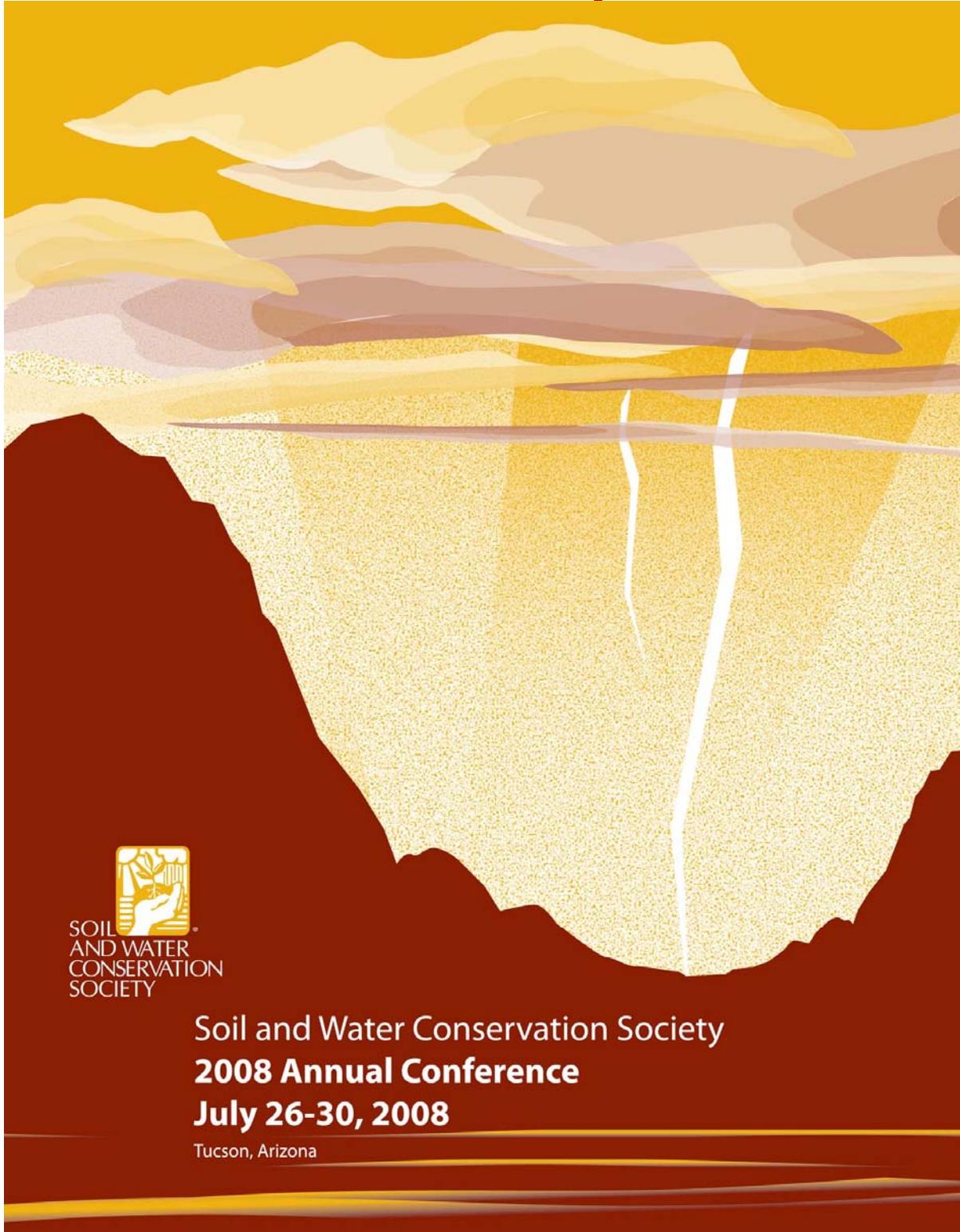


2008 Annual Conference Call for Papers



Soil and Water Conservation Society
2008 Annual Conference
July 26-30, 2008

Tucson, Arizona



Call For Papers

SWCS Annual Conference
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The Soil and Water Conservation Society's 2008 Annual Conference will be held July 26-30 in Tucson, Arizona. The conference includes workshops, concurrent sessions, symposia, posters, plenary sessions, and technical tours designed to raise the awareness of conference participants to recent developments in the science and art of natural resource conservation and environmental management on working land—the largely privately-owned land comprising working farms, ranches, forests, and rural and urban communities.

AUDIENCE: The SWCS annual conference brings together researchers, practitioners, and policymakers at all levels of government, business, and nongovernmental organizations to explore current issues in conservation and environmental management science, technology, practice, programs, and policy.

ABSTRACT DEADLINE

**Abstracts must be received by
December 3, 2007**

Please Note: SWCS does not reimburse presenters for expenses incurred for travel to the annual conference. This includes authors, symposia organizers, and individuals invited to present as part of a symposium.

All presenters and/or organizers (oral, poster, or symposia) who indicate intent to participate in the annual conference imply agreement to register for the conference at the appropriate fee, attend the conference, and make the presentation in person.

Proposals from students and from all professional sectors and students addressing the program topics areas are encouraged. Reports of conservation in developing countries are particularly encouraged.

Program Topics and Areas of Emphasis

SWCS welcomes papers, posters, and symposia reporting the results of research, testing, monitoring, and evaluation/demonstration projects, and/or lessons learned from professional experience working with conservation and environmental management systems, technologies, programs, and policies.

Our primary focus is on the science and art of natural resource conservation and environmental management, but we welcome and encourage reports of knowledge gained from management of parks, wildlife refuges, and other land uses.

Proposals will be transmitted to reviewers for consideration. All proposals are reviewed anonymously and are rated individually.

General Topic Areas

We welcome proposals for presentations that address one or more of the ongoing areas of emphasis outlined below. These ongoing areas of emphasis comprise the core of SWCS's work to foster the science and art of conservation. We have provided a list of illustrative examples of presentations and issue areas for each of the ongoing areas of emphasis. Please choose one of these when submitting an abstract. Special consideration will be given to new insights, techniques, or approaches in addressing each of these general topics.

Area of Special Emphasis

Each year SWCS identifies specific topics—within our ongoing areas of emphasis—for special attention at that year's annual conference. We encourage you to consider tailoring your presentation, if appropriate, to the area of special emphasis for 2008:

**Hydrology, Climate Change,
and the Bio-economy**

**We will only accept submissions
made through the SWCS website at
www.swcs.org.**

General Topic Areas

Soil Resources and Management

The use of soil resources is required to provide the food, fiber, and energy needs of a growing world population. Problems of soil and environmental degradation have made the development of technologies and practices for sustainable soil management a high priority. Papers are invited that present research results, experiences, demonstration projects, simulation models, or other knowledge and information regarding soil resource management that enhances production while protecting our soil, water and air resources.

Topics may include but are not limited to: soil conservation and management; soil quality; soil survey, assessment, and analysis; soil quality assessment and management; cover crops; water and wind erosion prediction and management; carbon sequestration; implications of climate change for soil conservation and management.

Authors submitting in this area should choose from one of the following soil-related categories:

Soil Resource Assessment: resource assessment, including presentations dealing with spatial/temporal variability of soil properties and processes, soil survey and analysis, and soil quality.

Soil Resource Management and Conservation: resource management impacts on carbon sequestration, erosion processes, and the implications of climate and land-use changes on soil resources.

Water Resources and Management

This area addresses the social, economic, environmental, and technical dimensions of water resources management. Presentations in this area should serve to disseminate results, information, lessons learned, and/or shared experiences of research, testing, monitoring, and/or evaluation/demonstration projects on water resources issues.

Topics may include but are not limited to: watershed management & restoration; integrated watershed management; water quantity; water quality; irrigation and drainage; water management; water conservation; watershed-scale research methods and tools; watershed-scale planning methods and tools; development and implementation of TMDLs; targeting water management interventions; risk management in water resource management; implications of climate change for water resource conservation and management.

Conservation and Environmental Policy and Program Design

Conservation and environmental policies determine many land management decisions. Policy and decision makers, planners and land owners rely upon evaluation of programs and policies to provide valuable information to stimulate change and reform of existing conservation and environmental policies.

Topics may include but are not limited to: policy evaluation and reform of voluntary, regulatory, and market-based approaches; program evaluation and reform; use and effectiveness of international conventions and agreements; conservation implications of trade agreements and dispute resolution processes; quantifying benefits of policies and programs; implications of 2007 farm bill; monitoring and assessment of conservation needs and benefits; accountability and performance measurement.

Adaptive Management of Conservation Efforts

Adaptive management indicates that means are adjusted in response to measures of the end-conditions sought. In terms of adaptive management of natural resources, adaptive management for soil and water conservation means finding indicators of changes in the conditions of the soil, water, and biodiversity, and relating them back to natural management resource practices. Papers are sought on projects that have utilized adaptive management strategies to improve soil and water quality, techniques for measuring changes in soil and water quality in response to management actions, and how traditional measures have changed in the light of climate change and the presence of more extreme weather events.

Topics may include but are not limited to: scientific and technical advances in targeting conservation and in precision conservation; building the human dimension into conservation; environmental risk assessment and management; development and use of indicators of change in resource/ecological condition including biodiversity conservation and management; effective and feasible methods monitoring change in indicators

Conservation Education

Conservation education is the study and delivery of the intelligent use of our natural environment. This includes outreach and education regarding the development, management, preservation, and renewal of natural resources to benefit present and future generations. Papers should address programs and practices for engaging farmers, educators, students, and/or the general public.

Topics may include but are not limited to: programs and practices for engaging the public, students, teachers, and/or general public; connecting people with the land; outreach and education efforts; sociologic studies and social marketing.

Conservation in Urban Settings

The majority of our population lives in urban and suburban areas, which are growing at a rapid pace worldwide. Conservation practices in these settings are primarily designed to reduce erosion, create and conserve green spaces, and preserve or improve habitat and water quality. Presentations in this topic area may describe research and demonstration projects, new designs and methodology, new programs for enforcement and education, and similar subjects of interest in urban settings.

Topics may include but are not limited to: Land use and community planning and zoning, farmland and open-space protection; integrated urban watershed management and planning; urban storm water management and planning; erosion and sediment control systems; systems to improve water quality; innovations in conservation designs and education; low impact development.

Conservation Tools and Technologies

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

Topics may include but are not limited to: development and testing of conservation practices and systems; quantification of the environmental and conservation effects of best management practices (BMPs) and systems; advances in science and technology for predicting and/or evaluating environmental and conservation effects of alternative resource management practices and systems (soil, water, nutrient, grazing, manure, pest, plant and landscape management); decision support tools for conservation planning and implementation; geographic information systems.

Area of Special Emphasis for 2008

Presentations associated with the special area of emphasis for this year will be selected from proposals representing innovative approaches for the topic. The proposal can be based on research, testing, monitoring, evaluation, and/or professional experience. Priority will be given to those proposals that demonstrate both creativity and rigor relative to the topic, that focus on the mission of SWCS, and build upon the knowledge base developed in previous SWCS conferences.

Hydrology, Climate Change, and the Bio-economy

We would like to explore the inter-related issues of Hydrology, Climate Change, and the Bio-economy through a series of linked activities at the 2008 SWCS conference.

Current and Potential Impacts

- Current state of knowledge of the status of hydrologic systems in agricultural and mixed agricultural/forest/and urban landscapes.
- Impact of altered hydrology on water quality and quantity in agricultural mixed agricultural/forest/and urban landscapes.
- Impact of climate change on hydrology and water resources in agricultural mixed agricultural/forest/and urban landscapes.
- Impact of intensified grain and/or biomass production on hydrology and water resources in agricultural mixed agricultural/forest/and urban landscapes.

Practice and Policy Implications

- Case studies of the benefits of hydrologic restoration at watershed scales on water quality, quantity, and aquatic resources.
- Scientific basis for targeting and directing restoration efforts at watershed scales.
- Implications for management of local, state, and federal conservation and environmental programs.
- Opportunities and challenges provided by implementation of the U.S. 2007 Farm Bill.

Research and Data Needs

- Capacity to monitor changes in hydrologic systems and water resources in response to changes in climate, land use, and management in agricultural and mixed agricultural/forest/urban landscapes.
- Capacity to simulate/model changes in hydrologic systems and water resources in response to changes in climate, land use, and management in agricultural and mixed agricultural/forest/urban landscapes.
- Capacity to research and monitor social systems in response to changes in climate, land use, and management in agricultural and mixed agricultural/forest/urban landscapes.
- Capacity to use, interpret, and update soil data sets in a climatically dynamic environment

Call for Workshops

If you are interested in working with the SWCS Professional Development Committee to deliver a ½ day workshop in conjunction with the 2008 Annual Conference, please contact Shelly Lassiter, SWCS Professional Development Committee Chairperson, at shelly.lassiter@wa.usda.gov or Dewayne Johnson, SWCS Professional Development Director, at dewayne.johnson@swcs.org.

Workshops provide direct training and learning experiences for participants on key techniques, tools, models, approaches, or other subjects of interest to participants. Instructions for submitting a proposal are available online at www.swcs.org/08AC. Workshops will be held on Sunday afternoon of the conference from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. The deadline for proposal submission is December 3, 2007.

Options For Participation

There are three ways you can propose to be part of the 2008 conference program.

1. **Symposia Session:** Organize a symposium session that provides more comprehensive and in-depth coverage of a specific topic.
2. **Oral Presentation:** Present a paper reporting the results of research or lessons learned from professional experience.
3. **Poster Presentation:** Present a poster reporting the results of research or lessons learned from professional experience.

Symposia Sessions

Symposia sessions take place on Monday and Tuesday simultaneously with concurrent sessions for oral presentations. The purpose of symposia sessions is to provide a more comprehensive and in-depth coverage of a specific topic. They are organized by an individual(s) and incorporate multiple speakers/presenters, panel discussions or other formats as determined by the organizer. A total of 90 minutes is allotted for each session. Proposals to organize symposia sessions that require two or more 90-minute sessions may be submitted. Organizers should include a tentative list of presenters and the individual topics presenters will cover. Sessions integrating research with practice and allowing for interaction with the audience are strongly encouraged.

Oral Presentations

Concurrent sessions for oral presentations will take place on Monday and Tuesday during the annual conference. Oral sessions are opportunities to share the results of conservation research projects and/or lessons learned through professional experience with conservation projects, systems, programs, and technologies. Each presenter will be given 20 minutes - 15 minutes to make the presentation and five minutes for questions. To the extent possible, submissions not selected for oral presentations will be reviewed for presentation as posters. Please submit no more than three proposals per author.

Poster Presentations

Posters will be on display Sunday and Monday. Posters must be up by Sunday at 6:30 p.m. and need to be taken down by 5:30 p.m. on Monday. Presenters are expected to be present at their boards during the Sunday evening welcome reception in the exhibit hall to answer questions and explain their experiences and results to conference attendees. A poster presentation entails affixing printed materials (typed information, photos, graphs, etc.) on a specific topic to a four-foot high by eight-foot wide (4'x8') poster board. Audiovisual equipment is not permitted and tabletop or freestanding displays are not considered posters.

Submittal Instructions

Information required for oral presentations and poster presentations include:

- * Title of presentation
- * Contact person with affiliation, address, phone, fax, and email
- * Presenter and affiliation
- * Other author(s) and affiliation(s)
- * Selected topic area
- * Abstract of 250 words or less

An abstract is indicative of final paper quality; therefore, authors are urged to prepare quality abstracts. The abstract should emphasize objectives and results. Inclusion of tentative or final conclusions will greatly strengthen paper proposals and abstracts.

Information required for proposals to organize a symposium session includes:

- * Title of session
- * Format of session
- * Description of session (250 words or less)
- * Selected topic area
- * Names and affiliations of intended presenters
- * Contact person with affiliation, address, phone, fax, and email
- * Number of 90-minute sessions requested

Final, publication-ready abstracts from invited symposium speakers are due no later than March 1. Speaker abstracts must not exceed 250 words. Symposium organizers must collect and review the abstracts, making sure they meet the SWCS standards.