

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)



photo: USDA

Communities

often find it difficult to locate and acquire funds and other resources to improve the quality of life for their citizens. Communities can find opportunities to support their endeavors through the USDA's **Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program**.

Colorado is seeking USDA authorization and funding for one RC&D area: a multi-county area in northeast Colorado. This project is on a waiting list along with 42 others nationwide.

RC&D purposes

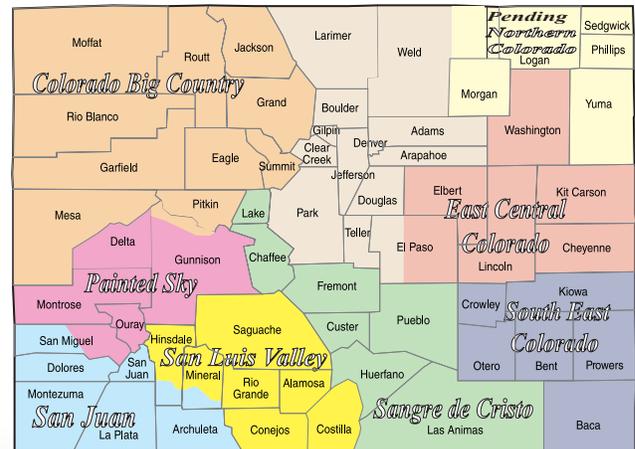
- (1) To promote conservation development and use of natural resources
- (2) To improve the general level of economic activities
- (3) To enhance the environment and standard of living in communities

2001 Accomplishments

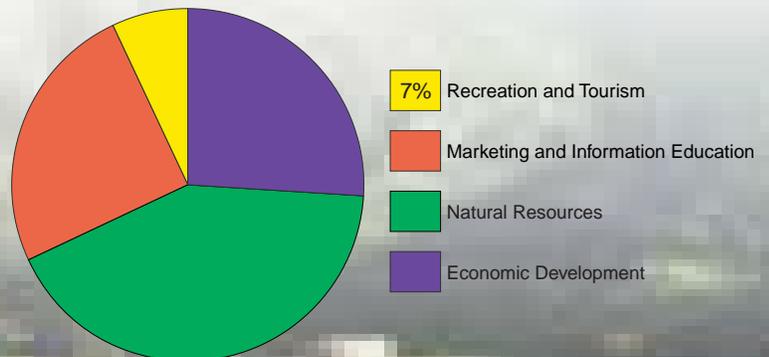
- ◆ 99 completed projects
- ◆ 106 new projects adopted
- ◆ 4,100 socially and economically disadvantaged clients assisted
- ◆ 135,222 clients assisted to advance educational skills
- ◆ 123 businesses benefited from increased revenues because of projects implemented

photo: USDA

RC&D Areas Serve 52 of Colorado's 65 Counties



RC&D Major Areas of Focus



Project Activities

Sangre de Cristo RC&D Council services 7 counties. Its four goals address municipal and agricultural water management, the condition and economic uses of cropland and grazing land, the use of forest resources, and community development.

Some current projects are:

- Upper Arkansas Watershed Council
- Roundwood Pavilion Demo Project
- Sangre de Cristo Forest Restoration Enterprise & Partnership
- Culebra Range Community Coalition
- Four-Corners Ag.com - Your online ag market

San Luis Valley RC&D Council services 6 counties. “Where Ideas Can Become Reality” is the Council’s pledge to its customers that their voices are heard and their ideas developed so that they can actively pursue common sense solutions to community problems.

Some current projects are:

- San Luis Coordinated Noxious Weed Mgmt. Committee
- Planning and mitigating wildfires in the SLV
- Willow Creek Reclamation Committee

Southeast Colorado RC&D services 6 counties. Projects improve the agricultural and rural economy in southeast Colorado to create a more diversified economy through tourism and recreation, and to preserve important historical elements in southeast Colorado.

Some current projects are:

- Bent County Museum Project
- Wiley baseball field restoration
- Boggsville Trail System expansion
- EPQ 319 BMP evaluation for Prowers County

San Juan RC&D services 8 counties. It’s goal is to accelerate the conservation, development, and use of natural resources to improve the level of economic activity and to enhance the environmental standard of living in the San Juan Basin.

Some current projects are:

- Animas River Stakeholders Group
- Four-Corners Ag.com (a statewide agriculture marketing program)
- San Juan Basin recycling
- GPS Irrigation delivery system evaluation
- River/Riparian education trailer

East Central Colorado RC&D services 6 counties and covers 7.8 million acres of Colorado’s eastern plains. It promotes community economic and natural resource development.

Some current projects are:

- Range management workshop
- Cheyenne Wells Historical Society
- Flagler Library Grants
- Agate Volunteer Fire Dept.

Colorado Big Country RC&D Council services 10 counties covering more than 17 million acres. Based on a yearlong process of community input, the Council is targeting its efforts on sustainable agriculture, water, and habitat.

Some current projects are:

- Colorado Weed Calendar
- Carbon Sequestration
- NW Colorado Water Resources Guide
- BLM/County Weed Control Partnership
- Tamarisk Symposium
- Scholarship Program
- Fund Raising Seminar

Northeast Colorado RC&D (*pending RC&D*) services 6 counties totaling 4.5 million acres. A 7-member board manages the council, which has 35 sponsors.

Some current projects are:

- Establishing Farm Recreation and Wildlife Enterprises
- East Morgan County Library District
- Youth Center
- Pawnee Cycle Club, Inc

Painted Sky RC&D is Colorado’s newest RC&D. It was designated on January 4, 2001 and services 6 counties totaling 6.1 million acres in west-central Colorado. Through an interagency agreement NRCS cooperates with the Forest Service to fund the Coordinator and part-time staff.

Some current projects are:

- Fire planning in wildland urban interface
- Job Corp center project
- Forest health improvements and developing markets for the harvested wood totalling four projects
- Selenium water quality/endangered fish
- Cactus Park Water Storage project-80 million dollars