

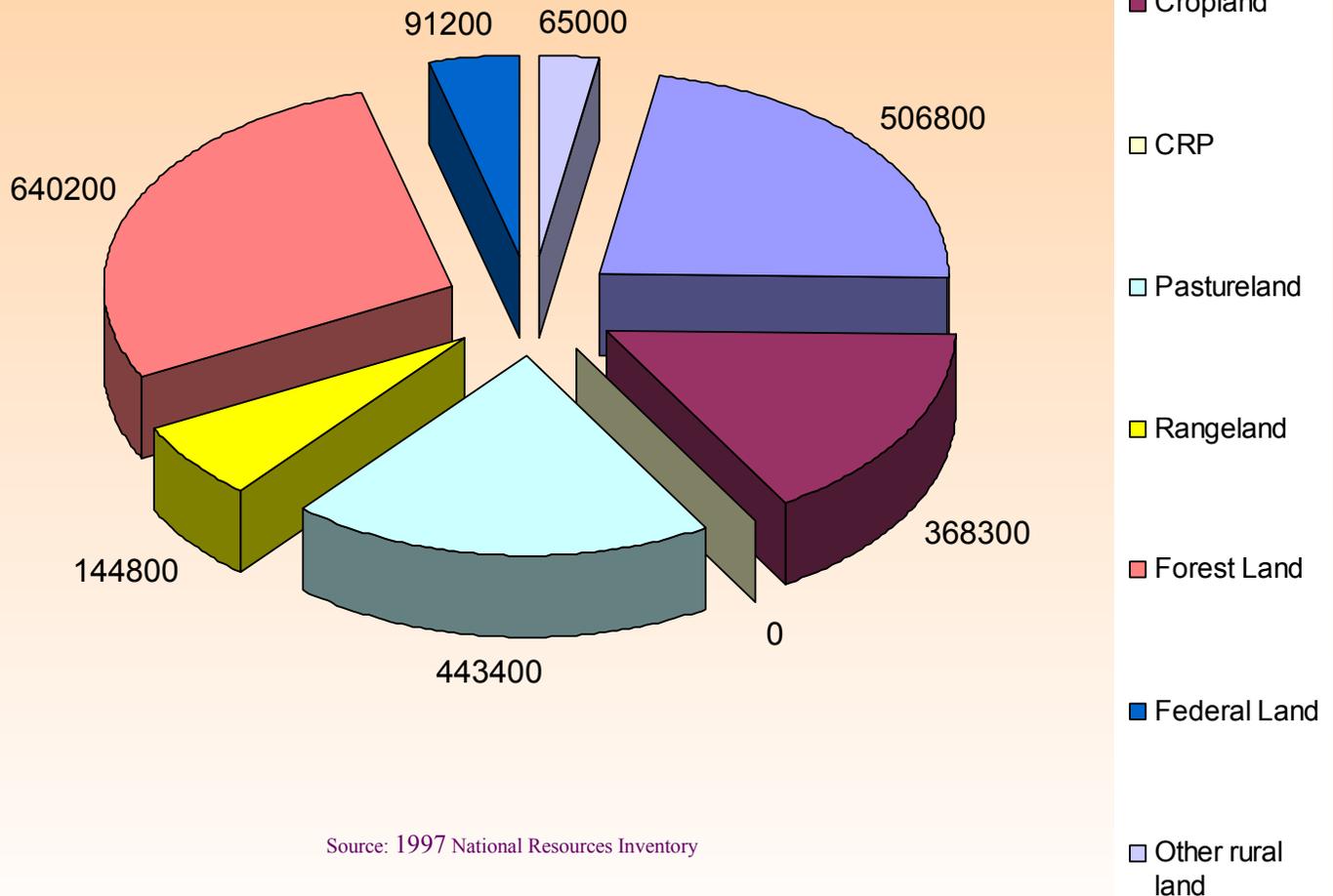


# Land Use in the Caribbean Area

**The total land and water surface area of the Caribbean Area is 2,307,100 acres. Federal lands and non-federal lands total about 91,200 acres and 2,168,500 acres, respectively.**

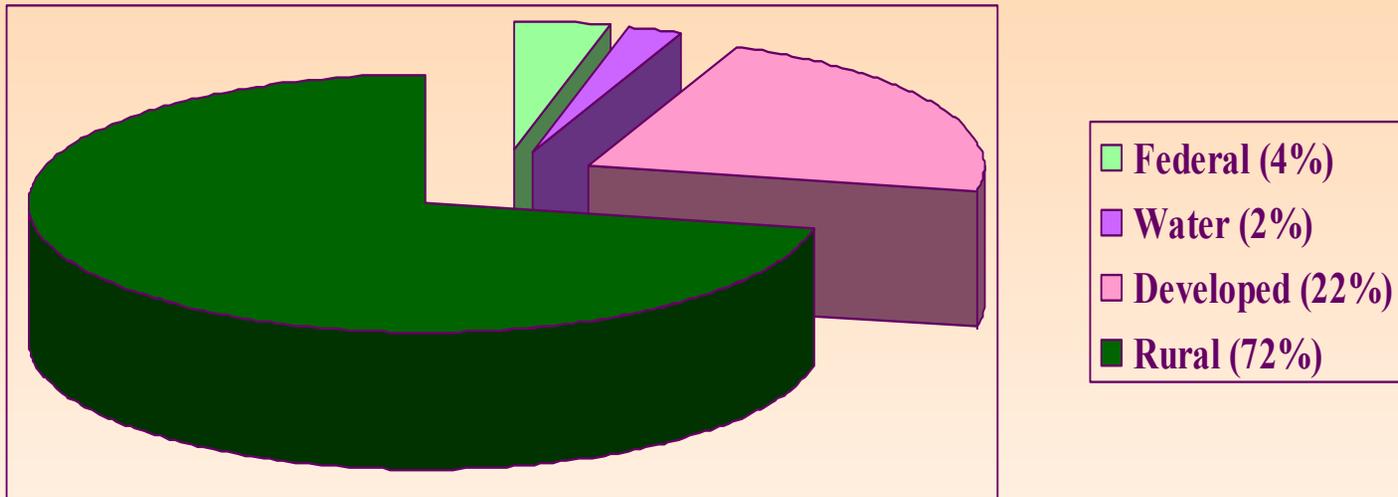
**According to the 1997 NRI, since 1982, federal land in the Caribbean Area decreased by 4,800 acres, non-federal rural lands decreased by 229,000 acres, and developed lands increased to 233,100 acres. Crop declined from 407,800 acres to 368,300 acres, for a loss of 39,500 acres. Pastureland and Rangeland also declined with losses of 314,300 acres and 6,000 acres, respectively.**

# Caribbean Area Land Use in 1997



Source: 1997 National Resources Inventory

# 1997 Caribbean Area Land Ownership



Source: 1997 National Resources Inventory

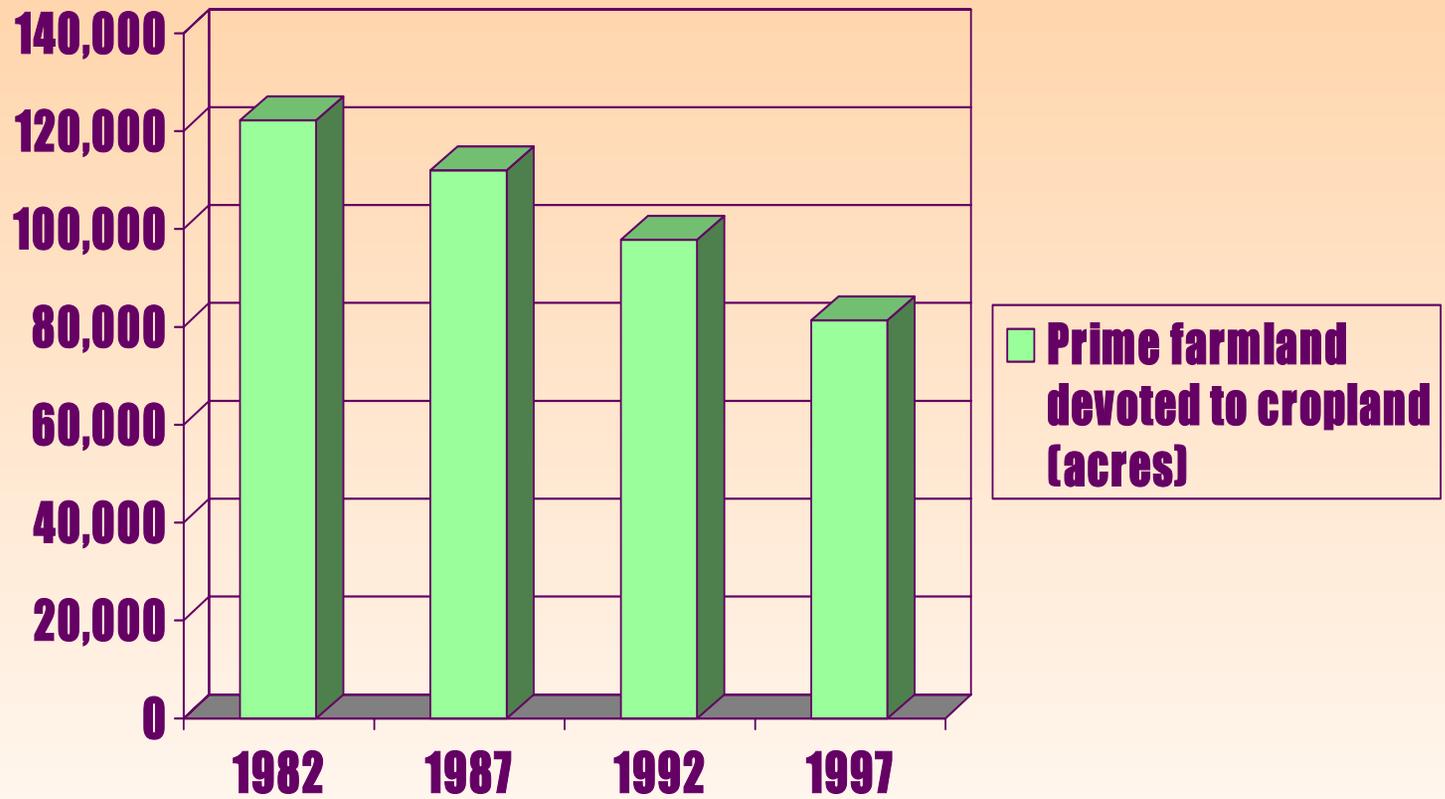
# Prime farmland

**Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops, and is available for these uses.**

**By 1997, total rural land in the Caribbean Area equaled 1,661,700 acres, of which 191,700 acres were classified as prime farmland (11.54%). Prime farmland devoted to cropland decreased by approximately 41,000 acres over the 15 year period from 1982 to 1997.**



# Decline of Prime farmland



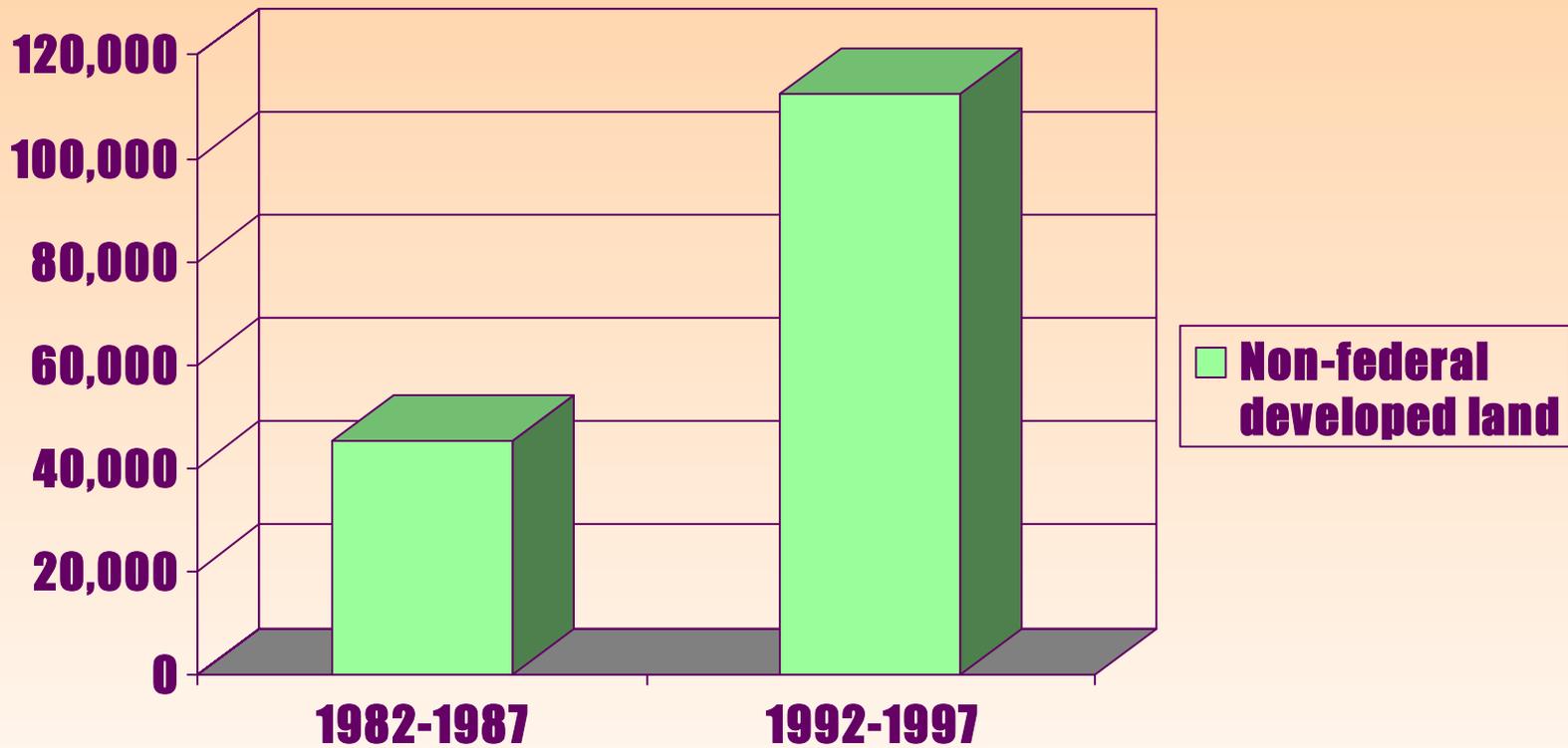
Source: 1997 National Resources Inventory

# Land Converted to Development

**Acres of developed lands in the Caribbean Area increased by 11 percent from 1982 to 1997, a net increased of 233,100 acres. Developed land conversion is directly related to net loss of cropland and pastureland.**

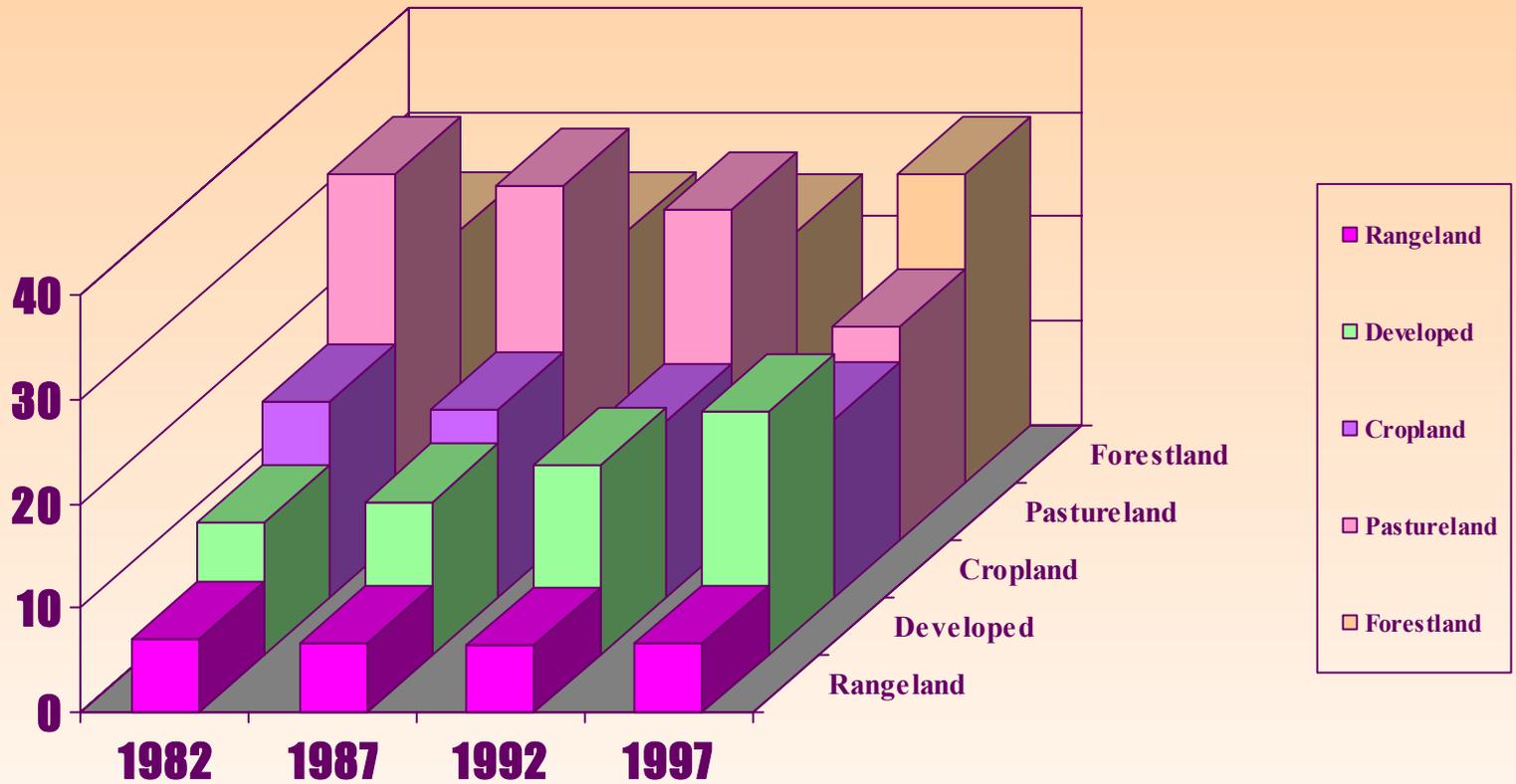


# Land Converted to Development



Source: 1997 National Resources Inventory

# Percent of total rural land by land use



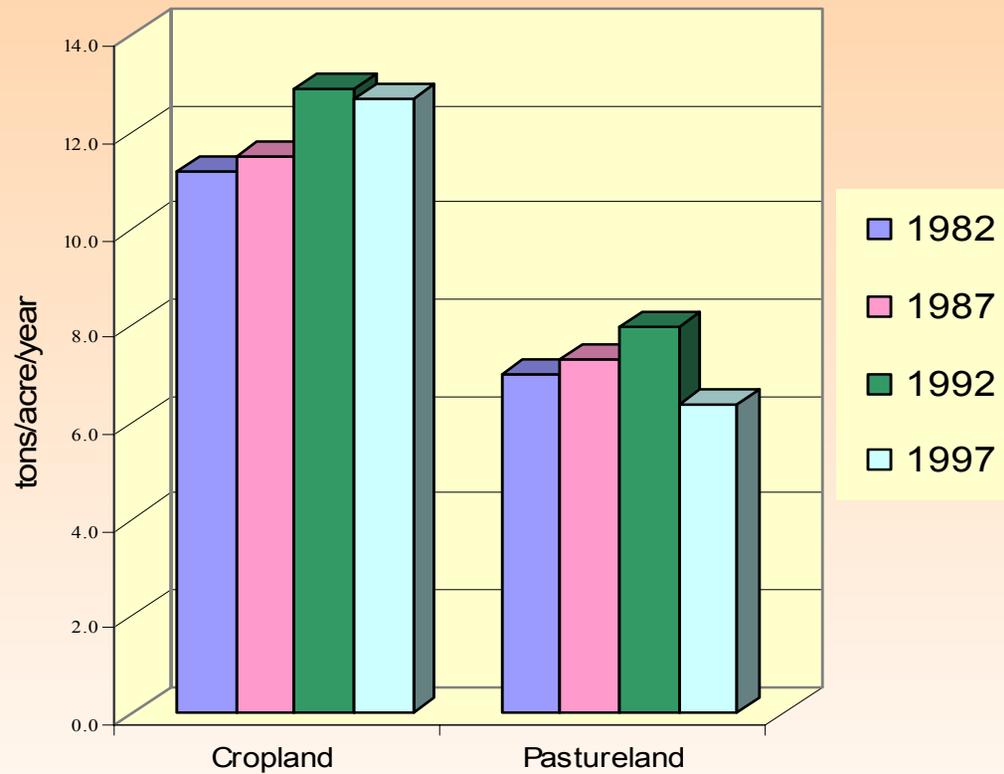
Source: 1997 National Resources Inventory



# Soil Erosion

**In 1997, the Caribbean Area had approximately 368,300 acres of cropland. The estimated average annual sheet and rill erosion for cropland was 12.7 tons/acre/year. This represents an increase of 1.5 tons/acre/year compared to 1982, but a reduction of 0.2 tons/acre/year compared to 1992.**

# Erosion Rates by Land Use



Source: 1997 National Resources Inventory