

Martin A. Lowenfish

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***EXPERIENCE***

***CONSERVATION INITIATIVE TEAM LEADER***

**2011 to present**

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**

- Lead the Conservation Initiatives team in managing the development and delivery of landscape scale initiatives to achieve agency and administration goals through the targeted delivery of conservation programs and partnerships. These initiatives have been used to deliver over \$200 million annually in financial assistance for regionally focused, outcome oriented conservation.
- Oversaw the development and ongoing delivery of the Working Lands for Wildlife partnership through which USDA/NRCS has collaborated with Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service use working lands conservation efforts to preclude the need to list under the Endangered Species Act the greater sage grouse, the New England cottontail, and other species.
- Identify and report measurable conservation outcomes for conservation efforts through collaboration with scientific and programmatic staffs within and outside of the federal government
- Support USDA leadership in their engagement with regional stakeholder efforts including the Chesapeake Bay Executive Council, the Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force, and the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Great Lakes.
- Collaborate with partners such as the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to leverage Federal funds and capabilities through efforts such as the Conservation Partnership Program and the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund
- Work with Regional Conservationists, Office of the Chief, Public Affairs and Legislative Affairs staffs to develop appropriate materials, including testimony and questions for the record for Departmental and Agency leadership, for representing landscape conservation initiatives to NRCS customers, the public at large, the administration, and the Congress
- Supervise a staff of 11 coordinators with responsibilities for implementing regional or landscape scale conservation efforts for water quality, water quantity, wildlife and other natural resource concerns

***ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR***

**2007 to 2011**

**USDA Farm Service Agency**

**Conservation and Environmental Programs Division**

- Lead the development of policy for Federal conservation and energy programs including the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP), the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP), and the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) including changes to these programs as a result of the 2008 Farm Bill
- Collaborate with partners inside and outside government to achieve conservation program results
- Coordinate with FSA budget staff, economists, and program managers to develop agency apportionment requests for new and continued funding of programs and projects
- Managed major CRP initiatives including the re-enrollment and extension in 2007 of over 23 million acres of CRP and the State Acres For wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) habitat initiative.
- Leveraged information technology including geographic information systems (GIS) and web enabled software to implement and measure the performance of a variety of initiatives including the State Acres for Wildlife Habitat (SAFE) Initiative of the CRP program
- Contributed to and oversaw aspects of regulation development for conservation and energy programs including BCAP, CRP, ECP, and GRP
- Collaborate with FSA, USDA, and OMB personnel to develop performance measures for the Conservation Reserve Program, the Emergency Conservation Program and other natural resource conservation programs and initiatives
- Analyze and respond to Congressional and Administration legislative proposals for conservation and energy programs, including the legislative efforts undertaken in support of the 2008 Farm Bill

***PROJECT DIRECTOR***

**2009 to 2010**

**USDA Farm Service Agency**

**Office of Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs**

- Led the FSA effort to implement the Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments Program (SURE), a permanently funded disaster assistance program authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill
- Accelerated delivery of the program by at least 6-months to meet timelines mandated by the Secretary

***SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR for ENERGY***

**2008 to 2009**

***STRATEGIES***

**The Nature Conservancy**

- Development assignment for USDA Senior Executive Service Career Development Program
- Developed recommendations for a comprehensive policy and operation platform to guide The Nature Conservancy's involvement with the energy sector

***CHIEF of AUTOMATION BRANCH***

**2003 to 2007**

**USDA Farm Service Agency**

**Conservation and Environmental Programs Division**

- Lead the branch in providing automation support to national programs including the Conservation Reserve Program, the Emergency Conservation Program, the Grassland Reserve Program, Debt for Nature, as well as the Farm Service Agency's environmental and cultural resource compliance programs.
- Analyzed legislation and administrative mandates to develop regulations, policy, and software used to implement new and modified nationwide conservation and environmental programs.

***EDUCATION***

**San Diego State University, San Diego CA,**  
MA in Geography, August 2003

**Stanford University, Stanford CA,**  
BS in Applied Earth Sciences, June 1990