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Natural Resources Conservation Service

MASWCD

March 1, 2021

To: Participants in the Locally Led Conservation II Training Series Session #1

From: LeAnn Buck, Executive Director, MASWCD
Keith Kloubec, Assistant State Conservationist-Programs, NRCS

Welcome to the March online training series where the spotlight is on **Locally Led Conservation.** Engaging speakers, important concepts, topic refreshers, and examples to apply are in this training package. Each session will include a handout packet of materials to support the key messages of the speakers. This week the focus is ***Making Local Working Groups Matter*** *featuring:*

- **Welcome** – Keith and LeAnn
- **Make the Most of this Training Series –** Donna Rae Scheffert and Lisa Hinz
- **Why Local Involvement Matters** – Troy Daniell, Tom Schulz, and Jamie Beyer
- **How LWG Impacts Your Local Conservation** – Keith and LeAnn
- **Small Group Breakout Session** – Everyone
  How can I demonstrate that our governmental unit is open to input and fairly serving constituents?
- **What Participation Methods Work Well** – Nate Hylla
- **LWG 101 Intent and Process for 2022** - Keith

LOCAL

NOTES: Included in this packet is a handout with each segment of the agenda and space for your key take aways, notes, and action ideas to jot down as you go along.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

1. Log onto Zoom 5-10 minutes before the session begins to be sure your connections are working well. You will be in a waiting room.
2. Preference for participation is for video camera on and muted.
3. Use the chat feature to share questions and ideas, and as time allows a response will be given or look for follow-up information after the session.
4. The session will be recorded (exception is the breakout discussions) for later review or if you are not able to attend live. We encourage live participation as that will have the greatest benefit.

Thank you for investing in this time. We look forward to working with you.

Questions:
Please contact Donna Rae Scheffert leadershiptools@charter.net
or call 612-360-4484

Locally Led Conservation Training Series

#1 Making LWG Matter

Why local input into state and federal direction and funding is significant, and how it works

Agenda and Presenters	Key Ideas and Notes
Welcome, Purpose, Goals, and Game Keith Klobec, NRCS _____ LeAnn Buck, MASWCD _____ Donna Rae Scheffert, LeadershipTools _____ Lisa Hinz, U of MN Extension _____	
Why Local Involvement Matters Troy Daniell, NRCS _____ Tom Schulz, Wadena SWCD Supervisor, BWSR Board _____ Jamie Beyer, MN Soybean Growers President _____	
How LWG Impacts Your Local Conservation Keith Klobec, NRCS LeAnn Buck, MASWCD	

Discussion:

How can I demonstrate that our governmental unit is open to input and fairly serving constituents?

Spectrum of Public Participation

Inform Consult Involve Collaborate Empower

What Participation Methods Work Well?

Lisa Hinz, U of MN Extension

Donna Rae Scheffert, Leadership Tools

Nate Hylla, Stearns SWCD _____

Locally Led Intent and Process

Keith Klobec, NRCS

WHY SEEK PUBLIC INPUT?

While issues may be national or even global in scale, their relevance and impact vary widely from community to community. Local stakeholders are in the best position to set priorities and develop solutions that best meet their unique needs. If this reasoning is sound, then it follows that a reliable engagement process is required to discover these priorities and cultivate appropriate solutions.

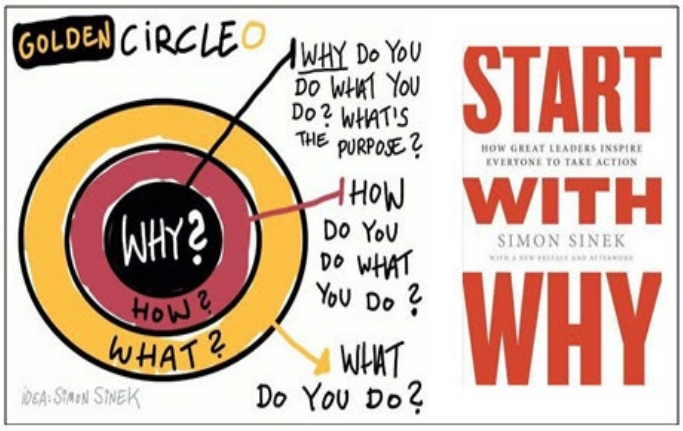
Whatever your role as a conservation leader, you typically face three options when it comes to making important decisions: you can choose inaction; you can trust your own instincts or those of your closest advisors; or you can reach out to your stakeholders to see where their interests lie.

- ***Inaction*** is the easiest solution in the short-term, but it just delays the inevitable and exposes you to more personal career risk.
- ***Trusting yourself or your inner circle*** is expeditious and often wise, but in some cases, you end up making unreasonable or inaccurate assumptions, and you can still put yourself at risk if you make the wrong call.
- ***Engaging your stakeholders*** is the most time-consuming, but it reduces personal bias and enhances the likelihood the decisions you make are sound and will be supported by constituents.

> *Stakeholder engagement comes with the extra reward of being labeled 'a strong communicator' and 'a friend of the customer'.*
>
> 5 Criteria for Effective Stakeholder Engagement

Five BENEFITS of Stakeholder Engagement

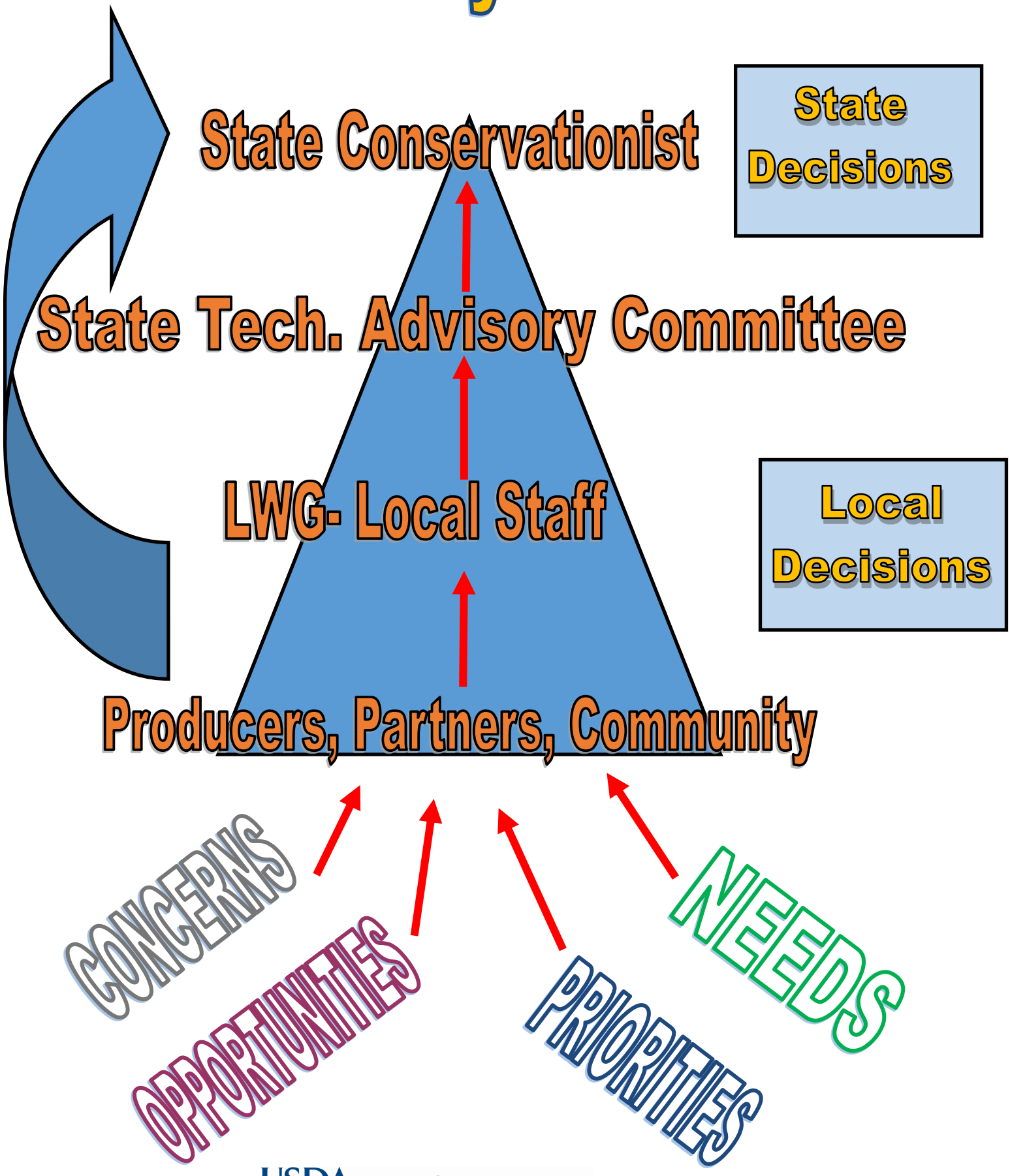
When done well, stakeholder engagement yields specific benefits including:



- **Better insight** into stakeholders' views and opinions
- The ability to make big **decisions more quickly** and at **reduced cost**
- **Greater buy-in** from stakeholders, who played a larger role throughout the decision-making process
- Stronger likelihood of **positive outcome** thanks to access to more ideas and broader awareness of the decisions made and solutions desired
- **Greater trust** for leaders among stakeholders.

Retrieved from **Five Criteria for Effective Stakeholder Engagement** by Donna Rae Scheffert, Leadership Tools on February 25, 2021 from https://www.thoughtexchange.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/five-criteria-for-effective-se-education.pdf

Locally Led



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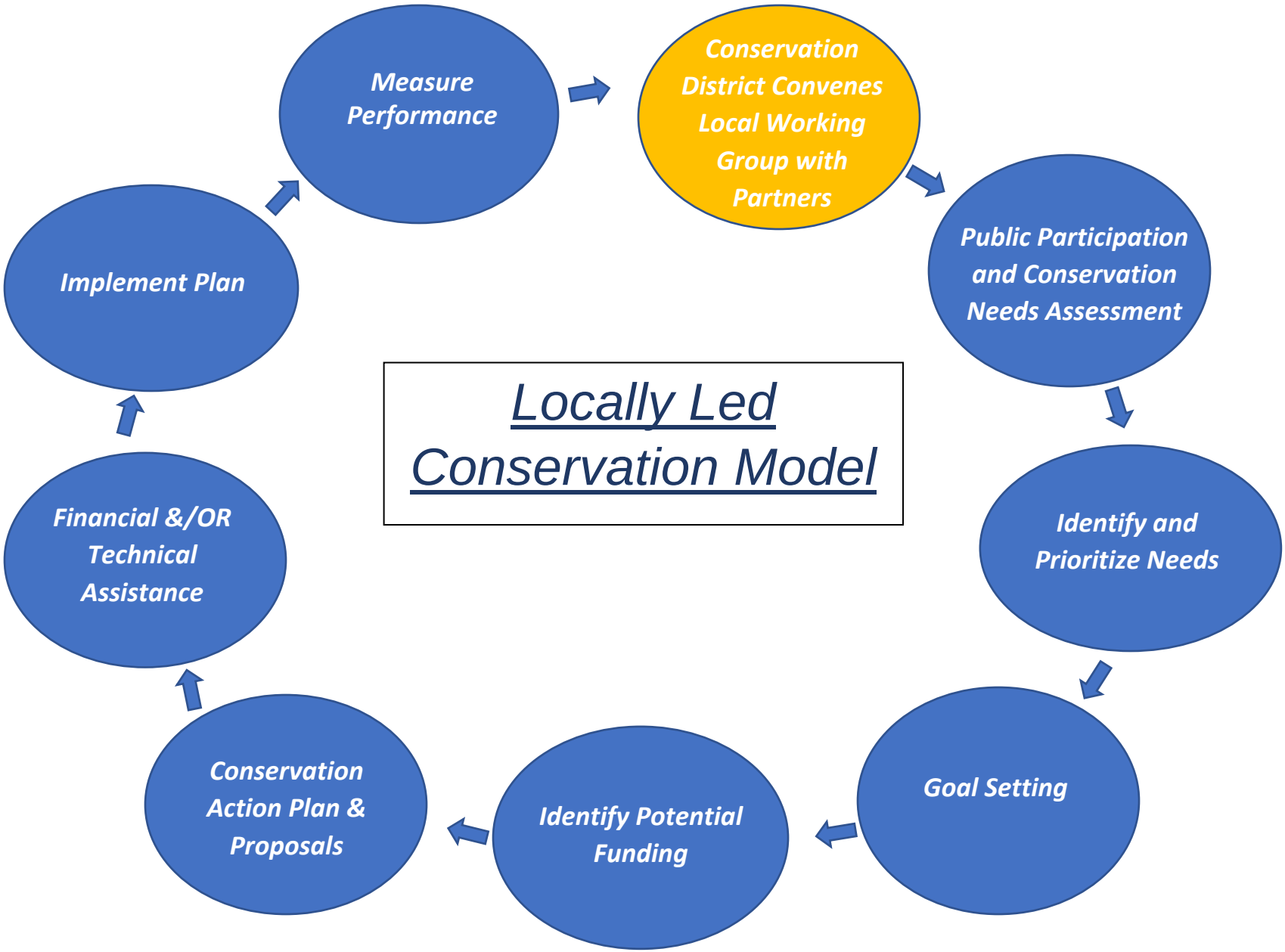
Where do you fit in?



The following table lists the 47 resource concerns that NRCS utilizes during the conservation planning process.

Categories	NRCS Resource Concerns
Soil	1. Sheet and rill erosion
	2. Wind erosion
	3. Ephemeral gully erosion
	4. Classic gully erosion
	5. Bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels
	6. Subsidence
	7. Compaction
	8. Organic matter depletion
	9. Concentration of salts or other chemicals
	10. Soil organism habitat loss or degradation
	11. Aggregate instability
Water	12. Ponding and flooding
	13. Seasonal high-water table
	14. Seeps
	15. Drifted snow
	16. Surface water depletion
	17. Groundwater depletion
	18. Naturally available moisture use
	19. Inefficient irrigation water use
	20. Nutrients transported to surface water
	21. Nutrients transported to groundwater
	22. Pesticides transported to surface water
	23. Pesticides transported to groundwater
	24. Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to surface water
	25. Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to groundwater
	26. Salts transported to surface water
	27. Salts transported to groundwater
	28. Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to surface water
	29. Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to groundwater
	30. Sediment transported to surface water
	31. Elevated water temperature
Air	32. Emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors
	33. Emissions of greenhouse gasses (GHGs)
	34. Emissions of ozone precursors
	35. Objectionable odors
	36. Emissions of airborne reactive nitrogen
Plants	37. Plant productivity and health
	38. Plant structure and composition
	39. Plant pest pressure
	40. Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation

Animals	41. Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates
	42. Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms
	43. Feed and forage imbalance
	44. Inadequate livestock shelter
	45. Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality and distribution
Energy	46. Energy efficiency of equipment and facilities
	47. Energy efficiency of farming/ranching practices and field operations

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RESOURCE CONCERN CATEGORIES
RESOURCE CONCERNS

Air Quality emissions		**Pest Pressure**
Emissions of airborne reactive nitrogen		Plant pest pressure
Emissions of greenhouse gases - GHGs		
Emissions of ozone precursors		**Salt Losses to Water**
Emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM		Salt transported to groundwater
Objectionable odor		Salt transported to surface water
Aquatic Habitat		**Soil Quality Limitations**
Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms		Aggregate instability
Elevated water temperature		Compaction
		Concentration of salts or other chemicals
Concentrated Erosion		Organic matter depletion
Bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water		Soil organism habitat loss or degradation
Classic gully erosion		Subsidence
Ephemeral gully erosion		
Degraded Plant Condition		**Source Water Depletion**
Plant productivity and health		Groundwater depletion
Plant structure and composition		Inefficient irrigation water use
		Surface water depletion
Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss		**Storage and Handling of Pollutants**
Nutrients transported to groundwater		Nutrients transported to groundwater
Nutrients transported to surface water		Nutrients transported to surface water
Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to groundwater		Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to groundwater
Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to surface water		Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to surface water
Sediment transported to surface water		
		Terrestrial Habitat
Field Pesticide Loss		Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and
Pesticides transported to groundwater		
Pesticides transported to surface water		**Weather Resilience**
		Drifted snow
Fire Management		Naturally available moisture use
Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation		Ponding and flooding
		Seasonal high water table
Inefficient Energy Use		Seeps
Energy efficient equipment and facilities		
Energy efficient farming/ranching practices and field		**Wind and Water Erosion**
		Sheet and rill erosion
Livestock Production Limitation		Wind erosion
Feed and forage balance		
Inadequate livestock shelter		
Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality, and		