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, RUSLE₂)
- 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



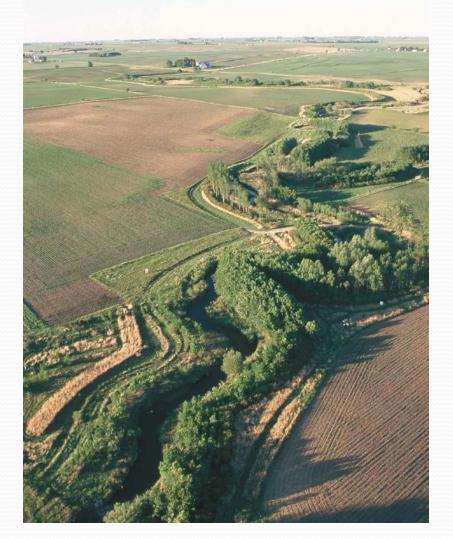
Conservation System Approach

- 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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