



# Natural Resources Conservation Service



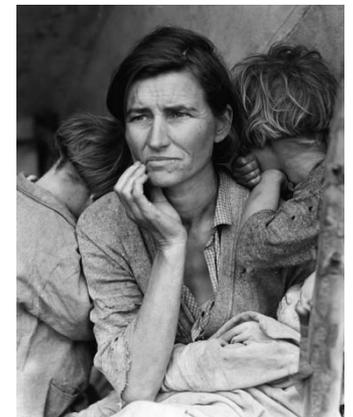
*Creating an inclusive, high-performance organization*

In this module, the participant will review:

- Origins of the NRCS
- NRCS's Mission and Vision
- Voluntary Private Lands Conservation
- NRCS's primary customers



# *Born from the Dust Bowl*





## *Hugh Hammond Bennett*



- NRCS has been an Agency within USDA since 1935.
- Early agency names included the Soil Erosion Service (SES) and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS).
- The NRCS was born of adversity, a national response to the Dust Bowl catastrophe of the mid-1930s.
- The agency's first Chief, Hugh Hammond Bennett, is known as the Father of Soil Conservation.



- In the early 1930's, parts of the United States were devastated by dust storms. This natural catastrophe was later named the Dust Bowl.
- Nationally, wind and water erosion were taking a great toll on the land. Bennett came to believe that, if left unchecked, soil erosion would impair the nation's ability to produce food.

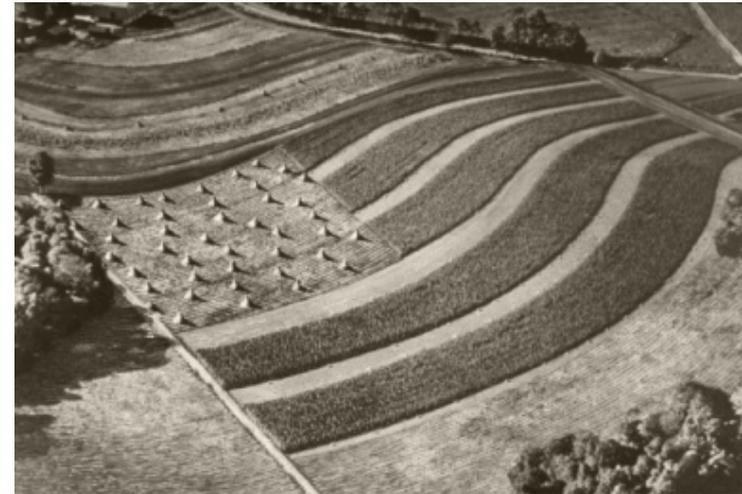




## *Historic Milestones in the Soil Conservation Movement*



- 1929 - Soil Erosion Experiment Stations Established
- 1933 - Soil Erosion Service (Dept of Interior) Established: Created demonstration projects near the soil erosion experiment stations
- 1935 - Soil Conservation Service established within USDA
- State Soil Conservation Districts Law. First MOU signed
- 1973 - Two billion acres in Conservation Districts





# 1994 - SCS changes name to NRCS



NRCS is USDA's principal agency for providing conservation technical assistance to:

- Private Landowners
- Conservation Districts
- Tribes
- Other organizations.



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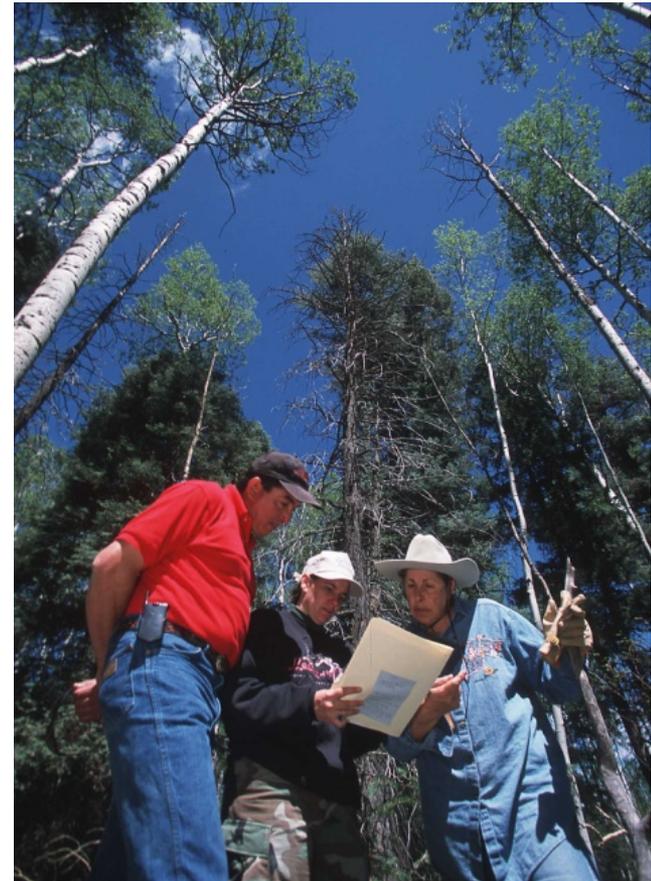


# *Technical Assistance Delivery System*



NRCS has a unique delivery system through a national network of locally based, technically skilled professional conservationists.

These conservationists deliver consistent, science based, site specific solutions to help private landowners voluntarily conserve, maintain and improve the Nation's natural resources.





# *NRCS Vision & Mission*



- Vision:
  - Productive Lands –  
Healthy Environment
  
- Mission:
  - Helping People Help  
The Land



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# Mission



The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides products and services that enable land managers to be good stewards of the Nation's soil, water, and related natural resources on private lands.



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# *Strategic Goal & Management Initiatives*

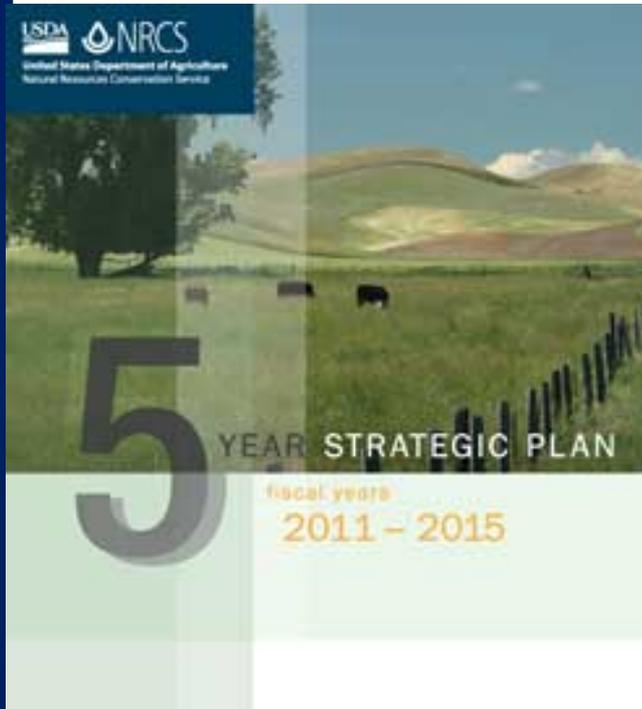


## **Strategic Goal:**

- 1) Get more Conservation on the Ground**

## **Management Initiatives:**

- 1) Increase organizational effectiveness and efficiency**
- 2) Create a climate where private lands conservation will thrive**





# *Organizational Structure*



NRCS is structured as a line and staff organization. The line of authority extends from the Chief to the Regional Conservationists to the State Conservationists, to the Area Conservationists (or Assistant State Conservationists for Field Operations), and to the District Conservationists.

Line officers are responsible for providing direct assistance to the public.

Staff positions furnish specialized technical or administrative assistance to line officers.



# Customers



- The NRCS works hand-in-hand with the American people to conserve natural resources on private lands.
- Local customers may change with each task, but the American taxpayers collectively remain our constant customer.
- American tax dollars fund the programs that Congress has authorized through legislation for NRCS to assist in the conservation of our natural resources.





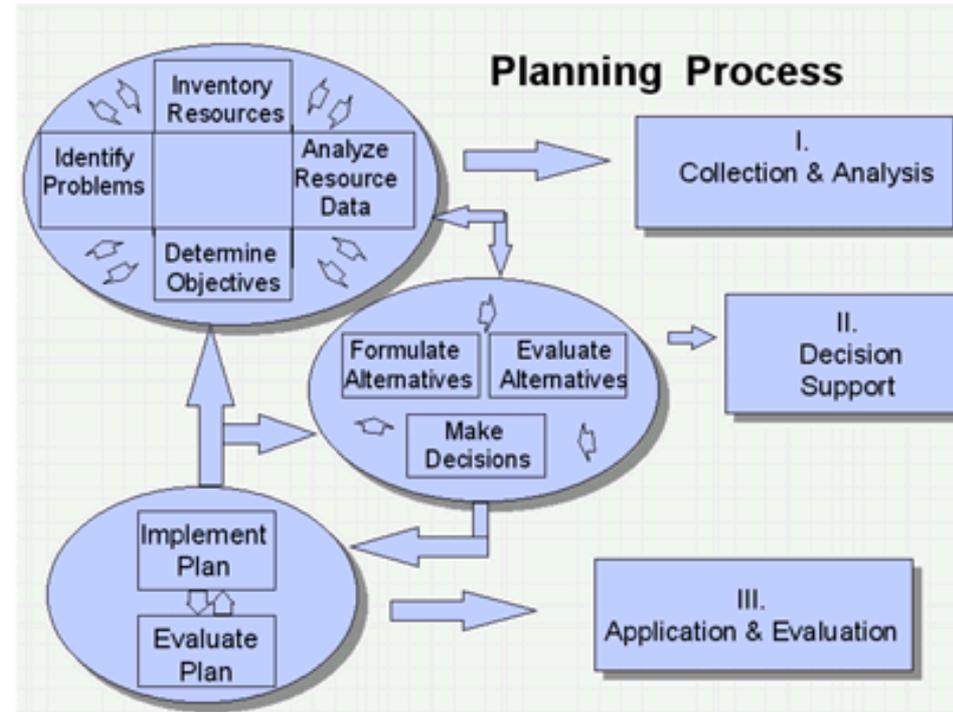
# Customers



- In years past our main customers at the local level were farmers and ranchers.
- Today's customers include other decision makers in rural and urban communities, other Federal agencies, and local and state governments, to name a few.



- NRCS' 9-step conservation planning process
- Implementation of proven conservation systems
- Technical expertise staffed in local field offices





# *Knowledge Check*



- Who is known as the Father of Soil Conservation?
- What major natural catastrophe led to the formation of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service)?
- What is the vision for NRCS?



# NRCS Training Modules



NRCS Module 1  
Overview

NRCS Module 2 Conservation  
Technical Assistance

NRCS Module 3  
Partnerships

NRCS Module 4  
Programs Part I

NRCS Module 5  
Programs Part II

NRCS Module 6  
Compliance

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## *Summary*

- History of NRCS
- NRCS Mission and Vision
- NRCS Customers
- NRCS Core Services



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