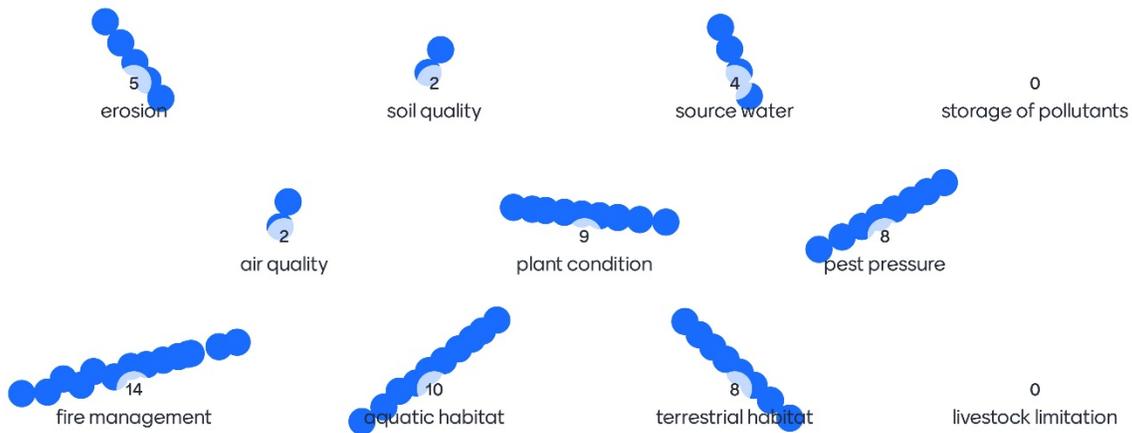


Top 4 concerns for forest land?

Mentimeter



16

What NRCS practices address the priority resource concerns identified above?

For Agricultural Land:

Terrestrial Habitat: Early Successional Habitat Development; Structure for Wildlife; various permanent cover practices such as Conservation Cover that could be used for pollinator habitat

Source Water Depletion: Conservation Cover; Nutrient Management; Integrated Pest Management; various reduced tillage and soil saving practices to keep soil particles in the field

Soil Quality: practices that add carbon to the soil, and encourage a living root and other biota; Conservation Crop Rotation, Cover Crop; No-Till; Prescribed Grazing

For Forest Land

Fire Management: Fuel Break; Pruning; Woody Debris (Slash) Treatment; Forest Stand Improvement (Thinning)

Aquatic Habitat: Aquatic Organism Passage; Streambank Protection; Tree/Shrub Establishment; Obstruction Removal; Storm Water Runoff Control; Critical Area Planting; Access Road; Riparian Forest Buffer

Plant Condition: Integrated Pest Management; Herbaceous Weed Control; Forest Stand Improvement

Small Group Discussions

Discussion Prompt: *What are your ideas for practices, projects or partnerships that NRCS could support or be involved with?*

Participants in small group discussions generated many overlapping ideas as well as unique suggestions. Here are their ideas grouped under the headings *Practices, Special Projects* and *NRCS Communication/Staff Training*. Original notes from the small groups follow below.

RESULTS BY CATEGORY

Practices

- **wildland fire** control
- **transplant wild trees** (new practice?) vs. greenhouse grown trees
- alternatives for **wood waste** going to landfill
- add/advertise practices that increase **carbon sequestration** in and on soil,
 - e.g. biochar applications in ag soils,
 - in forests, wood slash left on site for maintain forest soil fertility and long term carbon storage
 - in ag, use wood slash as hugelkultur
- **peatland conservation**
- practices to **encourage beaver population** growth for peatland, salmon and ecosystem health
- apply **groundwater management** practices with the needs of salmon streams in mind
- more application of **streambank restoration** practices (2 groups said this)
- **restoration of riparian corridors** impacted by spruce bark beetle
- more application of **invasive species** practices
- practices to prevent **beetle** spread/beetle kill tree removal
- Developing some practices or scenarios to **address invasive plants** in forest habitat? Livestock to control reed canary, for example, instead of herbicide. Does this have potential for Conservation Innovation Grant? Regular EQIP?
- **permaculture** design (new practice approach)
- **native pollinator** structures
- reuse of **waste water**
- **aquaculture/mariculture** practices (seaweed, bivalves)

Special Projects

- **demo farm!** (possible CIG)
- test/monitor effects of **mariculture** (possible CIG)
- partner with aquatic farmers to develop BMPs, including methods to control predators and other threats to **aquatic farming**

- project to encourage **beaver** population growth, for peatland, salmon and ecosystem health
- water security – better information about how land uses affect **ground and surface water** quality and quantity on surrounding properties (mapping project)
- **on-farm biogas digester** innovation (demonstration project, CIG)

NRCS Communication/Staff Training

- Increase staff familiarity with anadromous stream catalog, permitting; potential for staff training and collaboration opportunities
- Peatlands – C sequestration, base flow, ensure benefits of intact habitat are discussed with clients when encountered
- Clarify eligibility criteria for landowners to participate in NRCS programs “Eligibility still feels a bit nebulous. Are there any resources available to help us better understand who may be eligible and how?”
- WHAT IS NRCS? What is offered, available and to whom? Improve outreach using collaboration and technologies
- Improve relationship with UAF-CES, connecting landowners to both agencies through mutual referrals
- multi-agency effort to improve outreach (print and on-line) to property owners about available assistance

RESULTS BY GROUP

Group A (Marcus Mueller):

- Wildland fire control (practices)
- alternatives for wood waste going to landfill (practices)
- relationship with UAF-CES, connecting landowners to both agencies (partnering)
- demo farm! (project, possible CIG)
- peatland conservation (practices)
- project/practices to encourage beaver population growth (for peatland, salmon and ecosystem health)
- water security – better information about how land uses affect ground and surface water quality and quantity on surrounding properties
- on-farm biogas digester innovation (demonstration project)
- more application of streambank restoration practices

Group B (Meg Mueller)

- WHAT IS NRCS? What is offered, available and to whom? Outreach using collaboration and technologies
- Increase staff familiarity with anadromous stream catalog, permitting; potential for staff training and collaboration opportunities
- Developing some practices or scenarios to address invasive plants in forest habitat? Livestock to control reed canary, for example, instead of herbicide. Does this have potential for Conservation Innovation Grant? Regular EQIP?
- Peatlands – C Sequestration, Base Flow, ensure benefits of intact habitat are discussed with clients when encountered

Group C (Mitch Michaud)

- add/advertise practices that increase carbon sequestration in and on soil,
 - e.g. biochar applications in ag soils,
 - in forests, wood slash left on site for maintain forest soil fertility and long term carbon storage
 - in ag, use wood slash as hugelkultur
- restoration of riparian corridors impacted by spruce bark beetle
- BMPs for aquatic farming
- methods to control predators and other threats to aquatic farming (practice)
- permaculture design (practice approach)
- native pollinator structures (practice)
- multi-agency effort to improve outreach (print and on-line) to property owners about available assistance (project/partnership)

Group D (Kyra Wagner)

- transplanting wild trees vs. greenhouse grown trees (new practice?)
- reuse of waste water (practice)
- aquaculture/mariculture practices (seaweed, bivalves)
- more application of streambank restoration practices
- more application of invasive species practices
- practices to prevent beetle spread/beetle kill tree removal
- test/monitor effects of mariculture (possible CIG)
- apply groundwater management practices with the needs of salmon streams in mind
- clarify eligibility criteria for landowners to participate in NRCS programs

Additional comments received in writing:

- Land Use: Coordinated partnering with federal, state, borough, native could empower regional land use that would keep landscapes connected and create more potential opportunities to mitigate climate change.
- Salmon: We need salmon-safe guidelines for land management that must be met to receive public sources of funding or assistance.
- Soil health: To increase soil pH and reduce the need for synthetic fertilizer, address the challenges of transporting and applying slaked lime (by-product of acetylene production) from Palmer.
- Invasive species and fish passage: The new Kenai Spur Rd. extension raises concerns from uncontrolled spread of invasive species to sub-standard culverts.
- Responsible farming and aquaculture: Farming is a growing sector, and we have the chance to make sure it is sustainable and compatible with clean water, wild populations, and robust ecosystems. Engage early and often with resource managers and farmers to educate and build a culture that takes pride in following best practices, a la Kenai River Guide Academy.
- Grazing: Explore partnerships and opportunities to fence off sensitive riparian habitats in areas such as Fox River Flats and Anchor River CHA. Explore no-fencing technologies into the Fox River operations to ensure cows are truly rotating through the grazing area.
- Forest health: To reduce risk of wildland fire, there is a need to identify grant funds and partnerships for spruce bark beetle mitigation and fuels reduction.

AGENDA

9:00 Welcome & Introductions:

Kyra Wagner, Homer SWCD
Mitch Michaud, Kenai SWCD
Heidi Chay, Kenai SWCD

9:15 NRCS Presentation: Amanda Crowe

- Overview of Farm Bill programs with emphasis on EQIP

9:40 Resource Concerns Prioritization Exercise: Kyra Wagner and Heidi Chay

10:15 NRCS Response to Poll Results: Meg Mueller and Amanda Crowe

10:45 Breakout Groups/Small Group Discussion

- Topic: “Looking forward, what are your ideas for practices, projects or partnerships that NRCS could support or be involved in? What would you love to see in terms of:
 - **Conservation practices** that would be new to the state
 - Innovative **projects**, or
 - **Partnerships** to address priority resource concerns?”

11:15 Closing

PARTICIPANTS

Kyle Graham, USFWS
Emily Munter, USFWS
Ben Polley, US Army Corps of Engineers
Brian Blossom, ADFG Habitat
Pam Russell, Alaska State Parks
John Winters, Alaska Division of Forestry
Marcus Mueller, KPB Lands Office
Trevor Kauffman, KPB Lands Office
Ryan Peterson, Alaska DEC
Coowe Walker, KBNERR
Sue Mauger, Cook Inletkeeper
Laurie Olson, Kenai Peninsula Farm Bureau
Penelope Haas, K-Bay Conservation Soc.
Maddie Lee, K-Bay Conservation Soc.

Alan McBee, NRCS State Office
Scott Crockett, NRCS State Office
Amanda Crowe, NRCS State Office
Meg Mueller, NRCS Kenai
Pam Voeller, NRCS Homer
Dorian Perez, NRCS Homer

Mitch Michaud, Kenai SWCD Chair
Lou Heite, Kenai SWCD Supervisor
Tim Alzheimer, Homer SWCD Supervisor
Jason Ritter, Homer SWCD Supervisor
Devony Lehner, Homer SWCD staff
Jessica Sharp, Homer SWCD staff
Kyra Wagener, Homer SWCD staff
Heidi Chay, Homer SWCD staff
Blythe Brown, Kodiak SWCD staff