

# Local Work Groups and State Technical Committees

## The Locally-Led Conservation Process

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USDA-NRCS

STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 26, 2017

# Locally-Led Model

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- Locally-led conservation is the principle that local people make the best decisions for their own communities
- Locally-led is a way of doing business, not a process or program

# Locally-Led Key Principles

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- It is an on-going relationship, reviewed regularly
- Addresses all natural resource issues
- It is voluntary, non-regulatory

# Locally-Led Key Principles

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- Involves the community in the assessment of natural resource needs, solutions, and priorities
- Uses a mix of federal, state, local, and private-sector programs as tools to solve natural resource concerns

# Locally-Led Key Principles

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- Conservation districts are local groups that coordinate locally-led conservation
- Conservation districts convene local work groups to direct locally-led guidance to the NRCS

Locally-Led

# Conservation Districts

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Alaska has:

- 11 Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- 17 Tribal Conservation Districts established or in process

# Local Work Group

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A local work group is made up of people interested in agriculture and conservation, including farmers, private landowners, industry representatives, non-profit firms, and government agency staff.



# Local Work Group

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The purpose of a local work group is to provide input to NRCS concerning the implementation of conservation programs.





# Local Work Groups Membership

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- Conservation district board members
- Cooperative Extension agent
- State and local elected or appointed officials
- Tribal representatives
- NRCS District Conservationist
- Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee
- FSA County Executive Director
- Other Federal and State government representatives

# Local Work Groups

## May advise NRCS on:

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- Conditions of the natural resources and the environment
- Identifying the educational and training needs of local land users
- Ranking criteria for Farm Bill programs
- Cost-share rates and payment levels and methods of payment

# Local Work Groups

## May advise NRCS on:

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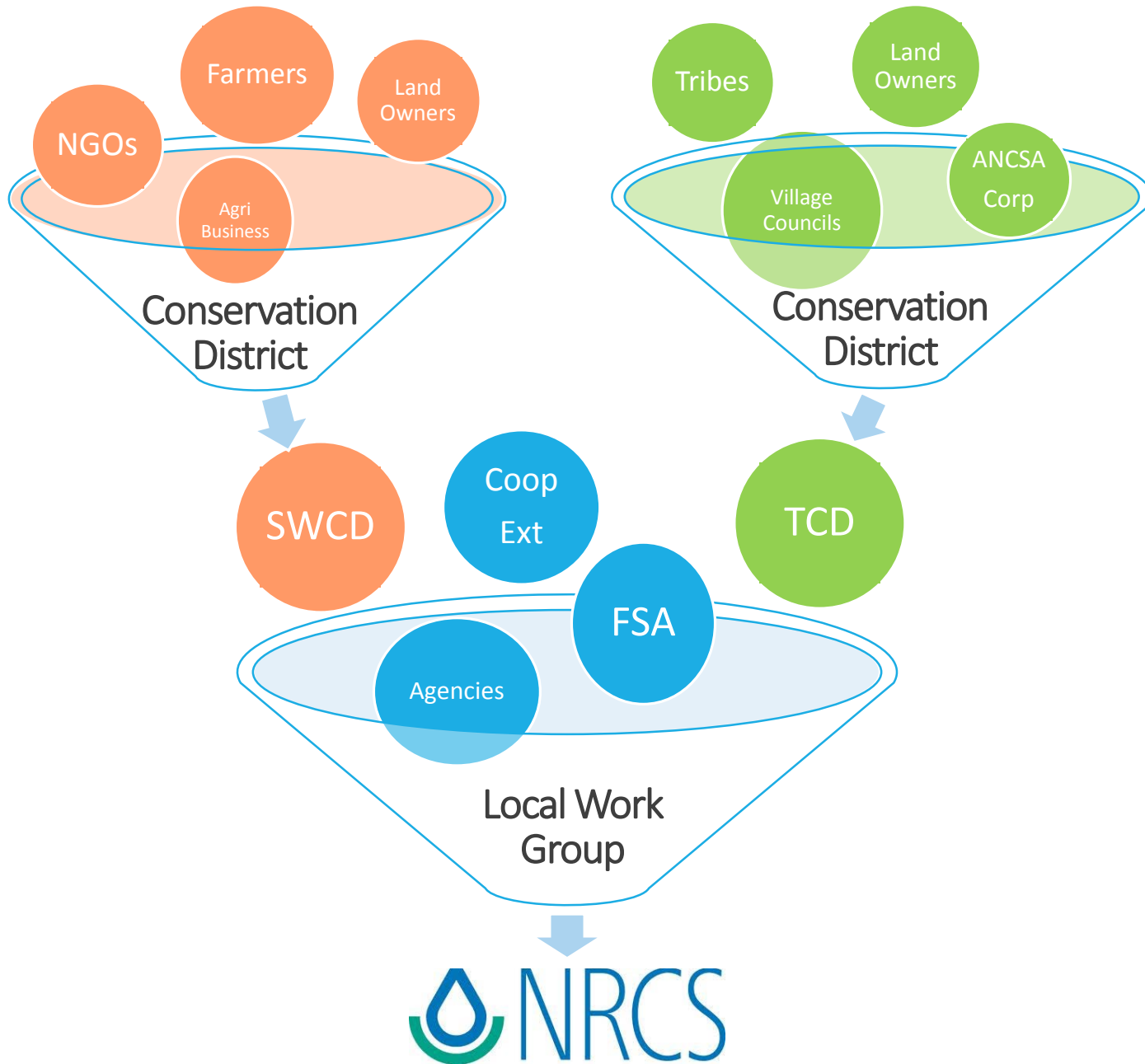
- Eligible conservation practices
- The need for new, innovative conservation practices
- Public outreach and information efforts
- Program performance indicators

# Local Work Groups

# Resources and Tools:

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- State Resource Assessment
  - Resource concern data by county
- Local Resource Assessments
- Partners
  - Knowledge of natural resources
  - Knowledge of practices and programs to help address concerns



# Local Work Groups Opportunities:

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- Contact the nearest NRCS office about participating in a local work group
- Membership in a local work group is not required
- Any individual or organization may contact NRCS directly to provide input on local resource concerns

# Local Work Groups

## More Information:

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Refer to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) guidance documents on districts and locally-led conservation:

<http://www.nacdnet.org/membership-resources/nacd-reports/>

Ask your local District Conservationist about:

- GM 440 Part 500 and GM 440 Part 501 Subpart B

# State Technical Committee

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The State Technical Committee is an advisory committee for the NRCS State Conservationist.





# State Technical Committee

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The Committee makes recommendations for implementing technical aspects of natural resource conservation activities and programs.



# State Technical Committee Membership

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- NRCS, Farm Service Agency (FSA), FSA State Committee, U.S. Forest Service, and Cooperative Extension
- Tribal governments and Alaska Native Corporations
- Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Each of the five Alaska State natural resource agencies
- Agricultural producers and Nonindustrial private forest land operators
- Nonprofit organizations with conservation expertise and experience working with agricultural producers in the State
- Agribusiness
- Other Federal agencies and persons knowledgeable about economic and environmental impacts of conservation techniques and programs

# State Technical Committee Purpose and Role

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- Advisory in nature
- No implementation or enforcement authority
- NRCS will give strong consideration to the State Technical Committee's recommendations

# State Technical Committee Advises NRCS on:

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- Criteria to prioritize program applications
- State-specific application criteria
- Priority natural resource concerns in the State
- Emerging natural resource concerns and program needs
- Conservation practice standards and specifications

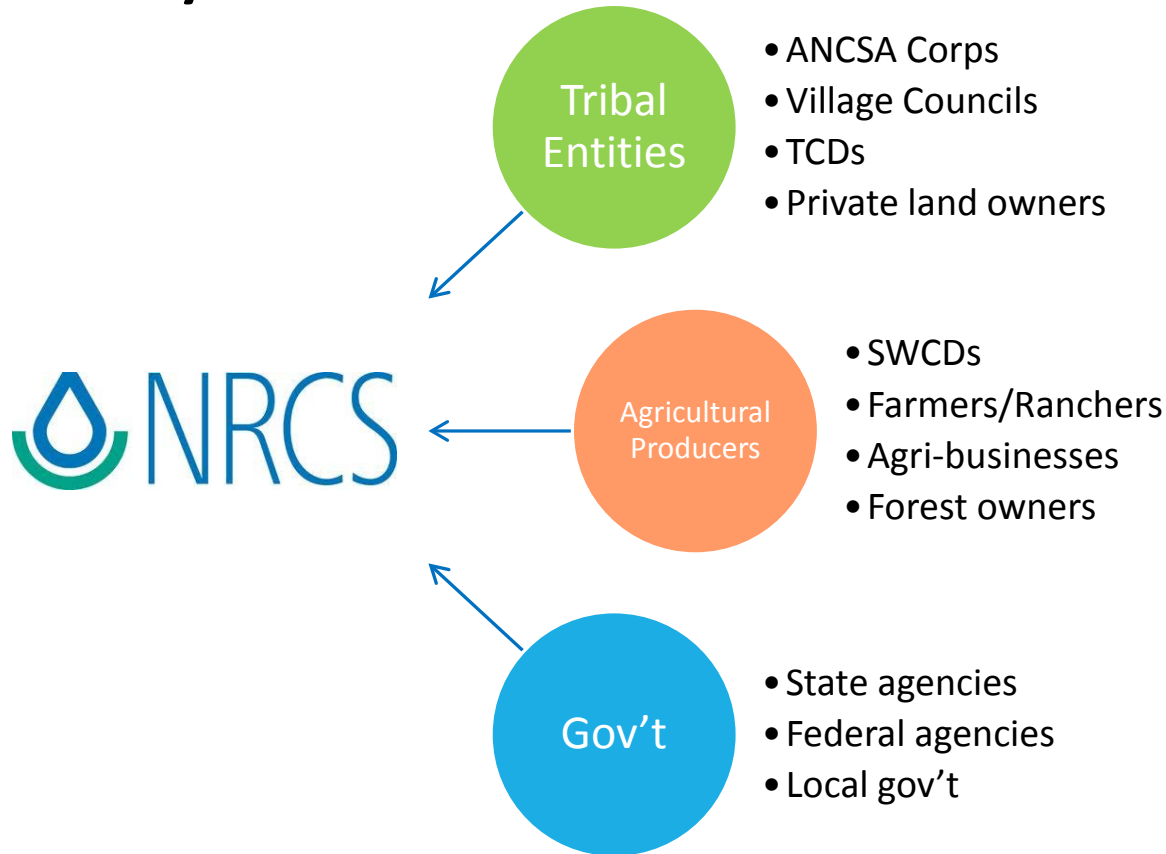
# State Technical Committee

## Resource Concerns:

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- Soil Erosion
- Soil Quality Degradation
- Excess Water
- Insufficient Water
- Water Quality Degradation
- Degraded Plant Condition
- Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife
- Livestock Production Limitation
- Inefficient Energy Use
- Air Quality Impacts

# State Technical Committee meets twice each year



# State Technical Committee Opportunities

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- Contact the NRCS State Office about participating in the State Technical Committee
- Membership in the Committee is not required
- Any individual or organization may contact NRCS directly to provide input on local resource concerns

# For More Information

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Refer to the following references:

- **7 CFR §610.24 - Responsibilities of State Technical Committees**
- **GM 440 Part 501 Subpart C - State Technical Committees**
- **Alaska NRCS website:**  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ak/technical/stc/>