



# Coastal Conservation Connections



Partnerships Focused on Resource Management



“

To develop and implement conservation programs beneficial to coastal states and territories and their districts. ”



The Coastal Resource Policy Group (RPG), a subcommittee of NACD's Natural Resources Policy Committee

# Presenters:

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# Coastal RPG Geographical Focus

768 Counties served by Conservation Districts  
in 30 States and 7 Trust Territories,  
bordering the:

- Atlantic Ocean
- Pacific Ocean
- Gulf of Mexico
- Great Lakes
- Estuaries, including 28 of national significance



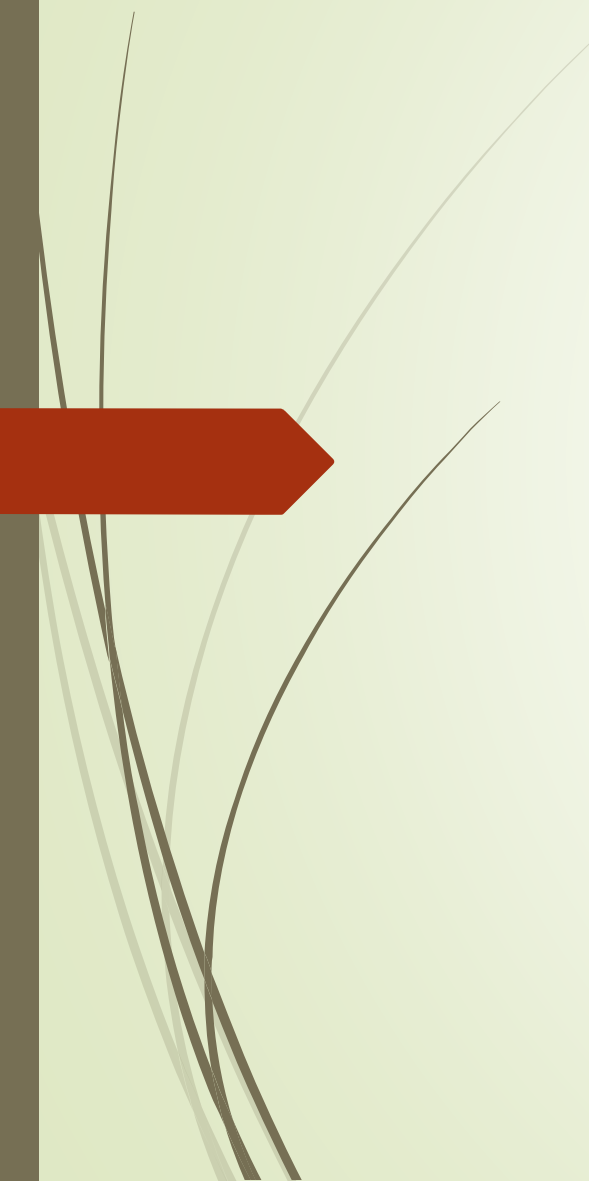


**Continental United States**



**Alaska, Hawaii and the Trust Territories of the Pacific**

# Coastal Area Characteristics

- 
- Geophysical Landforms
  - Soil
  - Hydrology
  - Water Resources
  - Weather and Climate Conditions
  - Biotic Communities



Satellite night image depicting the distribution of the U.S. population



Large population centers concentrated along coastal areas



# Historical and Cultural Resources



Iconic places of interest located within coastal areas

# Urban Resources



Major cities with commerce and infrastructure within coastal areas



# Residential Resources



Concentrations of people within coastal areas



# Industrial Resources



Transportation and energy infrastructure within coastal areas

# Recreational Resources



Passive and active pursuits within coastal areas



# Agricultural Resources



Food production within coastal areas



# Ocean Sector Economy

including the Oceans, Gulf and Great Lakes

- Living Resources
- Marine Construction
- Marine Transportation
- Off-shore Mineral Extraction
- Ship and Boat Building
- Tourism and Recreation

# Ocean Economy Statistics

**An economic engine significantly greater than the crop production, telecommunications and building construction sectors combined**

- 152,000 Establishments
- 3.2 Million Employees
- \$128 Billion in Wages
- 320 Billion in Goods and Services

*\*These statistics are exclusive of non-maritime related sectors.*

# Forces Impacting Coastal Areas

## **Climate Change:**

more frequent severe weather events

## **Sea level rise:**

challenges for long-term planning  
and community resiliency



# Hurricanes Impacting the U.S. Coasts



- 1980 to April 2018 resulted in \$862 billion in damages
- Average \$21.6 billion per storm

# Coastal Climatic Events



- In 2017, there were 16 separate climatic events in the U.S.
- More than \$1 billion in damages per event



# Resiliency Economics



Community resiliency planning and mitigation costs are significantly less than that of coastal storm recovery.



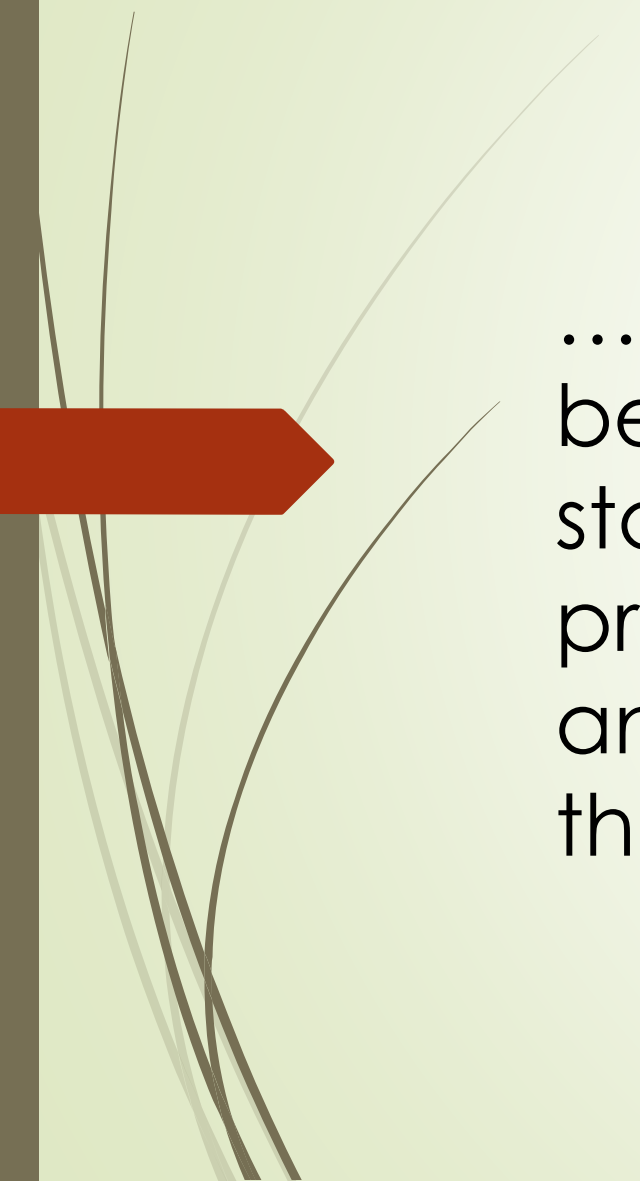
# Conservation District Roles

- Evaluation of Natural Resource Base
- Identify Issues, Assets-at-Risk and Mitigation Strategies
- Plan to Conserve Community Vulnerable Assets

# Decision-Making Continuum

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- Inform Public of Issues and Risks
  - Consult with Public Officials on Policy
  - Facilitate Stakeholder Discussions
  - Develop Action Plans
  - Aid in Plan Implementation

# Conservation Districts...



... can serve as the vital connection between local units of government, state and federal partners, and private stakeholders in managing and protecting coastal resources for their constituents.