

# Locally Led Conservation Initiative



Scott Edwards

State Conservationist

NRCS

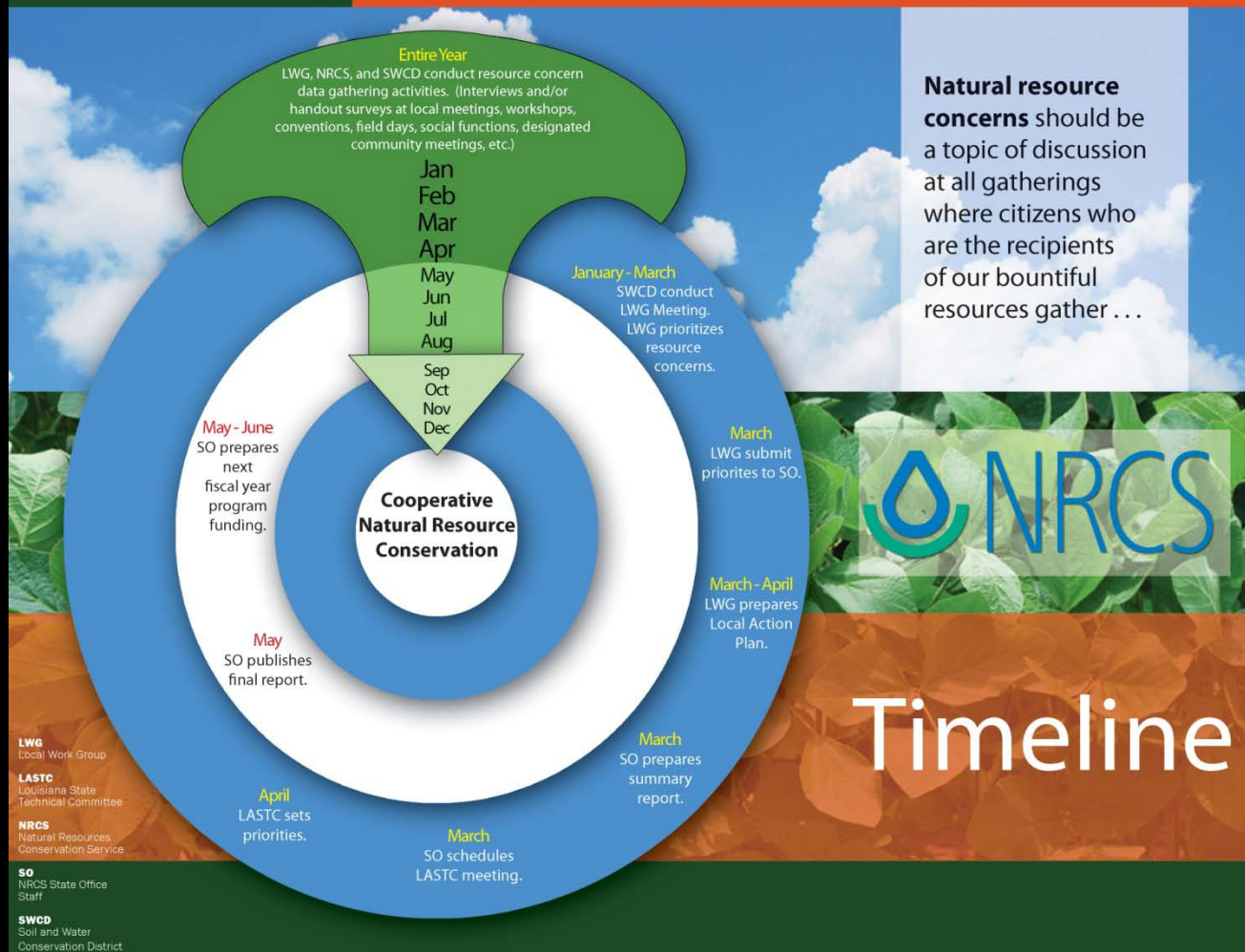


An essential element of the locally led conservation is input from a broad range of agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals in the local area that have an interest in natural resource management and are familiar with local resource needs and conditions.

These representatives should reflect the diversity of the residents, landowners, and land operators in the local area.



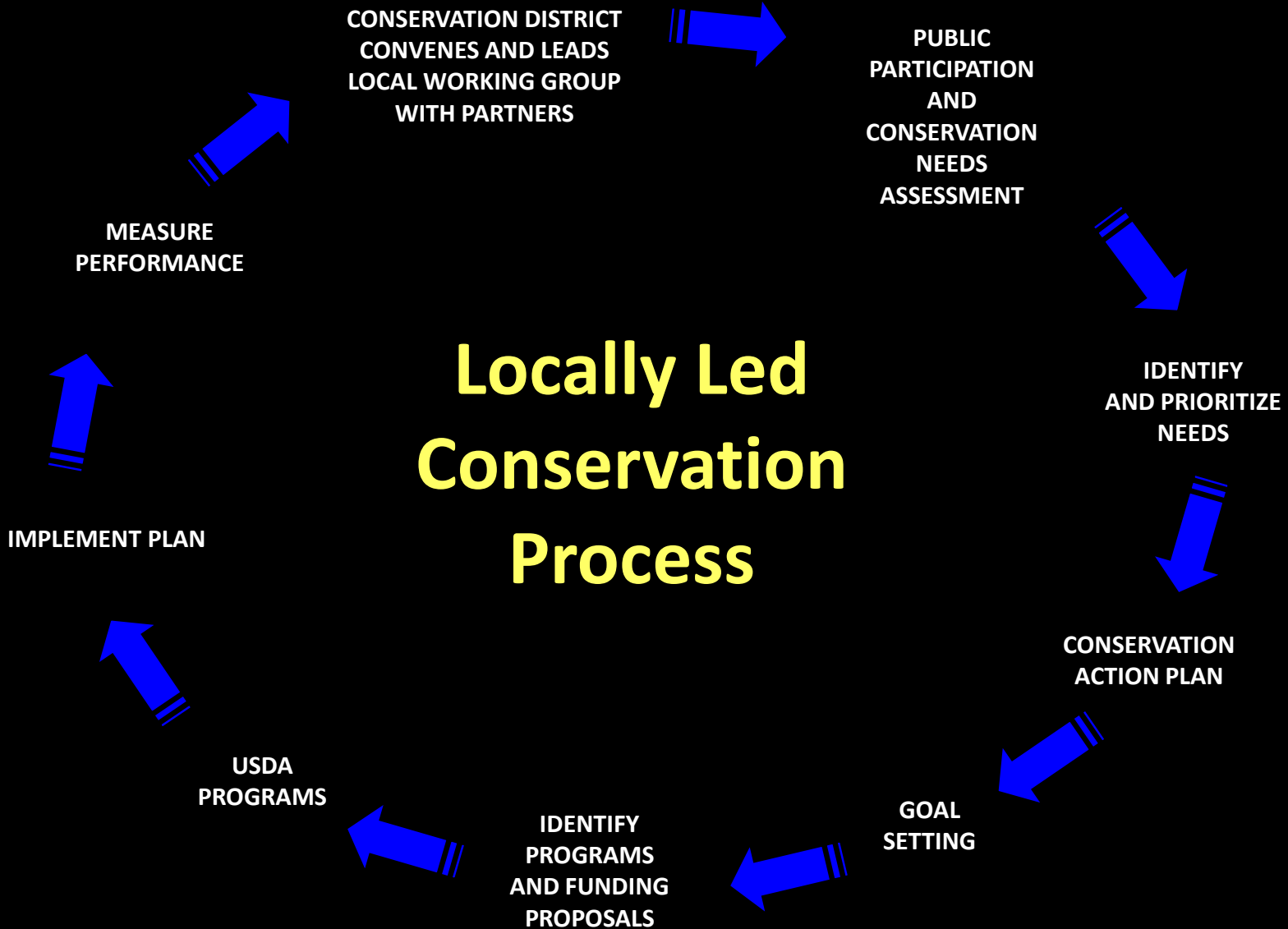
## Locally Led Conservation Louisiana



# Locally Led Conservation



# Process



# Locally Led Conservation

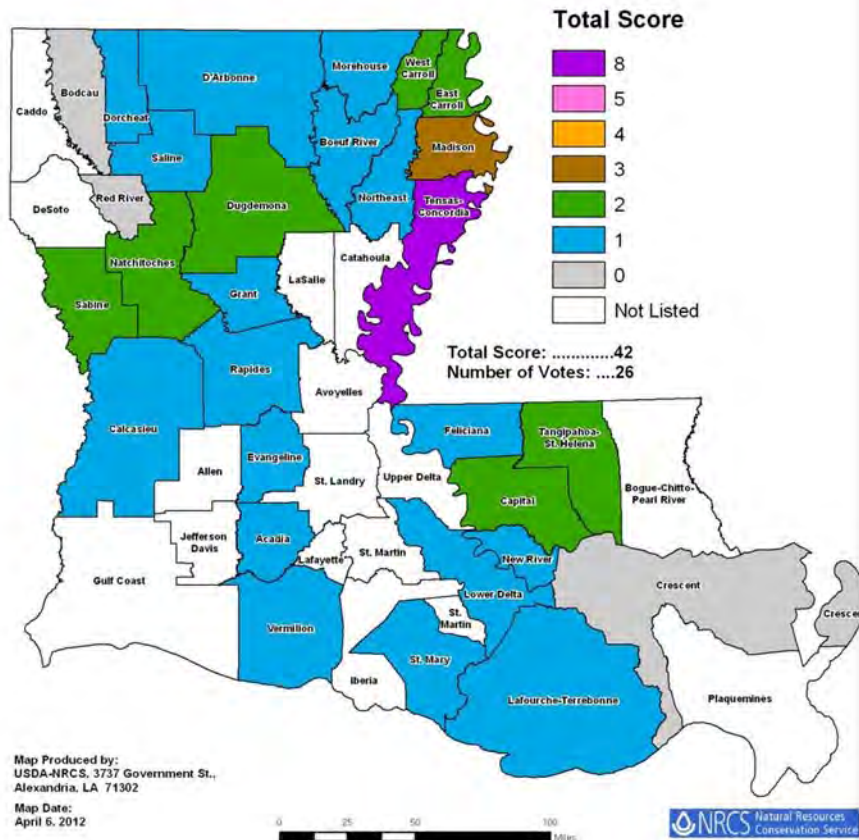


# 2012 Data Collection

2012 Resource Concern	Total Score	Number of Votes
Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill	42	26
Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants	41	26
Water Quantity – Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land	41	17
Soil Erosion - Classic Gully	36	21
Plant Condition - Productivity, Health and Vigor	33	19
Water Quality – Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water	26	17
Fish and Wildlife - Imbalance Among and Within Populations	21	14
Domestic Animals - Inadequate Stock Water	18	9
Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water	18	12
Domestic Animals - Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage	14	11
Water Quantity - Excessive Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding	13	10
Water Quantity – Insufficient Flows in Water Courses	11	6



## 2012 Resource Concern # 1 Soil Erosion - Sheet and Rill

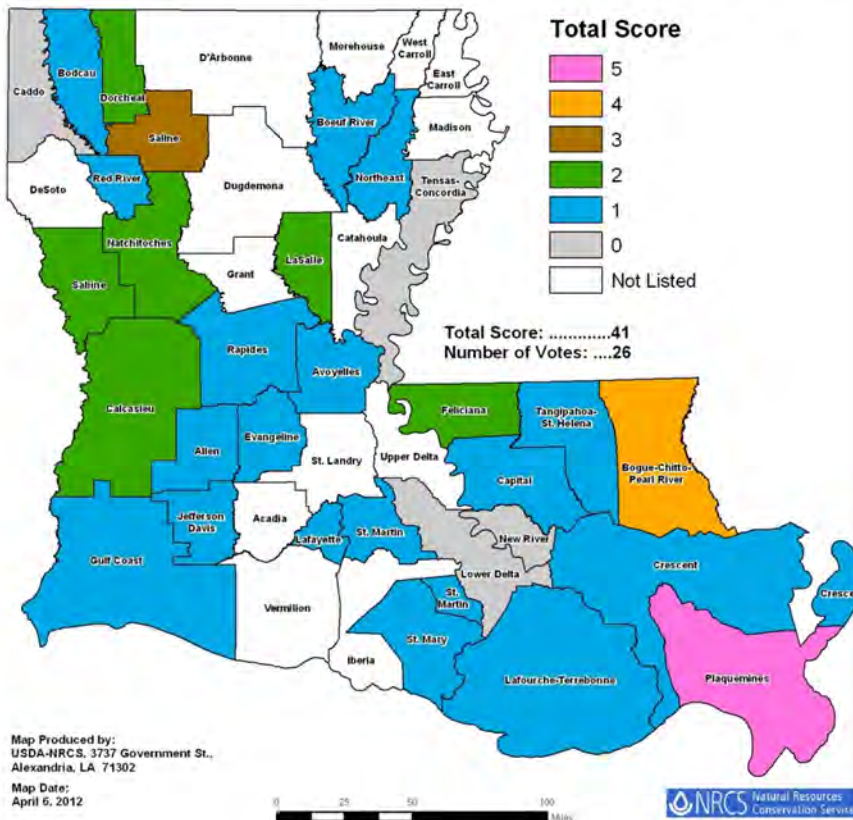


Total Score	Geographic Area
8	Tensas Concordia SWCD
3	Madison SWCD
2	Capital SWCD
2	Dugdemona SWCD
2	East Carroll SWCD
2	Natchitoches SWCD
2	Sabine SWCD
2	Tangipahoa St. Helena SWCD
2	West Carroll SWCD
1	Acadia SWCD
1	Boeuf River SWCD
1	Calcasieu SWCD
1	Darbonne SWCD
1	Dorcheat SWCD
1	Evangeline SWCD
1	Feliciana SWCD
1	Grant SWCD
1	Lafourche Terrebonne SWCD
1	Lower Delta SWCD
1	Morehouse SWCD
1	New River SWCD
1	Northeast SWCD
1	Rapides SWCD
1	Saline SWCD
1	St. Mary SWCD
1	Vermilion SWCD



## 2012 Resource Concern # 2 Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants

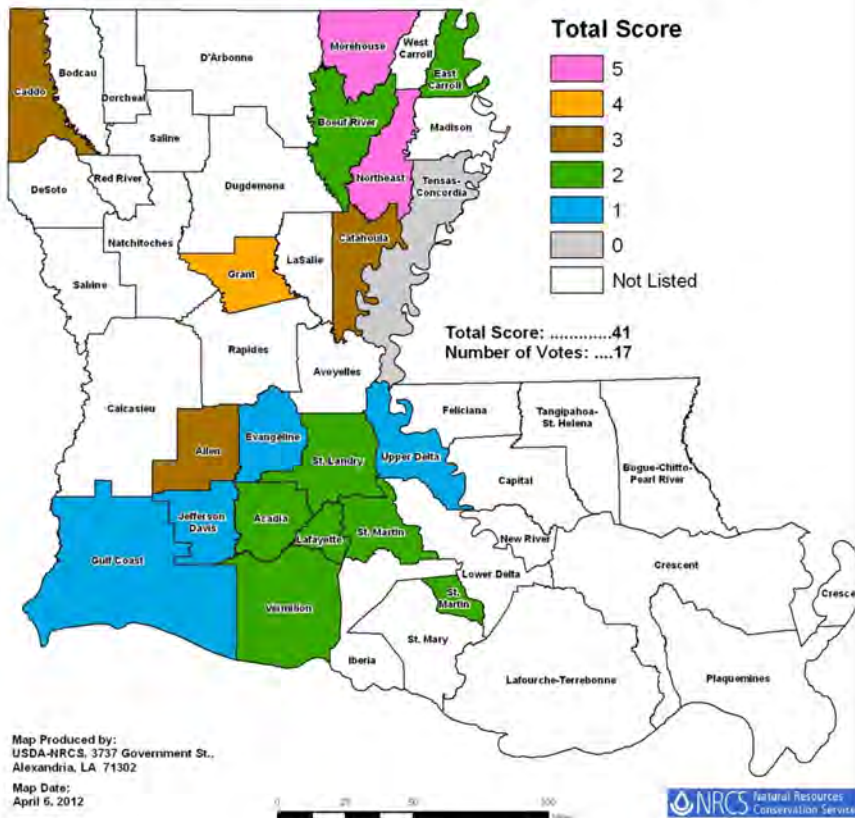
(Tied with Water Quantity - Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land)



Total Score	Geographic Area
5	Plaquemines SWCD
4	Bogue Chitto Pearl River River SWCD
3	Saline SWCD
2	Calcasieu SWCD
2	Dorcheat SWCD
2	Feliciana SWCD
2	LaSalle SWCD
2	Natchitoches SWCD
2	Sabine SWCD
1	Allen SWCD
1	Avoyelles SWCD
1	Bodcau SWCD
1	Boeuf River SWCD
1	Captial SWCD
1	Crescent SWCD
1	Evangeline SWCD
1	Gulf Coast SWCD
1	Jefferson Davis SWCD
1	Lafayette SWCD
1	Lafourche Terrebonne SWCD
1	Northeast SWCD
1	Rapides SWCD
1	Red River SWCD
1	St. Martin SWCD
1	St. Mary SWCD
1	Tangipahoa St. Helena SWCD



## 2012 Resource Concern # 2 Water Quantity – Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land (Tied with Plant Condition - Noxious and Invasive Plants)

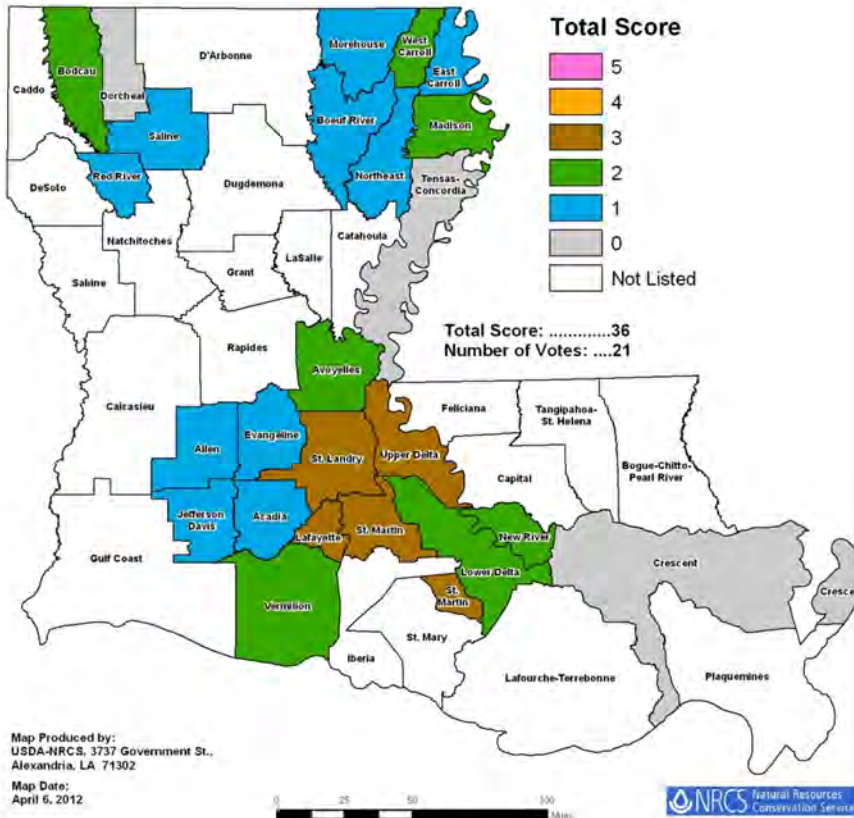


Total Score	Geographic Area
5	Morehouse SWCD
5	Northeast SWCD
4	Grant SWCD
3	Allen SWCD
3	Caddo SWCD
3	Catahoula SWCD
2	Acadia SWCD
2	Boeuf River SWCD
2	East Carroll SWCD
2	Lafayette SWCD
2	St. Landry SWCD
2	St. Martin SWCD
2	Vermilion SWCD
1	Evangeline SWCD
1	Gulf Coast SWCD
1	Jefferson Davis SWCD
1	Upper Delta SWCD





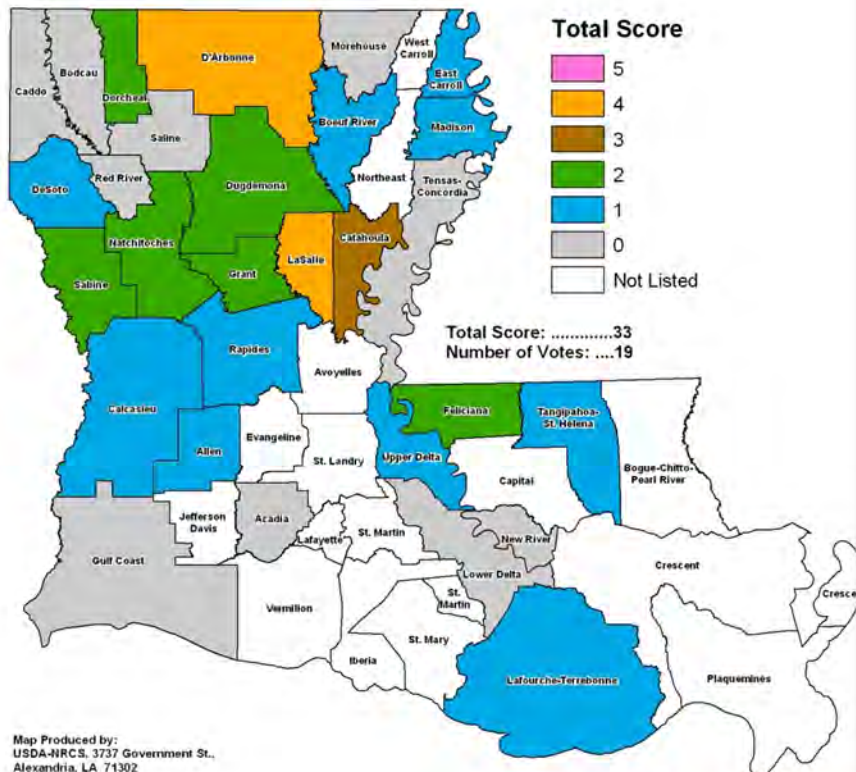
## 2012 Resource Concern # 3 Soil Erosion - Classic Gully



Total Score	Geographic Area
3	Lafayette SWCD
3	St. Landry SWCD
3	St. Martin SWCD
3	Upper Delta SWCD
2	Avoyelles SWCD
2	Bodcau SWCD
2	Lower Delta SWCD
2	Madison SWCD
2	New River SWCD
2	Vermilion SWCD
2	West Carroll SWCD
1	Acadia SWCD
1	Allen SWCD
1	Boeuf River SWCD
1	East Carroll SWCD
1	Evangeline SWCD
1	Jefferson Davis SWCD
1	Morehouse SWCD
1	Northeast SWCD
1	Red River SWCD
1	Saline SWCD



## 2012 Resource Concern # 4 Plant Condition - Productivity, Health and Vigor



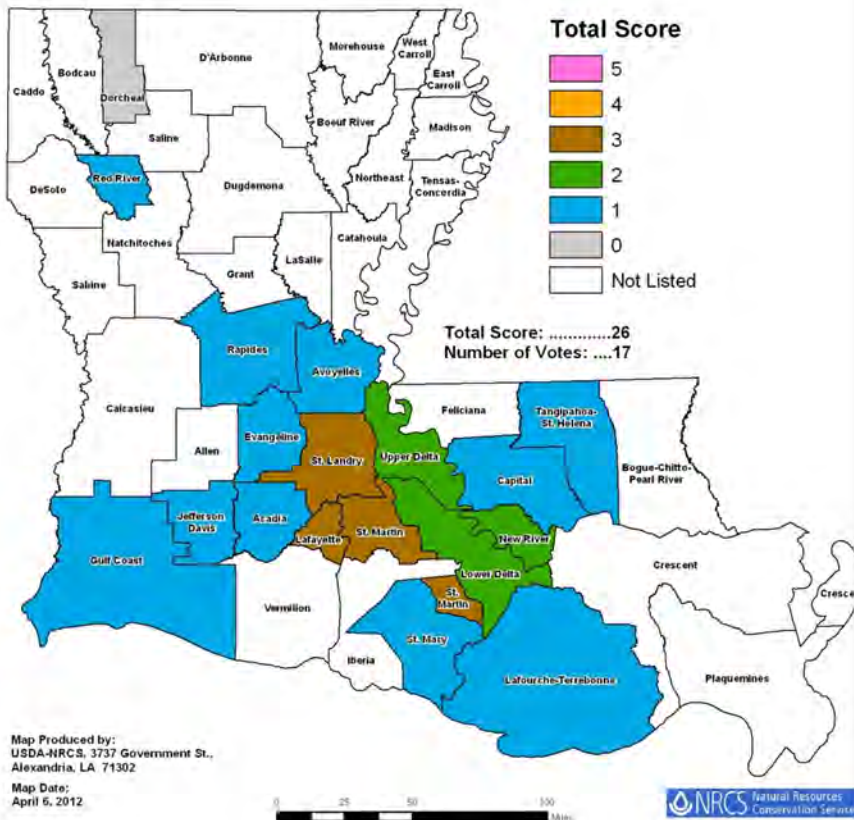
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Map Date:  
April 6, 2012



Total Score	Geographic Area
4	Darbonne SWCD
4	LaSalle SWCD
3	Catahoula SWCD
2	Dorcheat SWCD
2	Dugdemona SWCD
2	Feliciana SWCD
2	Grant SWCD
2	Natchitoches SWCD
2	Sabine SWCD
1	Allen SWCD
1	Boeuf River SWCD
1	Calcasieu SWCD
1	DeSoto SWCD
1	East Carroll SWCD
1	Lafourche Terrebonne SWCD
1	Madison SWCD
1	Rapides SWCD
1	Tangipahoa St. Helena SWCD
1	Upper Delta SWCD



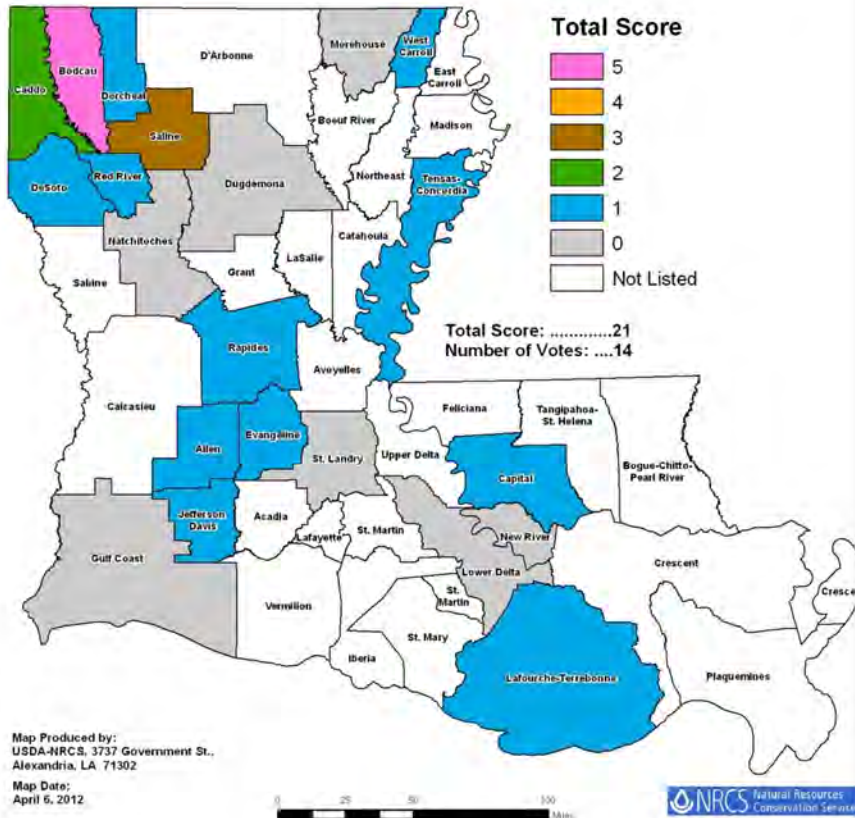
## 2012 Resource Concern # 5 Water Quality – Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water



Total Score	Geographic Area
5	Bodcau SWCD
2	Caddo SWCD
2	Dorcheat SWCD
2	Evangeline SWCD
2	Lower Delta SWCD
2	New River SWCD
2	Red River SWCD
2	Saline SWCD
1	Allen SWCD
1	Capital SWCD
1	DeSoto SWCD
1	Grant SWCD
1	Gulf Coast SWCD
1	Rapides SWCD
1	St. Mary SWCD
1	Tensas Concordia SWCD
1	West Carroll SWCD



## 2012 Resource Concern # 6 Fish and Wildlife - Imbalance Among and Within Populations

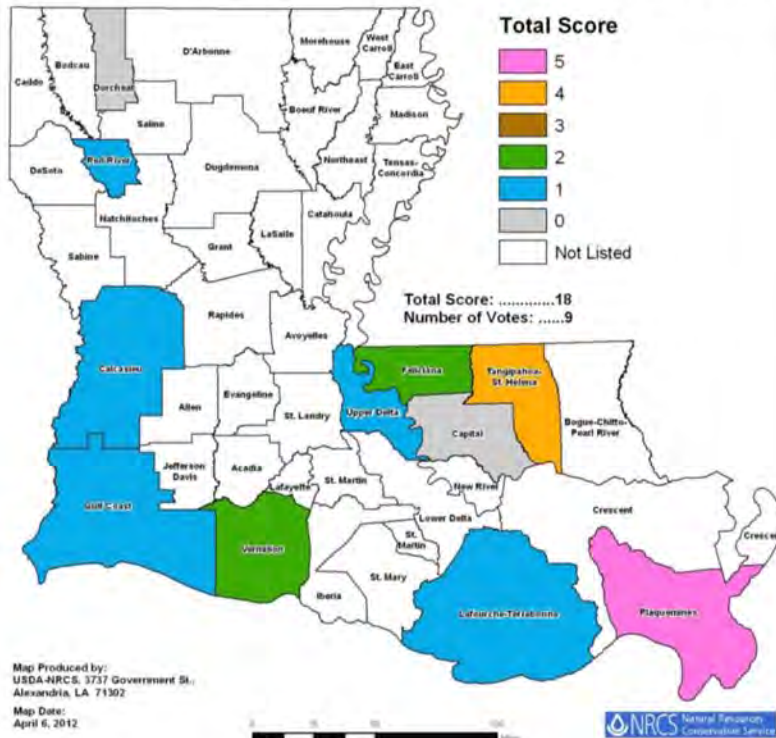


Total Score	Geographic Area
5	Bodcau SWCD
3	Saline SWCD
2	Caddo SWCD
1	Allen SWCD
1	Capital SWCD
1	DeSoto SWCD
1	Dorcheat SWCD
1	Evangeline SWCD
1	Jefferson Davis SWCD
1	Lafourche Terrebonne SWCD
1	Rapides SWCD
1	Red River SWCD
1	Tensas Concordia SWCD
1	West Carroll SWCD



## 2012 Resource Concern # 7 Domestic Animals - Inadequate Stock Water

(Tied with Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water)

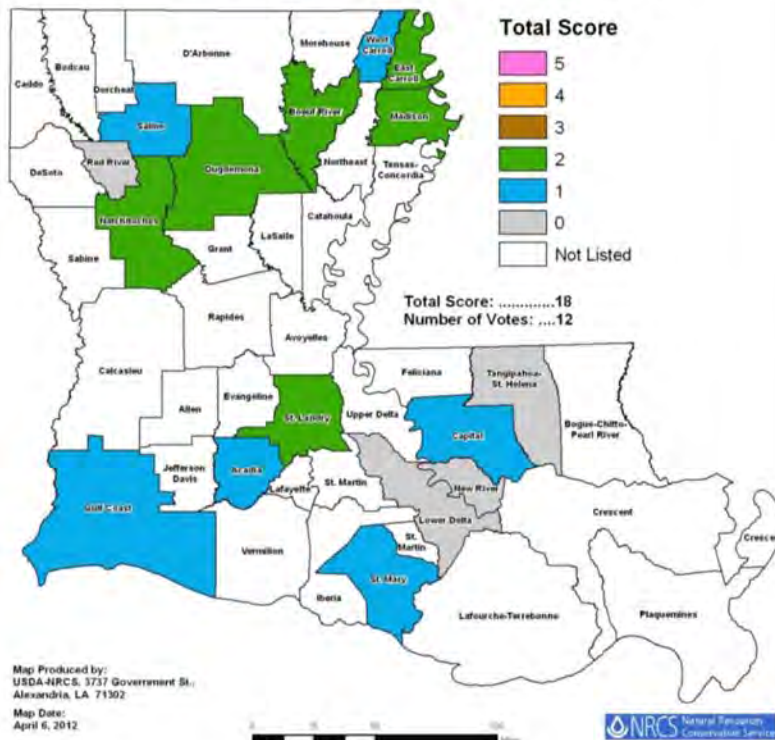


Total Score	Geographic Area
5	Plaquemines SWCD
4	Tangipahoa St. Helena SWCD
2	Feliciana SWCD
2	Vermilion SWCD
1	Calcasieu SWCD
1	Gulf Coast SWCD
1	Lafourche Terrebonne SWCD
1	Red River SWCD
1	Upper Delta SWCD



## 2012 Resource Concern # 7 Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water

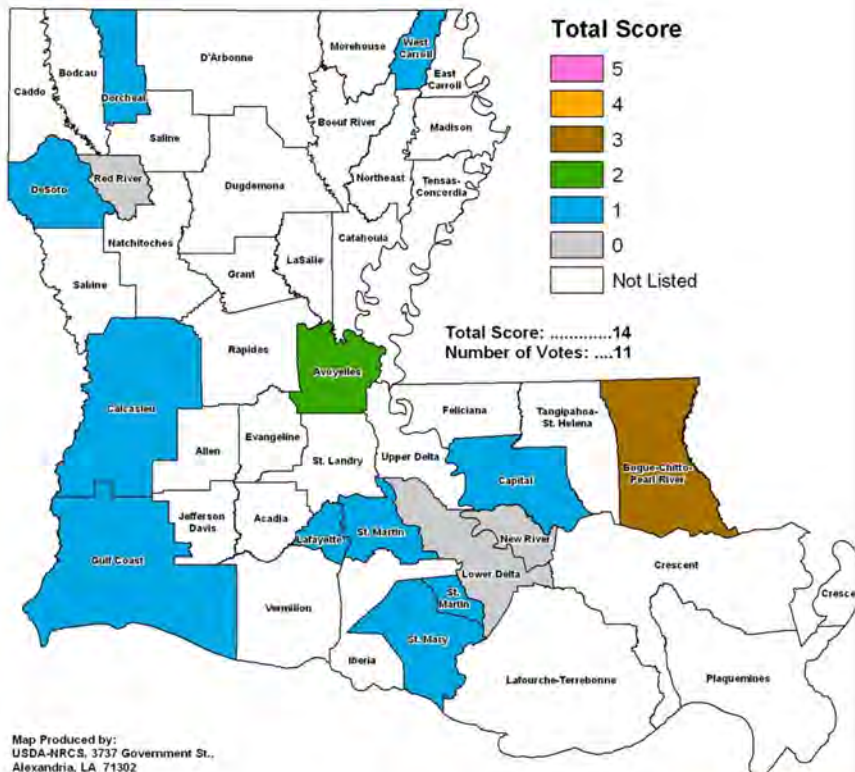
(Tied with Domestic Animals - Inadequate Stock Water)



Total Score	Geographic Area
2	Boeuf River SWCD
2	Dugdemonna SWCD
2	East Carroll SWCD
2	Madison SWCD
2	Natchitoches SWCD
2	St. Landry SWCD
1	Acadia SWCD
1	Captial SWCD
1	Gulf Coast SWCD
1	Saline SWCD
1	St. Mary SWCD
1	West Carroll SWCD



## 2012 Resource Concern # 8 Domestic Animals - Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage



Total Score	Geographic Area
3	Bogue Chitto Pearl River River SWCD
2	Avoyelles SWCD
1	Calcasieu SWCD
1	Capital SWCD
1	DeSoto SWCD
1	Dorcheat SWCD
1	Gulf Coast SWCD
1	Lafayette SWCD
1	St. Martin SWCD
1	St. Mary SWCD
1	West Carroll SWCD

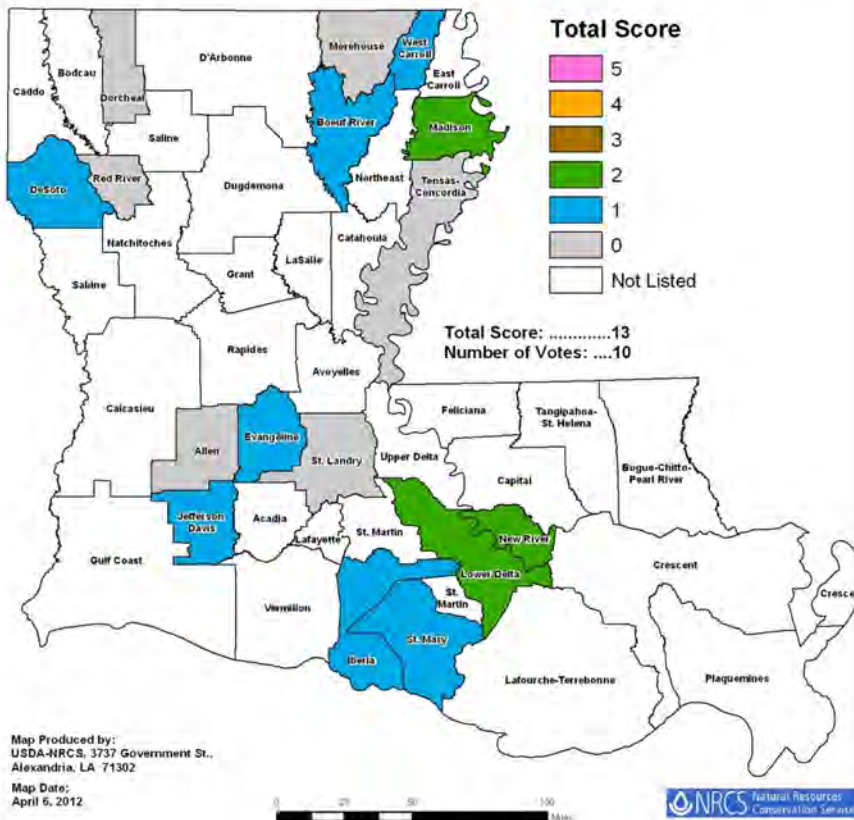
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Map Date:  
April 6, 2012





## 2012 Resource Concern # 9 Water Quantity - Excessive Runoff, Flooding, or Ponding

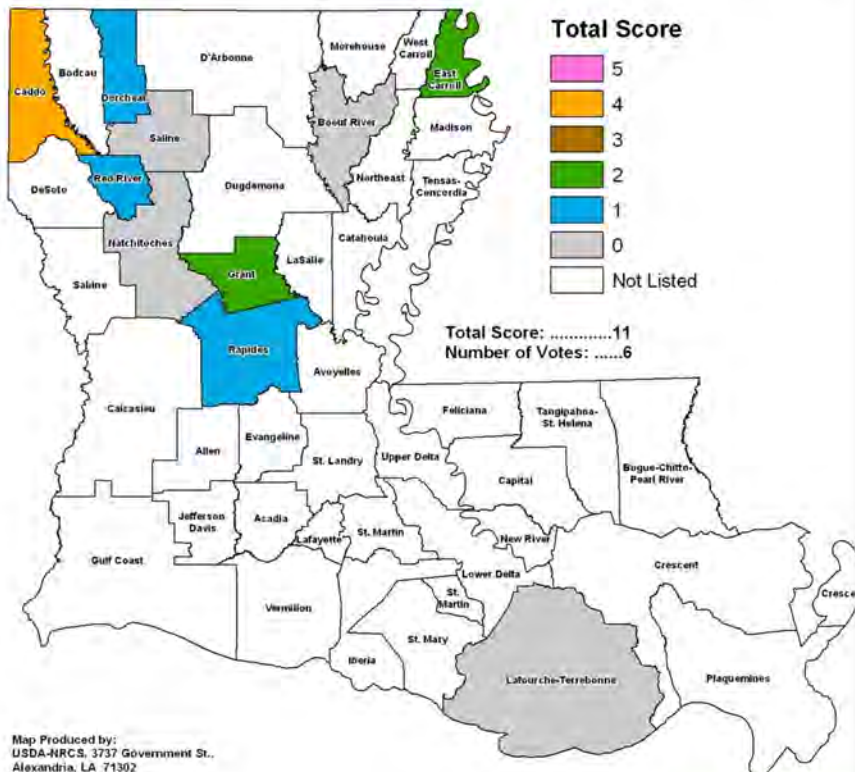


Total Score	Geographic Area
2	Lower Delta SWCD
2	Madison SWCD
2	New River SWCD
1	Boeuf River SWCD
1	DeSoto SWCD
1	Evangeline SWCD
1	Iberia SWCD
1	Jefferson Davis SWCD
1	St. Mary SWCD
1	West Carroll SWCD





## 2012 Resource Concern # 10 Water Quantity – Insufficient Flows in Water Courses



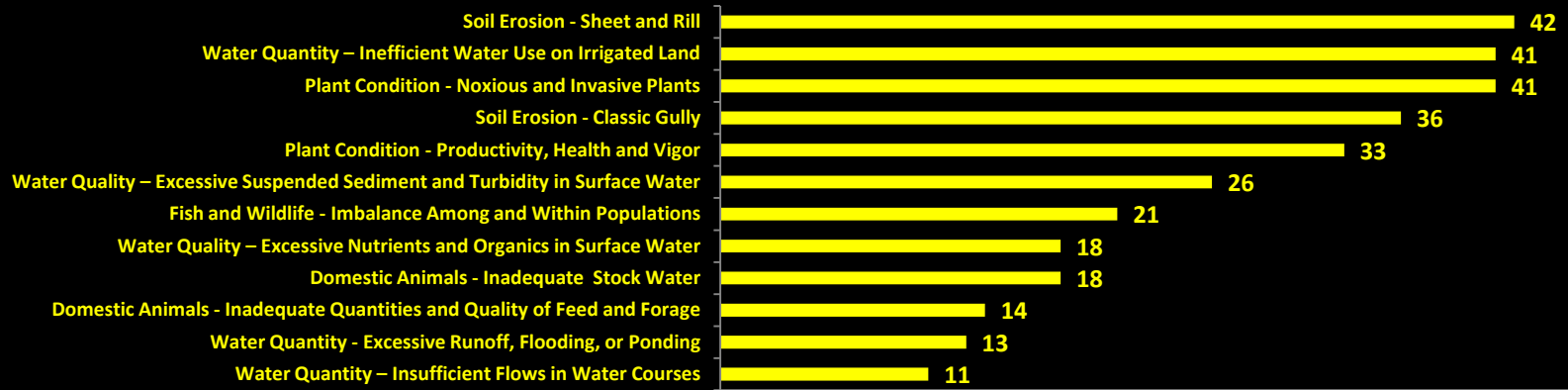
Total Score	Geographic Area
4	Caddo SWCD
2	East Carroll SWCD
2	Grant SWCD
1	Dorchest SWCD
1	Rapides SWCD
1	Red River SWCD

Map Produced by:  
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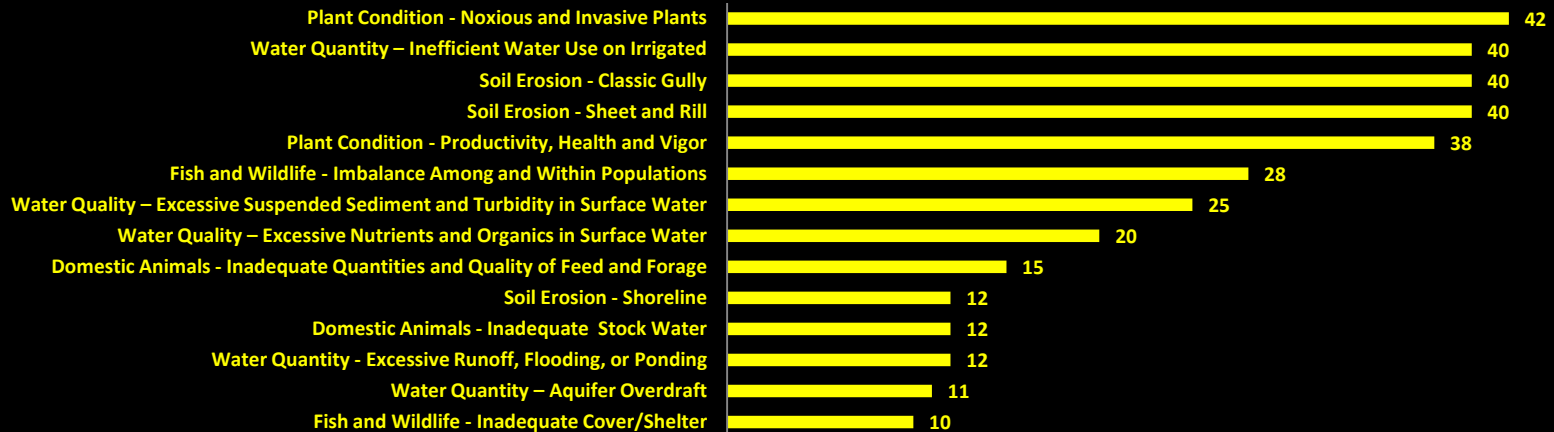




## 2012 Resource Concerns

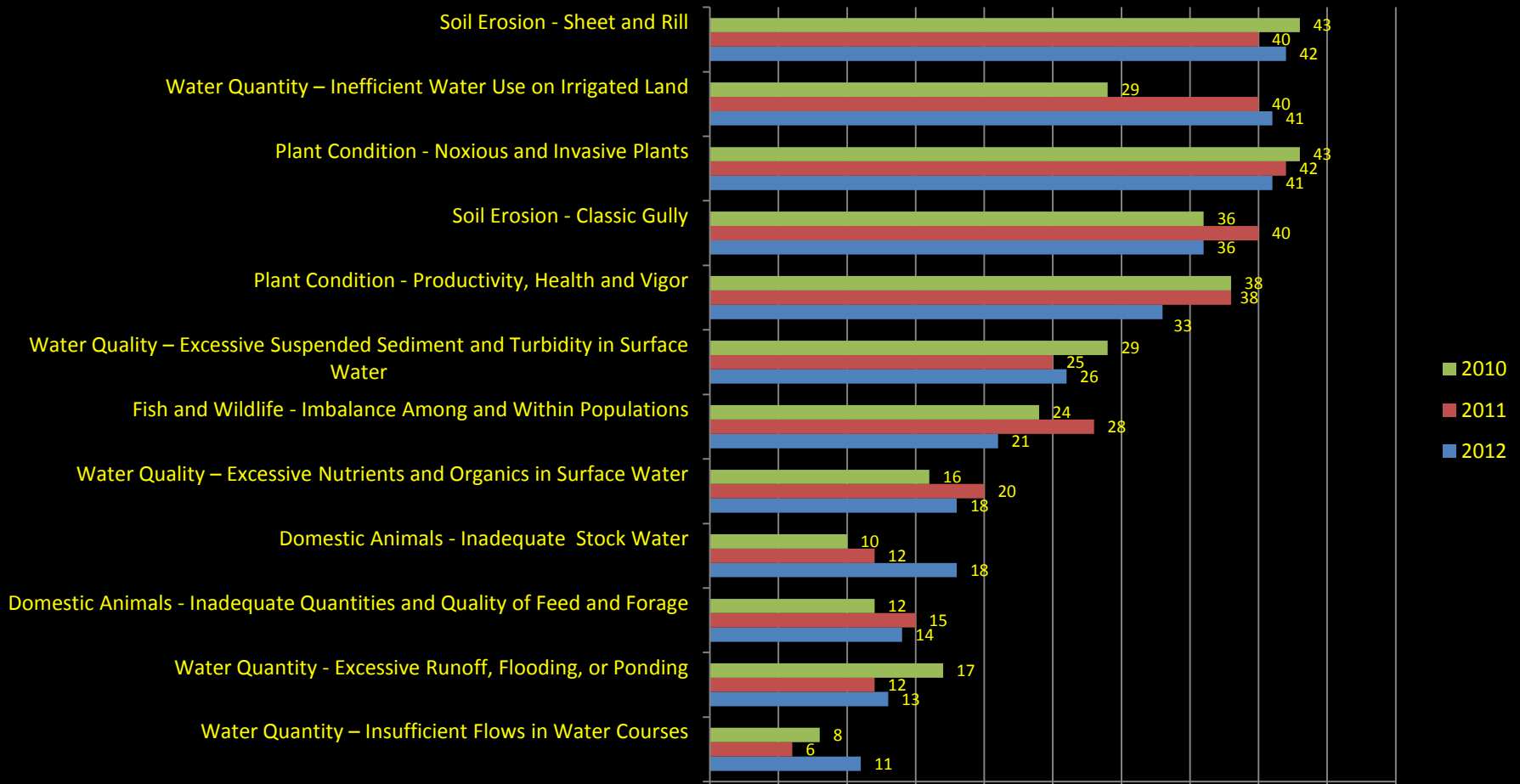


## 2011 Resource Concerns



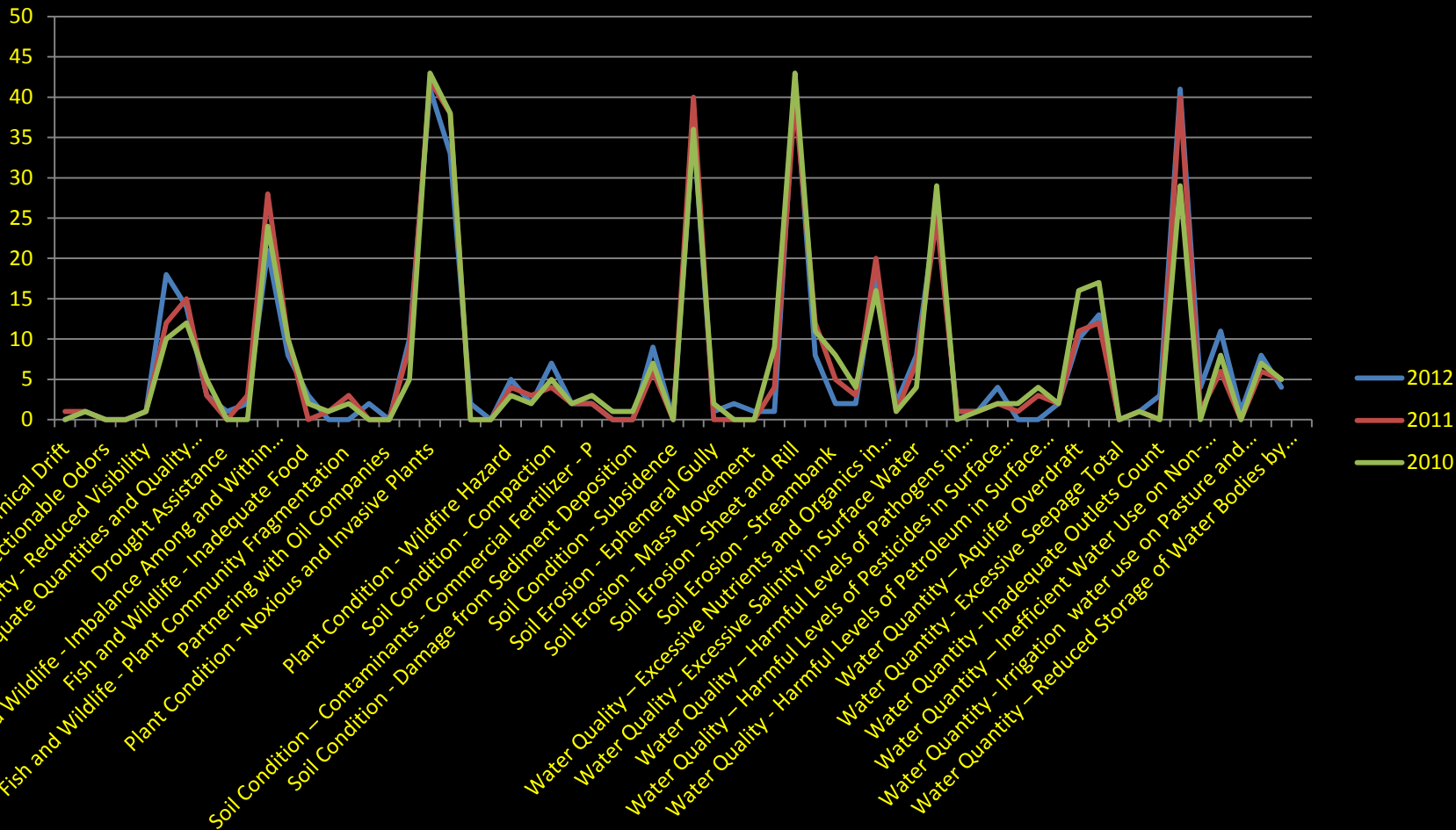


## Locally Led Conservation Resource Concerns Top 12 Compared to 2011 and 2010





## Trends for All Resource Concerns 2010-2012





Locally Led Conservation consists of a series of phases which involve community stakeholders in:

- natural resource planning
- implementation of solutions
- evaluation of results



"Locally Led Conservation" is community stakeholders:

1. Assessing their natural resource conservation needs
2. Setting community conservation goals
3. Developing an action plan
4. Obtaining resources to carry out the plan
5. Implementing solutions
6. Measuring their success



These actions can be grouped into four major activities for the purpose of this process:

- Conservation needs assessment
- Conservation Action Plan
- Action Plan implementation
- Evaluation of results



Locally Led Conservation begins with the community itself, working through the local conservation district.

It is based on the principle that community stakeholders are the best suited to deal with local resource problems.

Thus, community stakeholders are keys to successfully managing and protecting their natural resources.





Local can mean...

- parish
- portion of a parish
- watershed
- multi-parish region
- other geographic area

...whichever is best suited to address the resource conservation needs identified.



The need for local leadership in natural resources management was one of the most important factors leading to the establishment of conservation districts nearly 60 years ago.

Following the creation of the federal Soil Conservation Service, conservation districts were created as a local focal point for coordinating and delivering technical assistance and funding to private land managers.



Over the years, federal, state, and local governments have channeled assistance through conservation districts to address virtually every aspect of natural resource conservation.

Districts have focused on setting priorities and carrying out programs based on local conditions and needs.

**Locally Led  
Conservation**



**Shifting Priorities**

Legislation such as the 1985 and 1990 farm bills, the 1987 Clean Water Act amendments, and the 1990 Coastal Zone Act, however, have significantly changed the way NRCS and conservation districts address conservation and natural resource management needs.



These and other programs, driven largely by national priorities, focused federal conservation efforts on a narrow range of natural resource concerns.

State and local conservation leaders were often left on their own to balance limited program resources against growing conservation needs.



The Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 – The 1998 Farm Bill – signaled a shift back to the original district approach of locally led conservation.

Congress emphasized the need for a close working relationship among conservation districts, the NRCS, the FSA, and other government agencies.



To facilitate this, conservation districts are being asked to bring together local stakeholders to provide input to USDA's local Farm Bill work groups in order to guide program implementation and integration of the Farm Bill with other local initiatives.



An essential element of the locally led conservation is input from a broad range of agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals in the local area that have an interest in natural resource management and are familiar with local resource needs and conditions.

These representatives should reflect the diversity of the residents, landowners, and land operators in the local area.





While there is a wide range of groups that may be in position to lead a local conservation effort, Conservation Districts, under state and tribal law, are charged with

- facilitating cooperation and agreements between agencies, landowners and others
- Developing comprehensive conservation plans
- Bringing those plans to the attention of landowners and others in the district



Conservation Districts are experienced in assessing resource needs, determining priorities, and coordinating programs to meet those needs and priorities.

Therefore, conservation districts are the logical group to coordinate locally led conservation.



Conservation Districts will be active participants in the locally led meetings.

Conservation Districts will chair the Local Work Group. However, this is not a conservation district meeting.

The Local Work Group is a subcommittee of the State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC).



A conservation needs assessment, with input and resource data from all interested parties, should provide a comprehensive evaluation of the condition of the area's natural resource base.

It will be the platform for making decisions about local priorities and policies for conservation programs delivered at the local level.

**Locally Led  
Conservation**



**Conservation  
Action Plan**

Using the conservation needs assessment, the Conservation District involves community stakeholders to develop and agree on a conservation action plan.



## The Conservation Action Plan will:

- Identify natural resource conservation priorities
- set measurable conservation goals and objectives
- Identify conservation technology needed to achieve the goals and objectives
- Identify responsibility for action and create a time schedule for completion of elements
- Identify federal, state, tribal, local, and non-government programs and services needed to address specific conservation needs
- Identify a need to develop new programs or processes to address those problems not covered by existing programs



During implementation of the Conservation Action plan, community stakeholders:

- coordinate existing assistance, available through private organizations, federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, including USDA;
- ensure appropriate program application processes are followed;
- develop detailed proposals for new programs;
- seek financial, educational, and technical assistance as necessary.



Locally led conservation does not end when the conservation action plan has been implemented. The effectiveness of the plan implementation should be evaluated to ensure community stakeholders' planned goals and objectives are achieved.

An evaluation should be made to determine where the actual results differ from those anticipated.

The difference may result in retracing one or more of the steps in the locally led conservation effort.





As a process, locally led conservation goes beyond the Farm Bill or any other individual program.

There are a number of program resources available through USDA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Wildlife service, the Forest Service, and other federal agencies that can be tapped for assistance in carrying out a local conservation program.



There are also many resources available through state and local sources.

District leadership will be critical in marshaling these resources to increase the visibility and effectiveness of local conservation efforts.



Locally led conservation creates new opportunities, but also poses significant challenges to districts to step in as conservation leaders in their communities.

Districts need to take the lead in planning and carrying out all conservation programs at the local level.

# Locally Led Conservation Initiative



**Community Stakeholders coming together  
for the common natural resource good**