



**Top of the Ozarks**  
Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.  
6726D Highway 63  
Houston, Missouri 65483  
(417) 967-2028

---

2008 Annual Report  
Projects and Activities

*Sustainable Agriculture:*

- The STRAWBALE HOUSING project is now underway. In partnership with Douglas County Extension Service, we currently have nine participants in this \$459,327 project funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Technical assistance and financial incentives were offered through this effort.
- The Council secured \$70,150 in funding from USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service to hire a part time specialist to provide assistance to the FARMERS MARKETS across our ten counties. This 18 month project will assess needs; provide training and networking opportunities, and increase visibility.
- The Council continues to provide organizational support to the ADVANCED GRAZIERS GROUP, an informal network of experienced grazing management producers.

*Natural Resources:*

- Our SEPTIC PUMPING project, in cooperation with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, is underway. Focused on sites along the JACKS FORK RIVER, participants will be required to attend an educational workshop to receive 50% cost sharing for their septic pump out. The funding level is \$300,394, and a technical specialist has been hired for the position.
- In partnership with the Bootheel and Big Springs RC&Ds, the University of Missouri Extension Service, MDC and others, the Council is completing a \$108,034 U.S. Forest Service Grant to develop a BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR WOODY BIOMASS HARVEST. In addition, incentives for sustainable harvest are being investigated and evaluated for Missouri usage.
- An application to provide technical support to campgrounds and others in the JACKS FORK WATERSHED to upgrade from primitive latrines has been approved. As part of the \$379,369 grant, a coalition will be formed including all levels of government and the private sector to focus on trail design and location in the watershed.
- In partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Council is administering forest stewardship plan development for all landowners enrolled in USDA's EQIP program. This \$190,000 effort will result in management plans on more than 10,000 acres across Missouri.



**Top of the Ozarks**  
**Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.**  
**6726D Highway 63**  
**Houston, Missouri 65483**  
**(417) 967-2028**

---

*Community Support:*

- Funds were secured from the Wal-Mart Distribution Center in St. James to provide support to the Envirothon, a national high school competition focused on the environment.
- Funds from the National Park Service have been secured to print our BIRDING SITE BROCHURE. Designed to attract bird watchers to the area to generate tourism dollars, this project is in partnership with Big Springs RC&D.

*Council Development:*

- The Council has secured provided support to the OZARKS REGIONAL FOUNDATION AND AFFILIATED TRUSTS. An Executive Director has been hired, established an office, and three VISTA employees hired.
- A LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE has been organized to develop and implement strategies to increase council sustainability. The committee has updated our mission statement and strategies, and will be seeking input into our long range plan in 2009.

---

*Serving Dent, Douglas, Howell, Laclede, Oregon, Ozark, Pulaski, Shannon, Texas, and Wright Counties*

---

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of 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, 14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (202)720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**Top of the Ozarks**  
**Resource Conservation & Development, Inc.**  
**6726D Highway 63**  
**Houston, Missouri 65483**  
**(417) 967-2028**

---