



Conservation Stewardship Program growing in Indian Country

IAC Great Plains Region

USDA's Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) was created to offer enhancements for producers implementing conservation practices on their land. Reaching up to 70 million acres of productive land that has been enrolled making CSP the largest conservation program in the United States.

There are approximately 55 million acres that are Federally Recognized as reservation lands that are tribal trust lands or individually owned. Native American's have long known the value of the lands they come from and many producers have been implementing conservation practices in their operations for years. To maximize utilization of this successful program in Indian Country IAC publicized an informational announcement before the annual CSP signup deadline.



From this publication IAC's Great Plains technical assistant was contacted by multiple producers some within an hour after the announcement was posted. Each individual conversation, producer's gave details of their lands, the conversation methods they use now, and where they see that more can be implemented. IAC's technical assistant was able to affirm how the stewardship program can help cultivate their conservation management along with provide the added financial benefit that can be used to strengthen one's financial position. Each producer was given at minimum a CSP informational fact sheet and NRCS's CSP application. Some individuals requested face to face meetings where the TA was able to fill out with the producer NRCS's conservation planning workbook. The TA discussed other programs under NRCS that could also be beneficial to them.



From the multiple number of producers that contacted IAC, 6 producers in SD and ND in 4 separate counties where given hands on help filling out the needed paperwork, with all submitting an application to their local county offices before the May 10th deadline. If all were able to get a contract on the majority of their acres it would put roughly 40,000 indian owned acres into the stewardship program.