



**CORONADO
CROSSING
RC&D**

2007
Annual Plan of Work

**Serving the Counties of
Clark, Ford, Gray, Haskell,
Hodgeman, Meade and Seward
In Southwest Kansas**

Contact Information:
Roger Masenthin, Acting Coordinator
705 E. Main, Harper, KS 67058
Phone: 620-896-7378
Fax: 620-896-7673
roger.masenthin@ks.usda.gov

CORONADO CROSSING RC&D.

ADOPTION OF THE

2007 AREA PLAN OF WORK

The Coronado Crossing RC&D Council has developed this 2007 Area Plan of Work in cooperation with the seven individual county RC&D councils in the Coronado Crossing RC&D Area.

The Coronado Crossing RC&D Council does hereby accept and adopt this document as the 2007 Area Plan of Work.

By: _____

DeAnn Ricketts
President
Coronado Crossing RC&D

Date: _____

The 2007 Area Plan of Work was approved at an official council meeting on September 8, 2006.

Attest: _____

Glenda Harvey
Treasurer
Coronado Crossing RC&D

Date: _____

CONCURRENCE STATEMENT

I have reviewed the Coronado Crossing RC&D 2007 Area Plan of Work and concur with the objectives and goals identified and described herein.

Harold Klaege
State Conservationist
USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Salina, Kansas

Date: _____

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, disability, 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 the program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

CORONADO CROSSING RC&D

2007 PLAN OF WORK

INDEX

	Pages
ADOPTION AND CONCURRENCE STATEMENT -----	2
INDEX -----	3
MAP -----	4
BACKGROUND WITH MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS -----	5
GOALS, OBJECTIVES, ACTIONS/PROJECTS -----	8
2007 BUDGET -----	13
2007 PROJECTS -----	14
COUNTY AND AREA COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE -----	15
ACTIVITY SCHEDULE -----	16
2007 CORONADO CROSSING RC&D COUNCIL MEMBERS -----	17

“All programs and assistance of the RC&D Council are available without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”



Entire Document Printed
on Recycled Paper

**Map
from
NRCS**

PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Coronado Crossing Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) adopted an overall mission statement which states: “The Coronado Crossing RC&D Council is a regional 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization representing the counties of Clark, Ford, Gray, Haskell, Hodgeman, Meade and Seward. Serving our communities through improved resource management and development in order to improve the quality of life and standard of living for current and future generations.”

Wild game and vast herds of buffalo once covered this area. Several tribes of Native Americans, commonly called “Plains Indians,” hunted the buffalo for food and clothing. Most of these tribes were nomadic and followed the buffalo herds but some built elaborate irrigation systems and settled in the area. Not much remains of these early Native American irrigation systems and settlements today. In the early 1500s, Spanish explorers came through the area. Francisco Vasquez de Coronado came through in search of the Seven Golden Cities of Cibola. Spanish bits, pieces of bridle, spurs, coins and a baby’s grave have been found along his route.

The Santa Fe Trail, opened in 1821, became a great commercial route. Thousands of wagons traveled this trail west. Fort Dodge was established in 1865 on the Santa Fe Trail midway between two major Indian crossings on the Arkansas River. This outpost offered protection to wagon trains and served as a supply base for troops engaged in the Indian Wars. Dodge City was founded seven years later five miles west of Fort Dodge. It quickly became a trade center for travelers and buffalo hunters. The railroad reached Dodge City the same year and over the next two years an estimated 850,000 buffalo hides were shipped out. By 1875, the buffalo were gone. Cattlemen from Texas drove great herds of longhorns up from Texas to be shipped out of Dodge City. In an eleven year period, an estimated 5,000,000 cattle were driven up the Western Trail from Texas to Dodge City. These cattlemen helped create the wild and lawless reputation given to the area.

In 1876, a few people from the east began settling this part of the state. Prior to settlement, this area was open range. The open range ranchers fought the settlements and discouraged homesteading by causing “Indian Scares.”

“A report was spread all over the country that the Indians had broken loose from their reservations and were on the warpath. A group of cattlemen would come riding up to the claim shacks on a dead run saying that the Indians were coming and were killing all the settlers in their path. This report was later proven to be started by the cattlemen to get the settlers out of the range country.”

Some of the cattlemen settled here but most of the settlers were “easterners.” They settled on 160 acre claims but found they could not make a living on this. Many returned to their former homes but some went west. Those remaining bought up the claims of those leaving and were able to make a decent living. Many became large land holders. Towns were established at points where the people thought railroads were going to pass through. When the railroads did not cross where expected, many of these towns were moved to other locations.

Our area of Kansas has changed dramatically since the days of the early settlers. Zebulon Pike once described this land as the “Great American Desert.” Today green fields of irrigated crops and natural sand sage prairie cover the area. Hidden lakes and wildlife areas provide hunting and camping. Times have not always been good. Drought, grasshoppers, blizzards, economic conditions, and crop failures have caused great hardship. The area has suffered through two depressions. One was from the late 1880’s to

the 1890's and the second was the Great Depression and Dust Bowl of the 1930's. The pioneer spirit of survival persisted then and still does.

It is this pioneer spirit and pride in our heritage that the RC&D wishes to preserve and share with others. Believing in the benefits and importance of recreational services and attractions for improving the economic condition of the area, Coronado Crossing RC&D, Inc. will provide leadership assistance for a variety of recreational and tourism development projects. Many of our communities already conduct historical/wildflower tours which could be expanded through area wide coordination. Under the care of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, buffalo have been reintroduced and thrive in the Big Basin Prairie Preserve. There is a need to advertise the routes and markers along the area for tourists to follow. Coronado Crossing RC&D, Inc. would like to cooperate with Texas and Oklahoma in developing a multi-state heritage trail. Enhancing our communities' appearances would also invite tourism and recreational development.

In order to improve the quality of life, you must first recognize the fact that many things interact with and upon each other to affect the quality of life. A major priority of the RC&D is to provide technical and/or financial assistance to organizations and units of government interested in community improvement or economic development initiatives. With over 27 communities in the area, project needs and opportunities are diverse. By strengthening the abilities of local citizens to utilize available sources of assistance for planning and developing community improvements, the standard of living is ensured for people within the area. The strength of the Coronado Crossing RC&D is in the commitment of people to solve their own problems and a cooperative spirit of working together to address local problems.

Crop land and range land account for a majority of the land use in the area. Conservation of soil, water, plants and animals as well as improving our natural resource base for future generations are a high priority in the Coronado Crossing RC&D area. Focusing on public awareness and education programs that promote responsible use of our air, water and land will support a healthy economy. An informed and educated public is a critical element of successfully solving local problems.

Coronado Crossing RC&D, Inc. recognizes the United States Department of Agriculture – Resource Conservation and Development Program as a vehicle to access resources to meet the needs of communities and the RC&D goals. Through our Area Resource Conservation and Utilization Plan, Coronado Crossing RC&D has identified resource needs and opportunities within the RC&D Program Emphasis Areas including Land Conservation, Water Management, Community Development and Land Management. The Council plans to work with Federal, State and Local agencies in addition to private and corporate partners to complete projects and implement our Annual Plan of Work as we strive to accomplish the goals of the Area Plan.

OUR VISION

As we have grown and changed, our communities have changed. Some of those changes were good but during some of the changes, things we valued were lost. Each generation has within it the desire to share the best of itself with its children. As we lost some of the things we valued, we realized we were losing important things we wanted to share with our children. We began to question what kind of future we were creating. We each have a desire to leave our community better than we found it and we have come to realize we can't do it alone that we need the help of our neighbors. The premise of the RC&D Program is that local people know what is best for their communities. With this vision in mind, we came together to organize the Coronado Crossing RC&D, Inc. "to improve the quality of life" for ourselves, our neighbors, and most importantly, our children.

~ ~ ~

MISSION STATEMENT

The Coronado Crossing Resource Conservation and Development Council is a regional non-profit organization representing the counties of Clark, Ford, Gray, Haskell, Hodgeman, Meade, and Seward. Serving our communities through improved resource management and development, in order to improve the quality of life and standard of living for current and future generations.

~ ~ ~

CHARTER SPONSORS

The County Commissions and Conservation Districts of Clark, Ford, Gray, Haskell, Hodgeman, Meade, and Seward counties.

~ ~ ~

CORONADO CROSSING RC&D

2007 Plan of Work

*Note: Associated Staff Time: NRCS – Conservation Technical Assistance time assisting Coronado Crossing Council with communications, planning meetings, Council Development and Implementation of Annual Plan of Work:
Acting RC&D Coordinator -- Roger Masenthin – 24 hours per month = 288 hrs total (estimated)
RC&D Office Automation Assistant – Dollie Mathes - 18 hours per month = 216 hrs. total (estimated)
504 hrs. combined Staff time*

Specific Project related staff hours are associated with respective projects with Annual Plan of Work

Goal A: Promote business retention, expansion, and recruitment with emphasis on long-term viability and economic growth.

Objective 1: Establish education programs for prospective businesses.

Action A: Help promote continuing education workshops/events provided by other organizations for business development. 2006

Objective 2: Develop partnerships to improve financial resources for business expansion and new business development.

Action A: Work with the SBA and other Business Development funding entities to help distribute information regarding accessing venture capital. 2006

Action B: Develop stronger partnerships with local economic development groups such as the Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance (KREDA).
(Renew membership) 2006

Goal B: Promote and enhance community activities, recreational opportunities, tourism and historic preservation.

Objective 1: Promote and develop recreational opportunities within the area.

Action A: Co-sponsor school tours & field days to education students about recreational opportunities and natural resources in the area.

Action B: Continue to provide assistance to the Pawnee Watershed in developing recreational facilities at the proposed Horse Thief Reservoir. 2006

Objective 2: Promote tourism opportunities within the area.

Action A: Join and actively participate with Wild West Country to help promote tourism in our area. 2006

Action B: Develop & promote walking, hiking and birding trails throughout the area.

Objective 3: Identify and promote historic sites within the area to increase tourism opportunities.

Objective 4: Promote and assist community development by addressing distressed community issues such as poverty & unemployment.

Action A: Partner with Ellsworth Correctional Facility to bring the Adopt-a-Bike program to our local communities. 2006

<u>No.</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Responsibility/Sponsors</u>		<u>Staff Time</u>
			<u>Local Groups</u>	<u>Other Agencies</u>	
4.014	Area	Adopt a Bike Program Assistance		Council members, Conservation Districts	80 Hours

Goal C: Facilitate adequate, affordable rental and owner occupied housing for all income and age brackets.

Objective 1: Provide assistance to local communities to determine the amount and condition of housing in their area.

Action A: Educate the public about USDA-Rural Development and other assistance available to low income residents for emergency repair and improvement of substandard housing.

Action B: Identify available resources to assist in renovation of existing housing to meet current standards. 2006

<u>No.</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Responsibility/Sponsors</u>		<u>Staff Time</u>
			<u>Local Groups</u>	<u>Other Agencies</u>	
6.001	Area	KS Warm Home Project		Council Members /Each Co.	40 Hours

Action C: The RC&D board will receive training on the USDA Rural Development and other programs that offer housing assistance. 2006

Goal D: Improve agricultural and related resource based incomes and markets to sustain and improve rural existence.

Objective 1: Decrease soil erosion by promoting reduced tillage and no-till cropping systems.

Objective 2: Promote alternative crops and markets as a means of increasing income to local producers.

Objective 3: Educate producers about proper management techniques on rangeland.

Objective 4: Assist with educational opportunities for the youth of the area.

Action A: Sponsor local Farm Safety for Kids field days to educate students about the dangers involved in farming operations.

<u>Responsibility/Sponsors</u>				
<u>Local Groups</u>				
<u>No.</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Other Agencies</u>	<u>Staff Time</u>
6.003	Area	Farm Safety Day	Trained Coordinator, NRCS, Council Members, Extension	30 Hours

Action B: Provide one -two scholarships to High School graduating Seniors interested in agricultural careers by working with Agricultural Future of America.

<u>Responsibility/Sponsors</u>				
<u>Local Groups</u>				
<u>No.</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Other Agencies</u>	<u>Staff Time</u>
4.010	Area	AFA Scholarship Initiative	Council Members, Area Schools, AFA Foundation	40 Hours

Action C: Assist NRCS Partners with Natural Resource Conservation Field Day activities/events hosted within the region.

Objective 5: Improve wildlife habitat using improved conservation systems.

Action A: Continue to partner with K-State and KS Forest Service in the windbreak renovation program.

<u>Responsibility/Sponsors</u>				
<u>Local Groups</u>				
<u>No.</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Other Agencies</u>	<u>Staff Time</u>
5.002	Ford	Windbreak Renovation Grant	NRCS, KSU Extension KS Forestry Service	40 Hours

Action B: Assist Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) and other partners to promote habitat development that will support and improve hunting opportunities for upland game birds. 2005

Goal E: Develop health care programs which meet long-term health care recruitment needs, promote expansion of emergency services, and improve availability and accessibility of services in rural areas in the council area.

Objective 1: Promote available services to meet the quality of life needs of the elderly and un-insured population in the area.

Action A: Assist with compiling/distributing information about providers of Health Care services and provide them to senior centers, health clinics and community food banks locally. 2006

Goal F: Protect, conserve and manage surface and groundwater resources to ensure sufficient quantities of water which meet all federal and state quality standards allowing for community and business development while improving the quality of life in the Coronado Crossing Region.

Objective 1: Assist with Water Quality & Quantity issues to insure adequate water resources for future generations.

Action A: Assist Cooperative Extension, Farm Bureau and other organizations with promoting crops/cropping systems that use less water as a means of conserving declining ground water resources. 2006

Goal G: Establish communications between the Coronado Crossing RC&D and the general public on the purposes and activities of the RC&D area.

Objective 1: Educate the general public on the RC&D program and efforts.

Action A: Use bi-annual Newsletter to provide public service announcements/success stories to our local communities and program partners through newspapers, radio, partner newsletters, etc. within the seven county area.

Action B: Maintain current website to share RC&D information as well as keeping Council Members informed of activities, meetings, etc.

Action C: Conduct a membership drive to increase awareness and support for the RC&D. 2006

Action D: Provide our Project Proposal form and assistance information to groups interested in looking for grant funds. 2006

Objective 2: Develop information products to provide point of contact information about the RC&D to civic groups and others.

Action A: Present information programs to civic groups in the area.

Action B: Develop a brochure to explain the purpose and structure of the RC&D.

Action C: Utilize Kansas Association of RC&D Councils' resources such as the Summary of Accomplishments, Annual Meeting Power Point, the Fact Sheet booklet, etc. to educate the public about RC&D activities and benefits.

Goal H: Establish cooperative working relationships with local and regional organizations and government entities in the RC&D area in order to work in partnership toward common goals.

Objective 1: Promote shared resources that allow communities to maintain and improve existing infrastructure for local units of government.

Action A: Assist with education/information opportunities within the area and in partnership with regional organizations.

<u>No.</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Responsibility/Sponsors</u>		<u>Staff Time</u>
			<u>Local Groups</u>	<u>Other Agencies</u>	
6.002	Area	Tree Pruning Workshop		DCCC, NRCS, KSU Extension KS Forestry Service	Hours 40

Action B: Assist with establishing Tree City, USA designation for interested communities.

Action C: Provide technical assistance to communities/organizations such as PRIDE to carry out their goals.

Objective 2: Provide information about new technologies and opportunities for community sustainability.

Objective 3: Develop partnerships with regional organizations.

Action A: Develop stronger partnerships with local economic development groups including Western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance (wKREDA).

Action B: Actively participate in the Kansas State Association of RC&D Councils, South West States and National RC&D Councils. 2006

Objective 4: Fully support the NRCS mission to provide leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment.

PROPOSED 2007 BUDGET

	2006 Carryover	\$3790.72
INCOME		
	Sponsors	\$2400.00
	Leadership Forum – DC	500.00
	AFA Scholarship	1400.00
EXPENDITURES		
	Secretary of State	60.00
	NARC&DC	250.00
	Leadership Forum – DC	2000.00
	Website	240.00
	State Assoc of RC&D Councils	200.00
	AFA Scholarship	2250.00
	Windbreak Project	700.00
	Adopt-a-Bike Project	300.00
2007 CARRYOVER		\$2090.72

**List of FY06 Projects
&
Cumulative List of Projects**

Attachment N

Meeting Dates

Attachment 0

CORONADO CROSSING RC&D, INC.

2007 PLAN OF WORK

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

October	Coronado Crossing RC&D Annual Meeting Newsletter
November	RC&D Area Council Meeting State Association of Kansas RC&D's Meeting, Wichita KACD Convention, Wichita
December	RC&D Area Council Meeting 2007 Contribution Letters Adopt A Bike Kick-off Rural Policy Symposium, Manhattan
January	RC&D Area Council Meeting County Commission Updates Conservation Districts' Annual Meetings
February	RC&D Area Council Meeting State Association of Kansas RC&D's Meeting National RC&D Leadership Forum County Commission Updates Conservation Districts' Annual Meetings
March	RC&D Area Council Meeting KS RC&D Coordinators' and Assistants' Meeting – Salina SW States RC&D Conference Conservation District Board Updates County Commission Updates KDHE Recycling & Composting Conference
April	RC&D Area Council Meeting Farm Safety Day – Clark County Earth Day (22nd)

2007 Plan of Work Review & Update
Soil Stewardship Week (Last Week in April)
Conservation District Board Updates
County Commission Updates
KCCED Meeting at Columbian Theatre in Wamego, KS

May

RC&D Area Council Meeting
Windbreak Renovation Demo/Workshop
Kansas Sampler Festival
Kansas RC&D Coordinator's meeting
2007 Contribution Follow-up
State Association of Kansas RC&D Councils Meeting

June

RC&D Area Council Meeting

July

RC&D Area Council Meeting
Area Plan Review
2008 Plan of Work Development
Kansas RC&D Coordinator's meeting

August

RC&D Area Council Meeting
2008 Plan of Work Development
KS State Association of RC&D Councils Annual Meeting – SeeKan

September

RC&D Area Council Meeting
2008 Plan of Work Approved

File Code: C/Program Files/RC&D Documents2/Coronado Crossing/POW/2007

2) Council Officers and/or Board Members

See RC&D Directory Attachment