

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Report To
Papio-Missouri River NRD Board
May 10, 2012
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Wetlands are a home to many species of migratory and resident birds, reptiles and amphibians, fish, insects, and plants. They also benefit society by storing floodwaters, filtering pollutants, serving as a carbon sink, and providing recreation sites for boating and fishing, just to name a few. There are three major groups of wetlands: marine, tidal, and non-tidal. Marine wetlands occur in coastal shallows. Tidal wetlands also occur in coastal areas but inland from the ocean. These are often referred to as estuaries and are affected by tides. Non-tidal wetlands occur inland and are not subject to tidal influences. These account for 94% of all the wetlands in the United States. Some examples of non-tidal wetlands are Prairie Potholes, Peat Bogs, Fens, Playas, Mountain Meadows, and Riverine wetlands on floodplains. Sometimes these non-tidal wetlands are called “upland wetlands”, “fresh water wetlands”, or “inland wetlands” to designate them as occurring in areas not influenced directly by coastal waters.

By 1984, over half (54%) of all the wetlands in the U.S. had been drained or filled for development or agriculture. Congress responded to these alarming figures by passing two critical wetland conservation and restoration Federal programs administered by NRCS to slow or reverse these alarming trends. These two programs are the Wetland Conservation Provisions (WC) which was authorized in the 1985 Farm Bill, and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) which was later authorized in the 1990 Farm Bill. Through these two programs, NRCS works with farmers and ranchers to maintain or increase important wetland benefits, while ensuring their ability to continue to produce food and fiber.

Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative (CDSI)

Purpose

NRCS initiated the Conservation Delivery Streamlining Initiative (CDSI) to implement a more effective, efficient, and sustainable business model for delivering conservation assistance across the Nation.

Benefits to the Nation's Farmers, Ranchers, and Taxpayers

Improving how NRCS serves our customers will benefit our land and producers by:

- Reducing the average number of trips that clients will have to make to an NRCS field office
- Enabling NRCS and clients to finalize conservation planning and decision-making while in the field
- Accelerating the timeline between applying for a program and having a signed contract
- Accelerating the time between applying a practice and receiving payment for that practice
- Offering clients 24/7/365 service for many tasks

Through reduced document handling, reduced decision and approval times, improved access to best-available information and technology, and staffing strategies that are aligned with streamlined processes, NRCS and USDA will benefit from a business model that will enable field technical staff to spend as much as 75% of their time in the field with clients, compared to the 20-40% now often reported. For all of us, CDSI will result in science-based conservation that is applied in the most efficient way to improve our nation's air, soil, water, wildlife, and energy use.





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