



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

SUCCESSFUL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIPS IN MISSOURI'S OZARK AND PRAIRIE REGIONS

The key to developing sustainable systems is through the establishment of acceptable strategies and structures. This means in areas where the vast majority of the natural resources are under private ownership, the strategies and structures must be acceptable to the private landowner to have any chance of success and long-term sustainability.

Successful watershed management strategies give major consideration to private property rights. In the realm of watershed management, the organizational structures must: encourage input from, decision making by, ownership in, implementation by, and resources from the private land owner as well as the local agency representatives. After all in most cases the water and watersheds are viewed as "community property" even though private individuals pay the taxes and derive their livelihood from the land.

Successful watershed management strategies give major consideration to private property rights. This presentation will offer an in-depth look at case profiles of successful watershed management partnerships in Missouri's prairie and Ozark regions. It will include profiles of several efforts including one dealing with part of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways managed by the U.S. Park Service, one public drinking water supply protection effort, and one recreational waterbody restoration effort.

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