

North Platte-White-Yampa Rivers Watershed

Resources at work from October 1, 2010 - September 30, 2011

The North Platte-White-Yampa Watersheds total 7,529,334 acres.

It includes all and/or portions of Garfield, Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, and Routt Counties.

NRCS natural resource specialists are staffed at the Craig, Meeker, Steamboat Springs, and Walden USDA Field Service Centers to provide assistance to watershed residents.

NRCS Vision

Productive Lands -
Healthy Environment

NRCS Mission

Helping People
Help the Land

www.co.nrcs.usda.gov

The Colorado Watershed Approach

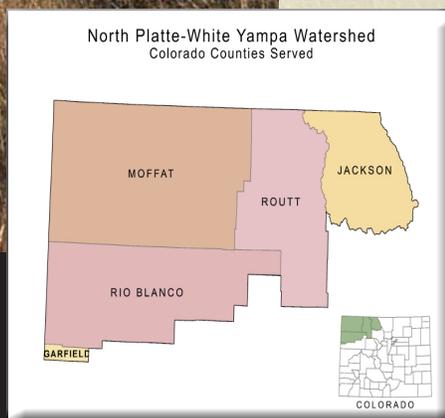
Instead of the traditional statewide approach in addressing priority resource issues like soil erosion, water quality, grazing lands, wildlife, and animal waste, NRCS looks to Colorado's ten watersheds to identify their particular local resource needs and priorities.

Watershed work groups meet annually to determine which natural resource concerns are most prevalent in their communities.

In turn, Colorado NRCS focuses its resources on addressing those concerns. Colorado's local conservation districts provide leadership in this effort to foster increased decision making at the local level.

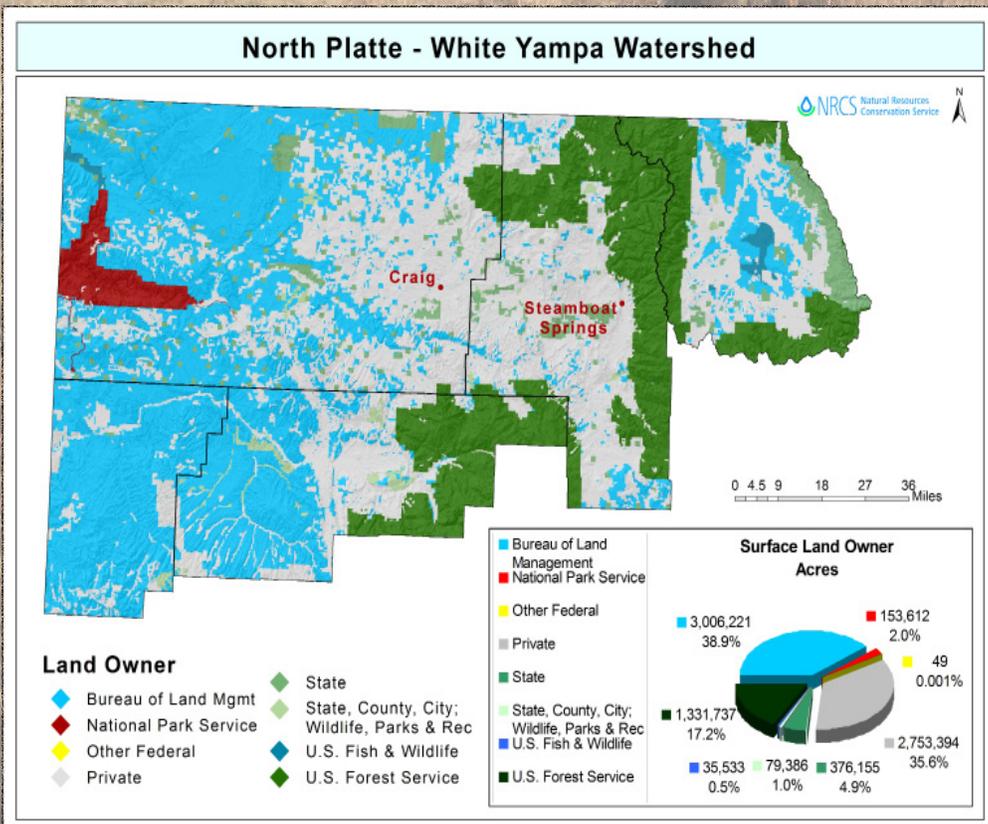
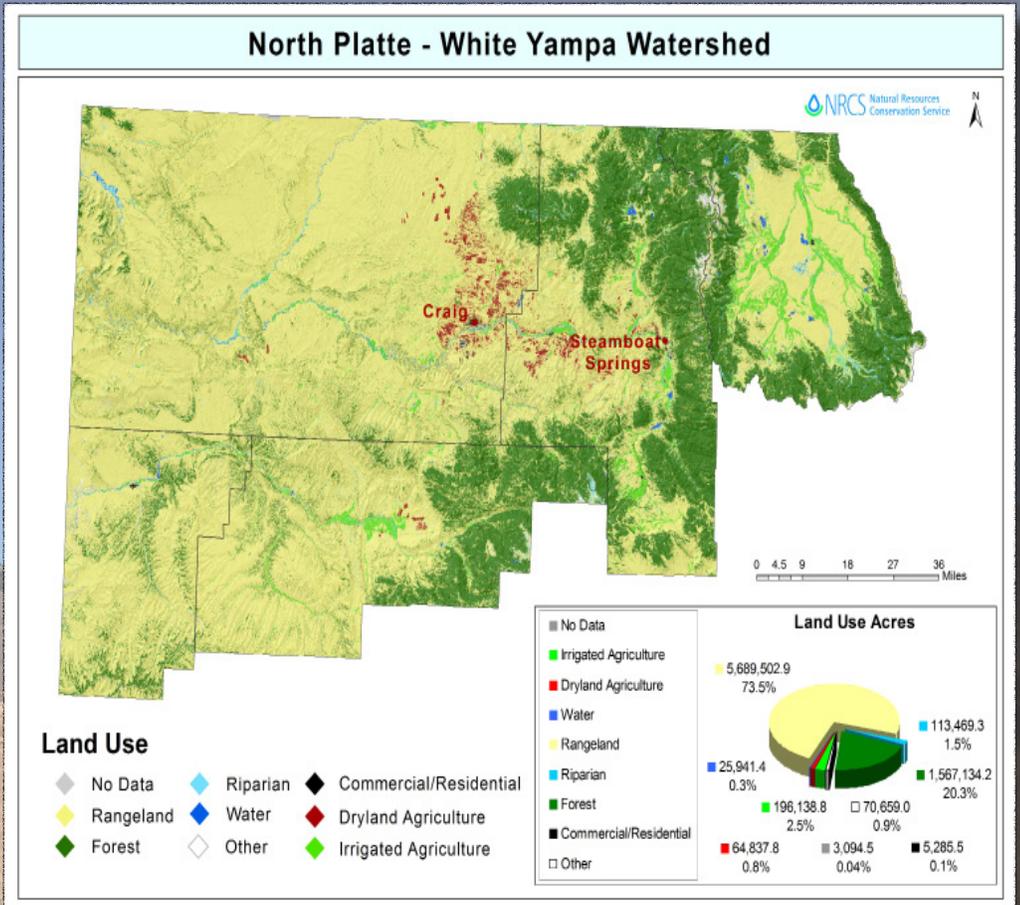
High Priority Resource Concerns in the North Platte-White-Yampa Rivers Watershed

- Water Quality
- Invasive Species
- Rangeland Health
- Water Quantity
- Forest Health



*Helping People
Help the Land*

Watershed Profile



Fiscal Year 2011 Environmental Quality Incentives Program Summary

North Platte-White-Yampa Rivers	Applications Received	Contracts Approved	Dollars Approved	Acres Treated
North Platte/White/Yampa - All Lands/Wildlife	7	6	\$155,526	1,084
North Platte/White/Yampa - Cropland/Water Quality	7	4	\$254,917	1,405
North Platte/White/Yampa - Forestry	6	1	\$12,650	32
North Platte/White/Yampa - Grazingland	20	17	\$486,236	13,712
North Platte/White/Yampa - Riparian	3	2	\$85,245	115
CO EQIP - Sage-Grouse Initiative	10	1	\$91,821	3,377
Planning - General	2	2	\$26,836	624
Salinity - Greater Colorado River Basin	9	3	\$373,128	217
Totals	64	36	\$1,486,360	20,566

Farm Bill Program Activities Summary North Platte-White-Yampa Rivers

NRCS Program	Applications Received	Contracts Approved	Dollars Approved	Acres Treated
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	7	5	\$75,956	16,436
Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)	5	5	\$2,736,250	5,017
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP - Easements)-Sage Grouse	2	2	\$700,000	2,760
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	1	1	\$2,100	9
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)-Sage Grouse	5	2	\$104,812	8,242

Farm Bill Program Activities Statewide Summary

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Contracts: 789

Acres: 335,000

Financial Assistance: \$26 Million

Agricultural Water Enhancement Program

Contracts: 19

Acres: 3,461

Financial Assistance: \$1 Million

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

Contracts: 12

Acres: 15,656

Financial Assistance: \$421,303

Grasslands Reserve Program

Easements: 3

Acres: 6,185

Financial Assistance: \$1.2 Million

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

Properties/Entities: 33

Acres: 9,467

Financial Assistance: \$8.4 Million

Wetlands Reserve Program

Easements: 2

Acres: 463

Financial Assistance: \$1.4 Million

Conservation Stewardship Program

Applications: 331

Acres: 800,859

Financial Assistance: \$7.8 Million

Disclaimer: All data was retrieved from Protracts and funding manager's records for easements on October 4, 2011.

2011 Conservation Success:

Protecting Sage Grouse Habitat

Issue:

Protecting strutting grounds and other habitat for the Gunnison and Greater Sage-grouse

What NRCS CO is Doing:

The only two places in the world the Gunnison Sage-grouse can be found are on the Western slope of Colorado and in a small portion of Southeastern Utah. Colorado, however, hosts the largest population of the species. The protection of sage-grouse habitat has been one of NRCS in Colorado's highest priorities for nearly a decade. The state hosts two species in the Sage-grouse family, including the Gunnison as well as the Greater.

Over the past 10 years, the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife (CDPW) placed the sage-grouse on its "species of concern list," and as a result, NRCS strengthened its partnerships with the agency to help support efforts to conserve sage-grouse habitat. NRCS has not only partnered with CDPW, but also Partners in Wildlife, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Wild Turkey Federation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), local Conservation Districts, landowners and numerous other stakeholders to map and enhance habitat as well as conserve it through easements.



Escape ramp installed in watering tank to assist sage grouse out of structure.

NRCS conservation efforts to improve habitat for sage-grouse include the use and implementation of prescribed grazing systems, range planting, brush/pinon-juniper management, cross fencing and fence marking. NRCS efforts in 2010 and 2011 alone saw the treatment of nearly 40,000 acres.

Program(s) used: EQIP, WHIP, FRPP, GRP

Natural Resource Benefits and Impacts

In 2011, conservation practices were applied by farmers and ranchers in Colorado through various NRCS programs. Conservation practices work to improve farmland, soil, water quality, air, plants, forestland, and wildlife habitat.

Through practices such as nutrient management, landowners were able to improve soil quality and plant health; and through irrigation water management, they were able to improve water quality delivery, thereby improving crop production on their working lands.

Many Farm Bill conservation practices apply to rangelands, such as prescribed grazing. Through installation of water developments, pasture division fences, wells and water pipelines, these practices focus on maintaining, enhancing, and restoring needed plant communities and habitat conditions.

Throughout fiscal year 2011, landowners worked with NRCS staff to develop a good, sound conservation plan to identify and address natural resource concerns on their land.

Conservation Program Descriptions

Environmental Quality Incentives

Program (EQIP) provides a voluntary conservation program for farmers, ranchers and owners of private, non-industrial forest land that promotes agricultural production, forest management and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible producers install or implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural land.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program offering cost-share incentives to landowners to voluntarily develop and improve wildlife habitat on private lands.

Agricultural Water Enhancement

Program (AWEP) A voluntary conservation initiative that provides financial and

technical assistance to agricultural producers to implement agricultural water enhancement activities on agricultural land for the purposes of conserving surface and ground water and improving water quality.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program to restore former wetlands, re-establish native wetland wildlife habitat and retire marginal land from agricultural production.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance grasslands on their property.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

The Conservation Stewardship Program

(CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities; and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) is a voluntary program that helps landowners keep their productive farm and ranch land in agriculture. USDA provides matching funds to state, local, or tribal government entities and nongovernmental organizations with existing farm and ranch lands protection programs to purchase conservation easements.