State Technical Committee
Will be starting around 9:05am
Conservation Grants

- **Conservation Innovation Grants** Caribbean Area - NOFO0001205 – *deadline May 31*

- **National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) Opportunity** Number – USDA-NRCS-PR-EQIP-22- NOFO0001206 – *deadline May 25*

- **Caribbean Partners in Conservation (CPC) - USDA-NRCS-PR-CPC-22-NOFO0001207 – deadline May 31*

- The 2022 Caribbean Area Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and Application Package can be found at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
Infrastructure Funding 2022

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

- Watershed Programs that address new, ongoing, emergent, and relief to all communities to address watershed resource concerns.

USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service is funding projects in rounds.
1. In the first wave of funding (March),
   - 108 projects in 23 states.
2. The second round of funding (April),
   - 132 watershed protection projects in 31 states, including rehabilitating dams, flood prevention, and watershed preservation.

NRCS will continue to review and fund requests as funds are available.

Caribbean Area:
- Isabela Channel Restoration
- St. Thomas Bordeaux Water Quality and Quantity improvement
- Dam Rehabilitation Ajies
- Dam Rehabilitation Daguey
Watershed Operations Program Overview

Types of Projects:
- Flood Prevention
- Watershed Protection
- Public Recreation
- Public Fish and Wildlife
- Municipal and Industrial Water Supply
- Water Quality Management

Requirements:
- Sponsor must meet eligibility requirements
  - Public Sponsorship
- Requests over $25M need to be approved by Congress
- Agricultural benefits at least 20%
- Project area under 250,000 acres
- Structures under 12,500 Acre-ft of flood prevention capacity
Watershed Operations Program Overview

Projects are worked in Phases:
- PIFR
- Planning
- Design
- Construction – 25% cost share by sponsor

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/landscape
Maria Status

Streambank Stabilization

• Design 100% completed – pending permits and reviews
  • Caribe Conservation District as Sponsor; Villalba

Dams

• Contract award for design of repairs and assessment
  • Dagüey in Añasco – 1982
  • Ajíes in Añasco – 1985

✓ Field data collection Completed
✓ 60% Design
✓ Dam Assessment
✓ Ajíes Dam 95% Design
Isaias related projects

Clearing and Snagging

- Identified/approved 14 sites
  - 14 completed
    - Yauco
    - Cabo Rojo
    - Guánica
    - San Germán
    - Cabo Rojo
    - Cabo Rojo
    - San Germán
    - Añasco
New Approved Events

Rains PR February 2022

- Municipalities Requesting Support – 164 cases
  1. Aguas Buenas
  2. Caguas
  3. Patillas
  4. Río Grande
  5. Yabucoa
  6. Cataño
  7. San Lorenzo
  8. San Juan
  9. Maunabo
  10. Trujillo Alto
  11. Vega Alta
  12. Toa Alta
  13. Toa Baja
  14. Naranjito

- 12 Municipalities visited – complete visits next week
- DSRs by June 7
  - Might need extension
Clean-up of 8 existing channels
STATUS

• Design completed
• Contractor selected
• Permits
  ✓ SHPO
  ✓ FWS
  ✓ Poda de arboles DNER
  • DNER – Clearing
  • OGPe
  • EPA
• Expected to kick off this summer
State Technical Committee; Programs Update

Wednesday, May 25, 2022
2022 FAP Implementation Schedule

**EQIP:**
- Sign Up 1: 10/29/2021, Obligation 5/27/2022
- Sign Up 2: 4/29/2022, Obligation 8/29/2022

**EQIP CIC:**
- Sign up 1: 3/11/2022, Obligation 6/4/2022

**CSP Renewals:**
- Sign Up: 4/7/2021, Obligation 12/30/21

**CSP Classic:**
- Sign up: 12/31/2021, Obligation 8/26/2022

**ACEP (ALE/WRE):**
- Sign up 4/29/2022
## 2022 Program Update

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
<th>Approved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EQIP</td>
<td>$10,063,000.00</td>
<td>$4,989,879.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSP</td>
<td>$610,000.00</td>
<td>$150,588.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRE</td>
<td>$385,000.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Territory</th>
<th>Applications</th>
<th>Contracts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EQIP</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>623</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQIP</td>
<td>USVI</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSP</td>
<td>PR</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSP</td>
<td>USVI</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) helps landowners, land trusts, and other entities protect, restore, and enhance wetlands, grasslands, and working farms and ranches through conservation easements.

- For **Agricultural Land Easements**, NRCS provides financial assistance to **partners** (American Indian tribes, state and local governments, and non-governmental organizations) to purchase Agricultural Land Easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of land.

- For **Wetland Reserve Easements**, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance **directly to private landowners and American Indian tribes** to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands through the purchase of a wetland reserve easement.
Agricultura Conservation Easement Program
Role of the State Technical Committee (STC)

(1) Developing and updating State **ranking criteria** and procedures.

(2) Identifying **priority resource concerns** or land treatment areas to focus program implementation at the State level.

(3) Other **technical issues**, which may include but are not limited to operation and maintenance criteria, easement management, and long-term monitoring procedures.

(4) **ACEP-ALE**
   
   A. Recommending **highest-priority areas** and projects that will yield the **highest conservation benefits**.
   
   B. Help identify highly sensitive natural resources appropriate for consideration under the “Grassland of Special Environmental Significance” enrollment option.
(5) ACEP-WRE

(i) Recommending **highest-priority areas** and projects that will yield the **highest conservation benefits**.

(ii) Recommending a list of eligible practices for ACEP-WRE.

(iii) Reviewing proposed geographic area rate caps for use in determining ACEP-WRE easement compensation values.

(iv) Assisting in the development and review of the State-specific Wetland Restoration Criteria & Guidelines (WRCG) document.

(v) Identifying areas of consideration for reservation of grazing rights option of ACEP-WRE, if applicable.

(vi) Establishing guidelines for authorization of compatible uses on ACEP-WRE easements.
Caribbean Area Soil and Climate Analysis Network Stations

- Monitors soil moisture at several depths, air temperature, relative humidity, solar radiation, wind speed and direction, liquid precipitation, and barometric pressure.

- Updated 8 Stations in PR (Mayaguez, Isabela, Cabo Rojo, Guanica, Adjuntas, Juana Diaz, Maricao and Corozal).

- Updated St. Croix and removed St. John.

- Evaluated sites in St. Thomas to relocate St. John.

9 stations in the Caribbean Area
State Technical Committee – Ecological Sciences Division Update

Mario Rodriguez, State Resource Conservationist
May 18, 2022
Description Ecological Sciences Division

Lead the technology in ecological, cultural resource, and environmental compliance to ensure science-based conservation for Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the Caribbean.
Compliance

- Section 7 – Threatened and Endangered Species; and
- Section 106 – Cultural Resources Consultations
- 121 cases for consultation in the first 2 quarters of FY 2022

Taino Fish Drawing
137 documents have been revised in the eFOTG

- Practice Standards
- Statement of Work
- Practice Specifications
- Practice Overviews
- Implementation Requirements

Caribbean Area
Partnership committed to “helping people help the land”
Trainings / Professional Development


- **Planning course Part 1** - scheduled for FY 2023 (October 2022)

- Technical Service Providers Training - TBD
Agreements

• **UPR AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTAL STATION**
  - Farm Management of Agricultural Manures and Organic Residues throughout compost or fermentation.

• **PR Agricultural Extension Service**
  - Emergency Plan - Development of an emergency plan for farmers in the Caribbean Area

• **Envirosurvey, Inc**
  - Agroforestry practices Assessment and Tree Production
  - Native Shrubs in PR and USVI Guide (pollinators)
  - Forest, Wildlife and Pollinator Conservation Activity Plans
Agreements

• **PROTECTORES DE CUENCAS**
  - NWQI Rio La Plata – Watershed Plan Development
  - NWQI Rio Añasco – Watershed Plan Development
  - CPC Southeast PR – Assessments Development

• **HORSLEY WITTEN GROUP**
  - NWQI St. Thomas – Watershed Plan Development
QUESTIONS
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, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, 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 responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. 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, 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.
El Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos, USDA por sus siglas en Inglés, prohíbe el discrimen en todos sus programas y actividades por razones de raza, color, origen nacional, edad, incapacidad, y donde aplique, por razones de sexo, estado civil, estado familiar, estado parental, religión, orientación sexual, información genética, creencias políticas, represalias, o debido a que parte o la totalidad del ingreso individual se derive de cualquier programa público de asistencia. (No todas las razones prohibidas aplican a todos los programas). Personas con impedimentos las cuales requieran métodos alternos para la comunicación de programas (Braille, impresos con letras de mayor tamaño, audio cintas, etc.) deberán contactar el Centro Target del USDA al (202) 720-2600 (voz y TDD)

Para radicar una querella por discrimen escriba al USDA, Director Oficina de Derechos Civiles, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 o llame libre de cargos al (800) 795-3272 (voz) o al (202) 720-6382 (TDD)