



NRCS Resources for Fire Recovery



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER AND LENDER.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service

- ▶ Founded 1935 as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) During the Dust Bowl of the 1930's, we were called the Soil Conservation Service. Our mission was to help farmers take better care of their land.
- ▶ Conservation pioneer Hugh Hammond Bennett founded and headed the new agency.
- ▶ Agency worked cooperatively with the nation's farmers and ranchers providing technical assistance to conserve the country's soil and water.
- ▶ NRCS's mission has expanded to include conservation of all our shared natural resources and environmental concerns using technical and financial assistance.



What does NRCS do?

- ▶ NRCS is a voluntary agency.
 - ▶ NRCS offers free, science-based advice to farmers, ranchers, and private forestland owners.
 - ▶ NRCS is non-regulatory.
 - ▶ NRCS helps create conservation plans for your individual operation which can then be eligible for financial assistance to implement.
- ▶ NRCS has a number of professional scientific advisors within the agency including:
 - ▶ Soil Conservationist,
 - ▶ Rangeland Specialist,
 - ▶ Agriculture Engineer, civil engineers
 - ▶ Wildlife biologists
 - ▶ Forest specialist
 - ▶ Wetland specialists,
 - ▶ Soil scientists,
 - ▶ Agronomists,
 - ▶ Air quality specialists,
 - ▶ Archeologists
 - ▶ Geologists and more!

NRCS Assistance

NRCS works with private farmers, ranchers and non-industrial forest landowners across the country to help conserve natural resources.

Technical assistance –

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA):

- ▶ Offers expertise, technical planning, documentation, engineering, etc.
- ▶ Does not offer funding to clients

Financial assistance –

- ▶ Offer financial assistance to applicant in control of land (by deed, lease, or agreement)
- ▶ Financial assistance is contractual
- ▶ Financial assistance is only available for agricultural and forest lands



Financial Assistance from NRCS

- ▶ NRCS has many different financial assistance programs available, but our most common program is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).
- ▶ EQIP contracts include conservation practices to address resource concerns
 - ▶ Reimbursement payments installed conservation practices are complete
 - ▶ No invoicing necessary
 - ▶ Practices must meet NRCS standards and specifications



EQIP - Catastrophic Fire Recovery

- ▶ Ranking pool is to provide immediate resource protection in areas burned by catastrophic fires in the past three years
- ▶ Priority resource concerns for forest and grazing lands include:
 - ▶ immediate soil erosion protection,
 - ▶ minimize noxious and invasive plant proliferation,
 - ▶ protect water quality,
 - ▶ reduce fire hazard due to excess dead vegetation build-up,
 - ▶ and restore livestock infrastructure necessary for grazing management.
- ▶ <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ca/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=stelprdb1247015>

Typical Conservation Practices for Fire Recovery

- ▶ Forest Stand Improvement
- ▶ Woody Residue Treatment
- ▶ Tree/shrub Establishment
- ▶ Range Planting
- ▶ Livestock infrastructure (Fence and watering facilities)
- ▶ Invasive weed control/Brush Management
- ▶ Mulching
- ▶ Critical Area Planting
- ▶ Access Road
- ▶ Stream Crossing



Program Eligibility

- ▶ Applicant must be an Agriculture producer or private non-industrial forest land owner
- ▶ Applicant must have control of the land (deed/lease)
- ▶ Comply with adjusted gross income limitation (AGI) provisions (\$900,000 ALL income for last 3 tax years) Socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers, Indian tribes and veterans are eligible for an increased payment rate
- ▶ Historically Underserved clients are eligible for higher payment rate and advanced payments.

What to do after a fire?

- ▶ Deal with drainage issues
- ▶ Do not disturb the soil and slopes during rainy season
- ▶ Do nothing - Wait and Observe
- ▶ Remove hazard trees – consult forester or arborist

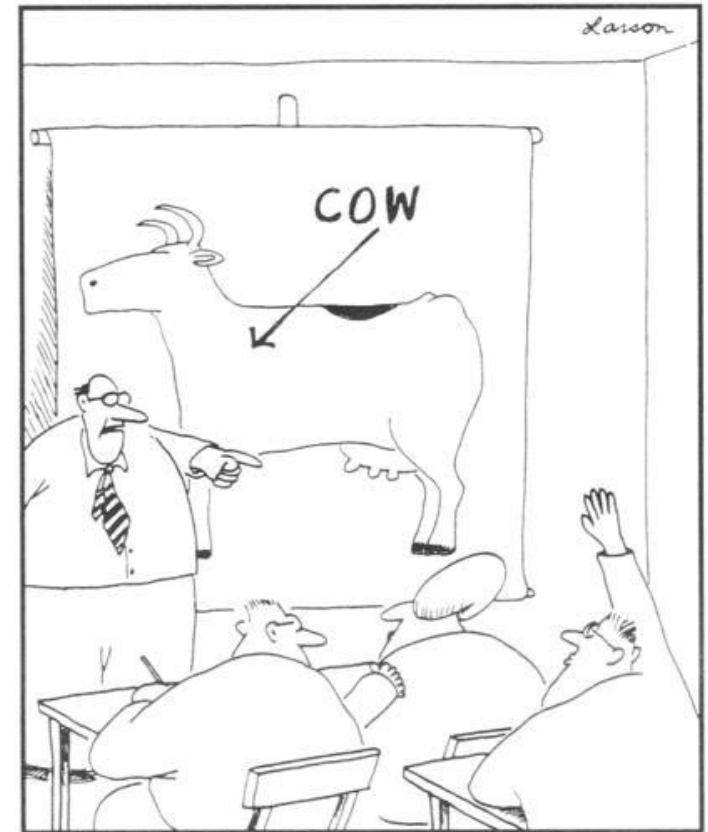


Questions? Thank You!

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www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov

www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/equip/



"Yes ... I believe there's a question
there in the back."