

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

NRCS IMPLEMENTATION



**Visualizing the
Great Lakes**

Partner version
June 18, 2010

GLRI – NRCS IMPLEMENTATION

KEY FEATURES

- Financial assistance (FA) and technical assistance (TA) delivered by NRCS is funded by EPA at ~\$34 million in FY 2010, through an Interagency Agreement
- The purpose is to foster and support voluntary conservation action by private landowners to protect and restore priority watersheds

KEY DECISIONS

- LaMP Coordination
- Priority Watersheds - NRCS GLRI Priority Watersheds represent 33% of total GLRI land area (about 25 out of 75 million acres)
- Focused application within priority watersheds

Lakewide Management Plans

- Great Lakes Coordinator (full time) @ East Lansing (Michigan NRCS state office)
- 5 Lake Coordinators (collateral duty)
- 3 State Coordinators (collateral duty)

GLRI – NRCS IMPLEMENTATION

KEY FEATURES

- Involves 8 states: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin
- Initial NRCS focus is six priority watersheds (plus smaller areas of concern): Green Bay/ Fox River, Grand Calumet River, Maumee River, Saginaw River, St. Louis River and Genesee River

Focus Areas

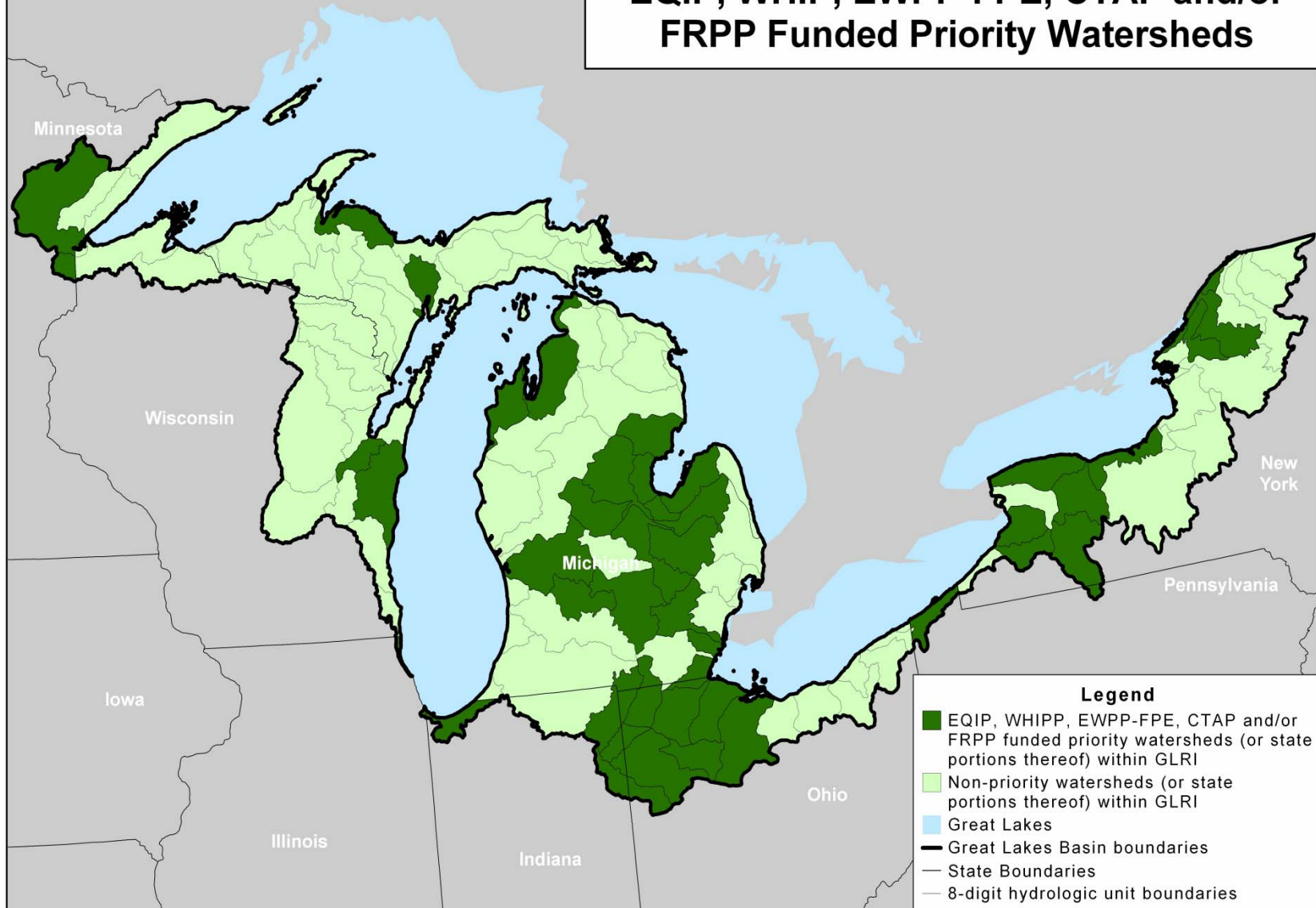
NRCS Priorities for GLRI

- Invasive Species
- Nearshore Health/Nonpoint Source Pollution
- Habitat Protection and Restoration

Focused Implementation

- Focus on Priority Watersheds and activities
- EPA has 6 target watersheds for non-point source
- Multiple secondary areas of concern
- Invasive species and habitat protection priorities for terrestrial are not targeted by watershed in the EPA work plan

2010 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative - EQIP, WHIP, EWPP-FPE, CTAP and/or FRPP Funded Priority Watersheds



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Resource Inventory and Assessment Division
Washington, D.C. June 2010

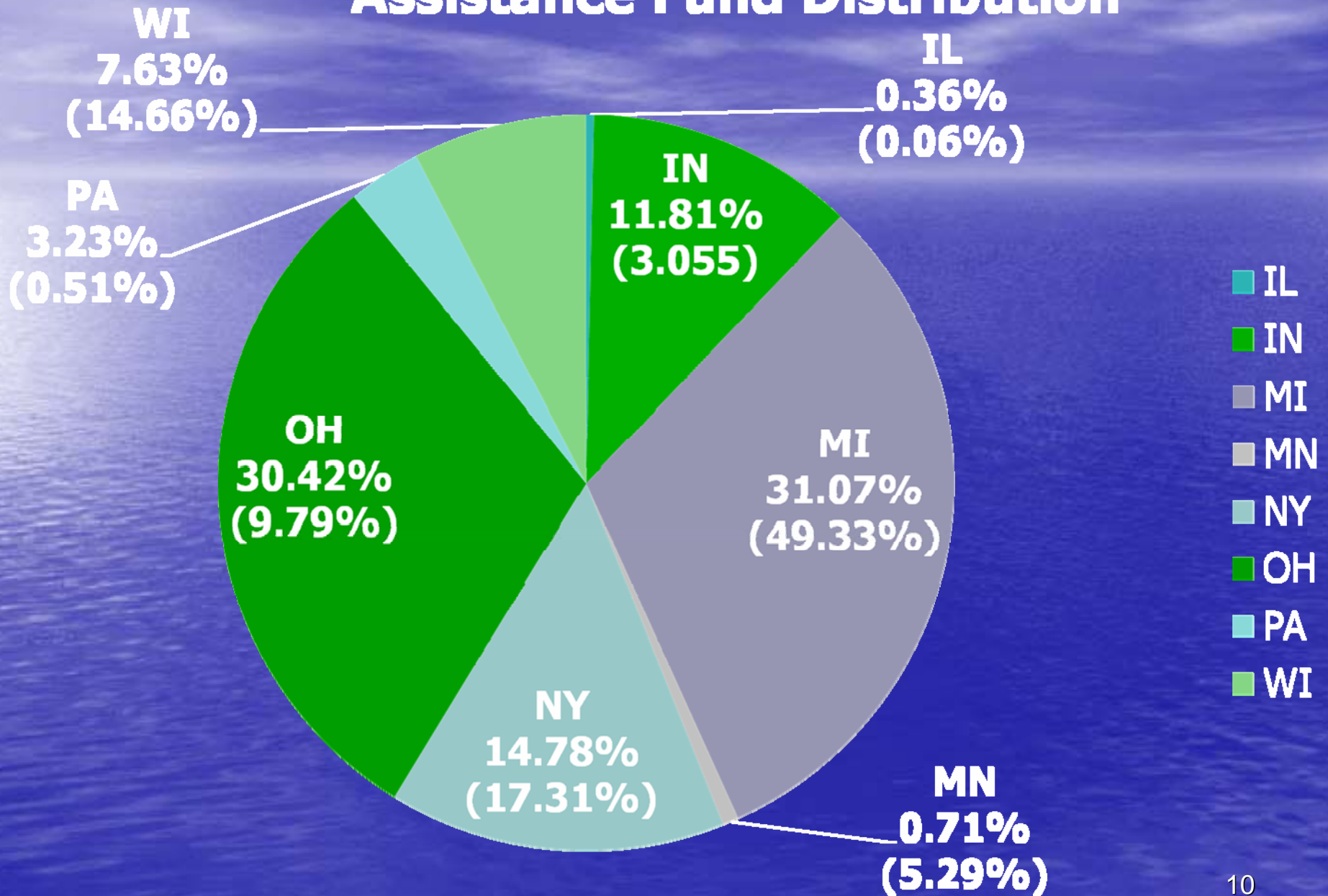
Map ID: 11428

Source: Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
US Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Refining Targeting within Priority Watersheds

- Existing watershed plans
- Identified existing natural resource concerns
- Likelihood of achieving positive off-site impacts
- State-identified priority or impaired watersheds
- Active and engaged partner support

GLRI Financial Assistance & Technical Assistance Fund Distribution



Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTAP)

- Technical assistance to individuals and groups
- Voluntarily conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources
- Science-based technology and tools
- Assists client to achieve a sustainable resource system

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Addresses environmental natural resource problems
- Contracts with ag producers (includes owners of non-industrial private forestland)
- Implement conservation practices according to NRCS standards
- Payments made after practice completed

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

- Develop and improve wildlife habitat
- Contracts on private agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest land, and Indian land
- Implement conservation practices according to NRCS standards
- Payments made after practice completed

Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE)

- Restore floodplain functions; conserve natural values; reduce disaster assistance; safeguard lives and property
- Impaired in last 12 months or history of repeated flooding
- Permanent conservation easement
- Up to 100% of restoration costs

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

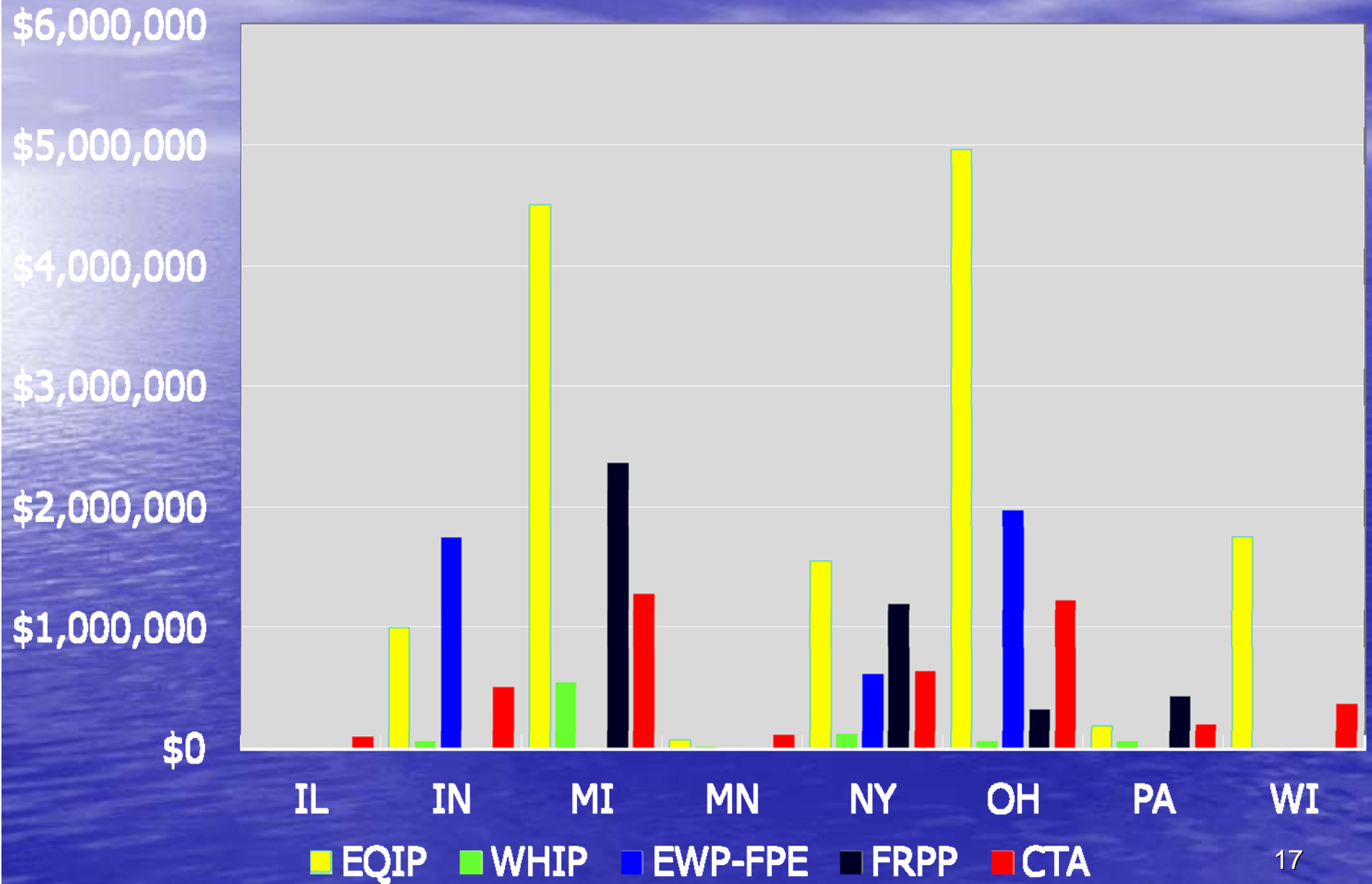
- Matching funds (up to 50%)
- Help purchase development rights
- Private land large enough to sustain agricultural production

GLRI – NRCS IMPLEMENTATION

KEY FEATURES

- Using NRCS program authorities: CTAP, EQIP, WHIP, EWPP-FPE, and FRPP.
- Common signup period June 1 - July 1.
- For EQIP and WHIP, using priority conservation practices, and distinct ranking and funding pools.

GLRI Fund Distribution FA & TA Totals



Accountability

- NRCS will use its own accountability and performance systems (ProTracts, Toolkit, TCAS, PRS) to track funds, contracts, and performance
- All data will include a GLRI data tag for tracking
- NRCS will also input aggregated accounting/performance data into the GLRI database
- NRCS will provide semi-annual and annual reports to EPA

GLRI-NRCS TIMELINE

- April 21 Partner briefing
- April 22- May 31 NRCS out reach to partners, and landowners/landusers; other program preparation (practice lists, funding and ranking, pools, payment schedules, etc.
- June 1 – July 1 signup period, (consistent across priority watersheds and programs)
- July 1- July 15 Ranking and selection of contracts/ agreements
- July 15 Begin contract/agreement finalization and implementation of conservation practices

Questions?

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