

Northwest Regional Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

2010 Annual Plan of Work (January 1 through December 31, 2010)

With Assistance From:

USDA and Cooperating Federal, State, and local governments and other groups
Natural Resources Conservation Service
803 California Ave, Suite 1
Libby, MT 59923

Prepared under authority of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture under the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, Public Law 97-98, 16 USC 3451-3461 as amended by Public Law 101-624, section 1452


Chris Malgren, Council Chair

11-17-09
Date


Joyce Swartzendruber, State Conservationist

2-23-2010
Date

Tim Ouelette, Program Manager

Date

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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 2010 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 2010 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.

Northwest Regional 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 2010.	December, 2010	Brenneman, Woll	
		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		
		1A3	Work with the tribe, counties, and conservation districts in their education efforts as they address issues such as aquatic weeds, infrastructure issues, and human impacts.	December, 2010		

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.				
		1A1	Provide leadership and coordination for multi-county projects as approved by the Council.	December, 2010	Sutherland	
		1A2	Meet annually with Conservation Districts and provide assistance, as needed in meeting their goals and objectives.	December, 2010	Sutherland	
		1A3	Meet annually with local, state and federal agencies concerning the reduction of erosion and sedimentation activities.	December, 2010	Sutherland	
		1A4	Facilitate, coordinate, develop, and secure resources for Council approved projects.	December, 2010	Sutherland	

	GOAL 2	Increase carbon sequestration activities regionally by 2011.					
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES			Target Date	Key People	Accomplishments
Land Conservation		Promote National Carbon Offset Coalition (NCOC) activities by 2010.					
		2A	Promote National Carbon Offset activities.	December, 2010	Maahs, Malgren		

	GOAL 4	Promote programs within NWR RC&D that increase the effectiveness of weed management by 2013.					
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE	STRATEGIES			Target Date	Key People	Accomplishments
Land Conservation		Provide leadership and coordination for multi-county/multi-state noxious weed management programs by 2012. Partnerships to include but not be limited to the tribes, Counties, Weed Boards, Conservation Districts, NRCS, and Forest Service.					
		4A2	Meet annually with the Weed Boards and Conservation Districts to determine their greatest need in weed management.	December, 2010	Malgren, Johnson, Dahlgren, Sutherland, Woll		
		4A3	Promote selected educational and informational activities annually. Evaluate a Russian Olive program.	December, 2010			
		4A4	Facilitate, coordinate, develop, and secure financial and technical resources for Council approved projects on a timely basis.	December, 2010	Dahlgren, Sutherland		

LAND MANAGEMENT

	GOAL 2	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.			Target Date	Key People	Accomplishments
	2A	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&D.					
		2A1	Manage existing National Fire Plan grants.	Ongoing	Crawford		
		2A2	Create defensible space using Montana Firewise standards on 150 acres by 2010 as funding is available.	Ongoing	Crawford		

		2A3	Seek and administer funds for additional defensible space projects.	December, 2010	Crawford, Jones	
		2A4	Create alternatives to burning slash which will improve air quality by 2010.	December, 2010	Swope, Crawford, Levert	
		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	Crawford, Bick Smith	

	GOAL 3	Work with the Forest Service, Montana DNRC, area schools and other RC&D Councils, and managers of publicly owned facilities to provide alternative energy options to local communities by 2013.		Target Date	Key People	Accomplishments
	3A	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.				
		3A5	Promote Fuels for Schools and Beyond program for other public facilities.	Ongoing	Jones, Swope, Crawford	

Community Development

	GOAL 1	Promote a diverse, growing and sustainable regional economy.		Target Date	Key People	Accomplishments
	1A	Promote local businesses, especially those that utilize or enhance the natural and human resources, and help to create jobs.				
		1A1	Retain at least one business by managing the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to assist business development and retention.	Ongoing	Winship, Clairmont	
		1A3	Partner with Provider Pals in developing a nationwide program.	Ongoing	Vincent, Sutherland	
		1A6	Facilitate, coordinate, and secure resources for council approved projects.	Ongoing	Sutherland	
	GOAL 2	Enhance quality of life for area residents.		Target Date	Key People	Accomplishments
	2A	Assist communities with projects that enhance infrastructure and community facilities.				
		2A1	Assist communities with technical assistance and funding strategies to plan, improve, and construct infrastructure and community facilities.	December, 2010	Rosenbaum, Sutherland	
		2A3	Assist in facilitating, coordinating, and securing resources for Council approved projects.	December, 2010	Sutherland	

	2B	Provide a diversity of opportunities which will enhance the quality of life.				
		2B1	Provide educational opportunities – workshops, conferences, brochures, internet – to the public as approved by the RC&D Council.	December, 2010	Sutherland	
		2B2	Encourage partnerships with the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes.	Ongoing	Sutherland	
		2B4	Facilitate, coordinate, and secure resources for Council approved projects.	December, 2009	Dahlgren, Sutherland	
	2C	Increase Capacity of RC&D Council.				
		2C2	Encourage attendance at Regional, State, and National events.	Ongoing	Council	
		2C3	Continue to seek new membership adding diversity and additional skills to the Board.	Ongoing	Council	
		2C4	Increase awareness of RC&D program within the four (4) county area.	Ongoing	Council	
			Review Financial management procedures.	December, 2010	Maahs	

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 2010:

1. Plans: -0-
2. Acres: 200 Hazardous Fuels Reduction
3. Businesses: 13
Chapel Cedar
Fuels Contractors – 7
Zwang Accounting
Loren Randall, Auditor