# Endangered Species Act: USDA Opportunities

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# Opportunities for USDA in the FIFRA ESA Process

- Provide/Share agronomic data
- Provide/Share agricultural models (APEX, SWAT, RUSLE<sub>2</sub>)
- Conservation Planning IPM c/c (RPM & RPA)
- Proactively view farms with Conservation Plans





# **Goals of USDA - NRCS**

- Provide Conservation
  Planning to private and tribal landowners
- Once Resource Concerns are identified, prescribe a system of Conservation Practices
- In some cases Farm Bill programs are available to partially fund Conservation Practices



# **Goals of NRCS Planning Process**

- Address all Resource Concerns on the Farm
  - Integrated Pest Management
    - Site specific Risk Management (soil type x AI)=Risk
    - Site specific Mitigation
    - Alternatives
  - Nutrient Management
    - Rate
    - Timing
    - Form
  - Residue Management

# **Goals of NRCS Planning Process**

- Address all Resource Concerns on the Farm
  - Conservation Tillage
  - Structural Engineering Practices
    - Manure Storage Structures
      - Lagoons
      - Dry Stack
      - Bio-Digesters
    - Ponds
    - Fencing
    - Other

## Landowner Relationships

### **Agronomic Data**

- National Agricultural Statistics Service information (NASS)
- Soil Survey Data
- Climate Data
- Win PST Risk Data
- Erosion Data
- Land Management and Operations Data



# **Agricultural Models**

- Agricultural Policy Extender (APEX)
- Soil Water Assessment Tool
- RUSLE2
- Irrigation Tools
- ARS Research Level Models



#### **Conservation Plan Contents**

- RMS Planning is Proactive and comprehensive
  - Pest Prevention
  - Avoidance
  - Monitoring
  - Suppression
- Used with multiple Conservation Practices



# **Conservation Plan Contents**

- Plans and Specifications
  - Plan Map and Soils Map
  - Environmental Risk Interpretations
  - Appropriate Mitigation Techniques
  - Prevention and Avoidance Techniques
  - Scouting Plan and Thresholds



#### **Conservation Plan Contents**

#### Recordkeeping

- Monitoring or Scouting Results
- When and Where Suppression was Implemented
- When and Where Special IPM Techniques were Implemented to Mitigate Site-specific Risks



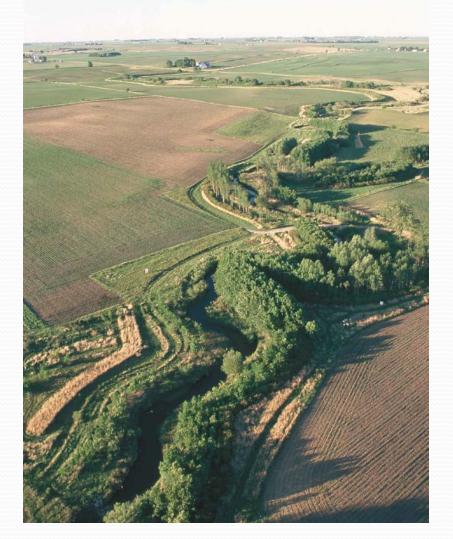
# **Conservation System Approach**

- Crop Rotation
- Cover Crop
- Residue Mgt
- IPM PAMS approach to pest management
- Nutrient Mgt
- Irrigation Water Mgt.
- Filter Strip



## **Environmental Compliance**

- USDA complies with all Environmental Laws and Regulations
  - ESA, NEPA, SHPA, all others
- Complete NEPA on all Farm Bill Programs
- ESA Consultation for all Conservation Practices



# Proactively View Farms with Conservation Plans

- Farms with NRCS Plans including IPM
  - Do they meet RPM & RPA?
  - Could they proactively have a "Safe Harbor" agreement?



# **Opportunities with UDSA**

- Agronomic data
- Agricultural models
- Conservation Planning –IPM c/c (RPM & RPA)
- Proactively view farms with Conservation Plans
- Farm Bill opportunities that may help fund RPM,RPA, coordinated planning



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