



Minnesota

HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND

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Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTAP)

Overview

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's principal agency for providing conservation technical assistance to private landowners, conservation districts, tribes, and other organizations.

NRCS delivers this assistance through its voluntary Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTAP). CTAP is available to any group or individual interested in conserving our natural resources and sustaining agricultural production.

What is CTAP?

Conservation technical assistance is the help NRCS, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and its partners provide to land users to address opportunities, concerns, and problems related to the use of natural resources and to help land users plan and make sound natural resource management decisions on private, tribal, and other non-federal lands.

This assistance can help land users:

- Implement better land management technologies.
- Improve soil quality and reduce soil erosion.
- Protect and improve water quality and quantity.
- Maintain and improve wildlife and fish habitat.
- Enhance recreational opportunities on their land.
- Maintain and improve the aesthetic character of private land.
- Explore opportunities to diversify agricultural operations.
- Comply with 1985 Food Security Act Provisions (Highly Erodible Lands, Wetland Compliance).
- Develop and apply sustainable agricultural systems.

Conservation planning assistance provided with CTAP allows landowners to identify and better understand how natural resource problems, such as soil erosion or water quality degradation, occur. The conservation planning process is designed to help landowners make and implement sound environmental decisions by building understanding of:

- natural resource problems and opportunities on their land, and
- the effects of their land management decisions.

This assistance may be in the form of resource assessment, planning for conservation, practice design, resource monitoring, or follow-up of installed practices.

Although CTAP does not include financial assistance, clients may develop conservation plans, which may serve as a springboard for those interested in participating in USDA financial and easement assistance programs. CTAP planning can also serve as a door to other financial assistance and easement conservation programs provided by other Federal, State, and local agencies.

Who benefits from CTAP?

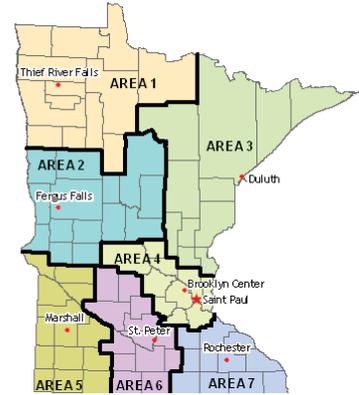
NRCS, SWCD and its partners use the CTAP program to provide technical assistance to:

- Agricultural producers
- Local units of government
- Citizen groups
- Recreational groups
- Tribal governments
- Professional consultants
- State and Federal agencies
- Others interested in conserving natural resources.

The working relationships that landowners and communities have with their local NRCS and SWCD staff are unique. One-on-one help through flexible, voluntary programs occurs every day in local NRCS and SWCD offices across Minnesota. It is the way NRCS does business, and it works. To obtain conservation technical assistance, contact your local NRCS office.

Regional Wetland Assistance

Area Offices	Producer Requested Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification
(Area 1) Thief River Falls	829
(Area 2) Fergus Falls	1,240
(Area 3) Duluth	131
(Area 4) Brooklyn Center	1,038
(Area 5) Marshall	3,768
(Area 6) St. Peter	2,721
(Area 7) Rochester	3,567
Total	13,294



ALL USDA PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO COMPLY WITH WETLAND AND HIGHLY ERODIBLE LANDS PROVISIONS. CTAP ASSISTANCE IS USED BY NRCS TO ASSIST THESE PARTICIPANTS IN MEETING THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS. THE CHART ABOVE SHOWS THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS THAT WERE ASSISTED IN EACH NRCS AREA IN FY09.

Conservation Assistance To Tribal Nations in Minnesota

NRCS provides technical assistance to the eleven Federally recognized Tribal Nations of Minnesota.

Through financial assistance programs and Tribal/NRCS Technical Assistance Agreements, the NRCS works in partnership with the Tribes to help conserve and sustain natural resources on Tribal lands.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the NRCS has helped clarify the roles and responsibilities of the agencies and their government-to-government responsibilities to the Tribes. This

has assisted NRCS in providing effective technical assistance services to Tribes.

The eleven Federally recognized Tribal Nations include:

Fond du Lac Reservation; Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council; Bois Forte Reservation; Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; Lower Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota; Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe; Prairie Island Indian Community; Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians; Shakopee-Mdewakanton Sioux Community; Upper Sioux Indian Community of Minnesota and the White Earth Reservation.

Did you know?

- *Four of every five acres of land in Minnesota is privately owned. As the care of private land goes, so goes the ability to produce agricultural goods, to have clean waters and wildlife all citizens can enjoy, and to enrich the economic well being and quality of life for all Minnesotans.*
- *Minnesota consistently ranks in the top 10 states in conservation accomplishments and has led the Nation in wetland restoration and water quality initiatives.*
- *Minnesota's farmers have cut wind erosion by 40 percent over the past 25 years.*
- *Ensuring a continued quality of life from both the water and soil resources Minnesotans have been entrusted with will be a continuing challenge, but one well worth taking on!*