

# 76TH SWCS INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS



The Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) invites the submission of live demos, virtual tours, field days, workshops, oral presentations, symposia, and posters for the 76th SWCS International Annual Conference, taking place virtually, July 26-28, 2021.

The three-day event will provide the opportunity for attendees around the world to share their conservation stories and bring natural resource management solutions from far and wide into their homes and offices. The virtual event format allows access and inclusivity on a broad scale, and our interactive conference platform provides a robust conference experience with live sessions, Q&A, networking, a virtual exhibit hall, and many other ways to learn, connect, and engage.

This year's conference theme, "One World, Connected through Conservation," encompasses the shared resources on which all life depends while recognizing local-level issues and management. No matter the

landscape, collective efforts are required to protect and sustain our soil and water resources. While conservation challenges brought on by universal pressures like climate change may produce wide-ranging effects in our respective corners of the globe, there is commonality in the solutions—collaborations that span sectors and disciplines, practices informed by science, cutting-edge technology, a new era of policy, and, at the center of all this, the individuals working tirelessly to protect and improve our natural resources.

Professionals advancing conservation solutions through research and practice in public and private sectors will present their work, including the latest in soil health, water resources, conservation management, climate change adaptation, social science, and more. Workshops, symposia sessions, and posters will showcase ideas, technologies, and practices, and foster a dialogue around their adoption. Projects presented will include work at the watershed, national, and international scales, emphasizing the global impact of local efforts. Scientists and practitioners will apply the virtual skills they have obtained over the last year by taking attendees into the field and lab through live or prerecorded demonstrations and tours. Recognizing that our goals for the world's natural resources cannot be realized without justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, conservationists will share insights and advice on projects and partnerships that seek diverse participation and take meaningful action toward creating and supporting systems that value and serve people equitably.

In addition to science and practice presentations, the event will provide a range of opportunities for personal and professional development. Sessions will address effective work habits, partnerships, and communication tools, and the conference will offer certified education credits (CEUs).

Share your research and project solutions with an international audience, learn from experts from around the world, make connections with leading organizations and agencies, and together, through this conference and its impact, we will build a future for global conservation.

**SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL:** [www.swcs.org/21AC](http://www.swcs.org/21AC)

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** February 17, 2021

**If you have questions, contact**  
[events@swcs.org](mailto:events@swcs.org).

# OPTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

There are several options to present information and research during the virtual 76th SWCS International Annual Conference. All presentations will be live and recorded. Presentation recordings will be available to conference attendees after the event. All oral presentation, poster presentation, and symposium submissions must be received through the online submission system found at [www.swcs.org/21AC](http://www.swcs.org/21AC) on or before **February 17, 2021**. Please note that due to increased participation there will be **no extension** this year.

## ORAL PRESENTATION

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 26-28, 2021, to present live and virtually.
- All oral presenters must have the following technology to present virtually: laptop or computer, quality webcam and microphone or headset, and high speed Internet.
- All oral presenters must register for the event.

## POSTER PRESENTATION

Poster presentations report the results of research or lessons learned from professional experience. Poster presenters will have an opportunity to submit a poster presentation image and short video of their presentation to share within the platform.

### POSTER PRESENTER REQUIREMENTS

- All poster presenters must be available during all breaks throughout the event to answer Q&A.
- All poster presenters must have the following equipment to participate: laptop or computer and high speed Internet.
- Poster presenters will be required to submit an image of their poster presentation in advance. Poster presenters will also have the opportunity to submit a 3-minute video presentation showcasing their poster, required in advance.
- All poster presenters must register for the event.

### STUDENT POSTER CONTEST DETAILS

SWCS will be sponsoring a student poster contest by offering three awards (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) in the amount of \$100 each. Students can opt into participating in the poster contest during the submission process.

## SYMPOSIUM

Symposia are 90-minute sessions that provide more 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.**

### SYMPOSIUM PRESENTER REQUIREMENTS

- All symposia presenters must be available on scheduled day between July 26-28, 2021, to present live and virtually.
- All symposia presenters must have the following technology to present virtually: laptop or computer, quality webcam and microphone or headset, and high speed Internet.
- All symposia presenters must register for the event.
- Symposia moderator and presenters are the responsibility of the symposia organizer; information is required within submission form.

# OPTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

## WORKSHOP

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 Monday, July 26 between 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM CT. To propose a workshop, please utilize the submission form found at [www.swcs.org/21AC](http://www.swcs.org/21AC). Please do NOT use the CMT submission system.

### WORKSHOP PRESENTER REQUIREMENTS

- All presenters must be available Monday, July 26, 2021, between 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM CT to present live and virtually.
- All presenters must have the following technology to present virtually: laptop or computer, quality webcam and microphone or headset, and high speed Internet.
- Workshop moderator, presenters, and a detailed agenda are the responsibility of the workshop organizer; information is required within 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, symposium, or poster presentation) 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 and virtually.

2021 registration fees:

- \$150 Member
- \$200 Non-Member
- \$75 Senior
- \$75 Student
- \$75 Farmer

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

### Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

SWCS seeks diverse voices, actively listens, engages in dialogue, thinks critically, and takes meaningful action toward creating institutions and systems that serve and value people equally. Learn more at <https://www.swcs.org/about-us/our-organization/>.



# CONFERENCE TRACK DESCRIPTIONS

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

## 3, 2, 1 ... ACTION!

Presenters are encouraged to bring conference attendees into their projects, literally. We have all sharpened our abilities to present information virtually over the last year. Now, use those skills to deliver a live, interactive presentation through this specialty track. Bring the audience to your project site, to the farm, into the stream, into your lab, or into a soil pit. Provide a firsthand look at your work in action with a submission in one of the following areas:

- Live demonstrations or prerecorded presentations with live narrations
- Virtual field days to view conservation practices and research in action
- Conservation or natural resource tours
- Demonstrations of new tests, tools, or technologies
- Use of polls, white boards, and other interactive tools to engage participants
- Propose something creative! We are open to other interactive submissions under this track

Submissions in this track will have the option to select a 20, 40, 60, or 90-minute time slot. Please note that the planning committee has the right to adjust the time slot and combine submissions into one session.

## Adapting Landscapes to Climate Change

Climate change threatens agricultural productivity and strains natural resources and our ability to manage them within urban and rural landscapes. 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
- New and improved existing conservation methods and practices to protect our natural resources, small communities, and cities
- Climate data services and decision-making tools for selecting and monitoring adaptation responses
- Sustainability and market initiatives seeking to reduce the impacts of climate change

## Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

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 engage in dialogue and take meaningful action toward creating institutions and systems that serve and value people equitably. We invite presentations about justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in conservation, including but not limited to:

- Organizations and collaborations creating more opportunities for underrepresented populations to enter, flourish within, and lead the conservation community
- Projects addressing populations adversely impacted by the effects of climate change
- Engagement of communities that are underserved by natural resources or conservation services

## One World, Connected through Conservation

This track embraces the conference theme by offering a space for local implementation initiatives that are part of larger-scale planning. While efforts may appear to be limited by land use, funding, or political boundaries, conservation projects often have an impact on much larger geographical areas. Some public and private organizations are also finding success in additive practice implementation or cooperative efforts across states, watersheds, and even countries. Topics include but are not limited to:

- Global, national, regional, and watershed initiatives that span jurisdictional boundaries to address resource concerns
- International, national, and state policies that encourage conservation adoption on a large scale
- Initiatives that seek to track conservation adoption to reach strategic goals, leverage market investments, crowdsource solutions, and share successes
- Local conservation solutions that have crossed state or national boundaries and been adapted to address a resource concern in a new environment



# 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

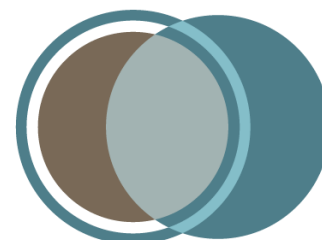
In the implementation, planning, management, and development of conservation practices, we rely on models and tools that provide decision support through analysis, visualization, and evaluation. Development of new tools and technologies, results of evaluation, and application experiences all provide 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



# GENERAL TOPIC DESCRIPTIONS

## 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