

Time Line

Conservation Milestones

April 2005

September 19, 1933 - Soil Erosion Service is created as temporary agency in the Department of the Interior to demonstrate practical conservation methods to farmers.

March 11, 1934 - A fierce windstorm from the Great Plains swept fine soil particles across areas as far away as Washington D.C. Congress decides action must be taken immediately.



April 27, 1935 - The Soil Conservation Service is established in the Department of Agriculture to help landowners carry out soil conservation practices.

February 27, 1937 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt urges governors to enact conservation district law that will allow landowners to organize conservation districts.

August 4, 1937 - North Carolina forms the first conservation district in the nation: Brown Creek Soil Conservation District.



December 22, 1944 - Flood Control Act of 1944 authorizes 11 flood prevention projects and the Emergency Watershed Protection Program to help protect lives and property following natural disasters

July 25, 1946 - National Association of Conservation Districts founded in Chicago, Illinois by district officials from 17 states.

August 1954 - The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act is enacted to help communities protect, improve, and develop watersheds.

July 2, 1957 - Arizona forms its first American Indian conservation district: Parker Valley Soil Conservation District.

September 27, 1962 - The Resource Conservation and Development Program is created to advance community development and environmental protection in multi-county areas.



September 1966 - SCS provides soil surveys and interpretations to assist states and other private agencies in community and resource planning.

February 7, 1967 - National Association of State Conservation Agencies officially organized.

November 18, 1977 - Congress passes the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act to conserve, protect and enhance the nation's natural resources for future uses.

June 22, 1982 - Washington, D.C. establishes first urban conservation district: District of Columbia Conservation District.

December 23, 1985 - The 1985 Farm Bill requires landowners to carry out their conservation plans to receive USDA conservation program benefits.

October 20, 1994 - SCS' name changes to the Natural Resources Conservation Service to reflect its efforts to conserve natural resources.



April 1996 - The 1996 Farm Bill creates programs to enhance wildlife, improve wetlands, and address specific resource concerns on farms.

2002 - The Grasslands Reserve Program is authorized to offer protection, restoration, and enhancement of grasslands to private landowners.

2002 - The Conservation Security Program is created to reward farmers for practicing excellent conservation on their lands.

