



Increasing Biological Capacity to Deliver Farm Bill Conservation Programs

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Topics

- What is the problem?
- Why should we care?
- How can we solve it?



George Andrejko AZGFD

What is the problem?

- NRCS has lost 21% of its biologists
- States have indicated a need for 260 more biologists
- We are returning conservation program dollars because there isn't enough staff



American Bittern, Photo by Larry Neel

Why should we care?

- Millions of dollars are available through conservation programs
- National agricultural policy favoring wildlife conservation is as successful as the local delivery capacity.



Biologists accelerate fish and wildlife conservation through Farm Bill programs by:

- Bringing specialized fish and wildlife knowledge and habitat management skills,
- Marketing the fish and wildlife aspects of the Farm Bill programs,
- Facilitating timely implementation of planning, contracting, and practice implementation, and
- Being locally involved and maintaining landowner trust.



Emperor Goose, Photo by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Recommendations

- Encourage NRCS to maintain maximum flexibility and creativity within their statutory authority...
- Explore State wildlife agencies options with NRCS for developing long-term commitments to increase Farm Bill delivery capacity in priority landscapes (SWAP focal areas, Joint Venture priorities, etc.)



Northern Waterthrush, Photo by Simpson

Recommendations

- Encourage private foundations, NGOs, Joint Ventures, corporations, and other fish and wildlife partnerships to consider the importance of conservation funding to increase Farm Bill biological delivery capacity.



Red-throated Loon, Photo by Dave Menke

http://www.nabci-us.org/pvtlands_biocapacity.html