

# Conservation Security Program

United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service



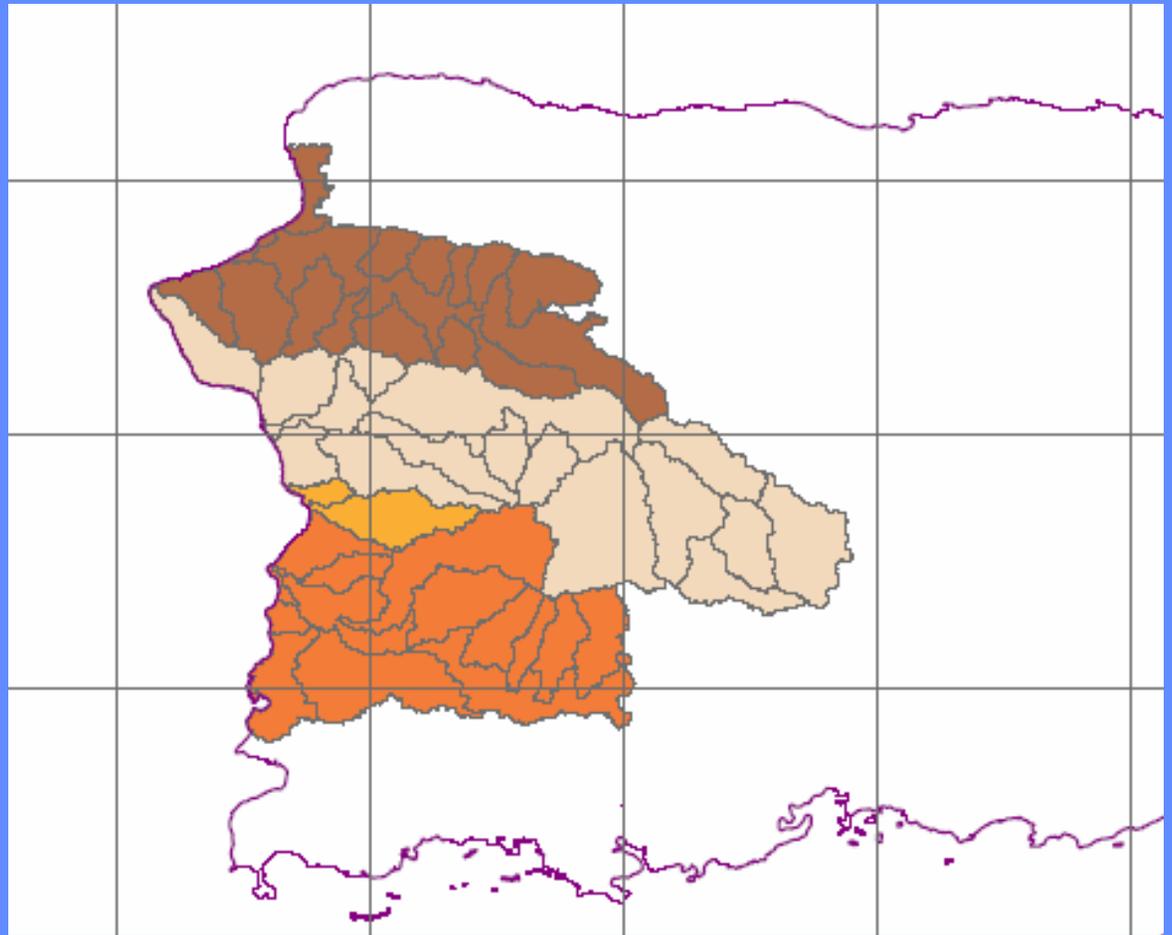
# Premise

*“Reward the best;  
Motivate the rest.”*

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# Cuenca Oeste



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# Municipios Cuenca Oeste



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# *Information included in this presentation*

- Program Purpose
- Delivery Mechanism
- 2008 Sign-up



# Purpose

- Reward producers meeting highest conservation standards
- Provide long-term conservation benefits for society



# Delivery Mechanism

## Who can participate?

- Those in a Priority Watershed
- Those with eligible land
- Those meeting applicant eligibility
- Those meeting treatment requirements for soil and water quality
- Those willing to do additional resource enhancement

# Watershed Approach



- A rotating eligibility system that will give all producers an opportunity to participate
- Watersheds are nature's boundaries and group producers with similar resource issues

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# Land Eligibility

- Majority of operation within priority watershed
- Privately owned agricultural lands

# Land Eligibility



- Eligible land uses include
  - Cropland, orchards, pasture



- Lands that are not eligible include
  - Conservation Reserve Program, Wetlands Reserve Program, or Grasslands Reserve Program



# Applicant Eligibility

## Producer must:

- Control the land for life of contract
- Share risks and be entitled to share profits/crops/livestock
- Comply with Highly Erodible Land/Wetland compliance provisions
- Meet Adjusted Gross Income requirements

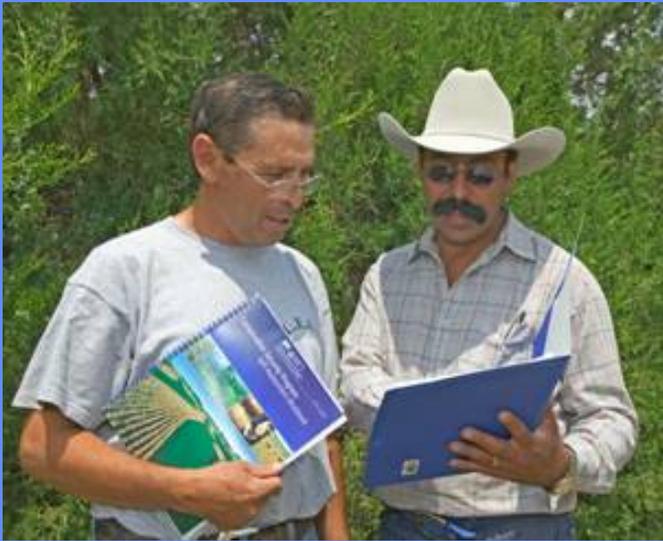
# CSP: A Three-Tiered Program

- I. Protect soil and water quality on part of agricultural operation
- II. Protect soil and water quality on all of agricultural operation  
*(Plus: Agree to address one other resource concern, selected by State (Wildlife in the CB))*
- III. Protect all natural resources on all of agricultural operation

# Sample Practices for Achieving Soil and Water Quality

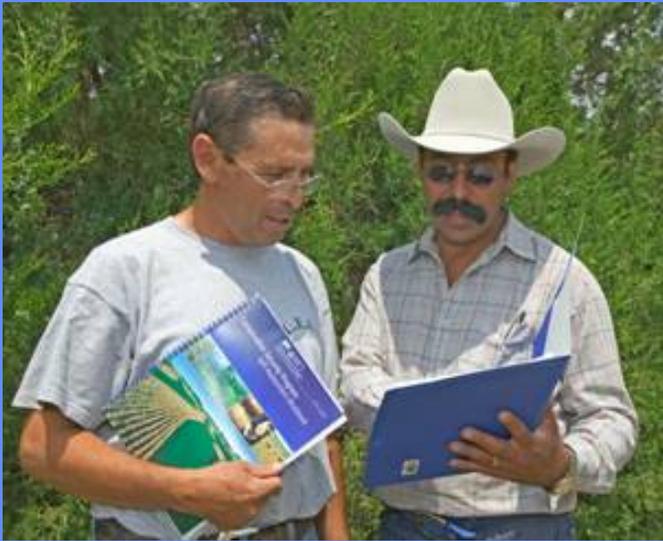
- Conservation tillage
- Erosion control (e.g.,  
Hillside Ditches)
- Nutrient management
- Grazing management
- Pesticide application and  
management
- Use of buffers

# Application Process



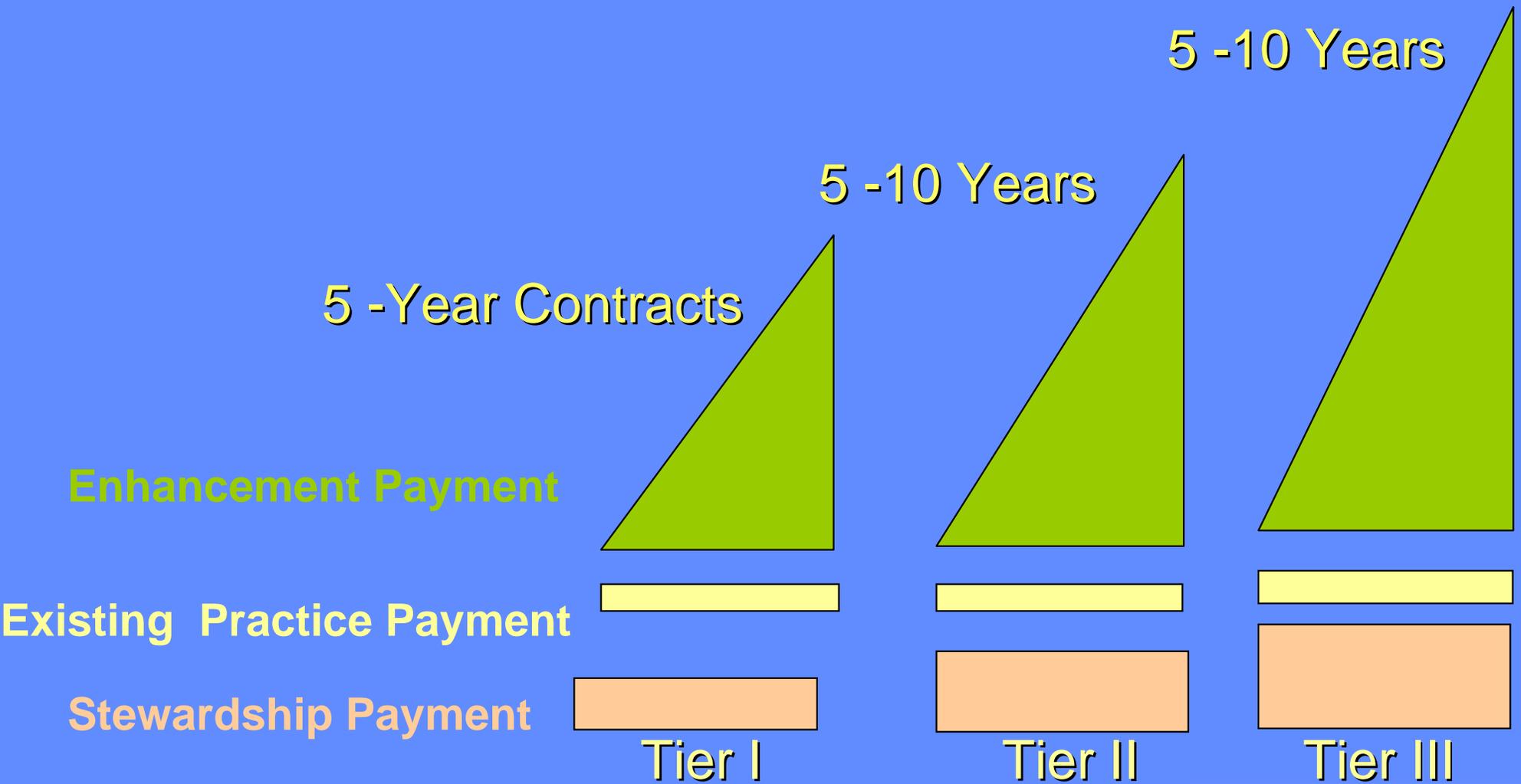
- Applicant completes the self-assessment workbook
- If the workbook indicates CSP requirements may be met, schedule an interview
- During the interview, NRCS reviews documentation of conservation practices and system

# Application Process



- NRCS determines eligibility
- Applicant selects tier and category placement for which they qualify and submits application
- After sign-up, NRCS approves contracts based on category placement and available funding

# CSP Payment Components

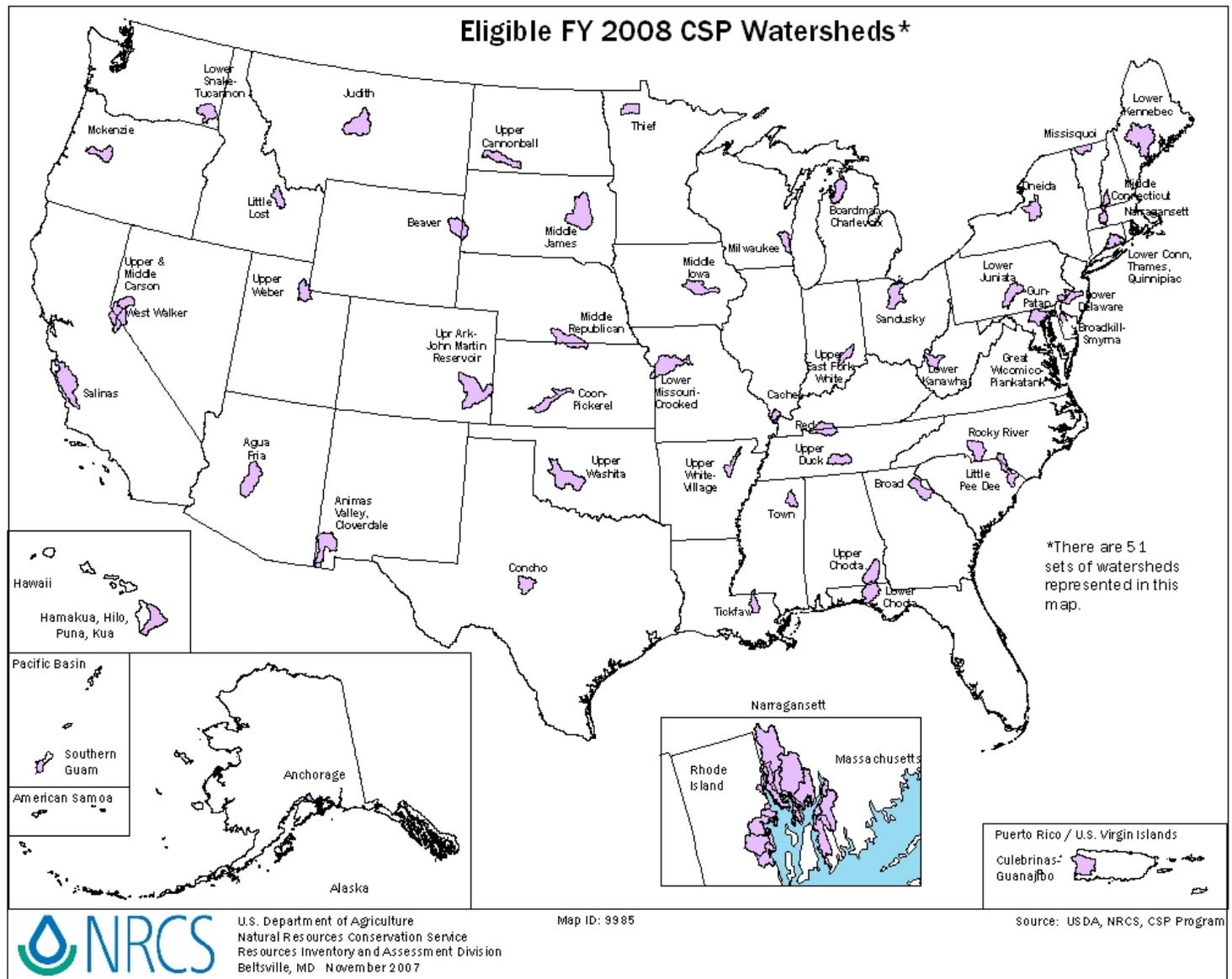


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# Payment Components

- An annual stewardship component for the benchmark (current level of) conservation treatment
- An annual existing practice component for maintaining existing conservation practices
- An enhancement component for exceptional conservation effort



# CSP 2008 Sign-up

A consistent method of determining eligibility

- CB eligibility tools, including:
  - RUSLE 2
  - WIN PST
  - CB Pastures Score Index Tool
  - CB Wildlife Habitat Eligibility Tool
  - Irrigation Water Management Assessment Tool

# CSP 2008 Sign-up

- No contract improvement modification opportunity
- Category placement priority to Tier II and Tier III applications requesting 5 year contracts.

# Summary

- Reward the Best...
- Relies on producer self-assessment
- Don't wait...process application early in the sign-up

# Questions

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