

***Fact Sheet:
Resource Conservation
and Development Program***

August 2009

Overview

The Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program is reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill). The RC&D program increases opportunities for volunteer, locally elected and civic leaders in designated RC&D areas to plan and complete projects for resource conservation and community development. Program objectives focus on “quality of life” improvements achieved through natural resources conservation and community development. Such activities lead to sustainable communities, prudent land use, and the sound management and conservation of natural resources.

Benefits/Accomplishments

The RC&D program unifies people - - communities, Indian tribes, and grassroots groups – and pools resources to accomplish shared goals. Volunteers revitalize and sustain their communities through the RC&D program. To date, 375 RC&D have been designated across the Nation, including the Caribbean and Pacific Basins, serving more than 85 percent (2,696) of U.S. counties and over 77 percent of the population.

In fiscal year 2008, RC&Ds completed more than 4,300 projects resulting in the creation of 802 businesses and the expansion of 1,524 businesses; 5,209 jobs created; 19,278 miles of streams; 1.3 million acres of lakes and other water bodies conserved, and 2.42 million acres of wildlife habitat improved. Nearly 932,000 people developed new skills and served over 21.1 million citizens Nationwide.

How RC&D Works

Assistance is provided, as authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture, to designated RC&D areas through local RC&D councils (comprised of local leaders). RC&D councils and their sponsors, in association with State, local, and Federal governments and nonprofit organizations, develop and implement local RC&D area plans. Councils also obtain assistance from other local, State, and Federal agencies; private organizations; and foundations. RC&D priorities are set by area residents to meet their needs.

Eligibility

Technical assistance is available for planning and installing approved projects specified in RC&D area plans, for land conservation, water management, community development, and land management.

For More Information

For more information about RC&D, contact your local USDA Service Center listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture, your local conservation district, or visit the NRCS website at:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rcd/>

