



United States Department of Agriculture

OACD Annual Meeting

Locally Led Conservation

Presented by Stacy Riley, NRCS





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Locally Led Conservation

Why we do it?

IT'S THE LAW!





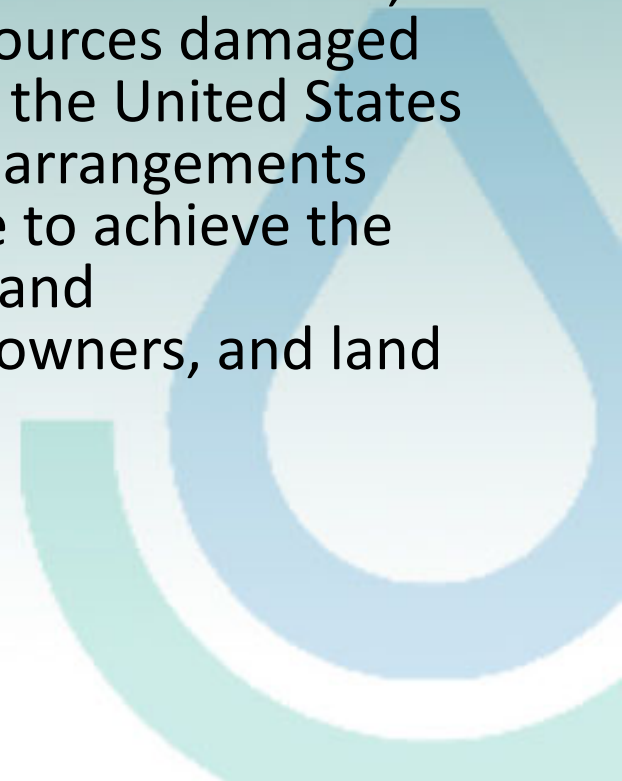
Locally Led Conservation

- That's right, it is the law. According to U.S. Code Title 16 Chapter 40 Part 2003:
 - (a) In order to further the conservation of soil, water, and related resources, it is declared to the policy of the United States and purpose of this chapter that the conduct of programs administered by the Secretary of Agriculture for the conservation of such resources shall be the responsive to the long-term needs of the Nation, as determined under the provisions of this chapter.



Locally Led Conservation

- (b) Recognizing that the arrangements under which the Federal Government cooperates with State and tribal soil and water conservation agencies and other appropriate State and tribal natural resource agencies such as those concerned with forestry and fish and wildlife, and through conservation districts, with other local units of government and land users, have effectively aided in the protection and improvement of the Nation's basic resources, including the restoration and maintenance of resources damaged by improper use, it is declared to be the policy of the United States that these arrangements and similar cooperative arrangements should be utilized to the fullest extent practicable to achieve the purpose of this chapter consistent with the roles and responsibilities of the non-Federal agencies, landowners, and land users.

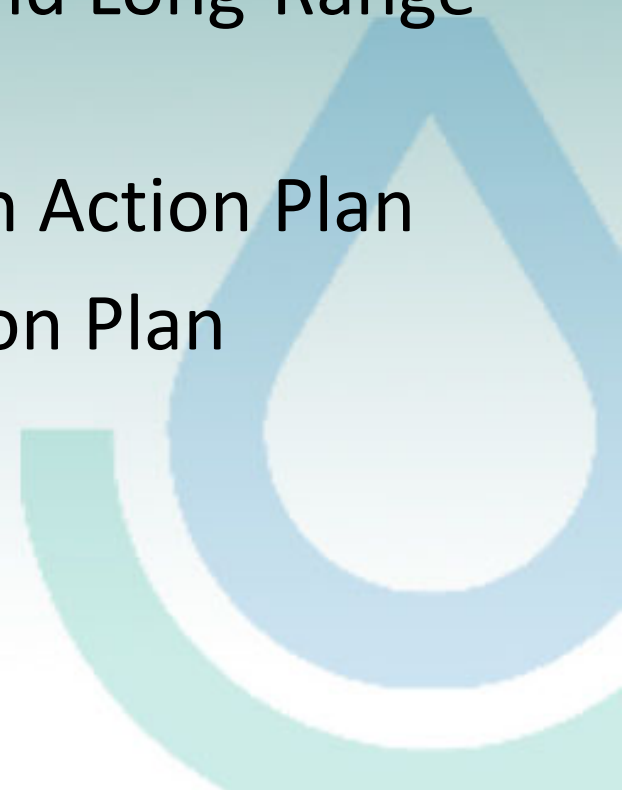




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Locally Led Conservation

- What we are going to discuss
 - Public Involvement and the Conservation Needs Assessment (Annual Plan)
 - Conservation Action Plan (Annual and Long-Range Plan)
 - Implementation of the Conservation Action Plan
 - Evaluation of the Conservation Action Plan





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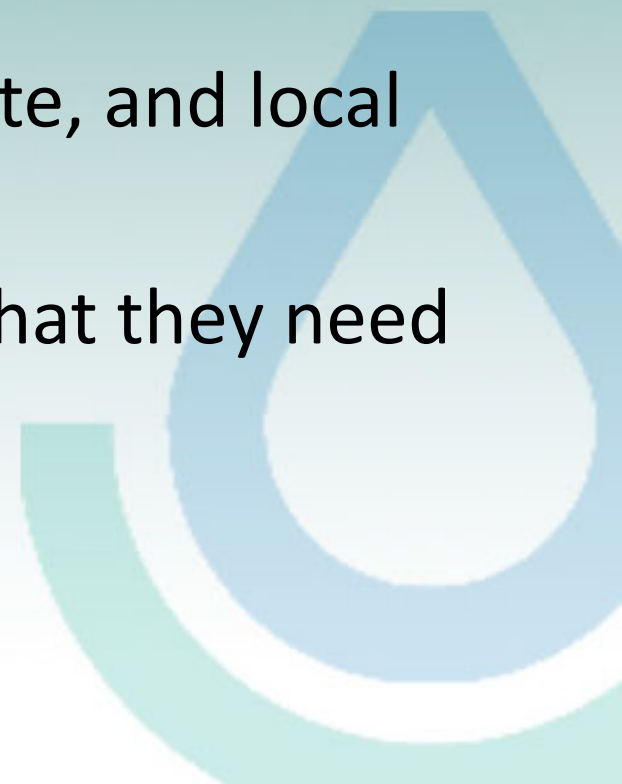
- What is Locally Led Conservation?
 - Community stakeholders performing all the following
 - Assessing their natural resource conservation needs
 - Setting community conservation goals
 - Developing an action plan
 - Obtaining resources to carry out the plan
 - Implementing solutions
 - Measuring their solutions





Locally Led Conservation

- What Locally Led Conservation is NOT:
 - NRCS making all decisions
 - Conservation District Board Members giving out free money
 - Decisions made only by Federal, State, and local officials without public input
 - Lawmakers telling land managers what they need in Hollis, Idabel, etc...





Locally Led Conservation

- It's important to keep in mind that locally led conservation must be driven by natural resource conservation needs rather than programs.
- Its primary focus should be to identify natural resource concerns, along with related economic and social concerns.





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Locally Led Conservation

- Locally Led Leadership and Public Involvement
 - Locally Led Leadership: Conservation District
 - Public Involvement
 - NRCS Role and Responsibilities





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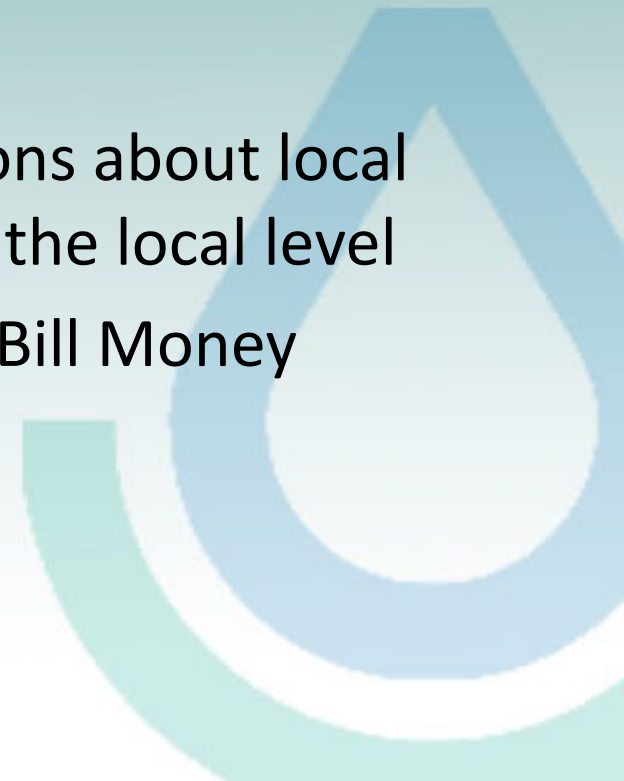
- Locally Led Meeting vs Local Work Group Meeting
- What are the differences and make up of the meetings





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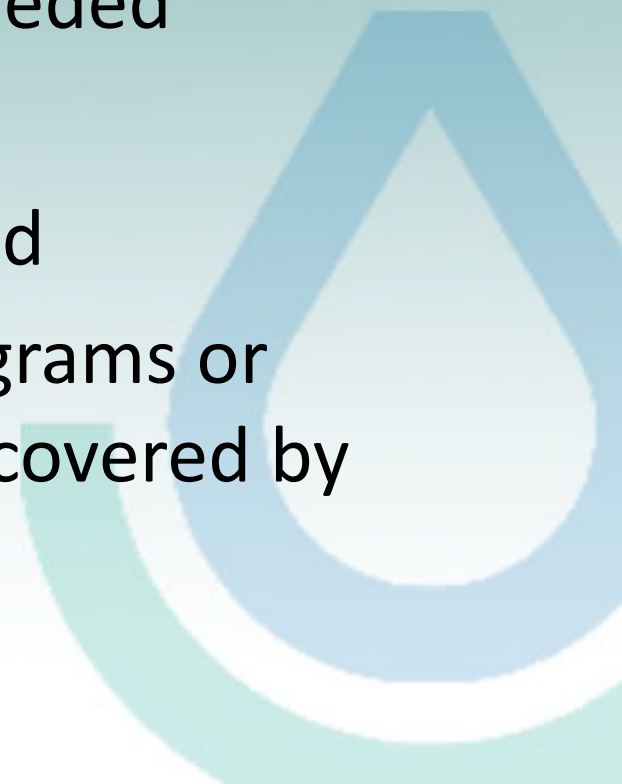
- The Conservation Needs Assessment
 - What is it and what is not
 - Must be developed with local stakeholder's input
 - Must be provide a comprehensive evaluation of the area's natural resources base
 - Will be the platform for making decisions about local priorities for conservation priorities at the local level
 - It is not developed just to spend Farm Bill Money





Locally Led Conservation

- The Conservation Action Plan will
 - Identify natural resource conservation priorities
 - Set measurable conservation goals and objectives
 - Identify conservation technology needed
 - Identify responsibility for the action
 - Identify programs or services needed
 - Identify a need to develop new programs or processes to address problems not covered by existing programs





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Locally Led Conservation

- Implementing the Conservation Action Plan
 - Local Working Group
 - Who is this again?
 - What are their goal and objectives
 - Responsibilities of this group





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Locally Led Conservation

- Evaluation of the Conservation Action Plan
 - Locally Led conservation doesn't end when the action plan has been implemented!





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