

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) invites submissions for oral presentations, posters, symposia, and workshops for the 80th SWCS International Annual Conference, taking place in Costa Mesa, California, on August 3-6, 2025.

In 2024, SWCS held its conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; this year, we're bringing the event to the West Coast—reinforcing our commitment to nationwide conservation efforts with the theme, "Conservation Coast to Coast." This theme keeps critical conservation priorities at the forefront, spanning regions and perspectives from coast to coast.

The event will gather a diverse, multigenerational community of researchers, practitioners, industry leaders, farmers, and students from around the world to Costa Mesa, a Southern California community held between the beauty of the Pacific Ocean and the majesty of the Santa Anna Mountains.

What better place to showcase the varied work of interdisciplinary conservation professionals than California? As a leading producer of over 400 commodities, the state nourishes the nation with crops ranging from rice in the Sacramento Valley to dairy in the Central Valley and North Coast, and wine grapes in six designated regions including Napa and Sonoma on the North Coast. This agricultural abundance is matched by California's natural ecosystems, featuring towering redwoods, coastal chaparral, desert landscapes, oak woodlands, and fertile valleys, all supporting unique habitats and countless species of plants and wildlife. Alongside this natural wealth, California is home to vibrant cultures and communities, with people from all backgrounds contributing to its rich social fabric. This convergence of diverse ecosystems, crops, and cultures makes California the perfect setting to highlight the innovative and collaborative work of conservation professionals from across the nation.

At the 2025 conference, we will share successes and embrace lessons learned to advance our natural resource goals with greater speed, efficiency, effectiveness, and inclusivity. Together, we will explore the capacity, innovation, and partnerships needed to restore and sustain our land, water, and other vital natural resources.

The agenda will showcase the latest technologies, practices, and ideas, fostering dialogue around their adoption and application.

Attendees will:

- Engage in workshops, field tours, exhibits, and demonstrations offering cutting-edge insights into soil health, water quality, and resource management
- Connect with scientists and practitioners presenting their work from field, farm, and watershed scales across public and private sectors
- Explore the application of social theories and effective outreach and education efforts to scale localized successes
- Learn how policy and economic developments foster conservation adoption and how conservation science can be applied to policy

As the discussions unfold, attendees can enjoy the famously mild weather, take in picturesque ocean sunsets, and immerse themselves in the area's diverse traditions and green spaces.

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL: www.swcs.org/25AC

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 3, 2025

If you have questions, contact events@swcs.org

OPTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

There are several options to present information and research during the 80th SWCS International Annual Conference. All presenters must be able to present live, in-person.

All **oral presentation, poster presentation, and symposium submissions** must be received through the online CMT submission system found at [this link](#).

To propose a **workshop submission**, please utilize the submission form found at [this link](#). Do NOT use the online CMT submission system.

All submissions must be submitted by **11:59 PM CT** on **February 3, 2025**. Please note there will be no extension this year.

Presentations can only be submitted in one area (oral presentation, poster presentation, symposium, or workshop).

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 present and 5 minutes for questions. **SUBMISSIONS ARE LIMITED TO ONE PER AUTHOR.**

ORAL PRESENTER REQUIREMENTS

- All oral presenters must be available on their scheduled day, August 4-6, 2025, to present live and in person.
- All oral presenters must register for the conference.
- View the Information for Oral Presenters at www.swcs.org/25AC for additional details.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Poster presentations report the results of research or lessons learned from professional experiences. **SUBMISSIONS ARE LIMITED TO ONE PER AUTHOR.**

POSTER PRESENTER REQUIREMENTS

- All poster presenters must be available in-person during breaks and receptions on August 4-5, 2025, to answer questions and share their work.
- All poster presenters must register for the conference.

- Optional: Poster presenters will have the opportunity to submit an image of their poster presentation to be included on the event app after the conference. This is separate from the requirement of presenting live and in person.
- View the Information for Poster Presenters at www.swcs.org/25AC for additional details.

STUDENT POSTER CONTEST DETAILS

SWCS's student poster contest offers four awards (1st, 2nd, 3rd, and People's Choice) with a cash prize. Students can opt in to participating in the poster contest during the online submission process. An image of the student posters may be due in advance.

SYMPOSIA

Symposia are 90-minute sessions that provide comprehensive, in-depth coverage of a specific topic and 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 ARE LIMITED TO ONE PER AUTHOR.**

SYMPOSIA PRESENTER REQUIREMENTS

- All symposia presenters must be available on their scheduled day, August 4-6, 2025, to present live and in person.
- All symposia presenters must register for the conference.
- Symposia moderator and presenters are the responsibility of each symposium organizer; information is required within the submission form.
- View the Information for Symposia Organizers and Presenters at www.swcs.org/25AC for additional details.



WORKSHOPS

Workshops are designed to enhance professional skills through engagement, hands-on interactive education, and training in selected topics. The sessions are organized by an individual.

SUBMISSIONS ARE LIMITED TO ONE PER AUTHOR.

WORKSHOP PRESENTER REQUIREMENTS

- All workshop presenters must be available on Sunday, August 3, 2025, between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM, to present live and in person.
- Workshop moderator, presenters, and a detailed agenda are the responsibility of the workshop organizer; information is required within the submission form.
- View the Information for Workshop Organizers and Presenters at www.swcs.org/25AC for additional details.

GENERAL NOTES

Abstracts should include the following:

1. A statement of current relevance or need and who should attend or participate in the session
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
5. Your recommendations for next steps to build on work and action

Including tentative or final conclusions will greatly strengthen presentation proposals, as well as identifying and/or including key stakeholders participating directly in the work and clarifying the

benefits received. As conservation professionals provide technical assistance to farmers (sponsored by private and/or government agencies) to implement conservation on farms within watersheds, downstream cities and communities receive source water protection and flood damage disaster mitigation.

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 and in person. View the 2025 registration fees at www.swcs.org/25AC.

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

SHARE YOUR WORK WITH A BROADER AUDIENCE

Consider turning your symposium, presentation, or poster into an article for the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*.

JSWC has two sections: A Section articles (between 600 and 4,000 words) highlight case studies in conservation practice, new tools and technologies, cutting-edge research in progress, and emerging viewpoints. The Research Section contains peer-reviewed, applied research papers and may include research briefs (short manuscripts reporting on research of high relevance, novelty, or emerging concern), research reviews, and dataset papers. Submissions are accepted on an ongoing basis.

For more information, browse the [submission guidelines](#) and send queries to pubs@swcs.org.

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. These values are core to SWCS, emphasizing respect for people and cultures and valuing diverse perspectives, backgrounds, 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 at www.swcs.org/about-us/our-organization/.

CONFERENCE TRACKS

Submissions are being accepted for two specialty and nine general topic areas. Abstracts submitted within the general conference track should cater to the conference theme.

CULTIVATING CONSERVATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, COMMUNITY, AND NETWORKS

This track embraces the Society's mission and current industry needs by providing a space to share the development of the single most important aspect of conservation implementation: the conservation professional. Employees in the government, academic, nonprofit, private, and corporate sectors are the link between technical assistance, conservation planning, program implementation, and farmers/communities. Research has found that interaction with a conservation professional over time is a consistent predictor of farmer adoption of conservation practices. Topics include but are not limited to the following:

- Effective tactics and unique ideas to expand and implement technical assistance capacity
- Compelling training to meet the needs of conservation professionals
- Peer-to-peer and mentorship programs
- Professional and organizational networks advancing conservation
- Intergenerational workforce and preparing the workforce of the future
- Recruitment programs to engage the next generation of conservation professionals
- Conservation Technical Assistance models for engaging various sectors (e.g., Technical Service Providers, etc.)

For this track, submissions will be accepted for standard scientific sessions and professional development sessions. Professional development sessions are hosted with the intent to further enrich the skill set of conservation professionals across a diverse range of fields. These sessions focus on professional growth and communicating best practices for those working in natural resource conservation.

ON THE FRONTIER OF CONSERVATION IN THE WEST

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 growing diverse crops, coastal issues, 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 regarding:

- 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
- Conservation within diverse cropping systems
- Coastal issues including coastal erosion and rising sea levels



GENERAL TOPIC DESCRIPTIONS

The following nine 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, regional, and integrated planning
- Utilizing conservation to improve and protect source water

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 strategies for better managing our resources in light of climate change threats.

Topics may include but are not limited to the following:

- 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 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, such as the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities program
- Indigenous practices in climate smart agriculture

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. The development of new tools and technologies, the results of evaluation, and the 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 (e.g., 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
- Contaminants and other challenges in urban landscapes

OUTREACH, EDUCATION, 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 critical components of 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
- Access to funding programs and support by historically underserved producers

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



80th SWCS International ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Conservation Coast to Coast

August 3–6, 2025 | Costa Mesa, California

