



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

Dear Grantee:

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in cooperation with the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS), is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Showcase. This Showcase will be held in conjunction with the SWCS Annual Conference which will take place July 11-15, 2009, in Dearborn, Michigan.

We are inviting you to participate in the Showcase to provide the conference participants with information about your CIG project and progress. This Showcase will also allow you time to interact with natural resource professionals from across the Nation and world. The CIG Showcase will be held during the concurrent sessions on July 13-14, 2009. We will hold a CIG Awards Ceremony during the Showcase to recognize the CIG Poster and Oral Presentations.

Presentation and poster selection criteria will include Natural Resources, Innovative Technology, and Regional Diversity. Evaluation of the presentation and poster abstracts will include input from the NRCS technical contacts and the National or State CIG Program Manager.

SWCS currently has a Call for Papers requesting proposals for the upcoming SWCS Annual Conference. We plan to utilize their proposal submittal process. If you would like to be included for consideration, please prepare and submit a 250 word project abstract by Friday, February 20, 2009, using the online service at: http://www.swcs.org/en/conferences/2009_annual_conference/. Click the link "Submit an Oral or Poster Abstract or Symposia Description". Follow the directions provided to create an account to submit the abstract to the webpage. See the help tab for submission instructions. Please only select Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) as the Topic. To assist you, an electronic version of the instructions is available online at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig/InfoForGrantees.html>.

The grantees that are selected will be notified by e-mail in March 2009. Selected presenters are responsible for covering their own registration and travel expenses. No additional funds are available to cover the travel costs to attend this event.

The CIG Showcases is a great opportunity for CIG grantees and conservationists to network and share information, We look forward to a successful effort to showcase emerging innovative technologies and approaches to conservation. If you have any questions, please contact Ross Braun at (301) 504-2195 or via e-mail at ross.braun@wdc.usda.gov.

