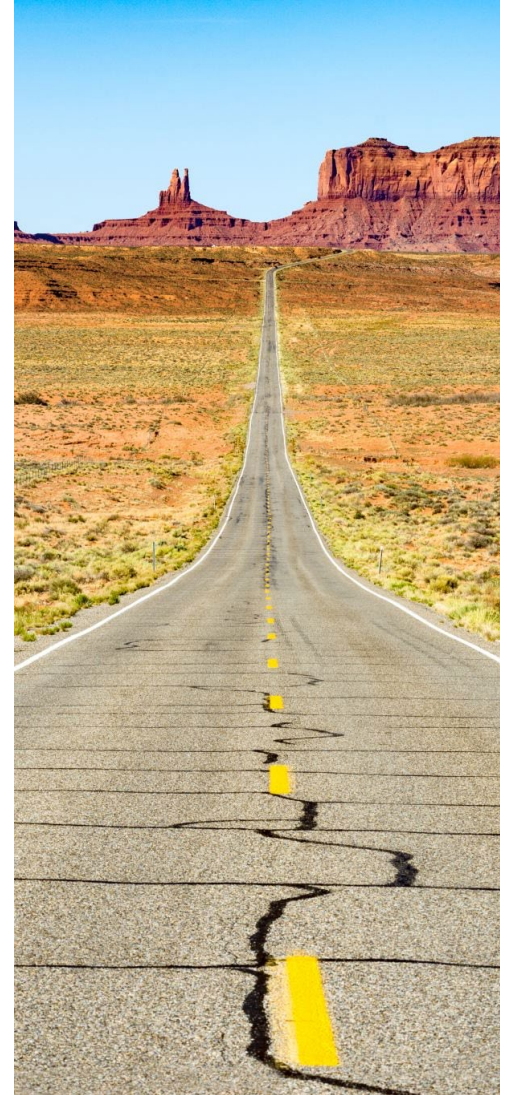


Reduced involvement of technical staff in contract management



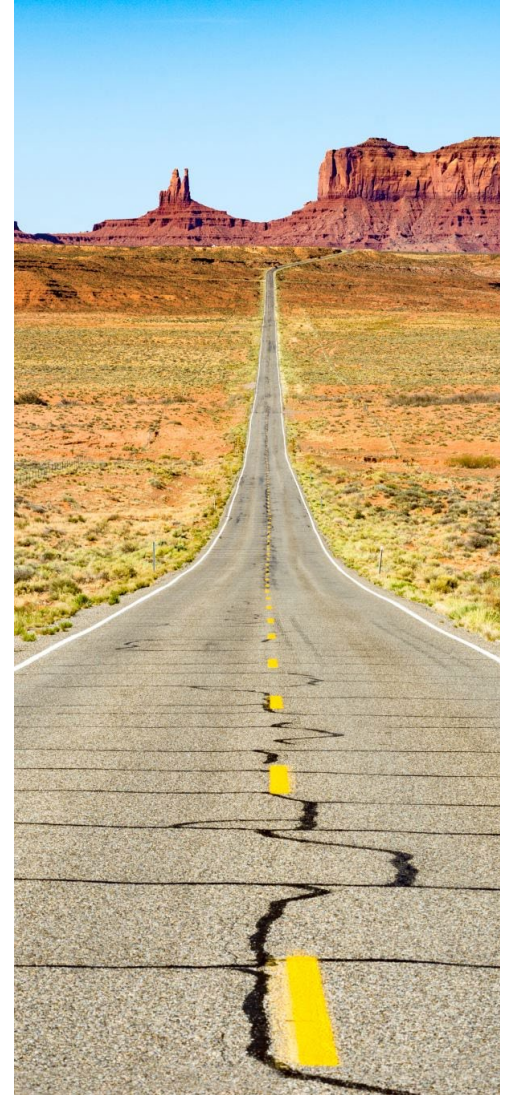
IMPAC – Monitoring and Evaluation

- Document successes and failures throughout the pilot
- Demonstrate how locally led conservation works and benefits producers
- Share Utah's results to inform other states



Thoughts?

- How can this help Utah?
- What opportunities can we act on?
- Concerns?





Utah Priorities

STAC input needed through FY27





High Priority Practices

329 Residue
Management -
No Till

336 Soil
Carbon
Amendment

394 FireBreak

441
Microirrigation

449 Irrigation
Water
Management

528 Grazing
Management

550 Range
Planting

590 Nutrient
Management

666 Forest
Stand
Improvement

Priority Resource Concerns

State Priority Resource Concerns FY2027

<u>RC Categories</u>	<u>Resource Concern</u>
Soil	Soil Health Soil Erosion
Water	Water Quality Water Quantity
Plants	Plant Health Wildfire Hazard
Animals	Livestock Health Terrestrial Habitat

Source Water Protection Practices

- | | |
|---|---|
| 313 Waste Storage Facility | 391 Riparian Forest Buffer |
| 314 Brush Management | 393 Filter Strip |
| 316 Animal Mortality Facility | 395 Stream Habitat Improvement and Management |
| 317 Composting Facility | 410 Grade Stabilization Structure |
| 327 Conservation Cover | 412 Grassed Waterway |
| 328 Conservation Crop Rotation | 436 Irrigation Reservoir |
| 329 Residue Management - No-till | 449 Irrigation Water Management |
| 331 Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops | 472 Access Control |
| 340 Cover Crop | 528 Prescribed Grazing |
| 342 Critical Area Planting | 575 Trails and Walkways |
| 345 Residue Management - Reduced Till | 580 Streambank and Shoreline Protection |
| 355 Well Water Testing | 590 Nutrient Management |
| 360 Waste Facility Closure | 595 Pest Management Conservation System |
| 366 Anaerobic Digester | 600 Terrace |
| 386 Field Border | 601 Vegetative Barrier |
| 390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover | 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment |
| | 635 Vegetated Treatment Area |
| | 666 Forest Stand Improvement |



Statewide Priority Resource Opportunities

- High Tunnel
- AFO/CAFO
- Forestry
- Migratory Big Game
- Disaster
- Sage Grouse



ACEP-ALE Ranking

Parcel contains the habitat(s) for species of interest?*	No species	0
	State Listed Species	5
	Federally listed candidate species	10
	Federally listed threatened and endangered species	15
Use the NRCS Land Evaluation and Site Assessment framework (LESA values for the soil types found on the proposed easement area to calculate the points for this section) to establish a farmland conversion impact rating score. Each county NRCS office has a chart indicating the agricultural group and relative value of each soil type found in the county. The best land (Group 1) is given a relative value of 100. Other groups are valued less than 100. NOTE: Total acres should equal total acres being offered for enrollment*	LESA SCORE 100-49	25
	LESA SCORE 48-10	20
	LESA SCORE 9-0	10
For Cropland, is 50% or more of the parcel a soil land capability classification of: If Irrigated land, use Irrigated Soil Land Capability Classification.*	above Class III	0
	Class III	10
	Class II	15
	Class I	20
	Not Applicable	0



ACEP-ALE Ranking

Has the landowner implemented new vegetative or structural conservation based projects or improvements on the property?	None	0
	Within last 9 years	2
	Within last 6 years	3
	Within last 3 years	10
How many sides is the parcel adjacent to other parcels protected from development?	None	0
	Contiguous on 1 side	2
	Contiguous on 2 sides	3
	Contiguous on 3 or more sides	10
Only on Crop land and Pasture land, is the water supply:*	A non-dependable or non-assured depleting ground water source	0
	Annually determined based on stored water supplies and/or marginally depleting groundwater aquifer	10
	Assured long-term delivery irrigation system and/or non-depleting groundwater aquifer	20
	Not Applicable	0



ACEP-ALE Ranking

Only on Rangeland, is there a source of perennial or intermittent streams, lands or ponds within the easement area?	None	0
	Has intermittent rivers and streams, seasonal lakes and other seasonal water bodies	3
	Has perennial rivers and streams, permanent lakes and other permanent waterbodies	5
	Not Applicable	0
Is water usage (Water rights) tied to the land?	YES	15
	NO	0
Does the parcel provide one or more of the sage grouse annual habitat requirement?*	0 Habitat requirements met.	0
	1 Habitat requirement met	12
	2 or more habitat requirements met.	25



ACEP-ALE Ranking

Percent of property that currently contains native grasslands and/or shrublands*	Less than 50%	5
	50 - 74%	15
	75% or greater	20
For Rangeland, is the proposed grassland parcel in an annual precipitation zone of:*	< 8 inches	0
	8 - 12 inches	5
	13 - 16 inches	10
	> 16 inches	15

ACEP-ALE Ranking

What is the proximity of the property to an active sage grouse lek?*	Active leks are greater than 2 miles from the lek.	0
	There is an active lek within 2 miles of the parcel.	10
	There is an active lek within 1 mile of the parcel.	15
	The parcel contains an active lek.	20