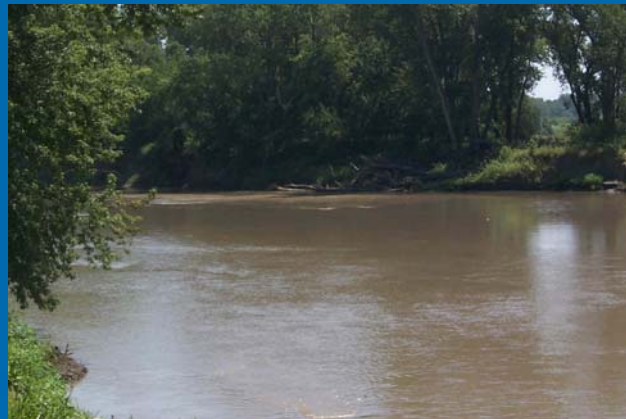


Understanding the Conservation Effects Assessment Project ARS, CSREES, and NRCS



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Why Do CEAP?

- Office of Mgt. and Budget
 - Requests for outcome-based reporting
 - Are the nation's national resources improving
- 2002 Farm Bill
 - Significant increase in conservation funding
 - Call for better accountability
- Assessment to guide design and implementation of conservation programs



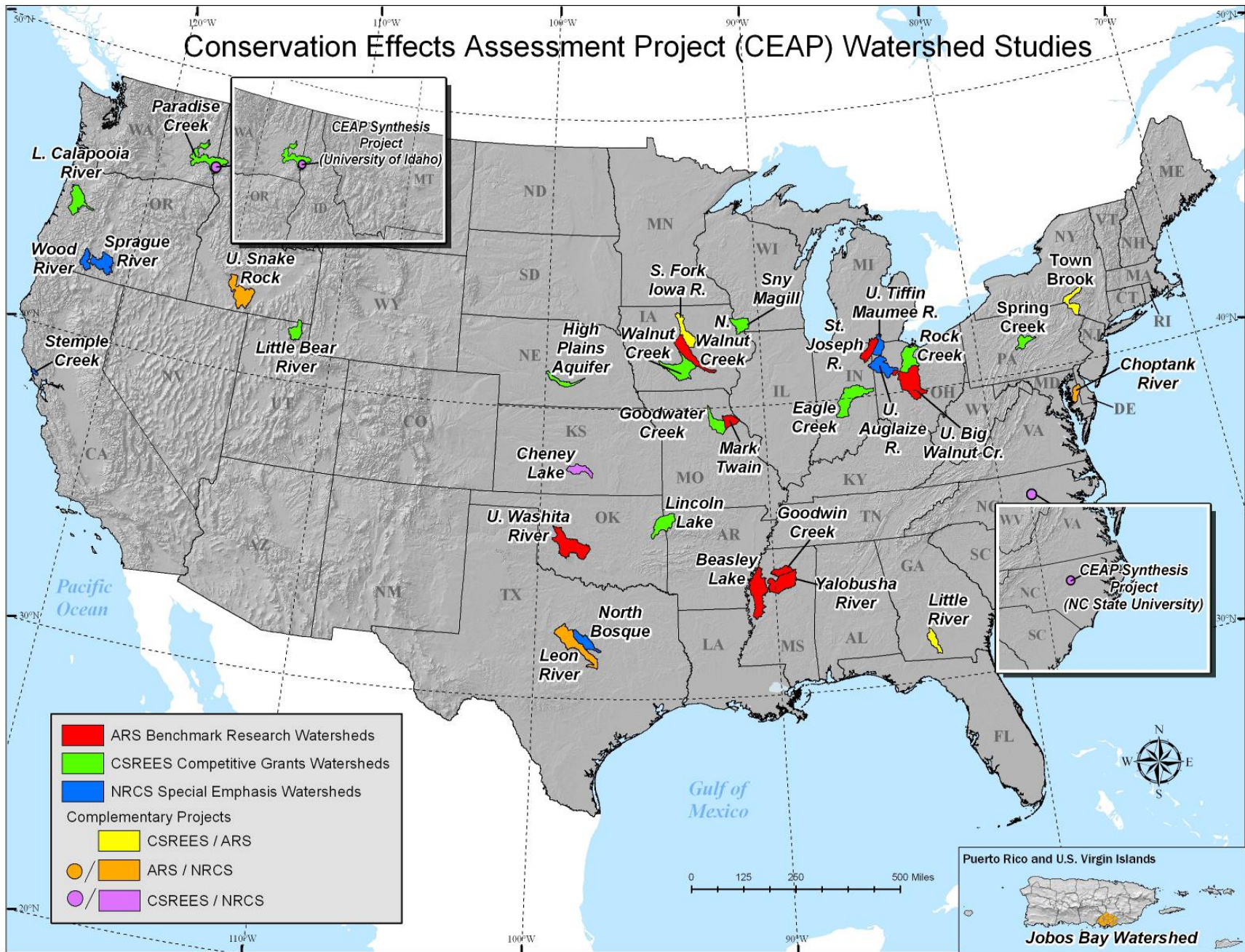
Goals of CEAP

- Better understand of the effects of conservation practices at the watershed scale
- Estimate conservation effects and benefits at regional and national scales

Three Agencies Have CEAP Projects

- ARS – 14 Benchmark Watersheds
 - Long-term research across a variety of hydrologic and agronomic settings to improve models for the national assessment and to develop policy planning tools.
- CSREES – 13 Competitive Grant Watersheds
 - Evaluate interactions among practices and hydrology in the landscape and factors affecting farmer adoption of practices.
- NRCS – 10 Special Emphasis Watersheds
 - Focus on livestock, poultry, irrigation and drainage management.

Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) Watershed Studies

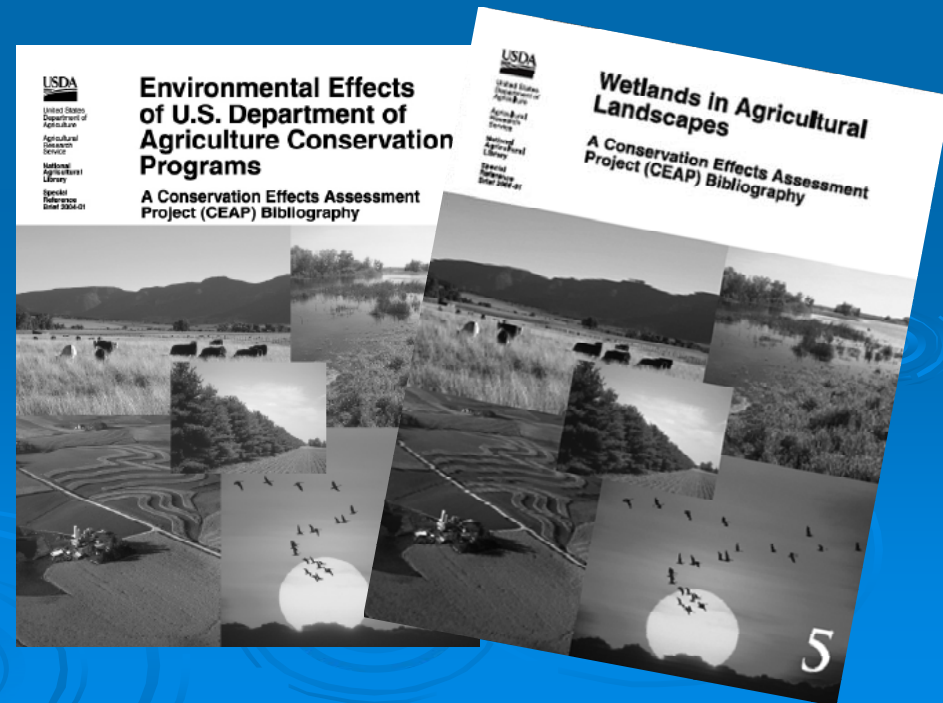


Components of CEAP

- Bibliographies and Literature Reviews
- National / Regional Assessments
 - Wetlands
 - Wildlife
 - Cropland
 - Grazing Lands
- Watershed Assessment Studies

CEAP Bibliographies

- Six completed addressing croplands, wetlands, grazing lands, working on wildlife



Literature Reviews

- Wildlife - 2007
- Cropland - 2007
- Wetlands - 2008
- Grazing Lands - 2009

Summarize existing state of knowledge of effects of conservation practices on soil and water quality, water quantity, and wildlife resources and to identify gaps in science.

Wildlife Assessment

- Birds and other wildlife
- Fish and other aquatic resources



Grazing Lands Assessment

- Completed bibliography
- Conducting literature review
- Will address rangelands, pasturelands, and grazed forestlands



Cropland Assessment

- Estimate the benefits of conservation practices currently present
- Estimate the benefits that could be realized under full treatment
- Simulate alternative options for implementing conservation programs on cropland

Data Sources and Models

- National Resources Inventory (NRI)
- Over 20,000 farmer surveys conducted by NASS in 2003-2006
- Use of models - field scale and watershed scale - to estimate the benefits of conservation

CEAP Watershed Studies

- Field-level effects
- Off-site effects
 - The result of multiple conservation activities within a watershed or landscape
- Human dimensions
 - Adoption, maintenance
 - Economics



Grazing Lands Watersheds

- FY 2008 CEAP Grazing Lands Watersheds
- Fund five to seven watershed scale projects in major grazing area
- Focus on NRCS grazing conservation practices (e.g., prescribed burning, grazing management, invasive species management)
 - Follow the template from the previous 13 watersheds:
 - Include social and economic analyses
 - Research and outreach focus

CEAP Synthesis

Synthesis Goal is to build a knowledge base that can be used to:

- Evaluate the impacts of conservation practices and programs on water resources across broad geographic regions,
- Improve management of agricultural landscapes, and
- Inform policy decisions

Two Synthesis Projects

➤ NC State University

- Develop a synoptic framework for coherently summarizing results from the 13 watersheds

➤ University of Idaho

- Develop a modeling framework to spatially distribute results from the 13 CEAP watersheds to greater geographic regions

Expected Synthesis Outputs

- Pilot study of watershed synthesis (first four watersheds)
- Summary of lessons learned
- Synthesize findings from 13 watersheds including barriers to successful implementation of watershed conservation
- Develop educational materials to inform decision-makers including targeted outreach with key stakeholders including NRCS leaders (local, state, and national)

