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Colorado Receives \$2.1M for 2005 Conservation Security Program (CSP)

Lakewood, CO – Agriculture Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner recently announced that USDA will offer 12,700 Conservation Security Program (CSP) contracts across the nation totaling more than a \$1 billion long-term commitment to conservation over the next ten years.

CSP is a new historic program designed to reward farmers for long-term stewardship and is managed and administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Funding for Colorado is expected to be around \$2.1 million, which will fund about 141 contracts.

“We’re very pleased with the results,” says Dennis Alexander, Acting State Conservationist and CSP Program Manager, NRCS, Lakewood, CO. *“Colorado was within the top 20 states for contracts funded. These preliminary numbers mean that we’ll be able to fund between 70 and 80 percent of the landowners who requested CSP assistance. This is well above the average for many national conservation program allocations.”*

Thirteen of the 220 CSP watersheds identified nationally were within Colorado for this 2005 CSP enrollment. Colorado producers in nine of these watersheds will receive funding for some 250,000 acres to continue and/or enhance their natural resource stewardship activities.

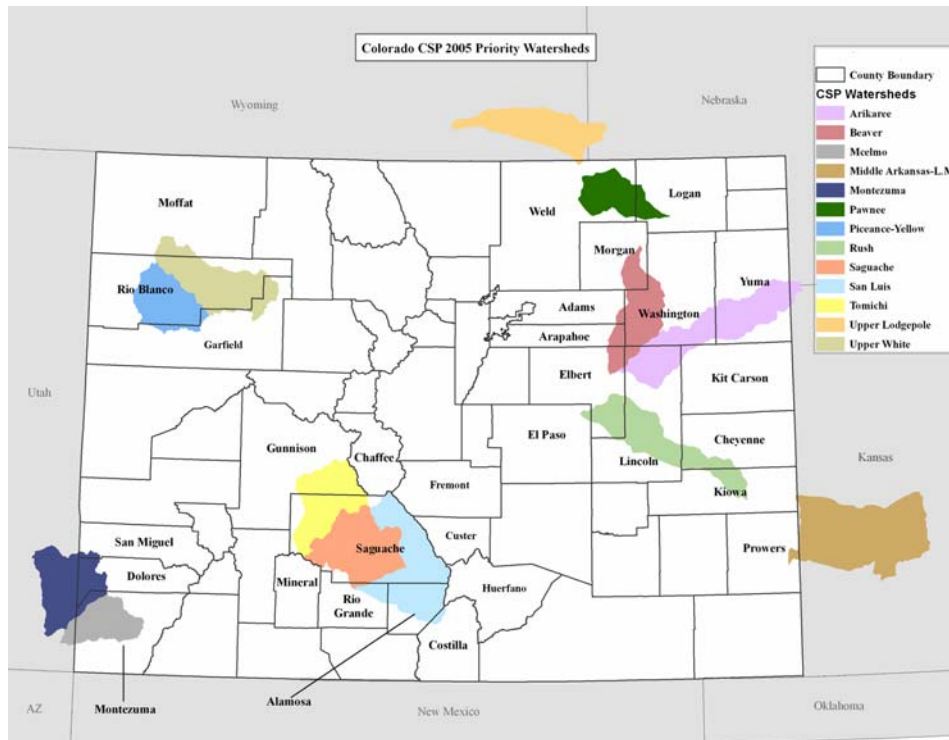
Nationally CSP contracts will cover about 9 million acres of private land. Environmental enhancement activities undertaken by applicants include improving soil quality, water quality, wildlife habitat management, nutrient and pest management, air quality management and on-farm energy management.

CSP will continue to be offered each year, on a rotational basis, in as many watersheds as funding allows. Also, NRCS has extended the comment period on the interim final rule for CSP to Sept. 9, 2005. This extension will give the public additional time to comment on key issues regarding implementation of the program.

For additional information regarding CSP and to see the Colorado watershed boundaries please visit our website at www.co.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CSP/CSP.html.

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2005 CSP Colorado Watersheds



2005 CSP Colorado Funding

(Preliminary funding by watershed as of July 26, 2005)

CSP Watershed	Estimated No. of Funded Contracts	Estimated Dollar Value of 2005 Payments	Total No. of Applications Received
Arikaree	40	\$763,671	46
Beaver	47	\$802,543	49
Montezuma	5	\$43,617	7
Pawnee	8	\$107,338	20
Rush	10	\$157,289	16
Saguache	9	\$132,325	13
San Luis	8	\$64,688	13
Tomichi	5	\$35,982	5
Upper White	9	\$50,398	9
State Totals:			
	141	\$2,157,851	184

76.6% of eligible applications funded