NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

NRCS Environmental Liaisons

The NRCS Mission is to provide leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources and environment. Every NRCS employee is responsible for supporting this mission, including the environmental component. However, NRCS Environmental Liaisons play a particularly important role in this mission. As a federal agency, there are numerous federal, state and local requirements impacting the delivery of NRCS technical and financial assistance, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Clean Water Act, the Executive Order on Environmental Justice, and other similar federal, state, tribal and local mandates. While environmental liaisons are not necessarily experts in each of these laws and other mandates, they are aware of applicable requirements and know where to obtain relevant information so that necessary factors are considered and actions are taken in a timely manner.

Some environmental requirements, such as NEPA, must be carried out by NRCS. However, other requirements, such as certain Clean Water Act permit requirements, are applicable to the NRCS client. In such cases, NRCS must ensure it does not assist clients to violate environmental requirements and may have to condition financial assistance on issuance of a permit by another agency.

NRCS is not in a regulatory role, and is not responsible for enforcing environmental laws or regulations. However, NRCS can and should provide technical and financial assistance so its clients can proactively identify potential environmental issues and avoid violating requirements. Environmental liaisons are also in an excellent position to identify data, tools and information needed by field personnel to help NRCS clients address their natural resource concerns in a way that also achieves social and economic goals. NRCS environmental liaisons are also in a position to identify emerging environmental issues and to ensure the National headquarters office and National Technology Support Centers are aware of issues that are particularly controversial or have significance beyond State boundaries.

There is an NRCS environmental liaison in every state office, Puerto Rico, the Pacific Basin, each of the National Technology Support Centers, and in the National headquarters office. This Directory of NRCS Environmental Liaisons includes each liaison's name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail address. This information is being provided so liaisons can more easily use each other as resources, as well as to provide a contact concerning environmental activities that cross jurisdictional boundaries, such as development of an Environmental Impact Statement under NEPA. The goals of NEPA and a discussion of NRCS environmental policy are set out below.
National Environmental Policy Act

The overarching national environmental policy is set out in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). In NEPA, Congress stated that the Federal Government's continuing policy is to create and maintain conditions under which people and nature can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans. According to NEPA, the Federal Government shall:

- fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
- assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
- attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;
- preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice;
- achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life’s amenities; and
- enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources. (NEPA, Section 101)

NEPA contemplates integration with planning and other environmental review requirements, such as ESA, NHPA, and Clean Water Act permit requirements.

NRCS Environmental Policy

NRCS has integrated the “spirit” of NEPA into its mission and vision. Each of the goals set out in Section 101 of NEPA is also part of NRCS’ vision for “Harmony between People and the Land” and NRCS’ mission to partner to help conserve, improve and sustain natural resources and the environment. Because of the NRCS mission, the mandates of NEPA, and the parallels between the two, NRCS will make no program or resource decision without considering the affect of that decision on the environment. NEPA and other environmental laws and regulations require developing or referencing certain documentation, and undertaking certain consultations. NRCS will make no program or resource decision without first fulfilling these obligations.

This raises the role of the environmental liaisons to one of critical importance. Among other things, these individuals are charged to “integrate the requirements of NEPA with other planning and environmental review procedures required by law or by agency practice so that all such procedures run concurrently rather than consecutively.” 40 CFR 1500.2(c). In addition to being mandated by law, NEPA is a common-sense framework that is easily integrated into the NRCS planning process. Complying with NEPA also ensures NRCS has properly coordinated its actions with other interested individuals and organizations and fully considered relevant public opinion and the best available scientific information concerning the affect of its proposed actions on the use of local natural resources. It is, therefore, NRCS environmental policy to fully integrate NEPA and other environmental requirements into the NRCS planning procedures.
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### National and State Environmental Liaisons

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NRCS ENVIRONMENTAL LIAISONS

ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES DIVISION

The Ecological Sciences Division (ESD) is part of the Science and Technology Deputy Chief area of NRCS at National Headquarters. ESD develops and recommends policies, guidelines, and procedures for the technical aspects of issues relating to agriculture, ecology, cultural resources, environment, and energy. ESD staff provides the overall technical framework for implementing natural resources enhancements, sustainable production, pollution abatement, and environmental and cultural resource assessments in NRCS conservation planning and practice application activities. The majority of the staff is located in Washington, DC.

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<td>Helen Denniston</td>
<td>State Biologist</td>
<td>Phone: (907) 761-7756, Fax: (907) 761-7790, Email: <a href="mailto:helen.denniston@ak.usda.gov">helen.denniston@ak.usda.gov</a></td>
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## ARKANSAS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Young</td>
<td>State Resource Conservationist</td>
<td>Phone: (501) 301-3134, Fax: (501) 301-3194, Email: <a href="mailto:nancy.young@ar.usda.gov">nancy.young@ar.usda.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>James Baker</td>
<td>State Biologist/Env. Coordinator</td>
<td>Phone: (501) 327-6509 X108, Email: <a href="mailto:james.baker@ar.usda.gov">james.baker@ar.usda.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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## ARIZONA

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<tr>
<td>Stuart Tuttle</td>
<td>State Biologist</td>
<td>Phone: (602) 280-8777, Fax: (602) 280-8805, Email: <a href="mailto:stu.tuttle@az.usda.gov">stu.tuttle@az.usda.gov</a></td>
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## CALIFORNIA

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<tr>
<td>Thomas Moore</td>
<td>State Biologist</td>
<td>Phone: (530) 792-5652, Fax: <a href="mailto:thomas.moore@ca.usda.gov">thomas.moore@ca.usda.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Cavanaugh</td>
<td>Wetlands Biologist</td>
<td>Phone: (530) 792-5632, Fax: (530) 792-5793, Email: <a href="mailto:jennifer.cavanaugh@ca.usda.gov">jennifer.cavanaugh@ca.usda.gov</a></td>
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## NRCS ENVIRONMENTAL LIAISONS

### COLORADO

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<tr>
<td>Russell Knight</td>
<td>Biologist</td>
<td>970-242-4511, ext 130</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Russell.knight2@co.usda.gov">Russell.knight2@co.usda.gov</a></td>
<td>970-242-8469</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gene Backhaus</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:eugene.backhaus@co.usda.gov">eugene.backhaus@co.usda.gov</a></td>
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### CONNECTICUT

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<tr>
<td>Nancy Ferlow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlotte Pyle</td>
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### DELAWARE

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<tr>
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### FLORIDA

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<tr>
<td>Rosalind Moore</td>
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### GEORGIA

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<tr>
<td>Maryann Trent</td>
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## Kentucky

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jack Kuhn</td>
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<td>(859) 224-7399</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jack.kuhn@ky.usda.gov">jack.kuhn@ky.usda.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>771 Corporate Drive, Suite 110</td>
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## Louisiana

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<tr>
<td>John Pitre</td>
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<td>(318) 473-7809</td>
<td>(318) 473-7682</td>
<td><a href="mailto:john.pitre@la.usda.gov">john.pitre@la.usda.gov</a></td>
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## Maine

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<tr>
<td>Cathee Pullman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Jenkins</td>
<td>State Soil Scientist</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:tony.jenkins@me.usda.gov">tony.jenkins@me.usda.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Strano</td>
<td>State Biologist</td>
<td>(443) 482-2928</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:steve.strano@md.usda.gov">steve.strano@md.usda.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramon Ortiz</td>
<td>State Planning Specialist</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:ramon.ortiz@md.usda.gov">ramon.ortiz@md.usda.gov</a></td>
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## Massachusetts

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<tr>
<td>Barbara Miller</td>
<td>State Resource Conservationist</td>
<td>413-253-4380</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov">barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Akin</td>
<td>Agronomist</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:thomas.akin@ma.usda.gov">thomas.akin@ma.usda.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth Schreier</td>
<td>Soil Conservationist</td>
<td>413-253-4393</td>
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<tr>
<td>MICHIGAN</td>
<td>Sally Van Lieu</td>
<td>Resource Conservationist</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:sally.vanlieu@mi.usda.gov">sally.vanlieu@mi.usda.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>MINNESOTA</td>
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<td>MISSISSIPPI</td>
<td>Delmer Stamps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Vaughn</td>
<td>Phone: (402) 437-4127</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Specialist (Env. Coordinator)</td>
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<td>Ritch Nelson</td>
<td>Phone: (402) 437-4100</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Wildlife Biologist (Wetlands)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thad Heater</td>
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<td>State Biologist</td>
<td>Fax: (775) 857-8525</td>
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<tr>
<td>1365 Corporate Blvd</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberly McCracken</td>
<td>Phone: (603) 868-9931 ext 123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant State Conservationist for Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gregory Westfall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chanda Pettie</td>
<td>Phone: (505) 761-4432</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Biologist</td>
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<tr>
<th>NEW YORK</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<th>NORTH DAKOTA</th>
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<tbody>
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<th>OKLAHOMA</th>
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<tbody>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<tbody>
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## Puerto Rico

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<tbody>
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<tbody>
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<td>W.R. Poage Building</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>101 South Main Street</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Temple, TX 76501-7682</td>
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### Utah

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<tbody>
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### Virginia

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<tbody>
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