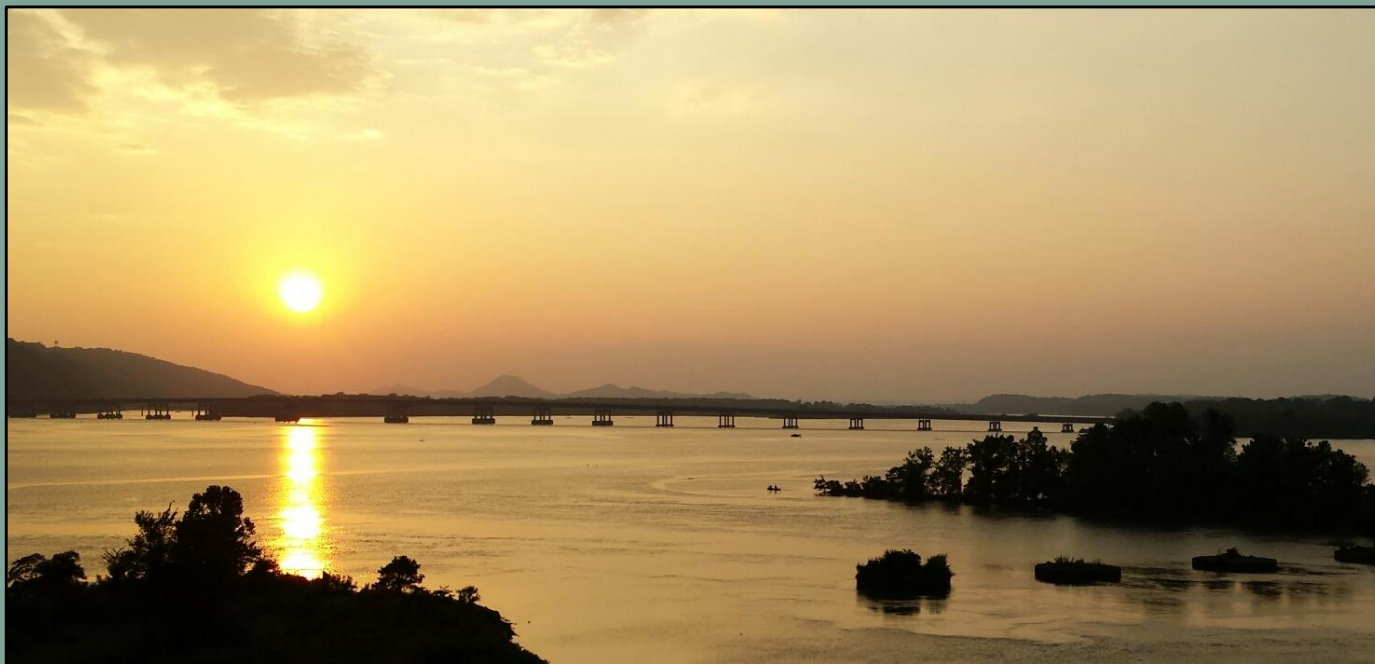


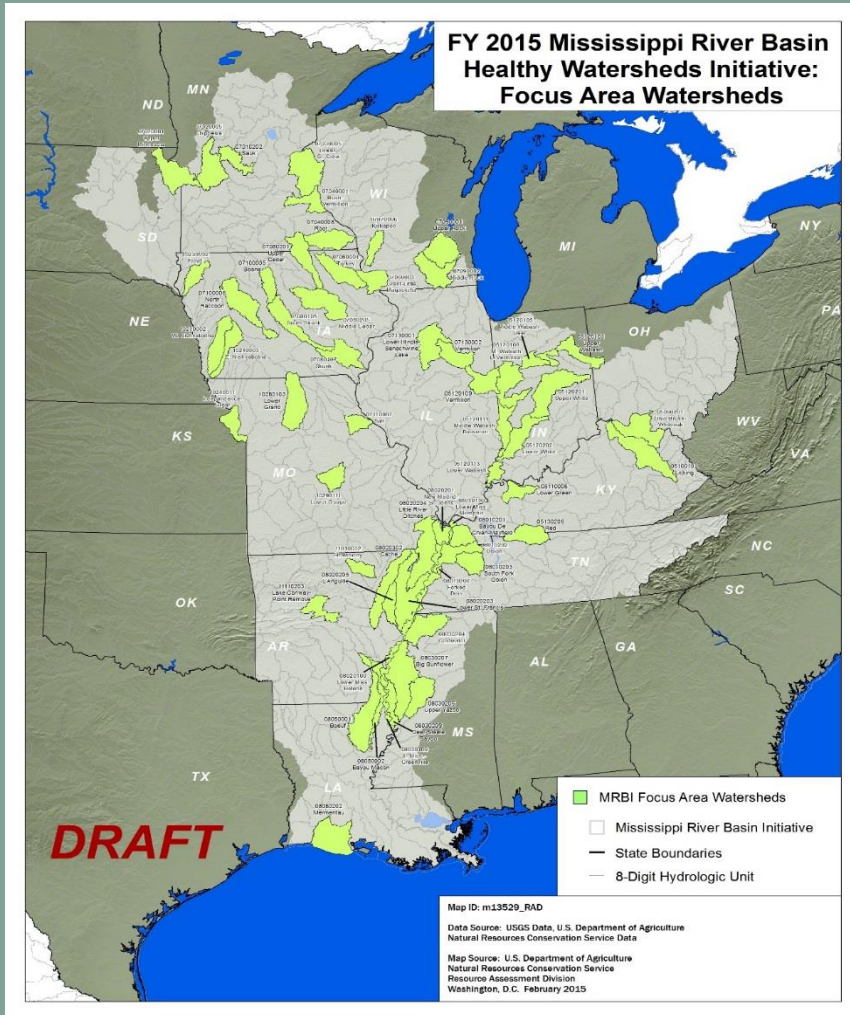


United States Department of Agriculture

MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN HEALTHY WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE - ARKANSAS



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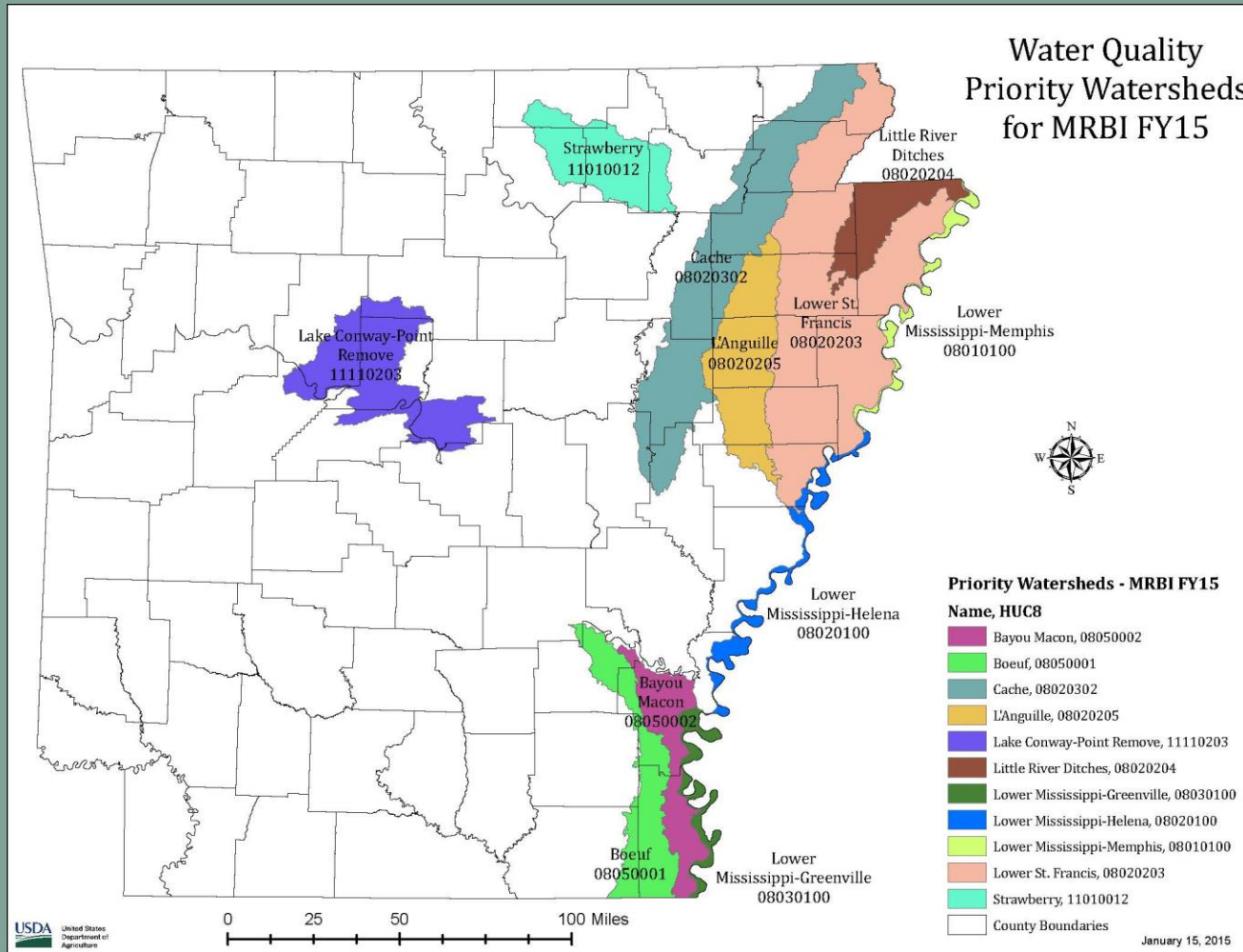


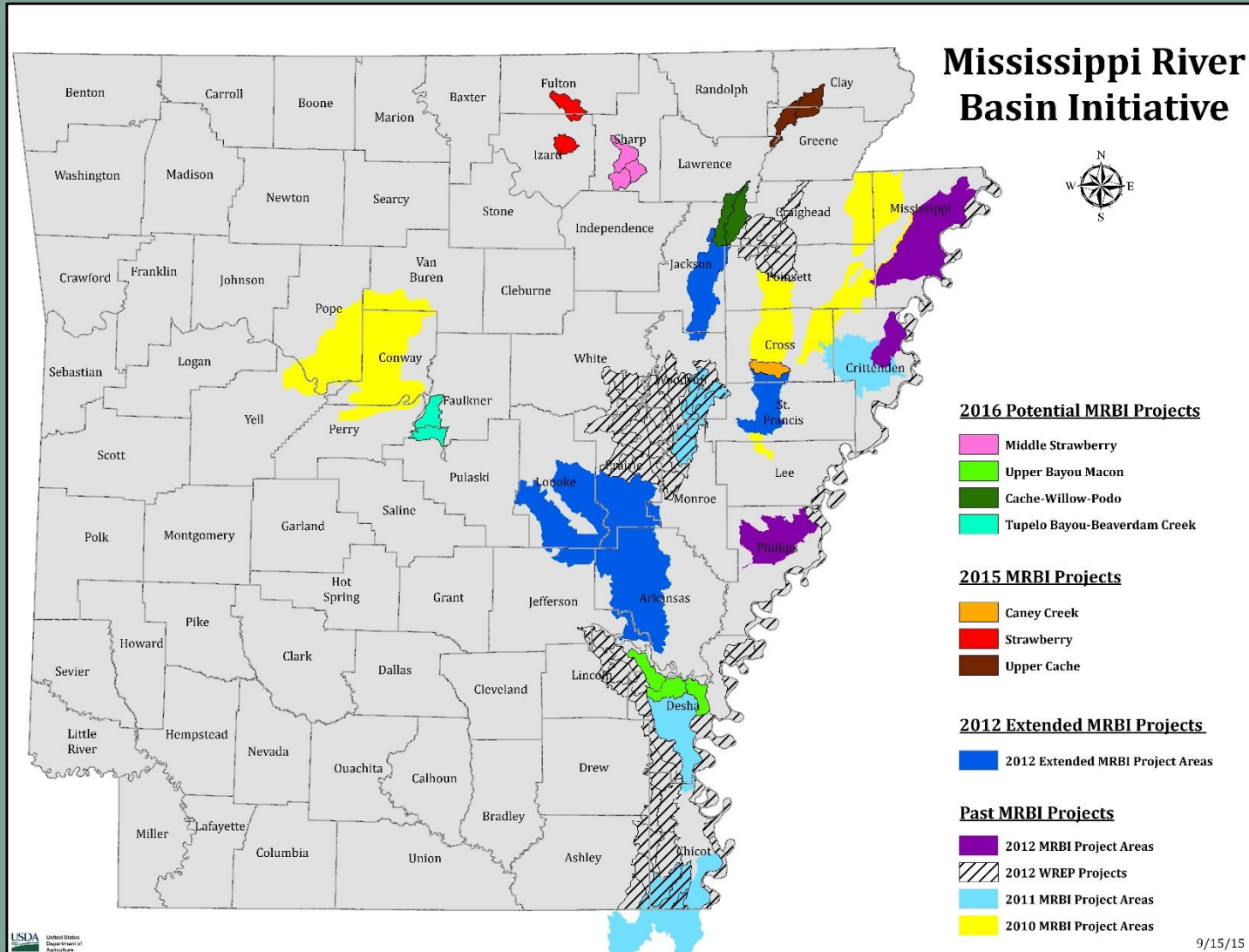
FY 2015

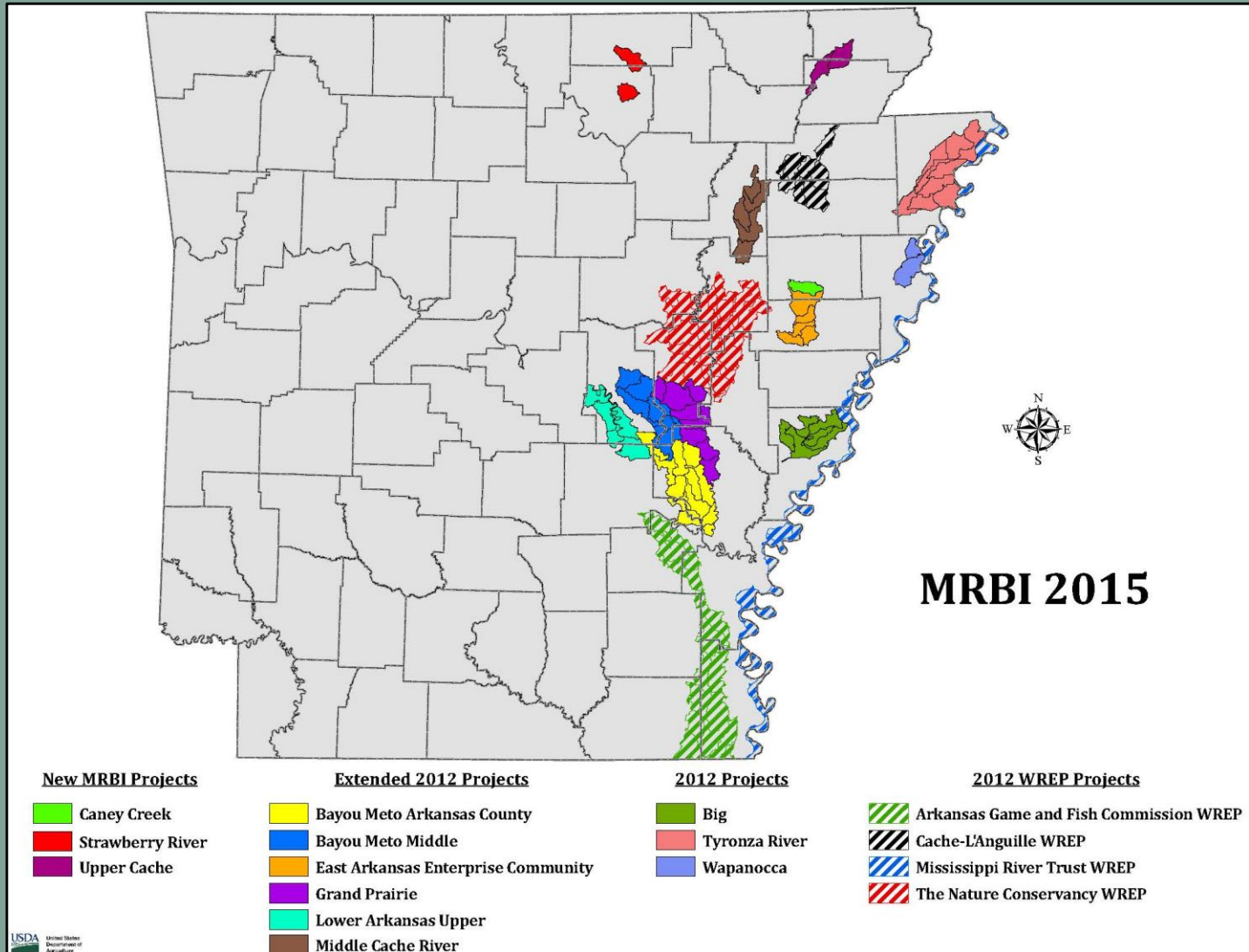
- 13 States
- 40 Focus Areas
- (13 continuing watershed from 2012 and 27 new areas)



ARKANSAS MRBI FOCUS WATERSHEDS









MRBI FUNDING SINCE 2010

Year	Contracts	Acres	Obligated
2010	37	12,238	\$3,027,278
2011	217	62,911	\$5,946,964
2012	404	92,229	\$16,836,340
2013	453	107,998	\$27,067,199
2014	455	98,645	\$23,344,187
2015 to date	113	21,449	\$7,504,900
	1,679	395,470	\$83,726,868





NRCS CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDS DEDICATED TO MRBI

2015 New MRBI Projects	2015 Funding	Total Project Funds EQIP / CSP	
Upper Cache River	\$399,900	\$3,401,831	\$1,500,000
Strawberry River	\$500,000	\$2,000,004	
Caney Creek	\$600,600	\$2,400,032	
Total	\$1,500,500	\$7,801,876	\$1,500,000



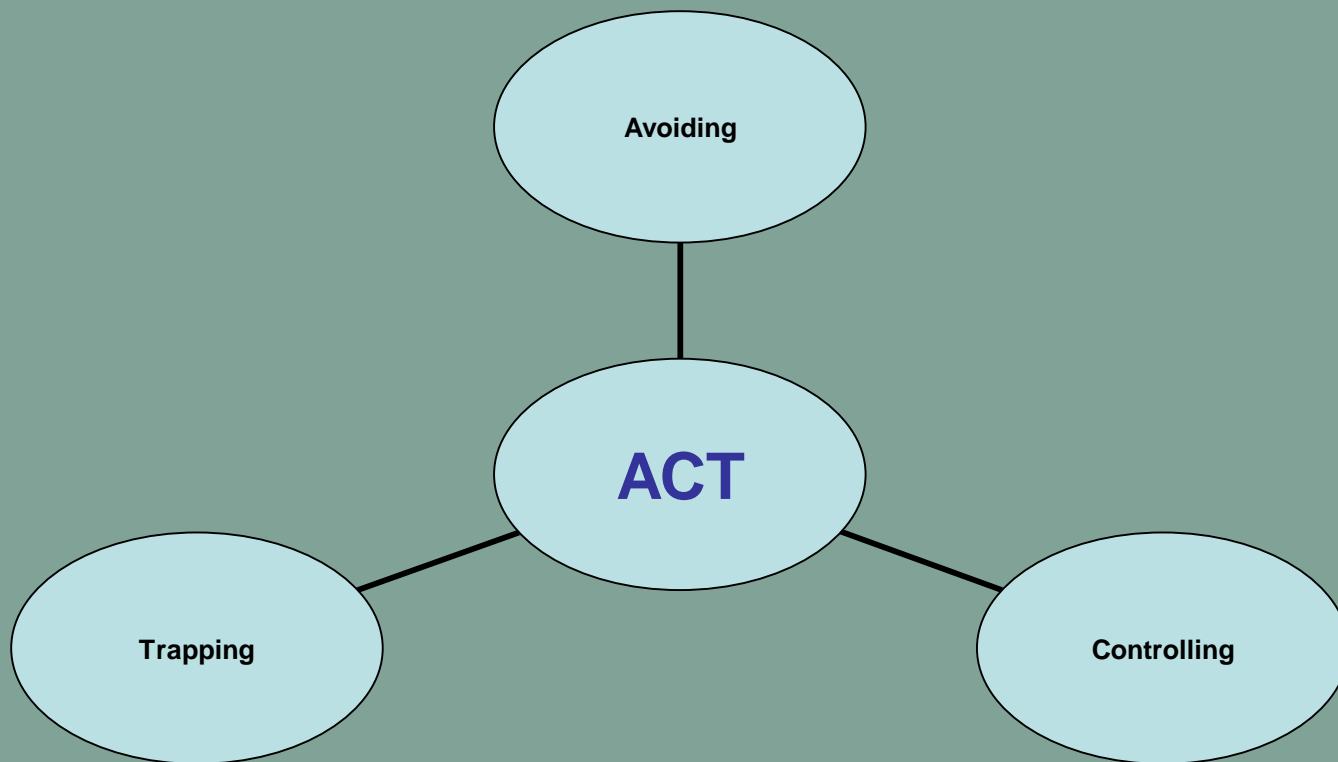


NRCS CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDS DEDICATED TO MRBI

2012 MRBI Projects Extension	2015 Funding	
Middle Cache	\$0	
EAEC	\$406,500	
Lower AR Upper	\$269,800	
Bayou Meto Middle	\$243,900	
Grand Prairie	\$669,200	
Bayou Meto AR County	\$703,300	
Total	\$2,292,700	



AVOIDING, CONTROLLING, TRAPPING (ACT)





CORE CONSERVATION PRACTICES

AVOIDING

- 328 - Conservation Crop Rotation
- 340 - Cover Crop
- 528 - Prescribed Grazing
- 590 - Nutrient Management
- 633 - Waste Utilization

CONTROLLING

- 329 - Residue & Tillage Management - No Till/Strip Till
- 345 - Residue & Tillage Management - Mulch Till
- 346 - Residue & Tillage Management - Ridge Till
- 412 - Grassed Waterway
- 449 – Irrigation Water Management
- 512 - Forage and Biomass Planting
- 554 - Drainage Water Management
- 643 - Restoration & Management of Declining Habitats
- 645 - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- 441 – Irrigation System, Micro Irrigation
- 442 – Irrigation System, Sprinkler
- 443 – Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface
- 447 – Tailwater Recovery





CORE CONSERVATION PRACTICES

TRAPPING

356 - Dike

390 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover

391 - Riparian Forest Buffer

393 - Filter Strip

436 – Irrigation Storage Reservoir

580 – Streambank and Shoreline
Protection

601- Vegetative Barriers

635- Vegetative Treatment

656- Constructed Wetland

657- Wetland Restoration

658- Wetland Creation

659- Wetland Enhancement





SUPPORTING CONSERVATION PRACTICES

AVOIDING

- 313 - Waste Storage Facility
- 317 - Composting Facility
- 327 - Conservation Cover
- 381 - Silvopasture Establishment
- 382 - Fence
- 472 - Access Control
- 511 - Forage Harvest Management
- 558 - Roof Runoff Structure
- 561 - Heavy Use Area Protection
- 612 - Tree & Shrub Planting
- 632 - Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility
- 634 - Waste Transfer
- 642 – Well
- 574 – Spring Development

TRAPPING

- 342 - Critical Area Planting
- 350 - Sediment Basin
- 356 - Dike
- 490 – Forest Site Preparation
- 644- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Mngt.

CONTROLLING

- 324 - Deep Tillage
- 342 - Critical Area Planting
- 362 - Diversion
- 386 - Field Border
- 410 - Grade Stabilization Structure
- 430 - Irrigation Water Conveyance
- 449 - Irrigation Water Management
- 464 – Irrigation Land Leveling
- 484 - Mulching
- 533 - Pumping Plant
- 587 - Structure for Water Control
- 607 - Surface Drainage
- 608 – Surface Drain, Main, or Lateral
- 620 - Underground Outlet
- 638 - Water & Sediment Control Basin

- 533 - Pumping Plant
- 587 - Structure for Water Control
- 629 - Waste Treatment
- 638 - Water & Sediment Control Basin
- 646 - Shallow Water Development and Management



EXPECTED WATER QUALITY RESULTS

- **Reduced nitrogen and phosphorus loading into waterways**

- **Reduced sediment from sheet & rill erosion**

- **Reduced sediment from irrigation-induced erosion**





MRBI/RCPP VS GENERAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

MRBI/RCPP	General Programs
Projects proposed by NRCS with conservation partner input	Funding provided through NRCS without matching contributions from partners
NRCS and Partners develop ranking questions	State Technical Committee chooses ranking questions
NRCS and Partners choose conservation practices for a systems approach	Most available practices can be selected by farmers
Funding is provided within a specific targeted project area	Funding is statewide
Water quality monitoring and evaluation is included in conservation practices	Water quality monitoring and evaluation is not available





PRIMARY COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION PARTNERS 2010/2015

Project Sponsors	Monitoring Partners
Local Conservation Districts	University of Arkansas
Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts	University of Arkansas Extension Service
Arkansas Natural Conservation Commission	Arkansas State University
The Nature Conservancy	Agricultural Research Service
Agricultural Industry	University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff



TAILWATER RECOVERY





United States Department of Agriculture

NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT



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COVER CROP





WATER QUALITY EVALUATION AND MONITORING

Voluntary monitoring to determine effects of conservation practice installation

Partnering with University of Arkansas, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Arkansas State University, and U.S. Agricultural Research Service

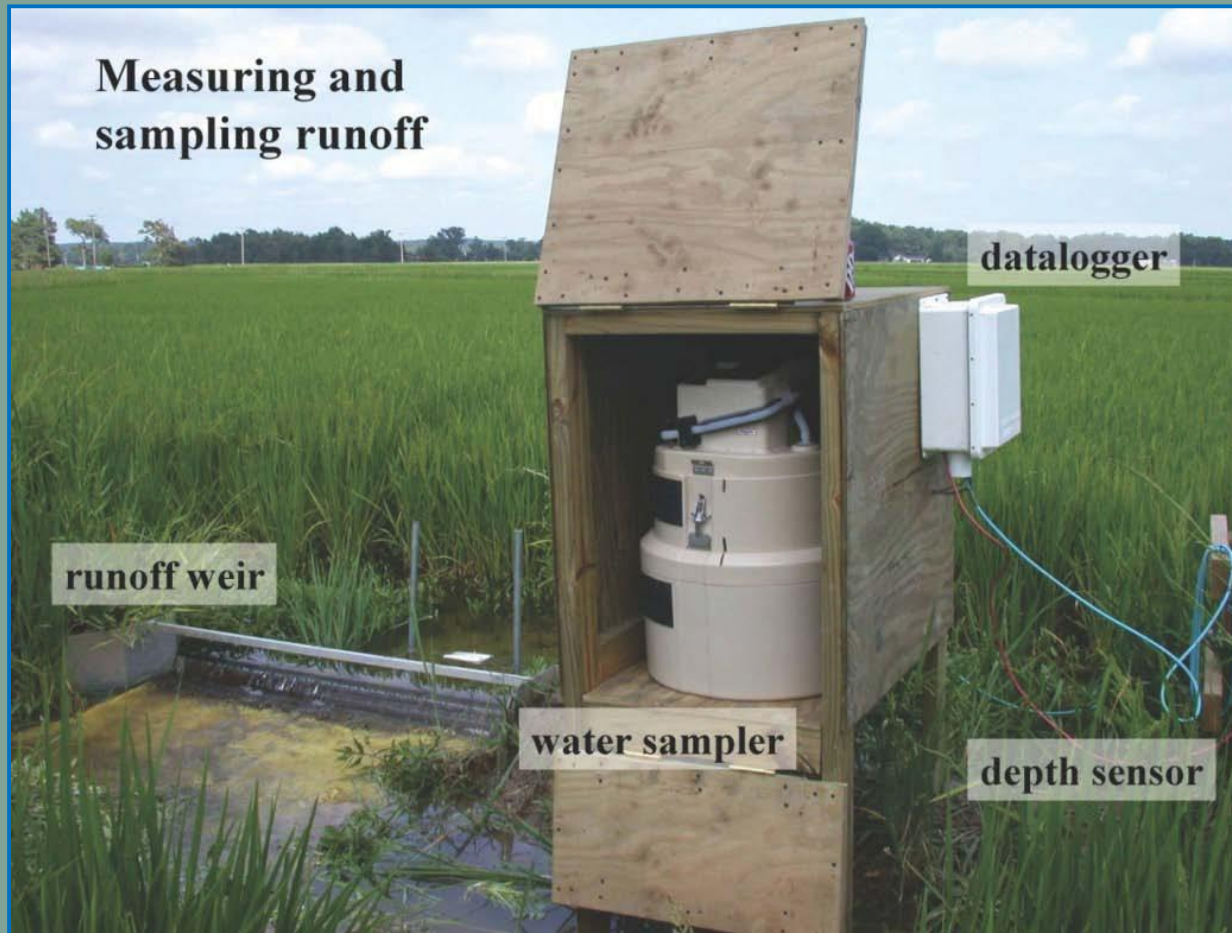
Discovery Farm Protocols

EPA Specifications

1 or 2 farms per project



WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND EVALUATION



ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Adding additional conservation practices as needed

Adjusting ranking criteria

Annual review of projects with sponsors



2014

Farm Bill

A large, semi-transparent logo for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, consisting of a stylized water drop shape with a circular element inside.

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

- Strong commitment to conservation
- Streamlining/consolidation
- Maintains programs
- Flexibility for targeting assistance to address priority natural resource concerns





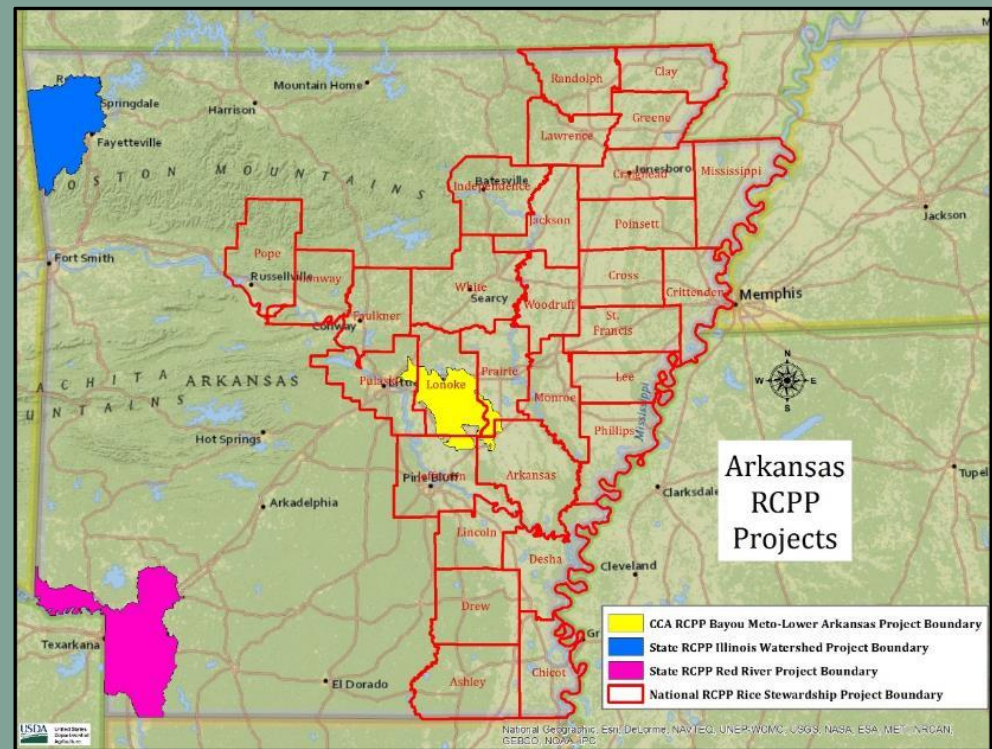
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- 2014/2015 RCPP
- 115 projects were selected from 600 preproposals
- \$370 million
- Arkansas had 23 preproposals
- 4 were awarded funding-\$15 million
 - ❖ \$2 million state projects
 - ❖ \$3 million CCA
 - ❖ \$10 million National-\$3.2 million to Arkansas



REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Arkansas conservation partners were approved for four RCPP projects:

- 2 State-\$2 million
- 1 National-\$10 million
- Critical Conservation Area (CCA)-\$3 million



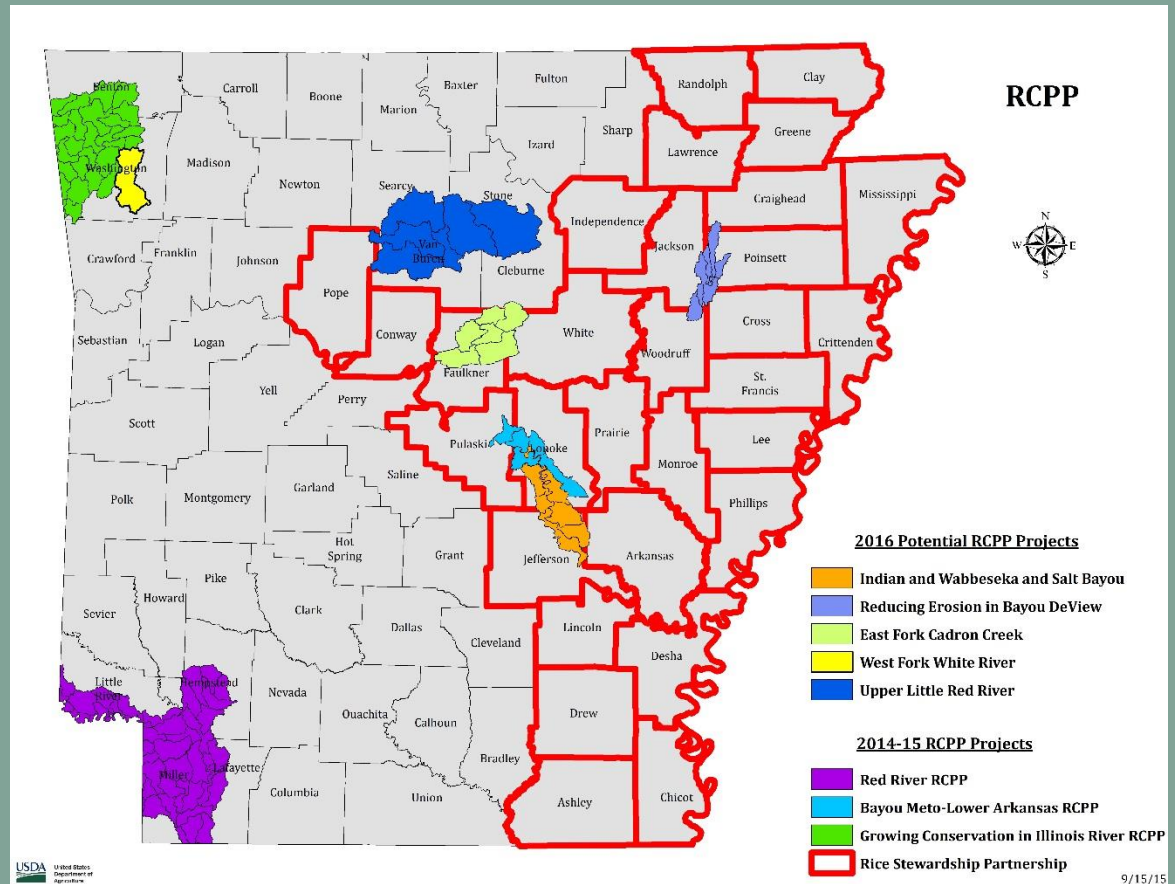
- ❖ 2016 RCPP
- ❖ 265 preproposals were submitted nation wide for \$225 million
- ❖ 165 were invited to submit a full proposals by Nov 10th
- ❖ 8 preproposals submitted from Arkansas
- ❖ 5 were invited to submit a full proposals





REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Arkansas (CCA)
 Indian, Wabbeseka, and Salt Bayou
 West Fork White River
 Greers Ferry Lake Watershed
 East Fork Cadron Creek
 Reducing Erosion in Bayou
 Deview



RED RIVER RCPP PRACTICES



Illinois River Watershed Initiative 2011-2018

5th year of project

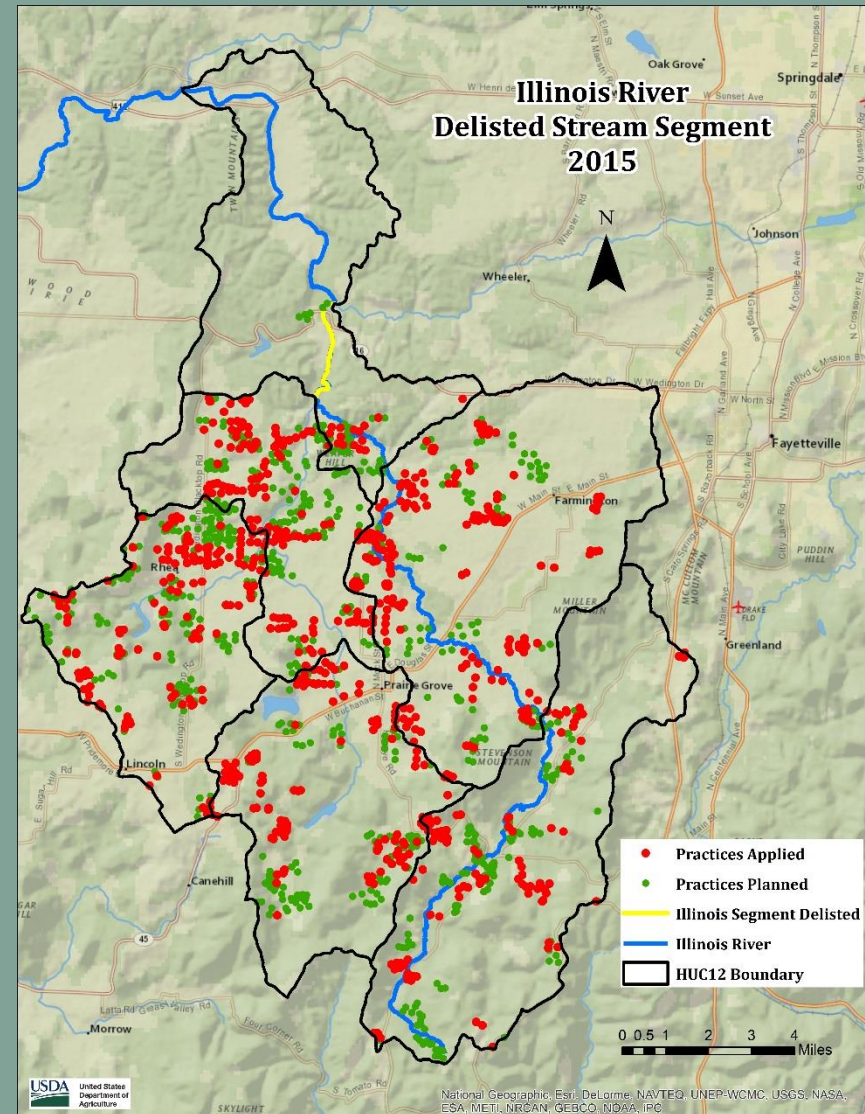
Arkansas

594 contracts on 46,622 acres

Obligation: \$17,323,124

6 sub-watersheds contribute
45 contracts on 3,908 acres for over
\$850,000.

Top practices: forage and biomass
planting, prescribed grazing, fencing,
waste storage facility and amendments
for treatment of ag waste.





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