

From: Kelly, Debra, NRCS-CD, Ho'olehua, HI <Debra.Kelly@hi.nacdnet.net>

Sent: Wednesday, September 18, 2019 12:32 PM

Subject: Local Working Group - Please respond

Aloha,

I have attached a document explaining what the local working group is all about and why I need your assistance in providing some guidance in trying to set priorities for Molokai and Lanai in addressing our natural resource concerns. Please read the entire document and submit your ideas on how we can help our unique environment through programs administered by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

I will be on vacation from tomorrow till 10/2/19 so your responses are very important as there is a deadline by October 20. I will of course share all comments and am conducting this inquiry through email to possibly avoid having a sit down meeting. BUT I will hold a meeting if requested.

Again, thank you for taking the time to read and comment on these important issues.

Sincerely,

Debra Kelly
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Local Work Group

Local work groups are made up of people interested in agriculture and conservation, including farmers, ranchers, industry representatives, native Pacific Islander organizations and members, government officials, and agency staff. According to the National Association of Conservation Districts, the Molokai-Lanai Soil & Water Conservation District (MLSWCD) may provide leadership in convening and organizing the local work group or by the local NRCS District Conservationist. The local work group is an important element of the locally led conservation way of doing business and is the foundation of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) conservation program delivery process to provide an integrated solution to addressing natural resource concerns.

Why I Need Your Help

To help identify high priority resource concerns in areas needing assistance, eligible conservation practices, program funding, public outreach and information efforts. To identify educational and producer's training needs that can be addressed by USDA programs.

Common Resource Concerns: SWAPA+HE= Soil, Water, Air, Plants, Animals + Humans & Energy

1. Soil: Erosion, Quality Degradation (deer)
2. Water: Excess/Insufficient – Quality / Quantity (deer)
3. Air Quality Impacts
4. Plants: Degraded Plant Conditions (deer)
5. Animals: Habitat/Fish and Wildlife (deer)
6. Humans: Economic & Social Conditions (deer)
7. Energy: Inefficient Energy Use

Past Natural Resource Concerns: [not listed by priority]

Fire (fuel load),
Food Safety (deer / pollinators)
Habitat Degradation (at-risk species, pollinators, deer)
Insufficient Water Supply (quantity / quality)
Noxious weeds (also invasives)
Sediment & Erosion Control (wind, rain, deer)

Allocation of Farm Bill dollars towards resource concerns in 2016-2019 contract years:

Obligated Amount: \$982,510.69

Resource Concerns for program practices till 2022: Water, Plants, Wildlife habitat, Animals, Soil.

WHAT I NEED FROM YOU: Please email me your ideas/suggestions/solutions in addressing these resource concerns and what priorities USDA programs should be focused on for the islands of Molokai and Lanai. These will assist in planning for program eligibility and ranking of applications.

Any questions: please email me at: kellydn@aloha.net or call/text me 808-658-0919

I will be on vacation from 9/19/19 to 10/2/19 so email is the simplest way to communicate as I have a deadline of 10/20/19 to get these suggestions in to the Natural Resource Conservation Service office in Honolulu.

Mahalo,
Debbie