

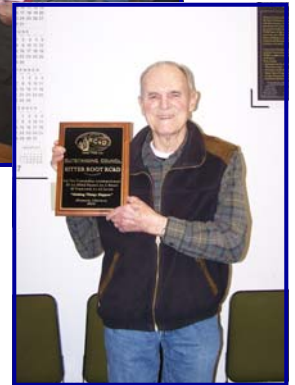
Bitter Root Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.

receives AWARDS and RECOGNITION as a program of EXCELLENCE!

Most who are familiar with the Bitter Root Resource Conservation & Development (RCED) Council know the RCED is a treasure for western Montana, but it's worth was proven when members of the Ravalli County, Hamilton based RCED received numerous awards from the Western RCED Association, Inc. in February 2010.



Bitter Root RCED Left to Right
Kit Sutherland, Retired RCED Coordinator
Council Members: Kevin Chamberlain, Richard Ramberg, Pam Gouse, B.J. McComb, Michele Landquist, Greg Chilcott, James Freeman, Allen Bjergo



Above - James (Jim) Freeman
with RCED Council of the
Year Award



Above - Nan Christianson, USFS Partner of the Year
Below Left - Kit Sutherland, RCED Coordinator of the Year
Below Right - Byron Bonney, RCED Employee of the Year

Awards were announced at the Western RCED Association meeting in Missoula, Montana. Those affiliated with the Bitter Root RCED received recognition as Western RCEDs' Coordinator of the Year, Employee of the Year, Council of the Year and Partner of the Year. In addition, outgoing president Jim H. Freeman received recognition for his 20 years of service. The Bitter Root RCED has also acquired Tier I and Tier II Level Membership in the National Association of RCED Councils Circle of Diamonds Excellence program.

Reflecting on the many awards associated with his nonprofit, Freeman noted, "The Bitter Root RCED has a national reputation for developing and implementing innovative solutions that address challenges faced not just by the three counties we serve, but by many people throughout the West and the nation."



Kit Sutherland, Retired Coordinator of the Bitter Root RCED and recipient of the Western RCEDs' Outstanding Coordinator of the Year Award, was quick to credit that reputation to the people with whom he works, explaining "this nonprofit is able to accomplish all that it does only because of the caliber of people who invest their time for their community's benefit. I'm pleased these folks received this recognition for their tremendous contributions."

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All RC&D programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.