



Colorado Conservator

“Partners in Conservation”



Vol. 23 No. 4
Fall 2007

Published by Colorado Association of Conservation Districts
and Colorado State Conservation Board

CACD Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs, Nov. 13-16: Register On-Line

Sustaining Agriculture and the Environment

By Carol Sirko Dunn, District
Manager, Upper Huerfano

They say you can't go back. But every November, over 200 volunteers and professionals in natural resource conservation put that saying to the test. The Annual Meeting of the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) brings together partners, friends and acquaintances with something in common: a love of the land.

You are invited to join the driving force of volunteers and partners behind Colorado's 77 Conservation Districts at the 63rd CACD Annual Meeting in Colorado Springs. The historic Antlers Hilton will be the site of the convention, November 13-16, 2007.

The first day begins with a meeting for first timers who are new to their conservation district or who have not had the opportunity to attend the convention. Policy will be discussed during a half-day meeting for all committee members. Afternoon sessions will consider water issues, highlighted by Commissioner of Agriculture, John Stulp; Ken Knox with the Colorado State Engineer's Office; and Alexandra Davis, Department of Natural Resources Assistant Director for Water.

Tuesday evening's social, live auction and dance will provide opportunities to rekindle friendships and build networking ties.



Wednesday's general session will focus on energy. Concurrent breakout sessions on water, energy, urban issues, and sustainable agriculture will run most of the day Wednesday.

During an awards luncheon, awards will be presented to state-wide winners of educational contests and outstanding district accomplishments will be rewarded. The Society for Range Management also participates in the awards ceremony. Later Wednesday, conservation districts will present short programs on their successful projects during the past year.

Wednesday evening's banquet will feature presentations honoring Colorado's Conservation Farmer of the Year, Clarence and Jolene Robinson, and Conservation Rancher of the Year, Danny and Denise Temple. Senator Ken Salazar will be honored as CACD's Legislator of the Year. And students

who attended Camp Rocky will give a special range science presentation.

Thursday is all business, with the general assembly business meeting in the morning and Resource Conservation & Development, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) meetings in the afternoon. The SWCS will sponsor a seminar on viable biofuels systems from 10 am to 4 pm. Register for this event on the SWCS web site: http://www.swcs.org/en/colorado_chapter/

The conference topics are timely and essential in today's agricultural climate, and the underlying theme binds us to our urban neighbors. It's an age-old goal of those living off the land to leave the natural resources in better shape for the next generation. So . . . maybe you can go back, for a short while. **Registration for the conference is online at: <https://www.themeetingedge.com/secure/cacd/cacd-reg.cfm>**

In This Issue

CACD Annual Meeting
pages 1, 3, and 4

Darlene Jensen, Exec. Director
page 4

Conservationists of the Year
pages 6 and 7

CSFS Grants
page 8

Tamarisk Treatments along
Arkansas River Valley
page 10

CACD Sponsorship Opportunities
page 12

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Conservation for Viable Biofuels Systems

The Colorado Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will present a seminar on biofuels November 15, 2007 from 10:00 - 4:00 at the Antlers Hilton Hotel. This will be a highly educational event for anyone interested in pursuing biofuels.

Registration and program information is available at: www.swcs.org/en/colorado_chapter/ The Colorado Chapter SWCS annual meeting follows the seminar.

President's Message



Larry Hoozee

The search is over. After a month of reviewing resumes and interviewing prospective candidates the CACD board has hired a new Executive Director. Her name is Darlene Jensen. Darlene is from the Colorado Springs area and to be more specific, Cascade Colorado. She started with CACD on October 9th working from her home office and getting to know the organization. The home office will be a temporary location with the new CACD office located in Woodland Park. The Woodland Park District had some space available and the board and Darlene thought this would be a good location, a short drive to work for Darlene and accessible to most front

range locations. This is not to say she won't be traveling to the western slope from time to time. Darlene comes to us from the El Pomar Foundation in Colorado Springs where she worked as a legal assistant dealing with environmental issues, lobbying and legislation along with planning and coordination of many events. The board felt these skills could be a definite asset to CACD and the Districts.

The office in Woodland Park is still a work in progress, but as soon as we get things up and running the Districts will be notified of the address and phone number. Until then please contact the old number in Grand Junction where Darlene is picking up messages.

The annual meeting is coming together nicely with the help of many. Thanks to all for taking on some extra duties to help CACD get through the planning process for our November meeting. Those dates again are the 12th through 15th at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs. Please go on line to the CACD web site to register. No mail in registrations will be taken this year due to the change in office locations. Hope to see you there.

As many of you know the Farm Bill has yet to be written. CACD has been in contact with many of our Federal Legislators over the last few months helping to develop or revise wording in parts of the house version of the farm bill. When the Senate

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takes up the Farm Bill in the next few weeks it is very important to stay in touch with your legislators and keep up on current happenings. Callie has still been working with CACD to keep us in touch so if you have concerns or questions she may be able to put you in contact with a legislator or their aid. Her office phone in Palisade is 970-464-7916.

Thanks again to all for your help the past couple months with the transition of Executive Directors and change of office locations.

CACD Office

The CACD office is now located at 901 Rampart Road, Woodland Park, Colorado 80863.

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The Colorado Conservator

Providing Colorado With
Conservation News for 40 Years
Jerry Schwien, Editor
(Circulation 8,000)

Printed on Recycled Paper by Signature Offset, Broomfield, CO

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.

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The Colorado Conservator is published by the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) with technical and financial assistance from the Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS). The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of these organizations. Articles for publication should be emailed to:

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CACD Annual Meeting

Antlers Hotel, Colorado Springs

November 12 – 15, 2007

Draft Agenda

Updated 9/12/07

Monday (Nov. 12): (Federal Holiday)

- 11:00 – 1:00 Joint CACD & CSCB Board Meetings
- 1:00 – 5:00 Individual Board Meetings – CACD & CSCB
- 7:00 – 9:00 Leadership Training - Watershed Leadership focus (tentative)
- 7:00 – 9:00 GLCI (tentative)

Tuesday (Nov. 13):

- 7:30 – 8:00 First Timer Meeting
- 8:00 - Noon Policy Development Meeting (all committees in one session)
- Noon Lunch on Your Own
- Noon – 1:00 Employee Luncheon & Business Meeting
- 1:00 – 2:30 Opening Session
 - NACD Update - John Redding, Treasurer
 - Author of "*The Farmer*", Mark Ludy
- 2:30 – 3:00 Break
- 3:00 – 5:00 General Session
 - Colorado's Agriculture & Water - John Stulp, Commissioner of Ag
 - Republican, Rio Grande, Arkansas River Issues
 - Ken Knox, Colorado State Engineer Office
 - South Platte & Colorado Rivers
 - Alexandra Davis – DNR Asst. Dir. for Water
 - Q & A
- 3:30 – 6:00 Employee Training – Grant Writing
- 7:00 – 7:30 Social
- 7:30 – 8:30 Live Auction
- 8:30 – 12:00 Dance – Ramblin Fever

Wednesday (Nov. 14):

- 8:00 – 10:00 General Session
 - NRCS Update - Allen Green
 - Conservation Effects Assessment Program (CEAP)
 - Lisa Fiorina Duriancik, NRCS
 - Chicago Climate Exchange - Nathan Clark
 - Governor's Energy Office - Tom Plant, Director
- 10:00 – 10:30 Break

Concurrent Breakouts (Tracts):

- 10:30 – 11:45** (1) Water – Changing from irrigation to limited irrigation or dryland
 - James Pritchett, CSU Ag Economics Professor
 - Water Quality, On Farm Water Conservation
 - Troy Souder (invited)
 (2) Energy – Ethanol & Cellulosic
 - Mike Bowman, 25x'25: Renewable Energy Initiative
 (3) Urban – Healthy Forest, Beetle Kill, Urban/Forest Interface
 - Jan Hackett, Colorado State Forest Service
 (4) SARE – Western Region, Sustainable Ag Research & Education
 - Jim Freeburn, Lingo, WY
- 12:00 – 1:30** Awards Luncheon – Society for Range Management, co-sponsor
- 2:00 – 2:45** (1) Water – Measuring the Effects of Conservation on the Landscape
 - Lisa Fiorina Duriancik, CEAP Coordinator, Washington DC
 (2) Energy – Wind
 - Tony Frank, Rocky Mtn. Farmers Union
 (3) Urban – Funding for Urban Districts and Landowners
 - Stu Trefry, Washington State Conservation Commission
 (4) Short Grass Prairie – Bill Ulfelder, The Nature Conservancy
- 3:00 – 3:45** (1) Water – Improving IWM Using Innovative Cropping Systems
 - Joel Schneekloth, Extension NE Water Resource Specialist
 (2) Energy – Micro Hydro Power
 (3) Conservation Easements – Lynne Sherrod, Land Trust Alliance (invited)
 (4) Carbon Credits – Tom Lauridson, CSU, Natural Resources Ecology Lab (invited)
- 4:00 – 4:45** Jeani Fricke – Legislative briefing
 Larry Hoozee – What’s on the Horizon
 Introducing Darlene Jensen, CACD Executive VP
- 6:00 – 9:00** Banquet
 Dinner
 Speaker – Sophy Watson, “Sophy Humor”
 Camp Rocky Range Science Presentation
 Legislator of Year – Senator Ken Salazar
 Conservationist of Year – Clarence & Jolene Robinson – farm
 Danny & Denise Temple - ranch

Thursday (Nov. 15):

- 8:00 – Noon CACD General Assembly Business Meeting
 8:00 – Noon RC&D Meeting
 8:00 – 4:00 NRCS Meeting
 10:00 – 4:00 SWCS Seminar: Soil and Water Conservation for Viable Biofuels Systems
 4:00 – 6:00 SWCS Meeting

Hotel Information

Antlers Hilton
4 South Cascade Ave
Colorado Springs

Reservations:
1-866-299-8602
or 719-955-5600
www.antlers.com

For online or phone
reservations use
Group Code
CACD07

Room rate is \$80
by October 19.
After \$159.



Darlene Jensen Hired as CACD Executive Director



Darlene Jensen began work as Executive Director for CACD, October 9. She has worked in the private, public and nonprofit sectors over the last twenty years and has specialized in the implementation of environmental management programs and intergovernmental agreements. Darlene grew up in rural mid-America and having watched development take a foothold on rich farm lands and critical

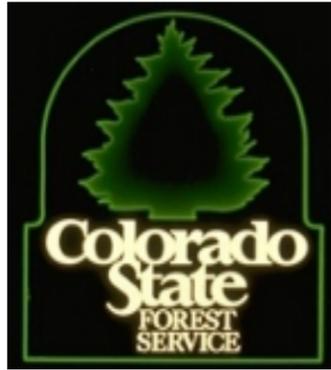
wetlands, she realized early on and has since held to the belief that a compromise between development and sound environmental and natural resource management can be attained through bringing affected parties together and providing them with education, funding resources, economic benefits and in certain instances, alternatives. Darlene comes to CACD from El Pomar Foundation out of Colorado Springs where she has recently worked in the area of nonprofit regulatory research and event coordination of leadership programs. She has combined her educational background in the areas of environmental science, economics and legal research with her experience and now looks forward to working hard for CACD. Darlene is grateful for this opportunity to serve CACD! She can be reached by email at: darhorseman@netzero.net or by phone at: 719-322-5232.



Darlene Jensen

Darlene Jensen (above) and far left on her horse, Timmy. Darlene, who lives near Cascade, Colorado about 15 minutes from Colorado Springs, is an avid horsewoman.

Partners in Conservation



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

Apply for EQIP Funds by November 2nd

By Petra Barnes, NRCS Public Affairs Specialist

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is encouraging Colorado's landowners to apply for enrollment into the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) by November 2, 2007. Landowners are urged to meet with their local NRCS field office to discuss their land use and natural resource goals as NRCS offers conservation programs which provide financial and technical assistance to help them reach those objectives.

"We're encouraging landowners to apply now because we want to be proactive in our assistance, says Tim Carney, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs. "The new 2007 Farm Bill is currently being drafted and may include changes to current Farm Bill programs."

NRCS offers landowners technical support and programs which provide financial assistance on a continuous basis. Therefore, landowners may come in at anytime

to seek support and apply for enrollment in a program.

"Although many of our programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) have open enrollment periods, we establish signup timeframes so that the program may be more appropriately administered," says Dollie Gonzales, NRCS EQIP Program Coordinator.

Applying now ensures that all applications received prior to November 2, 2007, will be reviewed and evaluated on the current Farm Bill program's eligibility requirements.

"NRCS will manage and administer the new 2007 Farm Bill upon its passage as we have every other Farm Bill in the past and we are confident that this new Bill will continue to assist landowners in their stewardship efforts to conserve natural resources," Carney further states.

"We do, however, have the opportunity to enroll people into programs today, under rules and regulations that our employees have been working with for the past five years, affording a greater understanding of the programs which may translate into a greater opportunity for more expeditious service."

Editor and Son Enjoy Guided Fishing Trip to Blue Valley Ranch

By Jerry Schwien, Editor

Editor Jerry Schwien and son Jarrett enjoyed a fly fisherman's dream, September 12, when they took advantage of the day long fishing trip donated by Blue Valley Ranch and purchased by Schwien in last year's CACD Auction. Jarrett, the true fisherman of the family, couldn't believe how the browns and rainbows struck throughout the day. "We didn't catch any fish less than 20 inches and my biggest was a 27 inch rainbow," said Jarrett. Ranch manager, Perry Handyside, also gave the duo a tour of the Blue Valley Ranch which was last year's Conservation Ranch of the Year. At the end of the day Perry agreed to donate a fishing trip again for this year's CACD Auction. Photos below show prime fishery oxbow on Blue Valley Ranch and Jarrett Schwien with 27 inch rainbow trout.



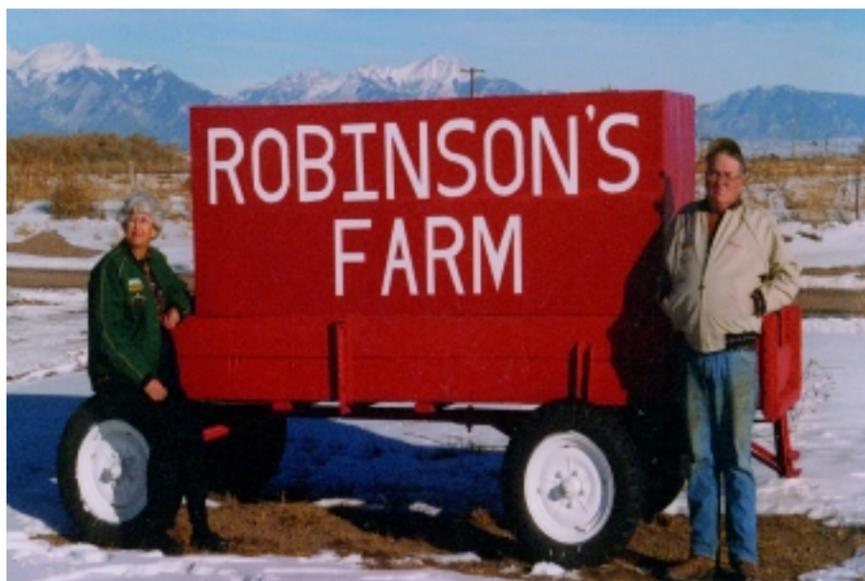
5 Conservator

Robinsons: Colorado Conservation Family of the Year--Farm Division

By Judy Lopez, Conservation Education Specialist, Rio Grande Watershed

Clarence & Jolene Robinson have owned their farm located near Hooper, Colorado since 1977. In the truest sense of the word it is a family operation. Run primarily by Clarence and Jolene, their right hands are their daughter Claudia "C.J." Robinson and their grandson Dennis Maxwell; who handle the operations as an extension of Clarence and Jolene. In Clarence's mind the farm is the families- a sign of the future, a measure of what hard work can do.

The operation encompasses approximately 480 acres with the main crop ground under three center pivot sprinklers that have been distinguished as being a part of the NRCS Conservation Security Plan Program. This program recognizes outstanding stewardship of natural resources for farms that go above and beyond the



Clarence and Jolene Robinson faarm with daughter Claudia "C.J." and grandson Dennis near Hooper, Colorado. The Robinsons grow potatoes and barley under a highly efficient conservation operation.

cultivation a Para-til with slanted chisels is used to "break" the area around the seed to facilitate water, nutrient and air movement and to assist with root and tuber develop-

The Water Management Plan encompasses two primary practices quality and quantity. Water quality is maintained by Clarence, "CJ" and Dennis' ongoing monitoring throughout

of new low profile, high efficiency, high-speed center drive sprinklers for irrigation and chemigation, along with cleaning each well was the first step. Following this they moved the bowls closer to the water table, then performed pump tests and renozzled accordingly.

The final piece of the Robinsons' extensive conservation plan, is their Habitat Preservation Plan. The Robinsons' have two farmstead windbreaks to stop the damaging effects of wind on soil, water and crops and to provide a habitat for migrating animals and waterfowl.

Clarence has served on the District Board for Mosca-Hooper for almost 30 years. He has served as the District President and Vice-President for several terms. He has attended every CACD State Convention since he's been on the Board. Clarence has served as a councilman for RC&D locally and as the State President of RC&D. He was Treasurer for the Rio Grande Watershed for several years. He has been named CACD Supervisor of the Year and has received the Goodyear Conservation Award.

In 2004, Clarence and Jolene received the National Potato Council's Environmental Stewardship Award. Jolene also has been very active with conservation boards & has been a member of the CACD Auxiliary from 1980 through present. She has served as an officer for CACD Auxiliary for 20 of those 27 years. She received the NACD Auxiliary Distinguished Service Award in 2001 and has been honored as a Master Farm Homemaker.

Congratulations to the Robinsons on being named the Rio Grande Watershed and the CACD Conservation Family of the Year in the Farming Division!



conservation call. Practices put into play that make the farm so unique are the way that Clarence has split his circles. By placing half into potatoes and the other half into a barley rotation he is getting the maximum benefit from his water resource. Because his peak consumptive use is varied for the two crops, this keeps the pumps and wells in sync, thus decreasing aquifer depletion. The second benefit the Robinson's gain from this practice is mulch; the organic material that remains on the ground provides excellent cover and erosion protection.

The Conservation Crop Rotation and Residue Management Plan that the farm has implemented is only the beginning of a comprehensive conservation package. The full plan includes soil management including 28" deep chiseling to increase water percolation and to prevent a hard pan. At potato

ment. During the growing season "ridging" is implemented on unplanted acreage to keep soil erosion under control and herbicides are used to control noxious weeds in these areas.

A critical part of their soil management plan has been to maintain soil quality; this is achieved through crop rotation as well as switching potato varieties to one that requires less nitrogen input. This coupled with annual soil tests provide the Robinson's baseline data from which to make competent fertilizer decisions.

The Nutrient Management Plan is put together using tests taken from water, soil and petioles. These results are used to plan the form, placement amount, and timing of the application of plant nutrients; so that optimum yields will be reached and minimum entry into ground and surface water sources are maintained.

the growing season; petiole tests screen levels of Nitrogen and Phosphorus in the plants and allow them to adjust Nitrogen application rates so they stay well within safe quality levels.

Since the drought of 2002, the Robinsons have implemented many water saving measures. The purchase



Temples: Colorado Conservation Family of the Year--Ranch Division

By Judy Lopez, Conservation Education Specialist, Rio Grande Watershed

Danny and Denise Temple moved to the ranch with their young son, Shane, in 1976. Along with Danny's mother and step-father they leased the ranch until July, 1981 when they purchased the property. Today the ranch consists of 1,000 owned acres and 8,840 acres of State Lease as well as 540 AUM's on BLM lease. This includes the original leases and AUM's as well as additional leases acquired through the years.

Danny's mom, Roberta Harris, his father, and step-mother, (Delbert and Vivian Temple) are a large part of the family heritage. Danny is a 4th generation rancher and loves living his lifetime dream of being a cattle rancher. Through the years he has worked extremely long and hard to attain his goal. In addition to ranching, Danny is co-owner of Cloud Crest Landscaping, LLC with son Beau Temple. Denise not only helps co-manage the ranch, but also works at the Monte Vista Coop.



Danny and Denise Temple and family members are honored at the Rio Grande Watershed meeting, along with members from the Center CD Board of Supervisors.

in 1976, prior to them actually purchasing the property, to enhance the leases in order to make it the working ranch what it is today. The following is a list of Conservation plans and practices that are in place on "Cloud Crest Ranch".

1976: Great Plains contract that included - Land leveling on 160 acres, Pasture and hay land plantings on 160 acres, a 10 acre-foot recharge reservoir and a border irrigation plan.

1997: EQIP contract that included -21,102 feet of fencing on State Allotments, 18,100 feet of pipelines. NRCS cost-share funds

2003: Develop a water system to use surface water in lieu of pumping from the well. The system is centrally located to allow an adequate water supply to numerous pastures totaling 7,213 acres. Pumping plant for water control, Tire tank watering facility.

2004: EQIP contract that included -3,120 ft of underground plastic pipeline.

2005: Irrigation System Sprinkler Renozzle - Irrigation Water Management Plan on 190 acres, 2005-2008: Pasture and Hay planting on 17 acres.

2007: Head gate structure for

as a safe haven for the birds and owls which frequent the property. Currently have 3,300 acres leased to the Division of Wildlife (DOW).

The Cloud Crest Ranch has hosted several site tours to look over the condition of the range and have received many compliments on the work they are doing. In 2001, they received a State Award for their efforts with the improvements on their State leases and their stewardship of the land. They start grazing their State leases in May and their BLM leases in June and are able to maintain a good pasture rotation due to the many cross fences they have installed. In order to entice the cows up to higher ranges that don't get utilized regularly, the Temples use a protein supplement lick tub that works well in dispersing the cattle to the higher ground. The reward for managing their private, State and BLM lands properly has been an increase in the number of animal units that they can graze on their property and leases.

The Temples have proven that through hard work, determination and sound conservation practices, ranching in today's uncertain environment can be both profitable and sustainable!

Kudos's on your conservation efforts and congratulations To Cloud Crest Ranch for being named the Rio Grande Watershed and the CACD 2007 Conservationists of the Year in the Ranching Division!



Grazing management is an important feature on the Temple Ranch. Pipelines assist with water delivery and grazing management.

The Temples have four children; Shane, wife Beth and daughters, Shelby and Lindsay; Beau, wife Kim and sons, Burke and Kade; Heidi, husband Kris, sons, Ace and Braxton and daughter Bailey; and Jeremy and daughters Brooke and Taylor. They are extremely proud of their family and love the times they share together. The grandchildren especially love to come out to grandma and papa's to see and help with the cows. The entire Temple family love the ranching way of life.

The Temple's started implementing conservation plans on their ranch

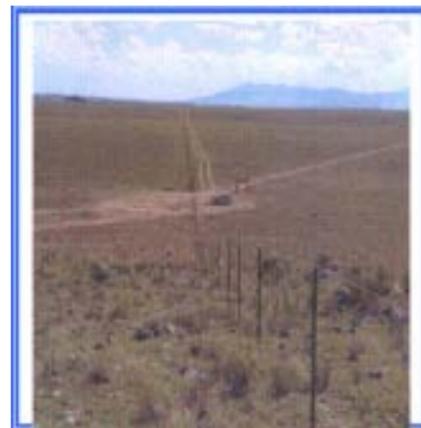
were used for the fencing and pipeline projects. 14 Livestock tanks (Heavy Equipment tire), 2 - 10,000 gallon tanks for water storage, 20,000+ feet of fencing on their State and private land. These projects were done at the landowners' expense. Prescribed Grazing Plan on 13,924 acres that includes both their State and private land.

1998: Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRM) with the State of Colorado, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

Water Control - 2005 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management Plan on 17 acres.

2006 EQIP contract that included -Conservation Cover on 23 acres - 2007 Conservation Crop Rotation on 23 acres - 2008-2010

2007 Drilled well on newly acquired State lease Cross fencing for improved pasture rotation - 2007-2009 New Coordinated Resource management Plan with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and two other ranchers on their State Allotment Planted several windbreaks throughout their ranch that also serves



Colorado State Forest Service Awards \$1 Million in Grants for Community Forest Restoration and Water Protection Projects

By Katherine Timm, CSFS

The Colorado State Forest Service is awarding \$1 million in grants to fund 12 forest restoration projects that protect critical water supplies and address related forest health challenges in Colorado. The funds were made available through the Colorado Community Forest Restoration grant program established by the Colorado General Assembly through House Bill 07-1130.

“We are pleased with the number and scope of quality applications we received this year — the inaugural year of the program,” said Jeff Jahnke, director of the Colorado State Forest Service at Colorado State University. “These grant funds provide landowners and other stakeholders an opportunity to help address Colorado’s critical forest health challenges and protect water supplies.”

Projects funded by the grant include:

- *Dalla Park Fire Mitigation, LaPlata County
- * Forest and Community Protection Plan, Lake County
- *Grand Junction Watershed and Fuel Reduction Program, Mesa County
- *Grand Lake Beetle Kill Removal Project, Grand County
- *Heil Valley Ranch 2008 Fuels Reduction—Unit 2, Boulder County
- * Horsetooth Mountain Park Fuels Reduction, Larimer County
- *Platte Canyon Fire/Forest Restoration and Water Protection Project, Park County
- *Santa Fe Trails Ranch Fuel Break Project, Las Animas
- * Straight Creek Forest Restoration Project, Summit County
- *Summit County Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project, Summit County
- *Upper South Platte Watershed Forest Health Initiative, Park and Teller counties
- *West Vail and Lower Gore Creek Fuel Reduction Project, Eagle County

“The quality of the 46 applications we received was impressive and I’m confident that the projects selected for funding will have a positive impact on our state’s forests and watersheds,” said Paul Orbuch, assistant director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and chair of the technical advisory panel that reviewed the applications.

Joining Orbuch on the technical advisory panel were Jeff Kitchens, Bureau of Land Management; Susan Gray, U.S. Forest Service; Merrill Kauffman, Rocky Mountain Research Station (emeritus); Dan Binkley, Colorado State University; Tom Fry, The Wilderness Society; Tom Clark, Mayor of Kremmling; and Nancy Fishing, Colorado Timber Industry.

The purpose of the grant program is to encourage diverse local stakeholders to work together to develop and implement forest restoration projects that protect critical water supplies and address related forest health challenges such as wildfire risk reduction, community protection, ecological restoration and woody biomass utilization.

“Colorado’s forests and watersheds are among our state’s most important resources and we should do all we can to protect them,” said Colorado Sen. Joan Fitz-Gerald, a sponsor of HB-1130.

“The number of grant applications received this year is an indication of the value that Coloradans place on our natural resources, and I’m proud that the 2007 Colorado General Assembly passed legislation to establish this program.”

“I was proud to introduce the legislation that set aside funding for projects to reduce the fire threats from dense stands of trees — especially those that have been killed by the ravaging bark beetle,” said Colorado Rep. Dan Gibbs. “I realize that the funding for these projects is just a drop-in-the-bucket in relation to the vast needs to reduce the fire threat from the bark beetle epidemic. However, it does show how the state can come to the table and leverage funding in partnership with local and

federal funding to help address this issue. I will continue to work with my colleagues in the state legislature to continue this program — and expand it if possible.”

Landowners and others with the legal authority to contract for work on properties where projects were being proposed were eligible to apply for grants. Projects also must be associated with a completed Community Wildfire Protection Plan approved by the Colorado State Forest Service. Additional consideration was given to project proposals that involve organizations accredited by the Colorado Youth Corps Association. Nine of the 12 selected projects will involve Colorado Youth Corps organizations.

“Involving our youth in projects that benefit Colorado’s natural resources not only provides young people an opportunity to gain on-the-job skills, learn self-discipline and develop leadership skills, it fosters a deep appreciation for stewardship of the land,” said Jennifer Freeman, executive director of the Colorado Youth Corps Association. “As future leaders, it is important that our youth understand the value of caring for and protecting our natural resources, and we look forward to participating in projects funded by the Colorado Community Forest Restoration grant program.”

The state share of total project cost will not exceed 60 percent per project, and grant recipients are required to match up to 40 percent of the total project cost through cash, stumpage, in-kind contributions or federal funds.

“We’re excited about the opportunities these grants represent, and we thank the Colorado General Assembly for establishing the program and the Colorado Water Conservation Board for providing funding,” said Harris Sherman, executive director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. “This first go-round of grants has been impressive. I look forward to building on this success and moving rapidly to start critical on-the-ground work.”



Colorado State Forest Service Nursery has Tree Seedling Order Forms

Order forms are now available for conservation seedlings from the Colorado State Forest Service Nursery. Each year the nursery distributes millions of seedlings for conservation planting throughout the region. The most common use of the seedlings is for homestead sheltering windbreaks. Reforestation is a growing use due to the severity of insect infestations in Colorado’s high country.

The nursery celebrated its 50th year of operation recently. It has been in continuous operation on the Foothills Campus of Colorado State University since 1957. The distribution programs roots extend back to 1917 however. The university began distributing seedlings at that time.

Forty seven different varieties of trees and shrubs are available. This variety meets the needs of both plains and mountain landowners. One need only to remember the severity of last winter’s snow storm to understand the benefits of a well placed tree planting. Living snow fences, windbreaks paralleling roadways, can keep highways clear of blowing snow. The same principle can be applied to livestock. The tree rows provide an area clear of snow and reduce wind velocity and animal stress.

Seedlings are distributed through a network of county conservation district and extension offices throughout the state. For more information contact the nursery at 970-491-8429.

Range School Well Attended

By Misty George, Baca County CD, District Manager

Branson-Trinchera and Baca County Conservation Districts joined forces to bring a Range Management School to area ranchers, Sept. 18th. The morning speakers educated the 39 attendees on a myriad of range related topics. Ranchers Keith and Bonnie Long gave personal testimony of their grazing strategies in New Mexico and “Why Stewardship Pays.” With their management system the grass production more than doubled, and the Longs were able to double their herd size on the same number of acres.

Throughout the presentations there were numerous “monitoring” photos, showing how within a few years of utilizing a good grazing management plan plant species diversity and grass production can dramatically improve. Other presenters included: John Valentine, Colorado State Land Board, on How Plants Grow and Respond to Grazing; Tim Steffen, Springfield NRCS, on Understanding and Applying Ecological Site Descriptions; Roy Roath, CSU Cooperative Extension, on

Managing Rangeland for Desired Outcomes; and Floyd Reed, US Forest Service (retired), on Intensity, Frequency and Timing of Grazing.

Branson-Trinchera CD provided a delicious home cooked lunch for everyone. The highlight of the day was touring Everett and Flo Jackson’s ranch. Everett shared their grazing strategies as the group explored range that had been cleared of cedars using both prescribed burning and pushing with heavy equipment. The tour included a site where snakeweed had been replaced with perennial grasses by intensive hoof action for brief periods.

It was a day filled to capacity with fantastic grazing management information. Thank you to the many sponsors who made the event possible: Colorado Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, Colorado Section Society for Range Management, Branson-Trinchera and Baca County CDs, CSU Cooperative Extension, The NRCS area office, and Springfield NRCS field office.



Research Still in Progress

By Misty George, Baca County CD, District Manager

Plainsman Research Center, Baca County Conservation District and the Southeast Colorado RC&D joined forces to host a Fall Crops Field Day, Sept. 13th. Kevin Larson, Superintendent of the Research Farm, gave the 33 attendees a dynamic presentation on the processes used to produce ethanol from sorghum. His research is for a Conservation Innovation Grant on the ethanol properties of grain and forage sorghums. Kevin demonstrated how he extracts the cane juice from forage sorghum with a hand press he ordered from Brazil. Kevin also showed off the Research Center’s

new equipment: a shiny, silver still used to distill mash into ethanol. Kevin escorted the crowd through the Research Farm’s sorghum varieties, detailing the benefits and challenges with each type. Next on the tour was the skip row corn. The Research Center is conducting field trials for yield comparisons between skip row corn and conventionally planted corn. Attendees also looked at the cotton Plainsman is growing. The group finished the day with sub sandwiches from Piccadilly’s. Thanks to the Southeast Colorado RC&D for providing lunch and Baca County CD for organizing the event.



Tour participant learn about grazing strategies for clearing of cedars on Everett and Flo Jackson ranch.

“Waterfest on the Rio” Served by Districts

The “Rio Grande Watershed “Waterfest on the Rio” is an early summer event, that gives kids the opportunity to experience water first hand. Each session is designed and presented by experts in the field of water resources, so children get a day of hands-on, minds-on experiences with a resource that so many of us take for granted.

Attended by over 150 San Luis Valley kids’ ages 8 through 13 and over 50 of their teachers, the event is a water filled day in the ‘land of cool sunshine’ that ends with a hamburger lunch cooked and served by the

Conservation Districts. With the new conservation curriculum in place and being utilized by schools, everything leads to this summer event.

This conservation learning phenomenon is made possible through funding by the Conservation Districts, San Luis Valley water conservation and conservancy districts, local County Commissioners, in-kind contributions from NRCS and RC&D, and the receipt of a \$25,000 Natural Resources Conservation Matching Grant from the Colorado State Conservation Board.



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Coordinated Effort Treats 532 Acres of Tamarisk from Fremont to Bent Counties

By Mary Miller, NRCS Public Affairs Specialist, LaJunta, CO



Helicopter spraying tamarisk on one of treatment sites.

Many partners and funding sources helped treat approximately 532 acres of tamarisk in Fremont, Pueblo, Huerfano, Otero, and Bent counties recently, according to John Knapp, Area Conservationist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) through NRCS was one of the funding sources. The EQIP Colorado Invasive Plant Program is a voluntary program for landowners who want to improve the productivity of range and riparian lands for agriculture and wildlife by reducing the impact of noxious weeds.

“We owe a special thank you to J.R. Phillips, manager of the Fremont County Weed Control Department,” said Knapp. “J.R. coordinated the spraying with the landowners and agencies in the various counties so that we could get the aerial applicator, who is from the West Slope, to do many projects in Southeastern Colorado at one time.”

The chemical used for the projects takes three years to kill all parts of the tamarisk plant so that no re-growth occurs. After this time

period the tamarisk can be removed.

According to the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) tamarisk contributes to the development of saline soil conditions which thins out native plants. Tamarisk stands are dense and impede the movements of both wildlife and livestock. It also impairs the function of shallow water wetlands by lowering water tables, according to NRCS. Tamarisk can cause issues with the maintenance of irrigation ditches and canals.

Other partners include Fremont County, Fremont County Weed Board, Fremont Conservation District, Turkey Creek Conservation District, Pueblo County, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Upper Arkansas Weed Management Association, Huerfano County, CSU Cooperative Extension, Upper Huerfano Conservation District, West Otero Timpas Conservation District, CSFS, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Otero County, Bent County Conservation District, Arkansas River Conservancy District, U.S. Forest Service, private landowners, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Condolences to the Marvin Garrett Family

Marvin Garrett, Vice-President of the Fremont Conservation District passed away, October 8. Marvin was an active member of the board for 24 years. He was also a long time member of Cattlemen, Planning & Zoning Board of Appeals, and was a

founding member of the Fremont County Weed Board. Marvin will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. Condolence cards may be sent to Marvin’s family at P.O. Box 393, Cotopaxi, CO 81223.

Northeast Prowers Conservation District Completes Cost-Share on Stock Water Development

By Sheryl Moller, District Manager

The Northeast Prowers District offered landowners the opportunity to cost-share on Stock Water Developments this last year. Funds for this project were obtained from the CSCB Natural Resources Conservation Matching Grant. The grant makes available funding for “on the ground” conservation. The District’s goal was to encourage sound natural resource planning, management and develop-

ment on CRP Lands by providing cost-share funding for landowners to apply pipelines and water tanks for livestock management improvement. These practices are important factors when determining whether or not to keep CRP lands in permanent vegetation. Funding helped to install stock tanks, hydrants and almost 13,000 feet of pipeline.



Stock tank and pipeline installed by landowner, Dwight Burns, under the Matching Grant program.

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New Yorker Enjoys Summer Volunteering for Colorado NRCS

By Mary Miller, NRCS Public Affairs Specialist, La Junta

"I've had a very fun summer," said Phillip Bolen, La Junta, Colo., USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Earth Team volunteer.

After doing well in the SAT tests a year ago, Bolen received a letter from the Colorado School of Mines inviting him to visit the campus during his 2007 spring break. Bolen and his Dad, who lives in La Junta, were telling Mike Taylor, Area Engineer in La Junta, about their



Phillip Bolen (volunteer) and Mike Taylor surveying for NRCS.

campus visit at a school band concert back in La Junta. Taylor mentioned that he could use a student volunteer to help with survey work during the summer, so Bolen signed up thinking of the experience he would get. Most of his approximately 100 hours of volunteer time was spent assisting Taylor with survey work in the field.

"We covered a lot of ground between the two of us," said Taylor. "It makes it tremendously more efficient when there are two of us surveying."

Bolen, who hopes to participate in the NRCS Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) program next summer, also did some

drafting and had training on how to run a survey circuit with turns and cross sections. "Having helped with the survey work this summer will help me when I take a principles of engineering class this coming school year," said Bolen, who is now a junior at Oswego High School in upstate New York. He has already taken a designing and drafting on the computer class. Bolen's goal is to become a civil engineer. He likes the diversity of NRCS engineer work but has always liked the idea of designing bridges. Because he feels the School of Mines is the premiere civil engineering school, Bolen's goal is to attend the Colorado school once he graduates.

Bent CD Receives Grant for Generating Farmstead Power

The Bent Conservation District (CD) recently received grant funding from NRCS. "This is one of ten grants awarded to develop and refine cutting-edge conservation technologies and approaches to help producers maintain viable agricultural operations" said Randy Randall, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist.

Tom Wallace, chair of the Bent CD states that this project titled *Generating Farmstead Power* "will demonstrate the feasibility of utilizing wind energy on average size farms."

The project will select 5-6 farmsteads (Demo sites) to install wind turbines. Demonstration sites will be monitored and the reduction of fossil fuel energy use will be tracked.

"This is an exciting project that will provide relevant data to producers that wish to explore the possibility of utilizing wind energy," says Cindy Schleining, NRCS district conservationist.

The Bent CD is in the process of taking applications for demo-sites.

Upper Huerfano CD Cost-Share Program Proves Successful

By Carol Sirko Dunn, District Manager



Don Sanchez (left), District technician, and Bill Figgins of La Veta discuss one of nine conservation projects cost-shared by the Upper Huerfano Conservation District in 2007.

Over \$55,000 in conservation practices were installed in Huerfano County this summer under the Upper Huerfano Conservation District cost-share program. Under the program, the Conservation District funded up to \$3,500 or 50% of the cost of installing small-scale conservation practices within the boundaries of the District. The total of payments to

landowners was \$20,000, and projects completed included a pipeline and inlet, stock tank, headgate and turnout, gated pipe, stockwater pit, spring developments and a well. Funding for the cost-share program was provided by the Colorado State Conservation Board as part of its Natural Resources Conservation Matching Grants program.

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