

Conservation Resource Dashboard



**NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION**

Tate Wentz
Water Quality Section Manager

Arkansas Conservation Partners

- Strategic Planning
- Resource concerns
- Outcomes

Agenda

Arkansas Conservation Partners Work Session
Monday, December 11, 2023 | 9:00 am – 4:30 pm
Tuesday, December 12, 2023 | 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Agenda

Session Objective:

- Arkansas Conservation Partner Leaders and Staff discuss and plan strategic priorities for future Arkansas Conservation program and service delivery with producers and landowners to address natural resource conservation needs.

Agenda: December 11, 2023

- Purpose, Introductions, Session Objective, Agenda
- Future Arkansas Conservation Partners Accomplishments
- Vision for Arkansas Conservation Delivery
- Lunch
- Goals Grid | Accomplish, Preserve, Eliminate & Avoid
- Conservation Partner Roles
- Issues & Limitations | Arkansas Conservation Delivery
- Next Day Agenda

Agenda: December 12, 2023

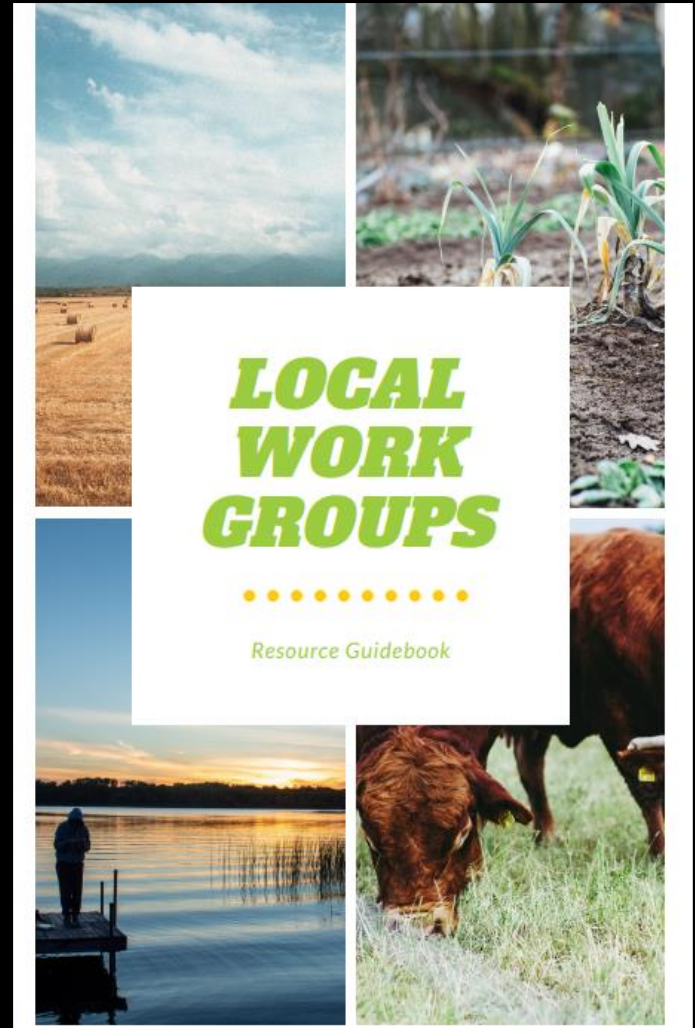
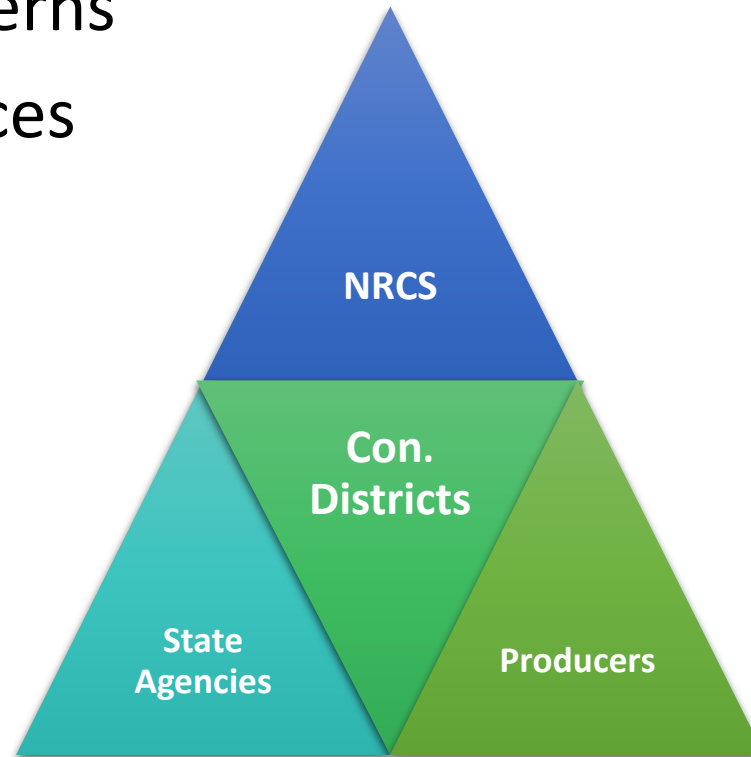
- Agenda Review
- Strategic Priorities
- Statements of Intent
- Lunch
- Action Register Development
- Communications Strategy
- Next Steps & Closing Comments
- Adjourn

Arkansas Conservation Partners
December 11 & 12, 2023



Locally Led Efforts

- Funding
- County resource concerns
- Recommended practices
- County goals



Arkansas Conservation Partners

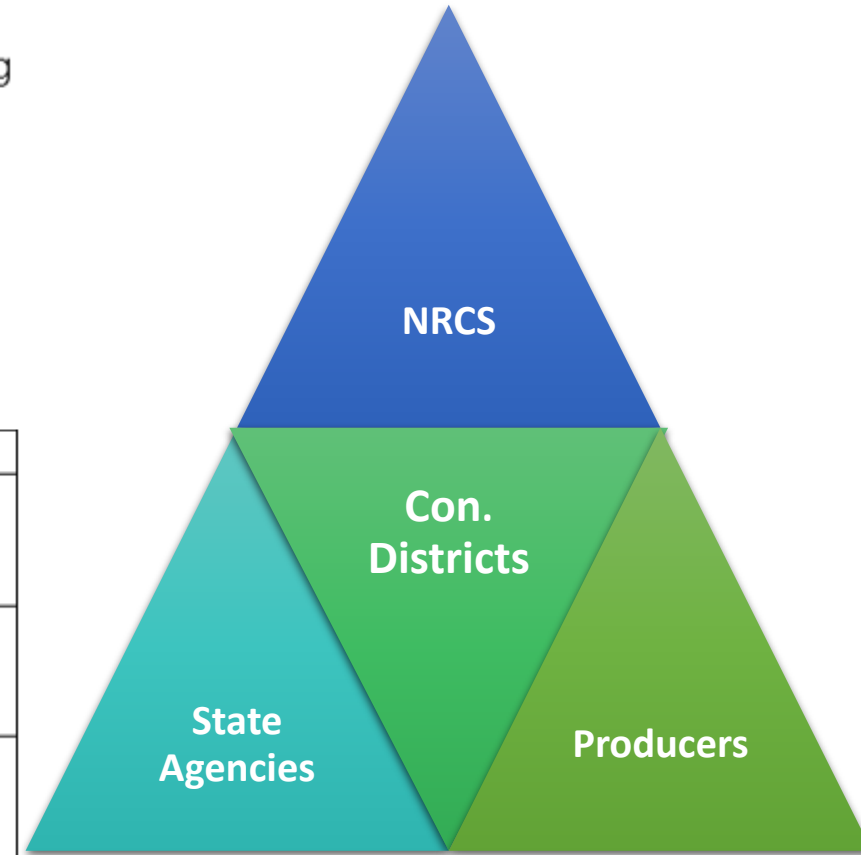
Strategic Priority: Defining conservation and telling the story of conservation to public including elected officials and decision makers

Statements of Intent

- By 2024 AR Conservation Partners will work together to align various priorities to leverage resources for achieving conservation objectives
- By 2025 and annually, we will educate our elected officials on who we are, what we do and why it is important

Chris, William, Holly

Action	Timeline	Lead Person(s)
Invite elected officials - state/county to special events, activities, input on resource issues	Jan 2024	District Board Chairs & Directors
Create natural resource team before locally led to identify conservation priorities – utilize Extension agent and NRCS team lead, other to gather data and information	Feb 2024	John P Rebecca F Tate W
Identify local conservation needs and sharing activities and tools to address needs e.g. brochure, field day, poster board, other	August 2025	Each District Employee lead





Natural Resources Division Assistance Programs

Agricultural Water Quality Loan

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, in conjunction with conservation districts and participating banks, provides low-interest loan money to agricultural land owners for installation of conservation practices that reduce [nonpoint source pollution](#) impacts to water quality.

Any interested agricultural land owner should contact his or her [local conservation district](#) to obtain an application. Once a completed application has been returned to the conservation district and endorsed by the conservation district, the applicant is eligible to receive a low-interest loan of up to \$250,000 from any participating bank so long as the applicant is approved by the bank. An applicant may be an individual, fiduciary, partnership, limited liability company, or corporation.

The participating bank shall determine the interest rate in conjunction with the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission. The participating bank shall determine the loan terms, but in no case will such a term exceed twenty years.

Eligible practices for these loans are:

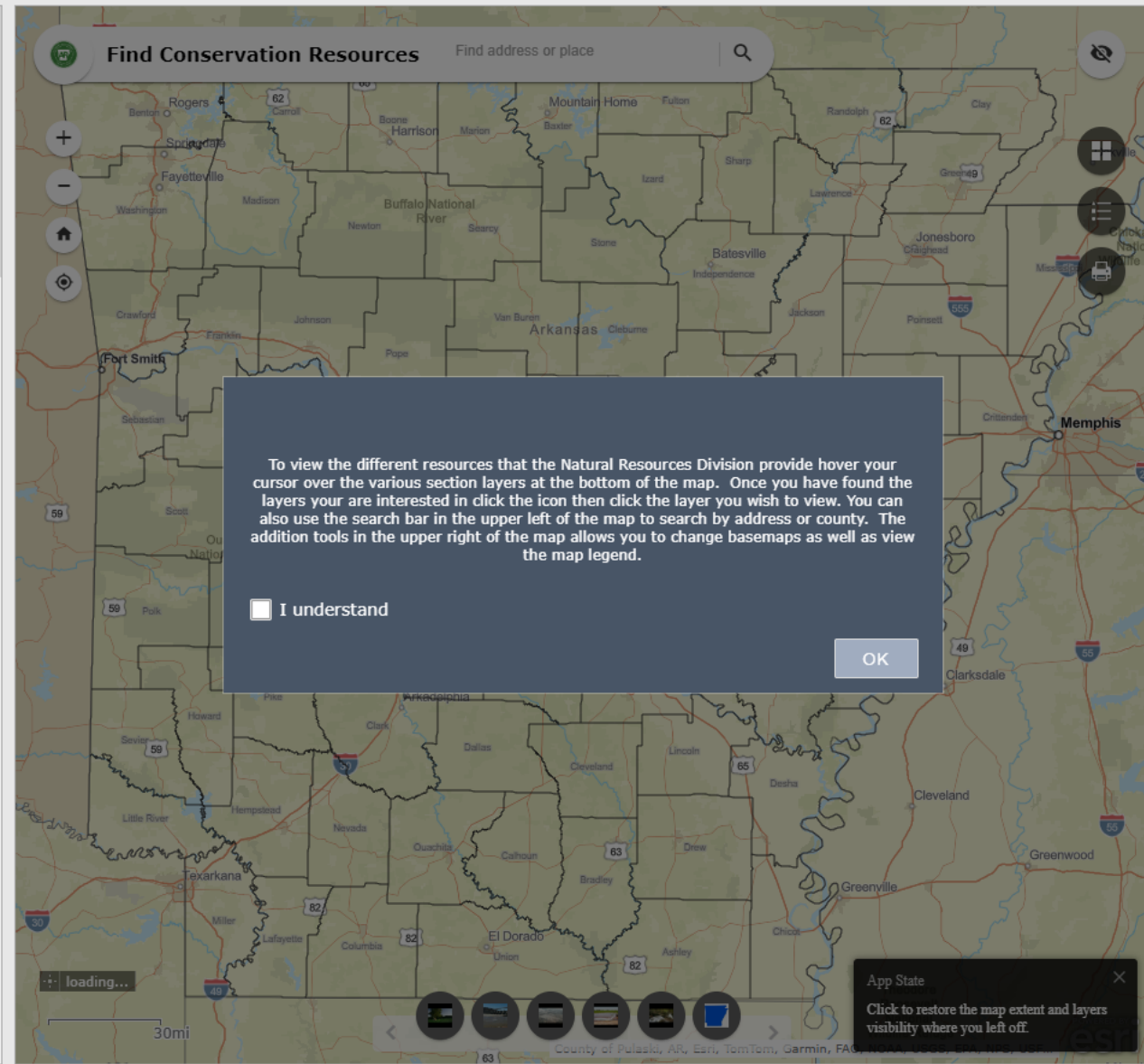
- Construction of tail water recovery systems
- Construction of irrigation reservoirs
- Purchase of no-till drills
- Construction of stacking sheds
- Construction of ponds and fencing for livestock
- Land-leveling

Animal Agriculture (Nutrient Management Plans, Poultry Litter Management)

The Nutrient Management Program includes certification programs for consultants, compliance activities, education and training programs necessary to implement the law.

The Nutrient Management Program is made up of the following:

- Nutrient Management Planning
- Nutrient Management Applicator Certification Program
- Nutrient Management Planner Certification Program



– Quantify and self-report total greenhouse gas benefits through the use of COMET-Planner
 Applications will be at www.allianceforcsa.org during the open enrollment period. Hard copies will be available at district offices.

Feral Hogs



FERAL HOG REPORTING REPORTING VIA SURVEY123



Feral Hogs are Pests. Feral hogs are not native to the United States. They are an invasive species, a public nuisance, and a threat to Arkansas. They compete for food resources, destroy habitat by rooting and wallowing, and eat ground-nesting birds, eggs, fawns, and young domestic livestock. They also carry up to 45 bacteria, diseases, and parasites, including Trichinellosis, Brucellosis, and swine herpes virus. Feral hogs are a growing problem in the state of Arkansas. They have few, if any, natural predators and have reached an estimated population of four to five million across approximately 39 states in the United States. Their damage and control are conservatively estimated to result in agricultural and ecological costs of \$1.5 billion annually. These include damage to and loss of crops of at least \$800 million; injury and transmission of disease to livestock; ecological destruction; property damage; threats to native ground-nesting birds and other small wildlife (including endangered species); and contamination of human food and water supplies

Flood Control

Flooding can be caused by storms, dams or levees breaking, new development changing how water flows above and below ground, and much more. Flood-prone areas in Arkansas have been identified in many counties, cities, and towns. These flood prone areas are called Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA). The SFHA is that portion of the floodplain subject to inundation by the base flood (100-year) and/or flood-related erosion hazards. If you have a home in the SFHA, there is a 26% chance that your home will flood before you pay off your 30-year mortgage.

SFHAs are shown on FIRMs as Zones A, AE, AH, AO, and AR. You can find out if you are in an SFHA by visiting the FEMA Flood Map Service Center at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>.

Soil Health (Regenerative Agri./Cover Crops)

What kind of best management practices qualify for Title X program?
 Any Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) practice that is documented to reduce nonpoint source pollution. All practices must be approved by NRD before project activities begin to qualify for cost-share. Some of the most popular best management practices include:

- Brush Management
- Cover Crops
- Cross Fencing

Find Conservation Resources Find address or place

Conservation

Layers

- Tier 1 Feral Hog Areas
- Tier 2 Feral Hog Areas
- Buffalo River Watershed
- NE Arkansas Feral Hog Project Area
- USDA Feral Hog Pilot Program
- Conservation District Offices
- Program Coordinator Areas
- Nutrient Surplus Area
- Euchia Spavinaw Watershed Team Area
- 1938 Conservation District Areas

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County of Pulaski, AR, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USF...

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Cabinet Secretary
Wes Ward

Department of Agriculture

Supporting Arkansas farmers and ranchers while ensuring safe food, fiber, and forest products for the citizens of Arkansas, the nation, and across the globe

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Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force

- [Survey Removal Maps](#)

[Agriculture](#) / [Arkansas Department of Agriculture Services](#) / [Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force](#)

Arkansas Feral Hog Eradication Task Force



- Pursuant to the Arkansas Groundwater Protection and Management Act of 1991, the NWGD produces an annual groundwater report on the condition of the State's groundwater resources. This report summarizes the monitoring well network data and provides a yearly update on the tax credit and water use registration programs. The data collected for this report is used to influence policy and program recommendations, such as Critical Groundwater Area designation.
- Water Well Construction licensing, permitting, and enforcement
- Water Well Construction Report Database
- Groundwater Conservation Tax Credit Program
- Water Use Registration Program
- Provide technical assistance on water well construction report database inquiries, water well policy questions, and general geology, hydrogeology, and water supply availability questions

Click [here](#) to view the 2022 Arkansas Groundwater Summit Proceedings.

Groundwater Story Map

A companion piece to the Groundwater Report was introduced this year, the Groundwater Story Map. The Story map is a digital presentation of the Arkansas Natural Resources Division's Groundwater Protection and Management Report for 2022. The report's findings are exhibited through interactive maps with layers of site-specific groundwater levels. Users can click on points throughout the story map to gain further information about the current state of groundwater in Arkansas. Click [here](#) to view the Groundwater Story Map

Water Quality (Erosion Control)

What is Nonpoint Source Pollution?

Nonpoint source pollution results from rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and even our underground sources of drinking water. Unlike pollution from direct sources, such as industrial plants, NPS pollution can come from many diffuse sources.

Potential sources of NPS Pollution include:

- Excess fertilizers and chemicals from agricultural lands, residential, and urban areas
- Sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding streambanks
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock and animal wastes
- Hydro-modification

2022 Arkansas Nutrient Reduction Strategy Update

In 2018, staff from Arkansas Natural Resources Division began the process of updating the Arkansas Nutrient Reduction Strategy (ANRS). Over the last several years, a new strategic prioritization methodology for evaluating nutrient trends across was developed. The statistical methodology evaluates water quality monitoring data availability and ecological thresholds to determine a tiered classification system. Tier 1 watersheds demonstrated the highest need for nutrient reduction and thus are top priority for 319(h) funding. Tier 2 watersheds often had limited water quality, but data indicates nutrient reduction are warranted, which also prioritizes 319(h) funding. Tier 3 and Tier 4 watersheds had fewest lines of supporting evidence suggesting nutrient reduction and will not be prioritized for project funding. Additionally, the revision of the 2022 ANRS includes specific and strategic framework for goals and strategies for the implementation of the ANRS.

- Click [here](#) to explore the ANRS Story Map.
- Click [here](#) to view the ANRS Fact Sheet.
- Click [here](#) to view the Arkansas Nutrient Reduction Strategy.
- Click [here](#) to access the Arkansas Nutrient Reduction Viewer.
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Natural Resources

Cabinet Secretary
Wes Ward

Efficiently and responsibly managing and protecting our water and land resources for the sustainability, health, safety, and economic benefit of the State of Arkansas

About Our Office

- Divisions
- Water Management
- Nonpoint Source Management

Agriculture / Natural Resources / Divisions / Water Management / Nonpoint Source Management

Nonpoint Source Management

From Nonpoint Source Impairments to Success Stories

- Nonpoint Source: The Problem
- Impaired Waterbodies
- NPS Program: A Solution
- Prior



View full screen StoryMap

- Overview
- Priority Watersheds
- Nonpoint Source Management Plan
- Annual 319 Program Timeline
- FY2024 Grant Schedule and Materials
- Title X Water Resource Agricultural Cost-Share Program
 - Title X Water Resource Agricultural Cost-Share Program – General Information
 - Title X Water Resource Agricultural Cost-Share Program – Conservation District
 - Title X Water Resource Agricultural Cost-Share Program – Landowners
- Success Stories
- Annual Reports
- Our Projects

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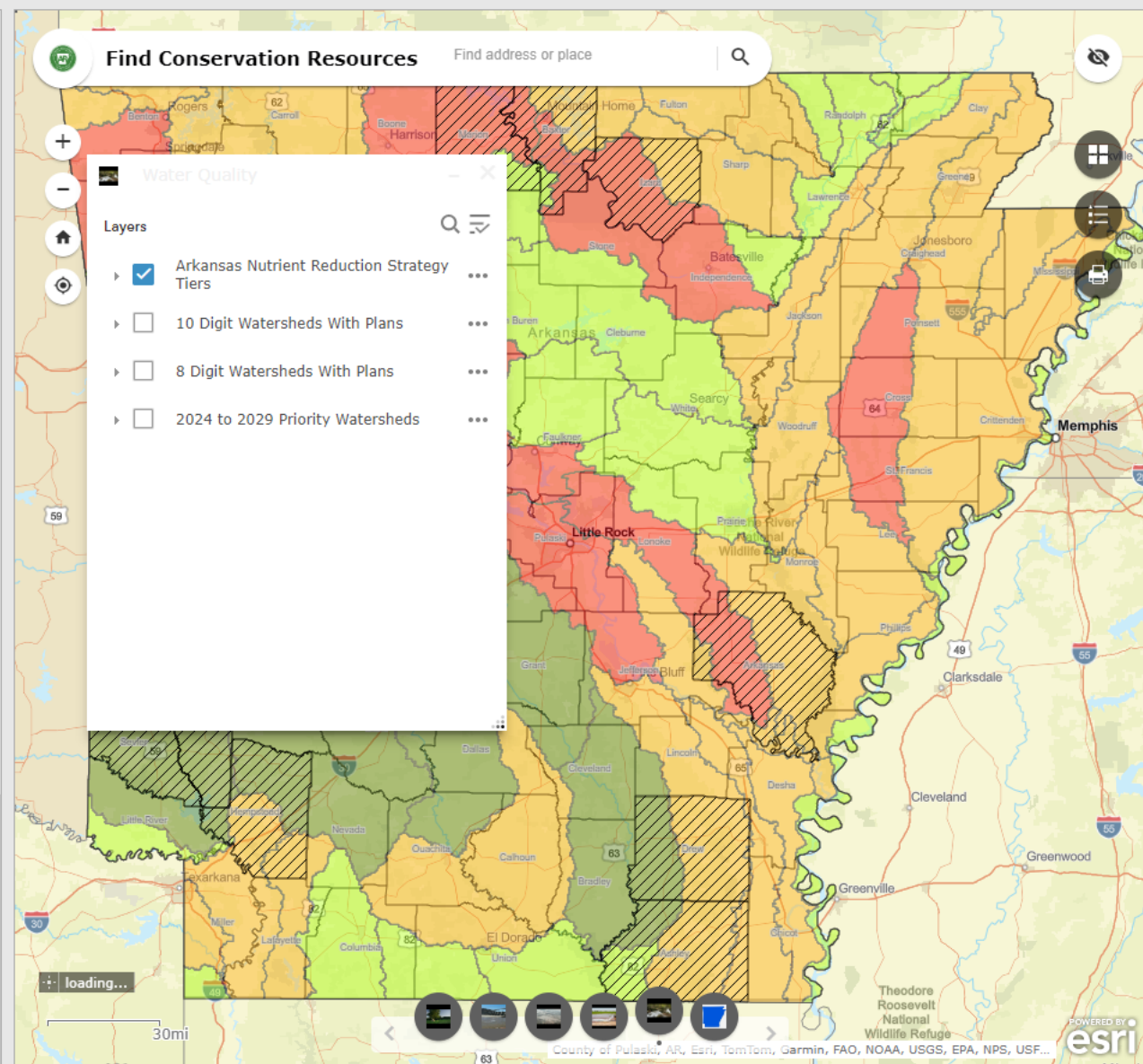
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Questions

Tate Wentz

Water Quality Section Manager

Natural Resources Division-Arkansas Dept. of Agriculture

tate.wentz@agriculture.arkansas.gov

501.682.3914

