



## VISION

*To ensure an enhanced quality of life, defined by the citizens of the region, thus creating a mechanism that involves a cross section of local communities, leadership, and citizens that represent all issues, the environment and available resources to solve problems locally.*

## MISSION

*To bring our four counties together to help create local and regional economic stability.*

### **How to Read the Annual Plan**

The Annual Plan is done in conjunction with the Area Plan. The Area Plan serves as a strategic plan for Northwest Regional RC&D over a five year period. The Annual Plan details what the Council plans on doing over a one year time period.

The reader will note that in the 2009 Annual Plan, the Goals, Objectives and Strategies are not numbered in order. That is due to the Council only working on parts of the Area Plan in any one year.

Northwest Regional RC&D invites public review and comments on the 2009 Annual Plan. We look forward to developing new partnerships and initiating new projects as we develop. We invite YOU to help us “Make the Difference” in rural northwest Montana.

NWR RC&D

## WATER MANAGEMENT

	GOAL 1	Participate in the development of a coalition to review and understand water quality concerns and issues within the four county area by 2011.		Target Date	Key People	Accomplishments
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES				
Water Management	1A	Contact all major organizations concerned with water issues in the region and facilitate and establish partnerships to deal with water quality issues by 2010				
		1A1	Host 2-3 meetings in each county to bring specialists and interests together to learn about available water quality resources in the region by 2009.	Dec 2009	Sutherland	Working with interested parties
		1A2	Look for funding opportunities where communities, organizations, and county entities may apply for funding for projects to improve water quality and address issues on an annual basis	Ongoing	Sutherland	Ongoing

## LAND CONSERVATION

	GOAL 1	Identify needs and opportunities to reduce erosion and sedimentation in the NWR RC&D area that can be benefited by taking a coordinated, regional approach by 2011		Target Date	Key People	Accomplishments
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES				
Land Conservation		Contact major organizations, including but not limited to, the Confederated Salish-Kootenai tribes, five Conservation Districts, four Counties, five Economic Districts, Montana DNRC, NRCS, Forest Service, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Interior and the Flathead River Basin, concerned with soil and water conservation issues in the region and facilitate and establish partnerships to deal with issues by 2010				
		1A2	Meet annually with Conservation Districts and provide assistance, as needed in meeting their goals and objectives	December 2009	Sutherland	In contact with all – met with Lake
		1A3	Meet annually with local, state and federal agencies concerning the reduction of erosion and sedimentation activities	December 2009	Sutherland	Ongoing
		1A5	Continue working with the residents of Big Cherry Creek to determine if there are feasible alternatives for streambank stabilization. Once a plan or strategy has been developed, assist homeowners in implementing that plan	Ongoing	Sutherland Del Goss Wayne Maahs	Ongoing – Submitted for stimulus pkg

		<b>GOAL 2</b>	<b>Increase carbon sequestration activities regionally by 2011.</b>			
<b>ELEMENT</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>STRATEGIES</b>		<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Key People</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>
<b>Land Conservation</b>	<b>Promote National Carbon Offset Coalition (NCOC) activities by 2010.</b>					
		2A	Promote National Carbon Offset activities	December 2009	Maahs Malgren	Attended NCOC Conference
		<b>GOAL 4</b>	<b>Promote programs within NWR RC&amp;D that increase the effectiveness of weed management by 2013.</b>			
<b>ELEMENT</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>STRATEGIES</b>		<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Key People</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>
<b>Land Conservation</b>	<b>Provide leadership and coordination for multi-county/multi-state noxious weed management programs by 2012. Partnerships to include but not limited to the tribes, Counties, Weed Boards, Conservation Districts, NRCS, and Forest Service.</b>					
		4A2	Meet annually with the Weed Boards and Conservation Districts to determine their greatest need in weed management.	December 2009	Malgren, Johnson, Dahlgren, Sutherland	Held Oct. 2009 meeting Next meeting March 25
		4A3.	Promote selected educational and informational activities annually.	December 2009	Dahlgren	Depends on funding
		4A4.	Facilitate, coordinate, develop, and secure financial and technical resources for Council approved projects on a timely basis.	December 2009	Dahlgren, Sutherland	Applied to weed Trust Fund

## LAND MANAGEMENT

		<b>GOAL 1 ????</b>	<b>Increase understanding between and among private, state, and public landowners of natural resources, land stewardship, and agriculture opportunities through local programs. Develop projects which will promote interaction or implementation with a sustainable natural resource base.</b>			
<b>ELEMENT</b>	<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>STRATEGIES</b>		<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Key People</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>
<b>Land Management</b>	<b>Work with a variety of individuals and entities, including Tribes, Conservation Districts, and private landowners that are interested in or charged with responsibility to improve the sustainable natural resource base within the Region.</b>					
		1A5	Participate with communities in developing and implementing land use planning efforts.	December 2009	Bick Smith	Whitefish Fire Safe Council formed

	<b>GOAL 2</b>	<b>Annually work with the units of government, private landowners, contractors, state and federal land managers and other involved entities to create additional defensible space on private land Wildland Urban Interface.</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Key People</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>	
	<b>2A</b>	<b>Reduce the risk and damage of catastrophic wildfires on at least 600 acres of private forested lands and private property by 2011 involving at least 120 homes while providing protection to firefighters through the use of financial and technical resources made available by grants secured by RC&amp;D</b>				
		2A1	Manage existing National Fire Plan grants	March 2009	Swope, Whitson	2004 Grants closed
		2A2	Create defensible space using Montana Firewise standards on 150 acres by 2010 as funding is available.	Ongoing	Swope Whitson	Ongoing
		2A3	Seek and administer funds for additional defensible space projects	December 2009	Swope Whitson Jones	Received 4 grants
		2A4	Create alternatives to burning slash which will improve air quality by 2010.	December 2009	Swope Sutherland Levert	Ongoing
		2A5	On an annual basis cooperate with other entities – Montana DNRC, Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes, US Forest Service, County Commissioners, local fire departments and private timber companies – to assist in updating implementation efforts on community fire plans as needed.	Ongoing	Swope Bick Smith Sutherland	Ongoing

	<b>GOAL 3</b>	<b>Work with the Forest Service, Montana DNRC, area schools and other RC&amp;D Councils, and managers of publicly owned facilities to provide alternative energy options to local communities by 2013</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Key People</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>	
	<b>3A</b>	<b>Assist in the delivery of feasible alternative energy programs and resources to communities for sound, long-term decisions that will ensure that energy needs are met more efficiently with the substitution of natural renewable resources for fossil fuels when possible.</b>				
		3A1	Complete the FFS monitoring for Glacier High School by 2010.	Ongoing	Jones Swope Sutherland	Ongoing
		3A2	Complete the FFS monitoring for Troy Schools by 2010.	Ongoing	Jones Swope Sutherland	Ongoing
		3A3	Complete the FFS monitoring for Eureka Schools by 2013.	Ongoing	Jones Swope Sutherland	Ongoing
		3A5	Promote Fuels for Schools and Beyond program for other public facilities.	Ongoing	Jones Swope Sutherland	Working with Libby Hospital and Two Eagle Mtn Rv HS

## Community Development

<b>GOAL 1</b>		<b>Promote a diverse, growing and sustainable regional economy</b>		<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Key People</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>
<b>1A</b>		<b>Promote local businesses, especially those that utilize or enhance the natural and human resources, and help to create jobs.</b>				
	1A1	Retain at least one business by managing the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to assist business development and retention.	Ongoing	Winship	Committee formed	
	1A3	Partner with Provider Pals in developing a nationwide program.	December 2009	Vincent Sutherland	Ongoing	
	1A6	Facilitate, coordinate, and secure resources for council approved projects	December 2009	Sutherland	Ongoing	
<b>GOAL 2</b>		<b>Enhance quality of life for area residents</b>		<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Key People</b>	<b>Accomplishments</b>
<b>2A</b>		<b>Assist communities with projects that enhance infrastructure and community facilities</b>				
	2A1	Assist communities with technical assistance and funding strategies to plan, improve, and construct infrastructure and community facilities.	December 2009	Rosenbaum Sutherland	Working with Leon Community Center & Cabinet View FD	
	2A3	Assist in facilitating, coordinating, and securing resources for Council approved projects.	December 2009	Sutherland	Ongoing \$190,635 so far	
<b>2B</b>		<b>Provide a diversity of opportunities which will enhance the quality of life.</b>				
	2B1	Provide educational opportunities – workshops, conferences, brochures, internet – to the public as approved by the RC&D Council.	December 2009	Dahlgren Sutherland	Ongoing	
	2B2	Encourage partnerships with the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes.	Ongoing	Sutherland	FFS New Council Member	
	2B4	Facilitate, coordinate, and secure resources for Council approved projects.	December 2009	Dahlgren Sutherland	Ongoing	
<b>2C</b>		<b>Increase Capacity of RC&amp;D Council</b>				
	2C2	Encourage attendance at regional, state, and National events.	Ongoing	Council	Western – Sharon and Chris	
	2C3	Continue to seek new membership adding diversity and additional skills to the Board.	Ongoing	Council	Joe, Sharon, Steve, Chris-new Chair	
	2C4	Increase awareness of RC&D program within the four (4) county area.	Ongoing	Council	Ongoing	
	2C5	Continue with study on Role Expectations of Coordinators	December 2009	Sutherland	Ongoing	

In addition, the NRCS reporting system tracks the following measures:

1. Watershed or area-wide conservation plans developed (Number).
2. Land and water resources benefitted by RC&D projects (Acres).
3. Local business created or retained in rural communities (Number).

Northwest Regional RC&D plans on striving for the following goals during FY 2009:

1. Plans: -0- (Possible candidates include Weeds, Whitefish Fuels, and Flathead County Fuels)
2. Acres: 200 Hazardous Fuels Reduction
3. Businesses: 13  
Kevin Jump  
Chapel Cedar  
Fuels for Schools Suppliers – Troy, Glacier, Eureka  
Fuels Contractors – 7  
Zwang Accounting