



Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Locally Led Conservation

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center

What is Locally Led Conservation?

Locally Led Conservation is a process that:

- Begins with local stakeholders
- Led by conservation districts
- Supported by NRCS
- Ensures conservation priorities reflect local needs



Leadership of the Locally Led Process

Conservation districts lead the conservation process by:

- Develop the Conservation Needs Assessment using broad based community participation
- Recommend local natural resource priorities and criteria for NRCS conservation activities and programs based on the conservation need assessment and public input
- Develop and implement conservation plans and natural resource systems
- Evaluate and measure the impacts of the planned solutions

Leadership of the Locally Led Process

NRCS supports the conservation process by:

- Helping identify conservation needs
- Providing technical and programmatic info to community stakeholders
- Assisting in developing and implementing strategies

NRCS is not responsible for leading the locally led conservation process. NRCS's role is to support the process and provide technical information upon request.

The Three-Step Process

1. Conservation Needs Assessment- A comprehensive evaluation of an area's natural resources based on input and data from stakeholders
2. Conservation Action Plan- A record of how the districts want to see the conservation needs addressed
3. Implementation and Evaluation



The Three-Step Process

1. Conservation Needs Assessment

2. Conservation Action Plan

3. Implementation and Evaluation

NRCS supports by:

- Helping assemble the inventories and data
- Analyzes data and other info

Led by conservation districts coordinating with the local working groups.

The Conservation Needs Assessment identifies:

- The most important natural resource concerns
- The type and extent of needed practices
- Funding scope, priorities and priority areas
- Available federal, state, and tribal programs that help producers

The Three-Step Process

1. Conservation Needs Assessment

2. Conservation Action Plan

3. Implementation and Evaluation

NRCS supports by:

- Providing overall planning assistance
- Explaining NRCS conservation programs and services
- Identifying non-USDA programs that may be of assistance

Defines:

- Natural resource priorities and concerns
- Measurable conservation goals
- Priority areas
- Roles and timelines
- Federal, state, local, and NGO programs and services needed

The Three-Step Process

1. Conservation Needs Assessment
2. Conservation Action Plan
3. Implementation and Evaluation

Conservation Districts:

- Coordinate partners
- Ensure access to programs
- Lead implementation

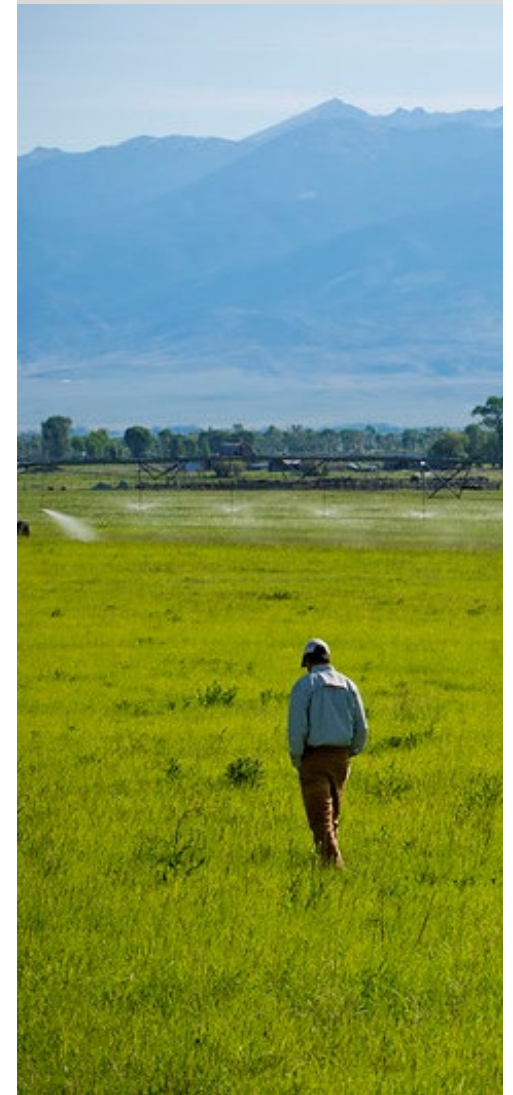
NRCS supports through technical assistance, policy clarification, and by helping to evaluate the impacts that the plan will have on the condition of the natural resources.



Locally Led Conservation and Conservation Program Delivery

This 3-step process provides NRCS with input on local conservation needs, resource concerns, priorities and recommendations regarding conservation program administration and implementation.

NRCS seeks input from State Technical Committees and local working group on the delivery of NRCS conservation programs.



From Local Concerns to State Priorities

The local working groups provide the designated conservationist with their recommendations

The designated conservationist will submit recommendations to the state technical committee

The state technical committee will consider the local working group's recommendation when developing state priorities and program delivery recommendations to the State Conservationist.

The state conservationist considers the recommendations from the state technical committee when developing the priorities and criteria for the state.





Questions?

