



CULTURE, CLIMATE, AND CONSERVATION

**73RD SWCS INTERNATIONAL
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
JULY 29 – AUGUST 1, 2018**

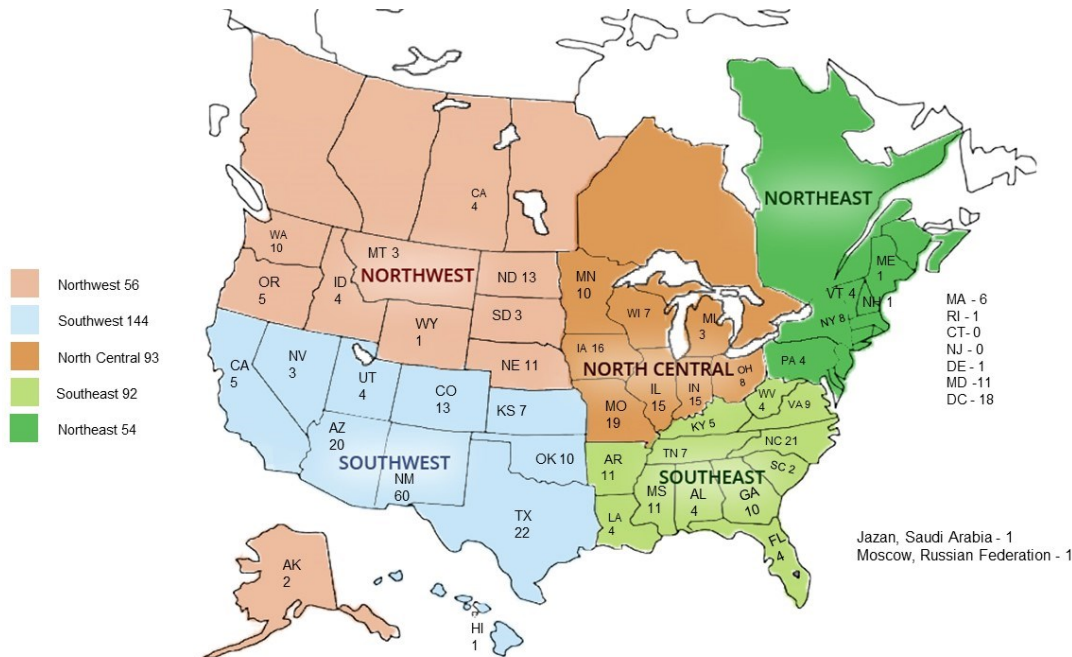
POST-CONFERENCE REPORT

www.swcs.org/18AC

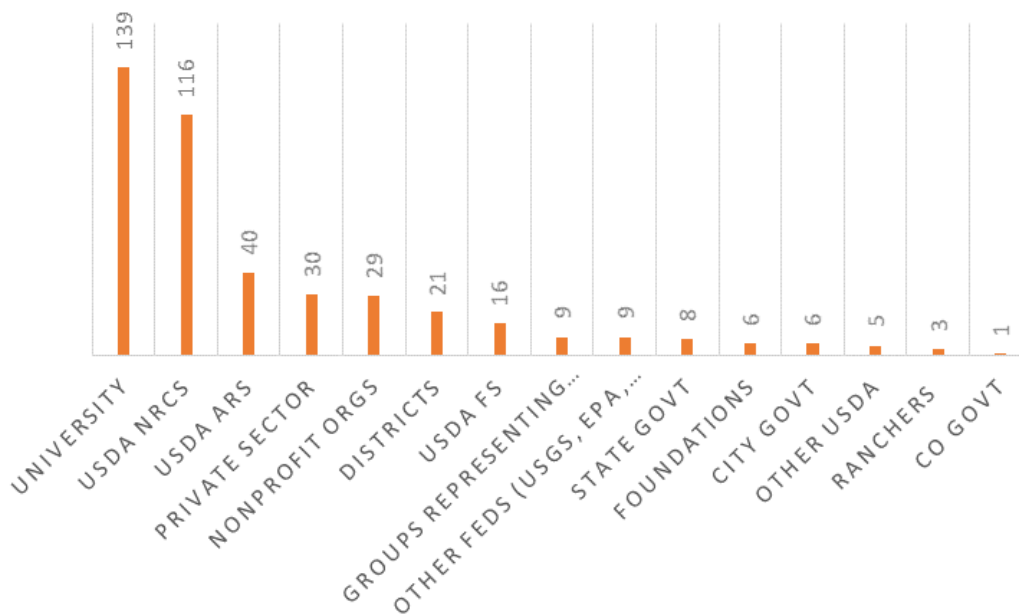
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ATTENDANCE BY STATE AND REGION



ATTENDANCE BY SECTOR



Total Attendance:

441

Presentations:

115

Posters:

71

Students:

32

Exhibitors:

18

States Represented:

48+ District of Columbia

Countries Represented:

United States

Canada

Saudi Arabia

Russian Federation

Over 50% of survey respondents indicated they wanted to see farmers and farm organizations better represented at the conference.

30% wanted better representation from universities, private sector, federal government, students and nonprofits.

How did you hear about the conference?

62% heard about the conference directly from SWCS

29% from their employer

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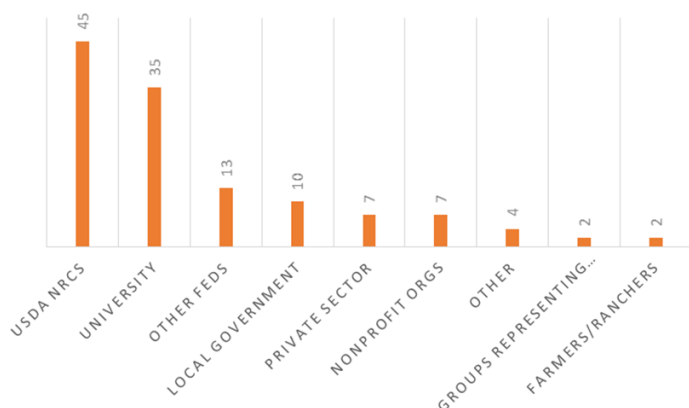
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SURVEY RESPONSE BY SECTOR

This year's survey response rate was **30%**

How does this compare to years past?

2017 - 23% 2016 - 22% 2015 - 21%



PLENARY SESSIONS FEEDBACK

87% ranked the Pritchard Lecture from Jacqueline Comito **Excellent or Very Good.**



"Incredible first speaker. Jackie made my whole attendance worth it!"



82% ranked the Tuesday Plenary Session Panel **Excellent or Very Good.**



71% ranked the Tuesday Plenary Session Speaker, Emilie Eilas, Regional Approaches to Climate Adaption in a Research Context, **Excellent or Very Good.**

LOCALLY LED

70% ranked the Regional Forum and Flavor **Excellent or Very Good.**



There were a total of **75** individuals in attendance on this year's conservation tours.

How does this compare to years past?

2017 - 70 2016 - 63 2015 - 64



87% ranked the conservation tours **Excellent or Very Good.**

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PRESENTATIONS

The conference program included 115 oral presentations and symposia and 71 poster presentations.

This year's specialty topics included Forest Restoration: Research, Policy, and Applied Science of Ecological Restoration across Landscapes and Watersheds; Rangeland Restoration, Health, and Grazing Management: Adapting Conservation Planning for a Changing Climate; and Using Technology to Advance Conservation.

75% ranked the oral presentations **Excellent or Very Good**.



74% ranked the poster presentations **Excellent or Very Good**.



WELL ATTENDED SESSIONS

New this year, we asked moderators to provide session attendance counts. **Social Sciences; Outreach, Education, and Community Engagement; Policy; and Water Resources** were a few that rose to the top. Here are some of the most attended sessions (those with 50 + in attendance):

- A Warning from Vanishing Civilizations: The History and Continuing Impact of Walter Lowdermilk's "Conquest of the Land through 7,000 years" (110)
- Building Farmer Efficacy to Promote Conservation Adoption (100)
- Assessing and Expanding Soil Health for Production, Economic, and Environmental Benefits (86)
- Factors Affecting Adoption of Cover Crops in US Soybean Production (75)
- Who has the Power?: Implications for Conservation Behavior on Rented Farmland (72)
- Successful Watershed Management: Getting to Scale (65)
- Conservation and the 2018 Farm Bill (60)
- Soils Information and Effective Conservation: You Can't Have One Without the Other (55)
- Sustainability Training in Agricultural Resources Systems (STARS): A Train-the-Trainer Model for Agriculture and Natural Resources Professionals (53)
- Supporting Pollinators with Agroforestry Practices (52)
- Lightning Conversations on the Science and Policy of Conservation, Conservation on Rented Farmland: Developing Effective Outreach for Non-Operating Landowners, Meeting Goals and Tracking Quantified Progress: An Update on the Hypoxia Task Force, CEAP: Effects of Conservation Practices on Soil and Water Resources in the Upper Washita Basin, CEAP: Measuring and Understanding the Effects of Conservation Practices (50)

Survey respondents ranked **Soil Health, Water Resources, Policy** and **Adaptive Management** topic areas most relevant to their work.

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STATE OF SOCIETY, REGIONAL ROUNDTABLES, AND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Last year the State of Society, Regional Roundtables, and House of Delegates were held together on Sunday afternoon and attendance was under 50.

This year, these events were held Monday and a headcount estimate showed over 80 people in attendance.

64% ranked the State of Society, Regional Roundtables, and House of Delegates **Excellent or Very Good**.



PROFESSIONAL AND CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

178 attendees participated in the Professional and Chapter Development Sessions this year.

67% ranked the Professional Development Sessions **Excellent or Very Good**.

79% ranked the Chapter Development Sessions **Excellent or Very Good**.



STUDENTS

Every year, SWCS holds a New Members/First Timers/ Student Orientation and Student Development Session on Sunday prior to the start of conference. New student activities this year included a mentor match up program and “Guide for Students and Early Career Professionals in Conservation.”

There were a total of 32 students this year, including student moderators Bethani Chambers (West Virginia University), Mohammed Omer (New Mexico State University), Emily Cregan (New Mexico State University), Gaurav Jha (New Mexico State University), Judy Smith (Heidelberg University), Spencer Pech (Iowa State University), and Paramveer Singh (New Mexico State University). This year’s Datu Scholarship Winner was Amanda Locker (Purdue University).

74% ranked the student activities **Excellent or Very Good**.



Datu 
data for the big picture

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PHOTO CONTEST

Attendees at the 73rd SWCS International Annual Conference had the opportunity to vote in the 3rd SWCS Annual Photo Contest.

The 2018 People's Choice winner was Tim Durham with his "Middle Earth" photo taken in Blenheim, New Zealand.



The 2018 "Culture, Climate, and Conservation" winner, chosen by a panel of judges, was Elizabeth Burdolski's photo of hearty barley taken in Oliver County, North Dakota.



SILENT AUCTION

Thank you to all who participated in this year's silent auction!

The New Mexico Chapter SWCS brought in **\$1,271.50** to support the local chapter activities.



MEMBER STATS

When registering for the SWCS International Annual Conference, attendees have three registration options aside from the senior and student discount:

- Member - \$435 early bird discount/\$535 late fee
- Register and Join - \$550 early bird discount/\$650 late fee (includes an SWCS Conservationist level membership worth \$115)
- Nonmember - \$560 early bird discount/\$660 late fee

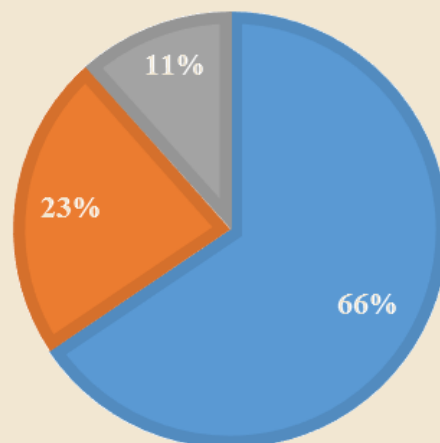
The original breakdown of attendees was as follows:

- 221 Members
- 43 Register and Join
- 73 Nonmembers

In an attempt to ensure the ability to join the Society was taken advantage of, two email blasts were sent to the individuals who registered as nonmembers. They were then contacted via phone call if they had not responded to the email.

Through this campaign, **34** individuals or **47%** of the original nonmembers took advantage and joined as a member of the Society.

■ Members ■ Register and Join ■ Nonmember



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THANK YOU TO THE 2018
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EXHIBITORS

There were a total of 18 exhibitors in the exhibitor showcase this year. Thank you to the organizations who participated!

58% ranked the exhibitor showcase **Excellent or Very Good**.



PRESENTATIONS AND PHOTOS

Presentations from the 73rd SWCS International Annual Conference are now available for viewing! A link to the conference presentations and photos as well as a PDF of the final conference program and abstract book can be found at www.swcs.org/18AC.

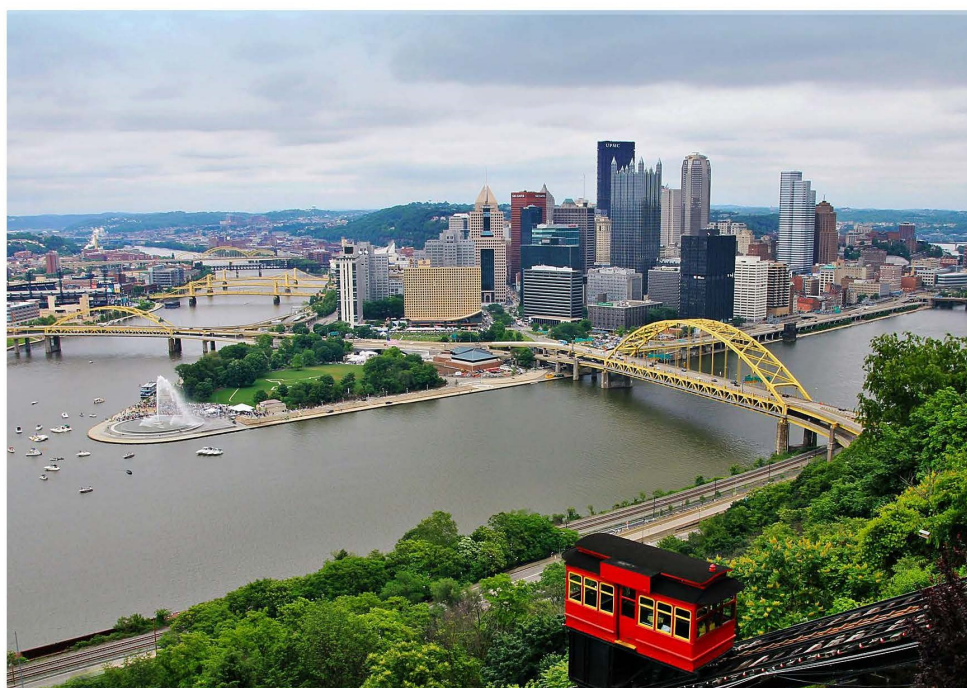


We would like to extend a big thank you to the New Mexico Chapter SWCS for all the work they put in to make this year's Annual Conference a success!

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



SAVE *the* DATE

THE SWCS ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS HEADED TO
PITTSBURGH, PA

2019

JULY 28-31

63% of survey respondents said they would see us in 2019!

How does that compare to years past?

2017 - 51% 2016 - 70% 2015 - 65%