

Locally Led Conservation Initiative



Kevin D. Norton

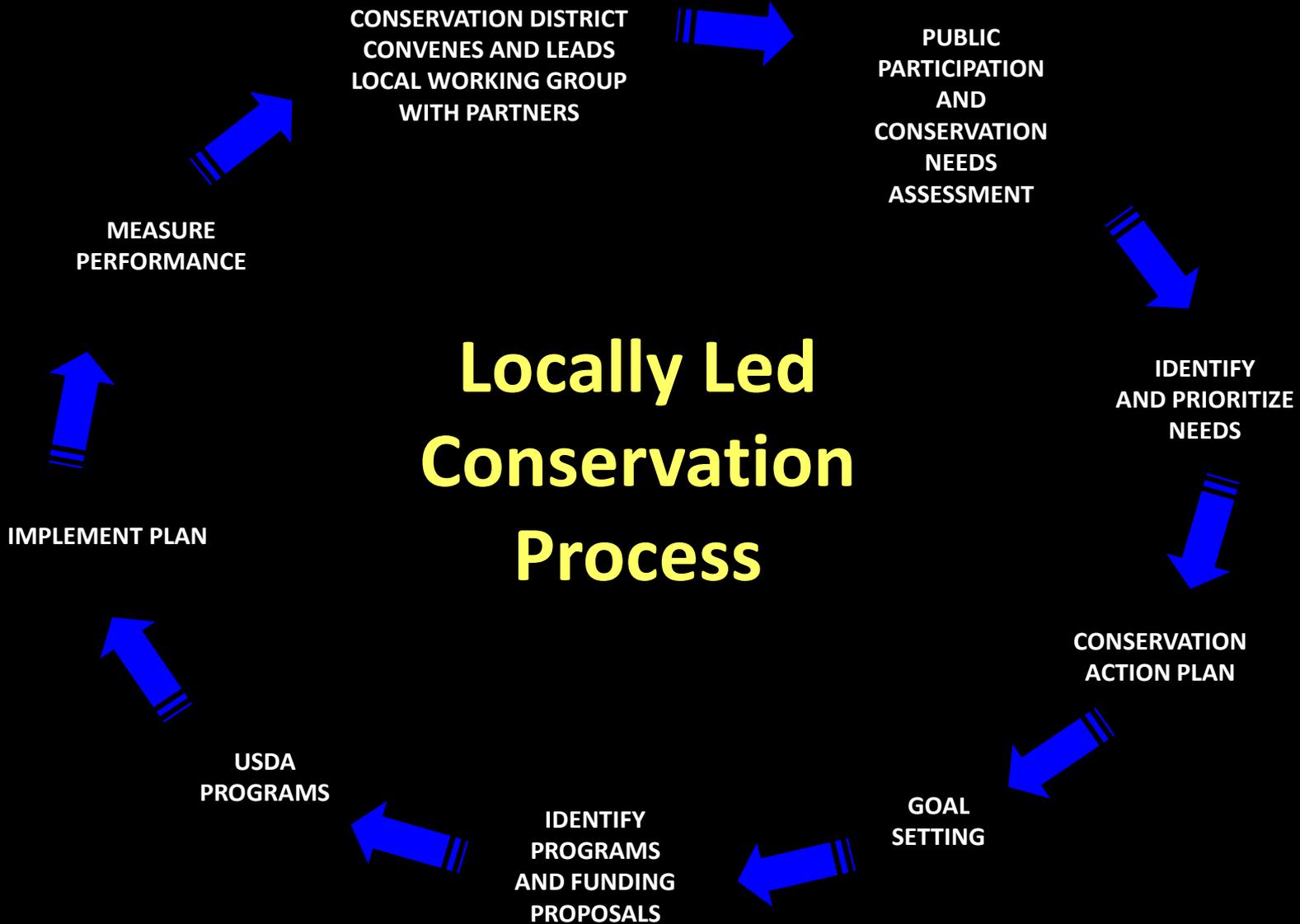
State Conservationist

NRCS

Locally Led Conservation



Process





An essential element of the locally led conservation is input from a broad range of agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals in the local area that have an interest in natural resource management and are familiar with local resource needs and conditions.

These representatives should reflect the diversity of the residents, landowners, and land operators in the local area.



Sum of Weighted Values assigned by Local Work Groups - 2010

Rank	Resource Concern	Weighted Value
1	Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants	43
1	Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill	43
3	Plant – Condition – Productivity, Health and Vigor	38
4	Soil Erosion - Classic Gully	36
5	Water Quality – Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water	29
5	Water Quantity – Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land	29
7	Fish and Wildlife - Imbalance Among and Within Populations	24
8	Water Quantity - Excessive Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding	17
9	Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water	16
9	Water Quantity – Aquifer Overdraft	16
11	Domestic Animals – Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage	12
12	Soil Erosion - Shoreline	11
13	Domestic Animals – Inadequate Stock Water	10
13	Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Cover/Shelter	10
15	Soil Erosion – Road, road sides and Construction Sites	9



Comparison of Rank – 2008, 2009, 2010

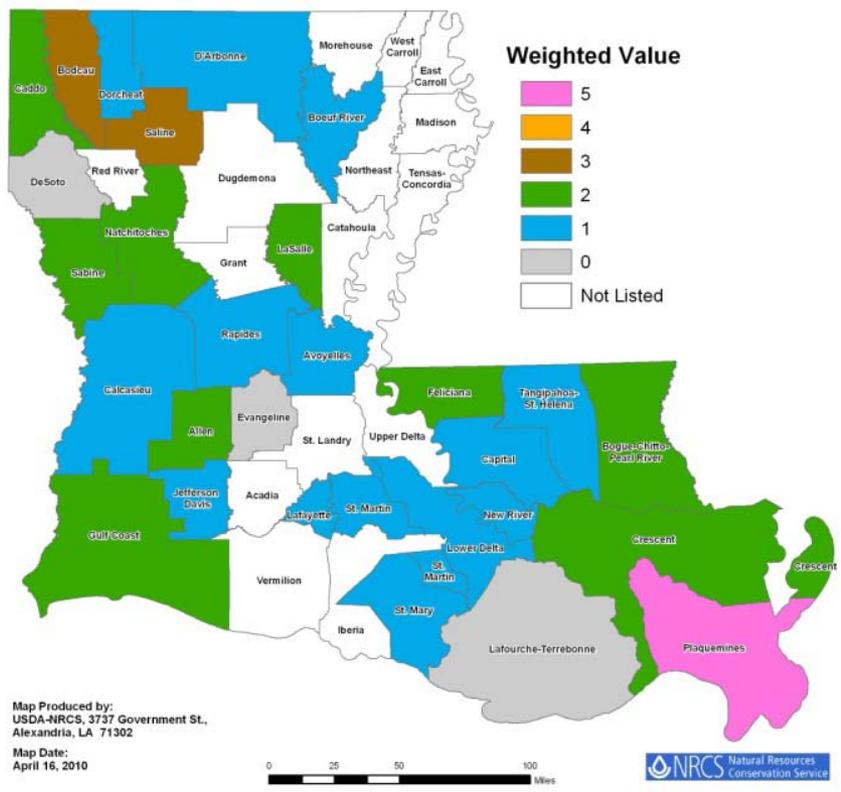
Rank 2008	Rank 2009	Rank 2010	Resource Concern	STAC 2009
4	2	1	Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants	2*
3	5	1	Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill	10
1	1	3	Plant – Condition – Productivity, Health and Vigor	14*
5	3	4	Soil Erosion - Classic Gully	14*
6	10	5	Water Quality – Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water	1
10	4	5	Water Quantity – Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land	4*
14	8	7	Fish and Wildlife - Imbalance Among and Within Populations	8*
7	6	8	Water Quantity - Excessive Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding	10*
8	11	9	Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water	7
9	7	9	Water Quantity – Aquifer Overdraft	14*
2	12	11	Domestic Animals – Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage	10*
-	13	12	Soil Erosion - Shoreline	14*
-	21	13	Domestic Animals – Inadequate Stock Water	14*
-	15	13	Fish and Wildlife – Inadequate Cover/Shelter	2*
-	30	15	Soil Erosion – Road, road sides and Construction Sites	NR

*Tie



2010 Resource Concern #1

Local Work Group Priorities 2010 Resource Concern with 1st Highest Total Weighted Value Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants (Tied with Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill)



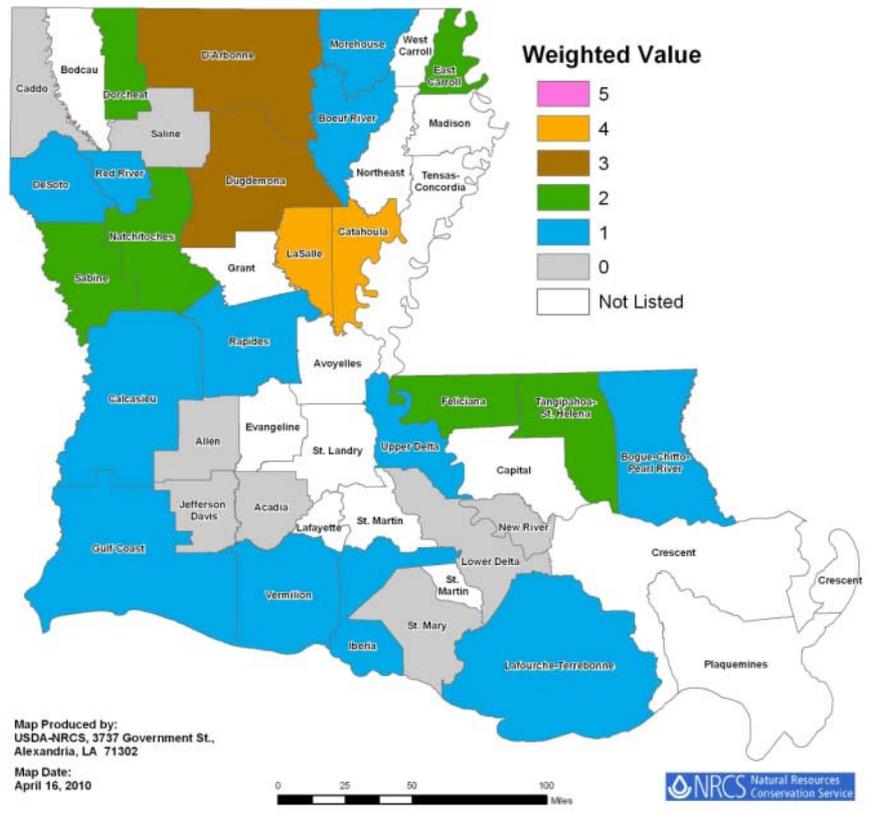
Recommended Practices

- Brush Management
- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Cover Crop
- Critical Area Planting
- Early Successional Habitat Development/Management
- Field Border
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Pasture and Hay Planting
- Pest Management
- Prescribed Burning
- Prescribed Grazing
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation



2010 Resource Concern Ranked 3

Local Work Group Priorities 2010 Resource Concern with 2nd Highest Total Weighted Value Plant Condition - Productivity, Health and Vigor

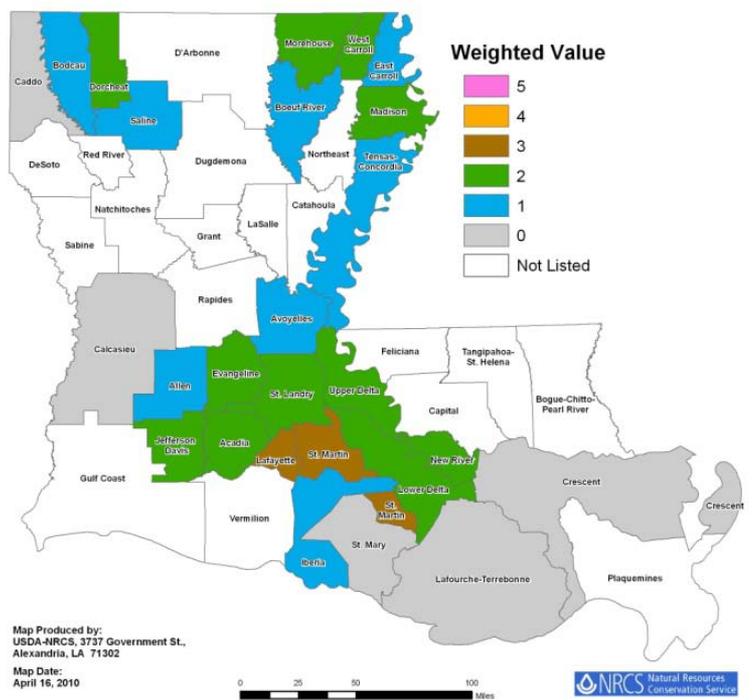


- Recommended Practices
- Brush Management
 - Conservation Cover
 - Conservation Crop Rotation
 - Cover Crop
 - Drainage Water Management
 - Fence
 - Field Border
 - Firebreak
 - Forage Harvest Management
 - Heavy Use Area Protection
 - Irrigation Land Leveling
 - Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline, Low-Pressure, Underground, Plastic
 - Irrigation Water Management
 - Nutrient Management
 - Pasture and Hay Planting
 - Pest Management
 - Pipeline
 - Pond
 - Prescribed Burning
 - Prescribed Grazing
 - Pumping Plant
 - Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till
 - Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed
 - Residue Management, Seasonal
 - Stream Crossing
 - Tree/Shrub Establishment
 - Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
 - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
 - Water Well
 - Watering Facility
 - Wetland Restoration
 - Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management



2010 Resource Concern Ranked 4

Local Work Group Priorities 2010 Resource Concern with 3rd Highest Total Weighted Value Soil Erosion - Classic Gully

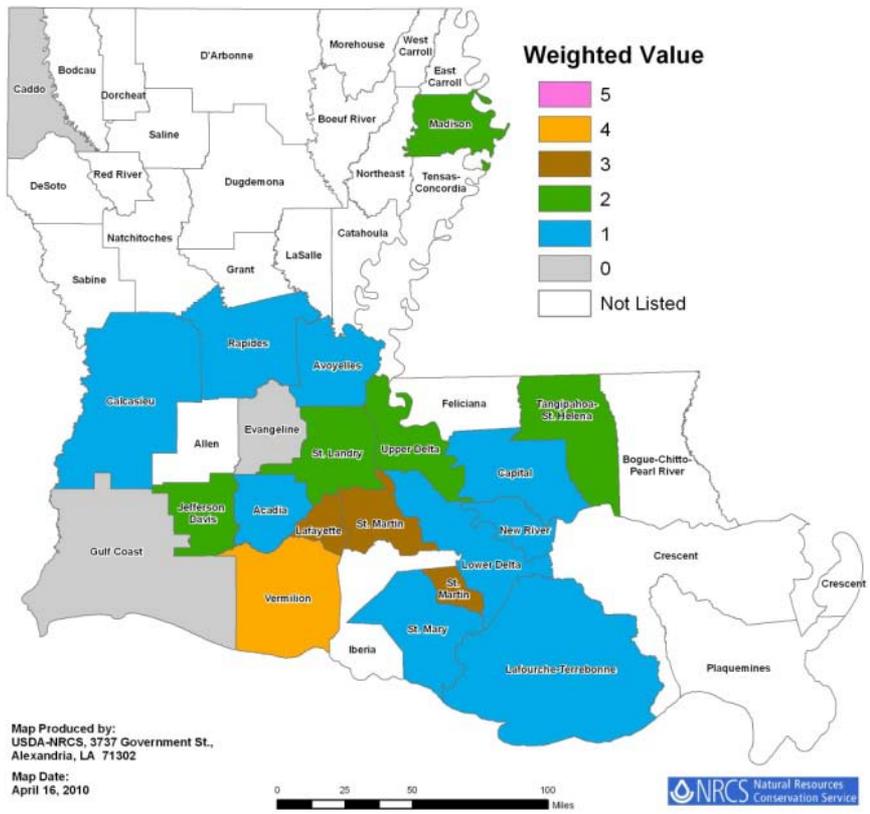


- Recommended Practices
- Conservation Cover
- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Cover Crop
- Critical Area Planting
- Deep Tillage
- Diversion
- Fence
- Field Border
- Forest Trails and Landings
- Grade Stabilization Structure
- Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline, Low-Pressure, Underground, Plastic
- Land Smoothing
- Nutrient Management
- Pasture and Hay Planting
- Pest Management
- Pond
- Precision Land Forming
- Prescribed Burning
- Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till
- Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed
- Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till
- Residue Management, Seasonal
- Row Arrangement
- Structure for Water Control
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Watering Facility



2010 Resource Concern Ranked 5

Local Work Group Priorities 2010 Resource Concern with 4th Highest Total Weighted Value Water Quality - Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water (Tied with Water Quantity - Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land)



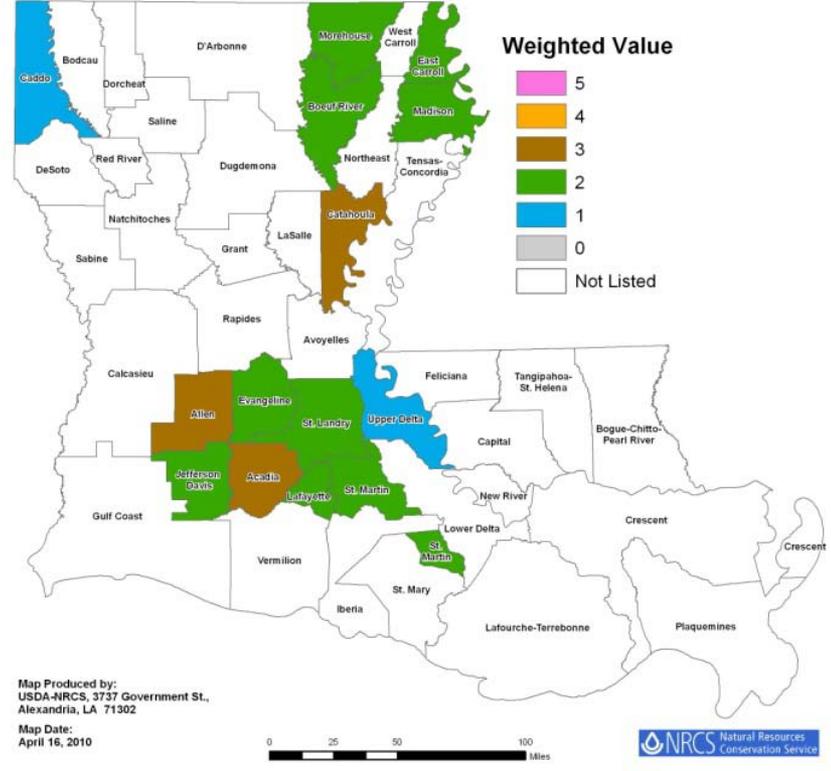
Recommended Practices

- Access Road
- Conservation Cover
- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Cover Crop
- Critical Area Planting
- Deep Tillage
- Diversion
- Fence
- Field Border
- Filter Strip
- Forage Harvest Management
- Grade Stabilization Structure
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Irrigation Land Leveling
- Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline, Low-Pressure, Underground, Plastic
- Irrigation Water Management
- Land Smoothing
- Nutrient Management
- Pasture and Hay Planting
- Pest Management
- Pond
- Precision Land Forming
- Prescribed Grazing
- Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till
- Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed
- Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till
- Residue Management, Seasonal
- Row Arrangement
- Structure for Water Control
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Waste Utilization
- Watering Facility



2010 Resource Concern Ranked 5

Local Work Group Priorities 2010 Resource Concern with 4th Highest Total Weighted Value Water Quantity - Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land (Tied with Water Quality - Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water)



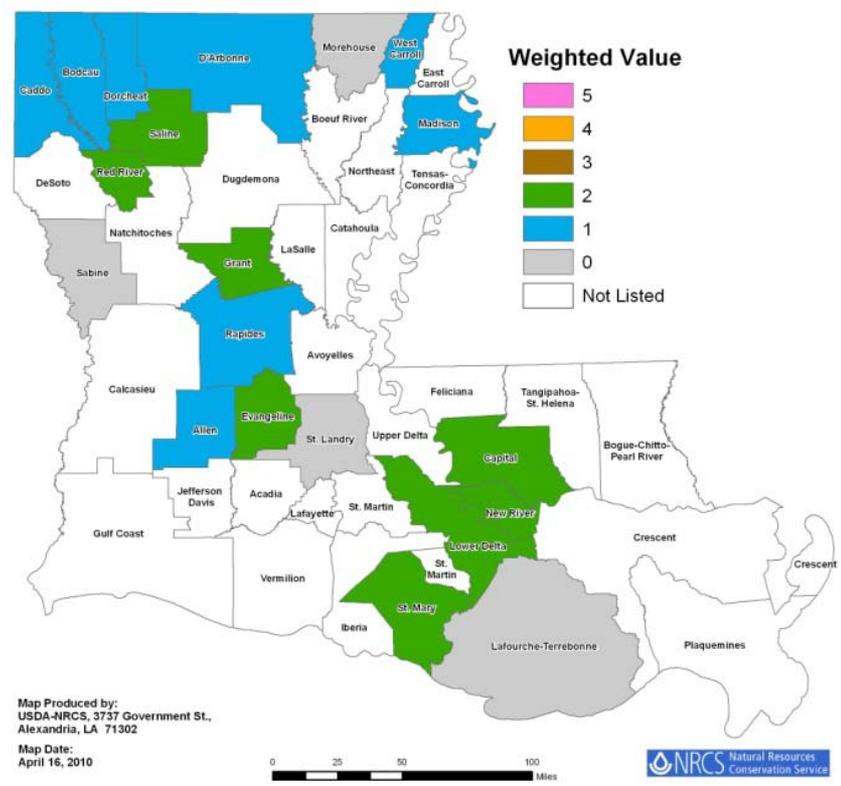
Recommended Practices

- Clearing and Snagging
- Irrigation Land Leveling
- Irrigation System, Sprinkler
- Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery
- Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline, Low-Pressure, Underground, Plastic
- Irrigation Water Management
- Pumping Plant
- Residue and Tillage management, Mulch Till
- Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed
- Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till
- Residue Management, Seasonal
- Structure for Water Control
- Water Well



2010 Resource Concern Ranked 7

Local Work Group Priorities 2010 Resource Concern with 5th Highest Total Weighted Value Fish and Wildlife - Imbalance Among and Within Populations



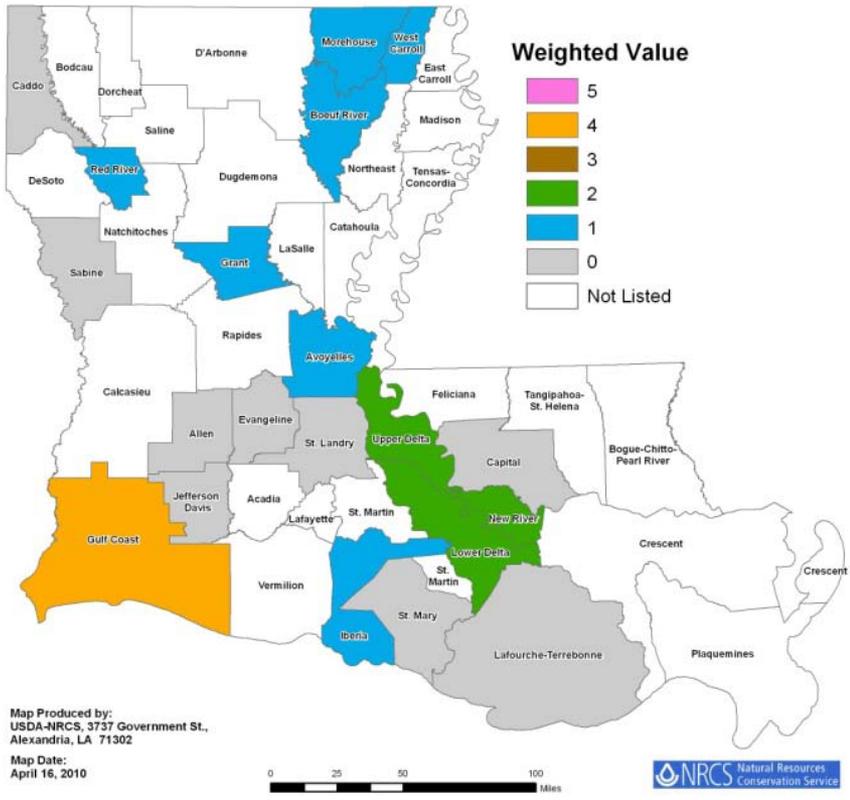
Recommended Practices

- Access Control
- Critical Area Planting
- Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline, Low-Pressure, Underground, Plastic
- Other
- Pasture and Hay Planting
- Pest Management
- Prescribed Grazing
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Water Well
- Watering Facility
- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management



2010 Resource Concern Ranked 8

Local Work Group Priorities 2010 Resource Concern with 6th Highest Total Weighted Value Water Quantity - Excessive Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding



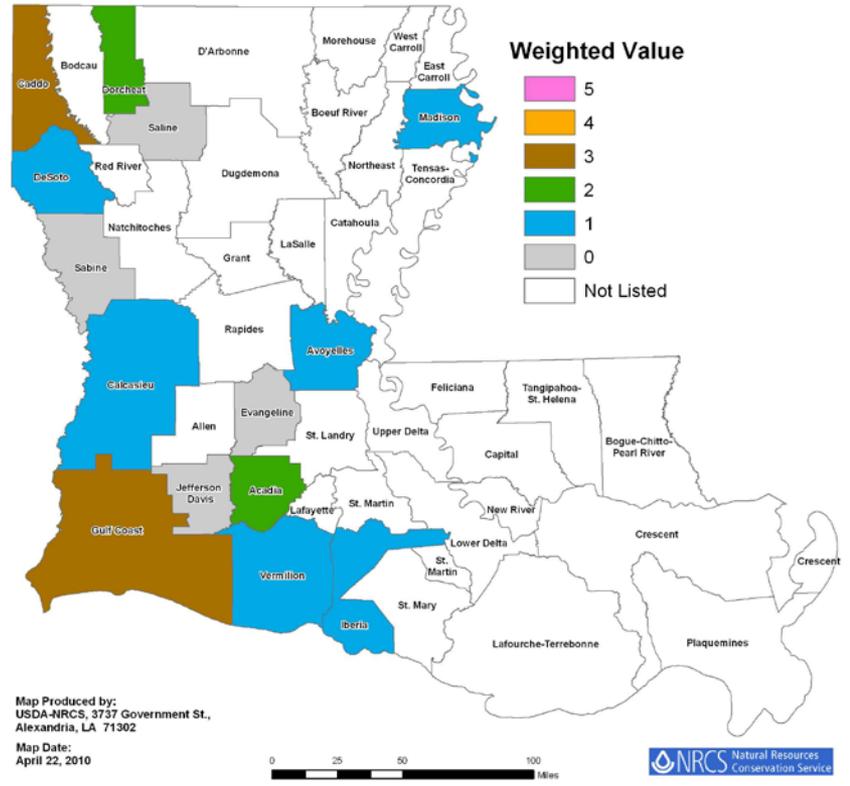
- Recommended Practices
- Access Road
 - Conservation Cover
 - Conservation Crop Rotation
 - Cover Crop
 - Critical Area Planting
 - Deep Tillage
 - Diversion
 - Drainage Water Management
 - Field Border
 - Grade Stabilization Structure
 - Heavy Use Area Protection
 - Irrigation Land Leveling
 - Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery
 - Land Smoothing
 - Nutrient Management
 - Pasture and Hay Planting
 - Pond
 - Precision Land Forming
 - Prescribed Grazing
 - Pumping Plant
 - Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till
 - Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed
 - Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till
 - Residue Management, Seasonal
 - Row Arrangement
 - Structure for Water Control
 - Surface Drainage, Field Ditch
 - Surface Drainage, Main or Lateral
 - Waste Utilization



2010 Resource Concern Ranked 9

Local Work Group Priorities 2010 Resource Concern with 7th Highest Total Weighted Value Water Quantity - Aquifer Overdraft

(Tied with Water Quality - Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water)



Recommended Practices

- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Irrigation Land Leveling
- Irrigation Regulating Reservoir
- Irrigation System, Sprinkler
- Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery
- Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline, Low-Pressure, Underground, Plastic
- Irrigation Water Management
- Pond
- Pumping Plant
- Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till
- Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed
- Residue Management, Seasonal
- Well Decommissioning

**Locally Led
Conservation**



**Conservation
Action Plan**

Using the conservation needs assessment, the Conservation District involves community stakeholders to develop and agree on a conservation action plan.



The Conservation Action Plan will:

- Identify natural resource conservation priorities
- set measurable conservation goals and objectives
- Identify conservation technology needed to achieve the goals and objectives
- Identify responsibility for action and create a time schedule for completion of elements
- Identify federal, state, tribal, local, and non-government programs and services needed to address specific conservation needs
- Identify a need to develop new programs or processes to address those problems not covered by existing programs



During implementation of the Conservation Action plan, community stakeholders:

- coordinate existing assistance, available through private organizations, federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, including USDA;
- ensure appropriate program application processes are followed;
- develop detailed proposals for new programs;
- seek financial, educational, and technical assistance as necessary.



Locally led conservation does not end when the conservation action plan has been implemented. The effectiveness of the plan implementation should be evaluated to ensure community stakeholders' planned goals and objectives are achieved.

An evaluation should be made to determine where the actual results differ from those anticipated.

The difference may result in retracing one or more of the steps in the locally led conservation effort.



As a process, locally led conservation goes beyond the Farm Bill or any other individual program.

There are a number of program resources available through USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Wildlife service, the Forest Service, and other federal agencies that can be tapped for assistance in carrying out a local conservation program.



There are also many resources available through state and local sources.

District leadership will be critical in marshaling these resources to increase the visibility and effectiveness of local conservation efforts.



Locally led conservation creates new opportunities, but also poses significant challenges to districts to step in as conservation leaders in their communities.

Districts need to take the lead in planning and carrying out all conservation programs at the local level.

Locally Led Conservation Initiative



**Community Stakeholders coming together
for the common natural resource good**