



NOPHNRCSE

National Organization of Professional Hispanic Natural Resources Conservation Service Employees

2004 Training Conference • Sacramento, California • June 22 - 24, 2004

**“Bring Diversity to the Nation’s Conservation Needs”
Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, Sacramento, California**

Dear NOPHNRCSE Members and Friends:

Our 2004 Training Conference is rapidly approaching. We have lined up a great list of speakers who will be presenting an impressive list of topics and workshops during the week of June 22-24th. The conservation tour promises to take you through two of our most productive and innovative agricultural areas in the state of California. I personally guarantee that you will learn and have fun at the summer conference.

As part of the run to the conference, it is time to register. Enclosed you will find the registration form and a list of the concurrent workshops we will present this year. Please fill out and return the registration form with your payment. Early registration is due on May 1st. Remember to include the list of courses with your top four choices selected.

I want to point out that the registration form is different than in the past. Due to the different workshops and events going on during that week, we have broken down the fees. Anticipating some questions, I want to give a few of scenarios that hopefully will help you figure out the final registration amount:

1. You want to attend the Pre-Conference ArcGIS Workshop on Monday, and the 3-day conference, through Thursday evening. Your final cost is \$50 for Monday + \$275 for the 3-day conference.
2. You want to attend the conference on Tuesday and take the 2-day ArcGIS workshop on Wednesday and Thursday. You also want to stay for the Awards Banquet on Thursday evening. You pay \$275 for the 3-day conference, which includes the banquet.
3. You want to attend only the 2-day ArcGIS workshop on Wednesday and Thursday. You will probably arrive on Tuesday, so you will probably want to come by and meet everyone at the pre-Auction reception on Tuesday evening (and hopefully stay and buy a few items to help our scholarship fund). And let’s say you want to rush home on Thursday, so you will not be staying for the banquet. You will pay \$150 for the workshop and \$10 for the pre-Auction reception. If you decide to stay for the banquet, you will need to add \$38.00 to the total cost.

Get the hang of it? I hope these examples help you figure out how it works. If you still have questions, please email Jen DeLorenzi (jen.delorenzi@ca.usda.gov) and she will be happy to help you. And don’t forget to check out our website at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/hispanic/> for the latest information on the Conference.

Thank you for participating in our conference. I look forward to seeing you in Sacramento in June!

Carmen Ortiz
Chair, 2004 Planning Committee

Enclosure



**“Bring Diversity to the Nation’s Conservation Needs”
Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, Sacramento, California
Registration Form**

Registrant Name	Position Title	
Address	City	State/Zip
Phone Number	Fax	Email Address

Conference Registration Fees

Member Registration

Note: Select the days for which you are registering. Fees include meals for the days you select. The ArcGIS Workshops fees do not include meals.

	Early Registration May 1, 2004	Late Registration After May 1, 2004	Due
Pre-Conference ArcGIS Workshop (Monday, 6/21)	\$50	\$50	\$ _____
ArcGIS Workshop for USDA SCA (Wed & Thurs, 6/23-24)	\$150	\$150	\$ _____
Conference 1 day <input type="checkbox"/> Tues <input type="checkbox"/> Wed <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs	\$125	\$150	\$ _____
Conference 2 days <input type="checkbox"/> Tues <input type="checkbox"/> Wed <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs	\$225	\$250	\$ _____
Conference 3 days	\$275	\$300	\$ _____
Students	\$75	\$100	\$ _____

Non-Member Registration

Note: Select the days for which you are registering. Fees include meals for the days you select. The ArcGIS Workshops fees do not include meals.

	Early Registration May 1, 2004	Late Registration After May 1, 2004	Due
Pre-Conference ArcGIS Workshop (Monday, 6/21)	\$50	\$50	\$ _____
ArcGIS Workshop for USDA SCA (Wed & Thurs, 6/23-24)	\$150	\$150	\$ _____
Conference 1 day <input type="checkbox"/> Tues <input type="checkbox"/> Wed <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs	\$175	\$200	\$ _____
Conference 2 days <input type="checkbox"/> Tues <input type="checkbox"/> Wed <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs	\$275	\$300	\$ _____
Conference 3 days	\$325	\$350	\$ _____
Students	\$75	\$100	\$ _____

Guest Fees

	Per Person	Number of Persons	Due
Monday Night Reception 6/21)	\$10	_____	\$ _____
Tuesday Lunch (6/22)	\$22	_____	\$ _____
Tuesday Night Reception (6/22)	\$10	_____	\$ _____
Wednesday Box Lunch & Conservation Tour (6/23)	\$20	_____	\$ _____
Awards Banquet (6/24)	\$36	_____	\$ _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Special Needs (accommodations, meals, etc.) _____

Payment Method

Make checks payable to **NOPHNRCS**

Mail Registration and Payment to:

Jen DeLorenzi, NRCS-Public Affairs
430 G Street #4164
Davis, CA 95616-4164
530-792-5647 - 530-792-5791 fax
jen.delorenzi@ca.usda.gov

Credit Card Information

Visa Master Card

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Cardholder's Name _____

Signature _____

There is a block of rooms under **NOPHNRCS**

**Please call hotel directly at: 1-800-HOLIDAY or 916-446-0100 -
FAX: 916-446-7371**

Reserve by June 1, 2004

Cancellation Policy: Cancellation of training conference registration must be received in writing by June 10, 2004 to receive a full refund. Cancellation in writing received after June 10, 2004 is subject to a \$50.00 fee. No refund will be made for the training conference after June 15, 2004. Due to commitments made to service providers this policy must be followed.

Concurrent Training Sessions Workshop Descriptions

The following concurrent sessions will be conducted on two separate days: Tuesday, June 22 (PM) and Thursday, June 24 (PM). Please circle the top 4 session preferences by circling the number on the left.

Note: Registration is not complete without your workshop and tour selections. Please attach this list with your selections with the Registration Form.

1	<p>Introduction to ArcGIS 1 (NCGC)</p> <p>Note: this workshop can only accommodate 16 participants. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis.</p>	<p>(One day only – Monday, June, 22, 2004 8:00 – 4:30</p>	<p>Hands-on session. Provides employees with basic understanding of concepts and workings of ArcGIS 8.x. The course covers fundamental GIS concepts as well as how to create, edit, and work with georeferenced spatial data. Attendees learn how to manipulate tabular data, query a GIS database, and present data clearly and efficiently using maps and charts.</p>
2	<p>Introduction to ArcGIS 1 for USDA Service Center Agencies (NCGC)</p> <p>Note: this workshop can only accommodate 16 participants. Registration is on a first come, first serve basis.</p> <p>You must register for both days in order to participate</p> <p>Participants will receive a certificate upon completion of this course.</p>	<p>Two day course on Wednesday and Thursday, June 23 & 24, 2004 8:00 – 4:50 each day</p>	<p>Hands-on session. Participants learn how to use ArcCatalog, ArcMap and ArcToolbox and explore how these applications work together to provide a complete GIS software solution. The course covers fundamental GIS concepts using spatial data stored in the GEODATA folder structure common to all Service Center Agencies. Participants will learn how to create, edit, and work with georeferenced spatial data, with particular emphasis on editing tasks that are common to all SCA workflows. Additional topics include querying a GIS database, a survey of common data formats, and how to present spatial data clearly and effectively with maps.</p>
3	<p>Conservation Tour: Yolo County</p> <p>Note: You may only register for one of the tour locations. Please select your first choice only. If there is no room on the tour of your choice, you will automatically be placed on the alternate tour.</p>	<p>Wednesday, June 23, 2004 12:30 – 5:00 PM</p>	<p>See description of this tour on page 7.</p>

4	<p>Conservation Tour: Sacramento County</p> <p>Note: You may only register for one of the tour locations. Please select your first choice only. If there is no room on the tour of your choice, you will automatically be placed on the alternate tour.</p>	<p>Wednesday, June 23, 2004 12:30 – 5:00 PM</p>	<p>See description of this tour on page 7.</p>
5	<p>Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)</p>	<p>Tuesday, June 22, 2004 3:30 – 4:30 PM</p> <p>Note: This is a 2 hour workshop</p>	<p>Mediation of Program Disputes is on the rise at NRCS. In FY 03, there was 58% increase in the use of mediation of Program disputes through the use of State Certified Agricultural Mediation programs nationwide. Attendees of this workshop will learn the benefits of ADR and how it improves work relationships. Real life scenarios are discussed to help participants understand this problem solving process.</p>
6	<p>Customer Service Toolkit (CST) – Next Generation</p>	<p>Tuesday, June 22, 2004 3:40 – 4:40 PM</p>	<p>Attendees will learn the new capabilities of the web-based CST.</p>
7	<p>Exhibits & Poster Displays</p>	<p>Tuesday, June 22, 2004 2:30 – 3:30 PM 3:40 – 4:40 PM</p>	<p>Exhibits will be presented by some of the National Centers and Institutes: NCGC, ITC, others. In addition, technical posters prepared by members will be on display. This is an opportunity to come and see what the centers and institutes are doing. Meet poster authors and exchange ideas that may benefit your local work.</p>
8	<p>Farm Bill Programs Conservation Security Program</p>	<p>Tuesday, June 22, 2004 2:30 – 3:30 PM 3:40 – 4:40 PM</p>	<p>Presentation will bring employees the latest information on the Farm Bill programs. Specifically the CSP what it means to the field. A review of existing programs. What has changed in FY04?</p>
9	<p>GPS Technology in the Field (NCGC)</p>	<p>Tuesday, June 22, 2004 2:30 – 4:00 PM 4:10 – 5:30 PM</p>	<p>Hands-on session. Provides employees with a basic understanding of GPS technology and how the units work. Employees will have the opportunity to actually interact with instructors, work with units in a controlled environment; instructors will provide guidance in the workings of the new technology.</p>
10	<p>Progress Reporting System (PRS)</p>	<p>Tuesday, June 22, 2004 2:30 – 3:30 PM</p>	<p>The session will provide information on the current status of the PRS and how it fits within the framework of the Integrated Accountability System (PRS). The workshop will discuss the impacts on the PRS on the field.</p>

11	Mendez vs Westminster: For All the Children/ Para Todos los Niños – A documentary	Tuesday, June 22, 2004 2:30 – 3:30 PM 3:40 – 4:40 PM	“Mendez” tells the story of the historic California school desegregation case that began in Orange County and ended segregation in California 7 years before Brown v. Board of Education. Among many surprises, both cases shared two key players: NAACP lawyer Thurgood Marshall who oversaw the amicus brief the NAACP contributed to the Mendez case; and Earl Warren who as Governor of California ended school segregation throughout the state soon after the Mendez case was won, and later, as the Chief Justice on the Supreme Court, wrote the decision for Brown v. Board of Education.”
12	Agriculture and Air Quality – An Emerging Issue – John Beyer/Dr. Bryan Shaw	Thursday, June 24, 2004 1:50 – 2:50 PM 3:00 – 4:00 PM	With Air Quality becoming an emerging issue, it is important for NRCS employees to have a basic understanding of the issue and the specific concerns that have elevated the issue. Discussion will give basic information to develop a foundation for understanding the issue, Farm Bill Program implications, what does it mean for those that are have to deal with it.
13	Flexible Spending Account	Thursday, June 24, 2004 1:50 – 2:50 PM 3:00 – 4:00 PM	How does this account work, what are its' advantages? How can employees take advantage of it? What are the implications; tax advantages, disadvantages, impacts on retirement accounts, etc?
14	International Conservation	Thursday, June 24, 2004 1:50 – 2:50 PM 3:0 – 4:00 PM	Manual Ayala will discuss his experiences in Afghanistan: the conservationist's challenges and the assistance he provided.
15	Soil Data Warehouse/Data Mart	Thursday, June 24, 2004 1:50 – 2:50 PM 3:00 – 4:00 PM	The Soil Data Warehouse and Data Mart provide a sole-source distribution point for official soil survey data used in Field Office Technical Guides, Customer Service Toolkit, and other applications. The Soil Data Mart is a web-based interface that allows users to identify specific soil survey areas, run reports, and download SSURGO data files. Now for the first time, NRCS can guarantee that field conservationists, technical service providers, and the general public have access to exactly the same soil survey data regardless of whether they use the Customer Service Toolkit, eFOTG, or SSURGO products.
16	New Developments in Information Technology (ITC)	Thursday, June 24, 2004 1:50 – 2:50 PM 3:00 – 4:00 PM	What is coming down in terms of hardware and software for use in the field? What technological advancements should we expect in the future?

17	Soil Data Warehouse and the Data Mart	Thursday, June 24, 2004 1:50 – 2:50 PM 3:00 – 4:00 PM	This workshop will present the capabilities of the new Soil Data Mart. Attendees will learn about the types of data available through the SDW and the relationship between the SDW and other field applications, such as the CST.
18	Trends in GIS Technology (NCGC)	Thursday, June 24, 2004 1:50 – 2:50 PM 3:00 – 4:00 PM	This workshop will discuss the latest information on orthoimagery (NAIP, NAPP) and geospatial data distribution via the Data Warehouse. Participants will learn the difference between the different types of imagery and how to obtain data sets. The workshop will also present the latest information on the status of the Web Soil Survey (West Texas Telecommunications Project).
19	XP Operating System	Tuesday, June 22, 2004 2:30 – 3:30 PM 3:40 – 4:40 PM	The session will be an “XP lab” to allow employees to have hands-on experience with the new operating system. While close to NT, the XP operating system offers new advantages and short cuts. These are identified and discussed, giving employees an opportunity to ask questions, and be exposed to the new system.

2004 Conservation Tour Description

The 2004 Conservation Tour, organized by NOPHNRCSE members in cooperation with other NRCS staff from Yolo and Sacramento counties and other NRCS partners, offers **two** options. (The numbers below correspond to the concurrent session number on the list of workshops on pages 7 & 8.)

3. **Yolo County** - Visit to three growers who developed Conservation Plans. They implemented some of the conservation practices and will include additional practices in the future.
 - a. Lewis Butler – Mr. Butler has row crops and has an active EQIP contract. At this site, the NRCS partners are Yolo County Resource Conservation District (YCRCD), demo project using 319 grant funds and Yolo County Public Works.
 - Tailwater pond with sediment trap
 - Riparian habitat
 - Insectary Hedgerow (row of trees and/or shrubs along field side)
 - Reshaping roadside ditches
 - Roadside perennial native grass planting
 - Grassed waterway
 - b. Roy Parcell – Mr. Parcell has an alfalfa field with an active EQIP contract for a tailwater pond and a sediment trap. YCRCD is conducting water sampling and water quality analysis to find out the effect of the sediment trap in reducing sediments and chemicals in irrigation water runoff. Sediments carried in water can clog up ditches and streams and foul the water downstream.
 - Tailwater pond with native plants planted for wildlife habitat
 - Sediment trap to recapture valuable topsoil by delaying the flow of water allowing the sediments to drop out of the water and settle in the trap
 - c. John Anderson – Mr. Anderson is a recognized steward of land and water in Yolo County, who advocates the use of native grasses for several conservation practices. He is a native grass seed producer. Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) in the south of the property on marginal soils. NRCS partners include US Fish & Wildlife Service and Yolo County Public Works. Wetlands and ponds installed with past ACP funds. Practices include:
 - Tailwater ponds with sediment traps
 - Riparian habitat
 - Tree and shrub establishment
 - Roadside native perennial grass establishment
 - Hedgerows
 - Wetland restoration and wildlife habitat establishment
4. **Sacramento County** - Visit to the Cosumnes River Preserve and organic rice fields.
 - a. NOPHNRCSE participants will have the opportunity to visit the Cosumnes River Preserve, which holds a very special place among California landscapes. The Cosumnes River is the last “undammed” river flowing from the Sierra Nevada mountain range into the great Central Valley. The Preserve is dedicated to safeguarding and restoring the finest remaining example of a California valley oak riparian (streamside) ecosystem and its surrounding habitats, and restoring freshwater wetlands to increase the Pacific Flyway’s populations of migratory waterfowl.
 - b. Visit some organic grown rice fields located within the Cosumnes Preserve. These growers are working with the preserve to bring Certified Organic Farming, which follows wildlife friendly practices. Organic rice is harvested and also provides food for migratory birds in the winter time.

Only minutes from the State Capitol, the Cosumnes Preserve is a great example of how human uses like agriculture, recreation and education can be compatible with the natural environment.



If you would like to contribute a \$10 donation for the Hospitality Room for purchasing items such as plates, napkins, cups, beverages, chips and salsa, etc., please write a separate check payable to NOPHNCSE. Write "Hospitality Room" on the memo line.

Remember that this \$10 donation **cannot** be claimed as a reimbursement on your travel voucher.

Thanks!