



Natural Resources Conservation Service

LOUP BASIN RC&D Council
FISCAL YEAR 2008

PLAN OF WORK



LOUP BASIN RC&D

NEBRASKA

PLAN OF WORK

2008

**Loup Basin RC&D is incorporated as a corporation under the laws of Nebraska.
The Loup Basin receives technical support under Title I of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962, Title XV of the Food and
Agriculture Act of 1982, and other authorities.**



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Vision Statement:

“Purpose is to help turn ideas into reality”

Mission Statement:

“To Work Together to Sustain our Quality of Life”

Council Strategies/Goals (FY '08):

Required Element: Land Conservation and Land Management

Goal TO EDUCATE, SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE A HEALTHY NATURAL RESOURCE BASE

OBJECTIVE: Promote conservation practices through workshops that address land issues such as stock density, conservation practices that address soil erosion, such as no-till, reduced till, and the use of alternatives to address invasive species that impact the land resources and management.

STRATEGY 1 - Maintain and Enhance Water Resources through workshops and hands on training

STRATEGY 2 – Continue promotion, expanded development, and use of renewable energy.

STRATEGY 3 - Maintain and Enhance Our Air Quality, promoting renewable and clean energy

STRATEGY 3 - Encourage Proper Use of Plants for Ecological Balance

STRATEGY 4 – promote tillage practices that enhance carbon sequestration

STRATEGY 5 - Promote Recycling and Solid and Hazardous Waste Collection Systems in the Area



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Required Element: Water Management

GOAL: TO PROMOTE QUALITY HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL RESIDENTS THAT IMPRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER CONSERVATION AND PROTECT THE WATER QUALITY BY REDUCING NON POINT POLLUTION AND SEDIMENTATION ON THE REGIONS STREAMS.

OBJECTIVE: Hold workshops/training sessions for land owners demonstrating the value of conservation practices

STRATEGY 1 - Promote Additional Recreational Activities for Youth and Adults through stream cleanups, workshops

STRATEGY 2 - Help Create and Develop Community Development Programs and Projects that reduce the amount of waste entering the area water ways.

STRATEGY 3 - Coordinate Activities of the Keeping Loup Basin Beautiful Affiliation through sessions with schools and community leaders to promote water quality and conservation.

Required Element: Community Development

GOAL: To STRENGTHEN AND BUILD OUR CENTRAL NEBRASKA REGIONAL ECONOMY WHILE MAINTAINING OUR DESIRED RURAL CHARACTER AND VALUES WITHOUT NEGATIVELY IMPACTING OUR ENVIRONMENT.

OBJECTIVE: PROMOTE TOURISM AND THE DIVERSIFICATION OF THE AREA ECONOMY THROUGH WORKSHOPS THAT PROMOTE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, CONTINUED EDUCATION AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT THROUGHT THE LOUP BASIN TECHNOLOGY CENTER

STRATEGY 1- Identify telecommunication services and capabilities that are available to the RC&D area and encourage their use to enhance economy through education, promotion, and communication with telecommunications providers and others.

STRATEGY 2 - Partner in the promotion and enhancement of the Loup Basin Technology, and Emergency Center

STRATEGY 3 - Build economy through existing business retention and expansion

STRATEGY 4 - Evaluate and Develop New Spin-Off Businesses to Meet the Raw Material Needs of Existing Businesses

STRATEGY 5 - Develop and Maintain Strong Communication and Cooperation among the Economic Development Groups and the RC&D Area

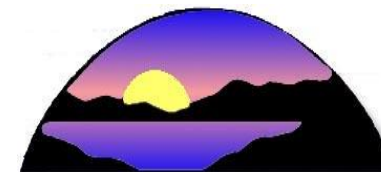
STRATEGY 6 - Encourage and Develop Tourism to Diversify the Economy and to Provide Recreational Activities for Residents While Maintaining Our Rural Character and Values

STRATEGY 7 – Promote leadership training and development of area residents.



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Required Element: Land Conservation and Land Management

GOAL TO SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE A HEALTHY NATURAL RESOURCE BASE

OBJECTIVE 1 - Maintain and Enhance Water Resources

Project #	PROJECT STRATEGY Description	Coordinator time obligation	Responsible Project Sponsor/Council Member	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Project Cost	Progress/Comments
085	Cedar River Stabilization Project	100	Kleffner/Neemeyer	Sept 2009	\$800,000	Starting new three year grant cycle from DEQ and NET
169/186	Loup Basin Cleanup & Education (Keep Loup Basin Beautiful)	40	Toczek/Studnicka	Dec 2008	\$38,000	Coordinating elementary presentations, scrap tire collections, fair booths, recycling efforts, and Keep Loup Basin Beautiful projects.
123	Environmental Festival	10	Studnicka/Neemeyer	October annually	\$ 500	Annual event held each October in partnership with UNL Extension, NRCS, and Lower Loup NRD.
061	Loup Basin Water Association	20	Pinkman/Schultz	Ongoing	\$1,200	Currently meeting periodically, coordinated by the Lower Loup NRD.

OBJECTIVE 2 - Continue promotion, expanded development, and use of renewable energy

Project #	PROJECT STRATEGY DESCRIPTION	Coordinator time obligation	Responsible Project Sponsor/Council Member	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Project Cost	Progress/Comments
	Promote ethanol use and production as well as biofuels technology	50	Wells/Melia	Dec 2008	\$1,000	Part of 15 county bio business friendly region



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194	Soy Bio-Diesel Seminars	20	Wells/Melia/ Koelling	January 2009	\$1,000	Promote the use of renewable fuels/part of 15 county effort
192	Bio-Energy Friendly Region	300	Melia/Bolli	Dec 2008	\$1,000	Partnership with North Central RC&D Council counties.

OBJECTIVE 3 – Encourage proper use of plants for ecological balance

Project #	Project Strategy Description	Coordinator time obligation	Responsible Project Sponsor/Council Member	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Project Cost	Progress/Comments
N/A	Promote an awareness of the impact that invasive species have and possible steps to address the encroachment of smooth brome grass, eastern red cedar, leafy spurge, and other invasive species	150	Bolli	Sept 2010	\$200,000	Invasive species effort using goats
N/A	Promote biomass education through seminars, trainings, and publications.	40	Hruza/Bolli	Sept 2008	\$2,000	Conduct 1 workshop
189	Sandhills Weed Management Area	20	Bolli/Hruza	Sept 2009	\$50,000	Grant application received to map and treat

OBJECTIVE 4 – Develop the use of carbon sequestration

Project #	Project Strategy Description	Coordinator time obligation	Responsible Project Sponsor/Council Member	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Project Cost	Progress/Comments
N/A	Research Carbon Sequestration issues and ways our area can take advantage of opportunities that arise	30	Melia	Sept 2008	\$1,000	Hold workshop and press releases



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N/A	Support the Nebraska No-Till Association efforts and state wide natural/organic agricultural movement	30	Hruza/Melia	September 2010	\$9,000	Conduct one workshop in area
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Required Element: Water Management

GOAL TO PROMOTE QUALITY HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL RESIDENTS

OBJECTIVE 1 - Promote Additional Educational Activities for Youth and Adults

Project #	Project Strategy Description	Coordinator time obligation	Responsible Project Sponsor/Council Member	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Project Cost	Progress/Comments
N/A	Provide technical assistance for youth activities such as Groundwater Festival, Environmental Festival, and kid's fairs.	10	Melia/Studnicka	Sept 2008	\$500	Fairs, festivals, and presentations.

OBJECTIVE 2 – Help create and develop community service programs and projects

Project #	Project Strategy Description	Coordinator time obligation	Responsible Project Sponsor/Council Member	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Project Cost	Progress/Comments
174	Nebraska Community Improvement Program	10	Toczek	Sept 2008	\$200	Award program, judges visit, annual banquet, judges, and workshops.
105	Provide assistance to communities to bring about community improvement. Taylor Area Builders.	36	Sandoz	Sept 2008	\$1,300	Technical assistance to community



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172/173 180	Assisting communities with FEMA, playground and other community-related services.	30	Hruza	Sept 2008	\$250,000	Technical grant assistance
187	Design/Build School Eco-Tourism Center Project	60	Bolli/Green Prairie foundation	Sept 2009	\$10,000	Technical assistance
N/A	Respond to work related questions promptly without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, handicapping condition, age, or any other non merit factor of the requestor	10	Hruza	Ongoing	\$0	
N/A	Whenever possible, conduct any training or similar activity in a facility which is handicap accessible and which does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, handicapping condition, or age	10	Hruza	Ongoing	\$0	

OBJECTIVE 3 – Partner in the development of an information, technology, and emergency center

Project #	Project Strategy Description	Coordinator time obligations	Responsible Project Sponsor/Council Member	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Project Cost	Progress/Comments
157	Coordinate monthly meetings, agendas, and minutes for center group and secure funding to build or renovate an existing facility to accommodate learning center and purchase required equipment	200	Baillie/Bolli	Oct 2008	\$150,000	Continue to assist in updating center capability and out reach to area businesses, non profits, units of government and educational institutions.
157	Apply for operational funding such as personnel and promotional expenses.	100	Baillie/Bolli	October 2008	\$85,000	Marketing center to region and area



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OBJECTIVE 4 – Coordinate activities for the Keep Loup Basin Beautiful affiliation

Project #	Project Strategy Description	Coordinator time obligations	Responsible Project Sponsor/Council Member	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Project Cost	Progress/Comments
186	Keep Loup Basin Beautiful	30	Toczek/Studnicka	December 2008	\$20,000	Great American Cleanup, elementary presentations, fair and library booths, etc.

REQUIRED ELEMENT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

GOAL: TO STRENGTHEN AND BUILD OUR CENTRAL NEBRASKA REGIONAL ECONOMY WHILE MAINTAINING OUR DESIRED RURAL CHARACTER AND VALUES WITHOUT NEGATIVELY IMPACTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

OBJECTIVE 1- Identify telecommunication services and capabilities that are available to the RC&D area and encourage their use to enhance economy through education, promotion, and communication with telecommunications providers and others.

Project #	Project Strategy Description	Coordinator time obligations	Responsible Project Sponsor/Council Member	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Project Cost	Progress/Comments
N/A	Educate ED Committee on telecommunications, Invite guest speakers,	30	Baillie	Sept 2008	\$1,500	Monthly meetings and projects conducted.



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N/A	Upgrade, Maintain, and Improve Webpage	10	Hruza/Bolli	ongoing	\$2,000	
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OBJECTIVE 2 – Build economy through existing business retention and expansion

Project #	Project Strategy Description	Coordinator time obligations	Responsible Project Sponsor/Council Member	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Project Cost	Progress/Comments
160	Develop and maintain a regional business directory	10	Bolli	December 2007	\$1000	Database is being formatted.

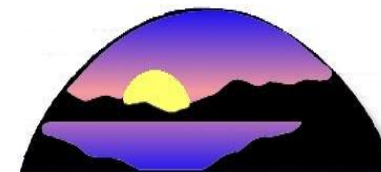
OBJECTIVE 3 – Evaluate and develop new spin-off businesses to meet the raw material needs of existing businesses

Project #	Project Strategy Description	Coordinator time obligations	Responsible Project Sponsor/Council Member	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Project Cost	Progress/Comments
N/A	Invite existing business owners/managers to speak to ED committee, face to face surveys/interviews, evaluate potential spin off businesses, and educate Economic Development Committee by way of seminar and conference attendance.	30	Wells	Sept 2008	\$400	Promote area as a region and work together



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OBJECTIVE 4 – Develop and maintain strong communication and cooperation among the economic development groups in the RC&D area

Project #	Project Strategy Description	Coordinator time obligations	Responsible Project Sponsor/Council Member	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Project Cost	Progress/Comments
N/A	Loup Basin economic development committee & Central Ne. Economic Development District work to promote the Loup Basin RC&D area.	10	Hruza	Ongoing	\$1,200	Partnership on projects.
N/A	Produce regular mailings, personal interviews, and Encourage economic development groups to attend ED committee meetings and workshops	10	Hruza	Ongoing	\$250	
137, 142,	Coordinate ag diversity workshops for farmers and ranchers as well as lenders, insurance agents, and accountants	30	Fulton	Ongoing	\$250	Tours, monthly meetings, and workshops
N/A	Bring area economic development committees, directors, chambers of commerce's, and community organizations together to share ideas and work jointly on area wide projects.	10	Hruza	Ongoing	\$250	Improve communications between council and partners

OBJECTIVE 5 – Encourage and develop tourism to diversify the economy and to provide recreational activities for residents while maintaining our rural character and values

Project #	Project Strategy Description		Responsible Project Sponsor/Council Member	Estimated Completion Date	Estimated Project Cost	Progress/Comments
N/A	Hold regular regional tourism committee meetings and work to make positive impacts	100	Keller/Wells	Ongoing/Monthly	\$500	Monthly meetings



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N/A	Provide tourism information to DED-travel and tourism division, Grand Island Chamber of Commerce, tour planners, bus tour operators, key tourism entities, tourists, and/or others	10	Keller/Wells	Sept 2008	\$100	Through professional contacts meetings
195	Coordinate a fourth basics of grant writing – grant administration	30	Hruza/Bolli	Annual February	\$1,500	
073	Loup Rivers Scenic Byway Committee coordination along with Tourism Committee.	100	Keller	Sept 2008	\$500	
191	Coordinate Nebraska's Junk Jaunt through Loup Rivers Scenic Byway Committee.	200	Keller/Sayler/Haskell	Annually Sept 2008	\$2,000	Increase membership to Byway
197	Greater Nebraska Tour & Rec. Expo coordination	100	Melia	Spring 2008	\$3,000	Promote 3 rd Expo
171	Birding Tour Package Project	20	Ridder/Sears	July 2008	\$250	Continue to promote
N/A	Area promotional activities such as tour and travel show attendance, state fair attendance, local festival event booths and out of state recreation shows	10	Keller/Wells	Ongoing	\$2,500	



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Loup Basin RC&D Council – Fiscal Year 2008 Schedule of Activities

Activity	Action to be taken	By Whom
1. Council meetings (last Tuesday of the month)	Conduct Council business and receive training	Council/staff
2. Review plan of work	Quarterly update at regular meetings	Council/staff
3. Review inactive projects	Determine future status	Council/staff
4. Western RC&D Association annual Conference	1. Send representation and assist with display booth	Council/staff
5. Develop plan of work for FY 07 based on area plan	1. Review accomplishments and needs 2. Determine priority local needs 3. Develop draft plan 4. Adopt plan 5. Review area plan & develop annual plan of work from Council area plan	Council/staff
6. Loup Basin RC&D Council annual meeting (last Tuesday of September)	1. Act on resolutions 2. Review end of year reports 3. Distribute annual report 4. Elect officers and executive board 5. Present special recognition awards	Council Council Council/staff Council Council
7. Nebraska RC&D Association meeting	1. Send representatives to meetings and support the association 2. Assist with strategic plan development and implementation	Council Council/staff
8. Contact 5 potential new members to encourage their participation and support	1. Council membership committee and staff develop listing potential members and make contacts	Council/staff
9. Continue to work cooperatively with schools, economic development committees, local units of government and agencies		



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CURRENT AND POTENTIAL PARTNERS WITH USDA AND OTHERS

Over the past five years the Loup Basin RC&D council has developed a very effective partnership with various federal, state, private foundations, individuals, and local partners. The council worked with the University of Nebraska Lincoln to develop the Vision 2010 which provided opportunity to gather public input into this area plan. The council has worked with NRCS field staff to gather resource data that was used in the development of the natural resource portion of the plan.

The USDA Rural Development provides assistance to the council and serves on the advisory committee for one of the council's major projects, the Loup Basin Technology center and has also served as a funding source for this project. Also working with the council on projects include the following entities Region 26 council civil defense, Loup Basin Public Health, University of Nebraska Extension Service, Loup Valley Ag Society, five economic development committees, five chamber of commerce's, economic development boards, University of Nebraska Kearney, Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Nebraska Department of Tourism, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Nebraska Environmental Trust, US Army Corp of engineers, Nebraska Forest Service, three community colleges, and three surrounding RC&D Councils. The Council has worked with rural fire districts to secure grants for equipment, and trucks. The council and staff work closely with the public and private schools in an effort to promote conservation and training the students to do monitoring in water quality, and range resources.

REQUIRED CLAUSES AND SIGNATURES

The Loup Basin RC&D Council's program will be conducted in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 P.L. 100-259) and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely, Section 504, of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15,Subpart A&B) which provide that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, marital status, or handicap/disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subject to discrimination under the program or activity receiving federal financial (or technical) assistance from the Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.



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The Loup Basin RC&D Council agrees that the signing of this document constitutes agreement to comply with federal laws concerning restrictions on lobbying, a drug-free work place, and responsibilities for procurement, suspension, and disbarment.

The Loup Basin RC&D Council has had this application reviewed by the state. Comments made through the state single point of contact have been followed. An environmental impact statement will not be prepared during development of the plan of work, but an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement will be prepared concurrently with the development of each project when applicable, in accordance with federal procedures.

LOUP BASIN RC&D COUNCIL

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

DATE: _____



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