



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Productive **Lands** Healthy **Environment**



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Strategic Plan 2005-2010



Helping People Help the Land





Productive Lands
Healthy Environment

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Strategic Plan 2005-2010**

VISION

MISSION

MISSION GOALS & OUTCOMES

Productive Lands—Healthy Environment

Helping People Help the Land

High Quality, Productive Soils

Soil Quality.

The quality of intensively used soils is maintained or enhanced to enable sustained production of a safe, healthy, and abundant food supply.

Clean and Abundant Water

Water Quality.

The quality of surface waters and groundwater is improved and maintained to protect human health, support a healthy environment, and encourage a productive landscape.

Water Management.

Water is conserved and protected to ensure an abundant and reliable supply for the Nation.

Healthy Plant and Animal Communities

Grassland, Rangeland, and Forest Ecosystems.

Grassland, rangeland, and forest ecosystems are productive, diverse, and resilient.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat.

Working lands and waters provide habitat for diverse and healthy wildlife, aquatic species, and plant communities.

Wetlands.

Wetlands provide quality habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, protect water quality, and reduce flood damages.

Clean Air

Agriculture makes a positive contribution to local air quality and the Nation's efforts to sequester carbon.

An Adequate Energy Supply

Agricultural activities conserve energy and agricultural lands are a source of environmentally sustainable biofuels and renewable energy.

Working Farm and Ranch Lands

Connected landscapes sustain a viable agriculture and natural resource quality.



OVERARCHING STRATEGIES

Cooperative Conservation.

We will seek and promote cooperative efforts to achieve natural resource goals.

Watershed Approach.

We will provide information and assistance to encourage and enable locally led, watershed-scale conservation efforts.

Market-based Approach.

We will facilitate growth of market-based opportunities that encourage the private sector to invest in conservation on private lands.

Mission Goals are characterized as Foundation Goals and Venture Goals. Foundation Goals address the land uses and resource concerns that have been the primary focus of our activities throughout the Agency's existence and continue to be the foundation of a healthy landscape. Venture Goals address resource issues that are growing in importance as a result of current economic and demographic trends.

Natural Resource Outcomes further define each Mission Goal, clarifying the Agency's focus for that goal.

Measurable objectives are associated with each goal and outcome. These objectives describe how we plan to measure our efforts in the next five years. Objectives consist of a performance measure, a quantified target for an identified date, and a baseline against which progress can be monitored. Targets for some Venture Goal objectives are under development and will be added to the plan when analytical efforts, now underway, provide an adequate basis for documenting Agency performance.

Targets shown in this plan are the aggregate of program-specific, long-range targets projected by program managers on the basis of current program authorities, funding levels, and workload. Appendix 1 shows the annual performance measures and programs that support each of the objectives in this plan.

This Strategic Plan is a multi-year map that displays how we plan to accomplish each Mission Goal. It provides a mechanism to track our progress and make adjustments to our service delivery as we move through a step-by-step process from annual performance measures to Objectives, Outcomes, and Mission Goals.

To achieve these Mission Goals efficiently and effectively, the Strategic Plan outlines three key overarching strategies that will be implemented for all Mission Goals. They are:

- Cooperative Conservation: Seeking and promoting cooperative efforts to achieve conservation goals.
- Watershed Approach: Providing information and assistance to encourage and enable locally led, watershed scale conservation.
- Market-based Approach: Facilitating the growth of market-based opportunities that encourage the private sector to invest in conservation on private lands.

We believe these strategies will better enable us to help the American public be good stewards of the land. Closely linked with one another, each strategy is a catalyst to the others, allowing us to explore new and creative ways to achieve our goals.



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