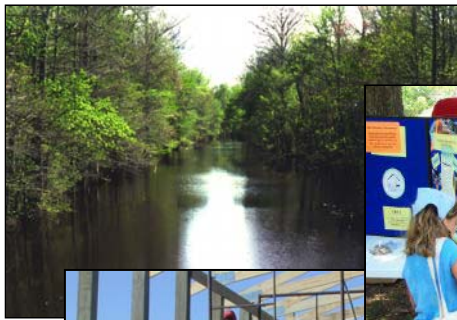


Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Program



Protecting the Environment



Promoting Tourism



Creating New Businesses



Team Approach

Local people create and organize their own RC&D areas, define their own goals, and work with public and private entities to achieve their objectives. USDA provides staff to RC&D Councils to help plan and secure resources for carrying out projects.

RC&D Councils are established as non-profit organizations. This designation allows them to receive foundation grants and tax deductible donations that can be used to fund projects.

RC&D Council members represent a broad cross section of community interests. Council members work together to build coalitions and address regional issues.

Today, 375 RC&D areas nationwide serve more than 85 percent of U.S. counties. In 2003, a new Shenandoah RC&D was approved. It covers Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah and Warren Counties.

PARTNERSHIPS SERVING COMMUNITIES

The Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program helps people in rural areas plan and carry out activities to conserve natural resources, support economic development, and enhance the environment and standard of living. With technical and financial assistance from USDA, as well as additional funding and services from many other sources, residents join together to address issues unique to their particular area.

Virginia has seven RC&D areas covering 51 counties. RC&D Councils made up of local citizens volunteer their time and expertise to identify concerns and develop solutions to regional issues. RC&Ds help promote wise use of natural resources, stimulate economic growth, and enhance the environment and standard of living.

NRCS provides a coordinator and administrative support for the program. This past year, RC&Ds leveraged nearly \$3.6 million in state, federal, local and private funds to complete 43 projects.

An application has been submitted for one new RC&D area. The **South Hampton Roads** application includes the Cities of Virginia Beach, Portsmouth, Newport News, Chesapeake, and Suffolk, and Isle of Wight and Surry Counties.