

SWCD Training Program | *January 2011*

Module 2:

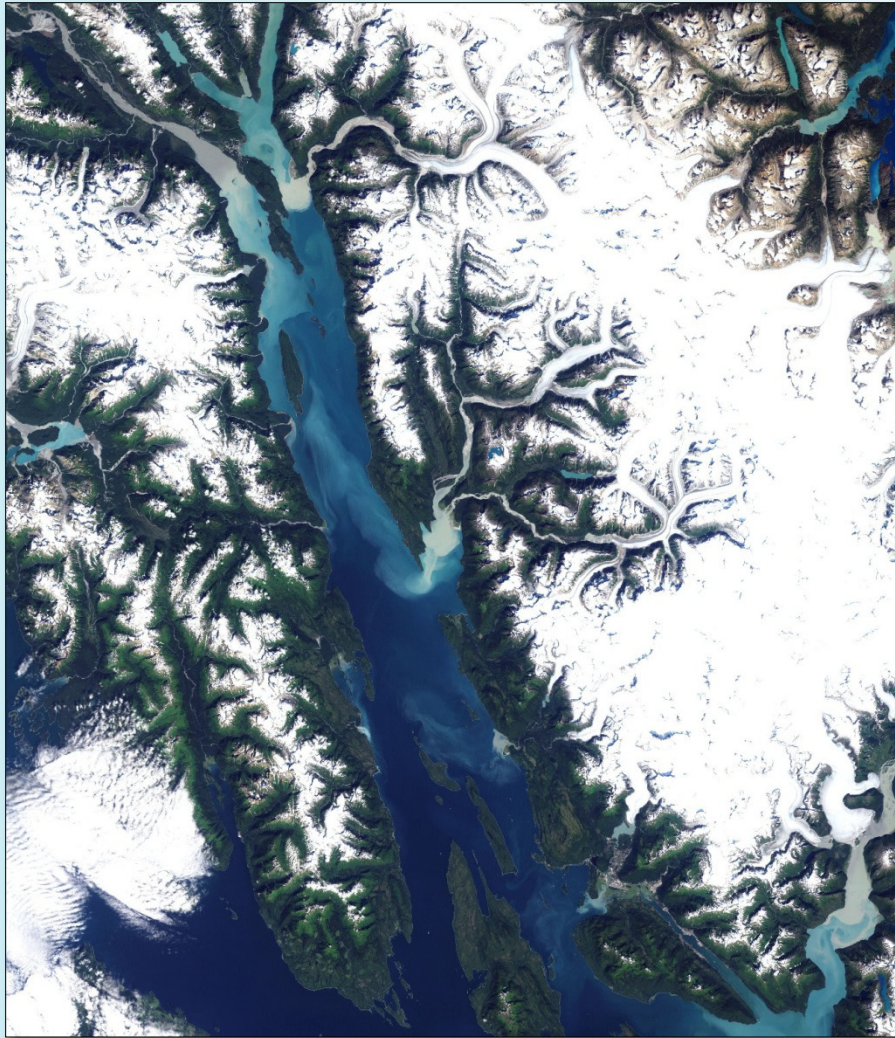
What is a Conservation District



Conservation District Purpose & Function

- Districts are state-authorized entities with authority to exercise the powers delegated by the Commissioner as provided in AS 41.10.130. (See Module 13, References)
- Each district is organized by the Commissioner, governed by a five-member board of supervisors, and assisted by the NRCDB.





Berners Bay, AK

As provided by AS 41.10.110, the DNR Commissioner is authorized to create districts in the state and delegate to the district supervisors of each district such powers as the Commissioner considers necessary to accomplish the purposes of soil and water conservation.

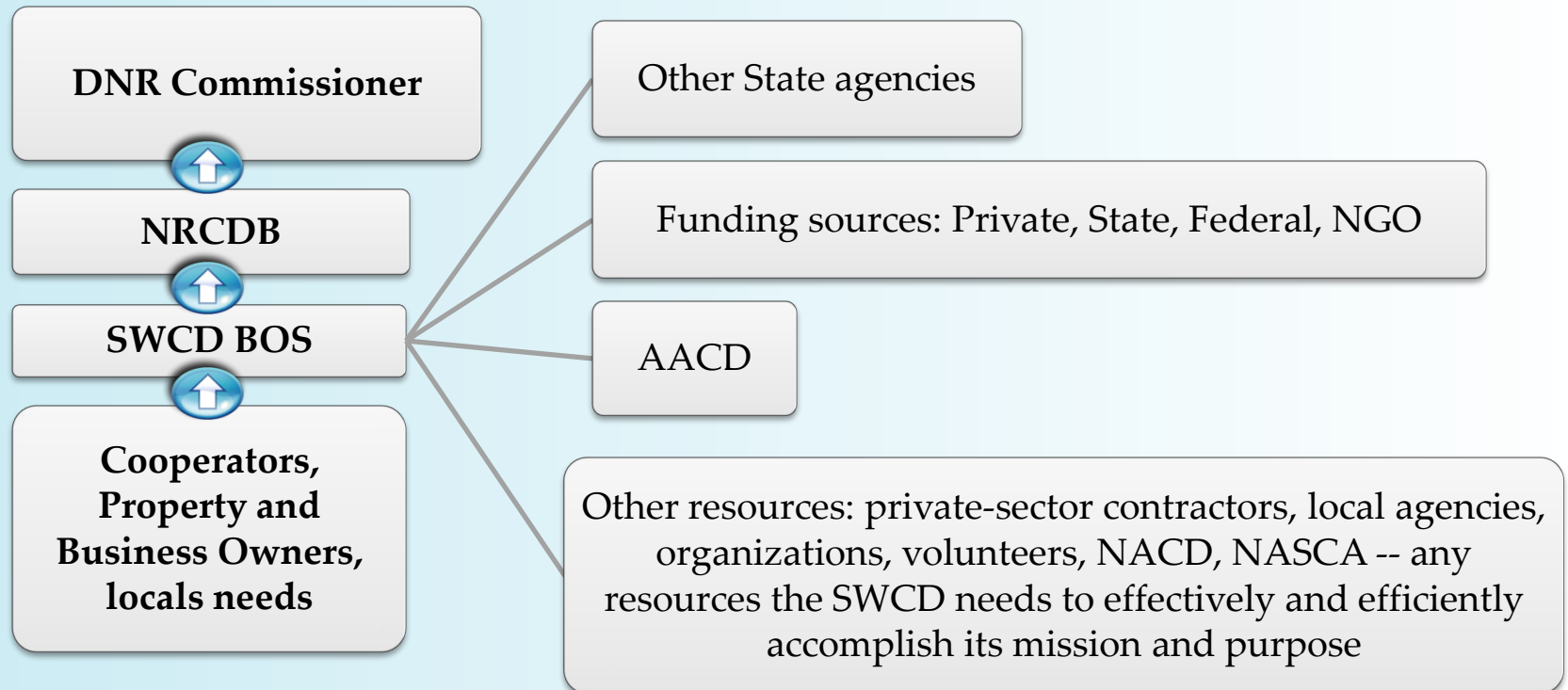
By Department Order 114 dated January 25, 1993, the following powers have been confirmed as delegated by the Commissioner to the District Supervisors of each District:

- conduct land capability surveys and investigations of potential agricultural areas and of soil conservation and erosion control, including necessary preventative and control measures, in the state; to publish the results of these surveys and investigations and to disseminate information concerning the results of the surveys and investigations to prospective settlers and the general public;
- make technical guidance and other assistance available to settlers of new land to assure the development of the land in a manner that will permit it to be used in accordance with its capabilities and treated in accordance with its needs;
- carry out measures for soil conservation and erosion control within the state, including engineering operations, methods of cultivation, the growing of vegetation, and changes in use of land, with the consent and cooperation of the land user or agency having jurisdiction of the land;

- cooperate with, furnish assistance to, and enter into agreements with, a user of land or agency within the state;
- construct, improve and maintain soil erosion control and conservation structures as are necessary and practical for carrying out the purpose of this chapter;
- develop comprehensive plans for the conservation of soil and control of soil erosion within the state, cropping programs, tillage practices and changes in land use, and publish plans and information and bring them to the attention of users of land within the state; and
- accept contributions in money, services, materials or equipment from the U.S. or its agencies, from an agency of the state and from any other sources for use in carrying out the purposes set forth in this chapter.

Districts As Government Entities

- SWCDs are authorized entities under the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, created and governed by Alaska Statute 41.10 . (This is most recently confirmed in an Attorney General's Opinion of 1992.)



Board Member Qualifications

- SWCDs are governed by land users, elected by people of the same description, within a geographic boundary established by each SWCD, with a signed Cooperator Agreement with their local SWCD.
- Qualified land users must be producers of renewable natural resources, for example:



Agriculture



Silviculture



Mariculture



Horticulture



Renewable Energy: Wind, tidal, geothermal



Subsistence/Wildlife Resources