



# Colorado Conservator

“your voice for locally led conservation”

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## Center CD: Conservation District of the Year

By Darlene Jensen, CACD  
Executive Director

The Center Conservation District hasn't always been a notable district. They can't say that they have always had the best of luck, either. Yet, through dedicated fund raising activity and lots of volunteer hours spent away from their families, the Center Board and its Staff has an assortment of accomplishments to show for their time, as demonstrated by their #1 scoring in the Colorado State Conservation Board's Direct Assistance program for 2008.

Most notable is the steadfast support the Center district has provided for the Rio Grand Watershed Association's conservation education specialist position, the annual Water Festival, the Golf Tournament fundraiser and Conservation Tour. When there was a need to lead the noxious weed management efforts in Saguache County, the Center Conservation District stepped up and organized local, state, and federal funding to build a winning program that has remained successful despite significant setbacks that could have caused the district to “throw in the towel”.

The Center Conservation District is a strong partner among the entire San Luis Valley agricultural community, and even though most of their supervisors are potato and barley farmers and ranchers, their attention is focused on serving the conservation needs of ALL their constituents is far broader than serving their own interest areas.

The Center district also looks beyond the San Luis Valley with its vision for conservation by continuing to be a Gold Sponsor at the



*The Center Conservation District receives Colorado's Outstanding District Award as the highest scoring district in the Colorado State Conservation Board's Direct Assistance Program. CSCB Director, Cindy Lair (far left) presents the award..*

CACD annual meeting and providing paid staff to assist in administering the meeting as well as partnering with CACD in the successful delivery of the annual teacher's workshop.

As Board President, Danny Neufeld, points out – “I remember going to my first CACD Annual Meeting and seeing the Districts that were getting all the big things done for their landowners getting the awards. I knew that we weren't one of them, but through the successes of those districts back then, I knew that we needed to make that happen at Center – and I think we did it.”

Along with working tirelessly to help bring on-the-ground conservation and education to its landowners the Center Conservation District has made a state-wide name recognition for itself by developing shirts, note pads, blankets, rulers, etc. with the district's name and contact info. Center CD “paraphernalia” is in

offices and households all over the state!

While the Center CD may have been at top of the list for Direct Assistance application scores, they also demonstrate a sincere desire to help all willing conservation districts lift themselves up through better service. Through the support of the Board of Supervisors, Center CD District Manager, Brenda Anderson generously made copies of their Direct Assistance application available to all districts throughout Colorado in an effort that other districts might benefit from it.

CACD and the State Conservation Board are pleased to recognize the Center CD as the Conservation District of the Year. We invite other conservation partners to congratulate the Center Board of Supervisors and Staff for their dedication to excellence in conservation partnering, land stewardship and education!

### In This Issue

Center CD: District of the Year  
...page 1

Annual Meeting Highlights  
...pages 3 & 4

Budget Cuts Impact CSCB  
...page 5

Conservationists of the Year  
...pages 6 & 7

Protecting Critical Watersheds  
...pages 8 & 9

Camp Rocky Signup  
...pages 10 & 11

Help CACD with Membership  
...page 12

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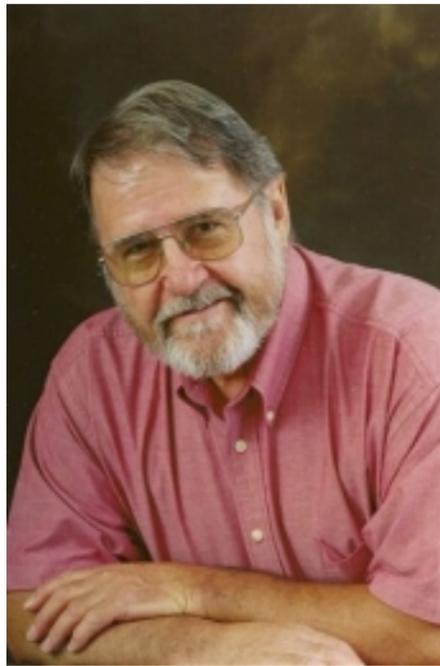
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## President's Message



**Eric Jessen**

It's hard to believe we are starting a new year. As I look out my window at the diminishing snow cover, I realize that it is time to put the finishing touches on the planning for this year's conservation projects. The managers of Colorado's 76 Conservation Districts are busy preparing Direct Assistance applications, grant applications, filing annual reports, scheduling workshops, field days, and annual meetings, and the list goes on.

As I reflect back to CACD's Annual Meeting this past November, I marvel at the enthusiasm expressed by the representatives of the District's valued partners. These diverse partners are the lifeblood of conservation and your job, as District Supervisors, managers, and employees, is to provide the leadership, guidance, and coordination to move these partnerships forward. For those of you who had an opportunity to join us in Estes Park, I am certain that you have had an opportunity to foster those partnerships that were initiated at the Annual Meeting and leverage them into exciting conservation projects for the future.

For those of you who were unable to be in Estes Park, start your planning now to attend CACD's 2009 Annual Meeting in Breckenridge November 16-19, 2009. I promise you that you will not regret it. You never know what the President of the Colorado State Conservation Board and the President of the Colorado Association Conservation Districts may have cooked up for the live auction!

Here at CACD, Executive Vice President Jensen and staff are joining the Board of Directors who are busy assisting the Conservation Districts of Colorado. Personally I hope that I can join you in your part of the state during 2009.

May 2009 be a gret year!

### The Colorado Conservator

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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.

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# CACD Annual Meeting Honors Outstanding Conservationists

By Jerry D. Schwien, Editor

Estes Park, CO: The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) honored many deserving conservationists at its 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Estes Park, November 17-20.

CACD President Eric Jessen of Paonia, Colorado, said, "CACD is proud of the volunteer servants who give so much to the conservation cause. Over 200 conservation districts supervisors, employees, conservation partners and landowners attended the Annual Meeting.

Key topics addressed at the convention included "Colorado's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Water", "2008 Farm Bill rulemaking", and "Proposed Consumptive Water Rules". Colorado Supreme Court Justice Greg Hobbs addressed 21<sup>st</sup> Century Water Issues, saying that new conservation measures must be and are being found.

CACD honored outstanding conservation achievements during the annual meeting. The **Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year Award** was presented to the **Joe Lippis Family** of the Fremont Conservation District. The **Outstanding Conservation Rancher of the Year Award** went to the **John Price Family** of Deer Trail, Colorado.

**Steve Miles**, of the Dolores Conservation District, was named **District Supervisor of the Year** for his exceptional work in community outreach and tamarisk removal.

**Judy Lopez**, conservation education specialist for the San Luis Valley, was recognized as **CACD's Conservation Teacher of the Year**, for continuing conservation education and for development and implementation of the highly successful 2008 Teachers' Workshop.

**The Outstanding Conservation District Education Program** went to the **San Luis Valley conservation districts** which partnered to create an education cooperative now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year of achievements.

**North Park Conservation District** received the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts' **District of the Year**

**Award** for its outstanding achievements in youth and adult education and effective conservation programs.

**Center Conservation District** was recognized by the **Colorado State Conservation Board for District of the Year**, receiving the State Board's traveling trophy.

**Vern Vinson**, of the Teller-Park Conservation District, was recognized with **CACD's Distinguished Service Award**, for his lifetime commitment in conservation education to all ages using the river trailer he built, for leading post-Hayman fire land recovery operations and for taking an active part in placing conservation programs on-the-ground.

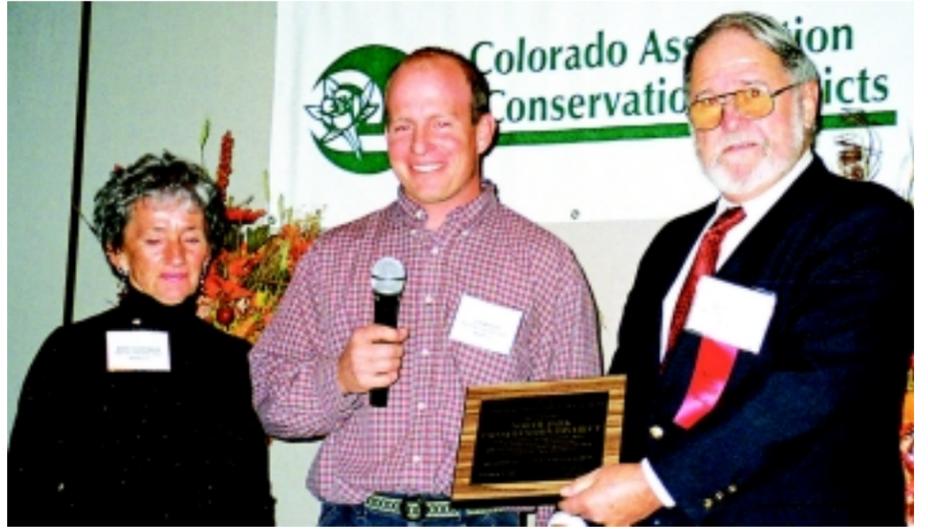
**Brenda Anderson**, Center Conservation District, was recognized by the **District Employees Association as District Employee of the Year** for her dedication to the development of Center Conservation District's programs and commitment to continued partnership with the conservation districts within the Rio Grande Watershed.

**Petra Barnes Walker**, of NRCS, was honored by CACD for her exceptional work in public relations and leadership program participation, receiving the **CACD Public Relations Award**.

**The Longmont and Boulder Valley Conservation Districts** received the **Earth Team Partnership Award** for recruiting volunteers to help with their active conservation programs.

**Senator Gail Schwartz** was honored by CACD as the 2008 Legislator of the Year.

This year CACD established the **Colorado Conservation Hall of Fame** in honor of Gerald Mathes who served his local conservation district board for 55 years. Five inaugural inductees were named the Conservation Hall of Fame: **Gerald Mathes**, Costilla Conservation District, **Edgar Cannon**, Olney-Boone Conservation District, **George Korrey**, Centennial Conservation District, **Paul Pierson**, Prowers Conservation District, and **Glen Anderson**, CACD.



Representatives of the North Park CD receive the CACD award for Outstanding Conservation District for their achievements in youth and adult education and conservation programs. (Below) Petra Barnes-Walker receives the CACD Public Relations Award. Judy Lopez is honored as CACD's Conservation Teacher of the Year. Vern Vinson of the Teller-Park CD received CACD's Distinguished Service Award.



Steve Miles of the Dolores CD is named District Supervisor of the Year. And Brenda Anderson of the Center CD is named District Employee of the Year.



# Conservation Poster Winners

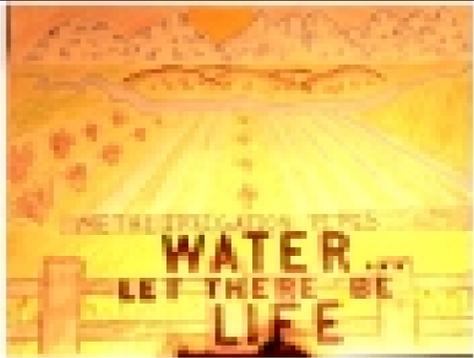
**1<sup>st</sup> Place** Amber Barata  
Ortega Middle School  
Mosca-Hooper CD



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** Richa A. Patel  
Cathlamet School  
Double E CD



**3<sup>rd</sup> Place** Lurpa Valencia  
Manzanita Elementary  
West Otero-Timpas



**4<sup>th</sup> Place** Hannah Daborn  
Alta Vista Elementary  
Proviso CD



**5<sup>th</sup> Place** Estelle Madrid  
Bathune School  
Burlington CD



## Executive Director's Message

By Darene Jensen, CACD

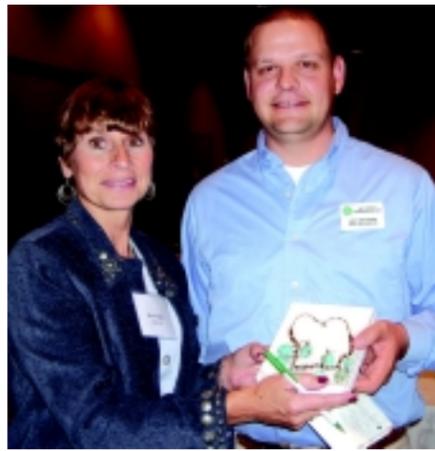
The 64<sup>th</sup> CACD Annual Meeting brought together a host of conservation partners with over 250 in attendance. Thank you to the many partners that volunteered their time and expertise in making the annual meeting another successful and educational event. Please mark your calendar for the 2009 Annual Meeting, November 16-19, 2009 in Breckenridge, Colorado. CACD will again be assisting in the coordination of the Grazing Land Conservation Initiative and 8 digit-watershed meetings through its valuable partnership with NRCS. Camp Rocky, under the co-directorship of Bob Sturtevant, looks forward to another banner year, and under the coordination and instruction in conservation education through Judy Lopez, the Teachers' Workshop will offer an introductory and advanced Workshop for two weeks of conservation education this year. The Teachers' Workshop will be held in Fort Garland, Colorado in June.

During these trying economic times funding and balancing budgets is ever present on our minds. As the Governor's financial plan calls for significant budget cuts, impacts will be realized statewide. CACD will look to non-traditional funding sources to offset budget cuts. CACD is interviewing lobbyists to work on behalf of CACD and the conservation districts, with funding as a future focus for legislative action. Sometimes a photo can speak a thousand words...



CACD Vice-President Brian Starkebaum and his wife, Sammi, with their little girl Bobbi, smiling at her cowboy at the CACD Annual Meeting. She and the other children of the world are why we do what we do every day, so they may grow up healthy and have natural resources to sustain them. Thank you to all producers and the conservation partners for providing them the opportunity.

## Auxiliary Says Thank You



By Sally Fosha, Auxiliary Pres.

The Ladies Auxiliary would like to thank the Conservation District Employees, Supervisors and individual sponsors for their continued support of the Silent Auction during the conference in Estes Park. Conference attendees gathered to look at more than ninety items to bid on over a two day period. This year's total income amounted to an increase of **48%** over the previous year's bids.

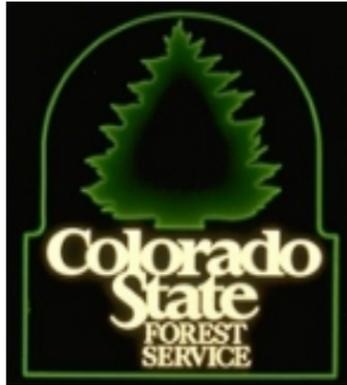
The San Juan and Rio Grande



Watersheds donated the items for the raffle. Nancy Berges from the Sedgwick CD (above) won the Savage hunting rifle while Levi Sievers from the West Greeley CD had the lucky ticket for the necklace set of southwestern jewelry.

Proceeds from the auction are donated to the Colorado Foundation for Agriculture, Camp Rocky and CACD Foundation for prizes for our youth. After the contributions to these groups, the remaining money is divided between the District Employees and the Auxiliary for conservation education programs in Colorado.

## 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.

## State Budget Projections Impact Colorado State Conservation Board

CACD has learned that the Colorado Department of Agriculture was notified that it is necessary to return \$250,000 in General Funds in order to adjust to actual state revenues that were lower than projected. Given that most of the Department's divisions are regulatory in nature and primarily funded by the agricultural industries they support, there are only a few General Fund divisions or programs that can contribute to make this adjustment.

The Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB) program must return \$150,000 of its General Fund appropriation for the current Fiscal Year (2009). The new Ag Management Fund (created from unclaimed state property interest in the 2008 Legislative Session) may be able to fill a portion (around \$100,000) of that loss, while the remaining difference will come

from unexpended Matching Grant funds returned by participating conservation districts. At this time, all Matching Grants approved for 2009 funding are still able to be funded. Unfortunately, the projections for the next two quarters of the fiscal year are not very favorable and further budgetary adjustments may become necessary.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture and the State Conservation Board will continue to avert the present state budget shortfall from impacting the conservation districts as much as possible. It is their goal to continue to provide all level of services to the conservation districts as planned. Thank you for your patience as we all look toward more stable economic times. If you have questions, please contact Cindy Lair, CSCB Program Manager, at [cindy.lair@ag.state.co.us](mailto:cindy.lair@ag.state.co.us) or 303-239-4111.

## NRCS Welcomes Input



CACD and conservation districts assisted NRCS last fall in holding public input meetings throughout the state.

NRCS State Conservationist Allen Green explained, "As NRCS in Colorado prepares to administer and deliver numerous conservation programs within the 2008 Farm Bill, we wanted to hear from our customers and partners to ensure that we develop a plan that meets their needs and addresses the natural resource conservation priorities within the State."

CACD and NRCS conducted 10 public input workshops in Colorado.

"We held workshops across the state within the major watersheds because the natural resources information we were sharing, as well as hoped to gather, is vital," stated Tim Carney, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs.

Presentations included information about watershed specific accomplishments derived from the conservation programs within the 2002 Farm Bill. "We wanted to share some of the successes and results of the conservation practices and efforts made between 2002-2008," Carney said. "Sharing this kind of information helps people better understand just how efficiently and effectively their tax dollars have been used."

"We run a pretty large operation," stated a farmer at the Upper Arkansas Watershed meeting in Pueblo. "The Farm Bill is very important to us and getting some early insight as well as having the opportunity to provide input on

how the programs are delivered was very much welcomed." On average, some 40 people attended each workshop.

The majority of the time at each session was spent with participants providing input into NRCS identified natural resource priorities.

The overwhelming number one priority identified within each geo-political watershed was water. Issues ranged from irrigation system improvements and return flows, to water consumptive uses and river compact compliance issues. Other highly ranking priorities included invasive species, forest health, grazing lands, technology, specialty crops and energy. "I can't say that I was surprised by the participants concurrence with most of our identified issues and their rankings of importance," Carney stated.

"Particularly water. It is precious here in the West. I was, however, pleasantly surprised to hear that our attendees, especially our customers, were very supportive of our efforts to reinforce the NRCS commitment to sound conservation planning as the foundation of the Farm Bill conservation programs."

Conservation planning is a process by which a plan is developed using state of the art technology by technical experts who work one on one with landowners to help them reach as many of their natural resource goals as possible. Conservation plans make good business sense as they can have a positive impact on your bottom line and can improve the condition and quality of soil, water, air, plants and wildlife habitat.

# Lippis Family: Colorado's Conservation Farmers of the Year

The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) and the Fremont CD are proud to honor the Lippis Farm and family as the Conservationist Farmer of the Year.

The Lippis family settled in the Florence area in the early 1890's. In 1940, Tony Lippis and his wife Mary built the present Lippis Farm. Joseph Lippis Sr. was born and raised on the farm and began farming with his father, Tony, in the 1960's. During this time the farm was organic in many ways. There was a great love for the land and the use of chemicals and harsh pesticides was always resisted.

Joseph Sr., his wife, Sandra, and their two children, Joe Jr. and Rhonda, took over the farm operation in the mid 1980's. The operation continued as a produce farm along with alfalfa hay fields to make way for efficient crop rotation practices.

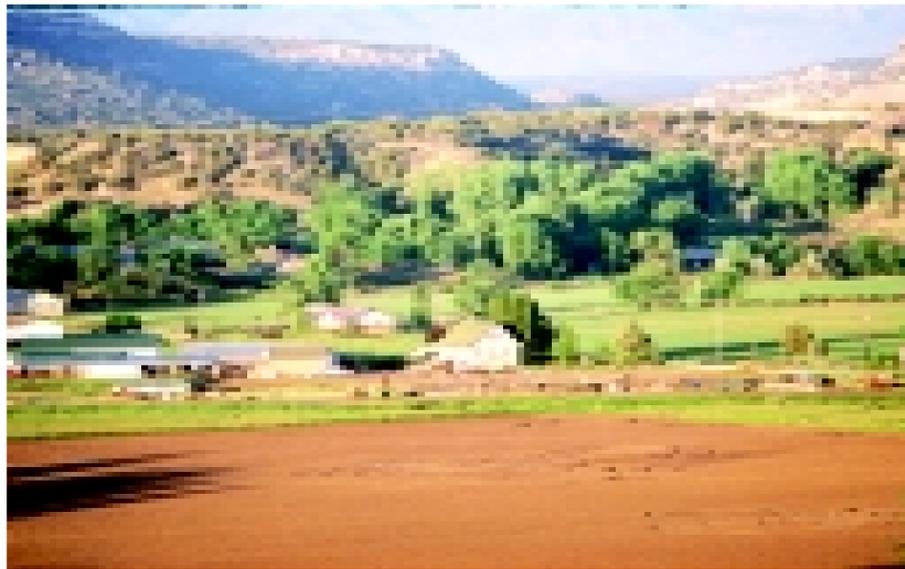
The Lippis Farm applied for organic certification in 1999 with the Colorado Department of Agriculture and is certified by that agency at the present time under USDA Organic standards. Approximately 65 acres are certified for organic farming.

At the present, Lippis Farm produces organic cabbage. All plants that are transplanted into the fields are organically grown in the farm's greenhouse which was built in 1995, replacing antiquated, cold frame hotbeds.

Another 45 acres are planted in alfalfa and grass fields which produce high quality hay and provide winter grazing pasture for the family's herd of about 20 cattle.

The entire farm is irrigated by Arkansas River water delivered by the Fremont County Irrigation Ditch, a farmer owned canal with 1862 adjudicated water rights. All irrigation on the farm is through underground water delivery and applied to the fields through gated pipe.

Although the Canon City field office staff has been working with Joe for many years, it has only been recently that the Lippis Farm has participated in 3 EQIP contracts to



install 1,118 feet of underground pipe, 3,720 feet of gated pipe, and 3 structures for water control.

Lippis Farm also received assistance from the Fremont Conservation District cost-share program to install a roof run-off system to control rainwater around their green houses and facilities.

The north side of the farm includes the Arkansas River. This area was designated wild bird habitat in 1997 by the National Audubon Society. Due to the variety of habitats and the seclusion of this small area, 42 different species of birds including eagles, mallards, and the lark bunting, Colorado's state bird, have been seen. The area is also home to deer, foxes, and raccoons. An occasional elk and bear will visit the hillside as well.

In 2002, a new produce washing, packing and processing building was built to accommodate food grade standards. The family's focus is on the farm's organic production. "Since my family and I have farmed organic, we have noticed a significant change in the attitude of produce buyers and consumers. We are overwhelmed with the appreciation shown to us for our efforts," states Joe Lippis Sr.

Located in an area where vegetable crops and orchards once dominated the landscape, the Lippis Farm is a full scale, producing farm that has survived the changes in culture and urban sprawl of Fremont County.

The family's dedication to hard work, quality products and the ability to adapt to changing market conditions has allowed the Lippis Farm to continue the farming tradition at a time in America when the family farm lifestyle is getting scarce.

The Lippis Farm is very PROUD to be a small part of American agriculture in Fremont County.

*Photo Captions: Top--Joe Lippis, Sr., wife Mary, and son, Joe Lippis, Jr., are honored at the National Western Rodeo by Commissioner of Agriculture, John Stulp. Next--Lippis farm in the Fremont Conservation District. Bottom--among the vegetable crops grown on Lippis farms are lettuces and organic cabbage.*



*John Price and family are honored at National Western Stock Show. Shown with the Price family are Commissioner of Agriculture John Stulp, to his left Sheryl Wailes, Deer Trail CD manager, and to the far left Brian Starkebaum, CACD board director.*



*The Price's raise a large herd of Red Angus cattle. The implementation of rangeland management practices including proper grazing distribution, cross-fencing, solar pumps, wells and stock water pipelines have improved forage quality and quantity.*

## Price Family: Conservation Ranchers of the Year

The Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) and the Deer Trail Conservation District are pleased to honor John N. Price and family as the 2008 Conservation Ranchers of the Year.

The Price Ranch is a family owned cattle operation located in eastern Arapahoe County. The ranch was established in the late 1800's and John's grandchildren account for the sixth consecutive generation to occupy the ranch. John, and his son John R., raise and maintain a large herd of red angus cattle. In addition to the cattle, the ranch consists of farm ground on which dry land crops such as

wheat, sunflowers and millet are grown in cooperation with Lewton Farms as the operator. Irrigated alfalfa and corn are also grown for cattle feed.

The Price Ranch has a long history of working with both the Deer Trail Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. John's father, Richard Price, was a long time board member in the early years of the Deer Trail Conservation District. His dedication to conservation was applied early on, as the ranch was one of the first in the area to implement a rotational

grazing program to improve forage quality and quantity.

The Price Ranch has been involved in multiple conservation programs including the Great Plains Conservation program in the 70's, Long Term Agreement contracts, district grants, and more recently the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP).

Through these cost-share programs, the ranch has installed cross-fences, tire tanks, solar pumps, wells, stock water pipelines and diversions. Through EQIP, John continues to install up to one mile of cross-fence each year and

develop water sources to allow for proper grazing distribution. John was one of the first producers to test and utilize the innovative rubber-track tank that resulted in being very durable and a valid use of recycled materials.

In addition to good rangeland management, the ranch has applied conservation practices to their cropland that include installing terraces and using conservation tillage to reduce soil erosion.

Congratulations to the Price family on being named CACD's Conservation Ranch Family of the Year.



# Protecting Critical Watersheds in Colorado from Wildfire

A TECHNICAL APPROACH TO WATERSHED ASSESSMENT AND PRIORITIZATION

Compiled by Jerry D. Schwien, Editor

The seven major Front Range water providers – Aurora, Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver Water, Fort Collins, Northern Colorado and Westminster – draw their water supplies from 10 watersheds in the mountains that collectively provide more than two-thirds of Colorado’s population with drinking water. Many cities, towns, and villages in the mountains also depend on these watersheds for drinking water.

The Front Range of Colorado experienced major impacts on municipal water supplies as a result of flooding, erosion, and sediment deposition after the 1996 Buffalo Creek Fire, 2000 Bobcat Fire, and 2002 Hayman and Schoonover fires. In July 2007, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation released an assessment report titled, “Protecting Front Range Forest Watersheds from High-Severity Wildfires,” which was funded by the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership. The study concluded that climate factors and forest conditions place Front Range source watersheds at high risk from severe wildfires that threaten water supplies and the integrity of reservoirs due to erosion and flood damage. General areas of wildfire hazards and water supplies at risk were identified through the study.

In August 2007, the Colorado State Forest Service and U.S. Forest Service hosted a meeting with Front Range water providers to discuss the report’s findings and explore opportunities for joint action. In September 2007, the agencies and water providers met again and crafted the structural outlines of a partnership effort to protect Front Range watersheds from severe wildfires. As a result, the Front Range Watershed Wildfire Protection Working Group was formed to develop and implement a strategy to protect critical Front Range Watersheds from damaging high-intensity wildfires. Three work groups were formed to carry out the actions of the strategy. The Work Group coordinated its efforts with the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership Roundtable, which is composed of members from more than 40 participating

organizations.

## Front Range Watershed Protection Assessment Process

The Front Range Watershed Protection Data Refinement Work Group (Work Group) is one of three sub-groups that evolved from the Front Range Watershed Wildfire Protection Working Group. The purpose of this Work Group is to adapt and refine the methods used by the Pinchot Institute for Conservation to assess individual watersheds within the 10-county area served by the Front Range Fuels Treatment Partnership and Roundtable.

Building on the work of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation, the Work Group reviewed additional information and created a template for watershed assessments to identify critical watersheds that supply municipal water. The purpose of the watershed assessments is to identify and prioritize hazard reduction treatments in watersheds that provide or convey critical community water supplies. The Work Group envisions that the template can be used in any 5<sup>th</sup>-level watershed in Colorado and throughout the western United States.

## Goals

The primary goal of the Data Refinement Work Group was to develop and adopt a clear and common methodology to identify 6<sup>th</sup>-level watersheds (defined below) that are critical for water supplies; to develop criteria and processes and recommend data that can be used to determine hazards/effects associated with fire and treatment potential for 6<sup>th</sup>-level watersheds; and make the methodology and data available for use in determining priorities.

A second goal was to apply the watershed assessment approach to a test case to help adapt and refine the approach.

## Analysis Units

The Work Group used existing delineated watersheds to designate the areas drained by surface water. The Work Group chose to analyze

and prioritize 6<sup>th</sup>-level/12-digit watersheds, typically 16-63 square miles or 10,000-40,000 acres because a wide range of data generally are available at this scale and it is a good size for landscape-level fuels treatment planning. Sixth-level watersheds are the standard analysis unit recommended for the watershed assessments.

The Work Group chose the Upper South Platte Watershed as its test case because it is well known and studied; a previous prioritization exists to which results can be compared; and soils data for the area is challenging in the Upper South Platte Watershed, a 5<sup>th</sup>-level watershed that is approximately 649,694 acres in area and contains 22 6<sup>th</sup>-level watersheds.

## Watershed Assessment Components

A watershed’s potential to deliver sediments following catastrophic wildfire depends on forest and soil conditions, and the physical configuration of those watersheds. High-severity fires can cause changes in watershed components that can dramatically alter runoff and erosion processes in watersheds. Water and sediment yields may increase as more of the forest floor is affected by fire.

This watershed assessment considers four components that are defined as most critical when evaluating hazardous watershed conditions. Those components are **wildfire hazard, flooding or debris flow risk, soil erodibility, and water uses ranking.**

## Wildfire Hazard

In 2007, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation evaluated the wildfire hazard for the 10 Front Range counties. The results of this analysis were used for the wildfire hazard assessment for the Upper South Platte Watershed test case.

## Flooding or Debris Flow Risk

Watershed steepness or ruggedness is an indicator of the relative sensitivity to debris flows following wildfires. The more rugged the watershed, the more likely it is to generate debris flows following wildfire. A combination of slope, road density in miles of road per square mile of watershed area, and other data was used as inputs to the flooding or debris



flow risk portion of the analysis.

## Soil Erodibility

The soil analysis used a combination of two standard erodibility indicators, which are the inherent susceptibility of soil to erosion (K factor) and land slope derived from U.S. Geological Survey 30m digital elevation models. The K factor data was combined with the slope grid using Natural Resources Conservation Service slope-soil relationships to create a classification of slight, moderate, severe, and very severe erosion hazard rating.

(**Note:** Soils scientists have observed that K factor in the Upper South Platte Watershed test area does not adequately identify soil erodibility on granitic soils. Therefore, a geology layer was used to identify areas of granitic soils, and the erodibility rating was increased for those soils. The soils erodibility analysis was extracted from the 1999 Upper South Platte Landscape Assessment.)

## Water Uses Ranking

Water intakes, diversions and storage reservoirs, and streams that are used as conveyances are susceptible to the effects of wildfires. These structures have been identified for the Colorado Source Water Assessment completed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. These data were used to define which 6<sup>th</sup>-level watersheds contain critical water supply infrastructure as part of the water use ranking.

## Overall Watershed Ranking

Overall watershed ranking will be determined by creating a Composite Hazard Ranking;



*Cheesman Reservoir shown above is one of many reservoirs impacted by wildfires. Colorado's Front Range experienced major impacts on municipal water supplies as a result of flooding, erosion and sedimentation after serious fires in recent years.*

creating a Final Watershed Prioritization map by adding the Water Uses Ranking to the Composite Hazard Ranking map; deciding on what approach to take for the Zones of Concern (described below) and adding them to the Final Watershed Prioritization map.

**Composite Hazard Ranking**

The Composite Hazard Ranking is the combination of the rankings of the first three components (Wildfire Hazard, Flooding/Debris Flow Risk, and Soil Conditions). These are combined by averaging the rankings of the Wildfire Hazard, Flooding, or Debris Flow Risk and Soil Erodibility for each 6<sup>th</sup>-level watershed. A Composite Hazard Ranking map of the results is then created using the following scheme:

- Category 1 – Low
- Category 2 – Moderate
- Category 3 – Moderate-High
- Category 4 – High
- Category 5 – Very High

The Work Group believed it valuable to create this Composite Hazard Ranking map to compare relative watershed hazards based solely on the physical inputs.

**Final Watershed Prioritization**

The Final Watershed Prioritization involves combining the Composite Hazard Ranking map and the Water Uses Ranking.

**Zones of Concern**

The Work Group identified an important risk factor for water uses related to transport of debris and

sediment from upstream sources. The area upstream from important water supply reservoirs or diversions that have a higher potential for contributing significant sediment or debris is called the Zone of Concern. These zones also could be used to define project areas for stakeholders to focus watershed protection actions. The 6<sup>th</sup>-level watersheds that are within that distance are considered to be within the Zone of Concern. The boundaries for the Zones of Concern will be drawn and overlaid on the Final Watershed Prioritization map.

**The Next Step — Using the Watershed Assessment to Identify and Develop Critical Community Watershed Wildfire Protection Plans**

Each reservoir, water intake or other water infrastructure element has a set of stakeholders interested and involved in its operation and maintenance. In some cases, this may be a single water provider or community. In other cases, multiple communities and water providers may have an interest.

In addition, existing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) may cover portions of the watershed(s) in which planning will occur. These existing plans should be inventoried and the stakeholders involved in those planning efforts should be invited to participate in this expanded watershed planning effort. Specific treatment areas and priorities of existing plans also should be reviewed for their contribution to

the watershed protection effort and incorporated into the expanded plan.

In a similar manner, there may be other existing land and vegetation management plans, fuels treatment plans, or prescribed fire or fire use plans that cover portions of the watersheds in which planning will occur. The stakeholders in these other efforts also should be invited to participate. After the stakeholder list is complete and existing treatment plans are inventoried, the planning effort may begin in earnest.

*Thanks to Brad Piehl, Partner, JW Associates, Inc., and Katherine Timm, CSFS, for information.*

**The Front Range Watershed Protection Data Refinement Work Group**

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- Deb Martin, USGS
- Jim Maxwell, USFS
- Mike McHugh, City of Aurora
- Chris Mueller, NRCS
- Brad Piehl, JW Associates
- Eric Schroder, USFS
- Ed Spence, NRCS



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# Camp Rocky

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For Youth  
(Ages 14-19)  
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Near  
Divide, Colorado**

## Please send me an Application Form!

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(Please print clearly)

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County \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended Camp Rocky before?

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ Program preference: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** "The content of the Camp Rocky educational program is based upon and compliant with Colorado educational standards."

**Send this form to:**

**CACD  
P.O. Box 4138  
Woodland Park, CO 80866**

**Please direct any questions to the  
CACD office  
phone: 719-686-0020  
or email: [cacd@cacd.us](mailto:cacd@cacd.us)**

*Participation in Camp Rocky is open to all  
without regard to race, national origin, sex,  
religion, marital status, or disability.*

### Primary Sponsors:

Colorado Association of Conservation Districts  
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Colorado State Forest Service  
Colorado Division of Wildlife  
Conservation Districts of Colorado

## Camp Rocky Details:

### Who can come?

Youth having completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade by June 2009 through age 19; or ages 14-19 year olds

### Where is it?

Rocky Mountain Camp is in the mountains above Colorado Springs, near Divide, CO.

### How much does the camp cost?

**\$250.00 (all inclusive) Limited  
scholarships available.**

### Where will I sleep and what will I eat?

You will bunk in a cabin with about eight participants and eat **great** food supplied by the camp cook. (Seriously, it's **great** food!)

## How Do I Register?

STEP 1: Send this interest form to:

**CACD**

**P.O. Box 4138**

**Woodland Park, CO 80866**

STEP 2: You will be sent an application, health form and more information about Camp Rocky.

STEP 3: Contact your local conservation district for **sponsorship** availability.

**Note:** Call CACD at 719-686-0020 to get the name of your local conservation district or see [www.cacd.us](http://www.cacd.us) (Districts)

**\$75.00 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT REQUIRED By  
July 1, 2009**

**IMPORTANT:** Prior to attending camp, every youth **MUST** have a physical exam by a licensed medical doctor. Submit your registration ASAP so we may send you your health forms right away!

STEP 4: Return health forms & balance of the camp fee to the address above by: **July 1, Please make checks payable to: Colorado Association of Conservation Districts**



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(970) 259-1540  
(800) 678-6828

# What is “Camp Rocky”?

Camp Rocky is a week long, residential camp for **14 through 19 year olds** who enjoy the outdoors and are interested in natural resources. The Camp Rocky professional staff helps participants learn about their environment through hands-on experience. The students work in teams making new friends from across Colorado. Each year, new and returning students choose one of the following resource fields for their area of focus.

## Forest Management

The forestry team learns about different forest types, how to determine the overall health of the forest, how to find a tree’s age without cutting it down, different insects and diseases that affect trees and how fire can be beneficial to forest health and safety.



## Fish & Wildlife Management

The wildlife biology team will track a radio-collared animal, go electro-fishing, learn how Colorado wildlife adapt to their surroundings and complete a habitat enhancement project.



## Soil & Water Conservation

This team learns about the primary components of a watershed. They will “create” a river and learn how different types of soil affect plants, wildlife, water and humans.



## Rangeland Science

The rangeland science group learns about the “fitness” of the rangeland and the forage it provides. They will see how rangelands provide food for animals, habitat for wildlife, and open space with natural beauty for humans to enjoy, and clean water for drinking and recreation.

## During the second half of the week

- Students from the different resource teams will develop and present natural resource management plans.
- Participants will use their group plan to complete a management project.
- Additional activities include volleyball games, hiking, a campfire, the Camp Rocky Challenge, and a dance. At the close of camp, students will receive a Camp Rocky *Certificate of Completion*.

## Vern Vinson

### Distinguished Service Award



Congratulations to Vern Vinson, President of the Teller-Park Conservation District (TPCD), who was presented with the 2008 Distinguished Service Award at the CACD Annual Meeting in Estes Park. Vern received a standing ovation upon receiving his award for his collective years of service with the Conservation District, as well as the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts, Colorado Earth Team, Upper Arkansas W/S and Teller County Weed Board.

Vern began his career with the TPCD back in December 2000 and since that time he has donated many thousands of hours and travelled many miles to make a positive impact in our state. He has attended countless meetings and workshops, and has taught water conservation education for both young and old with the help of the river riparian trailer and SNOTEL models (both which he designed and built himself). After the Hayman Fire in 2002, Vern supervised and worked alongside prison crews doing the fire rehab work, and helped train hundreds of volunteers to carry out many acres of seeding, raking and erosion control. You name it, this multi-talented guy can do it...and always with a big smile and cheerful heart. He’s our greatest asset and his co-workers are so proud of him.

## Steve Miles

### Supervisor of the Year



Steve Miles (R) with Don Foth, CACD Watershed Director and President of the Dolores CD.

Steve Miles was awarded the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts 2008 Outstanding Supervisor of the Year. Steve serves as a district supervisor to the Dolores Conservation District. Steve was successful in organizing the Dolores Tamarisk Action Group. The Group has over \$200,000 in funding to control and remove tamarisk.

Pictured at the 2008 CACD

Annual Meeting is Steve with Don Foth, CACD Director and President of the Dolores Conservation District. Don stated in a recommendation letter he wrote on behalf of Steve’s work with the tamarisk control project: “The first control project of tamarisk along 50 miles of shoreline around McPhee Reservoir successfully eliminated a seed source that was spreading to 60,000 acres of irrigated farmland through the counties’ irrigation canals and ditches.”

The Dolores Action Group was also awarded the Colorado Weed Management Association Partnership Award in 2008. CACD congratulates Steve and the Dolores Conservation District and appreciates the many benefits to the natural resources of Colorado a successful tamarisk control project brings about.



COLORADO ASSN OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

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CACD Individual Memberships

Colorado Association of Conservation Districts provides guidance for individual conservation districts and promotes conservation at state and national levels. Today there 76 conservation districts in Colorado.

We hear from our members that the many programs and activities of CACD are essential to supporting the Conservation movement, yet we realize it cannot be done alone. CACD is working to attract corporate and foundation sponsorships and individual members. CACD is working toward increasing sponsorship for the CACD Annual Meeting, Camp Rocky, and other programs, and is active in communicating with your legislators on issues important to the districts.

As you know, there is a cost

for development of these programs and CACD is asking for your help to move forward. A \$35.00 individual membership from you, your neighbor, and conservation partners will assist in funding this new and exciting opportunity to improve the Association. You can play an important leadership role at this time by becoming an individual 2009 CACD member yourself and making a \$35.00 investment into an organization which has provided an independent voice for the conservation districts since 1945.

CACD is a 501c3 non-profit organization so we encourage you to complete the form for you individual membership or sponsorship to CACD, if you are not already a member, and become a part of the natural resource conservation movement in Colorado.

Join the newest 2009 members in their support of CACD

- Allen Green
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