

# Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

## 2009-2014 Area Plan



This plan was prepared by the board members of the Endless Mountains RC&D Council with cooperation of USDA, NRCS and input from our many partners.

This plan includes the following counties: Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga and Wyoming Counties, Pennsylvania.

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## Introduction

This document is a 5 year plan for the Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. It was developed by board members of the Council with input from the public through 3 roundtables, a survey and a focus group meeting. The Counties served by this Area Plan include: Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga and Wyoming.

The purpose of this plan is to provide strategic direction for the organization. The organization is stronger than ever before, yet more efforts are needed to ensure a strong sustainable organization that serves the communities in our area.

Congress passed the Food and Agricultural Act of 1962, which authorized Resource Conservation and Development areas. The purpose of the act was to expand opportunities for conservation districts, local units of governments and individuals to improve their communities in multi-county areas. This included assistance in enhancing the economic, environmental and social well being of the RC&D Areas. Currently the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service administers the Federal RC&D Program. This document serves as an agreement between NRCS and Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

## Organization Overview

### Holistic Goal-Our Vision

#### *Quality of Life – Statement*

We will collectively continue to share our knowledge and scientific truth in protecting our natural resources and resource base with integrity, honesty and a conservation ethic which will result in becoming self-sustaining.

#### *Forms of Production*

- Commitment to success – functional board, action committee
- Accept everyone’s opinion / Open communication (consensus) – Establish procedure, listen with respect
- Element of fun & caring - Celebrate each other
- Conservation Ethic – Articulate & publicize our organization’s successes
- Use our influence as a group to integrate public opinion & political process
- Education (ourselves and others) to address root causes – A “watershed” idea
- RC&D has an integral role in assisting farmers in the region for being more successful and better stewards
- Assist small guys (farmers) to find their niche in the market so they don’t have to get “big”
- Education of the public on why local products are important and their role in sustainability.
- Apply this philosophy to our other issues (forestry, other ag products)
- Change public perception, to make a positive impact, by educating them on non-ag issues (energy, flood plains, storm water)

#### *Future Resource Base*

##### Organization:

- Larger staff for specific areas (forester, grazing, other, educator)
- Stronger partnerships with other agencies, organizations beyond CD & NRCS

- Future financial independence
- Less dependence on USDA
- Total commitment from board with support from staff, partners and “sponsors”
- Absent board members realize importance of RC&D and their involvement/role

### ***Landscape Description***

We will provide the opportunity for communities across the region to collaborate and join into the local expression of the diversity and balance of farms, villages and towns. We will rely on local foods fresh off the farm, innovative entrepreneurs and willing partners to sustain our quality of life. We will need clean water and air, protected topsoil and sensible renewable energy. Our natural resources will require enhancement and conservation for healthy families and businesses to generate profit and support the people (who get it).

### **Mission**

The Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council will lead a diverse group of stakeholders in the sound conservation and stewardship of the region’s natural resources. The council will promote the rural quality of life and its economic stability through organizational efforts, education of communities, technical expertise and sponsorship of projects.

### **Background of Endless Mountains RC&D Council**

Endless Mountains RC&D was authorized on August 1, 1967 as an RC&D Council by the US Department of Agriculture. The original area only included Bradford, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga and Wyoming Counties. In 1992 Lycoming County was added to complete the six county RC&D region.

On May 24, 1988 the Endless Mountains RC&D Council formed the Endless Mountains Resource Conservation Trust. This entity was formed to serve as the financial arm of the organization. The Trust was incorporated and applied for and received its 501c3 with the IRS on December 7, 1989. In 2003 the Council began the strategic planning process for the 2004-2009 Area Plan. As a result of the planning process and a Council retreat, it was decided to dissolve the Trust and have the two organizations become one under the governance of Endless Mountains RC&D Council. In 2004 the Council and Trust began the process of dissolution of the Trust and obtaining incorporation and non-profit status for the Council. In January 21, 2005 the Council received an advanced ruling that it was considered a 501c3 organization with the IRS. It was from that date forward that the Council functioned as an independent organization. The Endless Mountains Resource Conservation Trust was officially dissolved on July 8, 2005.

### **Structure of the Council**

The Council is made up of a fourteen member board which is represented by twelve sponsoring organizations and two members at-large. Each county conservation district is entitled to delegate one board member and each set of county commissioners delegate one board member. The members at-large can be from anywhere within the RC&D region.

The Council recently celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> year in existence as an RC&D Council. That anniversary was recognized by each of the participating County Commissioners by the passing of a resolution honoring the Council and its accomplishments. PA Senator Rodger Madigan also presented the Council with a Senate Resolution of Congratulation in honor of the Council’s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and all the contributions to Pennsylvania. The last 40 years has been a test of times changing and the Council reinventing itself as a resource to the region and the communities it serves. The next five years are outlined in this plan. The Council looks forward to beginning implementation of the plan and continuing the contribution it makes to improve the quality of life for residents through the successful projects and partnerships that evolve.

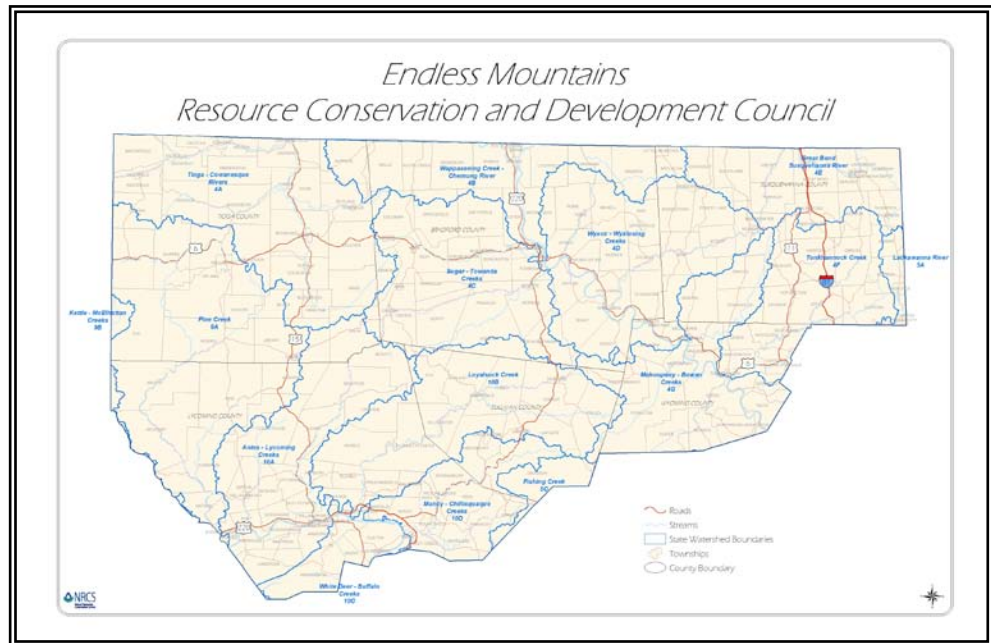
## Overview of the Area

### General

Pennsylvania is a geographically diverse state with tremendous resources. The Endless Mountains Region is blessed with clean water, abundant forests and diverse rural communities nestled in the valleys of the Appalachian Plateau. These communities and the people living there have a strong work ethic and are an integral part of the fabric of the Endless Mountains.

The region is 5,189.3 square miles with a population of 294,121. Approximately 76.5% of the region is considered rural with only one city located in the region, Williamsport, Lycoming County. Bradford County has two urban centers, both much less populated than Williamsport. All other counties average more than 81% rural. Many small farms and industries are located here. These farms and industries

provide a livelihood for the citizens and are an integral part of the commerce of the region. While this commerce has been vital to the growth of the region, the need to shift our perception from the natural resource base as a source of raw materials to the foundation for our life support system will require a fundamental change in how these resources are developed and conserved.



### Location and Setting

The EMRC&D Area is located in the Appalachian Plateau Region of North East and North Central Pennsylvania. This area, commonly known as the Endless Mountains Region, includes the six Pennsylvania counties of Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming. To the North, the area is bordered by New York State; on the East by Wayne County; to the South by Lackawanna, Luzerne, Union, Northumberland, Montour and Columbia Counties; and to the West by Clinton and Potter Counties.

<u>Bradford County General Profile</u>		<u>Lycoming County General Profile</u>	
Land Area in Square Miles	1,150.7	Land Area in Square Miles	1,234.9
Persons per Square Mile	53.4	Persons per Square Mile	94.6
Percent Urban	27.8%	Percent Urban	64%
Percent Rural	72.2%	Percent Rural	36%

<u>Sullivan County General Profile</u>		<u>Susquehanna County General Profile</u>	
Land Area in Square Miles	449.9	Land Area in Square Miles	822.9
Persons per Square Mile	13.8	Persons per Square Mile	50
Percent Urban	0%	Percent Urban	18.5%
Percent Rural	100%	Percent Rural	81.5%

<u>Tioga County General Profile</u>		<u>Wyoming County General Profile</u>	
Land Area in Square Miles	1,133.7	Land Area in Square Miles	397.2
Persons per Square Mile	35.9	Persons per Square Mile	70.1
Percent Urban	15.7%	Percent Urban	15%
Percent Rural	84.3%	Percent Rural	85%

\*US Bureau of the Census-2000 and 2007 and The Center for Rural PA-2000

## Demographics

### Bradford County Demographic Profile

Population	County	Pennsylvania
Total Population	61,471-less than1% of total population in PA	12,432,792
Male	30,061	6,048,989
Female	31,410	6,383,803
Population by Race		
White	97.9%	85.6%
Black	0.5%	10.8%
Other	1.0%	14.4%
Hispanic Origin (all races)	1.3%	4.5%
Population by Age		
Ages 0-14	11,313	2,259,355
Ages 15-19	4,091	895,940
Ages 20-34	10,015	2,283,088
Ages 35-49	13,201	2,720,348
Ages 50-64	12,521	2,384,401
Ages 65 and older	10,330	1,889,660

US Bureau of the Census-2007 Estimate

### Lycoming County Demographic Profile

Population	County	Pennsylvania
Total Population	116,811-less than1% of total population in PA	12,432,792
Male	57,286	6,048,989
Female	59,525	6,383,803
Population by Race		
White	93.7%	85.6%
Black	4.6%	10.8%
Other	0.8%	14.4%
Hispanic Origin (all races)	1.8%	4.5%
Population by Age		
Ages 0-14	19,925	2,259,355
Ages 15-19	8,627	895,940
Ages 20-34	21,892	2,283,088
Ages 35-49	24,263	2,720,348

Ages 50-64	23,007	2,384,401
Ages 65 and older	19,097	1,889,660
US Bureau of the Census-2007 Estimate		

### Sullivan County Demographic Profile

Population	County	Pennsylvania
Total Population	6,200-less than1% of total population in PA	12,432,792
Male	3,113	6,048,989
Female	3,087	6,383,803
Population by Race		
White	95.4%	85.6%
Black	2.9%	10.8%
Other	1.0%	14.4%
Hispanic Origin (all races)	2.6%	4.5%
Population by Age		
Ages 0-14	824	2,259,355
Ages15-19	558	895,940
Ages 20-34	901	2,283,088
Ages 35-49	1,235	2,720,348
Ages 50-64	1,226	2,384,401
Ages 65 and older	1,456	1,889,660
US Bureau of the Census-2007 Estimate		

### Susquehanna County Demographic Profile

Population	County	Pennsylvania
Total Population	41,123-less than1% of total population in PA	12,432,792
Male	20,498	6,048,989
Female	20,625	6,383,803
Population by Race		
White	98.4%	85.6%
Black	0.5%	10.8%
Other	0.6%	14.4%
Hispanic Origin (all races)	2.0%	4.5%
Population by Age		
Ages 0-14	7,172	2,259,355
Ages15-19	2,837	895,940
Ages 20-34	6,950	2,283,088
Ages 35-49	8,990	2,720,348
Ages 50-64	8,534	2,384,401
Ages 65 and older	6,640	1,889,660
US Bureau of the Census-2007 Estimate		

### Tioga County Demographic Profile

Population	County	Pennsylvania
Total Population	40,681-less than 0.01% of total population in PA	12,432,792
Male	19,858	6,048,989
Female	20,823	6,383,803
Population by Race		

White	97.7%	85.6%
Black	0.9%	10.8%
Other	0.7%	14.4%
Hispanic Origin (all races)	1.4%	4.5%
Population by Age		
Ages 0-14	6,746	2,259,355
Ages 15-19	3,103	895,940
Ages 20-34	7,845	2,283,088
Ages 35-49	7,995	2,720,348
Ages 50-64	7,913	2,384,401
Ages 65 and older	7,079	1,889,660
US Bureau of the Census-2007 Estimate		

### Wyoming County Demographic Profile

Population	County	Pennsylvania
Total Population	27,835-less than 1% of total population in PA	12,432,792
Male	13,891	6,048,989
Female	13,944	6,383,803
Population by Race		
White	97.9%	85.6%
Black	0.8%	10.8%
Other	0.7%	14.4%
Hispanic Origin (all races)	2.1%	4.5%
Population by Age		
Ages 0-14	5,009	2,259,355
Ages 15-19	2,021	895,940
Ages 20-34	4,925	2,283,088
Ages 35-49	6,017	2,720,348
Ages 50-64	5,810	2,384,401
Ages 65 and older	4,053	1,889,660
US Bureau of the Census-2007 Estimate		

## Natural Resources

### Climate

The EMRC&D Region’s winters are cold, and summers are moderately warm with occasional hot spells. Mountains are markedly cooler than the lowlands. Winter snows occur frequently, occasionally as a blizzard. The average temperature in winter is between 28° and 29°F and the average daily minimum temperature ranges 19° to 21°F. The average temperature in summer is between 69° and 71°F and the average daily maximum temperature is 82°F.

The total annual precipitation for the region is between 34 and 46 inches with 55 percent of the total annual precipitation usually falling in the months of April through September.

### Topography

Glaciations greatly influenced the topography of the area by creating smooth, steeply rolling hills, glacial lakes and stream valley deposits. The northern and eastern sections are characterized by high plateaus, which have been deeply cut into steep and narrow valleys by streams. The western and southern sections of the area are higher in elevation than the northern and eastern sections and are very rugged. Some of the most striking topographic contrast in the state is found in this region.

The most significant physical features of the area are the Susquehanna River, the high rugged plateau and the Pine Creek Gorge (Pennsylvania Grand Canyon). The Susquehanna River bisects the region from East to West due to its southeasterly flow through Bradford and Wyoming Counties and eventually turns to flow southwesterly toward the confluence with the West Branch Susquehanna River in Sunbury, Northumberland County. The West Branch Susquehanna River flows through the southern portion of Lycoming County to give river access to the area once it converges with the main stem of the Susquehanna River. In the past both rivers have provided the major route for accessing the area and is integral to the rich history of the region and all of PA.

The region has limited access over land due to the rugged plateau which runs along the southern portion of the region. This natural isolation from the southern portions of Pennsylvania has and continues to facilitate the rural nature of the area.

The Pine Creek Gorge begins South of Ansonia in Tioga County. It is situated in approximately 160,000 acres of the Tioga State Forest. At Leonard Harrison and Colton Point State Parks the gorge is approximately 4,000 feet from rim to rim and over 800 feet deep. In 1968 The National Park Service designated a 12 mile section of "The Gorge" a National Natural Landmark.

### Physiographic Provinces

All of the EMRC&D Region lies within the Appalachian Plateau province with the exception of the southern half of Lycoming County, a small section of South West Sullivan County, and the South East corner of Susquehanna County which are all in the Ridge and Valley Province.

Bradford, Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties are predominately in the Glaciated Low Plateau with the exception of the higher elevations in the South West corners of Bradford and Wyoming Counties and East Sullivan County, which are in the Glaciated High Plateau. Northern Lycoming and western Sullivan and Tioga Counties are in the Deep Valleys Section.

### Geology

The geology in the region is primarily from the Devonian, Mississippian, and Pennsylvanian Periods with the exception of southern Lycoming County whose geology is from the Silurian and Ordovician periods.

Most of the Endless Mountains Area was covered by glaciers during the Illinoian and Wisconsinan glacial ages. These glaciers drastically altered the landscape by blocking or changing stream flow, filling in valleys with glacial till, rounding and smoothing hills, and destroying the old soils.

Rocks underlying the area originated millions of years ago from deposits of sand, gravel, silt and calcareous materials. These layers, subjected to long periods of heat and pressure, evolved into horizontally bedded sedimentary rocks—sandstones, shales, and conglomerates with few limestones and coals.

Exposed rocks were formed during three geological ages—namely; the Devonian, Mississippian, and the Pennsylvanian. The oldest exposed rocks are the Susquehanna Group of the Devonian Age. This group of rocks consists of sandstones and shales of the Marine Beds, Catskill, and Oswayo Formations. Rocks of the Susquehanna Group yield abundant supplies of flagstone, which is one of the chief mineral industries of the region.

The next younger period of occurrence within the area was the Mississippian Period. Rocks of this period consist mainly of the Pocono Group, which are primarily gray or white sandstones with some interbedded shales and conglomerates.

Rocks of the Pennsylvanian Period are the most recent rock system exposed in the area. The Pottsville Formation is the major exposure of this period and consists of hard conglomerates, shales, sandstones, and several seams of coal.

The major mineral resources were the coals of the Pottsville Formation. These include the Seymour, Bloss Coal and clay, and the Bear Creek Coal in Tioga County. Coal also occurs in mineable quantities in the Bernice synclines South and West of Forkston in Wyoming and Sullivan Counties. Fire clays are associated with the coals in several places. A rich gas field was discovered in Tioga County in 1930, but was short lived. Today, oil is still produced near Gaines, Tioga County. Spoil piles, acid mine drainage, and uncontrolled oil and gas wells from historical mining operations present an ongoing threat, but present ongoing opportunities for water quality enhancement and restoration programs.

The numerous sand and gravel deposits formed by the streams flowing from the glaciers have provided productive sources of ground water as well as quarried sand and gravel.

Rocks of the Pennsylvanian Period yield small to moderate amounts of water, which may contain some iron. Rocks of the Mississippian Period yield adequate amounts of generally soft water, although some of the water contains iron. Water yields from the Devonian rocks vary considerably. The water is frequently of poor quality because it is brackish, contains iron, hydrogen sulfide or natural gas. The Catskill Formation generally yields adequate supplies for domestic use and yields moderately large supplies to most industrial and public water supply wells. Water from some wells in the Catskill Formation is brackish or salty and may contain noticeable amounts of iron and hydrogen sulfide.

### Water Resources

Water is one of the most scenic and abundant area resources. The region is located entirely in the Susquehanna River Basin which drains to the Chesapeake Bay. Five major rivers drain the area – the Tioga and Cowanesque to the West; the North Branch of the Susquehanna in the central region, the Lackawanna to the East, and the West Branch of the Susquehanna in the southern region. Major tributaries of these rivers include Pine, Little Pine, Larry's, Lycoming, Sugar, Towanda, Wysox, Mehoopany, Wyalusing, Meshoppen, Wappasenting, Muncy, Bentley, Tunkhannock, Bowman and Loyalsock Creeks.

Flow of area streams and rivers is variable and dependent on rainfall. Generally, there is excessive flow in late winter and early spring and low flow during late summer and early fall.

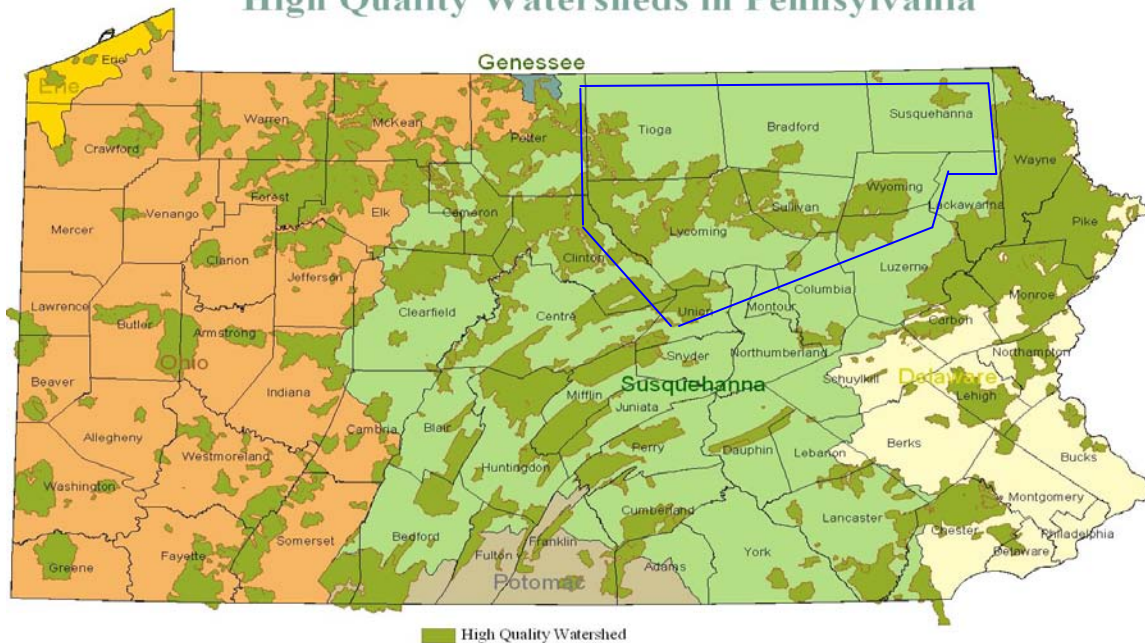
The water quality of the region is generally very good with a large portion of the watersheds meeting its designated uses as listed in Chapter 93 of the PA Code. DEP has assessed most of the streams in the region.

While the water quality and quantity of the region is generally good there are major impacts to the water quality of the Susquehanna River. Due to the predominant rural nature of the region and the efforts of the DEP with point source pollution, the majority of the impairments are from non-point sources. These include Abandon Mine Drainage, stream channel instability, sediment and nutrient runoff from agricultural lands, malfunctioning septic systems and pollution from municipal sewage treatment plants. In addition there are scattered sources of industrial waste.

There are a number of Exceptional Value watersheds in the region. These are located in the mountainous areas of the region in southern Tioga, Bradford and Wyoming Counties, northern Lycoming County and Sullivan County. There are also a number of High Quality Cold Water Fisheries are found there. These

watersheds provide abundant opportunity for recreation and provide a source of abundant clean water for recharging aquifers and in stream use further downstream.

## High Quality Watersheds in Pennsylvania



The communities in the region have formed many watershed associations focused on protecting and restoring the rivers and streams. With the advent of Growing Greener funding the efforts of these local groups has been greatly enhanced. The major focus of the Council's Watershed Coordinator has been and will continue to provide support to these watershed associations and the Watershed Specialists at the County Conservation Districts in the Endless Mountains region.

### Outdoor Recreation and Wildlife

Most of the land and water resources of the area have either a primary or secondary use for recreational purposes. Outdoor recreation is important to businesses, and plays a significant role in resource development.

Local residents and others from as far as New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Delaware travel to the Endless Mountains Area to partake in the many outdoor recreational activities available in the region. The winter offers snowshoeing, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, and ice fishing. In the spring and summer there is hiking, bird watching, horseback riding, mountain biking, motorcycling, photography, canoeing and kayaking. The fall is best known for the spectacular views during the fall foliage which draws people to the region to simply drive and enjoy the scenery.

The fish and wildlife resources are important assets to the recreational environment. Presently, both hunting and fishing are popular area-wide forms of outdoor recreation. Annually, the sale of equipment, supplies and lodging, etc. to outdoor sports enthusiasts adds significantly to the local economy.

Major problems affecting fish resources in the area are increased erosion and sedimentation, degraded water quality, extreme low flows, and heavy fishing pressure. Major problems affecting game resources

include an excessive deer population, changes in land use patterns, increased hunting pressure by humans, and the lack of large predators.

## Agriculture

Agriculture is the number one industry in the region. Milk and other dairy products from cows are the top commodities in value of sales in each of the six counties. Cattle and calves are second in five of the counties with it being third in the sixth county. Hogs and pigs, grains, oilseed, dry beans, dry peas, other crops and hay, nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod are other high commodity items produced in the region. (2002, Center for Rural PA)

### Number of Farms in the EMRC&D Region by County

County	Land in Farms	Acres per Farm	Number of Farms	Summary of Findings
<b>Bradford</b>				From 1997 to 2007 the county lost 200 farms and 30,000 acres of farmland, while the average size farm has increased by 6 acres. From 2006 to 2007 the county lost 10 farms.
1997	329,000	195	1,690	
2006	299,000	199	1,500	
2007	299,000	201	1,490	
<b>Lycoming</b>				From 1997 to 2007 the county saw an increase of more than 200 farms and 30,000 acres of farmland, while the average size farm only slightly increased by 6 acres. From 2006 to 2007 the county lost 5 farms.
1997	145,500	132	1,105	
2006	175,000	132	1,325	
2007	175,000	133	1,320	
<b>Sullivan</b>				From 1997 to 2007 the county saw an increase of 5 farms and 1,500 acres of farmland, while the average size farm has increased slightly.
1997	29,500	179	165	
2006	31,000	182	170	
2007	31,000	182	170	
<b>Susquehanna</b>				From 1997 to 2007 the county saw an increase of 185 farms and 6500 acres of farmland, while the average size farm has decreased by 27 acres. From 2006 to 2007 the county lost 5 farms.
1997	181000	196	925	
2006	187,500	168	1,115	
2007	187,500	169	1,110	
<b>Tioga</b>				From 1997 to 2007 the county lost 115 farms and 20,000 acres of farmland, while the average size farm has increased by 4 acres. From 2006 to 2007 the county lost 5 farms.
1997	217500	200	1085	
2006	197500	203	975	
2007	197500	204	970	
<b>Wyoming</b>				From 1997 to 2007 the county lost 40 farms and 4,500 acres of farmland, while the average size farm has increased by 5 acres.
1997	65,500	164	400	
2006	61,000	169	360	
2007	61,000	169	360	

USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

### Number of Livestock in EMRC&D Region by County

County	1998	2001	2008	Summary of Findings
<b>Bradford</b>				There has been a decrease in the number of sheep by 700 head, cattle down by 11,300 and dairy cows by 4000.
Sheep/Lambs	3,000		2,300	
Cattle/Calves		80,300	69,000	
Milk Cows		29,000	25000	
<b>Lycoming</b>				There has been an increase in the number of sheep by
Sheep/Lambs	400		1,600	
Cattle/Calves		23,000	24,100	

Milk Cows		7,500	6,900	1200 head and cattle by 1100 head, but a decrease in the number of dairy cows by 600.
<b>Sullivan</b>				There has been an increase in the number of sheep by 200 head, but a decrease in cattle by 2700 head and in the number of dairy cows by 500.
Sheep/Lambs	200		400	
Cattle/Calves		7,900	5,200	
Milk Cows		2,500	2,000	
<b>Susquehanna</b>				There has been an increase in the number of sheep by 400 head, but a decrease in cattle by 5500 head and in the number of dairy cows by 6000.
Sheep/Lambs	1,000		1,400	
Cattle/Calves		34,600	29,100	
Milk Cows		17,100	11,1000	
<b>Tioga</b>				There has been an increase in the number of sheep by 800 head, but a decrease in cattle by 2700 head and in the number of dairy cows by 4000.
Sheep/Lambs	2,000		2,800	
Cattle/Calves		38,500	35,800	
Milk Cows		164,000	124,000	
<b>Wyoming</b>				There has been no change in number of sheep, but a decrease in cattle by 1300 head and in the number of dairy cows by 900.
Sheep/Lambs	800		800	
Cattle/Calves		9,600	8,300	
Milk Cows		4,100	3,200	
USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service				

Data for this table and the preceding tables in the Agriculture section are based upon data obtained from USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The numbers of milk cows have a slight discrepancy from one data query to the other and those numbers have been represented here in the tables. It is unknown why there is a difference in numbers.

#### Changes in Dairy Farms in EMRC&D Region by County

County	Annual Milk Per Cow (lbs)	Annual Milk Production (Thousand lbs)	Annual Average Milk Cows	Annual Milk Production Value (Thousand \$)	Summary
<b>Bradford</b>					From 1999 to 2007 an increase of 1659 lbs of milk per cow, but a decrease in the number of
1999	17,900	528,100	29,500	73,103	
2007	18,959	464,500	24,500	97,080	

					cows by 6500 head.
<b>Lycoming</b>					From 1999 to 2007 an increase of 2144 lbs of milk per cow, but a decrease in the number of cows by 700.
1999	15,700	114,600	7,300	15,974	
2007	18,044	122,700	6,800	25,644	
<b>Sullivan</b>					From 1999 to 2007 an increase of 2400 lbs of milk per cow, but a decrease in the number of cows by 700 head.
1999	16,900	45,600	2,700	5,823	
2007	18,200	36,400	2,000	7,608	
<b>Susquehanna</b>					From 1999 to 2007 an increase of 1586 lbs of milk per cow, but a decrease in the number of cows by 6300 head
1999	16,000	252,700	15,800	34,387	
2007	18,286	192,000	10,500	40,128	
<b>Tioga</b>					From 1999 to 2007 an increase of 1649 lbs of milk per cow, but a decrease in the number of cows by 4400 head.
1999	16,500	265,700	16,100	34,524	
2007	18,049	222,000	12,300	46,398	
<b>Wyoming</b>					From 1999 to 2007 a decrease of 676 lbs of milk per cow and in the number of cows by 900 head.
1999	16,700	68,500	4,100	9,083	
2007	16,324	55,500	3,400	11,600	
USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service-Data was corrected for this table.					

## Socioeconomic Information

### Bradford County Socioeconomic Profile

Income	County	Pennsylvania
Per Capita Personal Income (Thousands)	\$26,503-23% less than the state average	\$36,825
Total Personal Income (Thousands)	\$1,632,451-just over 3.5% of the state total	\$456,732,442
Median Household Income (1999 dollars)	\$35,038	\$40,106
Median Family Income (1999 dollars)	\$40,664	\$49,184
Bureau of Economic Analysis-2006 and US Bureau of the Census-2000		

Labor Force	County	Pennsylvania
Civilian Labor Force	30,800	6,456,000
Employed	28,500	5,973,000
Unemployed	2,300	483,000
Unemployment Rate	7.4%	7.5%
Preliminary February 2009-Seasonally Adjusted		

<b>Employment and Wages by Industry Sector</b>
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NAICS Industry Sector	Employer Units	Employment	County Wage	PA Wage
Total All Industries	1,566	21,768	\$33,480	\$39,653
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	38	164	\$19,524	\$24,684
Mining	33	147	\$30,756	\$53,434
Utilities	7	128	\$62,428	\$86,922
Construction	114	530	\$31,352	\$45,092
Manufacturing	72	5,441	\$42,868	\$47,293
Wholesale Trade	71	518	\$35,422	\$55,748
Retail Trade	252	2,704	\$20,129	\$23,096
Transportation and Warehousing	74	581	\$27,869	\$36,087
Information	21	226	\$31,555	\$52,979
Finance and Insurance	78	598	\$38,068	\$62,092
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	27	117	\$26,217	\$39,237
Professional and Technical Services	80	328	\$24,984	\$65,284
Management of Companies and Enterprises	NA	NA	NA	\$81,595
Admin/Support, Waste Management/Remediation Services	27	355	\$14,756	\$27,418
Educational Services	6	80	\$16,062	\$40,790
Health Care and Social Assistance	249	4,450	\$34,945	\$36,979
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	20	99	\$10,901	\$23,352
Accommodations and Food Services	107	1,198	\$9,734	\$13,431
Other Services except Public Administration	131	516	\$14,678	\$24,142
Federal Government	31	206	\$43,929	\$56,730
State Government	14	281	\$44,230	\$45,012
Local Government	108	2,827	\$33,157	\$38,343
2007 Annual Average County total includes Private, Federal, State and Local Government				

### Lycoming County Socioeconomic Profile

Income	County	Pennsylvania
Per Capita Personal Income (Thousands)	\$28,502-23% less than the state average	\$36,825
Total Personal Income (Thousands)	\$3,344,642-just over 7% of the state total	\$456,732,442
Median Household Income (1999 dollars)	\$34,016	\$40,106
Median Family Income (1999 dollars)	\$41,040	\$49,184
Bureau of Economic Analysis-2006 and US Bureau of the Census-2000		

Labor Force	County	Pennsylvania
Civilian Labor Force	60,200	6,456,000

Employed	55,000	5,973,000
Unemployed	5,200	483,000
Unemployment Rate	8.6%	7.5%
Preliminary February 2009-Seasonally Adjusted		

Employment and Wages by Industry Sector				
NAICS Industry Sector	Employer Units	Employment	County Wage	PA Wage
Total All Industries	3,097	51,679	\$32,506	\$39,653
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	24	155	\$20,912	\$24,684
Mining	4	126	\$58,179	\$53,434
Utilities	NA	NA	NA	\$86,922
Construction	271	2,044	\$38,654	\$45,092
Manufacturing	178	10,254	\$40,733	\$47,293
Wholesale Trade	161	2,401	\$35,469	\$55,748
Retail Trade	475	6,824	\$19,856	\$23,096
Transportation and Warehousing	78	1,488	\$34,657	\$36,087
Information	43	753	\$39,418	\$52,979
Finance and Insurance	176	1,452	\$42,889	\$62,092
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	80	442	\$24,504	\$39,237
Professional and Technical Services	189	1,340	\$39,912	\$65,284
Management of Companies and Enterprises	12	292	\$32,541	\$81,595
Admin/Support, Waste Management/Remediation Services	106	1,971	\$18,893	\$27,418
Educational Services	22	551	\$31,158	\$40,790
Health Care and Social Assistance	476	8,154	\$34,945	\$36,979
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	37	347	\$22,009	\$23,352
Accommodations and Food Services	258	3,624	\$11,355	\$13,431
Other Services except Public Administration	279	1,761	\$21,284	\$24,142
Federal Government	35	478	\$53,090	\$56,730
State Government	27	2,920	\$43,901	\$45,012
Local Government	164	4,256	\$35,877	\$38,343
2007 Annual Average County total includes Private, Federal, State and Local Government				

### Sullivan County Socioeconomic Profile

Income	County	Pennsylvania
Per Capita Personal Income (Thousands)	\$26,072-29% less than the state average	\$36,825
Total Personal Income (Thousands)	\$162,400-less than 1% of the state total	\$456,732,442

Median Household Income (1999 dollars)	\$30,279	\$40,106
Median Family Income (1999 dollars)	\$37,196	\$49,184
Bureau of Economic Analysis-2006 and US Bureau of the Census-2000		

<b>Labor Force</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Pennsylvania</b>
Civilian Labor Force	3,000	6,456,000
Employed	2,700	5,973,000
Unemployed	300	483,000
Unemployment Rate	8.7%	7.5%
Preliminary February 2009- Seasonally Adjusted		

Employment and Wages by Industry Sector				
NAICS Industry Sector	Employer Units	Employment	County Wage	PA Wage
Total All Industries	208	1,633	\$24,752	\$39,653
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	7	12	\$13,525	\$24,684
Mining	NA	NA	NA	\$53,434
Utilities	NA	NA	NA	\$86,922
Construction	20	78	\$24,719	\$45,092
Manufacturing	8	160	\$26,097	\$47,293
Wholesale Trade	11	31	\$24,160	\$55,748
Retail Trade	27	189	\$21,339	\$23,096
Transportation and Warehousing	5	13	\$36,006	\$36,087
Information	4	24	\$14,763	\$52,979
Finance and Insurance	7	40	\$30,026	\$62,092
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	NA	NA	NA	\$39,237
Professional and Technical Services	7	27	\$14,618	\$65,284
Management of Companies and Enterprises	NA	NA	NA	\$81,595
Admin/Support, Waste Management/Remediation Services	6	45	\$12,966	\$27,418
Educational Services	NA	NA	NA	\$40,790
Health Care and Social Assistance	26	426	\$25,283	\$36,979
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	5	41	\$21,572	\$23,352
Accommodations and Food Services	21	125	\$10,059	\$13,431
Other Services except Public Administration	15	36	\$12,512	\$24,142
Federal Government	9	26	\$31,239	\$56,730
State Government	8	81	\$45,519	\$45,012
Local Government	18	252	\$28,899	\$38,343
2007 Annual Average County total includes Private, Federal, State and Local Government				

## Susquehanna County Socioeconomic Profile

Income	County	Pennsylvania
Per Capita Personal Income (Thousands)	\$27,834-24% less than the state average	\$36,825
Total Personal Income (Thousands)	\$1,153,013-just over 2.5% of the state total	\$456,732,442
Median Household Income (1999 dollars)	\$33,622	\$40,106
Median Family Income (1999 dollars)	\$39,564	\$49,184
Bureau of Economic Analysis-2006 and US Bureau of the Census-2000		

Labor Force	County	Pennsylvania
Civilian Labor Force	21,500	6,456,000
Employed	19,900	5,973,000
Unemployed	1,600	483,000
Unemployment Rate	7.5%	7.5%
Preliminary February 2009-Seasonally Adjusted		

Employment and Wages by Industry Sector				
NAICS Industry Sector	Employer Units	Employment	County Wage	PA Wage
Total All Industries	1,016	8,977	\$26,066	\$39,653
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	11	44	\$24,624	\$24,684
Mining	54	422	\$31,128	\$53,434
Utilities	NA	NA	NA	\$86,922
Construction	106	441	\$28,766	\$45,092
Manufacturing	64	764	\$26,793	\$47,293
Wholesale Trade	39	252	\$34,320	\$55,748
Retail Trade	142	1,352	\$20,499	\$23,096
Transportation and Warehousing	35	155	\$30,190	\$36,087
Information	7	116	\$40,255	\$52,979
Finance and Insurance	32	235	\$30,246	\$62,092
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	16	39	\$21,233	\$39,237
Professional and Technical Services	51	199	\$24,855	\$65,284
Management of Companies and Enterprises	6	75	\$26,022	\$81,595
Admin/Support, Waste Management/Remediation Services	27	138	\$20,192	\$27,418
Educational Services	NA	NA	NA	\$40,790
Health Care and Social Assistance	137	1,305	\$25,596	\$36,979
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	15	270	\$7,881	\$23,352
Accommodations and Food Services	85	783	\$11,176	\$13,431

Other Services except Public Administration	76	287	\$15,980	\$24,142
Federal Government	29	126	\$34,703	\$56,730
State Government	13	223	\$48,145	\$45,012
Local Government	69	1,720	\$32,232	\$38,343

2007 Annual Average  
County total includes Private, Federal, State and Local Government

### Tioga County Socioeconomic Profile

Income	County	Pennsylvania
Per Capita Personal Income (Thousands)	\$24,041-35% less than the state average	\$36,825
Total Personal Income (Thousands)	\$979,470-just over 2% of the state total	\$456,732,442
Median Household Income (1999 dollars)	\$32,020	\$40,106
Median Family Income (1999 dollars)	\$37,907	\$49,184

Bureau of Economic Analysis-2006 and US Bureau of the Census-2000

Labor Force	County	Pennsylvania
Civilian Labor Force	20,900	6,456,000
Employed	18,900	5,973,000
Unemployed	2,000	483,000
Unemployment Rate	9.4%	7.5%

Preliminary February 2009-Seasonally Adjusted

### Employment and Wages by Industry Sector

NAICS Industry Sector	Employer Units	Employment	County Wage	PA Wage
Total All Industries	1,083	12,806	\$29,596	\$39,653
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	20	94	\$23,359	\$24,684
Mining	NA	NA	NA	\$53,434
Utilities	10	118	\$61,718	\$86,922
Construction	73	285	\$28,766	\$45,092
Manufacturing	45	2,572	\$36,457	\$47,293
Wholesale Trade	25	378	\$33,819	\$55,748
Retail Trade	161	1,788	\$18,182	\$23,096
Transportation and Warehousing	48	358	\$31,014	\$36,087
Information	20	165	\$26,273	\$52,979
Finance and Insurance	39	322	\$37,991	\$62,092
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	16	59	\$23,433	\$39,237
Professional and Technical Services	48	203	\$37,424	\$65,284
Management of Companies and Enterprises	NA	NA	NA	\$81,595
Admin/Support, Waste Management/Remediation Services	27	147	\$32,570	\$27,418

Educational Services	NA	NA	NA	\$40,790
Health Care and Social Assistance	239	1,959	\$27,602	\$36,979
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	15	80	\$12,301	\$23,352
Accommodations and Food Services	101	1,092	\$14,314	\$13,431
Other Services except Public Administration	68	314	\$13,635	\$24,142
Federal Government	26	165	\$42,932	\$56,730
State Government	20	741	\$51,617	\$45,012
Local Government	77	1,826	\$30,051	\$38,343

2007 Annual Average  
County total includes Private, Federal, State and Local Government

### Wyoming County Socioeconomic Profile

Income	County	Pennsylvania
Per Capita Personal Income (Thousands)	28,269-23% less than the state average	36,825
Total Personal Income (Thousands)	787,978-less than 2% of the state total	456,732,442
Median Household Income (1999 dollars)	36,365	40,106
Median Family Income (1999 dollars)	42,824	49,184

Bureau of Economic Analysis-2006 and US Bureau of the Census-2000

Labor Force	County	Pennsylvania
Civilian Labor Force	14,600	6,456,000
Employed	13,400	5,973,000
Unemployed	1,200	483,000
Unemployment Rate	8.5%	7.5%

Preliminary February 2009-Seasonally Adjusted

### Employment and Wages by Industry Sector

NAICS Industry Sector	Employer Units	Employment	County Wage	PA Wage
Total All Industries	705	9,664	\$36,842	\$39,653
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	14	117	\$36,954	\$24,684
Mining	7	43	\$25,008	\$53,434
Utilities	NA	NA	NA	\$86,922
Construction	72	571	\$40,594	\$45,092
Manufacturing	NA	NA	NA	\$47,293
Wholesale Trade	36	376	\$34,307	\$55,748
Retail Trade	101	1,101	\$19,296	\$23,096
Transportation and Warehousing	33	637	\$37,305	\$36,087
Information	11	125	\$26,221	\$52,979
Finance and Insurance	36	200	\$62,922	\$62,092
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	10	19	\$13,402	\$39,237
Professional and	40	156	\$43,109	\$65,284

Technical Services				
Management of Companies and Enterprises	NA	NA	NA	\$81,595
Admin/Support, Waste Management/Remediation Services	28	221	\$19,637	\$27,418
Educational Services	NA	NA	NA	\$40,790
Health Care and Social Assistance	96	1,176	\$33,350	\$36,979
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	7	59	\$12,287	\$23,352
Accommodations and Food Services	51	573	\$10,618	\$13,431
Other Services except Public Administration	63	230	\$21,520	\$24,142
Federal Government	12	77	\$38,953	\$56,730
State Government	12	136	\$46,457	\$45,012
Local Government	41	1,063	\$32,226	\$38,343
2007 Annual Average -County total includes Private, Federal, State and Local Government				

## Resource Needs and Opportunities

### Public Participation

Endless Mountains RC&D Council hosted several workshops and events that included a variety of mechanisms for public input, including workshop evaluations and roundtable sessions (**Appendix A-D**). The Council held several strategic planning meetings of the whole Council and of the committees to outline (**Appendix E-G**) and detail the four Critical Issues presented in **Appendix H-K**. The Council worked as a group in developing SMART goals, objectives and strategies for the Organizational/Capacity Critical Issue. The Agriculture, Watershed and Energy Critical Issues were sent out to project partners and other organizations the Council either knows about or has worked with in the past (**Appendix L**). These group/individuals were asked to fill out a matrix of issues and questions as well as participate in a Focus Group meeting held on February 4, 2009 (**Appendix M-N**). The Critical Issues were the basis of the Focus group meeting where participants were given the opportunity to provide input on each of the three natural resource Critical Issues. The session consisted of a roundtable discussion and reporting session (**Appendix O-Q**). Each individual also had the opportunity to provide individual input through a personal roundtable worksheet (**Appendix R-U**). Individual and group roundtable worksheets were collected and along with the Critical Issue Matrix the Council received, both were used by the appropriate Critical Issue committee to develop the goals, objectives and strategies presented in this plan. The letter of invitation, matrix, Critical Issues, database of partners, responses to the Focus Group meeting individual and group worksheets are all located in the appendix.

### Summary of Findings

As an introduction to this section the Council has endeavored to address the four areas of focus for national RC&D Councils in a slightly different manor than usual. We actually started our conversations on our strategic approach to the Area Plan with an exercise that identified the most critical resource issues in our region and the communities that we hail from. This process led us down a different path

than we would have gone if we had addressed the four focus areas to start and by themselves. To be explicit, the Critical Issues in the following summary were developed first and then we added the focus areas that each one addresses. In addition we also realized that there was some overlap in the focus areas and the issues, sort of looking at the same room through different windows. So while it may seem that we have a slightly disjunctive summary, it is actually the most appropriate way for us to address our important topics in a way that also addresses the requirement of an Area Plan. Please bear with us as we explain the impact of our thought process. These four Critical Issues are, for us, the most strategic approach to planning the Council has taken to date; the opportunity to build SMART Goals, Objectives and Strategies put the wheel on our planning in a way we have never done before. The committees were charged with, and wrestled with, the requirements, but in the end saw the value in this exercise and also the opportunity for really accomplishing our goals. So as we move this Area Plan to implementation, this is the meat of the document and the means to an end that for us has a remarkable first step in not only solving some of the wickedly complex and persistent issues of our time, but to energize the Council to “Really do it!”

### **Critical Issue-Agriculture (Predominately Land Conservation/Land Management)**

Farms and the communities that have grown up around farms are the economic and cultural backbone of Region. These farming communities are threatened by development, economics, loss of support businesses, labor costs, a source of future farmers, local – state –federal regulations, non-farmer attitudes, bio-security, energy costs, water quality issues and wildlife impacts.

#### **Statement of Intent**

*By 2012, the Endless Mts. RC&D will be a recognized resource to Agricultural Communities and farmer needs in cooperation with agencies and organizations of similar intent.*

#### **Opportunities**

- Focus on water quality and the role agriculture plays in protecting and enhancing water quality is increasing. This is generated by both the national emphasis related to “impaired waters” as seen in the TMDL initiatives and the Chesapeake Bay Program and targeted goals. Such a focus will result in a sense of urgency for farmers not currently in compliance with water quality regulations to do so, and for farmers in compliance to do even more to take advantage of such programs as “nutrient trading”. Specific Region actions to take advantage of these opportunities include:
  - Providing conservation and nutrient management planning assistance
  - Providing technical and cost share assistance for BMP implementation
  - Targeted efforts in regional impaired watersheds
  - Acting as facilitator or broker for nutrient credit generation and trading
  - Participating in State Tributary Strategies and their implementation
  
- The changing climate in farm economics of the region and the nation, brought on by the increased energy costs will critically impact on region farms. Costs of electric and fuel for farm machinery will create a need for additional values to be added to locally produced products. Costs of transportation may create unique opportunities for diversified crops produced locally thus off setting transportation costs. Specific Region actions to take advantage of these opportunities include:
  - Promoting increased participation in the Region’s “Buy Fresh – Buy Local” program
  - Seek Value added opportunities for Regional farmers such as a “kitchen incubator”, Carbon Sequestration/trading.
  - Facilitate the implementation of farm BMPs that increase profitability and decrease energy use such as grazing and no-till practices.

- Oil & Gas exploration and development
- Alternative Energy.

### Priority Actions

1. Identify all organizations and programs that are involved in agricultural assistance, protection and support.
2. Investigate and secure funding for the development of an agricultural assistance, protection and support guide/menu of programs and opportunities.
3. Convene a group of representatives of various agricultural protection and support organizations and programs to investigate the development of a coalition for the future of farm communities in the Region.
4. Develop a Strategy in conjunction with those interested groups for the future enhancement of agricultural communities in the Region.
5. Investigate the possibility of a summit or series of workshops targeting specific opportunities for enhancing the economics of Regional agriculture.

### Key Participants

- ❑ *Conservation Districts*
- ❑ *Farmland Preservation Boards*
- ❑ *Identified Programs and Organizations*
- ❑ *Farm Bureau*
- ❑ *PA Dept. of Agriculture*
- ❑ *USDA agencies (NRCS, FSA, RD)*
- ❑ *PA Dept. of Environmental Protection*
- ❑ *Chesapeake Bay Foundation*
- ❑ *Endless Mts. Heritage Region*
- ❑ *Youth organizations FFA, 4-H*
- ❑ *PASA*
- ❑ *Cooperative Extension*
- ❑ *State Conservation Commission*

### Critical Issue-Watersheds *(Predominately Water Management)*

“Water is one of Pennsylvania's most precious resources. There are over 83,000 miles of streams, 4,000 lakes, 120 miles of coastal waters and 80 trillion gallons of ground water/aquifers in Pennsylvania. Maintaining the quality and quantity of this resource is critical to the economy and the survival of natural systems and habitats.” – Lycoming College Clean Water Institute

### Statement of Intent

*By 2012, the Endless Mts. RC&D will be a recognized resource to Watershed Organizations and Landowners needs in cooperation with agencies and organizations of similar intent.*

### Opportunities

- Providing education for stormwater and floodplain management
- Providing technical assistance for Watershed Organizations
- Targeted efforts in regional impaired watersheds
- Participating in State Tributary Strategies and their implementation
- Participate in efforts to restore biological communities to their native aquatic habitats
- Maintain and manage our healthy functioning watersheds

### Priority Actions

1. Identify all organizations and programs that are involved in Watershed assistance, protection and support.
2. Investigate and secure funding for the development of an Watershed assistance, protection and support guide/menu of programs and opportunities.
3. Develop a Strategy in conjunction with those interested groups for the future enhancement of Watershed resources in the Region.
4. Continue to provide Workshops for Stormwater and Floodplain Management.
5. Investigate the needs for the local watershed organizations and their sustainability.
6. Advocate for and support the return of Eels & Mussels to the Susquehanna River Basin.

### Key Participants

- Conservation Districts
- Watershed Organizations
- Identified Programs and Organizations
- USDA agencies (NRCS, FSA, RD)
- PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
- Chesapeake Bay Program
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Endless Mts. Heritage Region
- USGS
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Regional Universities
- Cooperative Extension
- Trout Unlimited
- DCNR
- PFBC

### **Critical Issue-Energy (Predominately Economic Development)**

On a daily basis, the US consumes more petroleum products than all of Japan, China, Canada, Russia, Indonesia, India, and South Africa combined. In PA alone, we spend \$30 billion annually to purchase liquid fuels produced from outside our borders. The increased costs of purchasing petroleum (increase of 82%) have created a hardship for consumers, and the environmental communities are reaching out for cleaner and renewable alternative energy.

### **Statement of Intent**

*By 2012, the Endless Mts. Resource and Development Council will be an educational resource for the general public to find solutions to their energy needs and concerns.*

### **Opportunities**

- Green infrastructure- education and demonstration projects
- Home-based businesses to reduce travel
- Grazing and Sustainable Agriculture. The Agricultural Committee has been involved and will continue to engage the farm community with this best management practice through workshops and funding sources.
- Alternative Energy:
  - Production of homegrown, renewable transportation fuels;

- Fuels for Schools Program
- Cellulosic ethanol
- Alternative heating: Solar Heating/Fencing: Showcase current sites and seek future funding for proposed projects.
- Wind Generators:
- Provide information on Existing Resources already in place:

### Priority Actions

1. Focus on the newest green infrastructure for demonstration projects in the 6 counties of the RC&D's Region.
2. The RC&D will utilize the various educational resources and entities that are associated with sustainable agriculture and intensive grazing practices.
3. The RC&D will host educational workshops for showcasing these businesses to those who are interested in working from home instead of traveling to another work location.
4. Continuation of "Energy Audits" Project with electric companies.
5. Alternative Energy – Cellulosic Ethanol Production and Research, Fuels for Schools, Solar Heating & Cooling.

### Key Participants

- ❑ Conservation Districts
- ❑ USDA agencies (NRCS, FSA, RD)
- ❑ PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
- ❑ Endless Mts. Heritage Region
- ❑ Trehab
- ❑ Regional Universities
- ❑ PSU Cooperative Extension
- ❑ Private enterprises focusing on energy conservation and alternative energy.
- ❑ Identified Programs and Organizations

### **Critical Issue- Organizational Capacity & Sustainability (Other)**

The issues facing the region across the boundaries and within them are huge and ever increasing. The category of capacity building and sustainability is a most important component of the strategic plan. The Council has taken some giant steps in this regard but more needs to be done. There are several important processes that will move us by quantum leaps forward. How we will implement our Holistic Goal and the Strategic Plan and what we will need to do and how we will behave as a council and as individuals in the future are paramount.

### **Statement of Intent**

*By 2012 The Endless Mtn RC&D will be financially sustainable with strong board capacity to ensure long term success of the organization. We will improve our learning and communication internally and externally utilizing a broad range of technology and commitment of all the members and agencies we interact with.*

### **Opportunities**

- Provide training to council members and staff on board functioning
- Provide training on fund raising
- Targeted efforts in capacity building.
- Implementation of Holistic Management decision making skills
- Participate in efforts to fulfill the mission of RC&D

- Maintain and manage our regional conservation initiatives.

### Priority Actions

1. Identify all organizational capacity needs for the RC&D Council
2. Investigate and secure funding for the day to day functioning of the Council
3. Develop a Strategy for fund raising.
4. Continue to provide workshops and training to increase local and regional leadership capacity
5. Provide training in Holistic Management
6. Advocate for and support regional conservation initiatives.

### Key Participants

- Conservation Districts
- Watershed Organizations
- Identified Programs and Organizations
- USDA agencies (NRCS, FSA, RD)
- PA Dept. of Environmental Protection
- Chesapeake Bay Program
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Endless Mts. Heritage Region
- USGS
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Regional Universities
- Cooperative Extension
- Trout Unlimited
- DCNR
- PFBC

## Goals, Objectives and Strategies

### Agriculture (Land Conservation/Land Management)

Goal #1-Develop and implement 2 strategies to enhance the sustainability of the agriculture culture of the Endless Mountains RC&D region by 2014.

Objective #1- Coordinate and facilitate at least two agricultural information exchange opportunities across the 6 county region by 2014.

Strategy #1-Identify organizations and programs involved in agricultural assistance, protection and support in the six county region by 2010.

Action #1- Survey, gather and compile information from those organizations operating in the Ag arena and develop a database by 2010.

Strategy #2-Educate 250 citizens, professionals and local municipal officials on agricultural issues through an Ag Summit by 2011.

Action #1-Bring identified organizations together to form an Ag-interests project steering committee to develop a strategy for hosting an Ag Summit by 2010.

Action #2-Identify focus and topic areas, develop a draft agenda and begin planning logistics for the Ag Summit by 2010.

Action #3-Secure 5 sponsors/resources to hold an Ag Summit by 2011.

Objective #2-Provide value-added opportunities and technical assistance to increase the number of producers participating in value-added programs by 50% in the six county region by 2014.

Strategy #1-Provide at least three training sessions targeted for value-added production by 2014.

Strategy #2-Provide intensive, technical support to 10 producers developing value-added products identified as viable goods to be used locally, within the region and/or within a 2 hour radius of the region by 2014.

Strategy #3-Assist with the development of 2 value-added agricultural production or marketing projects in the region by 2014.

Objective #3-Provide at least 4 technical assistance activities to support identified agricultural needs by 2014.

Strategy #1-Develop at least one comprehensive weed control wildlife habitat program addressing the management issues by targeting private landowners by the end of 2009.

Action #1-Provide at least 6 Weed Control and/or Wildlife Habitat technical assistance and educational opportunities by 2011.

Action #2-Increase the awareness and involvement of 100 landowners, public and private, in wildlife habitat programs by 2012.

Strategy #2-Expand on the current No-till and Cover Crop initiatives of the region to increase the number of acres utilizing these practices successfully by 3000 acres by 2014.

Strategy #3-Increase the number of acres utilizing rotational grazing by 1000 acres by 2014.

### **Watersheds (Water Management)**

Goal #1-By 2012, the EMRC&D will be used as a resource by 75% of the municipalities and watershed organizations in addressing watershed needs in cooperation with agencies and organizations of similar intent in the Endless Mountains region.

Objective #1-Educate 300 municipal and watershed officials on watershed management issues (ie: floodplain management, stormwater management and organizational/capacity development) annually.

Strategy #1-Identify one current/relative critical watershed issue annually.

Strategy #2-Organize and hold three regional summits annually to address identified issue.

Strategy #3-Identify agencies, organizations, resources and materials that will partner/sponsor/assist in addressing regional summit topics each year for at least three years and develop/maintain a directory that will be shared with participants.

Strategy #4-Utilize an 'adaptive delivery' process for education implementation that is wickedly effective and is re-evaluated at least annually.

Objective #2-Establish a regional watershed coalition by 2010 for the purpose of enhancing the knowledge, capacity and effectiveness of 75% of the region's watershed groups.

Strategy #1-Identify every watershed group in the RC&D region and survey their needs, interests and capacities by 2010.

Strategy #2-Secure resources to develop at least 1 assistance module to address identified topics in #1 through prioritization, annually, to begin in 2010.

Strategy #3-Refine annually the adaptive delivery process for the assistance modules and implement necessary changes.

Strategy #4-Develop a communication tool (such as an electronic newsletter) that would share information, feature regional watershed group activities, etc. 4 times per year beginning in 2010.

Strategy #5-Facilitate technical, informational and educational assistance to regional watershed efforts/initiatives as indentified annually.

### **Energy (Community Development)**

Goal #1 – Develop and implement at least one regional initiative to improve energy conservation and/or alternative energy production by 2014.

Objective #1 – Coordinate and facilitate at least two Energy-related public events by 2012.

Strategy #1 – Establish a partnership with Pocono Northeast RC&D and join efforts in planning and hosting a large regional event in 2009.

Action#1-Co-sponsor the June 13-14 2009 Northeast PA Energy Solutions Expo at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds in Dallas, PA with Pocono Northeast RC&D.

Strategy #2-Plan and host an Energy Expo in the Endless Mountains region by 2012.

Objective #2 – Provide technical and financial assistance to 50 farms, small businesses, community facilities and/or residents to implement energy conservation, alternative energy or renewable energy equipment/materials/practices by 2014.

Strategy #1 -Complete our Rotational Grazing Systems/Conversion to Grassland Project by installing 10 solar water systems by June 2010.

Strategy #2-Assist 25 farmers to conduct energy audits and assist them in implementing energy conservation practices, materials and equipment on the farm by 2012.

Strategy #3-Assist 15 entities interested in using renewable or alternative energy approaches to create heat and/or power at their facilities/homes by 2012.

Strategy #4 – Develop a list of energy-related programs and resources, including funding opportunities by 2010.

Objective #3-Identify gaps in services and information including education for both municipal officials and the general public in regard to natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale formation by 2010.

Strategy #1-Work with at least one state and/or Federal agency and local advisory group on water quality impacts as a result of natural gas drilling activities/practices in at least one watershed in the region by 2013.

### **Organizational Capacity & Sustainability**

Goal #1- By 2012 EMRCD will develop and implement a Council orientation and continuing training program to increase governance, leadership and capacity of the 14 member board.

Objective #1-The Governance Committee will develop an annual orientation and training session for Council on leadership and capacity (board function) issues to be held the meeting following the Annual meeting.

Strategy #1-By the June 2009 Council meeting, the Governance Committee will develop a board assessment tool and information delivery mechanism to improve upon board member commitment to Council committees.

Goal #2- By 2010 develop and begin implementation of a plan to become more financially sustainable including a plan to develop a broad base of financial support for the Endless Mountains RC&D Council.

Objective#1-Develop a timeline, resources available, potential committee members and game plan to begin plan development by June 2009.

Strategy #1-Assemble a team to provide expertise to assist in the development of a comprehensive business plan by July 1, 2009.

Action #1-Identify at least 5 business planning team members from within and outside of Council Board Members by the June 2009 Council meeting.

Action #2-Gain commitment from at least 80% of invitees for the business planning team and schedule an initial meeting by August 2009 Council meeting.

Goal #3- Beginning in 2009 increase public awareness of EMRCD as a conservation and development facilitator and resource among its communities, municipalities and partners in our six county region.

Objective #1-Create and implement at least 3 tools to enable the Council to establish a baseline of awareness and use of the Council among our partners, communities, municipalities and others by 2010.

Strategy #1-Develop and implement a detailed tracking system of participation and in-kind contributions for all events, projects and initiatives by 2010.

Strategy #2-Update the Council's mailing list into one comprehensive list by the June 2009 Council meeting.

Strategy #3-Update the RC&D website to improve our ability to track use and awareness of EMRCD and publicize/utilize the Council's web address on everything we do by the end of 2009.

Strategy #4-Establish a template for a Council newsletter to used to begin circulation 2 times a year by 2010.

## Current and Potential Partnerships

*Demand no more out of your partners than what you are willing to give yourself" ~ Martha Quinn*

The Endless Mountains RC&D Council recognized the major importance of partnership that is crucial to success of project development and implementation. Many of the Council's projects wouldn't be as successful as they are without the support and input provided by our partners.

The Council works closely with the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency. In addition to those USDA agencies the Council has a diverse and long list of other project partners including:

- Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga and Wyoming County Conservation Districts and County Commissioners
- Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga and Wyoming County Planning Commissions and Emergency Management
- Capital, Community Partnerships, Headwaters, Penn's Corner, Penn Soil, Pocono NE, Southeastern and Southern Alleghenies RC&D Councils
- PA Association of RC&D Councils
- Mid-Atlantic Association of RC&D Councils
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
- PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- PA Department of Agriculture
- PA Game Commission
- PA Fish and Boat Commission
- USDA Rural Development
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- US Forest Service
- US Geological Survey
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Penn State Cooperative Extension
- Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation
- Northern Tier Hardwood Association
- Bradford/Sullivan Forest Landowners Association
- Bradford County Progress Authority
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation

- Endless Mountains Heritage Region
- Northcentral PA Conservancy
- North Branch Land Trust
- Countryside Conservancy
- Northern Tier Cultural Alliance
- PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture
- PA Quality Deer Management
- Lycoming College
- Pennsylvania College of Technology
- Keystone College
- University of Scranton

The Council looks forward to continuing the work our seasoned partners, but also looks forward to working with new organizations in building a strong partnership to last another 41 years.

## Linkages to the NRCS Strategic Plan

### Agriculture

*Goal #1-Develop and implement 2 comprehensive strategies to enhance the sustainability of the agriculture culture of the Endless Mountains RC&D region by 2014.*

#### Overarching Strategies

- Cooperative Conservation
- Watershed Approach
- Market-based Approach

#### Mission Goals

- High-quality, Productive Soils
- Clean and Abundant Water
- Healthy Plant and Animal Communities
- Clean Air
- An Adequate Energy Supply
- Working Farm and Ranch Lands

#### Outcomes

##### High-quality, Productive Soils

- The quality of intensively used soils is maintained or enhanced to enable sustained production of a safe, healthy and abundant food supply.

##### Clean and Abundant Water

- The quality of surface waters and groundwater is improved and maintained to protect human health, support a healthy environment and encourage a productive landscape
- Water is conserved and protected to ensure an abundant and reliable supply for the Nation.

##### Healthy Plant and Animal Communities

- Grassland, rangeland and forest ecosystems are productive, diverse and resilient.
- Working lands and waters provide habitat for diverse and healthy wildlife, aquatic species, and plant communities
- Wetlands provide quality habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, protect water quality, and reduce flood damages.

##### Clean Air

- Agriculture makes a positive contribution to local air quality and the nation's efforts to sequester carbon.

#### An Adequate Energy Supply

- Agricultural activities conserve energy and agricultural lands are a source of environmentally sustainable biofuels and renewable energy.

#### Working Farm and Ranch Lands

- Connected landscapes sustain a viable agricultural sector and natural resource quality.

### **Watersheds**

***Goal #1-By 2012, the EMRC&D will be a recognized resource by 75% of the municipalities and watershed organizations in addressing watershed needs in cooperation with agencies and organizations of similar intent in the Endless Mountains region.***

#### Overarching Strategies

- Cooperative Conservation
- Watershed Approach

#### Mission Goals

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##### Working Farm and Ranch Lands

- Connected landscapes sustain a viable agricultural sector and natural resource quality.

### **Energy**

***Goal #1 – Develop and Implement a strategy to improve energy conservation and alternative energy production by 2014.***

#### Overarching Strategies

- Cooperative Conservation
- Market-based Approach

#### Mission Goals

- High-quality, Productive Soils
- Clean and Abundant Water
- Healthy Plant and Animal Communities
- Clean Air
- An Adequate Energy Supply

- Working Farm and Ranch Lands

Outcomes

High-quality, Productive Soils

- The quality of intensively used soils is maintained or enhanced to enable sustained production of a safe, healthy and abundant food supply.

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Working Farm and Ranch Lands

- Connected landscapes sustain a viable agricultural sector and natural resource quality.

## Approval, Signatures and Compliance Statements

The Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.'s programs 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 1975 and in accordance with regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15, Subparts 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 any program or activity receiving Federal financial (or technical) assistance from the Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.

The Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. agrees that the signing of this document constitutes agreement to comply with Federal laws concerning restrictions on lobbying, a drug-free workplace and responsibilities for procurement, suspension and disbarment.

The Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. have had this application reviewed by the state. Comments made through the state single point of contact have been considered prior to submission of the application and that applicable procedures have been followed. An environmental impact statement will not be prepared during the development of the Area Plan, 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.

Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.,  
Towanda, Pennsylvania.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

This action was authorized by unanimous consent of the voting members at an official meeting of the Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. on Wednesday, April 22, 2009.

The State Conservationist of PA NRCS hereby acknowledges the attached Area Plan of the Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. as meeting the requirement to receive assistance from the US Department of Agriculture.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PA State Conservationist

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Appendix

Appendix A	Producers Survey
Appendix B	Susquehanna/Wyoming Flood Summit Roundtable Worksheet and Evaluation Summaries
Appendix C	Lycoming/Tioga Flood Summit Roundtable Worksheet and Evaluation Summaries
Appendix D	Bradford/Sullivan Flood Summit Roundtable Worksheet and Evaluation Summaries
Appendix E	Focus Areas Lists
Appendix F	Strategic Planning Meeting Notes 12-14-07
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Appendix L	Area Planning Partner Database
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Appendix N	Matrix Responses-Composite
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Appendix R	Focus Group Roundtable Worksheet-Individual Responses Agriculture
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Appendix U	Focus Group Meeting Notes