Building Water Resilience: Soil Conservation

Changes in the timing and availability of water resources pose significant challenges to irrigated and dryland agriculture across the Northwest. Anticipating and adapting to change can help reduce negative impacts.

Below are several resources that provide information on water challenges and how to address them. You will also find links to USDA programs that provide technical and financial assistance to adopt management changes and conservation practices.

**Applying Soil Health Management Systems to Reduce Climate and Weather Risks in the Northwest.** This document highlights how climate change will increase challenges to soil health, so it is crucial to improve water quality and quantity in your soil and crops.

**Advancing Sustainable Agriculture in the Pacific Northwest: Conservation Tillage Systems.** Find out how conservation tillage can improve soil quality and water retention in the dryland areas of the inland Pacific Northwest.

**Building Water Resilience: Soil Conservation**

- **Building Water Resilience: Soil Conservation**
  - **Soil Conservation Advances in Dryland Farming in the Inland Pacific Northwest: Conservation Tillage Systems.** Learn how conservation tillage can improve soil quality and water retention in the dryland areas of the inland Pacific Northwest.
  - **Advancing Sustainable Agriculture in the Pacific Northwest: Conservation Tillage Systems.** Learn about how minimum tillage and no-till systems can reduce water losses and improve soil water storage capacity.
  - **Applying Soil Health Management Systems to Reduce Climate and Weather Risks in the Northwest.** This document highlights how climate change will increase challenges to soil health, so it is crucial to improve water quality and quantity in your soil and crops.

**USDA Programs & Resources**

- **Contact a Natural Resource-Conservation Service Soil Health Expert.** Regional experts from the Soil Health Division can provide advice and training to improve and conserve soil health.
- **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).** The NRCS works with landowners to improve water quality, land, soil, and other natural resources through land easements.
- **Conservation Innovation Grants, NRCS.** Conservation Innovation Grants support private landowners in developing new conservation approaches and practices for soil management and other natural resources on their land.
- **Conservation Reserve Program, Farm Service Agency (FSA).** Enrolled landowners receive rental payments in exchange for taking environmentally sensitive land out of agricultural production to improve environmental health, including water quality and other natural resources.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program, NRCS.** This program provides assistance for landowners to improve practices on working lands. NRCS works hand-in-hand to help plan and carry out improvements, based on needs. These can include a wide variety of place-appropriate water conservation practices.
- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program, NRCS.** This program provides technical and financial assistance to improve water quality and quantity through conservation practices promoted in volunteering in conservation management practices.