While photos should be documented shortly after print, the reality is they are often not, leaving behind images of unknown faces, places, and events. And, as the years pass and new employees are hired and we find it increasingly difficult to identify people, places and events within our historical images. On June 14, 2012, nine former Soil Conservation Service/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees volunteered their time to sort through approximately 3,000 historical slides and photos to help identify the people that have impacted Indiana NRCS for so many years.

Historical photos are not only fun to look at and reminisce about old times, but they also document important events within the Agency’s history. Whether it be the first PL-566 watershed structure that was built in the state or a conservation practice that was implemented on a piece of land, each of these photos tells a story of Indiana’s conservation history. Properly identifying and recording these documents is imperative to preserving our history for future generations.

By utilizing the talents of these nine men and women, Indiana NRCS’ Public Affairs department is able to archive these photos and slides properly. The slides will be digitized and used for future publications, presentations and as historical references. We thank these great Earth Team volunteers who have continued their service to the public and NRCS even after their retirement.