

The background of the slide is a solid brown color with a pattern of faint, overlapping autumn leaves in various shades of brown and tan. The leaves are scattered across the entire area, creating a textured, naturalistic feel.

# **Challenges to Conservation on Ag Lands**

*1. Many rural landowners value active agricultural production above other uses of their land.*

- Cultural heritage of “working lands”
- Loss of these considered a loss to the community or the individual
- Ag land is seen as orderly; unworked land is undesirable
- No need for change seen

## *2. Some rural landowners may not have an understanding of watershed or restoration processes and benefits.*

- Why is conservation needed?
- Costs & benefits not widely known: financial, recreational, agricultural, and environmental
- What activities are permitted?
- “Conservation Easement” may have a negative connotation
- Resistance to long-term commitments, contracts, perpetual agreements.

### *3. The financial incentives to landowners may be inadequate.*

- Payments for land and the tax incentives are too low
- Developers may offer more
- Lack of available cash for cost share programs
- Lack of public recognition for conservation

## *4. Confusion about overlapping & competing government requirements and voluntary conservation programs.*


- Each government program has its own rules
- Programs compete for lands
- Programs not coordinated well with one another
- Program staff may not always be available
- Lack of trust in government
- Restoration process takes a long time

*5. Lack of farm or estate plans;  
and lack of detailed  
comprehensive land use plans or  
watershed protection ordinances.*

- Farm, financial, & estate plans can help landowners/families make informed decisions
- Local government comprehensive land use plans can help communities guide and steer development

*6. Size requirements encourage larger projects, but coordinating with several landowners of adjacent or family property can be difficult and time consuming.*

- Minimum acreage often required for cost effective conservation
- Parcel encompasses land owned by more than one person
- Land is owned by more than one family member



**What can be done to  
overcome these challenges?**

# What next for challenges?

- KCI is gathering this information to help EEP with presentation
- EEP will use this information for other projects
- WECO will distribute the information through its newsletter and website
- YOU can use and distribute this information through your agencies