Lower Watershed Water Quality Project

- Over $1.5 Million in NRCS allocations for Conservation Implementation and $400 thousand in Technical Assistance
- 17 contracts for 1,184 acres planned for conservation since 2010.
- The Southwest Soil and Water Conservation District is in charge of the conservation practices implementation and supervision at the Rio Loco.

- Lower Watershed project is divided in three (3) Phases
- Phase I includes Two (2) water reservoirs and one (1) sediment basin at Santa Rita Farm.
- NRCS is in charge of all conservation planning and Engineering Designing
- Four (4) Irrigation Water Reservoirs have been designed and submitted for construction permits.
- Irrigation Water Reservoirs construction will add over 35 million gallons of fresh water coming from Rio Loco dam, reducing the amount of water normally used from the aquifers.
- Three (3) Sediment Basins are planned for Rio Loco Lower Watershed.
- One (1) of the Sediment Basins construction has started at the Santa Rita Farm with capacity for about 450,000 cubic feet of sediment.
- Two (2) Open Channels are suggested for Runoff control. One (1) 5,556 feet (1,694 meters) long Open Channel is completely designed and ready for construction on Phase 2.

Upper Watershed Shaded Coffee Initiative

- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is in partnership with NRCS in this initiative.
- USFWS in charge of site evaluation and recommendation for forestry and wildlife.
- Over $480 thousand in NRCS 2010-2012 allocations.
- Over $168 thousand paid to our farmers since 2010 for reforestation and conservation practices.
- 37 active contracts. 90% of the participants are Limited Resource Farmers.
- 916 acres contracted since 2010 for conservation
- 675 acres are planned to be planted in shade for coffee.
- 307 of the 675 acres already planted for coffee shade using Multi-Story cropping systems.
- Over 11 thousand trees planted as today.
- Guama tree, one of the species used for Coffee shade at the Rio Loco River.

View of Las Latas Segment of the Rio Loco River

Rio Loco River Restoration

- Three (3) segments of the Rio Loco River have been identified as severely damaged.
- Stream bank Stabilization on the first segment, Las Latas Sector, has been evaluated and pre-designed by NRCS.
- Final Project Design has been completed by NRCS and sent to the Southwest Soil and Water Conservation District to start with the permits.
- 600 meters of stream bank will be stabilized with structural and Bio Engineering practices.
- $400 thousand are allocated in funds from NRCS in partnership with Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture.

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