

## NEWS RELEASE



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### **Governor Proclaims RC&D Week in Indiana**

INDIANAPOLIS, September 25, 2007—Governor Mitch Daniels, Jr. proclaimed September 23-29, 2007 as RC&D (Resource Conservation & Development) Week in Indiana. This proclamation was announced and read today in Lt. Governor Becky Skillman's office.

Lt. Governor Skillman said, "Understanding the great gift we have in our land, we strive to find a balance between growth and conservation, technology and preservation. Our 10 Resource Conservation and Development Councils throughout Indiana help us achieve that balance. They work with our State Department of Agriculture to provide a system of rural development to encourage wise use of our natural resources. They also bring together private citizens, state and federal agencies to work together to find answers."

RC&D week was declared in recognition of the anniversary of the designation of the first 10 RC&D areas formed in the early 60's. In the past 43 years the RC&D program has grown from 10 designated areas to 375 designated areas, covering over 85% of the United States and its territories.

RC&D operates as a unique public-private partnership that builds relationships, creates financial leverage, and increases the ability of communities to protect, enhance and develop their own economic, natural and social resources in ways that improve their environment and quality of life. The RC&D program is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Secretary of Agriculture makes the total resources of the Department available to help carry out projects.

Resource Conservation and Development Councils are comprised of local volunteers who serve their communities in all 50 states and U.S. territories. RC&D Councils identify, address and solve the challenges needed to sustain and improve the quality of life in their own communities. <http://www.rcdnet.org>

Annually, Indiana's RC&D councils carryout over 100 projects, helping to address issues such as sustainable land use, mine reclamation, rural fire protection, small business support and development, community land stewardship, and a variety of environmental education needs.

Indiana's NRCS State Conservationist Jane Hardisty said, "Working over the years with RC&D councils has been personally rewarding. I can think of no better way to recognize the efforts of these tireless volunteers than the recognition of RC&D Week throughout Indiana."

Indiana NRCS supports each RC&D council by providing a coordinator to work hand-in-hand with local leaders to reach the council's goals. The key to the success of the program is local involvement and leadership. Hardisty continued, "Each day RC&D demonstrates that locally developed solutions to local problems work the best. That's because people know their own community and are willing to work hard to make it a better place to live."

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Attachment

Pictured from left to right: Jerod Chew, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Div. of Soil Conservation; Marshall Nuckolls, Indiana League of RC&D Councils (Sycamore Trails); Lt. Governor Becky Skillman; Jane Hardisty, NRCS State Conservationist; Andy Miller, Director, Indiana State Department of Agriculture