

Conservation Districts History in the United States

Early 1930's- Depression rocked the county
Dust Bowl- unparalleled ecologic and agricultural
disaster that drove many people from their homes



In 1933, FDR summoned Hugh Hammond Bennett, a soil scientist, to the White house see what could be done Benntt told FDR that 100 million acres had lost its topsoil, nearly half had been destroyed and could never be farmed again FDR gave Bennett \$5 million in relief funds to start the Soil Erosion Service, a temporary agency intended to provide relief In 1935, Bennett testified before Congress to persuade them to fund a permanent agency to manage the land. He wanted there to be local control. Congress unanimously passed legislation making soil & water conservation a national policy and priority.