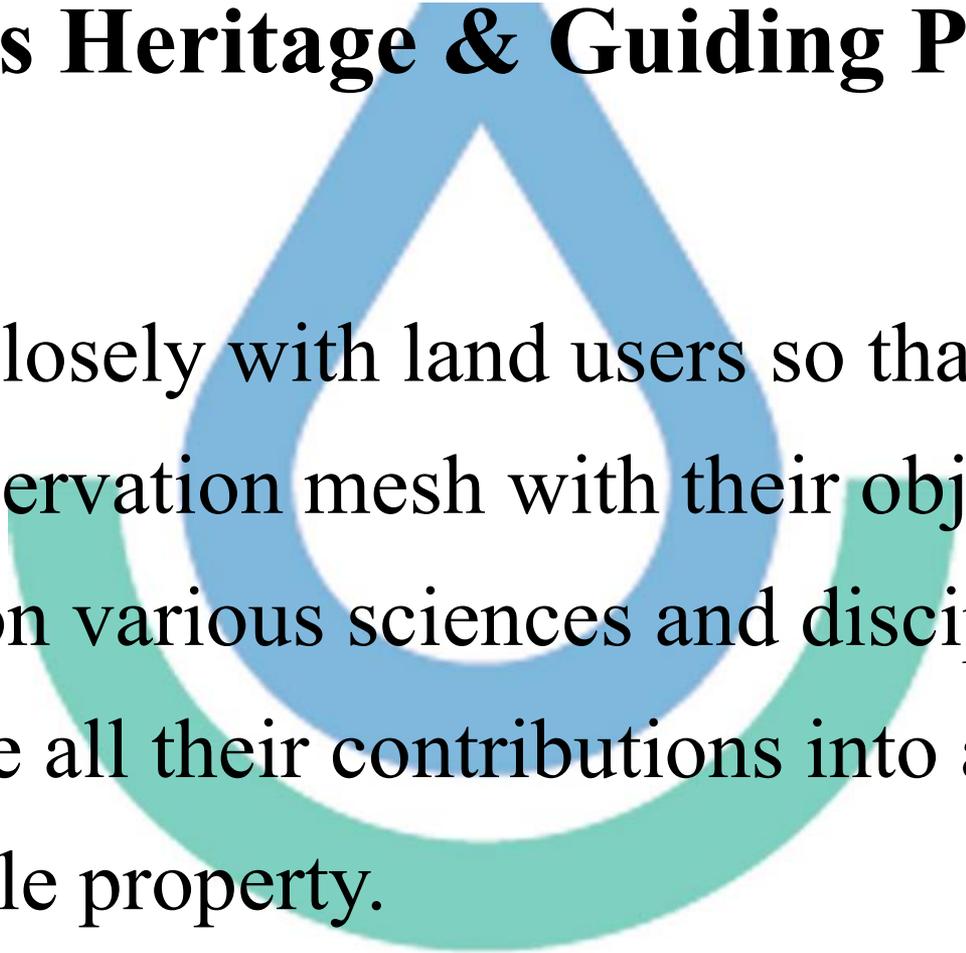




Federal Partnership Opportunities
Natural Resources Conservation Service – USDA

Shea O’Keefe
Biologist
Area 4 Southern California

NRCS's Heritage & Guiding Principles



- Work closely with land users so that the plans for conservation mesh with their objectives.
- Draw on various sciences and disciplines and integrate all their contributions into a plan for the whole property.



All NRCS Programs

- ✓ Voluntary participation
- ✓ Focus on private lands
 - ✓ Non-regulatory
 - ✓ Privacy Act
- ✓ Local partners-conservation districts, Federal, State, tribal, local governments and community groups

Assistance

➤ Technical

- Free technical assistance from NRCS planning, design, and implementation of practices

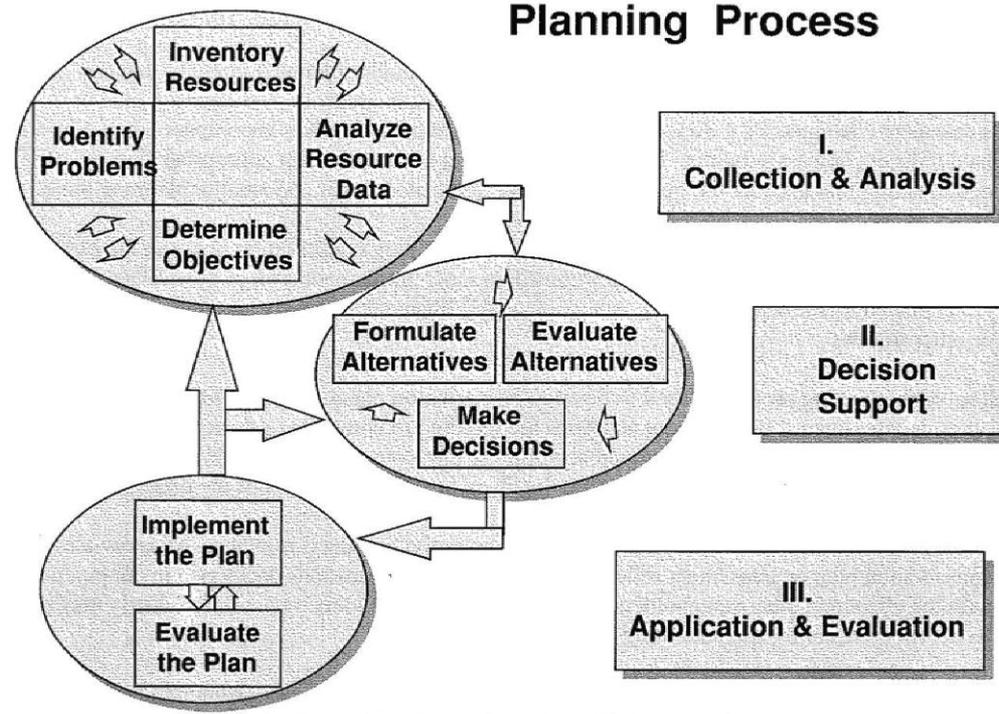
➤ Financial

- NRCS - Farm Bill funding

➤ Permitting

- NEPA (CPA-52) – may trigger Section 7 (USFWS), 404 (ACOE), 401 (RWQCB), 1600 (CaDF&G), +++
 - Individually acquired with agency assistance
- Partners in Restoration - Permit Coordination program

NRCS Planning Process



An illustration of the dynamic nature of the planning process.

2014



- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program**
 - **Declining Species Initiative**
 - **Southwestern Willowflycatcher Initiative**
- **Wetlands Reserve Easements**

515.52 Land Eligibility

A. To be eligible for EQIP, the land being offered for application into the program must meet all of the following criteria:

(1) Be agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest land, or other land on which agricultural products, livestock, or forest-related products are produced.

(i) Agricultural products include but are not limited to the following:

- Grains or row crops
- Tobacco
- Seed crops
- Vegetables or fruits
- Hay, forage, or pasture
- Orchards or vineyards
- Flowers or bulbs
- Ornamentals
- **Plant materials, including**
- **Trees**
- Other agricultural commodities
- Other crops used for silage
- Other crops identified by the State Technical Committee

(ii) Livestock production is defined as farm or ranch operations involving the production, growing, raising, or reproducing of livestock or livestock products, including but not limited to the following:

- Alpacas
- Beef cattle
- Bison
- Dairy cattle
- Fish or other animals raised through aquacultural methods
- Horses
- Llamas
- Ratites
- Poultry
- Sheep or goats
- Swine
- Turkeys
- All other livestock or fowl produced as part of agricultural operations on farms or ranches identified by the State Conservationist, considering the advice of the State Technical Committee.

(iii) Nonindustrial private forest land is rural land that—

- Has existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees.
- Is owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian Tribe, or other private legal entity.

Declining Species Initiative

- Develop upland and wetland wildlife, threatened and endangered species, fish, and other types of wildlife habitat
- Recommend this for upland (non-riparian projects)





Fallbrook Land Conservancy

-Protecting the natural beauty and rural character
of northern San Diego County-



2006.03.14



May 2011

Southwestern willow flycatcher Initiative

- Develop riparian habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher specifically
- Recommend this for riparian projects



Example Project (riparian restoration): Santa Ysabel Creek



- Removal of eucalyptus, arundo and a great deal of trash
- Beneficial to numerous sensitive species, bank stabilization and water quality improvements



Wetland Reserves Easement (WRE)

- Seasonal, semi-permanent, permanent, riparian wetlands and associated uplands
- Perpetual and 30-year Easements
- Not restricted to cost list



Example Project (wetland restoration): Colusa Basin Drain

- Land formerly farmed to rice but continued to be frequently flooded
- Two stage restoration: most recent phase on right side (notice the bare ground)
- Deleveled surface sculpted to create micro-topography for varying water depths
- Water control structure, conservation cover, tree and shrub establishment



Ranking Criteria & Procedures

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE RANKING CRITERIA WORKSHEET - Fiscal Year 2009

This Worksheet is required to be completed for each eligible WHIP Application by May 8, 2009.

Client Name:	Date:	
Address:	Application No.:	
City, State, ZIP:	County:	
Phone No.:	Farm No.:	
Evaluator(s):	Tract No.:	
Service Office:	Acres:	
Screening Priority (From Screening Worksheet)		
High Priority:		
Medium Priority:		
Low Priority:		
Enter the estimated land use type by acres to be restored/enhanced.		
	Restoration	Enhancement
Upland _____ acres to be treated	_____	_____
Wetland _____ acres to be treated	_____	_____
Riparian _____ acres to be treated	_____	_____
Aquatic _____ acres to be treated	_____	_____
Attach a brief explanation of the applicant's objectives and expected outcomes if the program application is approved. Include details regarding the proposed type of restoration or enhancement (e.g. restoration of riparian gallery forest, enhancement of native grasslands, etc).		
Summary of Rating Factor Scores		
	Maximum	Earned
FACTOR 1. FOCAL SPECIES	50	
FACTOR 2. RESTORATION OF RARE AND DECLINING HABITATS	20	
FACTOR 3. RESTORATION OF NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITIES	30	
FACTOR 4. CONNECTIVITY TO BENEFICIAL HABITAT ADJACENT TO PROJECT	15	
FACTOR 5. CONNECTIVITY TO FULLY PROTECTED AREAS	15	
FACTOR 6. PROVIDE CORRIDORS TO BENEFICIAL HABITAT	15	
FACTOR 7. EXTENT TO WHICH PROJECT BENEFITS WILDLIFE	40	
FACTOR 8. CONTRACT LENGTH	25	
FACTOR 9. PROJECT SIZE	15	
FACTOR 10. ADDRESSES PRIORITY IN LANDSCAPE-SCALE PLAN	20	
FACTOR 11. PERMIT ISSUES	20	
FACTOR 12. PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS	30	
	TOTAL	295
Use this worksheet to select appropriate questions and final score from ProTracts Ranking Tool.		
Signature: State or Federal Wildlife Agency Representative	Date:	
Signature: NRCS Technical Team Leader	Date:	
Signature: District Conservationist	Date:	
Landowner Review	Date:	

Eligible Cost Share Practices

California NRCS Regular WHIP Program - Fiscal Year 2009 Approved Practice List - Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

The local regular WHIP program list of conservation practices approved for payment. The approved practice list with approved payments and components is located elsewhere on the NRCS California programs website.

Practices approved for payment in California - WHIP:

Practice Code	Practice Name (Units)
560	Access Road (Ft)
575	Animal Trails and Walkways (Ft)
314	Brush Management (Ac)
322	Channel Bank Vegetation (Ac)
594	Channel Stabilization (Ft)
327	Conservation Cover (Ac)
340	Cover Crop (Ac)
342	Critical Area Planting (Ac)
356	Dike (Ft)
352	Fence (Ft)
398	Field Border (Ft)
393	Filter Strip (Ac)
394	Firebreak (Ft)
353	Fuel Break (Ft)
396	Fish Passage (No)
490	Forest Site Preparation (Ac)
669	Forest Stand Improvement (Ac)
655	Forest Trails and Landings (Ac)
418	Grass Stabilization Structure (No)
412	Grassed Waterway (Ac)
422	Hedgerow Planting (Ft)
441	Irrigation System: Microirrigation (Ac)
442	Irrigation System: Sprinkler (Ac)
469	Lined Waterway or Outlet (Ft)
464	Mulching (Ac)
500	Obstruction Removal (Ac)
533	Pumping Plant (No)
516	Pipeline (Ft)
374	Pond (No)
521C	Pond Sealing or Lining, Bentonite Sealant (SqF)
521D	Pond Sealing or Lining, Compand Clay Sealant (SqF)
550	Range Planting (Ac)
643	Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats (Ac)
391	Riparian Forest Buffer (Ac)
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Ac)
654	Road/Landing Removal
574	Spring Development (No)
571	Stream-Crossing (No)
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (Ac)
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection (Ft)
567	Structure for Water Control (Ac)
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment (Ac)
629	Underground Outlet (Ft)
614	Watering Facility (No)
659	Wetland Enhancement (Ac)
657	Wetland Restoration (Ac)
360	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (Ft)
650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (Ft)

Flat Rates

Materials and Labor

- Limited Resource Farmer
 - Direct or indirect gross farm sales of not more than \$100,000 in each of the previous 2 years AND
 - Total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of 4, OR less than 50% of county median household income in each of the previous 2 years
- Tribal Governments
 - Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994
- Beginning Farmer
 - Has not operated a farm or ranch
 - Or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than consecutive 10 years.
- All Others
- ***Opportunities for agency collaboration and fund leveraging***

Practices for Wildlife

- NRCS recommends conservation practices that solve resource issues while they improve or increase habitat for sensitive species
- Types of practices that benefit wildlife:
 - Streambank Stabilization, Wetland Restoration, Critical Area Planting, Riparian Forest Buffer, Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats, Tree and Shrub Establishment, Hedgerow Planting, and many more...



Summary

- Large, watershed-scale projects
- Leverage funds (understand who can pay for what)
- NRCS's ability to assist private landowners
 - Address resource concerns within agriculture community with a proactive approach (permits, regulations, compliance)

Visit our Web site: WWW.CA.NRCS.USDA.GOV

THANK YOU!!

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