

RC&D

RESOURCE

CONSERVATION

& DEVELOPMENT

Partnerships Serving America's Communities



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



SELF-SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES

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RC&D councils develop partnerships with local citizens, agricultural producers, Indian Tribes, and State and Federal agencies to improve and enhance social, economic, and environmental conditions in their communities. RC&D projects create new markets and opportunities while addressing important resource concerns.

Cooperative Development Center

**Golden Triangle RC&D
Georgia**

Co-sponsored by this RC&D and the Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development, the Georgia Cooperative Development Center was established through a USDA grant. This center helps agricultural groups in rural Georgia find ways to increase their profits by working

together in cooperatives to improve efficiency, enhance products, and develop new marketing strategies. The center provides the guidance and consulting necessary to help ensure that these groups become profitable, functioning cooperatives.

Coral Reef Restoration & Economic Impact

**Virgin Islands RC&D
U.S. Virgin Islands**

This RC&D and its partners were awarded over \$2.7 million in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal and Marine Habitat Restoration funding under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to implement watershed stabilization practices to reduce the impacts of sediment-laden storm water runoff to coral reefs in Coral, Fish, and East End Bays. The 2-year project aims to reduce sediment loading rates into coastal waters by approximately 100 tons. This will be done by installing erosion and

sediment control practices to improve portions of foot trails and unpaved roads in each of the three watersheds. Project results will increase residents' quality of life in direct and indirect ways by conserving soil and creating jobs and by improving the health and resiliency of the coastal ecosystems that the islands depend upon for food production, storm protection, aesthetic value, and tourism. The coral reefs are one of the area's main tourist attractions, with tourism generating nearly \$1.5 billion each year for the local economy.



Heavy sedimentation of Fish Bay, St. John, after April 2007 storm.

Photo courtesy of Fish Bay Owners Association.

Other RC&D project snapshots from across the nation...

All photos courtesy of USDA unless otherwise noted.

Through a forestry grant from the East Central Regional Planning Commission, this RC&D conducted value-added and niche-marketing workshops, a “Light on the Land” timber harvesting workshop, and two webinars and also established a loggers’ cooperative. As a result of these efforts, loggers now have more information about potential suppliers and vendors as well as all forestry-related associations and organizations.



Wood Product Utilization

**Glacierland RC&D
Wisconsin**

Hurricane Response

**Bayou Land RC&D
Louisiana**



When Hurricane Katrina left the Louisiana coast in a state of emergency, this RC&D stepped in to help with GPS mapping for Emergency Watershed Protection in canals to reduce flooding and improve drainage in low-lying areas. Once the waters subsided, the RC&D developed a dune beach restoration project to restore (fill-in) dune breaches on Fourchon Beach, thereby protecting back-bay and interior marsh habitats, including Port Fourchon.

This RC&D worked with partners to develop a terminal Chinook salmon fishery that resulted in a renewable fish resource in the Craig, Klawock, and Port Saint Nick areas for commercial, sport, charter, and subsistence fishing. With the increased amount of fish, this project provides opportunities for the development and expansion of commercial fish processing facilities. Expanding this fishery resource has also resulted in an economic boost by increased bookings with charter operators, as well as more business for bed and breakfasts and restaurants in the area.



Chinook Salmon Fishery Development

**Southeast
Conference RC&D
Alaska**

**You can make a
difference!**

**Get involved with an
RC&D in your area.**



To volunteer for projects with your local RC&D council, submit ideas of your own, or find an RC&D council near you, visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rcd> or www.rcdnet.org, or contact your local USDA Service Center.

Look for other fact sheets highlighting RC&D projects in the areas of:

- Conserving Natural Resources
- Sustainable Agriculture Production
- Child Nutrition
- Job Creation & Retention
- Renewable Energy