

SUMMARY of CURRENT PROJECTS



We are connecting western North Carolina farmers and small businesses with grants and other resources to fund projects like: LED lighting, greenhouse insulation, solar PV and other renewable energy systems, energy-efficient equipment and heating systems, and more.

Cost-Share Assistance on fencing, watering systems, and fertilizer is available to farms participating as a demonstration site, or to landowners who are interested in leasing their pasture land.

Pasture Reclamation - The WNC Pasture Network can help cost-share on the infrastructure required to lease your farmland.

Workshops covering technique and planning, fencing and water solutions are offered with field experiences on mountain pasture.



Septic Repairs & Ag BMP-Grant assistance from EPA319 to address fecal waste.

Adopt-a-Stream -Clean up events that totalled over 90 tires and 97 bags of litter.

Outreach- newsletters, website, newspaper articles, presentations, and 4 awards!!!

Water Quality Monitoring- On-going monitoring that demonstrates work to be done.

Kids in the Creek -Educational water quality programs with school & community groups.



UPCOMING PROJECTS

Rain Gardens at Barnardsville Elementary - Three rain gardens designed to capture and treat the first flush of runoff from 1.1 acres of paved surface.

Raising Cane at Owen Middle School - Yield additional resources for Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to harvest River Cane for traditional arts and crafts in the future.

Firewise - Appalachian RC&D Coalition - Working with communities to providing funding for fuel reduction and lower risk of wildfire.

Stream Restoration at the Old Fort Ballfields - Repair stream bank erosion and create a handi-cap accessible angler trail on a trout stocked section of the Catawba River.

Shade Your Stream - Workshops and plant material for private landowners wanting to restore healthy streamside vegetation on their land.



Appalachian RC&D Coalition



COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Cleveland County

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Bryon McMurry
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Henderson County

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Travis Ringo

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Chris Biecker

Land of Sky Regional Council

Bob Watts

STAFF

Jessica Hocz, Executive Director
Alex Arnold, Project Manager
Mariah Hughes, Project Manager

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I can honestly say that everyday I feel grateful to call western North Carolina home. It's the mountains, the rivers, the food, the music, and it is the people. And to have the opportunity to work with the RC&D program and "make a difference" in the lives and land around me is inspiring and challenging. In between writing grant reports and managing projects (that always take longer than you thought they would), I am striving to serve an eight county area.

How do you do it? The RC&D strategy has always been a grassroots effort, and the roots are our Council Members. Those roots create a network of partnerships that get things done. That partnership network got stronger this past year when the Appalachian RC&D Councils formed a coalition that meets monthly. Through this partnership we deliver projects that every one of our 27 counties are eligible for. Area wide projects include: assistance with renewable energy grants through E-CAP, streambank stabilization through Shade Your Stream and wildfire fuel reduction assistance through Firewise. This community based collaboration increases our capacity to address shared resource concerns.

It is with this new appreciation for regional partnerships that I ask you to help me deliver our current strategies for resource conservation and economic development, and please reach out to me if you think RC&D might be able help support your local initiatives. Together we can solve problems and seize opportunities to strengthen our communities.

-Jessica Hocz

MISSION

To initiate actions that will improve economic conditions, enhance and/or preserve natural resources and balance land and water management activities in a widely divergent geographic area of North Carolina.

VISION

Conserving soil, water, and related natural resources while helping achieve healthy economic growth and balanced land and water management.

WE OFFER YOU

Community Development - We work through partnerships that extend throughout our region to promote balanced economic development, improve environmental education efforts, additional recreation, natural and heritage resources preservation developments, and renewable energy.

Land Conservation - The RC&D program has a long history of projects which achieve improved soil erosion control, sediment reduction, and soil health.

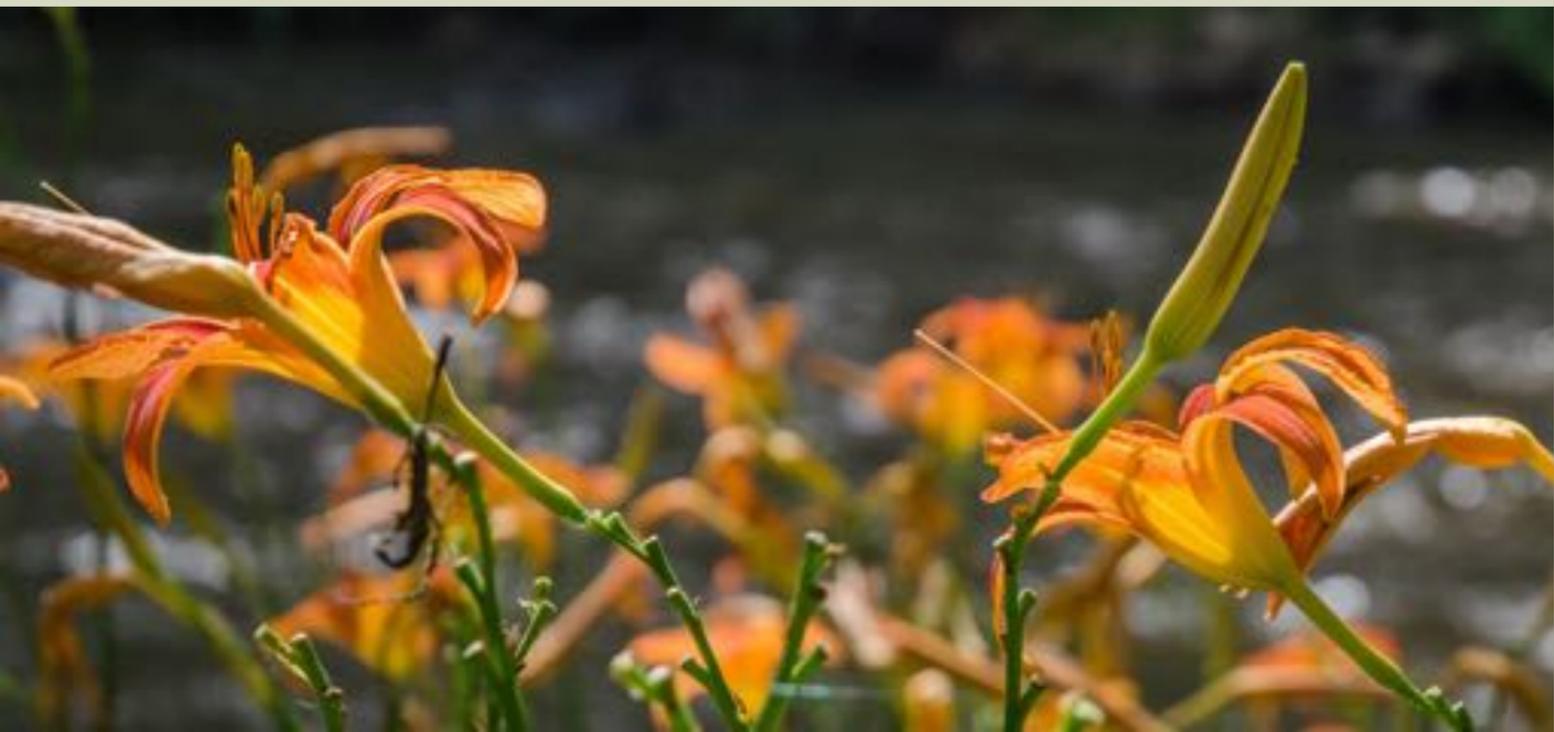
Water Management - By promoting improved watershed planning, agricultural pollutants reduction, and stormwater/flood control efforts.

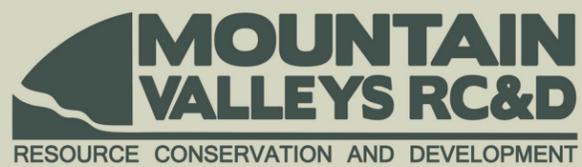
Land Management - Through activities that enhance farm and forest lands preservation; and improve land use planning efforts to address steep slope development and other resource use concerns.

GETTING STARTED

RC&D goals are achieved through the combination of cooperative efforts from private citizens, groups, businesses and local, state, and federal units of government or agencies. RC&D, in many instances, has provided help in obtaining the resources needed to plan and/or implement project measures. After a measure is adopted by the Council, the Council may seek private or public grants, and may also secure technical assistance from private or public sources for its implementation.

Please contact us to learn more about partnering with RC&D.





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Conserving natural resources in WNC since 1974