



# Colorado Conservator

“your voice for locally led conservation”

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## CACD's 66th Annual Meeting, Nov. 15-18



*CACD's Annual Planning Committee has put together another outstanding program for our annual meeting in Colorado Springs. Larry Sweeney, foreground in the picture, will again serve as MC at the Banquet. Larry is a Director on the Board from the Bookcliff Conservation District.*

The CACD 2010 Annual Meeting will be held November 15-18, 2010 in Colorado Springs at the Crown Plaza. The facility has just received several million in upgrades and is a conveniently centralized location in Colorado, just off of I-25. Guests' rooms are offered at the conference rate of \$85 plus tax. Conservation Districts are tax exempt so be certain to provide the tax exempt information when making reservations on behalf of a Conservation District. To make reservations please contact the Crowne Plaza Hotel directly at 1-800-981-4012 or 1-719-576-5900. Please also visit the CACD website for further details on registration, lodging, and conference agenda. ([www.cacd.us](http://www.cacd.us)). In this edition of the Conservator you will find the conference agenda and registration form.

This year's Photo Contest is entitled: "Conservation Habits = Healthy Habits". The Poster

Contest and Photo Contest entries are due at the Annual Meeting on November 16, Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. This year's conference theme is "Conservation College II."

The conference will provide continuing training to district supervisors and employees on district management and financial responsibilities, grant writing and fund raising, conservation project funding opportunities, annual plan of work development and conservation district success stories. As many attendees have expressed that they have not had the opportunity to attend all of the sessions they would like to due to session overlap, this year, training sessions will be offered repeatedly in successive rotations.

Breakout sessions are sure to provide for engaging dialogue. A district employees input session will be facilitated and immediately following a Board supervisors input session will be held to

further information on conservation education and to take a look at the conservation mission in Colorado.

Partners from Forest Stewardship will be in attendance with CACD, NRCS, CSFS and USFS having recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding addressing healthy forest initiatives. CACD's partner, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, will also hold its meeting during the CACD Annual Meeting, along with a session on soil health. FSA, NRCS and RC&D will also provide updates during the conference.

We look forward to you joining your partners in conservation at the 66th CACD Annual Meeting.

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Colorado Association of Conservation Districts  
P.O. Box 4138 901 Rampart Range Road  
Woodland Park, CO 80866

## CACD DIRECTORS

**Harley Ernst--President**  
Republican River Watershed  
Flagler, Colorado  
Phone: (970) 357-4258  
Email: [jhe\\_farm@yahoo.com](mailto:jhe_farm@yahoo.com)

**JD Wright--Vice-President**  
Lower Arkansas River Watershed  
Olney Springs, Colorado  
Phone: (719) 263-5449  
Email: [jdjoyw@surfmk.com](mailto:jdjoyw@surfmk.com)

**Vern Vinson--Secretary/Treas.**  
Upper Arkansas River Watershed  
Sedalia, Colorado  
Phone: (719) 687-0330  
Email: [willowavi@aol.com](mailto:willowavi@aol.com)

**Lanny Denham**  
Gunnison-Dolores River Watershed  
Olathe, Colorado  
Phone: (970) 323-5461  
Email: [patdenham@yahoo.com](mailto:patdenham@yahoo.com)

**Tom Hartnett--Director**  
San Juan Basin Watershed  
Hesperus, Colorado  
Phone: (970) 259-1126  
Email: [rural\\_tmh@hotmail.com](mailto:rural_tmh@hotmail.com)

**Gary Moyer--Director**  
North Platte-White-Yampa Watershed  
Meeker, Colorado  
Phone: (970) 629-5136  
Email: [wrt@wrewildblue.org](mailto:wrt@wrewildblue.org)

**Brian Neufeld--Director**  
Rio Grande River Watershed  
Hooper, Colorado  
Phone: (719) 588-0550  
Email: [bri396@hotmail.com](mailto:bri396@hotmail.com)

**Brian Starkebaum--Director**  
Lower South Platte Watershed  
Haxtun, Colorado  
Phone: (970) 633-5999 Email: [brian-starkebaum@yumaconservation.org](mailto:brian-starkebaum@yumaconservation.org)

**Larry Sweeney--Director**  
Colorado River Watershed  
Rifle, Colorado  
Phone: (970) 876-2854  
Email: [jdbreath@hotmail.com](mailto:jdbreath@hotmail.com)

**Bob Warner--Director**  
Upper South Platte River Watershed  
Brighton, Colorado  
Phone: (303) 659-6195  
Email: [wrancher@msn.com](mailto:wrancher@msn.com)

**Darlene Jensen--Executive Dir.**  
PO Box 4138  
901 Rampart Range Road  
Woodland Park, Colorado  
Phone: (719) 686-0020  
Fax: (719) 686-0030  
Email: [Darlene@cacd.us](mailto:Darlene@cacd.us)

## President's Message



### Harley Ernst

Hi! I hope everybody is having a good Autumn with planting winter crops and harvesting fall crops. Please be careful and stay safe.

I know that everyone is busy with election coming up, deciding who to vote for and what to pass with supporting votes for what is best for now and for the future of our state and nation. Study the blue book when it comes out with an open mind and clear conscience and prayer.

Watershed meetings have been held or soon will be. Resolutions will be made and sent to CACD for the 66th Annual Meeting to be held at the Crowne Plaza

Hotel in Colorado Springs on November 15th-18th. Thanks to the planning committee as this looks to be an active and beneficial meeting both in education and policy building. Please plan to be there.

Gary Moyer, Darlene Jensen, Janice Ernst, and myself attended the Southwest and Pacific Regions Annual Conference in Keauhou, Hawaii.

Southwest presented 3 resolutions to go to the NACD meeting and appointed 4 members to a water committee. We heard several conservation district success stories of which 2 were from Colorado. Main topics of the conference were trees, agri-forestry, natural energy, and water conservation. Janice attended auxiliary activities. Some of the group went on a tour of a coffee farm where Harley tied for 3rd place on a coffee bean picking contest.

After the conference Janice and I toured the Island going to the ranching area where they are in a 2nd year drouth. They are shipping cattle early with insight. This ranch was 150,000 acres in size and began with a purchase of 2 acres and grew from there.

May God bless and keep You. Harley L. Ernst

### The Colorado Conservator

Providing Colorado With  
Conservation News for 40 Years

Jerry Schwien, Editor  
(Circulation 8,000)

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GOAL: The Colorado Conservator informs residents of Colorado about natural resources conservation. Information from our sponsors will emphasize natural resources and conservation programs available to landowners.

**Colorado Association of Conservation Districts**  
P.O. Box 4138, 901 Rampart Range Road  
Woodland Park, CO 80866 (719) 686-0020

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## CSCB Members

**Jack Burk - President**  
San Juan Basin Watershed  
Mancos, Colorado  
Phone: (970) 533-7841  
Email: [j\\_h\\_burk@msn.com](mailto:j_h_burk@msn.com)

**Mary Sue Liss -Vice President**  
Upper South Platte Watershed  
Elbert, Colorado  
Phone: (719) 495-3927  
Email: [lissranch@yahoo.com](mailto:lissranch@yahoo.com)

**Mel Rettig - Secretary**  
Colorado, Gunnison-Dolores  
Grand Junction, Colorado  
Phone: (970) 434-8470  
Email: [mmrettig@gvii.net](mailto:mmrettig@gvii.net)

**Jim (J.D.) Amick - Member**  
North Platte, White, Yampa  
Meeker, Colorado  
Phone: (970) 878-4460  
Email: [barvbar@quik.com](mailto:barvbar@quik.com)

**Leroy Brase - Member**  
Lower Arkansas River Watershed  
Lamar, Colorado  
Phone: (719) 336-2166  
Email: [lcbraze@cminet.net](mailto:lcbraze@cminet.net)

**Patricia Meakins**  
Member at Large (Governor's App.)  
Haxtun, Colorado  
Phone: (970) 774-6294  
Email: [pmeakins@pctelcom.coop](mailto:pmeakins@pctelcom.coop)

**Milton (Bud) Mekelburg - Member**  
Republican, Lower So. Platte  
Yuma, Colorado  
Phone: (970) 848-3411  
Email: [mgmekelburg@plains.net](mailto:mgmekelburg@plains.net)

**Brendon Rockey - Member**  
Rio Grande River Watershed  
Center, Colorado  
Phone: (719) 754-9199  
Email: [bfrockey@yahoo.com](mailto:bfrockey@yahoo.com)

**Carol Dunn - Member**  
Upper Arkansas River Watershed  
La Veta, Colorado  
Phone: (719) 742-3597  
Email: [carol.dunn@cad-a.com](mailto:carol.dunn@cad-a.com)

**Cindy Lair - Director**  
Colorado State Conservation Board  
700 Kipling, Suite 400  
Lakewood, CO 80215-5894  
Phone: (303) 239-4112  
Email: [cindy.lair@state.co.us](mailto:cindy.lair@state.co.us)



# Severance Tax Set to Sunset in 2011

## ...CACD to prepare legislative action

The severance tax which has been in place for five years is due to sunset in June of 2011. The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts is preparing legislation to introduce this legislative session to request an extension of the severance tax for support of the Matching Grants and Conservation Technician Program.

The severance tax is paid by companies that extract nonrenewable natural resources from the earth, including oil and gas, gold, coal, and molybdenum. Over the last five years, 92 percent of state severance tax collections have come from oil and gas, and nearly all of that is from gas. The severance tax dollars are used to fund the Matching Grant program at \$450,000 annually and the Conservation Technician Program at approximately \$200,000 annually. Conservation Districts leverage the Matching Grants dollars in some cases up to four-to-one and greater. Last year twice as many applications for Matching Grants dollars were submitted to the Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB), than there was funding available.

In addition to the Matching

Grant program, the severance tax dollars support the Conservation District cost-share of the Conservation Technician Program. Through the work of the technicians landowners receive much needed technical assistance in order to advise landowners in putting conservation practices on the ground.

If as a landowner you have benefitted from the Matching Grants program in your conservation practices, please share your success and value of the project with your elected officials. Conservation Districts are encouraged to share the success of the Matching Grants program dollars and the use of the Conservation Technician out of their District office.

One such success story is shared by the Gunnison Conservation District. In 2009 the Gunnison Conservation District received a Grant from the Colorado State Conservation Board to address the needs of the landowners of the Ohio Creek Valley for the control of Absinth Wormwood. The Gunnison CD worked with Gunnison County which provided the herbicide Milestone cost-free, to the landowners who would document that they had

Absinth Wormwood by location, size of infestation and baseline photography. The Grant monies received from the Colorado State Conservation Board paid each landowner \$25.00 per acre for the application of the conservation practice Pest Management toward the control of Absinth wormwood.

The outcome of the 2009 Matching Grant resulted in an increase awareness of the need of pest management of Absinth Wormwood in the Ohio Creek Valley. Many landowners, working individually with our District Conservation Technician, not only treated Absinth Wormwood, but took an additional step by re-seeding their land to avoid further infestation. Approximately 227 acres of Absinth Wormwood was treated by Ohio Creek landowners through this grant program. Twenty one landowners were contacted with an estimated 568 acres of this weed in the Ohio Creek Watershed. The District distributed 40 quarts of herbicide, cost-free to the Ohio Creek landowners. Cost-share was paid to ten landowners and one Homeowners Association at \$25.00 per acre for a total of 227 acres.

## Crowne Plaza to Host CACD Convention



The newly renovated luxury Crowne Plaza Hotel in Colorado Springs will host the CACD Annual Meeting. The Hotel offers an exceptional lodging and conference experience. To make reservations please call the Crowne Plaza at 1-800-981-4012 or 719-576-5900.

Be sure to make your reservations under the room conference rate of \$85 under CACD or the Conservation Districts Conference. It is not too early to make your reservations. See you at the Crowne Plaza in November.



### Congratulations Callie

Callie Hendrickson has moved on from her position with the Colorado State Conservation Board and has accepted a position with White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts. Callie served as the Western Slope Conservation Specialist for three years before taking a position with the conservation districts. She will also be consulting in her own business. The Conservation Specialist position for the Western Slope will be filled by CSCB. Callie is pictured with House Representative Jerry Sonnenberg, recipient of CACD's House Legislator of the Year 2009.

## WELCOME TO THE CACD AUXILIARY INFORMATION SITE

We look forward to seeing you at the 66<sup>th</sup> CACD Annual Meeting  
November 15-18, 2010  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado

### Annual Meeting of the Auxiliary:

Who: Every spouse of each of the 76 Conservation District Board Members is an automatic member to the Auxiliary.  
What: Formal Business Meeting (Old Business, New Business; Financial Report, etc.); and participate in making a Christmas craft.  
When: **Tuesday, November 16, 2010 - 2:30 to 4:30 PM**  
Where: Crowne Plaza Hotel, CACD Annual Meeting

### Silent Auction:

What: Primary fund-raiser to support Auxiliary programs and scholarships. We are requesting that each Conservation District donate one to three items for the Silent Auction. These can range from a craft item to something unique or specific to your area of Colorado. Any item that either male or female would enjoy. (*Donations are Tax-Deductible*).  
When: Tuesday, November 16 @11:00 a.m. through Wednesday, November 17 and closes at 4:30 PM  
(*Please have your auction items dropped off for display by 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, November 16 at the site*).  
Where: Crowne Plaza Hotel; CACD Annual Meeting

# Executive Director's Message

By Darlene Jensen

Three years ago this month I came to work for CACD to serve the conservation districts as Executive Director just before the CACD Annual Meeting. Definitely a time of trial by fire! The meeting was very successful and since that time, with the help of our many partners in conservation, the CACD Annual Meetings have been labeled as "not to be missed".

With the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, the agenda provides for continued training for supervisors, district managers, and conservation partners. The title of this year's conference is "*Conservation College II*". Yet, you do not have to be a graduate of any sort to get what you need out of the training offered. You will find the information presented to be useful in your work in conservation, in your business, and in your every day life.

Please make plans to join folks from across the state at the 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs. Information is found on the CACD website at [www.cacd.us](http://www.cacd.us)

Come to the conference even if you do not feel you need training, but to have the opportunity to talk with your fellow producers and conservation district representatives, as much is learned just through these conversations. If you are able to attend the opening session, you will find the Keynote Speaker of great interest. Brian Bledsoe, Chief Meteorologist with KKTU, who is from a ranching family in northeast Colorado, provides a weather forecast that is sure to help in your operations.

Many Districts are challenged by budgets and CACD certainly understands budget challenges. CACD has been very active again this year in protecting funding to the conservation districts through CACD's intense lobbying efforts of state legislators and through conversations with Joint Budget Committee members. Through CACD's contracted lobbyist, Tracee Bentley and through the work of the CACD Board, CACD was able to secure the funding to the Districts and the



Colorado Association of Conservation Districts

Mailing address: P.O. Box 4138, Woodland Park, CO 80866  
Email: [caed@caed.us](mailto:caed@caed.us) Website: [www.cacd.us](http://www.cacd.us) Phone/Fax: (719) 686-0020

## Attendee Registration Form - 2010 66th Annual Meeting

Last name	First Time:	Yes / No
First name	CACD Member: **	Yes / No
Spouse last name	NACD Member:	Yes / No
Spouse first name	Representing:	
Address	Affiliation:	
City	No. Years Attending:	
State / Zip	CACD conference	
Phone (Bus Hrs)		
Phone (Cell or A/Hrs)		
Fax		
Email		

### Registration Details

	Cost	No.	Total Cost
Pre-registration (without meals)	\$125.00		
Registration after Nov.5 add \$25	\$150.00		
Soil Water Cons Society Meeting	SWCS member \$25.00		
Soil Water Cons Society Meeting	SWCS non-mem. \$30.00		
Pre-registration Pkg: w/ meals			
A - Registration/1 lunch/1 Banquet	\$175.00		
B - Registration/2 lunch/2 Banquet	\$235.00		
Single Day Registration			
Monday Nov 15	\$65.00		
Tuesday Nov 16	\$65.00		
Wednesday Nov 17	\$65.00		
Thursday Nov 18	\$65.00		
Meal Selections: (No \$ mark up on meals)			
Tuesday Awards Luncheon	\$24.00		
(Check choice in right column)			
Wed. Awards Banquet Dinner	\$34.00		
(Check choice in right column)			
Wed. District Emp. Only Luncheon	\$10.00		
(Check choice in right column)	cost share of luncheon by		
	Districts Employee Assoc		
Break Sponsor	\$125.00		
CACD Indiv. Membership 2011**	\$35.00		
Total			

**PACKAGE A OR B**  
Separate registration fee for SWCS meeting participants

**Please select your meal choice below**  
Meals served with salad dessert and beverage

**Tuesday Awards Luncheon**  
Choose One (per person)  
☐ Roast Pork Loin  
☐ Lasagna Veggie

**Wednesday Banquet Dinner**  
Choose One (per person)  
☐ Grilled London Broil  
☐ Chicken Saltimbocca  
☐ Vegetable Wellington

**District Employee's Luncheon**  
Choose One (per person)  
☐ Cobb Salad  
☐ Turkey Croissant

**Please mail registration form and payment (check or credit card info) to CACD**

<b>Credit Card Signature:</b>	<b>Check Number:</b>
Name on card:	Card type: Visa / Mcard
Card Number:	Expiration Date:

State Conservation Board, when in three successive proposals, the Joint Budget Committee threatened to cut ALL of the funding to the District and the State Conservation Board in an attempt to help to balance the State's one plus billion dollar deficit. This next year will prove to be another challenging year as there are proposed budget cuts at the state level that will again require direct conversations with legislators and partners to assure funding to the conservation districts stays intact. CACD will be there on all fronts!

The support of the conservation districts is critical to the sustain

ability of CACD, so representation of the district's interests can continue as it has through CACD as an independent nonprofit organization since 1945.

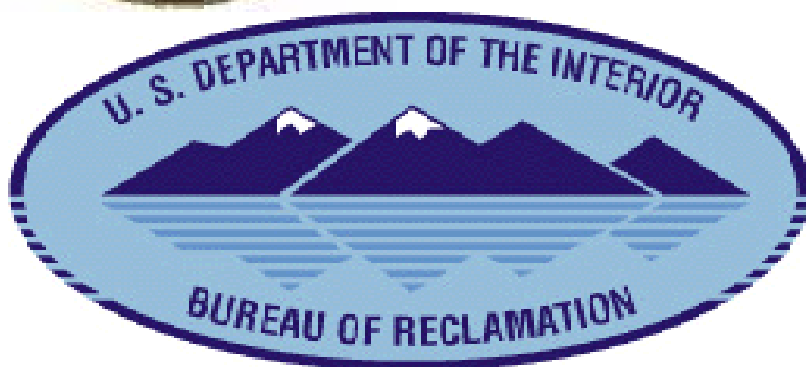
CACD continues in programs under the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Contribution Agreement with NRCS, which has provided for successful range education workshops. GLCI was founded to provide high quality technical assistance on privately owned grazing lands on a voluntary basis and to increase the awareness of the importance of grazing land resources.

Districts are to be commended for the education they have put forth in small acreage management. Upon this year's end, 15 conservation districts will have hosted small acreage workshops, with assistance in funding from an agreement between NRCS and CACD.

The annual financial review has just been completed by CACD's CPA, Ken Waugh and Associates. Copies of the review will be available at the CACD Annual Meeting, or if you would like a copy mailed to you please contact the CACD office. Looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.



## Partners in Conservation



CACD is proud to have these state and federal agencies as contributing sponsors to our newsletter. The following pages are dedicated to conservation programs of the sponsors.



Healthy Land  
Clean Water  
For Life

Colorado Chapter SWCS 2010 Technical Conference / Annual Meeting  
November 15 – 16, 2010  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado

### Monday, November 15

1:00 – 1:55	General Nutrient Management	Dr Ron Follett, USDA-ARS
1:55 – 2:50	Precision Application Techniques	Dr Raj Khosla, CSU
2:50 – 3:45	Fertilizer Placement & Strip Till	Mike Petersen, Orthman Man.
3:45 – 4:40	Managing Residual N & P	Dr Ardell Halvorson, USDA-ARS
4:45	2010 Annual Meeting	Charles Pannebaker, President

All workshop attendees are invited to attend the Annual Meeting and the social that will immediately follow the meeting.

### Tuesday, November 16

8:00 – 8:55	Organic Certification Process (Animal and Plant)	Mitch Yergert, Colorado DOA (invited)
8:55 – 9:50	Organic Farming Issues	Addy Elliott, CO Organic Producers (invited)
9:50–10:45	Producer Presentations	Organic Barley Seed Production Producer Organic Beef Production Producer (invited)
10:45	Adjourn	

CEU's are expected to be available for attending this Technical Conference; however, the number of CEU's were not known at printing time. If you need to know the number of CEU's that will be available or for any other questions regarding the SWCS Technical Conference, please call Dawn Jackson at (970) 580-0122 or Renee Koch at (970) 522-7440 Ext 3.

## NRCS Holds a “Final Acre” Ceremony Celebrating Colorado’s Soil Health

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is proud to announce the completion of its initial survey that helps identify current soil conditions in Colorado. High quality, productive soils are the foundation upon which a healthy environment and enhanced natural resources are built. The surveying and monitoring of soils ensure an accurate account of those conditions. NRCS held a “Final Acre” ceremony, September 28, near Longmont, Colorado.

*“This is a tremendous milestone, not only for the NRCS but also for the state,”* says Steve Park, NRCS Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Leader/State Soil Scientist. *“Colorado’s soil survey efforts began with a Reconnaissance Soil Survey of the Cache La Poudre Valley back in 1899. Since then, soil scientists have walked Colorado’s landscapes digging holes and collecting information on the more than 5,000 soil map units and 1,500 unique soil types.”*

The availability of accurate information about soil conditions affords the opportunity to make

sound educated decisions regarding land-use planning from which everyone benefits. Soil surveys are used by city planners, farmers, ranchers, developers, construction companies, teachers, realtors, and numerous other professionals.

The “Final Acre” ceremony served as a celebration for the completion of the initial phase of the soil survey work in the State and a tribute to those who made it possible. The festivities also celebrated NRCS’ 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The USDA agency was established 75 years ago with a mission to help people help the land. NRCS is “the” agency that develops and delivers science-based conservation assistance and solutions to help conserve our nation’s natural resources.

For additional information regarding the “Final Acre” ceremony, please contact Carla Green Adams, NRCS Multimedia Publication Specialist, at 720-544-2844 or [carla.greenadams@co.usda.gov](mailto:carla.greenadams@co.usda.gov).

## The Small Acreage Extreme Makeover at the Ranch in Loveland

What happens when CSU Extension, five Conservation Districts and NRCS team up to hold a small acreage workshop? A very well received event with 80 small acreage owners attending to learn more about pasture, weed, equipment, manure, irrigation, poultry and large animal management. And one lucky attendee walked away with a \$500.00 prize for an extreme acreage makeover.

The Big Thompson, Boulder Valley, Fort Collins, Longmont and West Greeley CDs worked with CSU Extension on all of the many tasks required to make the event a success, including the design of the workshop, rounding up speakers, advertising, mailings, and coordi-



**Dr. Tony Knight from the CSU VetHospital talks about plants that can harm or kill animals.**

nating activities during the day of the event. More information and pictures from the event can be found at [www.nococd.org](http://www.nococd.org) under Events/Past





**CACD 66th Annual Meeting Agenda;  
At a Glance November 15-18, 2010  
Crowne Plaza, Colorado Springs, CO  
Conservation College II: Higher Education in  
Natural Resources Conservation; Hands-On  
Training for Conservation Districts & Partners**

**Sunday November 14**

GLCI Committee Meeting 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

**Monday November 15**

10:00 am-1:00 pm CSCB/CACD Joint Board meeting (Lunch 11:30)  
1:00 pm-4:00 pm CSCB / CACD (Individual Board Meetings)  
3:00 pm-5:00 pm Conservation Education; Mission and Vision; Judy Lopez  
2:00 pm - Conference registration opens / CACD membership table opens  
4:00 pm EXPO set up in Exhibit Hall (Coffee station in EXPO)  
1:00 pm- 5:00 pm Soil and Water Conservation Society; Session 1 (SWCS separate fee)  
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Individual Resolutions Policy Committee Meetings; attend/comment  
All committee meetings: Land Use; District Outlook; Water Resources; Forestry, et.al.  
7:30 pm-8:15 pm *Autumn Symphony* Film; Production by John Taylor  
7:30 pm-9:00 pm Ice Breaker Reception  
**Tuesday November 16**  
7:30 am-8:15 am New Comers Meeting  
8:30 am (promptly)- 9:45 am Group Policy Resolution Meeting / CACD Bylaws  
8:00 am - 11:00 am SWCS Session 2; (SWCS meeting continued)  
9:00 am Conservation Poster and Photo Contest Check-in Deadline  
10:00 am OPENING SESSION/Flag Ceremony Pledge of Allegiance  
10:10 am General Session Opening; Welcome by local officials (invited)  
10:30 am - 10:55 am Mission and Vision of Conservation District / Inspirational  
10:55 am - 11:00 2012 Year of Water/Climate; Nolan Doesken, CO State Climatologist  
11:00-Noon Keynote Speaker; Brian Bledsoe, Chief Meteorologist and Climatologist from KKTV 11 News  
11:00 am VOTE FOR POSTERS/PHOTOS Judging Opens / Complete orange ballot please  
11:00 am- Silent Auction Opens (near Expo/Coffee Break area in Exhibit Hall)  
12:15 - 1:45 pm Conservation Awards Luncheon  
Silent Auction Visit (Stop by the silent auction, proceeds go to conservation education)  
2:00 pm - 3:45 pm Conservation College II / Training sessions; **First Rotation**  
A) Fund Raising/Grants - Michael Donegan, invited  
B) Annual Plan of Work and Conservation on the ground - Conservation Special.  
C) Conservation Trust Fund Senate Bill 98 - CACD, DOLA; Districts successes  
D) Dept of Local Affairs - Financial Handbook; DOLA  
2:00 pm - 3:45 pm Soil and Water Conservation Society sessions continued Soil Health  
BREAK Visit Expo Hall  
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm CACD Auxiliary Meeting / Open to all  
4:00 pm - 5:45 pm Conservation College II / Training sessions; **Second Rotation**  
A) Fund Raising/Grants - Michael Donegan, invited  
B) Annual Plan of Work and Conservation on the ground - Conservation Special.  
C) Conservation Trust Fund Senate Bill 98 - CACD, DOLA; Districts successes  
D) Dept of Local Affairs - Financial Handbook; DOLA  
4:00 pm -5:45 pm Soil and Water Society Session concludes Soil Health  
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Dinner on your own  
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm District Employee Meeting/Working Dinner (tentative)  
7:30 pm - 8:00 pm Partner Appreciation Reception, NRCS, FSA, et al. / Atrium  
8:00 pm - 9:30 pm Social Reception; 50s theme celebration; Atrium/Elvis Impersonator

**Wednesday November 17**

8:30 am - 10:15 am Conservation College II / **Third Rotation**  
A) Fund Raising/Grants - Michael Donegan, invited  
B) Annual Plan of Work and Conservation on the ground - Conservation Special.  
C) Conservation Trust Fund Senate Bill 98 - CACD, DOLA; Districts successes  
D) Dept of Local Affairs - Financial Handbook; DOLA  
Break 10:15 am - 10:30 am (continue into 4<sup>th</sup> Rotation)  
10:30 am - 12:15 pm Conservation College II / **Fourth Rotation**  
A) Fund Raising/Grants - Michael Donegan, invited  
B) Annual Plan of Work and Conservation on the ground - Conservation Special.  
C) Conservation Trust Fund Senate Bill 98 - CACD, DOLA; Districts successes  
D) Dept of Local Affairs - Financial Handbook; DOLA  
12:15 pm - 1:30 pm Lunch on your Own  
12:15 pm-1:15 pm CACD Annual Meeting Committee & speakers appreciation luncheon  
12:15 pm-1:15 pm District Employees Assoc. Working Luncheon  
1:30 pm-2:45 pm **District Employees** Input Session and Meeting (Petra B. Facilitator)  
1:15 pm Poster and Photo Contest closes / please drop ballots at registration desk  
1:30 pm-2:45 pm Conservation Education/Mission and Vision Cons. Dist.; Judy Lopez  
Alternative sessions from 1:30 pm to 2:45 pm / **Energy** Projects and Conserv. Districts  
Alternative session from 1:30 pm to 2:45 pm/ **Prescribed Burn Mgt. Plans**  
BREAK 2:45 pm - 3:00 pm Visit Silent Auction (Closes at 4:30 pm)  
3:00 pm-5:00 pm **Supervisors** Input Session (Petra Barnes Facilitator)  
3:30 pm-5:00 pm QuickBooks Training Session; Lea Cody and Callie Hendrickson  
4:30 pm Silent Auction Closes; please pick up items by 5:00 pm  
4:30 pm Partner Reception / CCA, RMFU et. al. Exhibit Hall reception room  
5:30 pm Conservation Awards Banquet /Gathering/cash bar **3<sup>rd</sup> floor banquet room**  
6:00 pm Conservation Awards Banquet Dinner Served Room  
7:00 pm Conservation Awards Presentation  
8:00 pm Live Auction / All Welcome

**Thursday November 18**

8:30 am - Noon General Assembly Business Meeting / Resolutions / Bylaws  
NRCS Update 8:30 - 9:00 am  
RC&D Update 9:00 am - 9:30 am  
FSA Update 9:30 am - 10:00 am  
BREAK  
10:15 am - Noon CACD Business Meeting Minutes/Budget Review/Resolutions  
9:30 am - Noon NRCS Meeting  
9:30 am - RC&D Meeting  
Noon - 1:00 pm Annual Meeting Planning Committee Wrap-Up  
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm CACD Board Wrap Up Meeting

# Johnston Drip Irrigation Field Tour and Luncheon

## American's Re-Investment and Recovery Act (ARRA) Underground Drip Irrigation Field Tour and Luncheon

Landowners, Daryl and Cindy Johnston hosted a field tour of their newly installed drip irrigation systems August 26. The Johnston's utilized the USDA's ARRA program to help them install the system. Although it has been installed on many fields in Colorado, mostly on vegetable crops and orchards it is innovative for the Northeastern portion of the state and on feed crops like corn and alfalfa.

As water becomes more scarce, and populations along the front range continue to grow, efficiency in irrigation systems is becoming increasingly critical. The Johnston's have reported an 80% increase in water efficiency by utilizing this system.

## media release

Colorado Department of Agriculture  
[www.colorado.gov/ag](http://www.colorado.gov/ag)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 4, 2010

Contact: Christi Lightcap, (303) 239-4190, [Christi.lightcap@ag.state.co.us](mailto:Christi.lightcap@ag.state.co.us)

### *Study Evaluates Wind Energy at Colorado Agricultural Operations*

LAKEWOOD, Colo. -A new study, partially funded by the Colorado Department of Agriculture's *Advancing Colorado's Renewable Energy* grant, finds that wind turbines can be cost-effective even at sites with moderate wind speeds.

"This study is encouraging for Colorado agricultural producers that want to harness wind energy but are not located in areas with strong wind resources," said Colorado Department of Agriculture's Markets Division Director, Tom Lipetzky.

A site with a marginal wind resource is classified by the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) as having an average wind speed between 13.2 and 15 miles per hour at fifty meters above the ground. A thirty-percent federal tax credit, available for wind turbines up to 100 kilowatts in size, typically lowers payback times by 4 to 6 years, the study says. Utilizing the tax credit can make wind turbines economical at sites with "marginal" wind resources.

The study, conducted by Brink, Inc. - an Erie, Colorado-based environmental consulting company, included on-site wind speed monitoring at three agricultural operations located in Elbert, Morgan and Yuma Counties. On-site wind speed data is compared with NREL's *Colorado 50 meter Wind Resource Map*. The cost and output of several different wind turbines, along with the availability of tax credits, loans, and US Department of Agriculture grants were also reviewed to determine their effects on wind turbine payback time frames. The report entitled, "*Wind Resource Evaluation at Colorado Agricultural Operations*," finds that:

- The 30 percent federal tax credit can largely offset loan interest cost or reduce simple payback times by about five years.
- Limits on cost-share funding and federal tax credit eligibility tend to make smaller turbines more economically feasible than larger, more efficient turbines.
- Turbine payback times ranged from 4 to 23 years.
- All wind turbines are not equally efficient at producing electricity. Buyers should examine the ratio of turbine and tower cost versus electricity output to determine the best-fit turbine.
- Besides electricity, wind turbines also produce Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), which have value to companies and individuals interested in purchasing

## The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Office has moved to the Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 56, Rm 2604, PO Box 25426, Denver, CO 80225-0426

# **Short Grass Prairie Partnership**

## ***Southeast Colorado Meeting***

### **AGENDA**

**MEETING OPEN TO ALL COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH INCLUDED**

**Date:**

**October 25, 2010**

**9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Location:**

**Otero Junior College Student Center Building**

**La Junta, CO**

---

**9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions**

- ☐ **Shortgrass Prairie Partnership Co-leaders: Pat Karney, Bent County Land Owner and Rancher and William Burnidge, Northeast Colorado Project Director, The Nature Conservancy**

**9:45 a.m. Shortgrass Prairie Partnership Successes**

- ☐ **Tammy VerCauteren, Director, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory**

**10:30 a.m. Break**

**11:00 a.m. Colorado Measures of Conservation Status and Success**

- ☐ **David Anderson, Director, Colorado Natural Heritage Program**

**11:45 a.m. Lunch**

**1:00 p.m. Landowner and Community-led Initiatives Session I**

- ☐ **Three Rivers Alliance: Don Andrews, President, Three Rivers Alliance, Yuma County Landowner and Rancher**
- ☐ **Partners for Western Conservation: Terry Fankhauser, Associate Vice President, Colorado Cattlemen's Association**

**2:00 p.m. Break**

**2:30 p.m. Landowner and Community-led Initiatives Session II**

- ☐ **Southeast Colorado initiatives (Tentative)**
- ☐ **Ranching and Wildlife, Karval Alliance, and Partners for Conservation, Russell Davis, Lincoln County Landowner**

**3:30 p.m. Summary Discussion and Future Directions for the Shortgrass Prairie Partnership**

**4:00 p.m. Adjourn**



# Colorado State Forest Service Provides Best Management Practices to Protect Water Quality

By Ryan Lockwood  
Colorado State Forest Service



The importance of Colorado's watersheds cannot be overstated. Not only do Colorado's forests, fish and wildlife depend on the water that originates as rain and snow over the high country – thousands of farms and millions of Americans also depend on this water yield. In fact, water from Colorado's mountains and forests meets urban and agricultural demands in 18 states and northern Mexico. Yet the quantity and quality of the state's water yield can be greatly affected by human activities.

Necessary but high-impact forestry activities like logging and road construction have the potential to disturb vegetation and soil, which may cause erosion, pollute watersheds and fill reservoirs downstream with sediment. To mitigate this disturbance, the Colorado State Forest Service creates guidelines to protect water quality and minimize erosion. The guidelines provide recommendations for implementing these forest activities, which are based on the collaborative experience and observations of natural resource professionals from multiple agencies.

In July, the CSFS released the most recent revised water quality protection guidelines for individuals and organizations conducting forestry-related activities in Colorado. *Forestry Best Management Practices to Protect Water Quality in Colorado: 2010* is a publication designed to help natural resources professionals and private landowners protect Colorado water supplies by providing best management practices (BMPs) for forestry-related activities. The previous guidelines were developed in 1998.

The CSFS and 10 other federal, state, county and private natural resources organizations participated in an audit of six Colorado timber harvesting sites in September 2008 to evaluate the application and effectiveness of the previous guidelines. Sites

were selected from a combination of federal, state and private lands. The audit team later provided input for and reviewed the new guidelines described in the 2010 publication.

"Every one of the agencies involved in this review was invaluable in providing the input necessary to make the new guidelines as comprehensive and clear as possible," said Jeff Jahnke, director and state forester for the Colorado State Forest Service.

The water quality BMPs addressed in the publication apply to essentially all forest management activities, including logging operations, fuels mitigation projects, forest health treatments, invasive tree species removal and road construction.

Guidelines include specific advice on such topics as designing and grading roadways, which produce up to 90 percent of sediment in forest activities, and post tree-harvest soil stabilization methods for loggers. The guidelines apply to both forestry professionals and private landowners harvesting timber or extending roads through forested watersheds.

"These guidelines are voluntary, and applying them often requires professional assistance along with personal judgment," said Greg Sundstrom, assistant staff forester with the Forest Management Division of the CSFS. "But they also can be used to develop timber sale and forest treatment contracts, making the application of BMPs a requirement in those situations."

Based on recommendations from the audit of the previous publication, the new BMPs include the following notable revisions:

- Expanded information related to prescribed burning in streamside management zones.
- Additional guidance for

- on-site camp sanitation.
- Descriptions of new technologies for mitigated stream crossings.
- An emphasis on utilizing existing sites for landings, roads and trails in logging operations.
- A new BMP encouraging planning for ongoing monitoring efforts after harvest operations.

The CSFS encourages those who work in or own forestland to use the water quality BMPs when constructing roads, establishing streamside management zones, conducting timber-harvesting operations, applying pesticides or fertilizers, or designing stream crossings like bridges and culverts. It also is important to adhere to the BMPs when engaging in pollution-producing activities to reduce or eliminate water contamination.

"It's vital that we safeguard the future of our water resources," Sundstrom said. "If Colorado landowners and forestry professionals adhere to the guidelines in this publication, they can help protect the quality of water that flows from our forests to our faucets and fields."

For more information about the CSFS watershed BMPs or to obtain copies of the publication, contact the local Colorado State Forest Service district office. District location and contact information is available at [csfs.colostate.edu](http://csfs.colostate.edu).

## NECESSARY SIDEBAR:

### A Joint Effort

The summarized 2010 watershed BMPs are condensed from a larger publication on watershed BMPs created by the CSFS, Colorado Timber Industry Association, Colorado Nonpoint Source Task Force and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Funding for the pamphlet was provided by a grant from the Colorado Water Quality Control Division of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

The following organizations participated in the audit leading to the revised guidelines:

- Colorado Water Quality Control Division in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, which also provided grant funding to print the publication
- U.S. Forest Service
- Watershed Science Department at Colorado State University
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado Office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Jefferson County Open Space
- Colorado Tree Farmers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Intermountain Forest Association

## Mile High Youth Corps Offers Help for Districts

Are you looking at your 2011 project calendar wondering how you're going to get all of that work done, on time and under budget? A Youth Corps could be the answer for you. With their roots firmly planted in the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930's, Youth Corps put young people to work on projects all over the United States. Here locally, Mile High Youth Corps (MHYC) could be the answer for you.



The Corp's mission is to help young people make a difference in themselves and their community through meaningful service opportunities and educational experiences. Youth are paid an hourly wage and receive an AmeriCorps scholarship at the end of their term. These positions provide a great summer job for young people and a bridge to a career in the out-of-doors for many. The Corps is growing new environmental stewards every year.

MHYC has an 18-year history of employing young adults on projects in neighborhoods, public lands and open spaces throughout Denver and the Southern Front Range. Corps can be very cost-effective for a large land agency or an individual land owner. Crews come trained, insured, and supervised and are equipped with most tools needed for a project. 100% of 2009 project sponsors indicated they would hire MHYC again in the future. To learn more about MHYC or to schedule a project in one of the fifteen counties throughout the Central and Southern Front Range, visit [www.milehighyouthcorps.org](http://www.milehighyouthcorps.org) or call 719.630.7421.



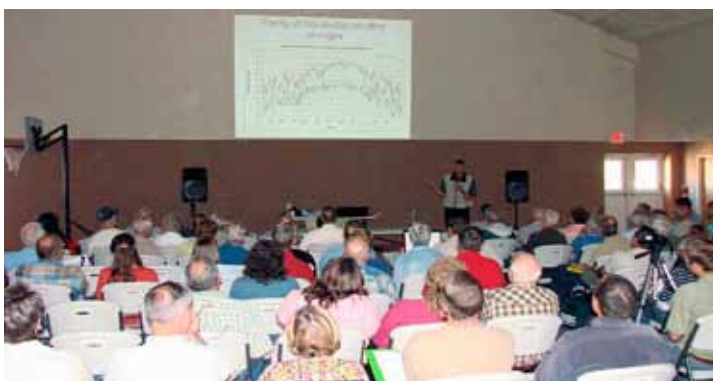
## Seminar on the Basics of Water in Custer County

The Custer County Conservation District (CCCD) and the NRCS hosted a free conference on "The Basics of Water in Custer County" on September 18th, 2010.

The Conference was a huge success with over 120 attendees including a representative from a U.S. Senate candidates office. The information was all about how water flows starting with the lead CSU Climatologist discussing the local weather; yes the wind does blow! A mapping of distribution of water from the mountains, lakes, and creeks, flowing in and through the Wet Mountain Valley was explained by a local water engineer. An overview of hydrogeology and generalized water budget was given by the USGS Water Science Center,

showing people how water is captured in the earth. Water quality issues were presented by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Water conservation practices were explained by the local NRCS District Conservationist followed by an explanation on Watersheds given by the State Conservation Board. The District 13 Water Commissioner took us through his average day. Water rights and administration were also topics of the day as were water augmentation and policies. So needless to say, the top professionals from the state came to spend the day in Westcliffe to give their expertise on our local water resources. It was a day packed with information.

The conference was funded through a grant given by the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts. This grant allowed the district to hold this free event with lunch provided. There were packets given out with the presentations and three tables full of information on water. This conference was the number one priority for educational outreach this fall for the District and with the overwhelming attendance, was a great achievement. The forty-two surveys returned gave feedback on what the landowners wanted learn about next. The consensus was information about water rights and what augmentation means for the County. Water is and will remain the most complex managed resource. It is the Custer County Conservation Districts' intent to bring pertinent and up-to-date information to the community about the most vital natural resource.



**Matching Grant funds seminar with 120 participants in Custer County Conservation District.**

## M&M Farms Hosts Political Leaders from New Zealand and China

M&M Farms, Bill and Elizabeth Markham, hosted the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) from New Zealand and China. Bill is pictured with representatives from New Zealand and China. Bill operates a farm in Berthoud, Colorado, (picture) where he grows barley which is used by Coors in its beer production. Bill is active with his local conservation district and also attended the small acreage workshop hosted by area districts last month in Loveland.



The folks from "down under" were particularly interested in the subject of water rights, given the severe drought conditions presently facing New Zealand and Australia. ACYPL is a non-profit organization that conducts bilateral exchange programs for young political leaders, with its participants between the ages of 25 and 40 years old. The young leaders are elected officials, appointed officials or political professionals. The New Zealand exchange is ACPYL's newest participants. In 2009 ACPYL sent its first delegation to New Zealand and the group that visited M & M Farms was the first "Kiwi delegation" to visit the United States. These leaders were hosted by El Pomar



Larry Sweeney (foreground) CACD Director for the Colorado River Watershed, explains an NRCS demonstration seed plot on his property during the 2010 Colorado River Watershed Tour. The Watershed hosted a tour in September of its Matching Grant projects and showcased conservation on the ground. Dom Dodero of the Dodero Ranching Family and recipients of the CACD Conservationists of the Year 2009, reviewed a matching grant project in irrigation pipeline improvement.

Sharie Prow, District Manager for the Bookcliff, Mount Sopris and South Side CDs was instrumental in coordination the tour. Participants included Garfield County CommissionerTresi Houpt, Senator Al White and Jean White, District 8, and Garfield County Commissioner candidate Tom Jankovsky.

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## RANGE MANAGEMENT SCHOOL

TUESDAY OCTOBER 26, 2010

9:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.

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### Pre-registration is required!

Bring, Mail, FAX, e-mail or call in your registration to: Carolyn Payne

Cope Conservation District

2862 WA County Road LL

Flagler, CO 80815

Phone and FAX: 970-383-2324

Cell Phone: 970-554-0561

cpayne@plainstel.com

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**EXPECTED OUTCOMES:** 1) Knowledge of rangelands and their potential in the area of work; 2) Ability to identify important and indicator plants on your home area; 3) Apply indicators of rangeland health. 4) Ability to read and understand ESD and apply them in the Field; and 5) Apply rangeland monitoring techniques in the field with consistency and accuracy.



Cost is \$20 per person and includes a resource handbook and lunch. Two individuals from the same ranch who only need one notebook can register for \$30 per ranch. Please make checks payable to Cope Conservation District (CCD). Last day to register is Friday October 22, 2010.

### TOPICS FOR THE DAY INCLUDE:

Why Monitor—Bobby Rhodes

Introduction to ecological processes—What can you see and how do you interpret—Roy Roath. Water, Succession, Carbon and Nitrogen, Plant performance, Animal performance and Colonization.

Ecological site descriptions—Julie Elliott. Understanding and reading ESD, Rangeland Health, and Inventory vs. monitoring.

Indicators of Management Success—Roy Roath.

**AFTERNOON:** Rangeland plants—Casey Matney—field training. Applying ESD's to a land situation field. Field Monitoring.

Gathering information Photo Monitoring—Tom Nadgwick.

GRI—Roy Roath. Intensity of use and use maps; Use maps; Similarity Index—Julie Elliott.

Indicators of rangeland functions

### TRAINING STAFF:

Dr. Roy Roath & Dr. Casey Matney—CSU

Extension: Bobby Rhodes—Rancher; Julie

Elliott & Tom Nadgwick—NRCS Range Management Specialists.

## Yuma County Conservation District Provides Cost-Share to Cooperators

The Yuma County Conservation District received a matching grant in the amount of \$30,000 from the Colorado State Conservation Board. This grant had a three-fold purpose: (1) providing cost share to enhance conservation practices for livestock grazing on native rangeland; (2) encouraging producers to maintain wildlife habitat on grassland; and (3) providing cost-share to install/enhance tree plantings for livestock protection, road protection, wildlife habitat, and/or renovate existing windbreaks.

To enhance 4,630 acres of native rangeland 14,000 feet of pipeline, two wells, and one tank were installed. Habitat for wildlife was maintained on 1,071 acres. Windbreaks to protect livestock and to promote energy efficiency for homes were installed on 12 sites. Living snowfences to protect state highways were also installed on two sites listed by the Colorado Department of Transportation as high risk areas. Drip systems were installed on three sites to promote tree growth and health.



## SWCS/SRM Tour Held on Negley Ranch

Approximately 65 individuals toured John and Laura Negley's ranch, on June 11, 2010. The Negley's ranch, part of J&L Farms Partnership was awarded the Colorado Section of the Society for Range Management (SRM) Excellence in Rangeland Conservation award. Their conservation work was highlighted during the annual Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) and Colorado Section SRM joint summer tour. Prior to touring the operation, Laura gave a brief over-view of the operation's prescribed grazing strategy, rangeland monitoring and small grain dry land cropping systems.



At the first stop on the tour, Ben Berlinger, retired USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Rangeland Management Specialist, and Marty Miller, NRCS Soil Conservation Technician in Eads discussed dry land residue management. They also talked about the Negley's residue management that is currently being practiced on the farm as well as the need for terraces to reduce erosion and entrap valuable water.

The group also visited several range sites where Negley grazes yearling cattle and implements intensively managed grazing. Negley has three sets of pastures that consist of native range, expired Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and State Wildlife Area land. She uses monitoring cages that have been in place as grazing tools for several years. Negley also uses Land EKG, the Grazing Response Index and permanent photo points to document grazing effects.

The final part of the tour was a presentation by Dr. Dean Anderson with the USDA Agricultural Research Service. Dr. Anderson explained to the group the concept of virtual fencing which is used to reduce the time and labor it takes to install cross fences.



# High Altitude Multi-Basin Reservoirs

*...innovative solutions for renewable water and energy needs*

**In light of water availability issues facing ag producers in Colorado, CACD has received the following article on high altitude water storage. CACD has not taken a position with reference to the alternatives presented in this article and the information is presented for information purposes only.**

Federal, state, and local policy makers generally agree our nation's arid West is faced with serious renewable water and energy shortages for projected growth, droughts, and climate change. These experts also agree there are currently no consensus solutions to protect western cities, farms, and environments from eminent devastating impacts.

The purpose of this article is to briefly explain how innovative high altitude multi-basin pumped storage projects can quickly solve the Western Region's escalating clean water and energy crises, while reducing utility and irrigation costs for urban and rural consumers.

Westerners must first recognize the extent of these basic resource problems, as well as the reasons for priority evaluations and construction of high altitude multi-basin storage projects.

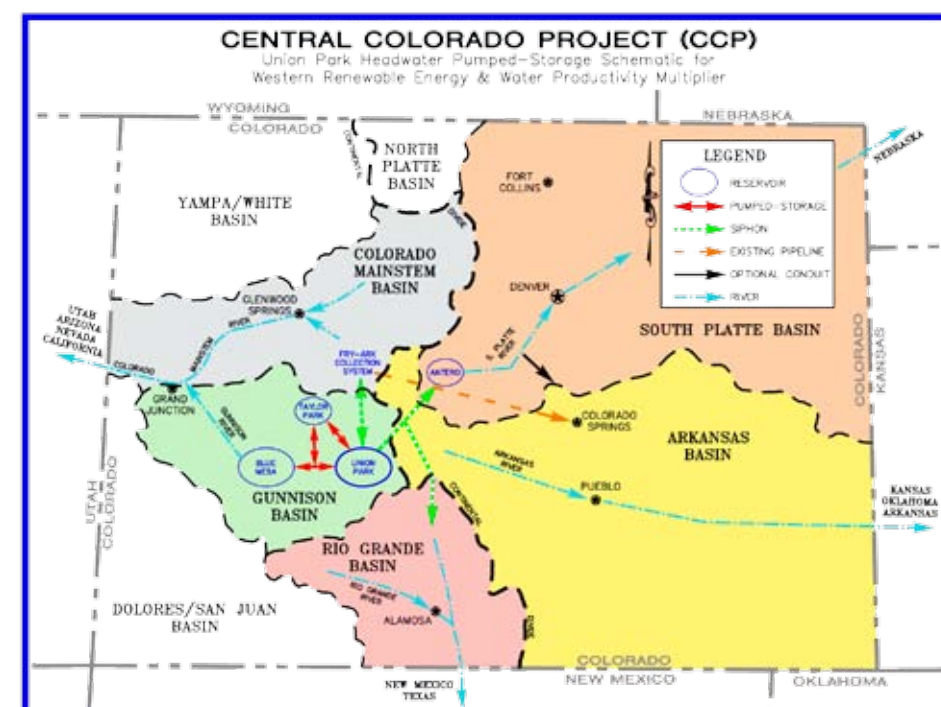
For over a century, western cities and farms thrived primarily on renewable water and energy supplies from traditional low and medium altitude dams on free flowing rivers. However, most of

today's existing storage projects were conceived and built prior to the 1970s, when environmental concerns were not a major factor.

Since the 1970s, increased national environmental awareness has virtually halted construction of new water and energy storage projects, while the Western Region has continued its explosive growth.

In addition, existing western river dams have steadily lost their original efficiencies because of rapid silt buildups, lower than expected river flows, higher system-wide water temperatures, excessive annual regional losses from evaporation, unexpected environmental constraints, heavy concentrations of salts and other pollutants, and technical limits on storage capacities, because of dam safety concerns.

Conversely, high altitude off-river pumped storage operations near high mountain divides with heavy runoffs can have major economic and environmental advantages over traditional dams on rivers. Managed gravity releases via gravity conduits can integrate, optimize, and multiply the reliability, productivity, and quality of existing interstate rights and storage systems throughout multiple western river basins. Where feasible, hi-tech reversible pump generators can fill and refill high reservoirs, as well as provide high value blackout protection for the western power grid. Federal and



state governments will have efficient energy storage systems needed to meet their renewable energy goals from sporadic wind and solar generation. Western consumers will have assured water and energy supplies at lower costs during extreme drought, climate, and other unpredictable conditions. The current urban dry-up of western farms and environments will also be reversed.

In addition to the above major advantages, high off-river reservoirs will not fill with silt, concentrate pollutants, increase regional water temperatures, harm river environments, reduce irrigated agriculture, nor increase regional evaporation losses. Annual evaporation losses from the surface of Colorado's proposed Union Park Reservoir at 10,200 feet altitude will be about 2 feet vs. 7 feet from Lake Powell.

As the primary headwater state for the Southwestern Region, Colorado has several high altitude pumped storage alternatives to enhance the utility of water and energy resources throughout Colorado and its eleven down river states. Unfortunately, federal, state, and local water and energy entities have not recognized this advanced new concept, since it was publically disclosed in the Central Colorado Project (CCP) White Paper, dated April 19, 2007. (Re: [www.ueblacker.us](http://www.ueblacker.us) for White Paper and tech. info.)

In view of the escalating western renewable water and energy shortage crises, we strongly recommend high priority federal, state, and local programs to cooperatively evaluate, develop, and manage high altitude multi-basin storage solutions for our nation's Western Region.



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Colorado Association of Conservation Districts

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#### Marketing and Membership Benefits:

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#### Marketing and Membership Benefits:

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- > One (1) Registration
- > One (1) Awards Luncheon Ticket

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- > CACD Membership
- > *Colorado Conservator* Subscription and One Ad
- > Sponsor Recognition on the CACD website

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- > One (1) Registration
- > One (1) Awards Luncheon Ticket

#### Marketing and Membership Benefits:

- > CACD Membership
- > *Colorado Conservator* Subscription

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- > Booth Space in Exhibit Hall

### BREAK SPONSOR

- > Booth Space in Exhibit Hall

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CACD proudly representing and advocating for Colorado's 76 Conservation Districts



## COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS 2010 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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