

THE USDA'S CONSERVATION EFFECTS ASSESSMENT PROJECT (CEAP)

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Abstract: The Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) is being carried out by the USDA, in coordination with USEPA, USGS, and others. This poster will present the key aspects of the ongoing project, which is focused on determining the effects of conservation programs and practices at the national scale, as well as at the watershed scale. The questions to be asked include (a) where are practices being applied, (b) what are their impacts, and (c) how can existing conservation programs be improved, including the conservation title of the 2002 Farm Bill. A total of 24 watersheds were included in the study in 2005, with more to be added in 2006. Nationally significant, scientifically defensible results will begin to be reported by the end of 2005. Individual watershed reports, assessments, and other products and tools, will be developed all through the life of the project, including locally calibrated models, as well as regionalized models (through modularization) to support the National Assessment of conservation practices and programs.