

76 Colorado Conservation Districts

Conservation Districts in Colorado

- The original conservationists, established in 1937 by Congressional Act; evolving out of the 1930s Dust Bowl as today's Grass Roots Leadership
- Represent private landowners
- Coordinate local, State, Federal and private funds to conserve Colorado's natural resources
- Provide over 32,000 volunteer hours annually
- 76 Conservation Districts in Colorado with 400 elected officials representing landowners
- Coordinate Technical, Financial, and Educational Resources
- Ability to leverage State dollars – Often 3:1 Ratio
- Est. \$40 Million of Federal funding brought into CO yearly
- Tried and true infrastructure in place throughout Colorado implementing conservation with local guidance
- Sponsors of Camp Rocky, outdoor environmental education program for youth at www.camprocky.colostate.edu (3rd decade)

Local Conservation Districts' Concerns

The 76 Conservation Districts implement annual plans of work addressing local natural resource issues on:

- Drought – mitigate drought issues on private land
- Water management – quality and quantity / Riparian areas
- Small acreage – education and management assistance
- Weed control and management
- Soil erosion / Land Utilization – Growth
- Wildlife habitat and management
- Development of renewable energy conservation practices
- Rangeland improvement and management

Conservation District Activities

Counties, Cities, & Towns

- Soils Information
- Water Quality & Quantity
- Subdivision Plans
- Noxious Weed Management
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Xeriscaping Information
- Flooding Risks
- Mined Land Reclamation
- Developing New Species Of Plants
- Assistance in Economic Development
- Renewable Resources and Alternative Energy
- Small acreage education

Environmental Education

- Conservational Education Materials
- Scholarships
- Range Judging
- Career Days
- Youth Camps
- Stencil A Drain Programs
- Soil Stewardship Materials
- Newsletters and Articles
- Conservation Tours
- Conservation Workshops
- Education Facilities
- Riparian Trailer Demonstrations
- Teachers' Workshops

Farm and Ranch

- Conservation Plans
- Soils Information
- Specialized Equipment
- Salinity Control Plans
- Revegetation
- Non Point Source Pollution Solutions
- Municipal Sludge Application
- Wind Strips
- Conservation Tillage
- Field Windbreaks
- Environmental Quality Incentives Programs
- Conservation Reserve Program
- Carbon Sequestration

Woodlands & Forests

- Fire Rehabilitation
- Forest Management Plans
- Wildlife Habitat
- Living Snow Fences
- Field Windbreaks
- Riparian Areas
- Stream Bank Protection
- Living Barns
- Project Learning Tree

Conservation Districts' *Partners*

State

- Department of Agriculture
- State Forest Service
- Division of Wildlife
- Colorado State University - Cooperative Extension
- Department of Health & Environment
- Division of Water Resources
- Department of Transportation
- Water Conservation Board
- Oil and Gas Commission
- CO State Conservation Board

County

- County Commissioners
- Planning Departments
- Open Space
- Weed Districts
- Public School Systems

Federal

- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S Forest Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Farm Service Agency

City

- Backyard Conservation Groups
- Zoning Commissions
- Xeriscape Groups

Other

- Businesses
- Civic Organizations
- Watershed Groups
- Water Conservation Districts
- Water Conservancy Districts
- Special Interest Groups

Organizational Structure

