

Southern Low Desert Resource Conservation & Development Council

& Low Desert Weed Management Area

Presented by Ilima Hawkins

11/19/2009



Introduction

- Resource Conservation and Development
- Southern Low Desert RC&D
- Low Desert WMA
- Development of Next 5-Year Area Plan



Resource Conservation and Development

What: Federal program developed in 1962.

Why: *To establish a locally-led process that makes federal, state, and local resources available to communities for resource conservation and (sustainable) community development.*

4 Mission Critical Elements:

Soil Conservation

Water Management

Land Management

Community Development

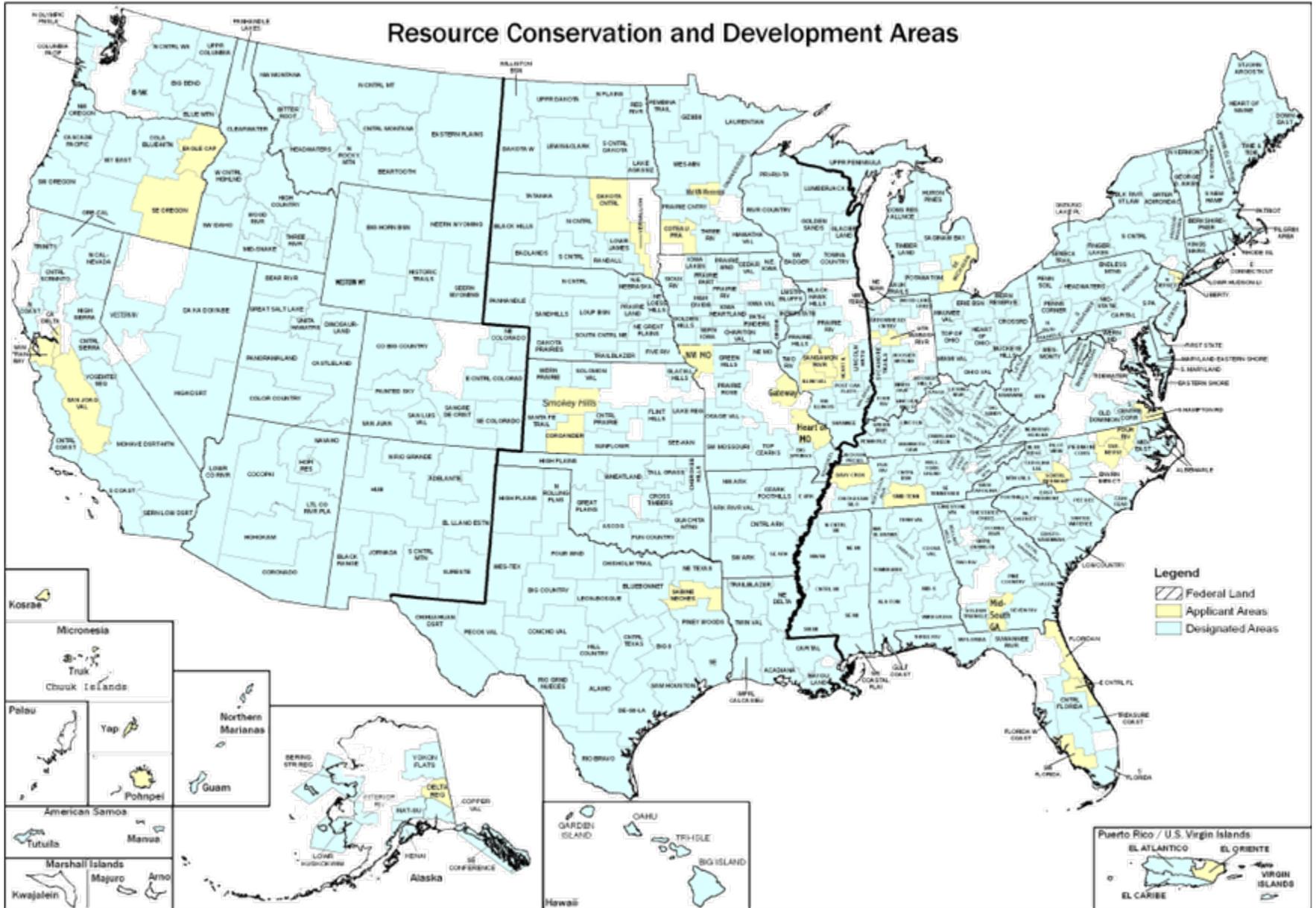


Resource Conservation and Development

How It Works:

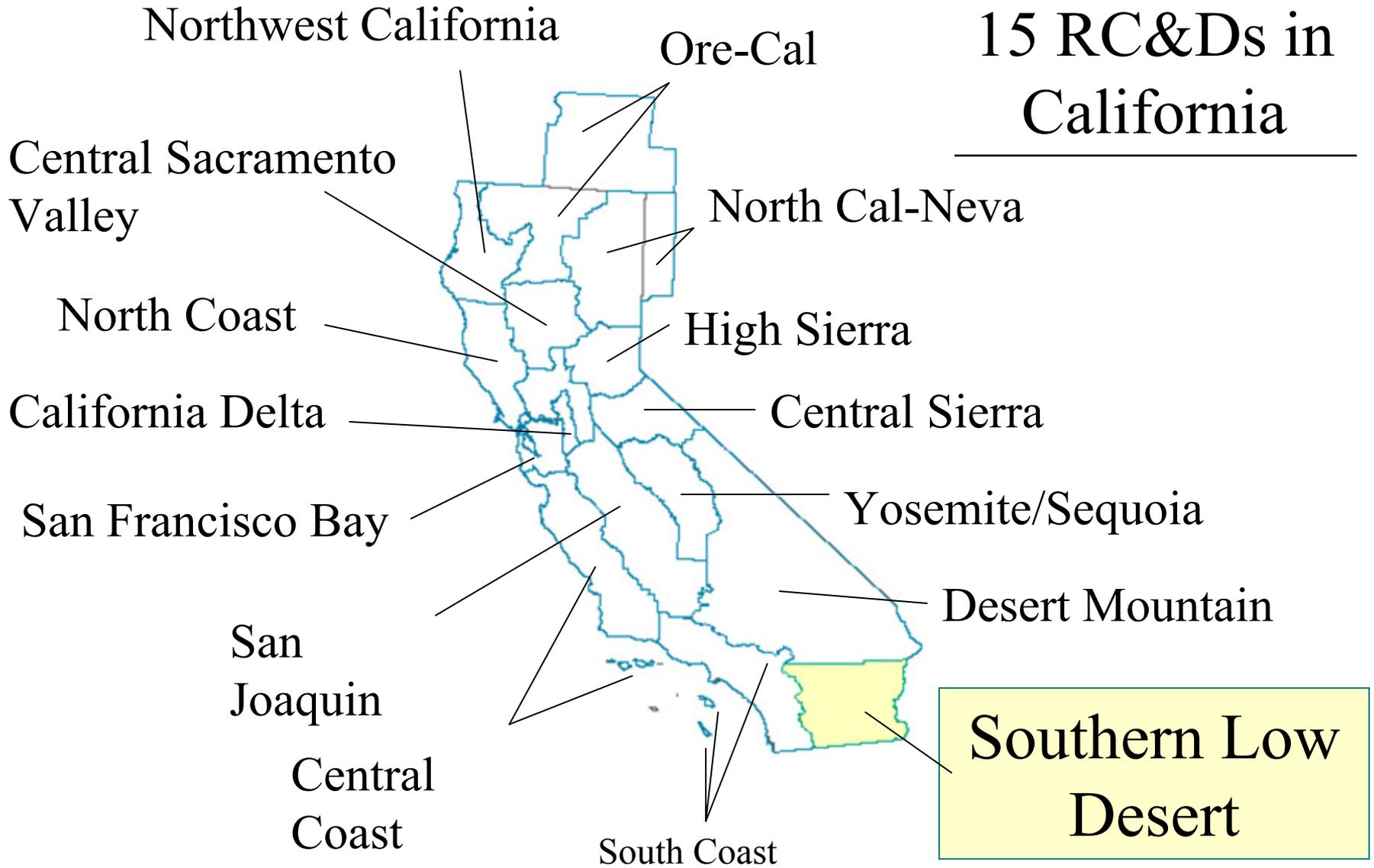
- RC&D Areas: designated by congress, run by 501(c)3 non-profit councils.
- Membership: local community organizations & governments.
- Council determines how to address 4 critical elements with a 5-Year Area Plan of Work.
- NRCS provides each council with:
Coordinator, Vehicle, Office space, \$7,500 (varies by state/year)
- Coordinator provides technical assistance & guidance.

Resource Conservation and Development Areas





15 RC&Ds in California





Southern Low Desert RC&D Council

The Mission:

To help local citizens identify and solve challenges to sustain and improve their quality of life.

Programs and Projects:

- **Low Desert WMA**
- **Native American/Tribal Outreach**
Weaving Together – Torres Martinez DCI
- **Community Development**
Financial Planning - Salton Community Services District
Restoration/Maintenance Planning - Finney Ramer Lake
- **NRCS Program Outreach**



Update: Low Desert WMA

Rapid Watershed Inventory of Invasive Plants

Purpose:

- Next step outlined in WMA strategic plan.
- Develop and prioritize WMA projects.
- Demonstrate a need for a WMA coordinator position.



Where We're At:

- Identified potential areas for weed treatments:

Mission Creek

Snow Creek

Whitewater Delta

Streams in Nt'l Mnmnt

Palm Oases in Nt'l Mnmnt

Finney Ramer Lake (Imperial)

- Acquiring funding to treat tamarisk in Dos Palmas.



Update: Low Desert WMA

Next Year Activities:

- Scheduling volunteer mapping events.
- Developing community outreach exhibit.

Surveying Partners for 2011 activity Ideas:

- CDFWA providing \$8,000 in base funding.
- Restoration Conference?
- Weed strike teams?
- Supporting a WMA coordinator?



Southern Low Desert RC&D Council

Provides:

- Community organization, planning, conduit for funding, educational outreach, technical assistance and much more!
- Application required for assistance.
- Area Planning Meetings in next 6 months:
 - Imperial – Dec. 17th*
 - Blythe*
 - Borrego Springs*
 - Salton City*
 - Coachella*
 - Winterhaven*



Southern Low Desert RC&D Council

For more information,

E-mail: rcdcouncil@gmail.com

Call: 1-760-342-4624 x115

Working towards sustainable, vibrant communities.