

# 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
- RUSLE<sub>2</sub>
- 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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