

# How AZ RC&Ds can help WMA with Grants



*Building  
Partnerships for  
Mutual Benefit*

**SouthWest Vegetation Management Association**

Flagstaff, AZ

November 13, 2008

# RC&D Effort

- Encourages & improves capacity of **volunteers, locally elected leaders, local citizens** to identify and address local concerns.
- **Public and private** organizations working together.
- Way for people to **work together to plan and carry out** projects for resource conservation and community development.

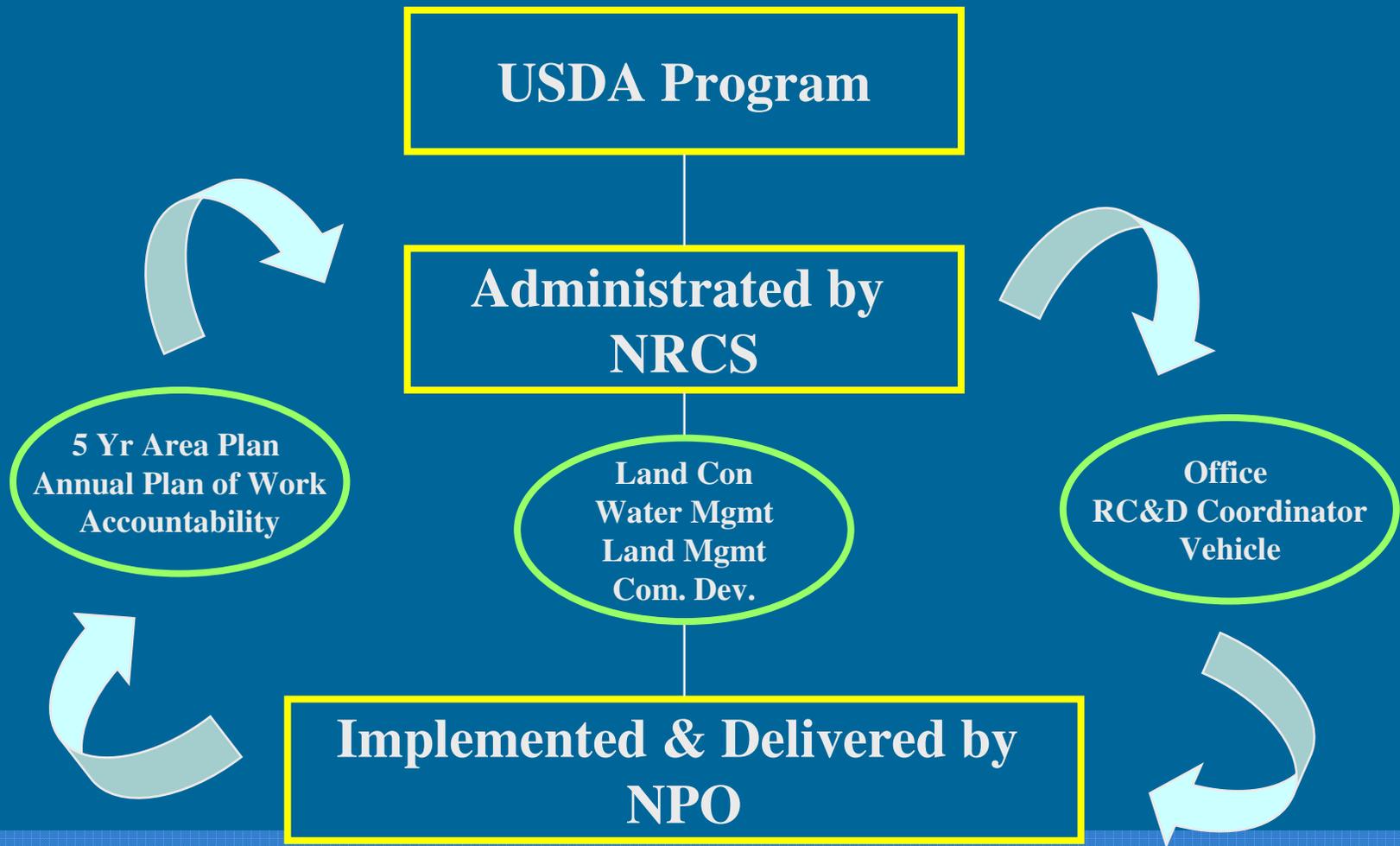
# What is RC&D ?

USDA Program

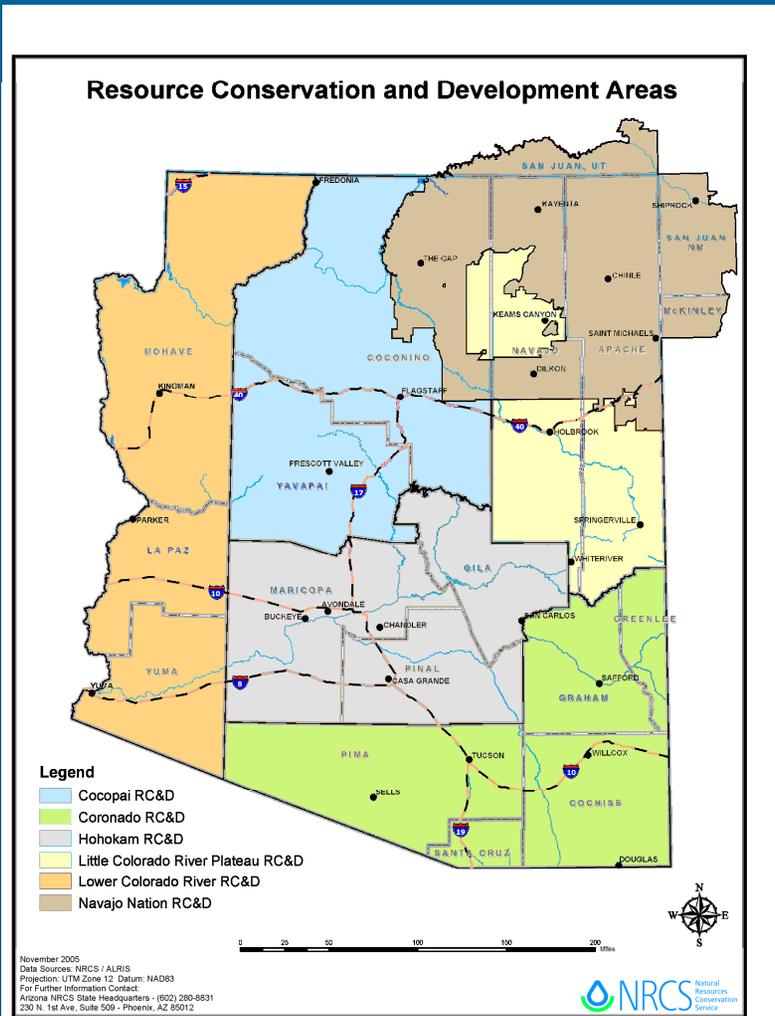
Administered by  
NRCS

Implemented & Delivered by  
NPO

# What is RC&D ?



# RC&D Areas in AZ



## RC&D Coordinators (6)

- Cocopai RC&D** (est. 1970) **Flagstaff**  
Bob Arambula (928) 214-0459
- Little Colorado River Plateau** (est. 1970) **Holbrook**  
Dennis Chandler (928) 524-6063
- Coronado RC&D** (est. 1971) **Willcox**  
Donna Matthews (520) 384-2229
- Hohokam RC&D** (est. 1972) **Chandler**  
Rebecca de la Torre (480) 988-1078
- Lower Colorado River** (est. 1980) **Parker**  
Terry Hall (928) 669-9826
- Navajo Nation RC&D** (est. 1997) **St. Michaels**  
Vacant (928) 871-4528

# Local Leadership

Councils consist of members (sponsors) knowledgeable of local needs; strong sense of community and passionate to make a difference

- **Civic Leaders**
- **Individuals**
- **Elected Officials**
- **Tribes**
- **NRCDs**
- **Irrigation Districts**
- **Special Districts**
- **Regional Councils Of Government (COGs)**
- **Counties**
- **Cities**
- **Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs)**

# RC&D Council ~ Don'ts

- Have \$\$ to give away
- Go get you \$\$



# RC&D Council ~ Do's

- Determine Mission & Purpose,
- Develop Area Plan & Annual Plan of Work,
- Set Areawide Priorities & Implement them,
- Establish teams to accomplish work,
- Carry-out Information & Education Program,
- Manage financial resources & Council employees, and
- Build partnerships to utilize technical and financial assistance.

# The RC&D Project

From Brilliant Idea . . . . . to Successful Completion



**in 6 Steps**  
(more or less, usually more)





# Step #1 – Brilliant Idea



Project ideas can come from many sources, but primarily come from RC&D Sponsors.





## Step #2 – Becomes Project Application

As long as the idea has something to do with . . .

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



. . . and meets an areawide need, chances are it can be developed into a RC&D Project and easily described on a RC&D Project Application Form.



## Step #3 – Project Application

- RC&D Councils meet periodically to review new Project applications.
- If the Council determines that the proposed Project is a good fit with its Area Plan, by vote of the Council, the Project may be adopted and added to the Councils' list of active Projects (Annual Plan of Work).



Coronado RC&D discussing project applications at their Council Meeting.



## Step #4 – Team Formed To Work On The Project

- Sometimes called an “**Action Team**”, these are the people directly responsible for making the Project a success.
- This Team can include RC&D Council members, other interested participants and partners, the RC&D Coordinator and other NRCS staff.



Boy Scouts from Troop 622 work together to install a wildlife drinker at Robbins Butte Wildlife Area near Buckeye, AZ.



# Step #5 – Project Work Done By Team Members

This work can include:

- Identifying and applying for Project funds \*
- Offering technical expertise
- Providing overall Project oversight

\* **RC&D Coordinator can not write or submit grants but can provide coordination & technical assistance to the Team.**



Canyon Water District (Globe, AZ) applied and received USDA-RD and EPA funds for Water System.



# Step #6 – Successful Completion

Once the Project is successfully completed, it's time to celebrate and report it in PRS!



The Tonto Weed Management Area hosted a steak fry to commemorate all the hard work on their project.

# Six Steps To Success



Step # 1 – Brilliant Idea

Step # 2 – Brilliant Idea Becomes A Project Application

Step # 3 – Project Application Reviewed

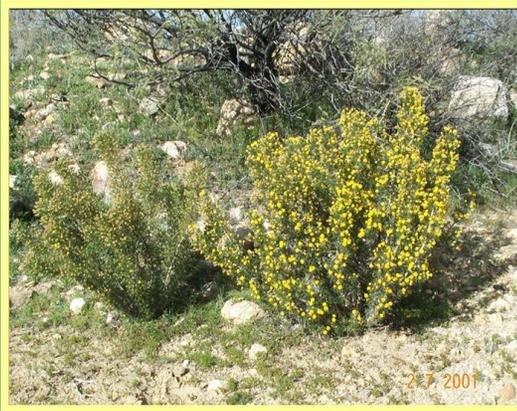
Step # 4 – Team Formed To Work On The Project

Step # 5 – Project Work Done By Committed Team Members

Step # 6 – Project Successfully Completed

# Invasive Weed Activities

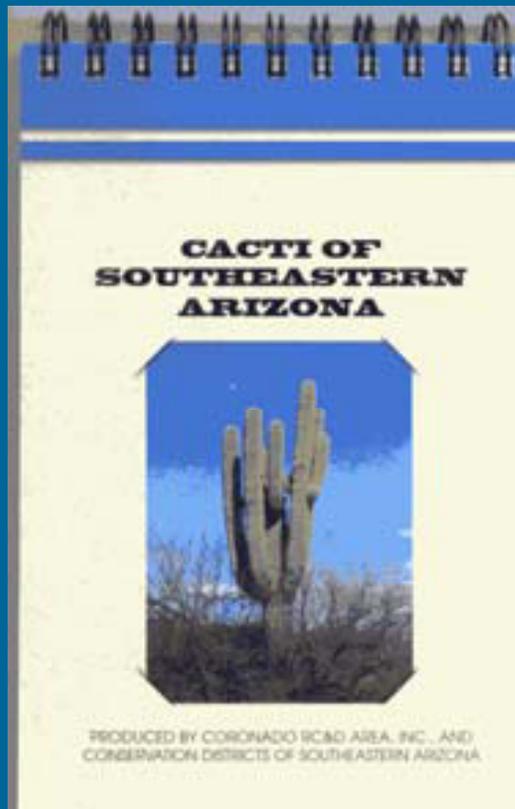
~ Coronado RC&D ~



**Sweet Resin Bush Control on Frye Mesa** ~ Project manager for an ADEQ grant and continues to manage a State Forestry Grant that is currently funding eradication efforts. RC&D wrote the grant, and worked with the local WMA to hold the project team meetings. The other partners in the project are: Graham County, Towns of Thatcher & Pima, City of Safford, AZ State Land Dept., NRCS, US Forest Service, U of A Extension, Gila Valley NRCD, APHIS, AZ Game & Fish Dept., Eastern Arizona College, Graham County Master Gardeners. The WMA serves as a guiding body for the project and the RC&D tends to project delivery details and reports back to the WMA. The WMA, of course, is involved in multiple weed projects, not just this one. U of A, NRCS and FS provide technical assistance as far as monitoring and in making treatment recommendations. Other partners provide in kind services as matching contributions or for the betterment of the cause. For example, the towns involved have donated water for chemical application, the County storage for chemical and equipment and road maintenance, also having the sheriff close the road when needed during applications of herbicide. College students and gardeners have pulled weeds, the NRCD has hosted field tours, AZ Game & Fish donated signs and repaired the road for access to the area.

# Invasive Weed Activities

## ~ Coronado RC&D ~



### **Invasive Plants of Southeastern Arizona Field Guide ~**

The Coronado RC&D produced a series of Field Guides for Southeastern Arizona. The series consist of:

- Trees
- Cacti
- Shrubs
- Grasses
- Crop Weeds
- Winter Forbs
- Summer Forbs
- Poisonous Plants

The last of the series is a Invasive Plant Field Guide currently under technical review by the University of Arizona. The Field Guides are available at \$5.00 each.

To place an order, contact Kim at the Coronado RC&D office (520) 384-2229 x123.

# Invasive Weed Activities

## ~ Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D ~



**RC&D Key Partner in Establishing WMA:** March 2006 after Dr. Larry Howery from University of Arizona gave a presentation to the Navajo County Natural Resource Conservation District. The Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D determined that a weed management area needed to be formed in this area of Arizona to address the issue of invasive weeds that were encroaching upon the landscape in alarming numbers.

- A meeting on March 27, 2006 where people from NRCS, Conservation Districts, Cooperative Extension, Arizona Game and Fish, US Forest Service, Counties, and municipalities were invited to attend and give their input about forming a weed management area. Those present gave full support of organizing such an action group.
- In April 2006, the group formed in two groups, an executive committee and the technical committee.
- The executive committee would govern the weed management area and the technical group would provide technical assistance in identifying and controlling invasive weeds.

# Invasive Weed Activities

## ~ Little Colorado River Plateau RC&D ~

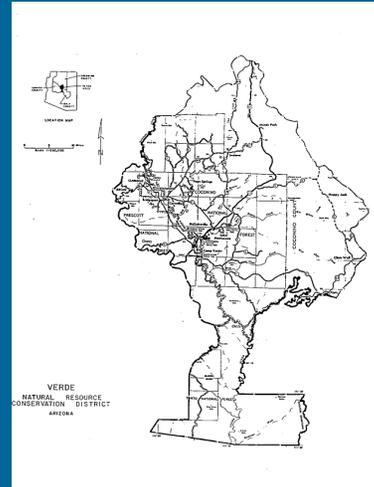


**RC&D Assisted with Grant:** Also the group applied for a Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) grant with the US Forest Service for \$60,000 to 1) form an executive WMA committee, 2) hire an executive director, 3) buy some GPS equipment and a computer, 4) conduct three local workshops, 5) publish 200 copies of a field guide to noxious weeds, 6) write six articles in the local newspaper concerning noxious weeds, 7) organize a "Weed Warrior" volunteer group of 10 people and 8) survey 15 sites on US Forest Service lands to identify, map, control and monitor invasive weed species. The project was funded for \$58,000 and will conclude July 31, 2009.

- Presently the LCRWMA has accomplished most of the deliverables. The group has hosted two workshops, one dealing with organizing a WMA and goal setting and the other workshop dealt with sprayer calibration. Both workshops were well attended. There are eleven forest service sites left to do surveys on, and one more workshop to host. Beginning in January 2009, we will begin a "Weed of the Month" campaign to educate the public about invasive weeds. The group is lined up to transition from forest lands to public and private lands beginning in January 2009. Currently by-laws are being drawn up along with a weed management plan to be ratified in November 2008. The LCR-WMA is in the process of becoming recognized as an official weed management area.

# Invasive Weed Activities

~ Cocopai RC&D ~



**RC&D to Assist with Formation:** The Cocopai RC&D was recently approached by the Verde Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD) to assist with the establishment of a weed district. The request was approved by the Cocopai RC&D and is reflected in the 5-year Area Plan. Not much has been done to date.

# Invasive Weed Activities ~

## Hohokam RC&D ~



- **RC&D Assisted Tonto WMA with Organizational Development, Grant Management and 501(c)3 status:** The Tonto WMA The TWMA was developed to carry out their mission that focuses on prevention, detection and eradication, control, and containment of yellow starthistle; Malta starthistle, and diffuse, Russian, and spotted knapweed infestations within the Tonto Creek Watershed in central Arizona.
- The TWMA is a partnership effort among the following: Tonto Natural Resources Conservation District, Young Town Council, Arizona Department of Transportation, Arizona Department of Agriculture, University of Arizona Cooperative Service Extension Service, U.S. Forest Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona Land Department, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Rim Area Growers, Trails Association, High Country Travelers, Payson Packers, Tonto Cattle Grower's Association, Wildlife Foundation, Payson Natural Resource Committee, Ducks Unlimited, Gila County Growers Association, concerned citizens and the Hohokam RC&D.
- Several grants were received from organizations such as: University of Arizona's School of Renewable Natural Resources (through its Forest Health-Invasive Species in Arizona USFS/SRNR Program) and Montana State University's Center for Invasive Plant Management and U.S. Forest Service ~ Eastern Arizona Counties Resource Advisory Committee

# Invasive Weed Activities ~

## Hohokam RC&D ~



- **RC&D Assisted on several Weed Activities:**
  - Phoenix WeedWackers
  - Town of Payson and Starr Valley
  - Wake Up! Grant Proposal for Carefree, Cave Creek and North Scottsdale
  - Central Arizona Weed Management Area Participation

**Weed Match-up**

As you take the Weed Walk and learn about the weeds in the area, write in the correct letter in the right weed site!

A diagram of a weed walk path. It consists of two parallel vertical lines with arrows pointing downwards. A north arrow is at the top right. A dashed line at the bottom is labeled 'River'. There are several small arrows pointing to specific sites along the path.

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.
- F.

**~ Lower Colorado River RC&D ~**  
**~ Navajo Nation RC&D ~**

*Currently no major Invasive Weed activities or projects reported in the two RC&D area.*

# **Involve your local RC&D!**

- Meet your local RC&D Coordinator
- Meet your local RC&D (regular meetings)
- Find mutual benefits for Weed Activities
- Expand Partnership for your project
- Gain Support for your project outside RC&D
- Submit Project Application to RC&D