



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



# Working with NRCS on Your Land

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
United States Department of Agriculture





## **Who We Are: Natural Resources Conservation Service**

- **We are a federal government agency under the United States Department of Agriculture**
- **Our motto is “Helping People Help the Land”**
- **We work with farmers, ranchers, forest managers and other agricultural producers to conserve natural resources: soil, water, air, plants, animals and energy**
- **We work exclusively on private lands including Tribal land**





# **Our History: The Dust Bowl**

- **Founded in 1935 in response to the Dust Bowl**
- **Originally called the “Soil Conservation Service”**
- **Congress changed name to NRCS in 1994**
- **Hugh Hammond Bennett was our first leader, known as the ‘father of soil conservation’**
- **We have a rich history of 85+ years working with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the nation**





# Your Land, Your Goals, Your Choice

- **NRCS assistance is entirely voluntary. We are not a regulatory agency.**
- **We work with you to help you achieve your goals for your property while conserving, protecting and enhancing your natural resources.**
- **There is no minimum or maximum land cap to work with NRCS. We work on all private lands large & small.**
- **NRCS protects your private information.**





## Technical Assistance

- We provide on-site consultations with private landowners
- Technical expertise – our staff includes soil conservationists, foresters, rangeland specialists, biologists, soil scientists, engineers, agronomists





# Conservation Plan

- **A written record of resource concerns and conservation practices you plan to implement and maintain on your property**
- **Combines your farming/production skills and your personal land management objectives with science-based knowledge and tools of a certified conservation planner**
- **There is no charge for NRCS assistance**



# Resource Concerns

We can help you identify resource concerns on your property and recommend conservation practices to improve them.



## Soil

Soil erosion, soil quality degradation, or soil health >



## Water

Excess water, insufficient water, or water quality issues >



## Plants

Reduced health or quality of plants >



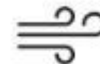
## Animals

Inability to meet livestock or wildlife habitat needs >



## Energy

Reduced energy efficiency for equipment of field operations >



## Air

Air quality issues such as greenhouse gases or odors >



Check out the [Conservation Concerns Tool | Farmers.gov](https://www.farmers.gov/conservation-concerns-tool)



# **Examples of Common NRCS Conservation Practices in Alaska**





# Trails & Walkways

Hooper Bay, Alaska.

A constructed path to facilitate the movement of animals, people or off-road vehicles. Reduces soil erosion caused by ATV use for subsistence hunting/gathering and protects ecologically-sensitive nesting bird habitat.





# Fuel Break

**Sterling, Alaska.**

**A gap in vegetation that acts as a barrier to slow the spread of wildfire and allow access for firefighters to extinguish flames. Reduces wildfire risk and improves forest health.**



# Forest Stand Improvement

Kake, Alaska.

Improves forest health, wildlife habitat and reduces wildfire risk. Involves manipulating tree composition and structure by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation. Promotes healthy timber growth.



# Woody Residue Treatment

Afognak, Alaska.

Treating residual woody material that is created due to forest management activities like forest stand improvement or natural disturbances. Reduces wildfire risk and reduces risk of harmful insects and disease.



# Tree/Shrub Establishment

Afognak, Alaska.

Planting seedlings or cuttings; seeding; or creating conditions that promote natural regeneration.



# Irrigation System

Willow, Alaska.

Designing and installing irrigation tanks, pipelines and emitters and supporting infrastructure to promote water use efficiency in agriculture and address insufficient water quantity.



# Irrigation Water Management

Homer, Alaska.

Timing and regulating irrigation water applications in a way that will satisfy the water needs of the crop without wasting water, soil and plant nutrients. Involves monitoring and adjusting for optimal management.



# High Tunnel System

Palmer, Alaska.

An enclosed structure used to cover and protect crops from sun, wind, excessive rainfall, or cold to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe and controlled manner.





# Conservation Crop Rotation

Seldovia, Alaska.

Growing different crops on the same piece of land year after year in a planned, recurring sequence. Promotes healthy soils, reduces erosion, reduces plant pest pressures and can provide wildlife habitat including pollinator forage and nesting habitat.



# Nutrient Management

Juneau, Alaska.

Managing the amount, source, placement and timing of plant nutrients and soil amendments (such as fertilizers) to conserve nutrients, minimize inputs, protect air quality, and maintain soil condition.



# Cover Crop

**Delta Junction, Alaska.**

**Growing a crop of grass, small grain or legumes primarily for the primary purpose of seasonal protection and soil improvement. Cover crops improve soil organic matter, reduce erosion, improve water infiltration and can reduce pest pressure.**



# Obstruction Removal

Tonsina, Alaska.

Disposal of unwanted, unsightly, or hazardous buildings, structures, vegetation, landscape features, trash and other material. This is a supporting practice used in conjunction with other practices.



# Aquatic Organism Passage

Hoonah, Alaska.

Modification or removal of barriers that restrict or impede movement of fish and other aquatic species, including replacing the object with a culvert, bridge or crossing. Improves access to habitat for fish and other species.





# Financial Assistance Programs

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program**
- **Conservation Stewardship Program**
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program**
- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program**
- **Emergency Watershed Protection Program**





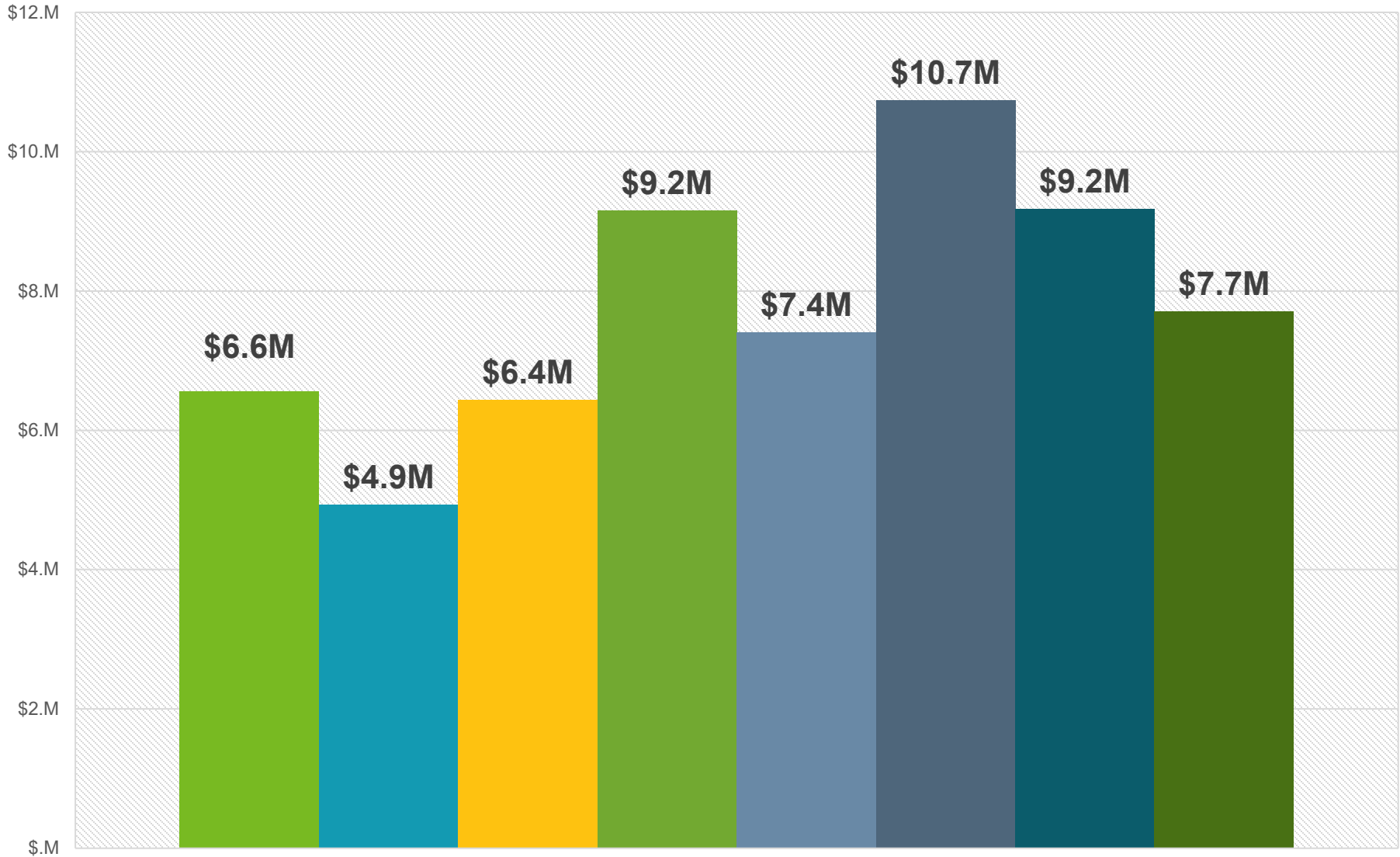
# EQIP

Environmental Quality  
Incentives Program

- **Our most popular financial assistance program to address resource concerns**
- **Historically underserved producers qualify for higher cost share rate up to 90% and advance payments**
- **Typically involves a 3-year contract but can be more**
- **Can include your whole operation or specific fields/areas where there is a resource concern**



# EQIP DOLLARS in ALASKA 2014-2021

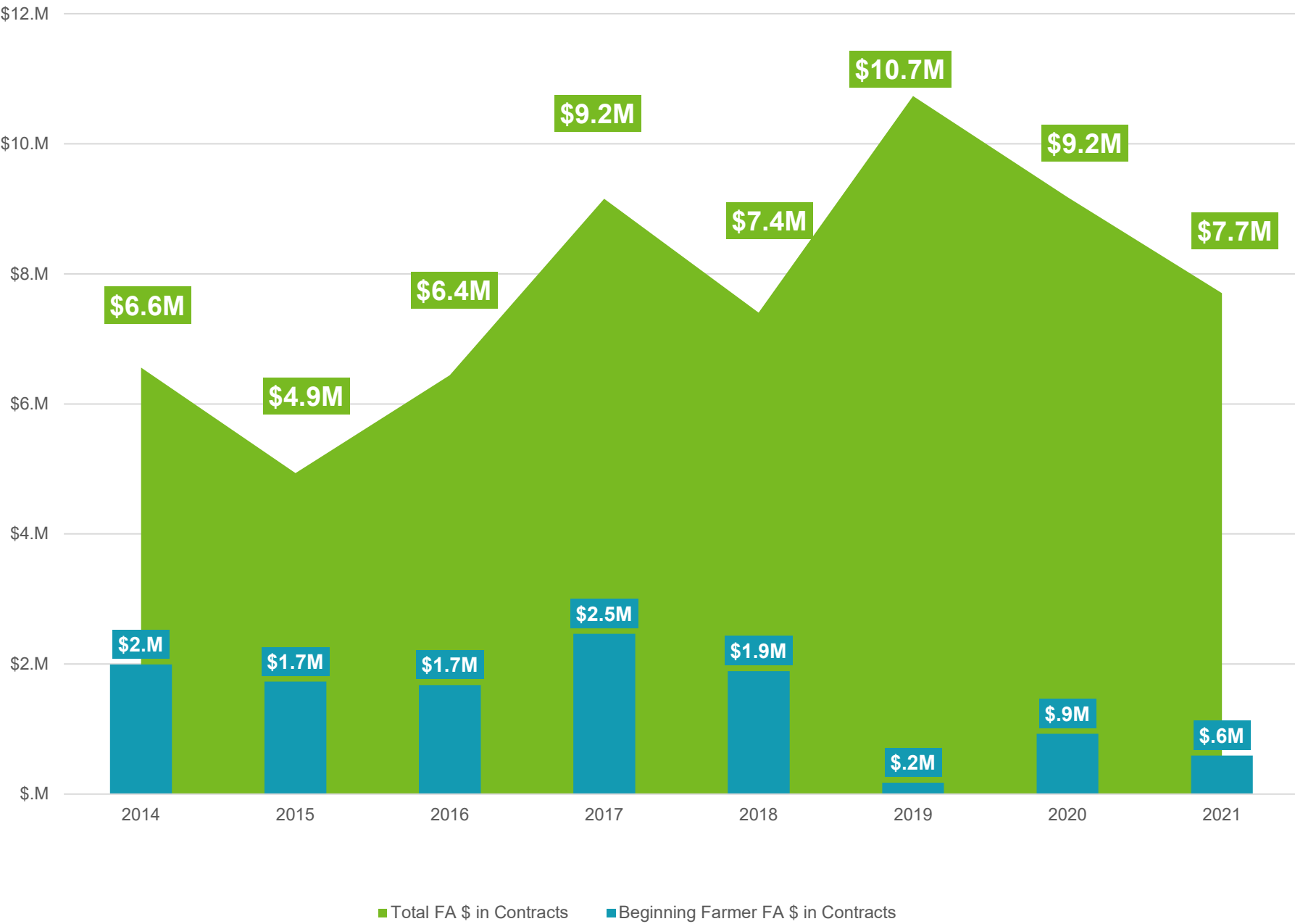


■ 2014 ■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021



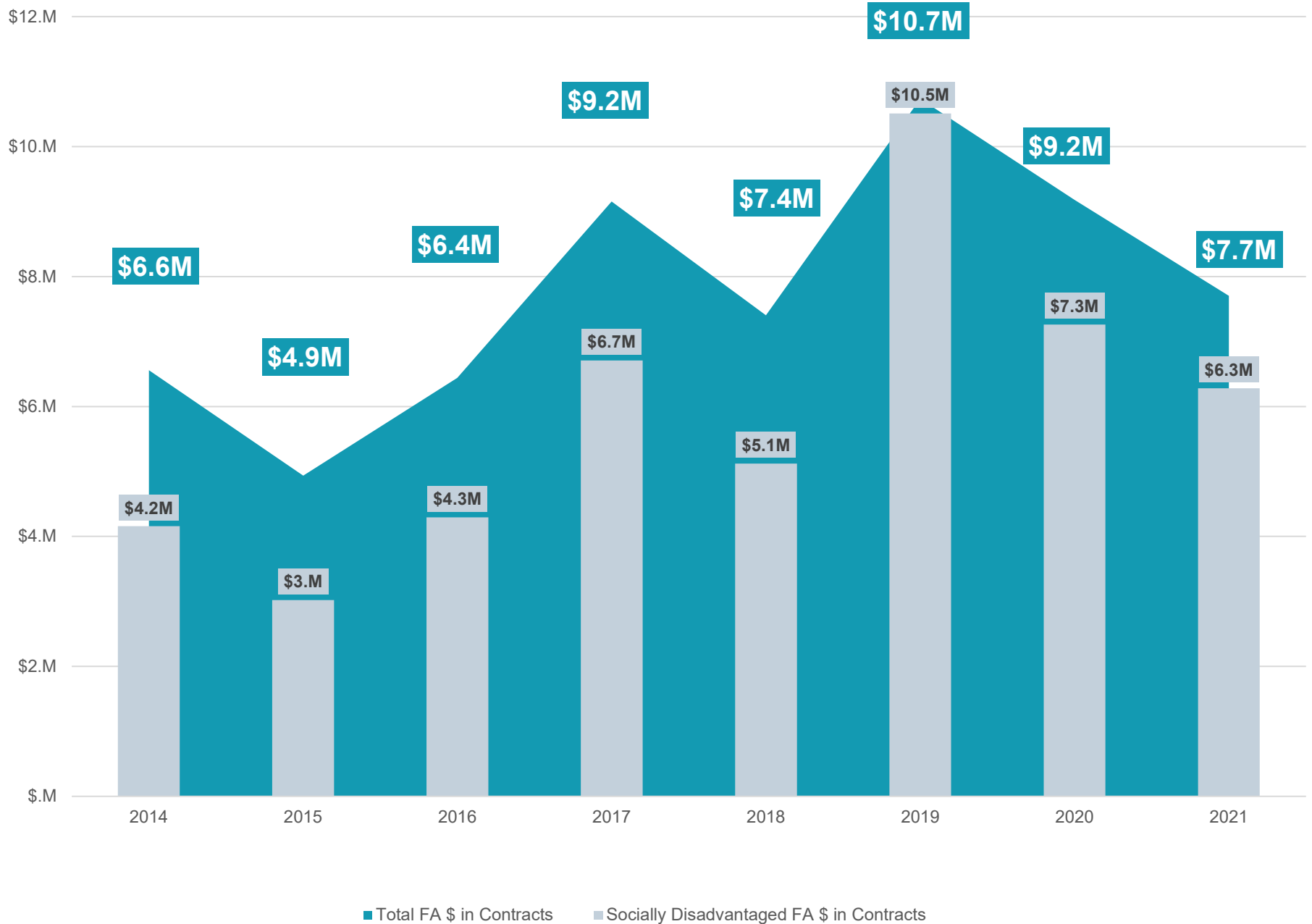


# EQIP DOLLARS in ALASKA 2014-2021 - BFR



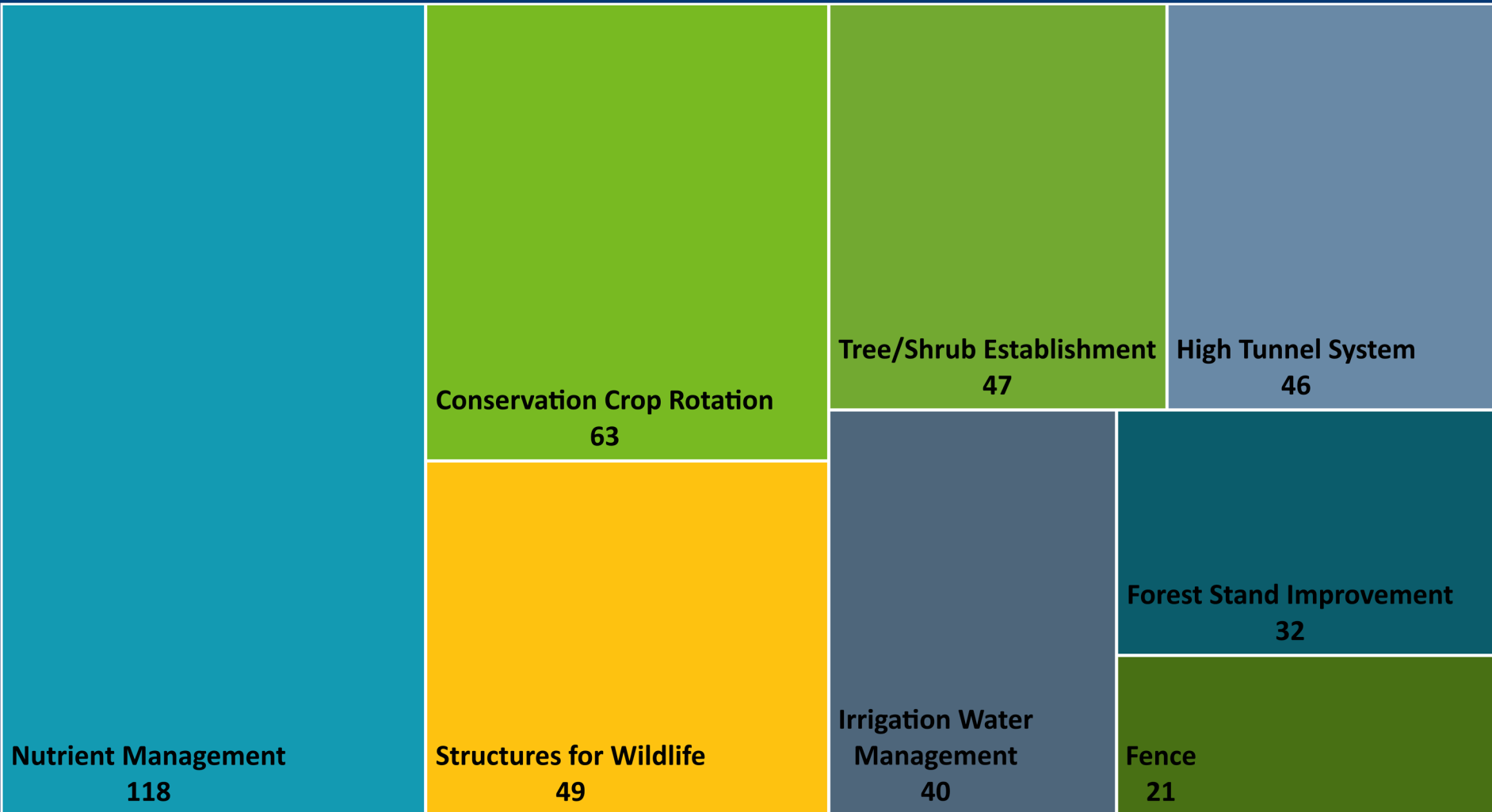


# EQIP DOLLARS in ALASKA 2014-2021 - SD



# Alaska Top Practices in 2021

(by count)





**Lat: 58.185599 Lon: -152.295577**



**Lat: 58.194036 Lon: -152.333848**





















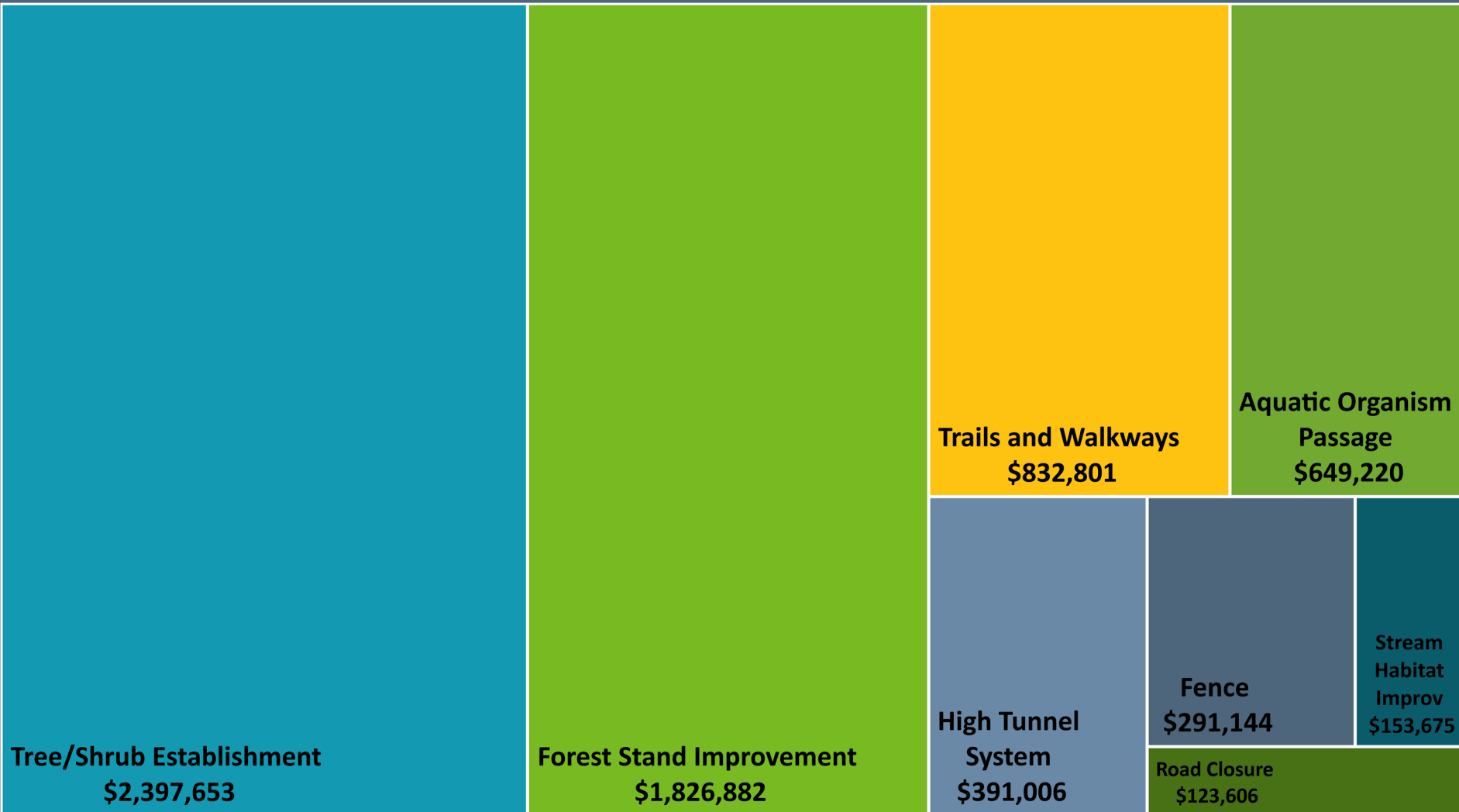






# Alaska Top Practices in 2021

(by dollar)





# CSP

## Conservation Stewardship Program

- **Rewards producers already doing conservation who want to take their stewardship to a higher level**
- **Enrolls your entire operation in a 5-year contract. Includes agriculture & forestry operations.**
- **Receive payments to help you maintain your current conservation; and payments to install new conservation practices and enhancements**
- **Options to competitively renew after 5 years**



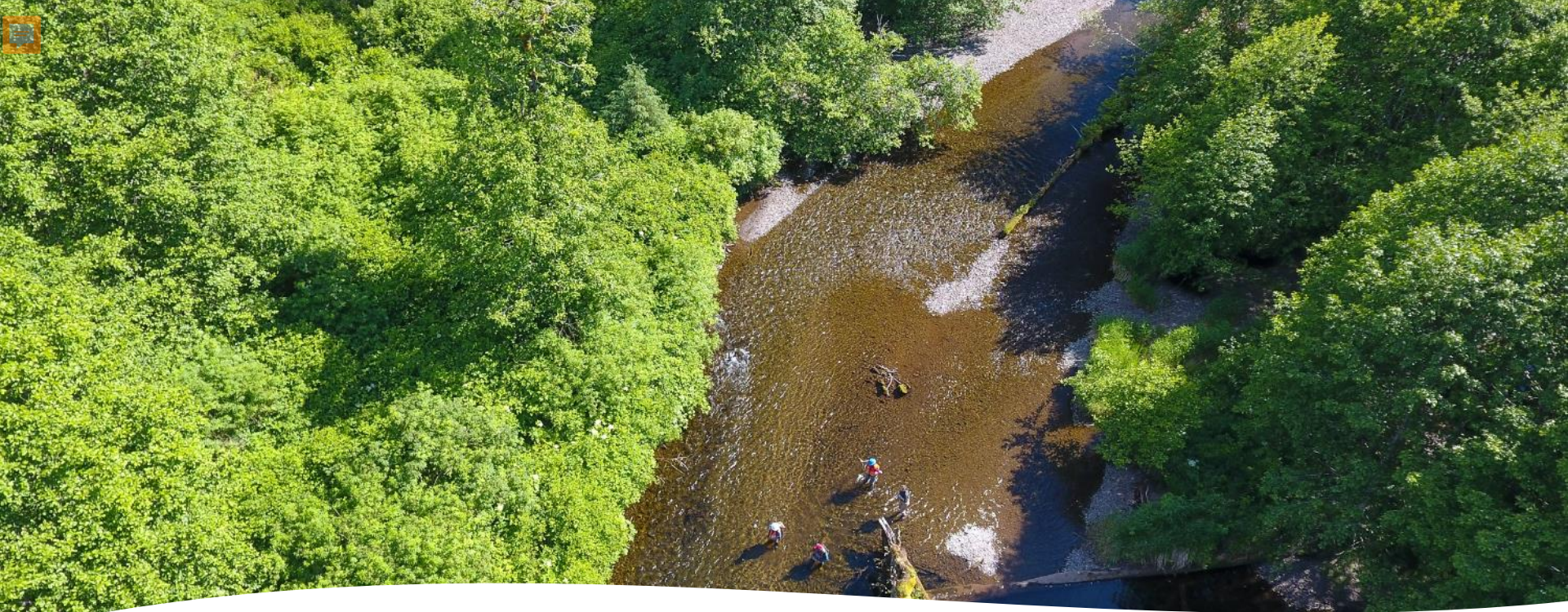


# ACEP

Agricultural  
Conservation Easement  
Program

- 2 options – wetland easements & ag land easements
- Easements keep the land in an intended use by limiting development rights
- Wetland easements restore wetlands and protect them from future development
- Ag land easements keep the land in agriculture forever and prevent future non-ag development
- Landowner receives payments based on land value





# RCPP

## Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- **Partner organizations apply for RCPP funding by submitting a project proposal**
- **Puts partners in the driver's seat to address landscape scale conservation with private landowners**
- **5-year contracts with options to competitively renew**
- **Accomplishes more conservation by leveraging partnership contributions**





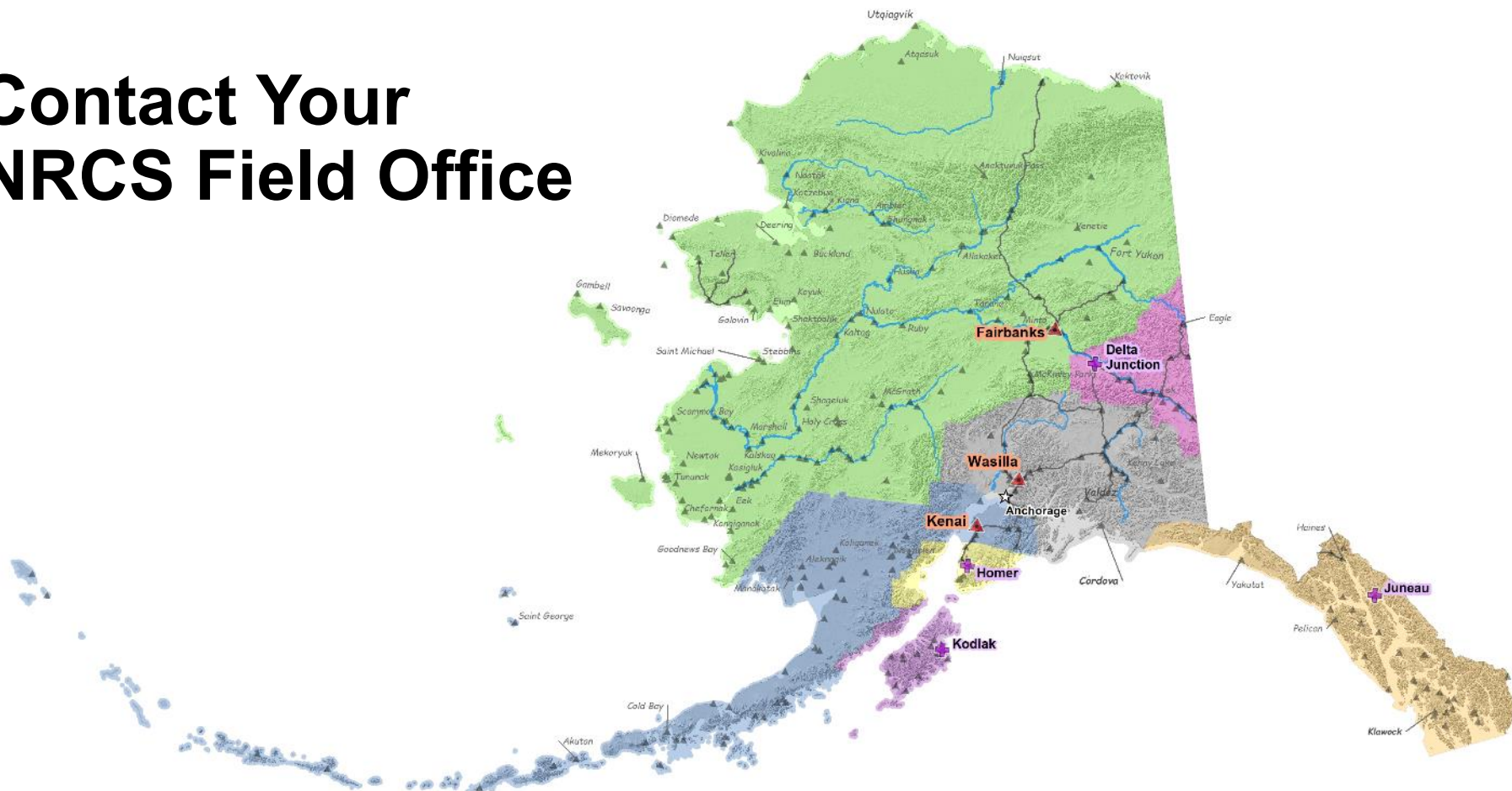
## **EWP**

**Emergency Watershed  
Protection Program**

- **Responds to emergencies created by natural disasters**
- **Relieve imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms & other events**
- **In Alaska, EWP has been used to relocate homes threatened by rapid soil erosion and flooding**
- **Projects must be sponsored by a public agency, special district or tribal government**



# Contact Your NRCS Field Office



**Kenai: 907-283-8732**  
**Homer: 907-235-8177**  
**Kodiak: 907-486-5598**  
**Wasilla: 907-373-6492**

**Juneau: 907-586-7220**  
**Fairbanks: 907-479-3159**  
**Delta Junction: 907-895-4241**



# More Information



## Conservation at Work Video Series

<https://farmers.gov/conservation/conservation-at-work>

NRCS Alaska website: [www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov)



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](http://nrcs.usda.gov/)

# Non-Discrimination Statement

## USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

