



NRCS

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service



# **NRCS, WRP and EMIQUON**



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# *Types of Easements*

- Wetlands Reserve Program.
- Floodplain Easement Program.



# *What is a conservation easement?*

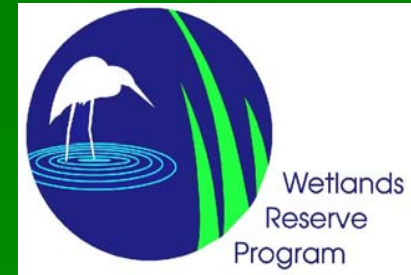
- A conservation easement purchases **rights** to a property. The landowner retains ownership to the property, however the use of the property is restricted by a Warranty Easement Deed.

# What *rights* does the landowner retain when they sell the NRCS and easement?



- Title
- Control of Access
- Recreational Pursuits
- Quiet Enjoyment
- Subsurface Minerals

# Wetlands Reserve Program



- Permanent easement.
- 100% of agricultural appraised value
- 100% of restoration cost-share agreement
- In perpetuity.
- Thirty year easements
- 75% of agricultural appraised value.
- 75% of restoration cost-share agreement.
- All rights to property return to landowner at end of 30-year contract.

# Wetland Reserve Program – Eligibility Requirements

- Hydric soil
- Cropping history, 3 out of last 5 years
- Must be restorable



# WRP- Objectives and Program Emphasis

- Purchase and restore wetlands habitat first and foremost for migratory birds and threatened and endangered species.
- Attenuation of flood flows
- Protection and improvement of water quality.
- Recharge of ground water.





# Emiquon Restoration and WRP

- 30 year easement
- Easement entails 6,285 acres
- Purchased in June 2006
- Restoration began in Spring 2007



# Emiquon Restoration and WRP

- Bottomland Hardwood Tree Planting 405 ac.
- Upland Tree Planting 421 ac.
- Wet Prairie Establishment 218 ac.
- Upland Tall Grass Prairie Establishment 365 ac.



# Emiquon Future Restoration

- Hydrologic Restoration – To date this has consisted of nothing more than shutting off the pumps. Should additional hydrologic restoration be implemented?

# Emiquon Future Restoration cont.

- How is the hydrology of the site going to be managed? How can we mimic a natural drawdown, like would have occurred historically along the Illinois River. At present we have too much water and no ability to manage the water levels.

# Emiquon Future Restoration cont.

- Do we/should we have an Illinois River connection at Emiquon? If so, can this connection be utilized to manage the hydrology? How will this effect water quality/quantity, sedimentation, invasive species, and vegetation.

# Emiquon Future Restoration cont.

- US Army Corps of Engineers – Levee
- Drainage Districts
- Lock and Dam

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