



Colorado Conserverator

Colorado Association of Conservation Districts

Farmers, Ranchers Work Together to Conserve Biggest Aquifer in the US

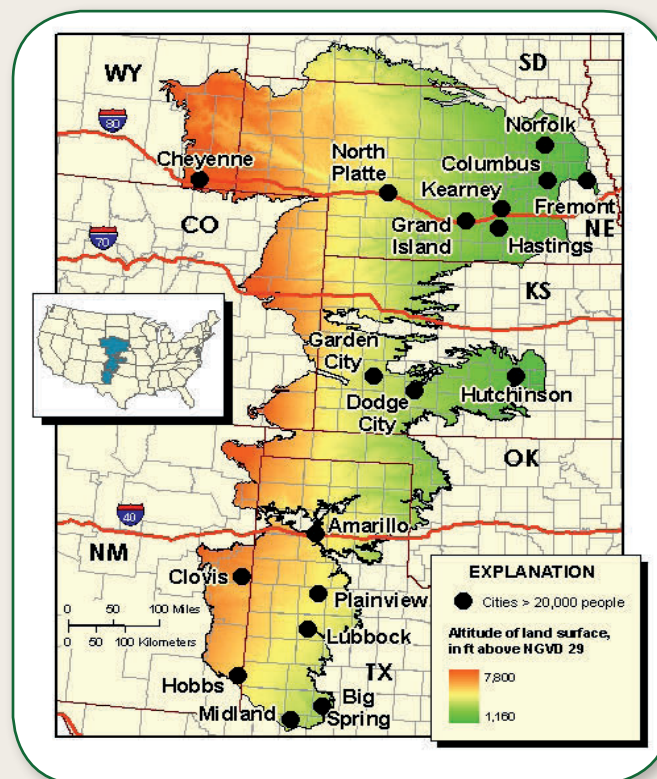
With the help of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, farmers and ranchers are working hard to conserve the Ogallala Aquifer, a 225,000 square mile underground basin vital to agriculture, municipal and industrial development. The aquifer stretches from western Texas to South Dakota and supports nearly one-fifth of the wheat, corn, cotton and cattle produced in the United States.

During drought times, the aquifer becomes an even more critical water resource for America's heartland as many rely on the aquifer in lieu of rainwater. "Crops and livestock need water - the more the rain, the less pumping of water from the aquifer and vice versa," Curtis Scheele, NRCS Water Management Specialist said. "We saw a lot more pumping through the drought last year, and multiple year droughts can have a great effect on the water supply."

By reducing an individual operation's water use, conservation helps relieve some of the pressure put on the aquifer. Many farmers are switching their irrigation systems from gravity to sprinkler center pivots and subsurface drip irrigation systems, which can increase pumping efficiencies by at least 40 percent.



Technology is also playing a large role in water conservation. Some new pivots use variable rate irrigation, meaning as the pivot travels over areas, it adjusts water rates to match the need.



Conservation practices such as no-till and cover crops can help improve soil health and water quality. Healthy soils increase water capacity and infiltration making lands more resilient to drought. Improving soil health also helps decrease run-off which provides a cleaner drinking supply for the 82 percent of people who live in the aquifer boundary.

The conservation efforts taken by farmers and ranchers have helped decrease the water withdrawn from the Ogallala Aquifer by more than 280 billion gallons over the past four years and are expected to continue contributing to the aquifer's health in the future.



Message from the President

The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts has been and will continue to be focused on a variety of natural resource issues, legislative activities, as well as administrative

changes. The positions that CACD advocates for, on both natural resource issues and legislative activities, are based on the policies that are established through CACD's policymaking process. CACD's policies are established by the majority of the members of Colorado's Conservation Districts. The effort put forth by CACD has been at both the state and national levels.

At the state level, the majority of the focus has been at the state capital through the efforts of lobbyist Brett Moore, with assistance from the CACD legislative committee. These efforts have resulted in an increase in Conservation District state funding being restored to the 2008 – 2009 funding levels. This increase means that the Conservation Districts will no longer be reliant on funds being backfilled from the Ag Management fund. CACD extends its sincere thanks to former Colorado Dept. of Agriculture Commissioner John Stulp and current Commissioner John Salazar for providing the backfill funds during these years.

One of the primary issues that CACD has been focused on is the protection of private water rights. The US Forest Service is putting forth an effort to require the forfeiture of private water rights as a condition of issuing or renewing permits. The initial effort by the US Forest Service was focused on ski areas, but it has been recently confirmed that this focus has been enlarged to include grazing permit holders as well. The Colorado House of Representatives adopted a resolution opposing this activity by the federal government. The legislative activities of CACD were instrumental in the adoption of this resolution.

The Western Congressional Caucus held a field hearing focused on Forest Health and Wildfire Management in Denver on May 2nd. Many of Colorado's US Congressmen were present, along with Representative Pearce from New Mexico, and Chairwoman Lummis from Wyoming also participating in the hearing. Additionally, I was invited to be one of the panelists that provided testimony on this important issue, representing all of the Colorado Conservation Districts.

In an effort to strengthen Colorado's Conservation Districts and build a stronger partnership with NRCS at the field office level, CACD has submitted a proposal to NRCS. This proposal would allow CACD the opportunity, in partnership with the Colorado State Conservation Board, to provide intensive training to Conservation District supervisors, staff, as well as NRCS staff. The training will be heavily focused on providing a clear understanding of each partners' role at the field office level. This training will also provide information as to the distinct roles of CACD and CSCB.

The administrative change that CACD has undertaken is the restructuring of the Natural Resource Committees. This member driven change is being done in an effort to have stronger and more active committees and assure equal representation from around the state in the policymaking process that establishes CACD policy. The CACD Board of Directors strongly encourages Conservation District Supervisors and Watershed Officers to consider serving on a Natural Resource Committee. One representative from each Watershed can serve on each of the newly realigned Resource Committees. The result of this restructuring will be five Natural Resource Committees with up to ten committee members for each Resource Committee.

Gary Moyer, CACD Board President

South Side Conservation District Awards Education Grant

The South Side Conservation District awarded the New Castle Library a grant for a summer reading program! This year's theme - "Dig into Reading"!

The project provides a fun, hands-on opportunity for local youth to learn about soil preparation, water conservation, environmental basics, and plants. Youth garden projects can install a life-long passion for plants, motivate participants to eat fruits and vegetables, and build an understanding of and respect for nature and the environment. Funding is being used to plant a container garden in front of the library with vegetables, herbs, and flowers.

The project also includes a summer reading program involving the Town of New Castle, New Castle Garden Club, community members, volunteers, and of course children! The South Side Conservation District is proud to sponsor this program!

Submitted by Sharie Prow, District Manager



April Surge in Snow has Small Impact

Drought Continues in Much of the West

May measurements confirm April forecasts: NRCS hydrologists predict reduced Spring and Summer water supply for much of the West. April saw a surge in snow in many places but didn't make up the shortfall during previous months.

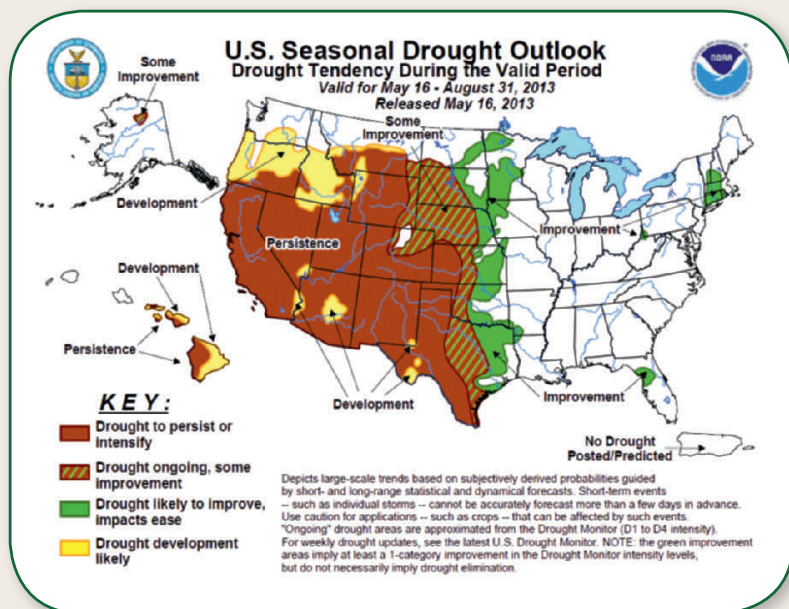
"For much of the West, April was wetter than January, February and March combined," said NRCS Meteorologist Jan Curtis. "But it was too little, too late."

NRCS hydrologists use May streamflow forecasts to confirm and refine the April forecasts. Though recent snow made small improvements in some areas, most changes are insignificant.

"California, southern and eastern Oregon, Nevada, southern Utah, southern Colorado and especially New Mexico will experience major water shortages due to sustained drought conditions and low reservoir storage," says NRCS Hydrologist Tom Perkins. "I haven't seen it this bad in New Mexico since I started forecasting for the Snow Survey Program in 1983," he added.

As of May 1, USDA's Secretary Tom Vilsack designated many counties in Western states as eligible for USDA drought assistance.

Water resource managers face difficult decisions because of this shortage. Western states should prepare for potentially increased vulnerability to forest and rangeland fires and mandatory water restrictions. In addition, wildlife that depends on surface water is going to suffer.

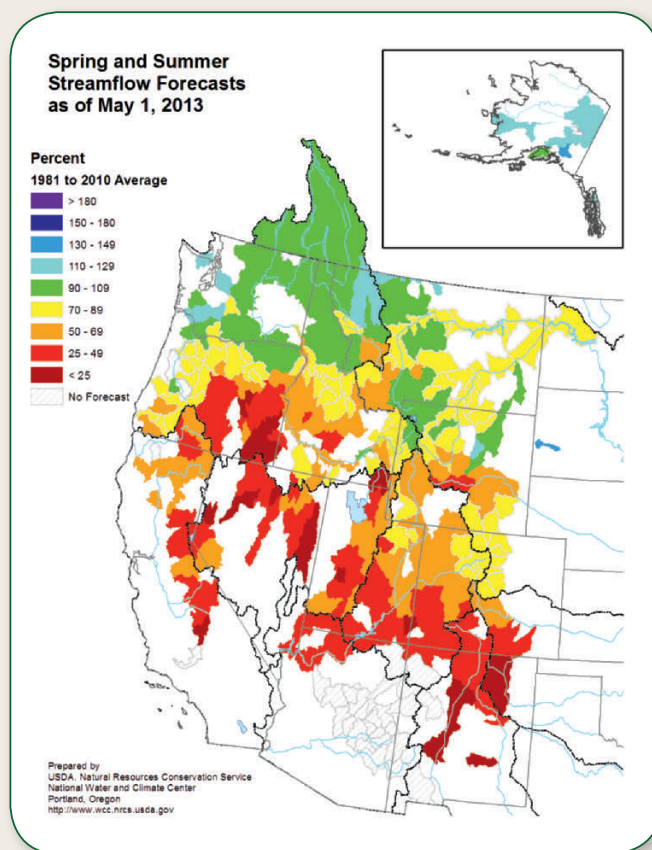


There are a few exceptions to the dry forecasts. The North Cascades and the headwaters of the Missouri and Columbia Rivers are near normal.

"For the rest of the West, there is no silver lining," Perkins said. "I think it's going to be a long, hot, dry summer."

According to Curtis, much of the snowmelt won't reach the streams. "The soil in the southern half of the West is like a dry sponge that will absorb and hold water as it melts from the snowpacks. Only when the soil is sufficiently saturated will it allow water to flow to the streams," he said.

NRCS' National Water and Climate Center monitors soil moisture with its SNOW TELemetry (SNOTEL) and Soil and Climate Analysis Network (SCAN) networks.



These sensors gather soil data that helps NRCS better monitor drought development.

"Although NRCS' streamflow forecasts do not predict drought, they provide valuable information about future water supply in states where snowmelt accounts for the majority of seasonal runoff," said Perkins.

In addition to precipitation, streamflow in the West consists largely of accumulated mountain snow that melts and flows into streams as temperatures warm into Spring and Summer. The May forecast is the fifth of six monthly forecasts. The forecast compares the current level of water content in snowpack in the 13 western states with historical data to help the region's farmers, ranchers, water managers, communities and other stakeholders make informed decisions about water use and future availability.

NRCS scientists analyze the snowfall, air temperature, soil moisture and other measurements taken from remote climate sites to develop the water supply forecasts. "USDA streamflow forecasts play a vital role in the livelihood of many Americans," said Jason Weller, NRCS Acting Chief. "With much of this region greatly affected by drought, our experts will continue to monitor snowpack data and ensure that NRCS is ready to help landowners plan and prepare for water supply conditions."

Since 1935, NRCS has conducted snow surveys and issued regular water supply forecasts. NRCS installs, operates and maintains its extensive, automated SNOTEL system to collect snowpack and related climatic data in the Western United States in Alaska.

In addition to the May Snow Survey Water Supply Forecast Map and the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Map, information on USDA's drought efforts can be found at www.usda.gov/drought.

What is Unique about Living in Rural Southwest Colorado?

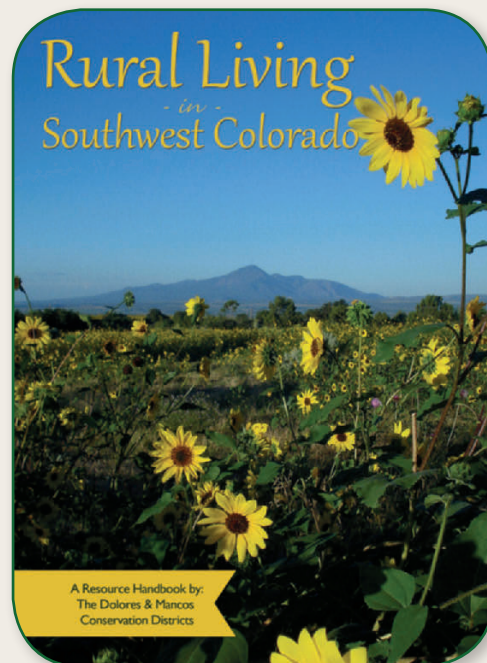
Just as there is unique beauty and culture in Southwest Colorado, there are unique challenges and resources for those who live in this rural setting.

The Dolores and Mancos Conservation Districts has unveiled its 2013 version of Rural Living in Southwest Colorado to help address some of those challenges and resource needs. The book began as an update to the Rural Living handbook originally adopted throughout Southwest Colorado in 1997. After so much time passed, many parts of the book needed both updating AND rewriting. The collaboration of federal, state, county, and local agencies, with input from local community members and farmers resulted in an appealing, information packed guide with something for all community members from newcomers to multi-generational farmers.

The book begins with an introduction that focuses on the importance of respect; respect for one another in a rural community and respect for the natural resources that create the spectacular and yet fragile environment that we share. Practical information follows, including topics such as gardening, farming and ranching on small acreages, conservation, weeds, wildlife management, water, health and safety, and a large section listing resources and miscellaneous information specific to rural concerns.

Funding for the book came from the Colorado State Conservation Board, the Montelores Habitat Partnership Program, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Montezuma County Weed Board and the Dolores and Mancos Conservation Districts.

Rural Living in Southwest Colorado is now posted on the Dolores Conservation District Website – www.dolorescd.org and the Mancos Conservation District Website – www.mancoscd.org. Please take a look and. . . **Welcome to Southwest Colorado!**



New Web-Mapping Tool

Allows Professional Planners, Landowners to Assess Wildfire Risk



The Colorado State Forest Service has recently made available an online mapping tool that will help community leaders, professional planners and interested citizens determine wildfire risk and where forest management actions can achieve the greatest impact to reduce that risk.

The Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal, or CO-WRAP, is a web-mapping tool that provides access to statewide wildfire risk assessment information. Through CO-WRAP, fire mitigation professionals, prevention planners, natural resource professionals and interested citizens can generate maps and download data and reports that describe defined project areas, such as neighborhoods or watersheds. The information in the portal is based on geographic information system (GIS) data layers that allow users to view such themes as likelihood of an acre burning, potential fire intensity, historic fire occurrence and values at risk from wildfire.

“Wildland fires continue to threaten people, property, drinking water and forest assets across Colorado, and population growth into wildland-urban interface areas presents major challenges to Colorado residents,” said Joe Duda, interim state forester. “Heightened awareness of wildfire risk and the forest management measures necessary to mitigate that risk are becoming increasingly important to ensure public safety.”

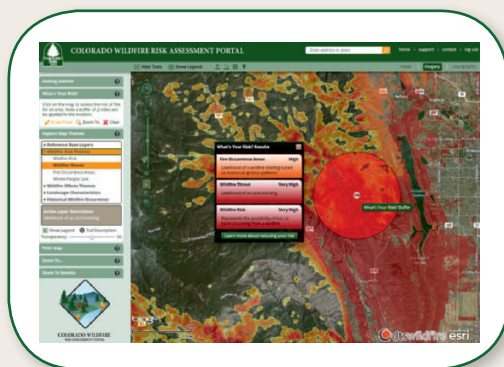
CO-WRAP features two levels of access – one for community leaders, planning professionals and forestry professionals, and one for interested citizens. The professional viewer provides access to data and tools for use in creating fire protection or forest stewardship plans, or identifying priority fuels treatment areas. It also allows users to generate detailed risk summary reports for customized land

areas – such as neighborhoods, Fire Protection Districts or counties. The public viewer provides a simple-to-use tool that allows users to explore wildfire risk and generate maps for specific locations.

“Whether to increase public awareness about wildfire risk, or to put much-needed information at the fingertips of fire managers, CO-WRAP will be a tremendous asset for Colorado,” said Paul Cooke, director of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control.

The Colorado State Forest Service continues to be the lead state agency for providing forest stewardship and wildfire mitigation education to private landowners, following legislation in 2012 that transferred responsibility for wildfire command and control from the CSFS to the newly formed Division of Fire Prevention and Control.

To access CO-WRAP, go to www.ColoradoWildfireRisk.com. For more information about protecting homes and communities from wildfire, go to <http://csfs.colostate.edu/>.



Wetmore Fire Emergency Stabilization Project

On a Tuesday, October 23, an extremely windy afternoon, the Wetmore Fire erupted one-quarter mile south of the town of Wetmore. The high winds caused the fire to rapidly engulf and ultimately destroy 15 residential structures and burn 1,998 acres in Custer and Pueblo counties. Fortunately there were no injuries to the public or firefighters. But to prevent further damage



due to soil erosion in the burned areas, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Custer County Conservation District, the Custer County Office of Emergency Management and the Natural Resource Conservation Service teamed up to develop and implement a rehabilitation plan.

The project focused on rehabilitating the lands most critical to protecting the area's watershed. Emergency stabilization funds were secured through grants from the BLM, the Colorado Fire Relief Fund, and the American Red Cross. The funds were used to help rehabilitate both public and private lands in the critical area. The seeding and mulching of the watershed was necessary to reduce flooding to the residential area as well as hayfields below the burned area. The project covered 352 acres with grass seed and mulched 112 of those acres.

Once grants were secured the next step was to inform the area residents of the operation and to receive permission from the landowners in the critical area. All landowners agreed to allow the operation on their properties, with one landowner allowing the project's staging area to be on his property. On Wednesday, April 10th, nearly 5 tons of native grass seed mix and 320 tons of mulch arrived at the staging area. The weather cooperated and early Thursday morning, the helicopter began aerial seeding.

In a matter of hours the seeding was completed and then the mulching began. The mulch consisted of wood shreds that help reduce runoff and hold the seeds in place until they can take root in the soil. The mulching of the critical area and the reclamation of the staging area was completed by late Friday afternoon.

The speed and efficiency of the ground and aerial crews was amazing and drew the attention of many curious passersby. Since the completion of the project, the Wetmore area has been blessed with frequent moisture in the form of snow and rain showers which will improve the survival rate of the seed.

The next stage of the project will focus mainly on preventing erosion during the summer rains. Research has determined that after a fire the peak flow flood potential may be anywhere from 10 to 10,000 times greater than pre-fire levels. Grant money will be used to purchase wattles and erosion mats to be placed on critical drainages on private land.

The main goal of this project is to diminish the amount of potential runoff and soil erosion and to allow the re-establishment of permanent native vegetation. It is hoped that these efforts will help restore native vegetation, habitat values, and suppress noxious weed invasion.



Just another Day at School...

While most kids sit in a classroom, daydreaming of being outside on a beautiful spring day, some students at the Canon City High School (CCHS) in Fremont County got their wish.

Since teaming up with the Fremont Conservation District and receiving a \$2,400 sponsorship, CCHS students have been spending their class time outside to build a monumental community garden. For this project, complete with 14 raised beds and enough drip tape to stretch from end to end of the football field, conservation of soil and water takes precedence.



The design of the garden utilizes a bare, southern-facing walkway and connects directly to the school's water source. Using a series of pipe and emitters, students have assembled the drip system while taking short breaks to listen to presentations by the Fremont CD and NRCS staff. On top of that, they are creating their own compost-soil mix and reading up on the biology behind growing healthy produce for the community.

The idea of how to educate students using the garden is multi-faceted and stretches beyond one classroom. The boxes were built by students participating in carpentry class, the drip system and plantings were done by a mix of environmental science students and Environmental Club members, and the summer maintenance lies with the local Boys and Girls Club. While the teens are just now getting their hands really dirty with their tomato starts and watermelon seeds, we have seen (and heard about) how much initiative they have taken toward expanding their own education while enjoying the great outdoors in Southern Colorado.

Colorado to Host NACD Southwest & Pacific Region Annual Meeting

The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts is pleased to host this year's meeting of the National Association's Southwest & Pacific Region states. The meeting will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Durango from September 30 through October 1, 2013.

This important, policy making meeting will bring State Association representatives and conservation agency partners together to set conservation policy directives in the Southwest and Pacific regions for 2014. "Save the Date" notices have been sent across the regions in anticipation of a well attended event.

Contact CACD today for more information about registering for this event.

50th Camp Rocky Starting Soon

It's almost here! The 50th Camp Rocky is taking place July 7th through 13th at the Rocky Mountain Camp near Divide, CO.

With last year's camp cancelled due to fires in nearby areas, the Camp Rocky staff is anxious to get this year's activities going. In fact, we don't want anyone to miss out! If your 14-19 year old student is looking for an exciting outdoor youth camp experience, contact CACD today. The application deadline is June 28th, so act fast! We may still have openings available and camp registration is just \$300.00 for a full week of conservation education and activities in the beautiful Rocky Mountains.

Are you a Camp Rocky Student or Staff Alumni? Contact CACD for information about a possible Alumni Day, Wednesday, July 10th. (Advance notification of attendance will be required!)

Canon Envirothon comes to Colorado

The inaugural Colorado competition was held May 5th at the Poudre Learning Center near Greeley, CO.

The 2013 Colorado Envirothon State Championship team came from West Grand High School located in Kremmling, CO. Second place winners were from Hoehne High School in Los Animas County and third place winners were Granada High School, Granada CO, Prowers County.



Student teams, consisting of five members, competed in Colorado's first state contest.

The state competition represented one stop on the road to the Canon Envirothon competition, a national program for high school students.

The Canon Envirothon is North America's largest high school environmental education competition. Reaching more than 500,000 students across North America annually, the Envirothon has succeeded in its mission to develop knowledgeable, skilled, and dedicated citizens who are willing and prepared to work towards achieving a

balance between the quality of life and the quality of the environment.

The Canon Envirothon is a hands-on environmental problem-solving competition for high school-aged students in the United States and Canada.

Participating teams completed training and testing in four natural resource categories: soils and land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, and wildlife. Combining in-class curriculum and hands-on field experiences, the Envirothon program provided an excellent way to supplement environmental education inside and outside the traditional classroom.

Test questions included written answers, and required hands-on observations, measurements and calculations. The Envirothon works in partnership with local conservation districts, forestry associations, educators, and cooperating natural resource agencies to organize and conduct competitions on the local, regional, state, and/or provincial level. Winning teams from each state and province advance to the Canon Envirothon for an opportunity to compete for recognition, scholarships, and prizes.

Over 25 volunteers assisted with the competition. Volunteers served as proctors, judges, room monitors, station judges, score runners, refreshment deliverers, registration, escorts, photographers, and various other tasks.

To learn more about the Colorado Envirothon program, call the West Greeley Conservation District at 970-356-8097x3 or visit Colorado Envirothon's website www.coloenvirothon.com. Canon Envirothon's website is www.envirothon.org.

CACD to Attend NACD Summer Legislative Conference

CACD and its members will have strong representation at the upcoming NACD Summer Legislative Conference, being held in Washington, DC from July 13-16. The NACD program this year includes invited speakers from the White House, USDA, NRCS, BLM, EPA, USFS and DOI. The event will also include special presentations from NACD strategic consultant and former NRCS Chief, Dave White.

This conference offers CACD the opportunity to personally engage in "on the ground" discussions with key policymakers on conservation issues that affect the state. It is extremely important for CACD to attend the NACD meetings and play a critical role in shaping policies to guide NACD.

CACD Board President, Gary Moyer and former CACD Director, Bob Warner are the Colorado representatives to the NACD Board. Adding to this leadership, CACD

Director from the Gunnison-Dolores Watershed, Kristie Martin and CACD Lobbyist, Brett Moore will be attending the conference.

With Congress considering crucial appropriations bills, and the Farm Bill likely heading to Congress in the next few weeks, CACD is taking full advantage of this critical opportunity to set up in-person meetings with our Senators and Representatives. We will make sure our voices are heard loud and clear as Congress is making decisions on these and other important issues impacting the long-term future of conservation!



**Colorado Association
of Conservation Districts**

Southeast Weld Conservation District holds Annual Meeting

Bob Warner Recognized for Outstanding Conservation Efforts

The Southeast Weld Conservation District held its 2013 Annual Meeting on April 24th at the American Legion Hall in Keenesburg, CO.

Chris Spears, Meteorologist Colorado Climate Center at CSU brought a wealth of information about Colorado's climate and drought history to his informative presentation. So far his prediction of precipitation in May is right on. Mr. Spears' presentation included discussion about the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network. (CoCoRaHS) There are eight individuals within the District who are reporting precipitation to the CoCoRaHS website. The District is still offering a cost share program for landowners who would like to join the reporting cause, please contact a Board member for details.

Weld County Commissioners Kirkmeyer and Conway delivered interesting and informative facts about Weld County. Commissioner Kirkmeyer stated that due to the oil and gas activity, Weld County has no short term or long term debt; which is a direct reflection of the outstanding job the Commissioners are doing. In addition, Commissioner Kirkmeyer stated "We don't want Weld County to be known as the oil and gas county. We want Weld County to be known as the Ag county."

Both Commissioners know the financial benefit agriculture brings to Weld County, the jobs it creates and challenges our producers are facing. They shared stories of the number of times they visited Governor's Hickenlooper's office last year asking him to release water so our producers could hedge damage from the

drought. Their efforts didn't produce the result they hoped for but the Commissioners never stopped trying.

After the District's business meeting Bob Warner was recognized for his outstanding conservation efforts. Bob began his farm and ranch operation in 1974. Over the years he has acquired hundreds of acres, installed 19,000 feet of underground pipe, numerous living snow fences and windbreaks, low pressure pivot systems to conserve water and manages Angus and Red Angus herds under natural beef guidelines. In addition, Bob has donated countless hours to various organizations. Just a few of these are the Platte Valley CD, CACD, NACD, Colorado Foundation of Ag and the Southeast Weld CD. In 2010, he was inducted into the CACD Conservation Hall of Fame.

The District also recognized Mark Cronquist, Conservation Specialist with the Colorado State Conservation Board, for his continued support of the SEWCD Board. Many residents of the District know Mark from his 30 years as an extension agent for Weld County. Mark has provided the guidance and "tough love" the Board of Supervisors needed to reconstruct the SEWCD. This has made the District strong and well respected as they demonstrate the value of sound conservation practices delivered to Weld County landowners. Thanks to Mark for his commitment, support and direction in this mission.

The Southeast Weld Conservation District Board sends a big thank you to its partners; Keene Market, Prospect Implement, Lost Creek Guide, Cooksey Farms, Bob Warner and Warner Ranch, West Adams CD and NRCS.

2013-2014 Colorado Conservation Leadership Program

Class Applications Available Online

The Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB) is pleased to announce the start of the new **Conservation Leadership Program for 2013-2014**. Up and coming leaders in conservation are out there and are invited to step forward and commit to playing a stronger role for the natural resources and landowners they serve.

This 12-month intensive leadership training program class is sponsored by CSCB, NRCS and CACD and is open to Conservation District Supervisors, District Manager and NRCS Employees. **All applications are due by August 15, 2013.**

Visit the L.A.N.D.S. website at <https://sites.google.com/site/coloradostateconservationboard/cclp> to learn more about the program and view the schedule. Class applications are available online!

Get Registered Today and Make a Difference as a Conservation Leader!

If not you, then who?



The 2013 Legislative Session Summary Report

During the 2013 General Assembly in Denver, natural resources issues were often overshadowed by gun control, oil/gas, undocumented immigrants, renewable energy and civil unions. Despite the media attention paid to these contentious topics, CACD had a very influential year driving policy.

There were 613 total bills introduced in the 120-day session, including 54 bills dealing with Ag, Forestry, Water or other Conservation issues. After being vetted through the CACD Legislative Committee against our policy book, these 54 bills



were lobbied accordingly, based on a Support/Neutral/Opposed ranking system. CACD actively or passively supported 10 bills, 9 of which have been signed or are waiting to be signed by the governor. CACD opposed 3 bills, all of which failed.

The top legislative concern of CACD during the 2013 legislative session was to restore a shortfall of state funding, dating back to fiscal year 2008, as revenues finally began to rebound from the Great Recession. CACD successfully lobbied for \$425,000 in new funding, restoring the districts to pre-recession funding levels. This provided the benefit of easing financial pressure on the Department of Agriculture and continues to build our association's credibility and efficacy within the Ag community.

Members of the legislative Ag Committees and leadership joined CACD for the Stock Show Rodeo in January to learn more about CACD and for the 2012 Conservationist of the Year Awards. Guests included Senate Minority Leader Bill Cadman, Senate Ag Committee Chair Gail Schwartz, and House Ag Committee Ranking Member Jerry Sonnenberg, with 8 total elected officials joining in all.

Through the resolution process at the watershed and state level, CACD advanced and passed a resolution at the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) annual

convention to support federal legislation HR 311, Farmers Undertake Environmental Land Stewardship Act or the FUELS Act. This bill directs the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to change a fuel spill rule with respect to certain farms, including common-sense rules that exempt certain sizes of farms from onerous containment measures, particularly farms with no history of spills

Throughout the session we continued to draw attention to the US Forest Service's attempt to force ski-area operators to surrender long-established water rights as a condition of renewing their permits to operate on federal land, an issue CACD has been engaged in for some time. House Bill 1013 and House Joint Resolution 1004, written with stakeholders from the Ski and Ag/Livestock industries to fight the forced surrender, were both killed on procedure when they did not receive final action, despite bipartisan support. CACD was an active part of the group that fought to pass these measures, and helped to finally pass House Resolution 1009, introduced on the final day of session, to ensure the Federal Government knows Colorado will stand up for long-held and improved water rights. We will continue to work on this issue with our partners at NACD.

CACD continued to be a leader as a Producer Member within Ag Council. This included participation in the March 2013 Colorado Agriculture Day at the capitol and leading discussions on the US Forest Service water permitting issue in regular Ag Council, as well as the related Colorado Ag Water Alliance.

In total, it was a productive year for CACD, as we continue to raise our profile at the State Capitol and in Washington DC working on legislation, continuing to strengthen our funding sources, and being a leader in the Ag/Natural Resources community. As always, I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your voice.



2013 CACD Annual Meeting to be held in Colorado Springs

The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts will hold its 2013 Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs, November 11-14. The event will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton, located at 1775 E. Cheyenne Mountain Blvd.

Forms for Conservation Award nominations and resolutions, to be brought before the policy committees, will be available by the end of July. Conference registration and hotel lodging information will also be made available at the same time.

Conservation District Supervisors should contact your watershed officers TODAY to volunteer for Resource Policy Committee assignments. We look forward to seeing you this November in Colorado Springs!



Colorado State Forest Service Accepting Proposals to Protect Private Forestlands



The Colorado State Forest Service is now accepting Forest Legacy Program proposals from Colorado landowners. The program authorizes the USDA Forest Service or the CSFS to purchase permanent conservation easements on private forestlands to prevent those lands from being converted to non-forest uses.

The purpose of the Colorado Forest Legacy Program is to protect environmentally important private forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. The program provides an opportunity for private landowners to retain ownership and management of their land, while receiving compensation for unrealized development rights.

The application deadline is July 26, 2013, for federal fiscal year 2015 funding.

Forestlands that contain important scenic, cultural, recreation and water resources, including fish and wildlife habitat and other ecological values, and that support traditional forest uses, will receive priority. Landowners who elect to participate in the program are required to follow a land management plan approved by the CSFS. Activities consistent with the management plan, including timber harvesting, grazing and recreation activities, are permitted.

The Colorado State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee will evaluate proposals and recommend to the state forester those proposals that have sufficient merit to forward to the USDA Forest Service. Forwarded proposals will

then compete at a regional level; those selected at the regional level will compete nationally for funding.

For additional information or to obtain an application packet, contact Naomi Marcus at 970-491-6303. Applications also are available under the "Funding Opportunities" link at <http://csfs.colostate.edu>.

Completed proposals must be submitted by mail and received no later than 4 p.m. July 26.



A Thank You to our Conservation District Members

CACD's Director Donnie McBee is new to the Board this year. He's doing a great job representing the Lower Arkansas Watershed and reminds us to send this sincere "Thank You" to the Conservation District Members who have paid their 2013 Full Membership Dues. The entire Board and Staff of CACD says,

Thank You

to

Bent Conservation District
Bookcliff Conservation District
Boulder Valley Conservation District
Colorado First Conservation District
Cope Conservation District
Costilla Conservation District
Delta Conservation District
Dolores Conservation District
Douglas Creek Conservation District
Eagle Conservation District
El Paso County Conservation District
Longmont Conservation District
Mancos Conservation District
Middle Park Conservation District

Mount Sopris Conservation District
North Park Conservation District
Prowers Conservation District
Routt County Conservation District
San Juan Conservation District
Shavano Conservation District
South Pueblo County Conservation District
South Side Conservation District
Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River Conservation District
Turkey Creek Conservation District
Upper Huerfano Creek Conservation District
White River Conservation District
Yuma County Conservation District

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Colorado Association of Conservation Districts

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