

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)



The program establishes or improves coordination systems in rural areas. Current program objectives focus on improvement of quality of life achieved through natural resources conservation and community development which leads to sustainable communities, prudent use (development), and the management and conservation of natural resources.

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**.

RC&D areas are locally sponsored areas designated by the Secretary of Agriculture for Resource Conservation and Development technical and financial assistance program funds.

The purpose of the Resource Conservation and Development Program is to accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in authorized RC & D areas.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service can provide grants for land conservation, water management, community development, and environmental needs in authorized RC&D areas.

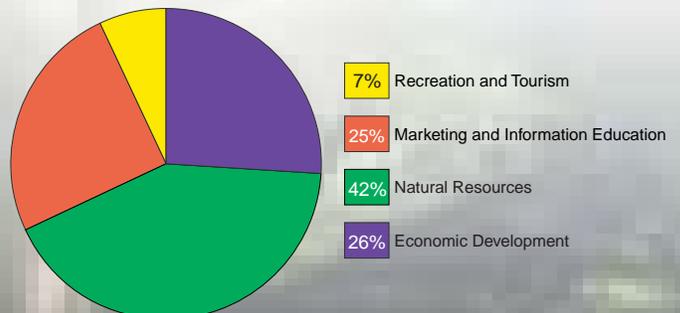
2003 Accomplishments

- ◆ 106 completed projects
- ◆ 84 new projects adopted
- ◆ Provided assistance to some 600 minorities
- ◆ Provided assistance to more than 18,000 citizens

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 seven counties. Its goals include wise management of water resources, healthy and productive natural resources, coordinated planning, a diversified economy and preservation of western heritage.

Some current projects are:

- Upper Arkansas Watershed Council
- Community Collaborative Rain and Hail Study (CoCoRaHS)
- River and Riparian Study Center
- Culebra Range Community Coalition
- Small Diameter Roundwood Demonstration Project

San Luis Valley RC&D Council services six counties. “*Where Ideas Can Become Reality*” is the Council’s pledge to its customers. 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 Program
- Costilla County Soil Survey
- Willow Creek Reclamation Committee
- Rio Grande Grass Finished Beef
- SLV Environmental Conservation Education Council

Southeast Colorado RC&D services six 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 Community Trails & Bikeway
- Eads Athletic Fields
- EPQ 319 BMP evaluation for Prowers County

San Juan RC&D services eight counties. Its 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:

- Dry Fire Hydrants for Rural Fire Protection
- River Riparian Education Trailer
- Vallecito Lake Volunteer Lake Monitoring Group
- Animas River Stakeholders Group
- Pine River Watershed Group

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

Some current projects are:

- Hygo Fire Department equipment grant
- Hugo Lincoln County Telemedicine Distance Learning Project
- Lincoln County Economic Development
- Hines Park Play Ground

Colorado Big Country RC&D Council

services ten counties covering more than 17 million acres. Based on a community input, the Council is targeting its efforts on sustainable agriculture, water, and habitat.

Some current projects are:

- 2004 Colorado Weed Calendar
- Tamarisk Inventory Pilot
- NW Colorado Water Resources Guide
- BLM/County Weed Control Partnership
- In-Stream and Riparian Assessments
- Stream Health Workshop
- Alternative Energy Forum

Northeast Colorado RC&D is the newest RC&D. It services six 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 services six counties totaling 6.1 million acres in west-central Colorado. It promotes economic and natural resource enhancements and improvements within its communities.

Some current projects are:

- Fire planning in wildland urban interface
- County Partnership Restoration (CPR)
- Cactus Park Water Storage Project
- Selenium water quality/endangered fish
- Montrose Recycling

