



Natural Resources Conservation Service – Caribbean Area

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Guánica / Río Loco Update

2nd Qtr FY15

The **Río Loco / Guánica Bay Watershed Initiative** has been implemented through funding obligated from the 2002, 2008 and 2014 Farm Bill conservation programs, in partnership with federal, state, and local agencies and the support of several NGO's. Since 2010, NRCS has obligated over \$2.9 Million to address storm water runoff, surface water pollution and other water quality concerns in Guánica and Yauco counties, thereby improving over 4,300 acres.

The success of the **Río Loco / Guánica Bay Watershed Initiative** relies on the partnership between federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations and private stakeholders, working together in conservation. Challenges remain, but project highlights include:

- ◇ \$2,951,250.16 obligated through conservation contracts and \$2,156,648.69 in conservation payments since FY 2010 (in Yauco and Guánica counties).
- ◇ 3,067 acres improved in Guánica county (with 1,850 still under contract) and 1,342 acres contracted in Yauco county since FY 2010. In 2014 alone, \$132,860 was obligated to improve 186.4 acres.
- ◇ Since 2010, NRCS and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) have planted approximately 690 acres of native shade trees through 43 EQIP/WHIP contracts between Yauco, Maricao and Sabana Grande counties.
- ◇ NRCS has partnered with a wide number of agencies to implement this initiative, including USFWS, NOAA, EPA, PRASA, PREPA, Suroeste SWCD, PRDA, PRDRNA, and Yauco and Guánica Municipalities.
- ◇ The Suroeste Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is working with NRCS to: implement the final conservation practices along Río Loco; provide outreach to under-served communities to reach new clients; and develop new project proposals for the watershed.
- ◇ All Río Loco permits are processed and pending DRNA approval.
- ◇ All irrigation practices are completed in the Lower Río Loco Valley, pending pumping system tests and certification. Riverbank restoration and enhancement is pending final permit approval from DRNA.



Ripe coffee ready for harvest.
Photo by M Rodriguez, NRCS-CB.



Heavily eroded farm trail. Some farmers charging fees for off-road enthusiasts to use farm trails.
Photo by M Rodriguez, NRCS-CB.



August 2014 tropical storm damages to plantain crop in Yauco.
Photo by M Rodriguez, NRCS-CB.

RÍO LOCO / GUÁNICA BAY WATERSHED PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE 2015

CONSERVATION PRACTICES IMPLEMENTED IN YAUCO & GUÁNICA COUNTIES SINCE 2010

Code	Practice	Items	Extent	Units
310	Bedding	4	126.0	ac
311	Alley Cropping	1	3.0	ac
314	Brush Management	18	520.0	ac
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	3	94.4	ac
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	24	87.3	ac
330	Contour Farming	1	1.5	ac
331	Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops	17	31.3	ac
342	Critical Area Planting	4	12.3	ac
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till	18	408.5	ac
379	Multi-Story Cropping	52	535.1	ac
382	Fence	7	10,877.0	ft
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	9	37.7	ac
412	Grassed Waterway	4	23.9	ac
430	Irrigation Water Conveyance	2	6,630.0	ft
430	Irrigation Pipeline	2	6,630.0	ft
436	Irrigation Reservoir	4	4.0	ac-ft
441	Irrigation System, Micro-irrigation	2	9.4	ac
460	Land Clearing	8	47.9	ac
472	Access Control	7	128.6	ac
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	52	504.9	ac
512	Forage and Biomass Planting	5	127.7	ac
516	Livestock Pipeline	4	4,170.2	ft
528	Prescribed Grazing	2	112.0	ac
533	Pumping Plant	2	40.1	no
548	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	1	71.0	ac
557	Row Arrangement	1	10.0	ac
558	Roof Runoff Structure	2	2.0	no
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	21	247.0	sq ft
580	Stream bank and Shoreline Protection	1	99.0	ft
582	Open Channel	2	3,720.0	ft
590	Nutrient Management	67	1,714.0	ac
595	Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	50	1,017.8	ac
601	Vegetative Barrier	1	100.0	ft
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	3	8.0	ac
614	Watering Facility	6	121.2	no
632	Waste Separation Facility	1	12.0	no
633	Waste Recycling	1	31.7	ac
634	Waste Transfer	1	1.0	no
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	3	3.0	no
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning	3	8.0	ac
737	Reduced Water & Energy Coffee Conveyance System	1	1.0	no
751	Individual Terrace	55	522.9	ac
753	Infiltration Ditches	2	75.0	ft



Stormy day over Guánica watershed.
Photo by: M. Rodríguez, NRCS-CB.



Sediment and debris trapped in sediment control basin at Maria Antonia Farm.
Photo by: L H Rosado, NRCS-CB.



Grassed Waterway completed in Fraternidad Farm Guánica.
Photo by: L H Rosado, NRCS-CB.



Farmer planting native shade trees on Río Loco coffee plantation.
Photo: M. Rodríguez, NRCS-CB.

