**Land use planning is important**

**Conservation: Our Purpose Our Passion**

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/home/?cid=nrcs143_023473>

Aldo Leopold “When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” **<https://www.aldoleopold.org/about/the-land-ethic/>**

Ethics direct all members of a community to treat one another with respect for the mutual benefit of all. A land ethic expands the definition of “community” to include not only humans, but all of the other parts of the Earth, as well: soils, waters, plants, and animals, or what Leopold called “the land.”

In Leopold’s vision of a land ethic, the relationships between people and land are intertwined: care for people cannot be separated from care for the land. A land ethic is a moral code of conduct that grows out of these interconnected caring relationships.

The conservation vision:

* committed to “helping people help the land”—provide resources to farmers and landowners to aid them with conservation. Ensuring productive lands in harmony with a healthy environment is our priority.
* foster the science and art of natural resource conservation. Our work targets conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources on working land—the land used to produce food, fiber, and other services that improve the quality of life people experience in rural and urban communities.
* discover, develop, implement, and constantly improve ways to use land that sustain its productive capacity and enhance the environment at the same time
* have a clean and healthy watershed that supports all - Our passion is manifested through the benefits derived from stewardship of private lands benefits we all enjoy, such as cleaner water and air, improved soils and abundant wildlife habitat; beneficial uses for people, fish, and wildlife; a vibrant economy; and livable communities

NRCS is an agency committed to **“helping people help the land”**—our mission is to provide resources to farmers and landowners to aid them with conservation. Ensuring productive lands in harmony with a healthy environment is our priority. With operations in the United States, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Guam, our agency touches the lives of a diverse range of individuals. Our passion is derived from stewardship of the land—benefits we all enjoy, such as cleaner air and water, improved soil and abundant wildlife habitat.

What originally began as the Soil Conservation Service in 1935 is now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a name change that highlights our broader mission of conservation. Bringing 80 years of scientific and technical expertise to the conservation industry, we are involved with activities that help benefit soil, water, plants, air, and animals. With seventy percent of U.S. land privately owned, partnership with private landowners is critical to health of our nation’s land. By providing assistance to these landowners, we help to cultivate productive lands and healthy ecosystems.

NRCS succeeds through its partnerships, working closely with individual farmers and ranchers, landowners, local conservation districts, government agencies, Tribes, Earth Team volunteers and many other people and groups that care about the quality of America’s natural resources. Partnerships allow our agency to expand the reach and depth of conservation. It is our duty to service the people by providing quality assistance to farmers and landowners to ensure we protect our nation’s lands. Conserving our natural resources is not a one-person job. The farmers and private landowners of this country cannot do it alone, nor can the government. We must all work together to help make sure that our land is sustainable for generations to come.