

Cocopai Resource Conservation & Development Area

Annual Plan of Work

2007

This Plan was approved and adopted at an official meeting of the Executive Committee of the Cocopai Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. on March 9, 2007

Approval

By: Fran Schumacher, President
Cocopai RC&D Council

U. S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Agreed David Mckay
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Forward

Mission

The Mission of the Cocopai Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. (Cocopai RC&D) is: Provide local leadership to address natural resource conservation issues through cooperative efforts.

Vision

Create partnerships to meet the challenges of economic and natural resource development that is environmentally sensitive.

To achieve this mission, the RC&D Sponsors, with assistance from local citizens and state and federal agencies, have prepared this 2007 Annual Plan of Work. This document is designed to be a flexible management tool the Council uses to guide its activities throughout the year. Benefits of the Plan of Work include:

- Continuity of action from one year to the next.
- Focus the Council on the same goal.
- Inform the Sponsors of the Cocopai Council activities.
- Serves as an agreement between the Cocopai RC&D and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist to justify providing assistance to the Cocopai RC&D.

Table of Contents

Annual Plan of Work Overview.....4

Action Teams..... 4

New Projects.....5

2007 Annual Plan of Work.....6

Services – What we do..... 12

Annual Plan of Work Overview

The Annual Plan of Work is the operational tool for the Area Plan. This plan directs the annual schedule of work toward projects that address objectives outlined in the Area Plan. Every organization has limited resources. The Annual Plan focuses the resources of the Council to meet the primary objectives and keep the organization strong.

Thus the RC&D Council must prioritize projects and actively participate in the development and updating of the plan, with input from the appropriate project sponsors, committees, agencies and individuals. Every Council member should feel ownership in this plan.

Some of the benefits of planning:

- Improved performance by organizations
- Solve problems
- Use available resources wisely
- Build teamwork and expertise
- Define the future
- Conflict resolution

Action Teams

The primary method of assistance is provided to sponsors through Action Teams. Community leaders and stakeholders organize an Action Team to actively address community issues. Leaders with diverse backgrounds join together to collaborate, at least one common issue binds the Action Team together. The Action Team defines the issues and establishes its operating guidelines. Once organized, the Action Team develops some basic operating sideboards and a strategic plan to guide its future. The Action Team is responsible for implementing activities to the address the problem.

New Projects

Throughout the year new projects are added to the Annual Plan of Work. The Annual Plan of Work is a dynamic document with frequent modifications made as needed throughout the year. A sponsor can submit a project proposal or concept paper to the Council or Executive Committee. A project concept paper outline provides guidance. Project sponsors are encouraged to seek assistance from the Coordinator for preparation of the project application. To adopt new projects, two criteria need to be met. First, the project must be compatible with the Cocopai RC&D Area Plan and current priorities. Second, the project needs to have a project leader and other citizens ready to form an Action Team.

New projects are initiated from various sources:

- Sponsors of the Cocopai RC&D
- The Executive Committee of the Cocopai RC&D Council
- Other organizations with similar missions to the Cocopai RC&D

Cocopai Resource Conservation and Development Area Inc.

2007 Annual Plan of Work

Mission

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Create partnerships to meet the challenges of economic and natural resource development that is environmentally sensitive.

Element: Community Development

- Provide rural clients direct access to USDA Programs
- Improve the quality of life for residents in the service area

Project & Tasks

	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Date</u>
Boards & Commissions Training	Smith	May
New Council Handbook	Ester	June
Develop Trails Plan	Joens/Ester	March
Assist w/State RC&D Conference	Schmidt	March
Natural Resource Education Centers	Schumacher	March
Watershed Training	Schumacher	April
Farmers Market Promotion Program	Towler	April

Element: Land Management

- Protect agricultural land from conversion to other uses
- Encourage development of fish and wildlife habitat
- Seek local support to promote environmental quality

Projects & Tasks

	<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Date</u>
"Land Trust" informational meeting	Towler	April

Element: Water Conservation

- Provide information on existing tools & techniques for water management
- Develop information on water conservation
- Assist sponsors with water projects or studies

Projects & Tasks

	Responsibility	Date
Big Chino Water Ranch	Luzius	April
Red Gap Water Ranch	Cooper	May
Verde Irrigation Workshops	Rowland	April
Steward of Public Lands	Joens	March

Element: Land Conservation

Noxious weed partnership	Allen	May
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WHAT WE DO.

Cocopai Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. (Cocopai RC&D) provides a diverse range of services in the areas of natural and human resource development that impacts east central Arizona. We provide technical assistance to our; sponsors, non-profit organizations, and concerned citizens when compatible with the Cocopai RC&D Strategic Plan. The Cocopai RC&D place a high priority on projects and issues impacting the entire service area. The RC&D does not address projects that others address best, or where collaboration is not needed or possible. Sponsors and other organizations desiring assistance can make a request in writing to the Council. The Cocopai RC&D also initiate projects consistent with the strategic plan. All programs and services of the Cocopai RC&D are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

Organizational Strengths: The Cocopai RC&D demonstrate much strength as an effective grassroots rural development organization. These strengths include addressing problems and opportunities from a multi-county perspective. The Council representatives know first hand the issues affecting their communities.

One characteristic that distinguishes the Cocopai RC&D from other rural development organizations is its ability to build partnerships. Solving complex resource issues occurs because individuals or organizations find common ground. A common issue is the thread that weaves diverse individuals and organizations together. These common issues revolve around social, economic and environmental conditions in the community or region. Through this linkage collaboration evolves.

Because of the diversity of the Cocopai RC&D, the Council is able to address issues other local development organizations are unable to address. We bring diverse groups and organizations together to collaboratively solve mutual problems. Through this partnership we bring additional resources to our service area. As participants, local leaders are best suited to solve issues affecting their communities.

Collaborative Problem Solving: The RC&D is a catalyst that links diverse groups -- bringing people and agencies together to work on solutions to common concerns. By bringing interest groups and local, state, and federal agencies and individuals together, an open dialogue can allow understanding and agreement on issues of mutual concern.

Project Planning: The RC&D assists organizations to find practical solutions to problems and issues. The planning model used involves citizen participation to facilitate social change. Participants gain an understanding of the collaborative process--how social changes are made through citizens to solve problems and issues using local resources to foster necessary cooperation toward solving problems and issues. The “***Conception to Completion***” planning model brings the participants to a well thought out solution acceptable to the community.

Grant Proposal Writing: Cocopai RC&D writes funding proposals to government agencies, foundations, and corporations on behalf of sponsors and other organizations when consistent with the Cocopai RC&D strategic plan. Our grant proposal writing assistance includes the entire grant writing process, from all aspects of planning (described in the previous section) conducting funder searches, proposal writing, submission of the proposal to the funder, and follow-up with funders.

Organizational Capacity Building: The Cocopai RC&D assists organizations to prepare strategic plans that guide their future. In addition we assists our sponsors and others to facilitate meetings.