



2022 CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

77th SWCS International Annual Conference

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) invites the submission of workshops, oral presentations, symposia, and posters for the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference, taking place July 31 through August 3, 2022, at the Hilton Denver City Center in Denver, Colorado.

This year's conference theme, "Elevating Conservation to New Heights," embraces the mountainous region of the location while emphasizing the shared vision held by conservationists around the world to scale our work, repair ecosystems, and create resilient working lands.

This year's event is situated on the Front Range, where the plains meet the Rocky Mountains and where one can see the vast impacts of a changing climate and increased populations on our natural resources. A central concern for much of this semiarid to arid region is water, most often the lack of water. The west depends upon irrigation for crop production, which depletes both surface water and groundwater supplies. Additionally, competition between urban and agricultural land and water uses has increased as populations and cities grow. Other challenges pressing to the region include wind erosion, high soil salinity, rangeland soil health, brush control, and wildfire impacts. Here the possibilities for partnerships to elevate soil health and water conservation are not only endless but necessary. Regional sessions and tours will provide a space to share the latest projects and tools addressing impacts of a changing climate and increased populations on the natural resources of the area.

In addition to working lands, many of the nation's most awe-inspiring parks and protected areas are present in the region, and the natural beauty serves as a reminder of the value of the conservationists' work. Colorado is a wild and scenic state where residents and visitors alike immerse themselves in the natural resources our professionals labor daily to improve and protect.

After two years of virtual conferences, this stunning conference location offers an opportunity for the global conservation community to come together and collectively share solutions, combat obstacles, and accelerate conservation efforts. This year's conference will feature the latest ideas, technologies, and practices and foster a dialogue around their scaling. Through workshops, sessions, symposia, tours, exhibits, and demonstrations, cutting-edge research and practice developments in soil health, water quality, and resource management will be shared.

Driven by the conservation community's need to be up-to-date on agriculture industry trends, economies, and technology, this conference will invite and engage farmers, agribusiness, and commodity groups. Current policies, practices, and research about climate change and climate-smart agriculture will be shared as well.

Join us on the frontier of conservation to share insights and advice on projects and partnerships that take meaningful action toward creating and supporting systems that sustain soil and water resources and serve people equitably.

Submit Your Proposal: www.swcs.org/22AC

Submission Deadline: February 16, 2022

If you have questions, contact events@swcs.org

OPTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

There are several options to present information and research during the 77th SWCS International Annual Conference, including an oral presentation, poster presentation, symposium, or workshop. In anticipation of a live event, all presenters must be able to present live in person. SWCS understands current travel restrictions in place for many organizations.

All **oral presentation, poster presentation, and symposium submissions** must be received through the online CMT submission system found at www.swcs.org/22AC.

To propose a **workshop**, please utilize the submission form found at www.swcs.org/22AC. Please do NOT use the online CMT submission system.

All submissions must be submitted by **11:59 PM CT on February 16, 2022**. Please note there will be no extension this year.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Oral presentations are opportunities to share the results of conservation research projects and/or lessons learned. Each presenter will be given 20 minutes: 15 minutes to make their presentation and 5 minutes for questions. **Submissions under this category are limited to no more than two per author.**

Oral Presenter Requirements

- All oral presenters must be available on scheduled day between July 31 and August 3, 2022, to present live in person.
- All oral presenters must register for the event.
- Optional: Oral presenters will have the opportunity to submit a video recording of their presentation to be included on the virtual resources platform after the event. This is separate from the requirement of presenting live and in person. View the Information for Oral Presenters at www.swcs.org/22AC for additional details.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

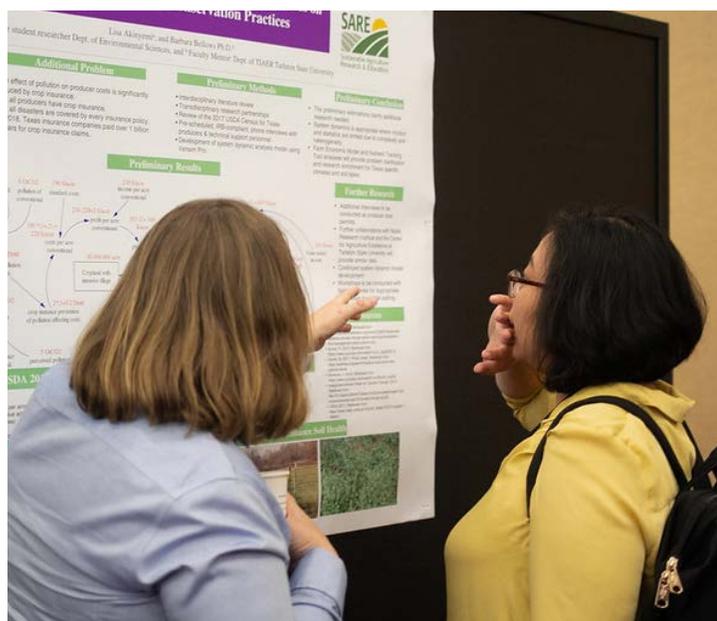
Poster presentations report the results of research or lessons learned from professional experience.

Student Poster Contest Details

SWCS will be sponsoring a student poster contest by offering three awards (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) with a cash prize. Students can opt into participating in the poster contest during the online submission process.

Poster Presenter Requirements

- All poster presenters must be available live, in person during breaks and receptions on August 1 and 2, 2022, to answer questions and share their work with attendees.
- All poster presenters must register for the event.
- Optional: Poster presenters will have the opportunity to submit an image of their poster presentation to be included on the virtual resources platform after the event. This is separate from the requirement of presenting live and in person. View the Information for Poster Presenters at www.swcs.org/22AC for additional details.



SYMPOSIA

Symposia are 90-minute sessions that provide comprehensive, in-depth coverage of a specific topic and that also allow for audience interaction. The sessions are organized by an individual and incorporate multiple presenters, panel discussions, or other formats as determined by the organizer.

Submissions under this category are limited to one per author.

Symposia Presenter Requirements

- All symposia presenters must be available on scheduled day between July 31 and August 3, 2022, to present live in person.
- All symposia presenters must register for the event.
- Symposia moderator and presenters are the responsibility of each symposium organizer; information is required within submission form.
- Optional: Symposia presenters will have the opportunity to submit a video recording of their presentation to be included on the virtual resources platform after the event. This is separate from the requirement of

presenting live and in person. View the Information for Symposia Organizers and Presenters at www.swcs.org/22AC for additional details.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops are designed to enhance professional skills through engagement, hands-on interactive education, and training in selected topics. Workshops may be proposed for a time frame of two to three hours on Sunday, July 31, 2022, between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM. **Submissions under this category are limited to one per author.**

Workshop Presenter Requirements

- All workshop presenters must be available on Sunday, July 31, 2022, between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM, to present live in person.
- Workshop moderator, presenters, and a detailed agenda are the responsibility of the workshop organizer; information is required within the submission form.

GENERAL NOTES

Abstracts should include the following:

1. A statement of current relevance or need
2. General methods and data analysis information
3. Results or predicted results if the work has not yet been completed
4. Explanation of how the results or outcomes contribute to science and society

Inclusion of tentative or final conclusions will greatly strengthen presentation proposals.

Presentations can only be submitted in one area (oral presentation, poster presentation, or symposium) unless it is explained in the abstract how they will differ.

All presenters and/or organizers (oral, poster, and symposium) who indicate intent to participate in the conference imply agreement to register for the conference at the appropriate fee and present live in person. View the 2022 registration fees at www.swcs.org/22AC.

SWCS does not reimburse presenters for expenses incurred. This includes authors, symposium organizers, and panelists invited to present as part of a symposium.



JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

SWCS invites presentations about justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and traditional and Indigenous knowledge in conservation within each specialty and general topic area. Our goals for the world's soil, water, and other natural resources cannot be realized without justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. SWCS's core values recognize this imperative and include respect for people and cultures, and the valuation of people with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and ideas. To support both the earth's landscapes and the societies that reside within them, we must seek diverse voices, engage in dialogue, think critically, and take meaningful action toward creating institutions and systems that serve and value people equitably.

Learn more about our organization [here](#).

CONFERENCE TRACKS

Submissions are being accepted for three special and eight general topic areas. Abstracts submitted within the general conference track should cater toward the conference theme.

At the Intersection of Agriculture and Conservation

The findings of both SWCS's recent nationwide survey of conservation professionals and the Upper Mississippi River Basin Conservation Practitioner Poll revealed that conservation practitioners desire ongoing training in agricultural issues and innovations. With an improved understanding of evolving agricultural trends, technologies, and markets, conservationists will be better equipped to connect with and advise landowners and producers. Submissions in this track may include but are not limited to the following topics:

- Farmer and rancher-driven projects, and commodity group conservation projects and programs
- Resources for understanding agricultural production systems and trends, and challenges of and opportunities for integrating conservation
- Agricultural technologies that can advance conservation
- Precision agriculture and the utilization of geospatial analytical techniques and precision technologies for conservation management

- Tools and resources for staying current on and integrating conservation into agriculture and commodity economics

Climate-Smart Agriculture

As the negative impacts of climate change are increasingly felt, climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies are top-tier priorities for policymakers, researchers, and land managers. Climate-smart agriculture simultaneously adapts and increases resilience to climate change, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and improves productivity to ensure food security. Abstracts in this track should address adaptation methods and how to better manage our resources in light of climate change threats. Topics may include but are not limited to:

- The current and anticipated impacts of climate change on agriculture and our natural resources
- Methods and practices for making our landscapes and communities resilient to the resulting weather extremes
- Sustainable energy sources, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and carbon sequestration
- Technologies and innovations in agronomic inputs for increased resilience and productivity
- Climate data services and decision-making tools for selecting and monitoring adaptation responses

- Policy initiatives and programs to encourage adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices

On the Frontier of Conservation in the West

In recent years, the western United States has seen the impacts that a changing climate and increasing populations have on natural resources. A central concern for many of the semiarid to arid landscapes of the region is water—most often the lack of water. The West depends upon irrigation for crop production, which depletes both surface water and groundwater supplies. Additionally, competition between urban and agricultural land and water uses has increased as populations and cities grow. Other challenges unique to the region include wind erosion, high soil salinity, rangeland soil health, brush control, and wildfire impacts. Presentations in this track may include but are not limited to the newest science, practice, projects, and tools around:

- Climate change mitigation in the West
- Water conservation, irrigation practices, water recycling, and practices in dryland farming
- Soil health in the West, dryland carbon sequestration, and drought mitigation efforts
- Rangeland conservation and grazing practices
- Wildfire mitigation, prevention, and management
- Forest management and restoration
- Wildlife conservation in the West
- Public/private and urban/rural land, resources, projects, and partnerships

GENERAL TOPIC DESCRIPTIONS

The following eight ongoing areas of emphasis comprise the core work of SWCS to foster the science and art of natural resource conservation. Please choose one of these focus areas when submitting an abstract. Special consideration will be given to new insights, techniques, or approaches in addressing each of these general topic areas.

Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts

Adaptive management is an interactive, structured process of management with the goal of enhancing learning and reducing uncertainty. Adaptive management for soil and water conservation, climate resiliency, and biodiversity management is appropriate when uncertainty is high but management is possible. Abstracts in this track may include but are not limited to:

- Aspects of water and soil management
- Maintaining and enhancing ecosystem services
- Plant and animal responses to management
- Monitoring to inform decision-making
- Scientific and technical advances in targeting conservation and in precision conservation
- Effective use of human capital to increase conservation success
- Climate resilience strategies
- Community and regional planning

Conservation Economics and Policy

This subject area focuses on economic, policy, and related drivers of conservation adoption, demand, and maintenance. It addresses how programs, markets, private investment, and policy translate into resource conservation and environmental benefits, or hinder greater conservation adoption. Abstracts in this track may include but are not limited to:

- Voluntary or regulatory environmental policy
- Decision support tools for program design and implementation

- Monitoring and assessment of conservation needs
- The role of innovative funding methods, environmental markets, and trading development in conservation demand and funding
- Evaluation of market- and regulatory-based approaches to natural resource management
- Ethical considerations in conservation policy
- Funding of programs

Conservation Models, Tools, and Technologies

In the implementation, planning, management, and development of conservation practices, we rely on models and tools that provide decision support through analysis, visualization, and evaluation. Development of new tools and technologies, results of evaluation, and application experiences all provide valuable information. Abstracts in this track may include but are not limited to:

- Development and testing of conservation practices
- Quantification of the environmental and conservation effects of best management practices (BMPs) and systems
- Advances in science and technology for predicting, monitoring, and/or evaluating effects of alternative resource management practices and systems (soil, water, nutrient, grazing, manure, pest, plant, and landscape management)
- Decision support tools and platforms for conservation planning and implementation
- Geographic information systems and innovative data visualization

Conservation in Organic, Specialty, Small-Scale, or Urban Agriculture

This subject area focuses on organic, specialty, urban, and small-scale agricultural and forest systems. It also includes agricultural management

that mimics natural systems and enhances and protects biodiversity. Abstracts submitted in this area could include:

- Conservation and management in small- and medium-scale enterprises
- Local foods, community supported agriculture, and market and supply chain development and analysis
- Opportunities for unique enterprises to implement conservation supporting a triple bottom-line of sustainability (people, planet, and profit)
- Natural systems agriculture: polycultures, continuous living cover, perennials, and pollinator-friendly management

Outreach, Education, and Community Engagement

Outreach, education, and engagement help integrate quantitative data with qualitative knowledge and social concerns, thereby strengthening the decision-making process and achieving equitable solutions. Abstracts may address:

- Applied research and model programs demonstrating effective methods for engaging decision-makers
- Programs fostering cooperative stakeholder-based decision-making
- Innovative outreach strategies that incorporate artists, teachers, and youth
- Educational needs assessment
- New technologies and methods to include and collaborate with underrepresented, new, and diverse audiences
- Evaluation of the impacts of outreach activities, including technical assistance

Social Sciences Informing Conservation

Understanding what motivates landowners, land managers, and other stakeholders to pursue (or not pursue) conservation practices is essential. The human dimensions of soil and water conservation are a critical



component to sustainable conservation adoption. Abstracts in this track may include:

- A focus on sociology, political science, economics, anthropology, and communications, and how they contribute to conservation adoption and persistence
- The use of social sciences to inform critical conservation challenges facing the nation and world
- Evaluation of stakeholder decision-making, social networks, and information sources

Soil Health Resources, Indicators, Assessment, and Management

The use of soil resources is required to provide the food, fiber, energy, and other ecosystem services needed for a growing world population. Soil and environmental degradation have made the development of technologies and practices for sustainable and regenerative soil management a high priority. We are seeking presentations that consider:

- Soil health measurement, assessment, and management
- Soil conservation and management
- Soil survey, assessment, and analysis
- Water and wind erosion prediction and management
- Carbon sequestration and implications of climate change for soil health, conservation, and management

- The soil's role in global cycles (water, energy, carbon)
- Soil health implications for human health and the microbiome

Water Resource Assessment and Management

This area addresses the social, economic, environmental, and technical dimensions of water resource management. Abstracts in this area should disseminate results, information, lessons learned, and/or shared experiences of research, testing, monitoring, and/or evaluation/demonstration projects on water resource issues. Abstracts may include:

- International and transboundary water resource management
- Watershed-scale research and planning methods and tools
- Development and implementation of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs)
- Water quality, quantity, supply, source water protection, and conservation
- Stormwater management and design or green infrastructure
- Irrigation and drainage
- Watershed restoration and targeted watershed management interventions
- Flooding and other implications of climate change for water resource conservation and management
- Institutional collaborations in water resource management