

LOCAL WORKING GROUP

April 14, 2021

1:00pm Video/Teleconference



Local Working Group

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

OKEECHOBEE SWCD

Mariano Corona
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Nicki Smith
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Douglas Burnham

GLADES SWCD

Robert Hammock, Jr.
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HENDRY SWCD

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Mabry McCray
Davy Conly
Ariel Avila

The purpose of this questionnaire is to gather feedback about NRCS programs and priorities from Florida's conservation technical experts. Your feedback is critical to the future direction of how funding will be allocated in the coming fiscal year (FY) 2021, and subsequent years in the 2018 Farm Bill.

Locally Led Process

- Locally led conservation is based on the principle that community stakeholders are best suited to identify and resolve local natural resource problems.
- Thus, community stakeholders are keys to successfully managing and protecting their natural resources.
- It challenges neighbors, both urban and rural, to work together and take responsibility for addressing local resource needs.

What are Local Working Groups

- Local working groups are subcommittees of the State Technical Committee and provide recommendations to USDA on local and state natural resource priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs.
- Local working groups are normally chaired by the appropriate soil and water conservation district (SWCD).
- In the event the SWCD is unable or unwilling to chair the local working group, NRCS district conservationist (or designated conservationist) is responsible for those duties (7 CFR Part 610, Subpart C).

Public Involvement

- Anyone can participate and should be encouraged to do so
- Local, State and Federal Agencies should be invited to the Local Working Group Meeting
- Agricultural Organizations, Local Agri-businesses, and impacted stakeholders should be included

2018 Farm Bill Program Background

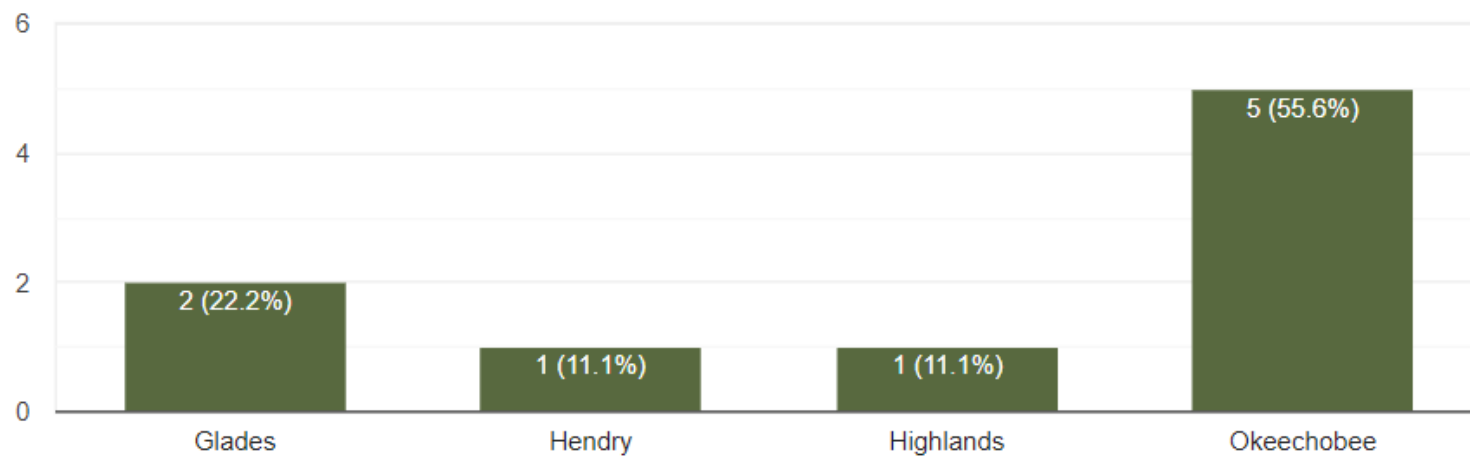
The 2018 Farm Bill was signed into law on December 20, 2018.

The key NRCS programs are:

- EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- CSP: Conservation Stewardship Program
- RCPP : Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- ACEP: Agricultural Conservation Easement Program with two components:
 - Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)
 - Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

County

9 responses



1. There are two fixed local funding pools: grazing and cropland. Please recommend two additional funding pools:

Forestry

Water conservation

Seasonal high tunnel

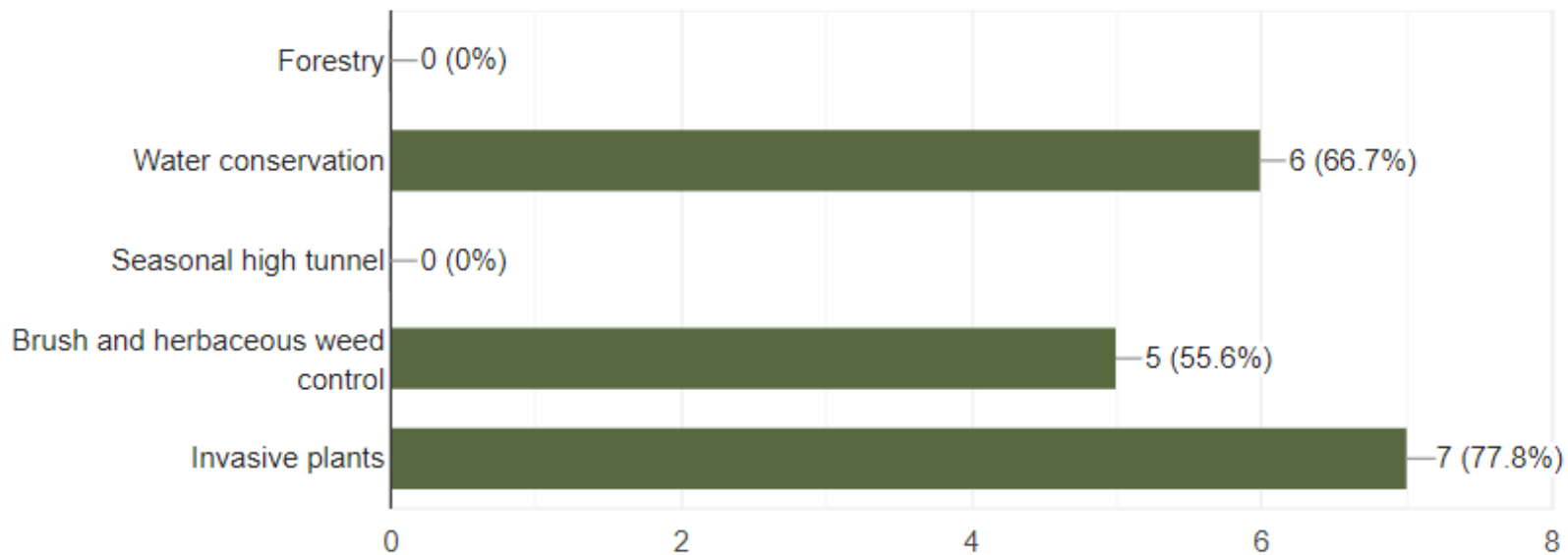
Brush and herbaceous weed control

Invasive plants

Other...

1. There are two fixed local funding pools: grazing and cropland. Please recommend two additional funding pools:

9 responses



Ranking funding pools

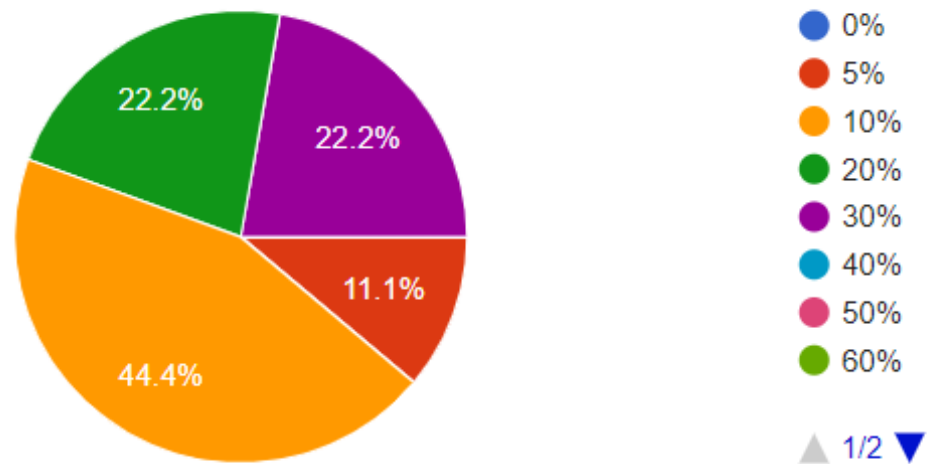


For the following 7 questions, please choose a percentage that reflects the level of investment you recommend for the selected funding pools (e.g. Grazing - 50%, Cropland - 30%, Wildlife - 10%, Seasonal high tunnel – 10%). The total percent across the seven funding pools should equal 100%.

Ranking funding pools

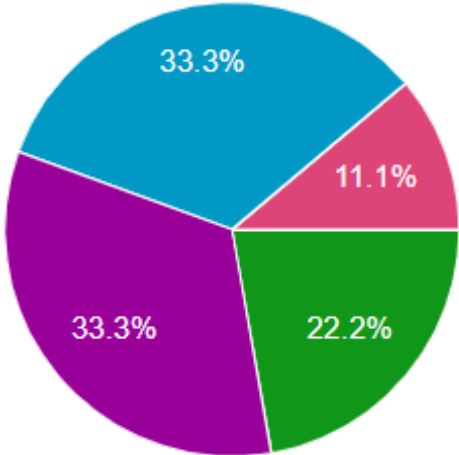
Cropland

9 responses



Grazing

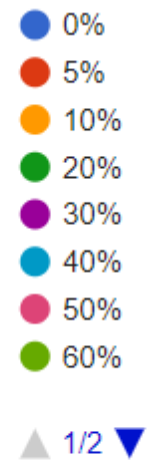
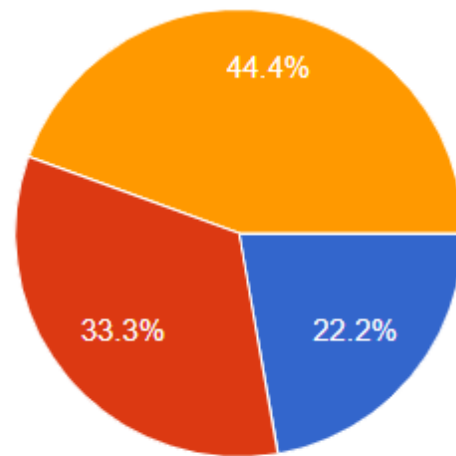
9 responses



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 - 5%
 - 10%
 - 20%
 - 30%
 - 40%
 - 50%
 - 60%
- ▲ 1/2 ▼

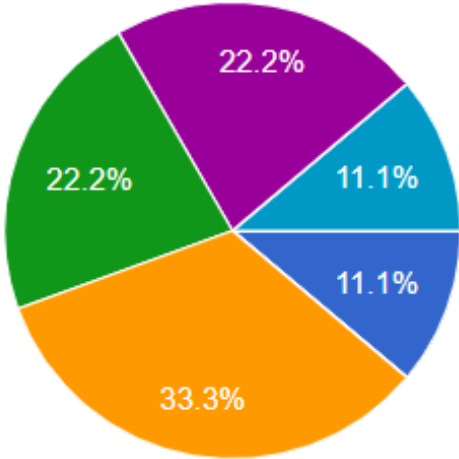
Forestry

9 responses



Water Conservation

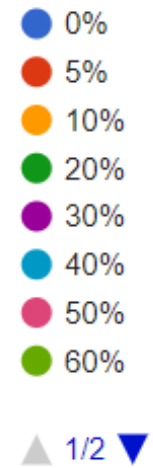
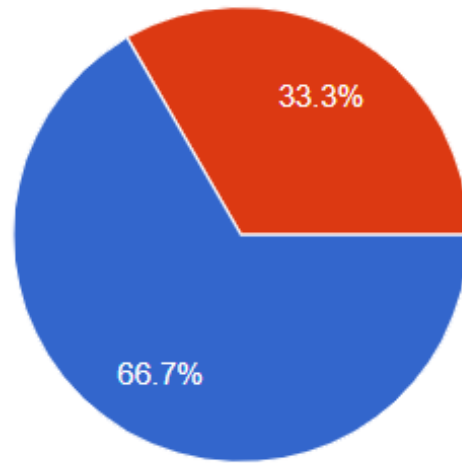
9 responses



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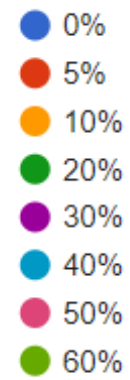
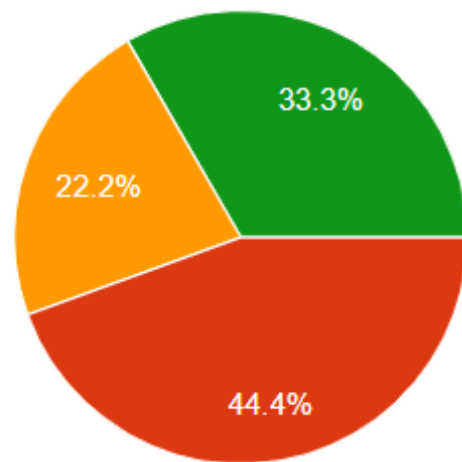
Seasonal high tunnel

9 responses



Brush and herbaceous weed control

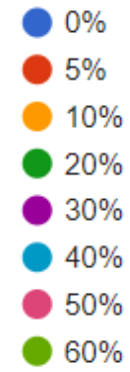
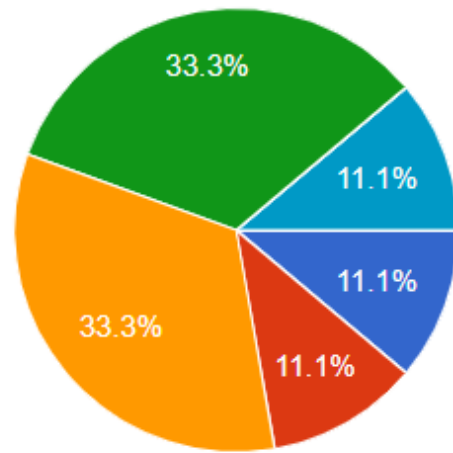
9 responses



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Invasive plants

9 responses



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3. Please choose 8 Resource Concern Categories for FY 2022 as a priority for the State. Below are the categories to choose from:

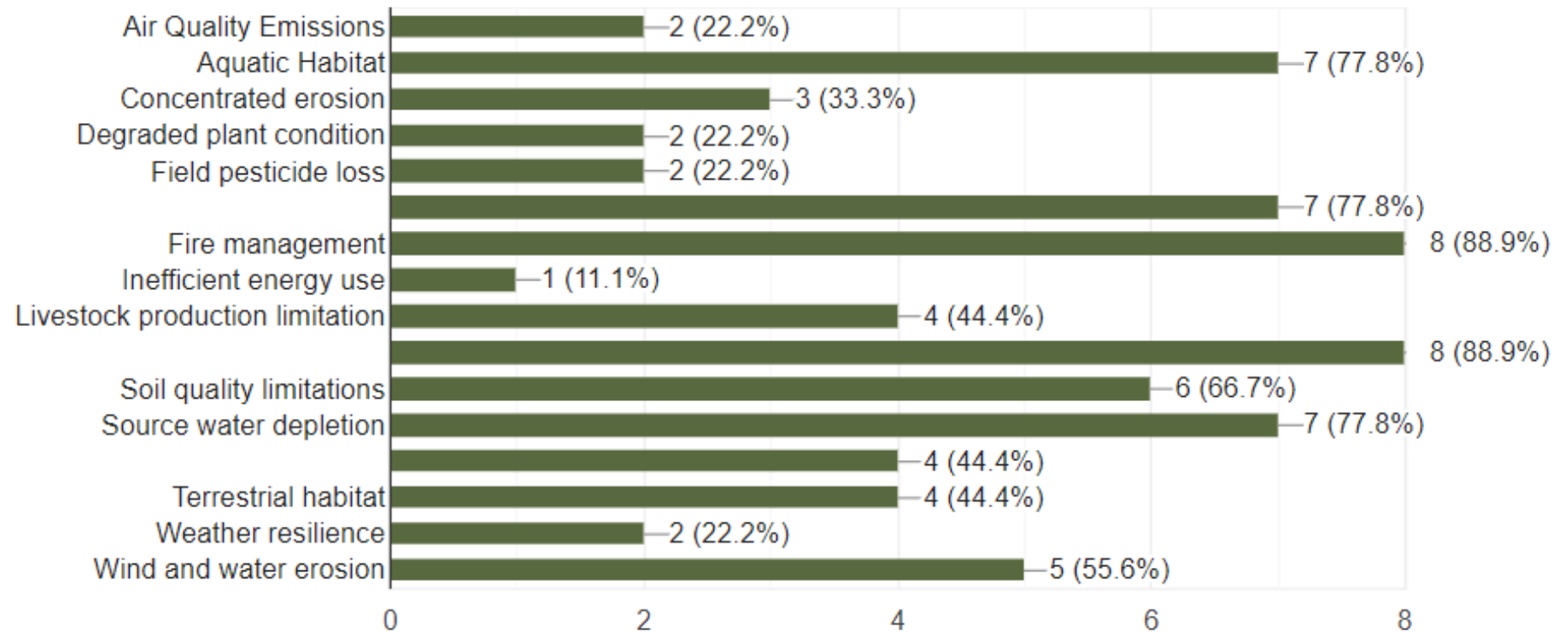
- Air Quality Emissions
- Aquatic Habitat
- Concentrated erosion
- Degraded plant condition
- Field pesticide loss
- Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss
- Fire management
- Inefficient energy use
- Livestock production limitation
- Pest pressure (invasive species)
- Soil quality limitations
- Source water depletion
- Storage and handling of pollutants
- Terrestrial habitat
- Weather resilience
- Wind and water erosion
- Other...

Resource Concern Categories	Resource Concerns
Air quality emissions	Emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors; Emissions of greenhouse gases –GHGs; Emissions of ozone precursors; Objectionable odor; Emissions of airborne reactive nitrogen
Aquatic habitat	Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms; Elevated water temperature
Concentrated erosion	Ephemeral gully erosion; Classic gully erosion; Bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels
Degraded plant condition	Plant productivity and health; Plant structure and composition
Field pesticide loss	Pesticides transported to surface water; Pesticides transported to groundwater
Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss	Nutrients transported to surface water; Nutrients transported to groundwater; Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications transported to surface water; Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications transported to groundwater; Sediment transported to surface water
Fire management	Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation
Inefficient energy use	Energy efficiency of equipment and facilities; Energy efficiency of farming/ranching practices and field operations
Livestock production limitation	Feed and forage balance; Inadequate livestock shelter; Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality and distribution
Pest pressure	Plant pest pressure
Soil quality limitations	Subsidence; Compaction; Organic matter depletion; Concentration of salts or other chemicals; Soil organism habitat loss or degradation; Aggregate instability
Source water depletion	Surface water depletion; Groundwater depletion; Inefficient irrigation water use
Storage and handling of pollutants	Nutrients transported to surface water; Nutrients transported to groundwater; Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to surface water; Petroleum, heavy metals and other pollutants transported to groundwater
Terrestrial habitat	Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates
Weather resilience	Ponding and flooding; Seasonal high water table; Seeps; Drifted snow; Naturally available moisture use
Wind and water erosion	Sheet and rill erosion; Wind erosion

3. Please choose 8 Resource Concern Categories for FY 2022 as a priority for the State.

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9 responses



**Thank
You**

