

New Horizons - My wife is playing 9 Ma  
3000 Ept for my late st  
I am an It's been  
a decade since we were  
here in Hilo

OUR PARTNERSHIP: THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

This has been a <sup>Not here</sup> busy year for soil and water conservation districts,  
for the Soil Conservation Service, and for all of our partners in natural  
resource conservation.

We found <sup>needed</sup> several new jobs to do in 1978 while trying to keep up with  
our ongoing work, <sup>We</sup> and <sup>to be</sup> while wondering about money and manpower to carry  
out the old and the new. <sup>Hawaii exp 2 X the energy</sup>  
<sup>U.S. rate of pop growth 1960 - Now</sup>  
We no sooner dealt with drought than we had to turn around and do  
something about flooding.

Several of the newer assignments took ~~considerable~~ time on the part  
of SCS conservationists and district officials--time that we may have <sup>some</sup>  
wished could be devoted to other priorities. Yet we are convinced  
that the extra effort on surveys and appraisals, on public meetings,  
on impact analyses, and on <sup>RCWP</sup> rules and regulations will lead us toward  
the 1980's with <sup>solid</sup> <sup>thought</sup> better programs, in better directions, with greater  
public understanding and an <sup>continuing</sup> even greater partnership between SCS and  
conservation districts.

We <sup>know</sup> also are certain that we could not have made the extra effort  
on the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act, the Rural Clean Water  
Program, the National Erosion Survey, and others without your support  
and your suggestions.

In Hawaii you do sustain a high level of conservation action,  
strong leadership, and remarkable flexibility, and <sup>me in</sup> the Soil Conservation  
Service appreciates it.

<sup>Hilo</sup> Hope you can <sup>and</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>MAEO</sup>  
in Washington D.C. in Feb '79.

Material prepared for speech by Norman A. Berg, Associate Administrator,  
USDA Soil Conservation Service, at the annual convention of the Hawaii  
Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Hilo, Hawaii,  
November 8, 1978.

From my viewpoint, our partnership in the years immediately ahead will have ~~at least six~~ <sup>several</sup> major interrelated challenges.

First, we will continue to gather, interpret, and deliver ~~information about natural resources~~ <sup>(data)</sup> ~~information~~ <sup>see down</sup> - RCA - Appraisals

~~A wide range of~~ public decisions are being made with a wider range of public participation. ~~The widest range of~~ natural resource decisions will continue to be made by private citizens <sup>for private lands</sup>.

<sup>Both</sup> ~~These~~ important public and private decisions are more likely to be acceptable environmentally, socially, and economically if they are based on an understanding of natural resources, trends in their use and condition, and the tradeoffs involved in alternatives for their future.

Those decisions are more likely to be acceptable if we can get the information to the users in time and in a <sup>way</sup> ~~format~~ that they can understand and adapt.

That is the solid experience of the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is the experience of conservation needs inventories and a number of land and water studies.

Public and private decisions are more likely to be acceptable if local people help develop the resource information. That is ~~the~~ <sup>experience</sup> ~~and the~~ great potential of the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act ~~and some of your local and State initiatives~~.

We will need to focus on resource information that is accurate, <sup>credible</sup> that is understandable for many kinds of people, and that reaches people who need it.

<sup>Both</sup> ~~Requires~~ → An integrated system  
And Public Participation

Second, we will continue to advocate improvements in land-use patterns. Socy Policy {

In Hawaii and elsewhere, the pressures for urbanization continue heavy. The pressures for environmental protection are strong. The concern for special qualities of America's coastal zones, wetlands, and floodplains is growing. The need for a dependable stock of prime and unique farmland is increasingly evident in many States.

Blending these often conflicting demands into workable patterns is no easy assignment for any community. We abdicate our responsibility if we do not help communities and landowners understand the tradeoffs *in a proper way help* and influence the marketplace.

Most of the thrust, most of the advocacy must come from you. You are the responsible local officials for soil and water resources. We will help you all we can.

Secretary Bergland has just approved a revised land-use strategy for USDA, ~~in which he~~ called for SCS and other agencies to step up their assistance to local residents and local agencies *proper* efforts to retain important farmland, forestland, rangeland, and wetlands and to avoid encroachment into flood plains.

He ordered all USDA agencies that administer grants, loans, regulations or technical assistance to review their actions and make any changes *within* needed *may* to minimize program impacts on agricultural land. He also said USDA would intercede in decision-making by other federal agencies

He emphasized the rights and responsibilities of private landholders.

"We want land-use decisions to respond to social and economic needs of local residents, but we also want to help protect the natural environment, develop high quality living space, and assure adequate supplies of food, fiber, wood, and water."

SCS and conservation districts will need not only to be land-use advocates but also to make sure that watershed projects, resource conservation and development measures, and ongoing assistance to land users do not ~~contribute~~<sup>add</sup> to land use problems but rather do their full share toward solution of land-use issues.

Third, we will focus attention in all our programs on improvement of water quality and water conservation.

*Recap* We must do our full share in helping America reach its water quality goals as early as possible in the 1980's, and to maintain the thrust after that.

Hawaii is a leader, particularly in giving substance to the provisions of Section 208 of the Clean Water Act. You are actively involved in preparing or advising on several "208" plans. You are helping identify best management practices that can accomplish the non-point source water pollution control.

Together we have ~~given~~<sup>ad</sup> good focus on the contribution that tried-and true soil and water conservation practices--or adaptations of them--can make toward water quality improvement.

( Now we have the challenge to assist in the search for other practices that may be needed to do the water-quality job.

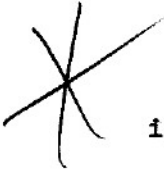
We have the challenge to make sure that every soil and water conservation practice we help install, and every project-type

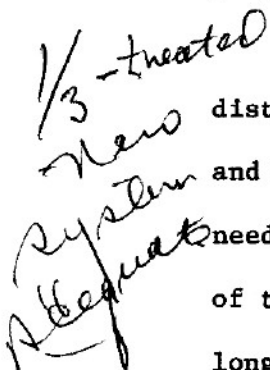
improvement we help place on the land, does the best job possible toward water quality as well as to protection and improvement of the land;

We have the challenge to make sure that programs designed specifically for water quality--such as Section 208, the Rural Clean Water Program, ~~and the Rural Abandoned Mine Program~~--blend as closely as possible with the other interests of land users and the other needs of the community.

Along the way I believe we can keep the pursuit of water quality primarily a <sup>or</sup> voluntary drive. It's worth the effort.

Fourth, we will focus attention on high-priority areas.

 This is the specific thrust of the water-quality programs, and it has been the thrust of our small watershed program. None of the newer programs is a wall-to-wall assistance program--<sup>each</sup> ~~every one~~ is designed to focus whatever funds are available on the actions or on the acres that best meet the aims of the program...or that need the program the worst.

 Priority setting is nothing new to soil and water conservation districts. But in a time of very careful management of financial and human resources for soil and water conservation, districts and SCS need to work closely than ever before in close, periodic reviews of the pattern of SCS help, of annual SCS and district plans, and of long-range district plans and multi-year SCS plans.

In many field offices or district offices, we may be used to offering assistance to the first people who walk through the door or ask on the telephone or sign an application. *Learn to say No & not mean "I can't".*

Certainly we have enough workload. Yet we cannot meet our stated goals with that arrangement. Our earliest knowledge was that one acre is not just like another acre. To the same degree one application is not just like another application...one ton of sediment is not just like another ton of sediment.

Our close partnership is very much needed in settling on the kinds of assistance that are most important and then deciding who needs that help the most or whose conservation action can best meet local or national program goals.

Fifth, we will streamline our planning assistance to serve more land users more effectively.

The Soil Conservation Service has a new National Conservation Planning Manual that district leaders helped develop. It is aimed at giving land users only ~~as sophisticated a~~ <sup>the</sup> planning aid ~~as~~ they want and need in order to achieve their conservation objectives. In many cases the <sup>push</sup> detail isn't needed or gets in the way. Eliminating any frills means we can spend less time in the office and more time with the land users, and efficiently use our money and manpower. Our technology should be appropriate to the situation.

With the kind of continuous, streamlined assistance we have in mind, the importance of planning is not lessened at all. It simply recognizes that the goal is conservation, not the plan *in a file.*

SCS conservationists will give more attention to persistent

followup, especially during the first 2 or 3 years after planning decisions are made. They will work closely with land users as they implement decisions. They will periodically check the applied practices.

They will be able to make planning information more meaningful to land users at the same time as they cut planning costs and time inputs. They will be able to help land users consider more alternatives or options--and to adapt to changes in conservation, equipment, program priorities, standard of living, and environmental conditions.

They also will be able to work with more land users where they are and encourage them in soil and water conservation.

We need more attention to truly equal opportunity for small farmers and ranchers and particularly for minority land users to anticipate in natural resource improvement, so they can meet their own aspirations and contribute their share to better land and water use.

The Rockefeller Foundation has a telling quote about aiding small farmers: "To serve the client, know the client." You can help us know more people and their needs.

Finally, we will streamline our partnership through effective management of people.

The Soil Conservation Service will fine-tune its personnel management system so that our people are better trained for the work they do and they are placed where they can be of most value.

To meet changing priorities and provide a chance for career growth, we will need to shift people and locations. We will try to minimize the number and frequency of shifts. I know that continuity of service is important to you. I also understand that one important part of developing and motivating employees is to have them in one place long enough to see

at least some of the results of their technical assistance.

Soil and water conservation districts have a similar challenge in recruitment, placement, training, and development of district employees. We are pleased to see the fast rise in number of district employees in the last decade. We also know that, with state and local initiatives toward fiscal restraint, beginning with "Proposition 13," the trend probably will be slowing.

Working together I believe we can attract and motivate the kind of "person-power" needed for all of the jobs that we share. We welcome attendance of your employees in SCS training courses, and we look forward to other mutual approaches to personnel management and leadership development.

Working together, I believe we and our partners in resource conservation can cooperate rather than compete, and fill rather than miss some of the gaps in public service.

Working together I believe we can encourage the kind of soil and water conservation district activities that deserve recognition in national awards programs. I believe we can encourage the kind of assistance from SCS employees that will deserve recognition. Our full participation in awards programs can not only reward our employees and supervisors but also result in stronger programs.

In resource information, in land-use and water quality improvements, in priority-setting, and in streamlining assistance, we in the Soil Conservation Service continue to be very proud to call soil and water conservation districts our finest partners.

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## 1979 FY ITEMS OF CONCERN OR CHALLENGES

1. Need for more work improvement suggestions - suggestions that result in more efficient use of our time and our budget. Let's aim for at least one suggestion per organizational unit.
2. Need to develop good, effective watershed and RC&D land treatment programs - programs that result in quality land treatment being planned and applied.
3. Need to reduce storage of SCS-generated materials - we still are retaining too much material. We've got to do a better job of records management.
4. Need to better review draft guidelines, reports, plans, etc., prior to formal interdisciplinary review. Let's strive for a high quality product before it leaves our shop and not rely on someone else to find our mistakes.
5. Need to be positive in our approach to the Resources Conservation Act. Let's ensure that RCA results in the program asset it was meant to be.
6. Need to take positive action in assisting those with critical erosion problems. Let's concentrate our resources to reduce erosion and sedimentation in those areas we're all well aware of.