

USDA conservation programs support farmers, jobs and the economy in Colorado

Farmers, ranchers and rural communities are benefiting from conservation investments since the 2018 Farm Bill. Voluntary conservation programs produce cleaner water, healthier soil and more wildlife habitat, while supporting American jobs and the economy. TNC partnered with BW Research to model economic impacts of four major conservation programs under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) from 2019 to 2029.

This research shows that Farm Bill conservation programs generate major returns on investment. Congress needs to defend all Farm Bill conservation funding so these programs can continue to deliver for farmers, ranchers and the American people.



Conservatively in Colorado from 2019 to 2029, the four Farm Bill conservation programs will:



Jobs

1,200 annually

Support more than 1,200 jobs annually



Wages

\$57.6M annually

Generate over \$57.6 million in household income annually



GSP

\$94M annually

Support more than \$941 million in total economic value over the 10 years



Total Tax Revenue

\$53M

Yield more than \$53 million in total local, state and federal tax revenue over the 10 years



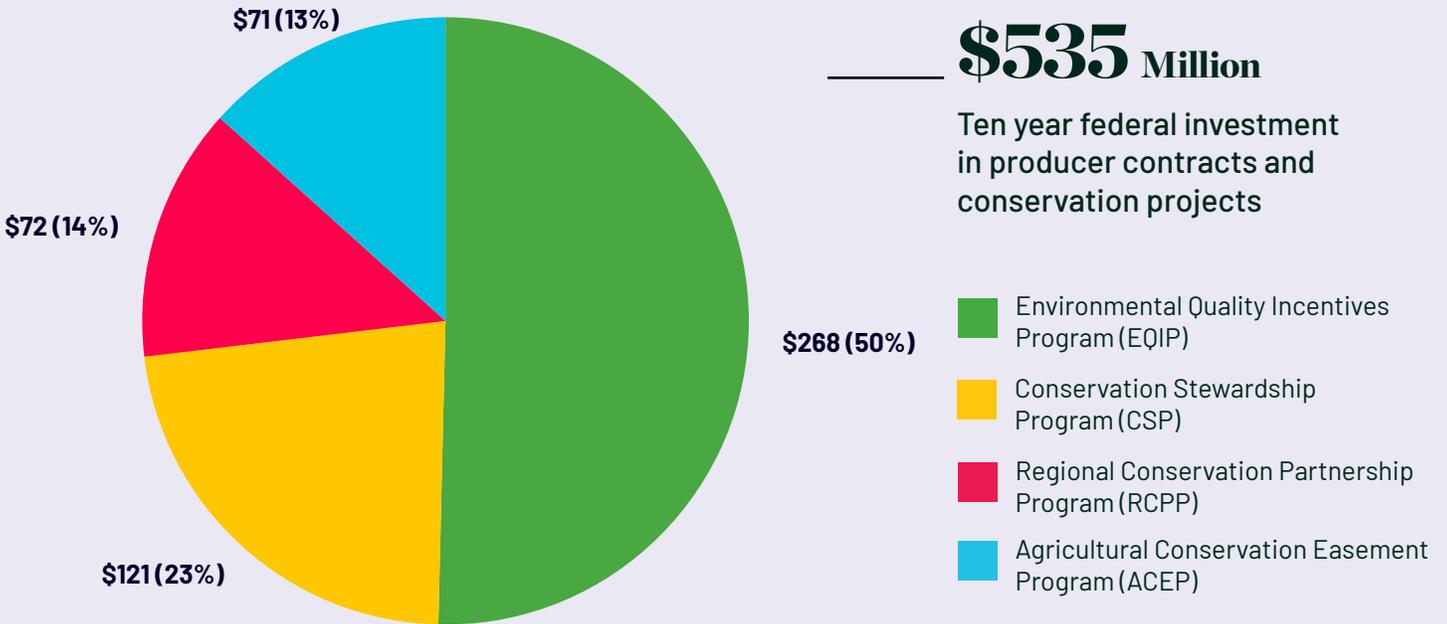
ROI

\$1.75

Provide a net economic return of more than \$1.75 for every federal dollar invested

Federal investments by Farm Bill conservation program

From 2019 to 2024, USDA NRCS has committed over \$462 million to financial assistance (FA) contracts with Colorado farmers, ranchers and forest landowners and more than \$72 million in public-private partnerships for conservation. These funds typically get spent down over 3 to 5 year agreements, through 2029. This research conservatively estimates economic impacts of this \$535 million committed, not counting the significant economic benefits of NRCS technical assistance funding, producers' share of costs, or partner match and contributions.



Source: USDA

*Figures in millions, funds authorized by P.L. 115-334 and P.L. 117-169

More than 1,200 jobs in Colorado supported by Farm Bill conservation each year

