



Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) is a unique program that is led by local volunteer councils that help people care for and protect their natural resources in a way that improves the local economy, environment, and living standards. RC&D is a way for people to work together to plan and carry out activities that will make their areas a better place to live.

### RC&D Areas of Concern:

- Land Conservation
- Land Management
- Community Development
- Water Management

*“Through the RC&D program, people have unique opportunities to take the lead in making their communities better places to live.*”

*Projects they choose to undertake offer vital boosts to the health of their natural resources, economies, and standards of living.”*

Council Member



[www.corcd.org](http://www.corcd.org)

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

## 2010 Activity Report Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D)



The USDA’s Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program helps people in rural areas plan and carry out activities that increase conservation of natural resources, support economic development, and enhance the environment and standard of living in local communities.

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

Colorado currently has eight RC&D councils that serve 52 of Colorado’s 64 counties. For more information about RC&D in Colorado, visit [www.corcd.org](http://www.corcd.org).

### RC&D Project Activities

#### Colorado Big Country RC&D

*Colorado Big Country RC&D Council* services ten counties covering more than 17.4 million acres. This diverse area includes the heart of Colorado’s ski and recreation country, and is the center for energy development and extraction in western Colorado. Based on community input, the Council has revised

its area plan and is addressing the impacts of energy development on rural health care, housing, and transportation.

#### Current Projects:

- Lavender Association of Western Colorado
- Routt County Noxious Weed Control Business
- Riparian Restoration Workshop
- Rifle Creek Riparian Trail
- Rio Blanco 4H Youth Educational Community Center

#### Sangre de Cristo RC&D

*Sangre de Cristo RC&D Council* services nine counties. Its goals include wise management of water resources, healthy and productive natural resources, coordinated planning, a diversified economy, and preservation of western heritage.

#### Current Projects:

- Geographic Information System (GIS) Initiative
- Upper Arkansas Regional Weed Management Cooperative
- Five-County Heritage Tourism
- Arkansas River Basin Water Forum
- River and Riparian Study Centers

## East Central Colorado RC&D

*East Central Colorado RC&D Council* services five counties that cover 6.2 million acres on the eastern plains of Colorado. The Council cooperates with nine conservation district sponsors while assisting multiple rural municipalities and community organizations. The council mission is “to provide a continuing program to encourage enrichments of the rural lifestyle for the communities and citizens of the East Central Colorado RC&D region.”

### Current Projects:

- ‘Wind for Schools’ Funding Assistance (Four Rural Schools)
- Tri County Biofuels (Camelina/Canola)
- Cellulosic Biofuels Study
- Regional Renewable Energy Strategic Plan (Four Counties)
- Cooperative Watershed Planning (Leafy Spurge and Tamarisk)
- ‘Audit Zone’ Small Business Enterprise
- ‘Community Energy Coordinator’ Multi-year Regional Project
- On Farm Groundwater Quality Testing Pilot

## Northeast Colorado RC&D

*Northeast Colorado RC&D Council* services seven counties covering over six million acres. The council’s mission is to “Promote Sustainability in Northeast Colorado.”

### Current Projects:

- In-service Training and Decision-making Tools for Optimizing Livestock Mortality Management (WSARE)
- Northeast Junior College Alternative Energy Advisory Committee
- Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG): Governor’s Energy Office
- Utilizing Liquid Beet/Cane Molasses for Nematode Control and an Alternative Organic Nitrogen Source: Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)
- Colorado Farm Show Beef Day Chairmen

## San Juan RC&D

*San Juan RC&D Council* services eight counties in Southwest Colorado. Its goal is to accelerate conservation, development, and use of our natural resources to improve the level of economic activity, and to enhance the environmental standard of living in the San Juan Basin.

### Current Projects:

- Animas River Stakeholder Group: Mine Land Reclamation
- Vallecito ADA Trail and Shelter
- San Juan Basin Weed Management Project

- San Juan Basin Recycling Association
- Animas Watershed Partnership

## Painted Sky RC&D

*Painted Sky RC&D Council* services seven counties, or portions thereof, totaling 6.1 million acres in west-central Colorado. It promotes economic and natural resource enhancements and improvements within its communities.

### Current Projects:

- Tamarisk Control Program
- Business Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund
- Gunnison Valley Climate Action Planning
- Uncompahgre Basin Watershed Planning and Implementation
- Hartland Dam Fish Passage Project
- Uncompahgre Valley Soil Health Initiative
- White Buffalo Farm Value-Added Feasibility Study

## San Luis Valley RC&D

*San Luis Valley RC&D Council* services six counties. The council’s motto is “Where Ideas Can Become Reality.” Customers’ voices are heard and their ideas developed so that they can actively pursue common sense solutions to community problems.

### Current Projects:

- SLV Noxious Weed Coordinator
- Sawmill Alternative Energy Project
- Willow Creek Reclamation Committee
- Denver and Rio Grande Railroad Foundation Restoration Project
- Fee-for-Service Program
- GPS/GIS Irrigation Canal Mapping Project

## Southeast Colorado RC&D

*Southeast Colorado RC&D Council* services seven counties with a mission to support, build, and strengthen the network of communities in this area to achieve a safe, clean, and prosperous rural environment that reflects the values, heritage, and vision of citizens throughout the region.

### Current Projects:

- Lower Arkansas Watershed Plan
- Small Scale/Community Wind (ACRE)
- On Farm Bio-Diesel
- Small Scale Meat Processing
- Tamarisk Removal