



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

Nevada  
Fact Sheet  
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## LOCALLY LED CONSERVATION

### What is a Local Work Group?

A local work group is made up of people interested in agriculture and conservation, including farmers, ranchers, industry representatives, Tribal members, government officials, and agency staff. According to the National Association of Conservation Districts, the local conservation district should provide leadership in convening and organizing the local work group. The local work group is an important element of the locally led conservation way of doing business.

The locally led conservation effort is the foundation of the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) conservation program delivery process. The local work group supports the locally led conservation effort by coordinating USDA programs with other Federal, State, tribal, and local conservation programs to provide an integrated solution to addressing natural resource concerns.

### Purpose

The purpose of the local work group is to provide advice to NRCS concerning the implementation of conservation programs. Convened by the local conservation district, the local work group may advise NRCS on:

- Conditions of the natural resources and the environment,
- The local application process, including ranking criteria and application periods,
- Identifying the educational and training needs of producers,
- Cost-share rates and payment levels and methods of payment,
- Eligible conservation practices,
- The need for new, innovative conservation practices,
- Public outreach and information efforts,
- Program performance indicators, and
- Act as representatives to serve on a multi-state committee(s), as needed.

### Locally Led Conservation Principles

- Based on the principle that community members are best suited to identify and resolve local natural resource problems
- Dovetails with conservation district legal authorities, responsibilities, annual & long range planning
- Conservation districts should be the primary facilitator
- Is timeless – no deadline for completion, is on-going, is not tied to any particular year, but is reviewed regularly
- Is natural resource driven, not program driven
- Focused on voluntary, non-regulatory, incentive based approaches before use of regulatory measures
- Involves the community in the assessment of natural resource needs, solutions of problems, and determination of priorities
- Addresses all natural resource issues
- Uses a mix of federal, state, local, and private sector programs as tools to solve natural resource concerns
- Is much bigger than any one farm bill, any one fiscal year, or any individual program
- Is a way of doing business, not a process or program

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## **What Does Local Mean?**

Local can mean a county, a portion of a county, a watershed, a multi-county region, or whatever geographic area is best suited to address the resource conservation needs.

## **Membership**

The Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) prohibits non-government individuals from spending Federal dollars or providing advice in a formal decision-making process related to the expenditure of such funds. As a result, membership of the local work group is limited to Federal, State, county, tribal, or local government representatives. Despite the membership limitation, public participation is allowed and very much encouraged at local work group meetings. Local work group membership may include:

- NRCS District Conservationist(s);
- Members of the conservation district board;
- Members of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) county committee;
- FSA county executive director(s);
- Conservation district manager;
- Cooperative Extension agent(s);
- State or local elected or appointed officials;
- Tribal representatives; and
- Other Federal and State government representatives.

## **Working Procedures**

The local work group will establish its own working procedures, including:

- Organization,
- Decision-making procedures,
- Meeting dates, including timely notification of members,
- Recording and distributing group considerations, actions, and decisions, and
- Other procedures deemed necessary.

## **For More Information**

Contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service, your local conservation district, or the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) for more information. NRCS offices can be found online at [nv.nrcs.usda.gov](http://nv.nrcs.usda.gov). NACD is online at [nacdnet.org](http://nacdnet.org).