

2010-2011

# Eastern Plains RC&D Council

## Annual Plan of Work

---

Council President

DATE

---

State Conservationist

DATE

Eastern Plains RC&D verifies that this FY 2011 Plan addresses the Chief's Priorities

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disabilities, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, and audiotape, etc) should contact USDA's TARGET center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD)

## **VISION**

The Eastern Plains Resources Conservation and Development Area, Inc. council's vision for eastern Montana is to assist in maintaining viable, self-reliant rural communities and businesses supported by a sustainable and diversified economic base, with an adequate and reliable taxable valuation to afford the public services declared essential by the area's citizens.

## **THE MISSION**

Eastern Plains RC&D is to improve the quality of life in Carter, Daniels, Dawson, Fallon, Garfield, McCone, Powder River, Prairie, Richland, Roosevelt, Rosebud, Sheridan, Treasure, Valley and Wibaux counties through a comprehensive and coordinated effort of local citizens; and to provide local decision makers with technical information and assistance and the necessary access to resources to better manage, conserve, protect, and utilize the area's natural and human resources.

Eastern Plains RC&D helps secure technical, financial, educational and other assistance required to develop and carry out its Area Plan. The RC&D cooperates with other organizations whose purpose and goals parallel those of this organization.

GOAL A:		Improve land resources or protect land resources against identified threats by completing a minimum of one project, with partners, utilizing erosion, sediment or other pollution control practices in 2011.			Completion	Key People or Sponsors	Other	RCD/E DD	Prog Asst	Coord	Budget	Notes
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE Priority (1 high - 3 low)	STRATEGIES										
A.01		Plan and coordinate, with partners, the completion of a minimum of one project addressing any combination of erosion, sediment and land based pollution control within the Eastern Plains RC&D Area by 2011.										
Land Conservation	1	A.01.01	Partner with Williston Basin RC&D, McKenzie County CD, Friends of the Fairview Bridge and local youth organizations to complete Critical Area Treatment of erosion and plaque identification of native plant species at the historic Fairview Bridge and Cartwright Tunnel by 2012.	7/2011	Coord/Ray Trumpower					1.25	\$ 2,500	
Land Conservation	2	A.01.02	Research and report to RC&D Council on the feasibility of coordinating used oil recycling within the RC&D Area in cooperation with MSU Extension, local Conservation Districts, county commissions, NRCS field offices and community action groups by end of 2011.	>	Coord/ Extension					1.00	\$ 25	
Land Conservation	1	A.01.03	In 2010-2011 begin research, planning, and implementation, with partners, of at least one other market based approach to support Land Conservation through development and/or utilization of alternative crops, biomass, converted CRP acreage, cropland conversion to perennial pasture, precision farming, shelterbelts, grassed waterway, spring river ice breaking, stream armor BMP or stream migration zone easements. (Soil Health)	--	Coord/ Council					1.25	\$ 250	
GOAL B		A coordinated effort of the RC&D Area's residents and governmental units is utilized to seek manageable and affordable solutions to floodplain and stream issues; to develop water delivery and irrigation potential; and to improve the overall efficiency of water use in 2010-2011, as the Area's water is essential to residents' economic livelihood and quality of life.			Completion	Key People or Sponsors	Other	RCD/E DD	Prog Asst	Coord	Budget	Notes
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE Priority (1 high - 3 low)	STRATEGIES										
B.01		Assist in the development of water delivery and newly irrigated acres in the RC&D Area with the use of private or reserved water administered by the 16 Conservation Districts or tribal water rights in 2010-2011.										
Water Management	2	B.01.01	Assist with irrigation development of 100 acres through encouragement of utilization of reserved water, cost-share to irrigate additional acres, reduction of pumping power costs and removal of other barriers to development by 2011.	12/2011	Coord/ CDs					0.25	\$ 25	
Water Management	2	B.01.02	Support the Fort Peck Tribes and allottees in their efforts to plan, design, authorize and fund the development of Fort Kipp and North Sproule irrigation projects when requested.	--	Coord/ Tribes					0.25	\$ 25	
Water Management	1	B.01.03	Assist in planning and securing funding to construct or improve efficiency of a minimum of one water storage and/or delivery system, such as Sidney Water Users' conversion to buried mainline; to maintain in-stream flows for fisheries, conserve energy, reduce soil erosion, and allow for best management and development of all the Area's resources.	>	Coord					1.25	\$ 250	
B.02		Have policy developed concerning floodplain map modernization and flood insurance that is manageable and affordable for eastern Montana residents and municipalities.										
Water Management	2	B.02.01	Assist in coordination of efforts of municipalities and counties affected and Montana's Congressional delegation to develop workable and affordable policy of floodplain map modernization in cooperation with FEMA and Army Corps of Engineers.	--	Coord/ Cities					0.25	\$ 25	
B.03		Maintain national policy of limiting Army Corps of Engineers' regulation of streams to those that meet the current definition of "navigable waters of the United States."										
Water Management	2	B.03.01	Coordinate residents, organizations and Congressional delegation in efforts to oppose national policy changes to authorize regulation of streams by the Army Corps of Engineers beyond those that are currently defined as "navigable waters of the United States," whenever a challenge may occur.	--	Coord/ CDs					0.25	\$ 25	

GOAL C		Maintain, always, the Area's surface and ground water quality and availability and improve it whenever feasible, in order to support all its uses and thus improve the Area's quality of life for current and future generations.				Completion	Key People or Sponsors	Other	RCD/E DD	Prog Asst	Coord	Budget	Notes
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE Priority (1 high - 3 low)	STRATEGIES											
C.01 Provide assistance with a minimum of one water delivery system within the RC&D Area in 2010-2011.													
Water Management	2	C.01.01	Provide technical support for the design and funding of water projects including A&S Rural Water Authority (RWA), Dry Prairie RWA, Dry Redwater RWA, replacing private municipal well of Terry, use of coal bed methane (CBM) produced water and others as requested and approved by the RC&D Council.	--	Coord/ CDs					0.10			
C.02 Provide educational program with partners to raise awareness and disseminate information about water quality including issues such as TMDL development for impaired streams, animal feeding operation pollution mitigation, CBM produced water contamination, and groundwater nitrates and pesticide contamination prevention.													
Water Management	1	C.02.01	Provide, in cooperation with partners, at least one demonstration, training or informational seminar regarding water quality.	10/2011	Staff				0.25	0.25	\$ 250		
C.03 Address other potential projects related to water management issues that the RC&D Council determines to be a priority during 2010-2011.													
Water Management	2	C.03.01	Assist Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers' Cons Dist Councils. Explore and consider any public requests to the RC&D Council on any other currently unidentified potential water management projects within the RC&D Area.	--	Council			0.25		1.25			
GOAL D:		Promote cooperation and alliances for research, marketing and adding value to crops and for responsible development of conventional and alternative energy resources through 2011.				Completion	Key People or Sponsors	Other	RCD/E DD	Prog Asst	Coord	Budget	Notes
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE Priority (1 high - 3 low)	STRATEGIES											
D.01 Document the RC&D Area's energy, crop and biomass production potential, through data collection, research, and media, to promote the development of those Area resources.													
Economic Development	1	D.01.01	Participate with regional economic development, research and business partners in planning, funding and production of the 2011 MonDak Ag Open seminar, tours and golf tournament for promotion and development of regional resources.	8/2011	Coord/ Prog Asst/ EDD			0.10	0.25	0.25	\$ 2,575		
Economic Development	1	D.01.02	Utilize 50% of the resources of the regional Food and Agriculture Development Center budgeted annually for Eastern Plains RC&D to develop and promote alternative crops for biofuel production and energy conservation.	>	Coord/ FADC					0.25	\$ 317		
Economic Development	1	D.01.03	Collect from all partners and disseminate wind energy, oilseed crop, biomass feedstock, fossil fuel, transportation and power transmission information to developers to promote area resources.	>	Prog Asst/ FADC				0.25	0.10	\$ 150		
Economic Development	2	D.01.04	Participate in and assist with funding of a feasibility study or study enhancement for energy, crop or biomass production or processing by 2013.	10/2013	Coord/ FADC					0.50			
D.02 Promote the research, development, marketing and use of value added crops from the Area's resources. The results of the efforts will be one production, processing, food service, and marketing establishments for commercial, private or local use. These may include irrigation development, high tunnel production, reduced tillage, precision agriculture, local marketing, commercial kitchen, grass-fed or other healthy meats, meat processing or rendering													
Economic Development	1	D.02.01	Participate with regional economic development, research and business partners in planning, funding and production of the 2011 MonDak Ag Open seminar, tours and golf tournament for promotion and development of regional resources.	8/2011	Coord/ Prog Asst/ EDD			0.10	0.25	0.25	\$ 2,575		
Economic Development	1	D.02.02	Utilize 50% of the resources of the regional Food and Agriculture Development Center (FADC) budgeted in 2011 for Eastern Plains RC&D to develop, market and promote alternative crops and value-added to crops and livestock production; retaining a larger proportion of consumers' expenditures in the local communities.	>	Coord/ FADC					0.25	\$ 317		
Economic Development	1	D.02.03	Disseminate knowledge gained at the FADC to a wider area within the RC&D Area to encourage a new local food system to be established by 2013.	10/2013	Prog Asst/ FADC				0.50	0.10	\$ 317		

Cooperate with Montana Workforce Service Division (Job Service) and eastern Montana colleges to develop a workforce trained in trades needed, but deficient, within the Area.											
D.03											
Community Development	3	D.03.01	Partner with contractors, Job Service and technical colleges to alleviate the deficit in building trades, i.e. plumber, electrician, framing, roofing, finish carpentering, in eastern Montana in order to make new home construction more affordable.	>	Prog Asst/ EDDs/ Partners		0.20	0.10		\$	45
Community Development	2	D.03.02	Encourage employer partnerships and identify two sources of intern/exchange students and workers from high unemployment regions of the U.S. to fill immediate needs for farm labor as well as other occupations by 2011 and keep current for referrals.	>	Prog Asst/ EDDs/ Partners		0.20	0.20		\$	90
Community Development	3	D.03.03	Partner to reduce other workforce deficiencies identified and determined to be a priority by the RC&D Council.	>	Prog Asst/ EDDs/ Partners		0.20	0.20		\$	90
Collaborate, with regional economic development partners' leadership, to assist non-resource related businesses resulting in one new start-up business and retention of one business challenged by an identified threat.											
D.04											
Community Development	3	D.04.01	Refer non-resource related requests for business assistance to regional economic development partners to lead in collaborative assistance as requests are received through 2011.	>	Coord/ EDDs		1.25	0.10	0.10	\$	45
GOAL E Collaborate, with regional and local economic development partners leading, on projects that address business climate, community vitality and sustainability through government policy, tort reform, infrastructure, recreation, health, education, transportation, communication, public services improvement and for increased availability and affordability of rental and single family housing in eastern Montana; thereby contributing to the Area's stable, productive workforce											
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE Priority (1 high - 3 low)	STRATEGIES		Completion	Key People or Sponsors	Other	RCD/ EDD	Prog Asst	Coord	Budget	Notes
Estimated FTE Week's Required to Accom											
E.01 Provide minimum of 75 eastern Montana homeowners with the practical information and skills required to be successful homeowners.											
Community Development	1	E.01.01	Maintain funding to employ, part-time, a Homeowner Education Specialist that will hold one First-time Homebuyers' Class each month through 2011.	>	Prog Asst/ Council	0.25		5.00	0.25	10,289.00	
E.02 Collaborate, with regional and local economic development partners leading, to study the deficiency of quality, affordable workforce, retirement, and assisted living housing, resulting in at least one feasible alternative for alleviating the shortage in 2011.											
Community Development	1	E.02.01	Assist Eastern Plains EDC in holding an eastern Montana housing conference in 2010.	10/2010	Staff/ EPEDD		1.00	0.50	0.25	275.00	
Community Development	2	E.02.02	Participate in local collaborative efforts such as the annual Richland County-wide Conference and in resulting working groups to identify minimum of one housing alternatives such as land trusts, use of Community Development Block Grants, and to encourage special improvement districts for expansion of housing.	>	Staff			0.50	0.25	308.00	
E.03 Encourage volunteerism throughout the Area, coordinating and participating in activities resulting in one volunteer-years in contributions to the communities of the Area in 2011.											
Community Development	2	E.03.01	Recruit and maintain one Earth Team volunteer in 2011.	>	Staff			0.50	0.10	\$	220
Community Development	2	E.03.02	The RC&D Council will serve as the Advisory group for Communities in Action (CIA), reviewing quarterly written CIA reports and verbal reports of VISTA volunteer activities to ensure that the program is fulfilling its charge to build coalitions, communities and quality of life in eastern Montana.	>	Council	1.00	1.00	0.10		\$	45
E.04 Address other business climate and community development issues that the RC&D Council determines to be a priority through 2011.											
Community Development	2	E.04.01	Collaborate with regional economic development partners to address community development needs including construction, repair and replacement of \$800,000 of transportation, communication, and utility infrastructure by 2012.	>	Coord/ EDDs		4.00		0.25	\$	19,168
Community Development	3	E.04.02	Explore and submit to the RC&D Council for prioritization other issues and public requests for assistance that address business climate and community development through 2011.	--	Staff/ Council		0.10	0.10	0.10	\$	45

GOAL F				Estimated FTE Week's Required to Accom							
Support and promote the responsible, innovative, market based development and protection of the Area's natural resources by assisting with planning and implementation of watershed-wide land management projects, in cooperation with partners; and advocate for the protection of private property rights from trespass and infringement by individuals and unconstitutional taking by government.				Completion	Key People or Sponsors	Other	RCD/E DD	Prog Asst	Coord	Budget	Notes
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE Priority (1 high - 3 low)	STRATEGIES									
F.01 Coordinate and facilitate a stakeholder group to develop and select alternative land management strategies including identification, mapping and control of invasive species.											
Land Management	1	F.01.01	Communicate and explore with partners the need for watershed-wide invasive species identification, mapping and control in 2011.	>	Coord/ Weed Dist		1.00	0.05	0.50	\$ 1,000	
F.02 Coordinate and facilitate a watershed-wide stakeholder groups to develop and select from alternative land management strategies including wildlife and predator population and habitat management.											
Land Management	2	F.02.01	Submit to U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NRCS, through local working groups, suggestions and alternatives for sage grouse management such as reduction of sage grouse hunting seasons and grouse predator controls.	>	Coord/ CMR Stakeholders		1.00	0.05	0.05	\$ 1,000	
F.03 Advocate, coordinate and facilitate a watershed-wide initiative that promotes proper forest and rangeland management that includes multiple use, market driven utilization of available resources and co-habitation of wildlife and livestock.											
Land Management	1	F.03.01	Submit to U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NRCS, through local working groups, suggestions and alternatives for forest and rangeland management.	>	Coord/ CMR Stakeholders		1.00	0.05	1.00	\$ 2,926	
Land Management	1	F.03.02	Provide education on proper rangeland management through planning and implementation support for a rangeland management seminar or tour in 2010-2011.	10/2010	Coord			0.05	0.25	\$ 250	
F.04 Advocate for and assist an initiative for environmentally responsible, market based research, conservation and development of the Area's natural resources during 2010-2011.											
Land Management	2	F.04.01	RC&D staff will accept, investigate and present all requests for natural resource conservation and development assistance to RC&D Council for their consideration and prioritization for assistance by the RC&D Council through 2011.	>	Staff/ Council			0.05	1.00	\$ 25	
Land Management	1	F.04.02	Utilize partnership with Montana's Food and Agriculture Development Center to encourage and promote market based conservation and development of the Area's natural resources through 2011.	>	Staff/ FADC			0.25	0.50	\$ 317	
Land Management	1	F.04.03	Utilize partnership with Montana's University System and MSU's Research Stations and Extension Service to encourage and promote innovative, market based conservation and development of the Area's natural resources through 2011.	>	Staff/ Estension			0.25	0.50	\$ 250	
Land Management	1	F.04.04	Plan and promote the area's natural and agricultural resources through support of the 2011 MonDak Ag Open.	8/2011	Staff/ EDDs		0.10	0.25	0.25	\$ 2,575	
Land Management	2	F.04.05	Provide education, seminars and tours to promote the Area natural resources whenever determined to be beneficial by the RC&D Council through 2011.	--	Staff/ Council			0.50	0.50	\$ 250	
Land Management	2	F.04.06	Utilize and disseminate RC&D and partner produced information, such as wind and biofuel data and chemical analysis, along with partners' collected and maintained information for the promotion of Area resources whenever beneficial through 2011.	--	Staff			0.10	0.10	\$ 50	
F.05 Defend and protect private property rights from infringement by individual trespass and unconstitutional government takings whenever requested and determined to be a priority by the RC&D Council through 2011.											
Land Management	2	F.05.01	RC&D staff will investigate and bring to RC&D Council all requests for assistance in defending and protecting private property rights for Council prioritization for assistance through 2011.	--	Staff/ Council			0.10	0.10	\$ 45	
Land Management	2	F.05.02	Coordinate residents, organizations and Congressional delegation in efforts to oppose national policy changes to authorize regulation of streams by the Army Corps of Engineers beyond those that are currently defined as "navigable waters of the United States," whenever a challenge may occur through 2011.	--	Staff/ Council			0.05	0.05	\$ 25	

GOAL G		Build the capacity of the RC&D Area and its Council through member recruitment, education and communication.		Completion	Key People or Sponsors	Other	RCD/E DD	Prog Asst	Coord	Budget	Notes
ELEMENT	OBJECTIVE Priority (1 high - 3 low)	STRATEGIES									
G.00 Conduct usual and customary functions of the RC&D, improving visibility and utilization of RC&D and partner's programs.											
Council Development	1	G.00.01	Setup and attend Board meetings, record minutes, and conduct other support functions of the Board.	10/2011	Staff/ Council		3.00	3.50	3.20	\$ 400.00	
Council Development	1	G.00.02	Provide financial services for support of the organization	10/2011	Prog Asst		1.00	7.50	1.00	\$ 450.00	
Council Development	1	G.00.03	Reorganize and update the paper and electronic filings system as necessary	10/2011	Prog Asst			1.00	1.00	\$ 250.00	
Council Development	1	G.00.03	Maintain EPRC&D Website modern design, updates and maintenance.	10/2011	Prog Asst/ Coord.			1.00	1.00	\$ 2,500.00	
Council Development	1	G.00.04	Meet with minimum of fifteen Conservation Districts on EPRC&D assistance and projects.	10/2011	Coord.				3.00		
Council Development	1	G.00.05	Meet with minimum of eight County Commissions on EPRC&D assistance and projects.	10/2011	Coord.				1.50		
Council Development	1	G.00.06	Meet with minimum of eight City/Town Councils on EPRC&D assistance and projects.	10/2011	Coord.				1.50		
Council Development	1	G.00.06	Meet with two Tribal Councils/Executive Boards on EPRC&D assistance and projects.	10/2011	Coord.				1.00		
G.01 Develop Council leadership, outreach and participation to increase Council meeting participation by 10%.											
Council Development	1	G.01.01	Ensure that a minimum of one Council member attends Montana RC&D Association meetings and the biennial Western RC&D Association meeting, with expenses paid, by 2012.	>	Council	1.00		0.05	0.05	\$ 480.00	
Council Development	1	G.01.02	Distribute quarterly newsletter via e-mail to all sponsors and partners and to others as requested. Mail quarterly newsletter to those without e-mail and to businesses and public places where others will have an opportunity to read it.	10/2011	Prog Asst			2.00	1.00	\$ 1,056.00	
Council Development	1	G.01.03	Prepare draft minutes of Council and Executive Board meetings immediately after meetings and distribute via e-mail to sponsors within one week for review and corrections.	>	Prog Asst			0.75	0.10	\$ 333.00	
Council Development	1	G.01.04	Prepare a minimum of two news releases for distribution to the RC&D Informer, Montana NRCS News, or Area newspapers. Distribute 2010 Area RC&D Annual Report to sponsors and partners, including the Area's Conservation Districts, County Commissions, Municipalities, Tribal offices, NRCS offices, Economic Development offices, state legislators, Montana's U.S. Congressional delegation, Montana Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Commerce, Extension offices, Research Stations, Community Colleges and others.	10/2011	Staff			0.50	1.00	\$ 500.00	
Council Development	1	G.01.05	Provide communication and outreach to minorities, disabled, culturally disadvantaged and traditionally underserved groups and individuals in order to equitably serve.	>	Staff/ Council			0.50	1.50	\$ 50.00	
Council Development	1	G.01.06	Provide for Staff and Council member training to equip for superior performance of RC&D duties.	--	Staff/ Council		1.00	1.00	2.00	\$ 250.00	

### Legend of Symbols

Elements	Meaning	Symbol	Fraction of a week	Hours
<b>Land Conservation</b> - Control of wind and water erosion and sedimentation	Starting year	>	0.05	2
<b>Water Management</b> - Quality and quantity; improved efficiency and hazard mitigation	Continuing through the year	>	0.10	4
<b>Economic Development</b> - Value added crops and resource development	Occasional assistance through the year	- -	0.13	5
<b>Community Development</b> - Infrastructure improvements and maintenance	Ending this year	Date	0.25	10
<b>Land Management</b> - Farmland, rangeland, habitat protection and use	Projected end year	Date	0.38	15
<b>Council Development</b> - Building Council capacity to expand effectiveness			0.50	20
			0.75	30

### Fiscal Year 2011 Meeting Dates:

Wednesday October 20, 2010

Wednesday January 19, 2011

Wednesday April 20, 2011

Wednesday July 20, 2011