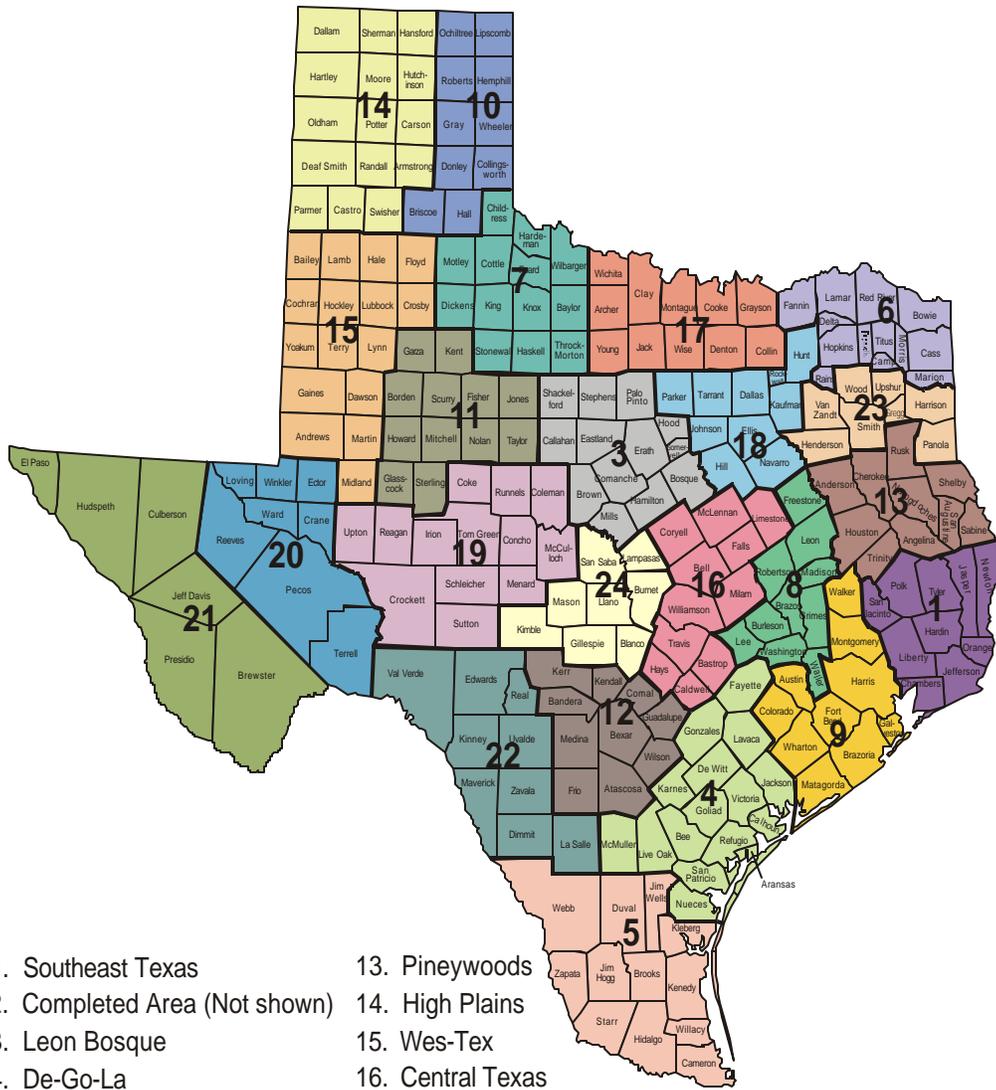


*Texas Association of
of RC&D Councils*



Helping Others Help Themselves

2004



- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Southeast Texas | 13. Pineywoods |
| 2. Completed Area (Not shown) | 14. High Plains |
| 3. Leon Bosque | 15. Wes-Tex |
| 4. De-Go-La | 16. Central Texas |
| 5. Rio Bravo | 17. Chisholm Trail |
| 6. Northeast Texas | 18. Bluebonnet |
| 7. Four Winds | 19. Concho Valley |
| 8. Big 8 | 20. Pecos Valley |
| 9. Sam Houston | 21. Chihuahuan Desert |
| 10. North Rolling Plains | 22. Rio Grande-Nueces |
| 11. Big Country | 23. Sabine-Neches (Application pending) |
| 12. Alamo | 24. Hill Country |

Texas RC&D Areas

2004

Texas Association of RC&D Councils ***Helping Others Help Themselves!***

What is RC&D?

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) is a unique program, led by local volunteer councils that help people care for and protect 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 better places to live.

The Assumption

RC&D is based on the assumption that local citizens, with assistance, can develop and carry out action-oriented plans for the social, economic, and environmental enrichment of rural communities.

The Purpose

The purpose of RC&D is to promote conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources; to improve the general level of economic activity; and to enhance the environment and standard of living in rural communities. The aim is to provide a system of development, encourage the wise use of natural resources, and improve the quality of life in rural America.

The Process

To carry out the RC&D concept, diverse groups of local volunteers are brought together in a unique partnership to find solutions to their problems. The structure for this process involves:

- Identifying Problems
- Establishing Goals and Objectives
- Developing Alternative Plans
- Implementing Plans

Facts About RC&D Councils

Councils provide a focal point of local leadership and bring together private citizens; organizations; and local, state, and federal agencies to improve the economic, social, and environmental well being.

RC&D has the proven ability and strength of leadership to engage and accomplish projects from the local to the national level. Authorized RC&D areas serve about 70 percent of the U.S. counties. Thirty-two new applicants are awaiting authorization by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Since the program began in 1962, the Secretary of Agriculture has authorized 368 RC&D Areas. Legislation authorizes up to 450 RC&D areas.

Texas has 22 authorized RC&D Areas and one active application area remaining to be authorized.

RC&D encourages community support with more than 21,000 volunteers nationwide. More than 2,000 volunteers serve in Texas.

All RC&D Councils are not for profit organizations and have tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

RC&D councils develop area plans, defining their goals and objectives . Councils serve as a conduit for USDA programs that assist in Area Plan implementation.

For every dollar appropriated by Congress for RC&D, Councils leverage an average of \$14 from other sources nationwide. The leveraging ratio in Texas is 28:1

The National Association of RC&D Councils is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides a collective national voice for local RC&D Councils. The National Association serves as an advocate for local councils on national and regional issues that deal with the quality of life in rural America.

The Texas Association of RC&D Areas, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) organization that serves all 23 organized RC&D Councils in Texas. The Association is committed to providing statewide education,

leadership, and coordination as required to expedite the individual RC&D Area's mission. The leadership, and coordination as required to expedite the individual RC&D Area's mission. The Association's purpose is to enhance and improve the standard of living and quality of life in the member RC&D Areas.

The RC&D Councils direct the program at the local level. They provide a focal point of local leadership, bring together private citizens, and local, state, and federal agencies to improve economic, social, and environmental well being. Each Council is governed by a board of directors. Nearly half of all Council members are locally elected officials including mayors, county commissioners, and county judges.

NRCS supports to the local RC&D Council by providing an employee to serve as a Coordinator. The Coordinator assists the Council in carrying out the Area Plan by providing guidance, advice, and helping direct program assistance from federal agencies, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations to RC&D Councils. The coordinator does not assume responsibilities reserved for local volunteer leaders serving on RC&D Councils.

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To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and