

Email sent to Indiana NRCS employees:

**From:** Davidson, Tiffany - Indianapolis, IN

**Sent:** Thursday, August 30, 2012 2:13 PM

**To:** ug-IN-nrcs

**Subject:** INF- Voluntary Survey in Support of Conservation Management Research

Good afternoon,

A memorandum detailing a voluntary survey opportunity is attached for your information. This document can also be found on SharePoint.

Very respectfully,

*Tiffany Davidson*

Executive Assistant to the State Conservationist

Natural Resources Conservation Service

6013 Lakeside Boulevard

Indianapolis, IN 46278

Phone: (317)295-5800

tiffany.davidson@in.usda.gov



Email attachment:

**United States Department of Agriculture**



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
6013 Lakeside Blvd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46278

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August 30, 2012

SUBJECT: INF – Conservation Management Research

TO: All NRCS Employees

File Code: 260-13

A team from Purdue University is conducting research funded by the USDA North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (NCR-SARE) on conservation management. They have requested participation from NRCS staff across the state. Your feedback will help them examine the opinions and thoughts of Indiana conservationists on terms and options related to long-term sustainable agriculture, and compare these to survey results from Indiana farmers.

While I strongly encourage you to participate, participation in this survey is voluntary. No personal information will be attached to electronic survey responses or published results. You may skip any question you do not wish to answer in the survey. The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

You can access the survey at [https://purdue.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_7TFT8xSuN6ZhfZG](https://purdue.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_7TFT8xSuN6ZhfZG)

The survey will close on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 5 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Jill Reinhart, ASTC for Special Projects, at (317)295-5883.

/s/

KIMBERLY NEUMANN  
*Acting State Conservationist*

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Hard copy of electronic survey:



**Thank you for taking the time to give us your opinion and thoughts on terms and options related to sustainable agriculture. We value your experience and knowledge of agricultural and conservation management in Indiana, and we are excited to learn from you.**

The information collected in this survey will be kept **confidential**, and participation is completely **voluntary**. You may skip any question you do not wish to answer. You must be 18 years or older to participate in this survey.

**Please select the choice that contains the first letter of your last name.**

- A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H
- I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q
- R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

1. Do you know what an “**ecosystem**” is?  Yes  No
2. Have you heard of the term “**ecosystem services**”?  Yes  No
3. What would you guess that “**ecosystem services**” means?

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4. Have ecosystem services ever come up in discussions with farmers?

Yes  No  Unsure

5. Do you think that farmers you work with would be more willing to implement conservation practices if they knew how they benefited their farm’s ecosystems?

Yes  No  Potentially

6. If you had to communicate with your customers about new conservation programs, what do you think would be the best way to reach out to the farmers in your county? (check all that apply)

- Articles in farm or other magazines
- Online or farm-specific calculators
- Conversations with publicly funded professionals like myself (e.g., Extension services, NRCS conservationists, SWCD technical staff)
- Providing information to private/industry professionals who consult with owners/operators (e.g., crop advisors)
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- None

7. Do you think farmers in your county are generally conservation-minded?

Yes  No  Somewhat  Unsure

8. How long have you worked for NRCS or in a conservation management related field?

- Less than a year
- 1-2 years
- 2-5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-20 years
- More than 20 years

9. What region best describes your service area?

- North-Northwest
- North-Northeast
- South-Northwest
- South-Northeast
- North-Southwest
- North-Southeast
- South-Southwest
- South-Southeast

10. Gender:  M  F  Prefer not to answer

11. Age:  < 25  25-34  35-44  45-54  55-65  
 65+  Prefer not to answer

12. Which best describes your work?

- Soil Conservationist  District Conservationist
- xxxxx Technician  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Do you have an agricultural background? (i.e. Did you grow up on a farm, work on a farm, own a farm, etc.)

Yes  No  Prefer not to answer

14. Do you identify as a racial minority?

Yes  No  Prefer not to answer

**FOREST LANDS – think of the forest lands in your service area and in the state of Indiana, and answer the following questions.**

FOREST LANDS...	20. How often do forest lands provide the following <b>benefits to society</b> ?			21. If you just checked always or sometimes, how <b>valuable</b> is this benefit (from forest lands) to <b>you</b> ?		
	Always	Sometimes	Never	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not Valuable
...provide food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide a “sense of place”	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...regulate erosion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide fuel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide medicines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...give opportunities for recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...inspire spiritual connection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide fresh water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...reduce flooding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...are aesthetically pleasing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...maintain species diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide plant fibers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...reduce soil loss	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide genetic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...regulate local climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide clean air	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	22. Check each box for those who <b>benefit from</b> forest lands	23. Check each box for those who should be <b>responsible for</b> maintaining forest benefits
Farm owner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local gov’t	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State gov’t	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fed. gov’t	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farm operator	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No one	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (fill in blank)	_____	_____

24. Of the list above, who is most responsible for maintaining benefits from forest lands?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide us with any comments, questions, or suggestions you have in the blank space below!

**THANK YOU!!**

**CROPLANDS – think of the croplands in your service area and in the state of Indiana, and answer the following questions.**

CROPLANDS...	20. How often do croplands provide the following <b>benefits to society</b> ?			21. If you just checked always or sometimes, how <b>valuable</b> is this benefit (from croplands) to <b>you</b> ?			22. Check each box for those who <b>benefit from</b> croplands	23. Check each box for those who should be <b>responsible for</b> maintaining cropland benefits
	Always	Sometimes	Never	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not Valuable		
...provide food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide a “sense of place”	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...regulate erosion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide fuel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide medicines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...give opportunities for recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...inspire spiritual connection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide fresh water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...reduce flooding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...are aesthetically pleasing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...maintain species diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide plant fibers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...reduce soil loss	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide genetic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...regulate local climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide clean air	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

  

Farm owner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local gov’t	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State gov’t	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fed. gov’t	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farm operator	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No one	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (fill in blank)	_____	_____

24. Of the list above, who is most responsible for maintaining benefits from croplands?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide us with any comments, questions, or suggestions you have in the blank space below!

**THANK YOU!!**

**RESERVOIRS – think of the reservoirs in your service area and in the state of Indiana, and answer the following questions.**

	20. How often do reservoirs provide the following <b>benefits to society</b> ?			21. If you just checked always or sometimes, how <b>valuable</b> is this benefit (from reservoirs) to <b>you</b> ?				22. Check each box for those who <b>benefit from</b> reservoirs	23. Check each box for those who should be <b>responsible for</b> maintaining reservoir benefits
<b>RESERVOIRS...</b>	Always	Sometimes	Never	Very Valuable	Somewhat Valuable	Not Valuable			
...provide food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farm owner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide a “sense of place”	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...regulate erosion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local gov’t	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide fuel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	State gov’t	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide medicines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fed. gov’t	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...give opportunities for recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local community	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...inspire spiritual connection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Farm operator	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...provide fresh water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No one	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
...reduce flooding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (fill in blank)	_____	_____
...are aesthetically pleasing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
...maintain species diversity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
...provide plant fibers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
...reduce soil loss	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
...provide genetic resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
...regulate local climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
...provide clean air	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

24. Of the list above, who is most responsible for maintaining benefits from reservoirs?

\_\_\_\_\_

Please provide us with any comments, questions, or suggestions you have in the blank space below!

**THANK YOU!!**