JOURNAL OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
The science and art of natural resource management for sustainability

Propose a Special Issue to JSWC!

The ***Journal of Soil and Water Conservation*** **(JSWC)** welcomes proposals for special issues and special sections, which offer an excellent opportunity to highlight important conservation research topics or emerging trends. Below are guidelines for submitting a proposal.

General Information

Proposals for special issues and sections are organized by one or more individuals. At least one of the core organizers must be a SWCS member. Proposals are evaluated by the Research Editors and then voted on by the Editorial Board.

Special issues consist mainly of research articles and may include a limited number of review articles and research briefs. Issues often contain an introduction article that summarizes the key themes and published research as well as discusses the relevance of any review articles or research briefs. **Special sections**, which are shorter, contain no review articles.

All submissions must follow the journal's formatting requirements (see author guidelines), be submitted through the JSWC online submissions system, and be categorized under the special issue/section "theme" submission type. In addition, all submissions will go through JSWC's rigorous peer-review process, and only those that pass review will be published. Unless funded by a sponsoring organization, authors are responsible for covering the publication costs or open access fees of their articles.

Proposal Requirements

When preparing your proposal for a special issue or section, please include the following:

- **Contact Information**: Provide the issue organizer's name, organization, and email.
- **Title**: Propose a title for the special issue that reflects the theme.
- **Description**: Include a paragraph (or more) explaining how the proposed special issue will contribute to advancements in the field of soil and water conservation. This should emphasize both basic and applied research contributions.
- **Contributors**: Proposals may seek to do an open call for submissions or list potential article titles and authors—or a combination of both. Organizers should aim to solicit at least 12-20 research articles for special issues and 6-10 research articles for special sections, as not all submissions may be accepted.
    - Proposals with an open call for submissions should include the language that will be posted for the call and a description of how or where the organizers will distribute this call.
    - Proposals with potential contributors should list article titles along with the names and affiliations of potential authors. (*Note that organizers should confirm with the authors their intentions to contribute to the special issue before submitting the proposal.*)
- **Sponsoring Organizations**: If applicable, provide details of any organizations sponsoring the research or symposium behind the special issue.
- **Submission Deadline:** Include the date by which all manuscripts will be submitted, keeping in mind that the timeline for special issues can take up to a year or longer from submission of the proposal to final publication.

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Submission, Peer-Review, and Production Timeline

If accepted, the organizers will coordinate the solicitation of submissions, distributing a call for submissions or following up with potential authors to ensure all articles are submitted, and write an introduction.

Each submission will undergo JSWC's established peer-review process, with Research Editors making the final decisions on acceptance. JSWC's peer-review process for special issues typically takes longer than for individual submissions, with a full timeline often extending to a year or more. Some articles may be accepted within three months of submission, while others may require revisions and more time to meet the journal's standards. Accepted articles will be held until the special issue is published. However, if any article is not accepted by the special issue's deadline, it will be transferred to the regular review process for possible publication in a future journal issue.

Below is a projected timeline to publication once a proposal has been submitted.

- Review of proposal by Research Editors and Editorial Board: 1-2 months
- Submission period: 4-6 months
- Peer-review process (including potential revisions and resubmissions): 3-6 months
- Production: 2 months
- Publication: 10-16 months from proposal submission

Questions and Proposal Submissions

For further guidance or to submit a proposal, contact the journal's managing editor at pubs@swcs.org.

Find past special issues and sections via JSWC's website.