The divide between Federal NPS and State TMDL programs and their respective water quality objectives----NRCS

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NRCS

- Former Soil Conservation Service
- Clinton administration changed to NRCS and expanded mission to include soil, water, air, plants, and animals as natural resource concerns.
NRCS role

- NRCS role is very different from EPA and State programs.
- NRCS provides technical and (possible) financial assistance to producers at the producer’s request.
- Programs and practices are based on current science and technology.
NRCS role

- Producers come to NRCS for assistance.
- Producer involvement in NRCS technical programs is voluntary.
- 75 years of developing a relationship with producers.
NRCS Barriers and GAPs

- NRCS works with producers at the producer’s request.

- NRCS does not work with other agencies at the expense of the producer.

- NRCS is very jealous and will go out of its way to protect its relationship with the producer.
NRCS Barriers and GAPs

- NRCS cannot give to the public, or to other agencies, any farm specific information about any farm or ranch that we work with.

- Any information about that operation will need to come from the producer.
NRCS Barriers and GAPs

- NRCS has the science and technology but does not have any power to force a practice.

- “Boards and nails, but no hammer”
NRCS Barriers and GAPs

With problems come opportunities.

- Help get people in the door.
- State technical advisory committees.
- Other?
Questions?