

# THE COLORADO NRCS CONNECTION



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## Insights & Highlights

by Allen Green

State Conservationist



work. He was quite impressed. Within the up and coming months, I'll be meeting with many of you, as well as with many of our partners, at the annual watershed meetings and at various state and

national level meetings, including the CSCB Board, the NACD and the SWCS meetings.

It's important for us to get out, meet and greet our customer base and partners. It helps foster our commitment to partnership and our commitment to our mission.

Right now, our primary customers are out in the field and that is where we should be. I realize our responsibilities within the office must be met and I am confident that you will find the appropriate balance ensuring that the needs of our customers are being attended to as well as the requirements of the agency.

I encourage you to get out into the field, create new and non-traditional natural resource partnerships within your community, and enjoy the season.

Summer is when most of you are spending the majority of your time out of the office. Because of that, many of you boast that it's one of the best seasons and reasons to be an NRCS employee.

Thus far, we haven't seen much turbulence within our weather pattern, no severe wildfires, no flooding, and unfortunately no significant break in our drought conditions. We, for all intents and purposes, can go about conducting business as usual.

Like you, NRCSers at all levels, as well as our partners, make this season the one for gathering and getting out and working in the field.

Chief Knight recently visited Colorado as he was a keynote speaker for the National CRP Meeting. While in Fort Collins, I took him to our field office and around the area to see some of Colorado's conservation efforts at

Zig Ziglar on:

## Protecting Your Attitude

The process of human change begins within us. We all have tremendous potential. We all desire good results from our efforts. Most of us are willing to work hard and to pay the price that success and happiness demand.

Each of us has the ability to put our unique human potential into action and to acquire a desired result. But the one thing that determines the level of our potential, that produces the intensity of our activity, and that predicts the quality of the result we receive is our attitude.

Attitude determines how much of the future we are allowed to see. It decides the size of our dreams and influences our determination when we are faced with new challenges. No other person on earth has dominion over our attitude. People can affect our attitude by teaching us

*see Attitude, page 9*

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# NRCS Fort Collins hosts tour for USDA official

Story and photo by Todd Boldt  
District Conservationist, Fort Collins Field Office

The NRCS Fort Collins Field Office hosted a tour recently for Gerry Royston of the USDA's Washington D.C. Office of Budget and Program Analysis that covered sixteen projects within the Fort Collins and Big Thompson Conservation Districts.

NRCS District Conservationist Todd Boldt and Rangeland Management Specialist John Fusaro, Fort Collins Field Office, provided on-the-ground views and discussions of conservation operations in Larimer and Weld counties.

He also discussed the development of shallow water areas for migratory waterfowl and neotropical shore-

birds, center pivot installation for improved water quality, shelterbelt installation and the conversion of pasture-to-native grass species for upland habitat, and strip tillage implementation to reduce wind erosion and improve nutrient and water management.

The tour included a look at fencing and stock water development to facilitate the use of high intensity and short duration grazing systems, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans for dairy operations, and the role of the NRCS field office in assisting local and state agencies in protecting prime farmland and open spaces along the high-growth northern Colorado front range.

*"We were glad to have the opportunity to focus attention on the role of conservation planning and conservation technical assistance in maintaining our commitment to addressing resource concerns through partnerships with our conservation districts,"* said Boldt.

*"And the tour gave us an excellent opportunity to give our agency leaders in Washington a close-up look at the impacts of the prolonged drought on ranching and farming, and how producers are adjusting their management practices to protect the soil, water, and plant resources for future generations,"* he added.



NRCS District Conservationist Todd Boldt, right, explains to USDA Official, Gerry Royston, the impacts of prolonged drought on farming and how producers are adjusting their management practices.

## Colorado Earth Team Needs You!



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the primary Federal agency that works with private landowners to help them conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

We at the NRCS need people who are willing to commit their time and talent to conserving and protecting soil, water, and wildlife for their community and everyone in it.

Volunteers allow us to do more in getting conservation on the land. They truly are vital members of our conservation team.

- In 2003, 5,378 Earth Team Volunteers contributed 62,621 hours in helping NRCS and our partners in Colorado. That equates to 30 full-time employees!
- Colorado received the National Volunteer Service Award in 2003 and 1999!
- San Luis Valley RC&D, Glenwood Springs Field Office and the Coalition Upper South Platte, earned awards for their volunteer efforts in 2003!

Let's continue these successes by using Earth Team volunteers!

If you have any questions about Earth Team, please contact **Katherine Burse-Johnson, State Volunteer Coordinator**, at 720-544-2863, [email: Katherine.Burse-Johnson@co.usda.gov](mailto:Katherine.Burse-Johnson@co.usda.gov), or one of the Area Volunteer Coordinators listed below.

Area 1: **Sandra Geer**  
(970) 243-5068, x120

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### The Colorado Connection

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# Colorado's Snowpack Rapidly Melting

by Mike Gillespie, Snow Survey Supervisor

Warm and dry weather conditions prevailed across Colorado during May, helping to melt Colorado's snowpack to extremely low levels by June 1.

Snowpack readings taken by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) SNO-TEL network on June 1 indicate that snowmelt proceeded almost unimpeded throughout May, leaving the statewide snowpack at only 23 percent of average.

Measurements taken at 94 mountain locations across western Colorado show that melt out of the ephemeral snowpack is nearly complete in all of the major river basins of the state.

This year's melt out is expected to occur in early June across most of

the state, which is a month earlier than in an average year, according to Allen Green, NRCS Colorado State Conservationist.

While this year's melt rates have been higher than in an average year, a more significant factor in the early melt out is that this year's snowpack totals reached their maximum levels earlier in the winter than normal and were significantly less than the average peak accumulations.

This year's statewide snowpack reached its maximum accumulation on March 8th and was only 78 percent of the average peak accumulation. In an average year the state doesn't reach the maximum snowpack until mid-April.

As expected, the lack of snow-

have been years when significant improvements have been made to water supplies," Green said.

"Unfortunately, this year was certainly not one of those," he said.

Forecasted spring and summer runoff is below average statewide this year. In some basins across northern Colorado, streamflow volumes are expected to drop to 50 percent of average or less this year.

In general, water supplies are expected to be much tighter in the basins originating from Colorado's northern mountains than across the southern mountains this year.

Reservoir storage will play a critical role as the summer demand season progresses this year. Fortunately, storage volumes have made steady improvements since bottoming out after the summer of 2002.

At the same time, storage volumes continue to track well below the long-term average across most of the state.

Current reservoir storage statistics show that present volumes are nearly 200 percent of, or nearly 1.5 million acre-feet above, the low mark for 2002, which was reached on November 1 of that year.

pack across Colorado will translate into below average spring runoff in all of the state's major rivers this year.

*"While we don't typically count on heavy snowfalls during May, there*

BASIN	% AVERAGE SNOWPACK	% LAST YR.'S SNOWPACK	% AVERAGE RESERVOIR STORAGE	% LAST YR.'S RESERVOIR STORAGE
Gunnison	26	123	109	126
Colorado	23	48	86	139
South Platte	13	21	75	107
North Platte	40	100	---	---
Yampa/White	36	129	92	89
Arkansas	23	63	56	139
Rio Grande	37	214	49	115
San Juan, Animas, Dolores	48	214	98	129
Statewide	23	69	84	124

## 'Planting for the Future' conference held in Colorado

by Jeanette Colville  
Public Affairs Specialist, Area 2

NRCS Chief Bruce Knight presented the keynote speech at the recent National Conference on the Future of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) held in Fort Collins, Colorado.

In light of the approaching expiration of more than 16 million acres of Conservation Reserve Program contracts in 2007, and more than 6 million acres in 2008, the USDA Farm Service Agency and the Department of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey hosted the **CRP: Planting for the Future** conference to present a forum to

review ongoing and planned research, identify lessons learned, and determine future research needs to develop rigorous science-based CRP analysis for future CRP policy discussions.

*"We're here to look at the future of CRP to explore different ideas of what it should look like - or might look like - under the next farm bill,"* said Knight.

*"This is an exciting time to be looking to the future of conservation. We're in the midst of a revolution in conservation,"* he said.

Knight went on to say that the 2002 Farm Bill makes a record investment in conservation, and President Bush has followed up in his annual budgets, including this year's budget and next year's proposed budget.

He also indicated that the next Farm Bill is only three years away and with that deadline in mind, it's not too soon to start thinking about the future of CRP and other conservation programs.

*"The timing of this conference is perfect,"* Knight said.

# on the pulse

## Area Office News

### Area One

**George Beck, Colorado State University Professor and Extension Weed Science Specialist,** spoke on "Weed Research Updates in Range and Pasture Situations" on Wednesday, May 12, 2004.

Dr. Beck discussed the latest management strategies researched at CSU for Russian knapweed, bulbous bluegrass, Russian olive, and tamarisk. He also discussed chemical recommendations, rates, and timing of treatments, and reviewed which treatments provided the most effective control.

**Dennis Davidson, District Conservationist,** Glenwood Springs Field Office, provided direction on how to fill out the weed cost-share form, which was due on June 4. The cost-share program is a partnership between private landowners, Bookcliff, South Side and Mount Sopris conservation districts, and the Garfield County Commissioners. It provides for a fifty percent reimbursement for noxious weed management, up to \$1,000.

**The Summer Agriculture Institute** was held on June 21 - 25 in Rifle. Educators who attended the workshop earned two continuing education credits from Colorado State University. This workshop taught different meth-

ods of irrigation, alternative farming and ranching, and included several field trips. This workshop also focused on fun and creative ways to integrate food and fiber topics with academic curriculum to reinforce Colorado Content Standards.

**The Teachers' Workshop** will be held in historic Leadville. This four-day workshop will be held July 26 - 29 and educators will earn two continuing education credits from Adams State. Teachers' Workshops are designed to assist K - 12 teachers interested in natural resources so that they may include natural resources issues in their curriculum. This year's topics will include mining history, water supply, riparian area reclamation, and much more. Scholarships are available for this workshop.

**Jan Glass, District Manager** in Meeker, assisted with the annual Agriculture Day at Meeker Elementary School. She also assisted with two tree-planting workshops in Meeker and Rangely, as well as assisted with Earth Day activities.

**A contract has been completed** for a new Conservation Reserve Program Riparian Buffer Initiative project on the White River west of Meeker. This will treat 2.7 miles of river, providing 72 acres of buffer. This is the fifth CRP Riparian Buffer contract completed in Rio Blanco County.

**Farm and Ranch Protection** Program referrals are being processed for two ranches located near Meeker.

### Area Two

**The Fort Collins Field Office** led the efforts to complete the stabilization project on the 9,000-acre Picnic Rock Fire. Through EWP, 356 acres were straw mulched and 312 acres seeded.

The moderately burned areas were treated to prevent degradation of the Seaman Reservoir, which is the primary drinking water source for the city of Greeley. Erosion, sedimentation, and concerns about decreased water quality from ash and debris were the major reasons why the treatments were implemented.

**A riparian trailer was used** to explain water quality protection efforts in the Big Thompson Watershed to 50 parishioners of the First United Presbyterian Church in Loveland. The church strives to educate its members about local natural resource issues once a year in conjunction with Earth Day, and Ft. Collins FO assisted in this effort.

**Todd Boldt, Fort Collins District Conservationist,** helped the Loveland Boy Scouts earn their conservation badges by leading them on a brief tour of the Picnic Rock fire. The scouts learned about fire ecology, burn

intensity, erosion, sedimentation, and rehabilitation techniques. Fun was had by all.

**John Fusaro, Rangeland**

Management Specialist in the Fort Collins Field Office led the effort to establish a 770-foot, three-row Living Snow Fence, which was planted along U.S. Highway 287 close to the Colorado-Wyoming border.

Participants included the Fort Collins Conservation District, Big Thompson Conservation District, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Department of Transportation, and private landowners. The site was designated as high priority by the Colorado Department of Transportation.

**Simla Field Office assisted**

the following conservation districts by planting Living Snow Fences: Agate Conservation District (two rows, 1,200 ft. each) and Double E Conservation District (one Lasater LSF - three rows, 1,500 ft. each and a second Richardson LSF - two rows, 1,200 ft. each).

NRCS staff who helped with planting included **Benny Kitten**, Soil Conservation Technician, **Ben Bhrdrix**, WAE and Conservation District staff, Cheryl Churchwell, District Manager, Susan Hare and Christa Buell, Farm Bill Technicians.



Simla Field Office staff helps Conservation Districts plant Living Snow Fences.

**Holyoke Field Office -** There were a series of fires along South 385 and approximately 4,528 feet of living snow fence was destroyed resulting in 9,056 feet of RMJ lost (about 452 trees). We are going to use the wait-and-watch method for the shrubs to

see if they will root sprout. The District, Pheasants Forever, and a local tree planter have offered to donate trees, poly, and labor to replace the trees.

**Flagler CD - Casey Veatch**, Watershed Biologist, and **Kristi Gay**, District Conservationist, judged the East-Central regional science fair. Four awards from the Colorado Chapter SWCS were presented to middle and high school students.

Casey has worked with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory to plan a grassland bird workshop on a Burlington ranch. Casey and Kristi have planned a Prairie Chicken Viewing tour in the Flagler CD. Casey was busy helping Republican EQIP offices with wildlife rankings.

**Longmont Field Office -**

EWP: Overland Fire - contracting of the aerial mulching practice is ongoing. The USFS has sent the contract out for bid. Native grass seeds have been purchased and delivered to property owners within the treatment area, permission forms have been signed.

White oat cover crop seed donated by the Coalition for the Upper South Platte has been partially distributed with more on the way. Grass seeders have been approved by the Coalition, the Boulder Valley CD, and the Big Thompson CD.

**The Greeley Area Office** recently held a Center Pivot Sprinkler Workshop to enhance the skills of field office staffs in providing assistance to farmers in northeastern Colorado. The workshop provided twenty-three employees from fourteen of the area's field offices with the information needed to review a sprinkler system and design the delivery pipeline.

The workshop was designed and presented by Greeley Area Office Engineers **Bernice Dyer**, **Colleen Winchester**, and **Lynn Lovell**. They covered sprinkler

system documentation, pipeline design and construction inspection. Colorado State Conservation Engineer, **John Andrews**, assisted in the training by explaining the roles of Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms and Technical Service Providers (TSP). He also fielded questions from the technicians and conservationists attending the workshop.



NRCS field staff attends a workshop that provides them with the information needed to review a sprinkler system and design a delivery pipeline.

**Mike Petersen, Irrigation**

Water Management Specialist, Greeley Area Office, recently attended a seminar in Belgrade, Serbia, along with other Federal agency representatives.

The group was tasked to give a two-day seminar to approximately 50 Serbian scientists and growers to offer suggestions on the 2002 and 2003 drought situations in Serbia.

The group discussed the economics of cropping systems, soils and climate issues, drought mitigation strategies with forage crops, cover crops, crop salvage, soil quality, tillage management, fertility management, supplemental irrigation, crop insurance, and government loan assistance, and other issues of concern to Serbians.



Serbian wheat, corn, and soybean farms in Belgrade, Serbia, cross the upper terrace of the Danube River Plain.

**The Haxtun Conservation District** hosted their annual Arbor Day presentations to area schools. The Fleming 4th Graders (15 students) and Haxtun 4th and 5th Graders (40 students) were treated to a presentation by Iron Thumb Mountain Man (also known as Jan Manning).

Each student was given a Colorado Blue Spruce after the presentation. **Connie Ferguson**, Soil Conservation Technician, Holyoke Field Office, and Denise Swanson (District Manager) accompanied the Iron Thumb Mountain Man.



The Iron Thumb Mountain Man, Jan Manning, talks to 4th and 5th grade students about Arbor Day.

**Julie Elliott**, Acting District Conservationist, Wray Field Office, and a Holyoke Tree board member, gave an interactive presentation about trees to 2nd graders, which consisted of approximately 60 students.

There were a series of fires along Hwy 385 South of Holyoke that burned four separate parts of a living snow fence.

The single row of plum, twin-row Rocky Mountain Juniper 'fence' was originally planted in 1990. The plums have already come back from the roots, but the junipers were a total loss in the burned areas.

The Living Snow Fence replanting was a cooperative effort between the land-owners (Dave Colver, Brad Gerk, and Verdis Vieselmeyer).

Haxtun Conservation District provided the trees, Phillips County Pheasants Forever provided the poly, and

Tree Guys planted the trees and laid the poly. There were 851 Rocky Mountain Junipers replanted along 4,250 total feet of highway frontage. **Julie Elliott**, Acting District Conservationist, Wray Field Office, coordinated the replanting effort.



Rocky Mountain Junipers were replanted along Hwy 385, south of Holyoke, Colorado, after a series of fires destroyed portions of the original living snow fences.

## Area Three

The Eads Field Office staff participated in the Plainview School tree renovation project, which was the school's Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration. Students and other volunteers planted a new shrub row, removed dead trees, pruned trees, cleaned out tumbleweeds, and installed 1.25 miles of new drip line.

**Allen Green**, State Conservationist, **John Knapp**, Area Conservationist, La Junta Area Office, and **Mary Miller**, Public Affairs Specialist, La Junta Area Office, attended the site.



Students from Plainview School in Eads, Colorado, and other volunteers assisted with the planting of trees during Earth Day.

The Bent Conservation District and Las Animas Field Office (FO) hosted a farm tour for Las Animas 5th graders. The

annual event was held on the Sam Cook farm where the students were able to see irrigated cropland and pasture land wildlife areas.

**Miles Martin**, Soil Conservation Technician, Las Animas FO, demonstrated field surveying and then allowed the students to flag a line. With an auger truck presentation, **Walt Bland**, Soil Conservation Technician, Lamar FO, discussed the components of soil and how the components of soils affect use.

**Ed Kilpatrick**, Soil Conservationist, and **Mary Ward**, Soil Conservation Technician, both from Las Animas FO, discussed the importance of range followed by a hands-on activity with the students. After each of the students had the opportunity to participate in all of the activities the Bent Conservation District treated them to a soda.



Walt Bland, Soil Conservation Technician, Lamar FO, explains the components of soil and how the components of soil affect use to a Las Animas 5th grade student.

**Rick Romano**, District Conservationist, and **Kimberly Diller**, Soil Conservationist, Canon City Field Office, gave an educational presentation to 51 3rd-grade students from Penrose Elementary School in Fremont County using a Ground Water model and the River Trailer.

Rick and Kimberly demonstrated the water cycle, river dynamics, erosion and sedimen-

tation, how ground water works, and sources of pollution. They also led discussions concerning the effects of drought pollution and flooding, which really kept the interest of the kids.

**Rick Romano, District Conservationist, Canon City Field Office,** participated in a radio program on KRLN with the Fremont County Extension Agent and Deputy District Water Commissioner. The main topic was current conditions on Fremont County. Call-in questions concerned water quantity, water rights, the drought, seeding, xeriscaping, pasture management, and West Nile Virus.

**The Southeast Colorado RC&D** participated in the opening ceremony of the new Cottonwood Ridge assisted living facility in Rocky Ford. Other partners who worked on the project are the Rocky Ford Community Hospital Board, Kinder-Morgan, City of Rocky Ford, USDA Rural Development, and Tri-County Housing.

**Brian Johnson, District Conservationist,** and **Al White, Soil Conservationist, Hugo Field Office,** gave two presentations to area 5th graders on various by-products from animals and crops.

**Area 3 recently hosted a joint tour for the Colorado Section-Society for Range Management (SRM) and the Colorado Chapter-Soil and Water Conservation Society at the Chico Basin Ranch, which was recognized by the Colorado Section SRM for "Excellence in Rangeland Management."** More than 160 individuals attended the tour.

Topics included the prescribed grazing management system, the riparian management system, rangeland monitoring, and land EKG methodology, to name a few.

## Area Four

**The Center Field Office has been working on a living snow fence project for the last eight years. Several teachers from the Center and Moffat areas have been instrumental in ensuring that this program is successful.**

These teachers were honored with a luncheon during National Earth Team Volunteer Week; they were also presented with an Earth Team mug in appreciation of their efforts and dedication to the project.

Over the past eight years, 5,000 trees have been planted. The Center Field Office and Center Conservation District would like to thank all of these volunteers for their efforts.

**The Cortez Field Office (FO) participated in an educational event called "Water 101." Mike Rich, Resource Conservationist, Cortez Field Office, discussed funding opportunities for irrigation improvements. Cindy Crist, Soil Conservation Technician, Cortez Field Office, gave the history of the Salinity Control Program.**

Other speakers included Justice Gregory Hobbs. Over 100 participants were in attendance at this two-day event.

**Students from Sierra Grande Elementary School and supporters from the Forbes Trinchera, the State Forest Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Costilla Conservation District spent a full day planting 120 trees.**



A student from Sierra Grande Elementary plants a tree as part of a Living Snow Fence Project on La Veta Pass.

These trees are small now, but someday they will grow into a living snow fence that will protect the highway from accumulating snow.

**This year, the Costilla Conservation District initiated the Living Snow Fence project which is located on the Forbes Trinchera and began working with the local schools, teachers, students, and organizations to help ensure that this project was a success. This is the first year of this project and plans are in the works to get more youth and more trees planted in years to come.**



Several organizations contributed to the success of this year's tree planting, shown in the photo from left to right, Ty Ryland with the Forbes Trinchera, Monty Smith and Harold Anderson with the Costilla Conservation District, Loretta Martinez with Sierra Grande Elementary School, Andre Walter with the State Forest Service, Angie Graber with the SLV Conservation Districts, Clinton Bellingar and James Fischer with the State Forest Service, and Karma Anderson with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

### San Luis Valley RC&D:

#### *Alternative Energy Development Process*

by Jim Mietz

Energy costs are skyrocketing in the San Luis Valley (SLV) and most areas of the United States.

This past winter the price of heating fuels across the United States recently reached a high point because of the cold temperatures in northeastern United States.

The SLV has potential sources of alternative energy that

*continued on next page, Alternative Energy*

could help the region become energy self-sufficient and/or lower energy costs for residents. SLV energy sources include solar, geothermal, biomass, hydro, and wind. The SLV Resource Conservation and Development is actively pursuing grant opportunities to assess these resources.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is the main source of funding for assessment and the DOE and the USDA Research and Development have competitive grants for implementation.

Much study and education is necessary prior to implementing an energy project. An important aspect is to partner with the local utilities, if power is going to be sold to the grid.

In the case of helping a local public entity such as a school become energy self-sufficient, selling power is not an interest.

There are some opportunities in the SLV where solar, wind, and biomass could meet the public facility's energy requirements nicely.

The preliminary planning work will save money in implementation and will provide a roadmap for developing one or several of the alternative energy sources.



Wind energy: the world's fastest growing energy source.

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Colorado Association of Conservation  
Districts  
Colorado State Conservation Board

Robert Zebroski

*Director*

**P**owers, Branson-Trinchera, Dove Creek and Turkey Creek Districts won approval to remove the Tabor spending limits from their budget process. Centennial CD removed term limits for their board of supervisors. Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River and West Arapahoe CDs conducted supervisor elections. Branson Trinchera CD received approval for a mill levy, making it the 10th district with a mill levy.

**D**ue to term limits and resignations, five of the seven-member board of supervisors from the Douglas County CD were replaced this month. The president, Cecelia Gryde, and vice president, Steve Board, were term-limited out. Bill Gordon, former president of the Teller-Park CD, was also replaced due to term limits.

**T**he CACD annual meeting will be held in November at the Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs.

**J**anette Terry, Program Assistant, Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB), and Robert Zebroski, Director, CSCB, are in the beginning phases of revising the Colorado Soil Conservation District Reference that was originally printed in 1998. Approximately 500 copies of the booklet will be produced for distribution to board members across the state.

**P**am King, Conservation Specialist, CSCB, was the lead person on the Database Initiative, which consists of a database that will contain everything about the 77 conservation districts, including the ability to produce the Conservation District Directory. Janette Terry, Program Assistant, CSCB, has been tasked to input all the data into the system and keep it up to date. CACD will be able to access this database from their office.



## UP AND COMING



You may  
want to  
jot this  
down!

Leadership Team In-State Mtg.----July 12-14

Western Governor's Association Meeting -----July 20-23

Soil and Water Conservation Service Annual Conference -----July 26-28

Teachers' Workshop-Leadville ----July 26-29

National Leadership Team Meeting -----July 27-28

Leadership Team Teleconference--Aug. 3



### 2004 Watershed Meeting Dates

San Juan -----Aug. 18

Lower South Platte -----Aug. 24

Republican -----Aug. 25

Upper South Platte -----Sept. 8

Rio Grande -----Sept. 9

Upper Arkansas -----Sept. 23

Lower Arkansas -----Sept. 23

Gunnison/Dolores -----Sept. 28

Colorado River -----Sept. 29

North Platte -----Sept. 30



# Strip-till management enhances irrigated crop production

by Jeanette Colville  
Public Affairs Specialist, Area 2

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Burlington Field Office teamed up with the Burlington Conservation District in promoting strip-till management to enhance irrigated crop production in eastern Colorado at a recent Conservation District Field Day held at the Raymond Palkowitsh family farm northeast of Burlington.

On a breezy and bright sunny morning, more than fifty local producers attended the field day educational presentation given by NRCS Water Management Specialist Mike Petersen and Agronomy Research Specialists Jeff Tichota and Bob Leisy from Monsanto, Colorado.

Petersen discussed the benefits of strip till to soil structure, infiltration, pore space increases, and increases in the levels of organic matter, as well as the benefits improving water resource efficiency and long term economic benefits to growers.

*"Strip till puts you in a position to do better than before,"* said Petersen to the group. *"It makes farming more profitable and keeps you farming longer."*

Following a question-and-answer session on strip till, Rick Palkowitsh gave a presentation to the group on the family's first year of farming with a newly installed subsurface drip irriga-



NRCS Irrigation Water Management Specialist Mike Petersen talks with Burlington Conservation District farmers about maximizing scarce water resources and implementing best management practices.

tion system, an NRCS EQIP project.

The group gathered on the edge of the corn field to observe first-hand how the system works. They also listened to a presentation by Petersen on the impacts of subsurface drip irrigation on early root development.

*"Growers need to be aware that when corn is in the Ve-V4 state, the uptake of phosphorus and nitrogen is very important,"* said Petersen.

*"To give you an idea of the added value from our field days, we've been talking to many farmers in the High Plains of Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska who are saying they only used 1.9 to 2.4 gallons of diesel fuel per acre in 2003 from pre-plant to harvest with strip-till technology,"* he said.

*"Conventional disc-chisel-plant systems use 5.8 to 8 gallons per acre,"* Petersen added. *"If that doesn't tell us that strip-till has an advantage, I'm not sure what else will."*

Attitude, cont'd from page 1

poor thinking habits or unintentionally misinforming us or providing us with negative sources of influence, but no one can control our attitude unless we voluntarily surrender that control.

No one else "makes us angry." We make ourselves angry when we surrender control of our attitude. What someone else may have done is irrelevant. We choose, not they. They merely put our attitude to a test. If we select a volatile attitude by becoming hostile, angry, jealous or suspicious, then we have failed the test. If we condemn ourselves by believing that we are unworthy, then again, we have failed the test.

If we care at all about ourselves, then we must accept full responsibility for our own feelings. We must learn to guard against those feelings that have the capacity to lead our attitude down the wrong path and to strengthen those feelings that can lead us confidently into a better future.

If we want to receive the rewards the future holds in trust for us, then we must exercise the most important choice given to us as members of the human race by maintaining total dominion over our attitude. Our attitude is an asset, a treasure of great value, which must be protected accordingly. Beware of the vandals and thieves among us who would injure our positive attitude or seek to steal it away.

Having the right attitude is one of the basics that success requires. The combination of a sound personal philosophy and a positive attitude about ourselves and the world around us gives us an inner strength and a firm resolve that influences all the other areas of our existence.

# NATIONALLY SPEAKING

## Veneman Announces Interim Final Rule for Conservation Security Program

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman recently announced the release of an interim final rule to implement the Conservation Security Program (CSP), authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill.

Sign-up for the CSP will be available to eligible farmers and ranchers in 18 priority watersheds across the nation July 6 to July 30.

*"Through the Conservation Security Program, USDA will offer farmers and ranchers incentives and cost-share assistance to help them meet their conservation goals," Veneman said. "The program recognizes producers who employ good stewardship and environmental practices."*

The CSP interim final rule with request for public comments will be published in the Federal Register soon. By issuing this rule, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can conduct the program sign-up and implementation this fiscal year. NRCS will consider all comments received during a 90-day public comment period in developing a final CSP rule.



An upstream small dam, terraces, buffer strips, grass plantings and other conservation measures are part of a project designed to improve the quality of water.

Selected watersheds for the 2004 CSP sign-up are: Raystown (Pennsylvania); Saluda (South Carolina); Little (Georgia); St. Joseph (Michigan / Indiana / Ohio); Auglaize (Indiana / Ohio); Blue Earth (Minnesota / Iowa); Lower Chippewa (Wisconsin); Kishwaukee (Illinois / Wisconsin); Little River Ditches (Missouri / Arkansas); Lower Yellowstone (Montana / North Dakota); East Nishnabotna (Iowa); Lower Little Blue (Nebraska / Kansas); Lower Salt Fork Arkansas (Oklahoma / Kansas); Punta de Agua (New Mexico / Texas); Hondo (Texas); Moses Coulee (Washington); Lemhi (Idaho); Umatilla (Oregon).

The program will be offered each year, on a rotational basis, in as many watersheds as funding allows.

Additional information on CSP including the interim final rule is available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp.Agriculture>

## USDA Provides \$32 Million for Limited Resource Producers Through EQIP

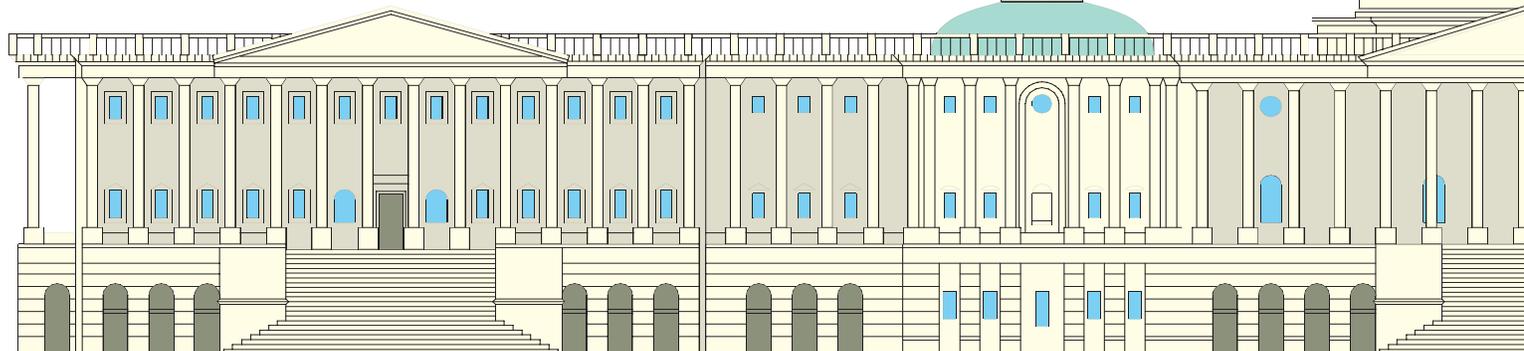
Secretary Ann M. Veneman recently announced that nearly \$32 million has been provided through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to help farmers and ranchers with limited resources develop and maintain economic viability in their farm operations.

*"We are working to ensure that our broad range of programs and services are fully available to farmers and ranchers with limited resources,"* said Veneman.

*"These funds are helping reduce soil erosion, improve water use and protect grazing land by installing conservation practices that protect natural resources."*

USDA defines a limited resource producer as one with direct or indirect gross farm sales that does not exceed \$102,400 in each of the previous two years, and a person with a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four or who earns less than 50 percent of the county median household income in each of the previous two years.

USDA has devel-





Center pivot sprinkler irrigation system.

oped a web-based self determination tool to help farmers and ranchers determine if they may meet the qualifications for limited resource status.

The web-based tool is available at [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/SLB\\_farmer](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/SLB_farmer).

"We have many examples across the country about how successful EQIP has been for the limited resource farmer," NRCS Chief Bruce Knight said.

EQIP is a voluntary program that offers financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air and related natural resources on their land.

Additional information on EQIP is available at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip> or from the local NRCS office or USDA Service Center.



## NRCS Releases Self-Assessment Workbook for New Conservation Security Program

Natural Resources

Conservation Service Chief Bruce Knight released a self-assessment workbook for potential participants in the new Conservation Security Program (CSP), a voluntary program that supports ongoing conservation stewardship of agricultural working lands and enhances the condition of America's natural resources.

*"The workbook is significant because "self-assessment" is a new way of doing business. Farmers and ranchers can assess their potential eligibility by themselves on their own time at their convenience,"* Knight said.

The initial self-assessment will help producers identify whether their individual agricultural operation meets sign-up criteria and answer the question, *"Do I address minimum soil and water quality criteria on the land I manage?"*

By going through the workbook, producers will get a good idea about whether they are eligible for CSP at this time. Producers who may not be eligible can find out about programs that can help them achieve a higher level of conservation so that they may apply for CSP in the future.

To apply for the program, the Natural Resources

Conservation Service (NRCS) will ask potential participants to complete the self-assessment to determine if their operations meet the standards of the program and qualify for program participation.

The CSP self-assessment workbook is available online at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp> at an interactive site that allows producers to log on and off at their convenience to complete the workbook at their own pace.

## Disability Awareness Month Poster Contest for NRCS Employees

The theme for the contest and poster is **"Judge Us By Our Ability, Not Our Disability."**

The requirements for the poster are as follows:

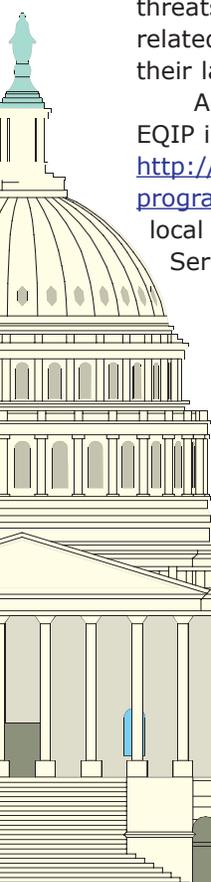
- It must contain the theme
- It must be in electronic form
- It must include diversity

Deadline for this contest is July 9, 2004. The final selection will be made by August 20th.

There will be a \$250 Spot Award given to the NRCS employee whose entry is selected.

This contest is open to all NRCS employees, full or part-time.

If you have any questions, call Beth Durbin at (307)233-6780, email: [beth.durbin@wy.usda.gov](mailto:beth.durbin@wy.usda.gov).



# The Soil Tells the Story

by Kristi Gay  
District Conservationist  
Flagler Field Office

In early April, a small group of local producers attended an irrigation workshop hosted by Ross Conrad of Flagler, Colorado, the Flagler Conservation District, High Plains Bank of Flagler, and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service.

A breeze and steady drizzle persisted through the morning as producers listened to Mike Petersen, NRCS Irrigation Water Management and Salinity Specialist, Greeley Area Office.

Petersen used a soil pit as a teaching tool to demonstrate how compaction problems can affect plant root performance, water infiltration, and nutrient absorption.

Petersen advocates looking for compacted layers by digging a hole in irrigated fields. Most compacted layers can be found at the 7- to 15-inch depth. When soil is compacted, more water runs off instead of infiltrating into the soil, and root growth is stunted. Petersen recommends deep tillage once every three years to improve water infiltration and encourages increased rooting depths.



Mike Petersen, an irrigation water management specialist with the NRCS Fort Collins field office, uses a soil pit as a teaching tool to demonstrate how compaction problems can affect plant root performance, water infiltration, and nutrient absorption.

*"I recommend deep tillage if traffic is with heavy grain carts during harvest, otherwise, timing of deep vertical tilling may be a longer time span,"* says Petersen.

Better infiltration reduces over-watering and reduces nitrogen leaching into the soil and groundwater. Deep root penetration is improved using a type of tillage called, 'strip till.'

Strip till can leave up to 75 percent more soil surface area protected by crop residues when planting occurs only on built up ridges, while in-row ripping tools can be used to inject fertilizer.

Results emerging from the new possibilities of a strip till system are:

- Fertilizer can be placed at three different levels
- Fertilizer can be applied at different amounts
- A more uniform seedbed is available for the planting operation

Strip till allows the soil to warm up faster in the area of linear row surface (about one-third of the row width is disturbed) and the evaporation rate of

the soil surface is still reduced when compared to conventional tillage.

Another benefit is that start up fertilizer can be applied ahead of the planting operation so that a farmer only has to plant or apply chemical weed control with the planting operation.

Members of the Flagler Conservation District Board encourage local agricultural producers to take advantage of the technical experts available from NRCS.

Even small changes to farming operations can improve plant yields. Improving root growth is just one way to maximize water and yields.

Another irrigation field day is being planned for post-pollinated corn in several locations in the Flagler Conservation District.

For more information on this subject or on other soil and water conservation issues contact Kristi Gay at the Flagler Field Office, 719-765-4676, or Mike Petersen at the Greeley Area 2 Office, 970-330-0380 ext. 208, or visit the USDA NRCS Web site at [www.co.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov).

# State and Federal Grants Help Ranchers Improve Water Quality

By Jerry D. Schwien

The Custer County Conservation District (CD) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are finishing up a three-year water quality project with ranchers in the Grape Creek Watershed near Silver Cliff, Colorado.

Charles Proctor, President of the Custer County CD, explains the purpose of the project is to reduce sediment loading in Grape Creek.

"We received a \$72,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. This was an Environmental Protection Agency (319 nonpoint source pollution control grant) which allowed us to cost-share conservation improvements with ranchers on a 60-40 basis. We provided 60 percent of the cost up to a maximum of \$6,000 per landowner and the ranchers provided 40 percent in direct costs, equipment, or labor," said Proctor.

The District also received matching grants from the Colorado State Conservation Board, which totaled \$60,000. "With the \$132,000 in grant funds we were able to achieve over \$200,000 worth of conservation improvements," says Proctor.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service helped ranchers to install irrigation structures and buried pipelines to reduce erosion and more efficiently deliver water.



Livestock watering facilities were developed away from the stream and areas of streambank were fenced to keep cattle away from eroding banks.

With technical assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, they built J-hooks in the stream to direct channel flow away from erosive banks.

They also planted willow shoots to stabilize streambanks with help from the Westcliffe High School science class.

NRCS assisted ranchers in designing and building livestock watering systems so cattle could be fenced out of streams to avoid trampling of banks and water pollution.

James Sperry, NRCS district conservationist (DC) at Silver Cliff, said the project has been quite a help to the community.

So far, some 118 structures have been installed; two wells drilled; 6,500 feet of pipe laid; over 13,000 feet of fence installed; one solar pump and three water tanks completed. The improvements have helped ranchers to improve irrigation and pasture management thereby protecting streambanks and water quality.

Proctor said a number of people deserved credit for the District's success with the project. Nancy Kendrick, district clerk when the project was envisioned, wrote the grant application.

Linda Swift, the district clerk now, did the bookkeeping, which was no small chore. Charles Beard was NRCS district conservationist when the project started and provided much of the technical assistance to ranchers. And Jim Sperry, now the DC, helped finish the project.

"We believe the project has met its goals," says Proctor. "However, with the drought we were unable to complete the monitoring portion of our plan as originally set forth."



The Grape Creek Water Quality Project helped stabilize streambanks and reduce water pollution.

"The drought dried up runoff. Ranchers didn't fertilize as normal because of the water shortage. So our data may not prove the benefits we know we've attained," said Proctor.

Part of the monitoring was to involve the high school science class in sampling five stream stations through the national "River Watch" program. However, River Watch lost funding and the group wound up monitoring only one station.

Even so, rancher testimony credits the success of the 319 project. Wilbur Miller, who did the most streambank erosion control said a severe thunderstorm last summer caused no visible erosion. The J-hooks and willows did their job.

Hap Coleman, another rancher, said by keeping cattle out of Grape Creek, it really helped the water quality.

The conservation district hopes to continue the work. Additional ranchers have expressed interest. Proctor says the district will apply for an extension of the 319 project late this year and hope to receive FY 2005 water quality funds to implement more water quality work.

# Deep Soil Tests Show Producers Practice Good Management

by Lynda Harper, District Manager  
Yuma Conservation District

**M**ichael Petersen, NRCS Soil Scientist, gave producers an overview on June 8 of the results from deep soil tests taken for the Yuma Conservation District's Water & Nutrient Management (319) Project.

According to Petersen, the results demonstrate that producers in the program are doing a good job agronomically and are generating the data to back up that conclusion.

Soil tests were taken in an assessment area of 30 fields out of 10,000 acres enrolled in the program. Samples were tested to see if nitrogen from fertilizer applications escapes below the root zone or is used by crops.

Petersen took samples at six

and nine feet from three sites in each field and identified the soil profile for each sample.

Samples at six feet indicate management practices in the last 3 to 4 years. Samples at the nine-foot level indicate practices 10 to 15 years ago. Olsen Agricultural Laboratories in McCook, Nebraska did the analysis.

Petersen explained that fields were chosen to represent major soil types in the assessment area and sample sites were chosen to represent topography and cultural practices in each field. Results were reviewed by sandy, loamy, and clay soil types.

*"We're seeing the benefits of good conservation practices,"* said

Petersen, *"and the crop is using almost all of the nitrogen applied."*

The average of all samples taken at six feet was 5.7 parts per million (ppm) nitrogen, or about 20 pounds per acre. At the nine-foot level, the average was 4.8 ppm, or about 17 pounds per acre.

Averages for different soils at six feet were 17 pounds per acre for sandy soils, 23 pounds per acre for loamy types, and 21 pounds per acre for clay.

At nine feet, averages were 17 pounds per acre for sandy soil, 20 pounds per acre for loamy soils, and 29 pounds per acre for clay.

Producers discussed extending the project into the next phase by increasing the acres in the study, taking deeper samples, adding leaf tissue studies, and including information on tillage practices.

The Water and Nutrient Management Project is funded by a Yuma CD grant of up to 60 percent Section 319 Clean Water Act funds administered through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Producers enrolled in the project receive cost share payments to practice irrigation water management, nutrient management, and pest management.

The program runs through the end of 2005.



Mike Petersen, Natural Resources Conservation Service Irrigation Water Management Specialist, Fort Collins Field Office, notes GPS location for deep soil test taken for the Yuma Conservation District's Water and Nutrient Management (319) Project.



**A Kaman K-Max helicopter sling-loads 250 tons of hay in a two-day aerial mulching operation made possible through a coordinated NRCS, Boulder County, and U.S. Forest Service EWP partnership project.**

# USDA: Helping Communities Through Partnerships

*by Jeanette Colville  
Public Affairs Specialist, Area 2*

The Overland Wildfire that swept through the historic mining area of Jamestown in the foothills east of Boulder last October destroyed homes and left hillsides charred and vulnerable to runoff.

Boulder County officials teamed up with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Longmont Field Office (FO) and the Arapahoe and Roosevelt National Forest to develop an Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) treatment project to protect against sediment and accelerated runoff, unstable slopes, and to ensure public safety and the safe passage of roads in the area.

Because of the mixed ownership of private and public lands in the area, NRCS was able to work with the county, local residents, and the Forest Service to help coordinate the Overland Wildfire EWP project.

To counteract the impacts of the fire, the EWP project was designed to reestablish native grasses, reduce erosion and accelerated runoff, and to protect stream water quality in James Creek and in Lefthand Creek which feed the Lefthand Water District (approximately 40,000 customers) and the Lefthand Irrigation District (more than 5,000 acres).

Tim Carney, District Conservationist, and Don Graffis and Shelly Anderson, Soil Conservationists, Longmont FO, worked with the U.S. Forest Service Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation team to coordinate the two-day aerial mulching operation using a Kaman K-Max helicopter.

The helicopter is specially designed for heavy lifting and was used to sling-load more than 225 tons of straw, which provided 75 percent coverage (one to two inches thick) to more than 210 acres in the treatment area.

Don Graffis, Soil Conservationist, Longmont FO said, *"We plan to continue to work with the local landowners and the local Jamestown board to monitor the progress of vegetation establishment on the slopes above the town."*

*"Both NRCS and Forest Service staff will be making routine trips into the area to check for any high erosion areas and stream degradation,"* he continued.

*"In the event of a large storm, further damage assessment and evaluation will be done. NRCS technical specialists and Forest Service specialists recognize that the impacts from the fire will take several years to heal and stabilize,"* Graffis said.



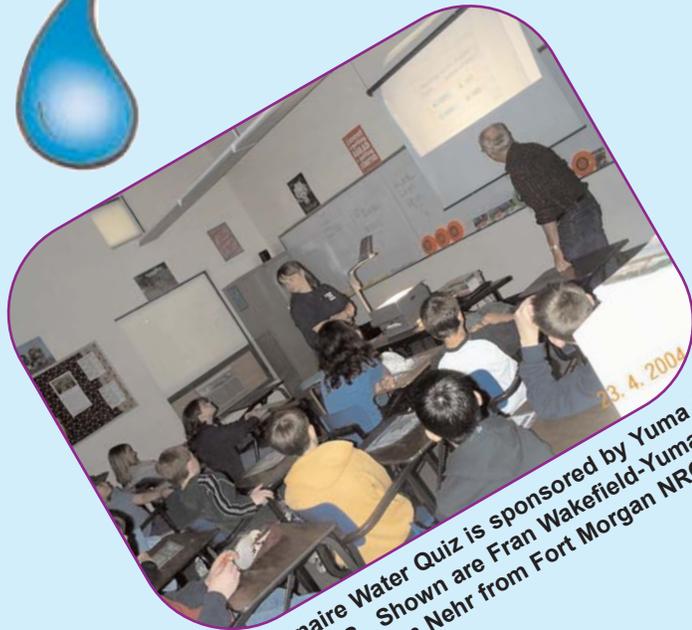
**Ground crews load nets with weed-free straw for the helicopter sling-loading aerial distribution operation over the Overland wildland fire treatment area in the Jamestown watershed.**



**NRCS Soil Conservationist Don Graffis, Longmont Field office, and U.S. Forest Service botanists inspect bales of straw for weed-free quality assurance.**

Colorado NRCS Presents:

# 2004 Water



Millionaire Water Quiz is sponsored by Yuma CD and NRCS. Shown are Fran Wakefield-Yuma NRCS and Ron Nehr from Fort Morgan NRCS.



Jane Wustrow, Pueblo RC&D Coordinator, gives a presentation to children at the Pueblo Children's Water Festival held at CSU-Pueblo.



Children at the Northeast Colorado Youth Water Festival learn about siphon tubes.

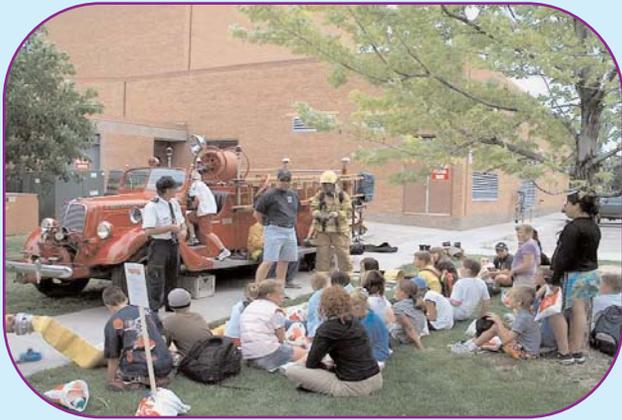


Lynn Lovell, Sterling Field Office, presents a workshop on the power of water during the Northeast Colorado Youth Water Festival.

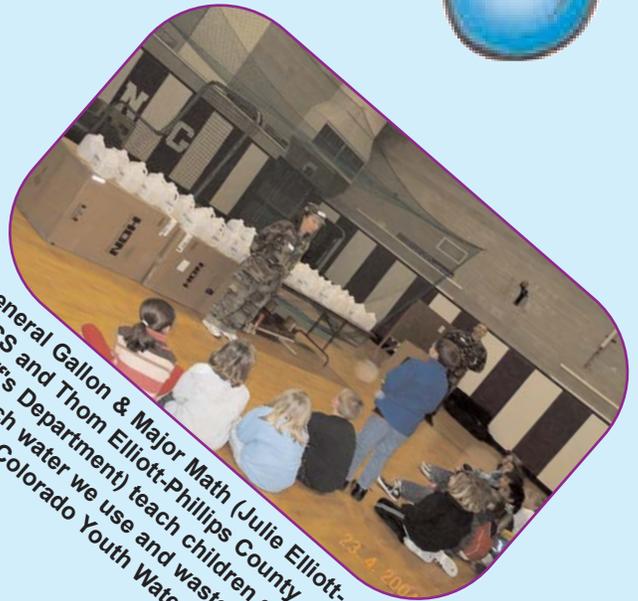


A student plays with the interactive Water Cycle display sponsored by the Mesa County Cattle Women's Association at the Grand Junction Children's Water Festival.

# Festivals



The City of Palisade fire truck is on display as a representative gives a presentation to fifth-grade students who came to Mesa State College in Grand Junction to attend the 11th annual Children's Water Festival.



General Gallon & Major Math (Julie Elliott-NRCS and Thom Elliott-Phillips County Sheriff's Department) teach children about how much water we use and waste during the Northeast Colorado Youth Water Festival.



Water Wizard Joe Crowder, Conservation District Manager, Holyoke Field Office, gives a presentation to students at the Northeast Colorado Youth Water Festival.



Students take part in a river model class during the Grand Junction Children's Water Festival.



A student gets hands-on experience working on a pressured pipe at the Grand Junction Children's Water Festival.

# Resource Conservation & Development Projects

## East Central Colorado RC&D

- East Central RC&D is assisting in the building of Hines Park playground.
- 70 sites in the Eastern Plains for the CoCoRAHS project were installed in the past year.
- East Central RC&D is working on two self-contained trailers to support up to 100 volunteers for fire rehabilitation volunteer projects. Trailers will contain shovels, rakes, fencing equipment, hard hats, etc. One trailer will be stored Canon City, the other in Glenwood Springs.
- East Central RC&D is planning an alternative crop (chicory) tour to Nebraska for July.
- East Central is expanding its RC&D area to East Adams and Deer Tail CD areas.



Photo on left: This is a gauge used to collect data on rain, hail, and snow, and will be used by scientists to study storms.

## Painted Sky RC&D

- Painted Sky RC&D Council has a successful fire planning program which now has five participating counties, with San Miguel County being the furthest along in their plan.
- Painted Sky is partnering with the American Red Cross in putting on 18 Firewise urban interface workshops to educate homeowners on ways to avoid catastrophic wildfires.
- Painted Sky RC&D received two large EPA 319 grants to reduce selenium water pollution in the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers.
- Painted Sky cooperates with a large, local collaborative group that is working to reduce selenium contamination; for example, piping of agricultural ditches and canals and improving the way water is used (best management practices).

## Sangre de Cristo RC&D

- Sangre de Cristo RC&D is involved in the Community Collaborative Rain and Hail Study (CoCoRaHS), a partnership with the Colorado Climate Center at CSU, to establish a network of weather observers who measure daily rain, hail, and snow.
- Sangre de Cristo coordinated a successful 2004 Arkansas River Basin Water Forum held March 3-4 in Canon City in partnership with the Upper Arkansas Watershed Council. The Water Forum was dedicated to Bob Appel.
- Sangre de Cristo is involved in several projects working with forest-related businesses to expand markets for small diameter wood products. Completed construction of a pavilion built out of small diameter round wood.



Sangre de Cristo RC&D partnered with Lankford Foresters, Inc. to construct a roundwood pavilion for the community of Westcliffe.

## San Juan RC&D

- San Juan RC&D Council is committing \$10,000 to purchase 414 home composting bins for distribution in the RC&D area.
- San Juan is currently conducting irrigation ditch surveys using GPS unit and integrating the data into ArcGis. This information is then provided to the irrigation ditch company board of directors for their use in developing a management plan for the ditch. Have completed approximately 300 miles over the last two years and will do approximately 125 miles this summer. The RC&D Council hires two Fort Lewis College GIS students each summer to do the work.
- San Juan RC&D conducted three projects targeted to recycling: glass crusher to crush recycled bottles and other types of glass and porcelain, developed a web site [www.trashterminators.org](http://www.trashterminators.org), and completed two computer recycling events.
- San Juan is coordinating a Volunteer Lake Management Program involving 23 Earth Team volunteers. The council is also developing a Community Foundation fund — hoping to raise \$300,000-\$500,000 that after 3-5 years will provide \$30,000-\$40,000 that can be awarded annually for local projects.
- San Juan worked collectively with Fourcorners' RC&Ds on a Navajo Sheep and Cultural project.



## San Luis Valley RC&D

- San Luis Valley is doing SGIS mapping throughout valley.
- San Luis Valley RC&D is conducting tabletop exercises for wild-fires, which will include a mock wildfire exercise for firefighters, Red Cross, and Emergency Response Team.
- San Luis Valley is working with colleges to do feasibility studies on alternative energy.
- San Luis Valley RC&D received a \$100,000 grant from Rural Development for equipment to aid in keeping produce cool and to study the produce market.



**Boyers Ranch Solar Water Pump, an alternative energy source in San Luis Valley.**

## Southeast Colorado RC&D

- Southeast Colorado RC&D completed Wiley Bike Trails Project (handicap-accessible concrete trail and sidewalk).
- Southeast Colorado RC&D is providing CoCoRaHS Training - worked with 12-15 sites on data collection.
- Southeast Colorado is working with health department on a 319 Project (monitoring selenium, data collection, etc.).
- Southeast Colorado RC&D is doing an assessment on historical potential at Fort Lyon.
- Southeast Colorado is working on the restoration of IOOF Building, which is in Phase 2 stage.

### *Did You Know. . .*

The purpose of the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program is to accelerate the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, improve the general level of economic activity, and to enhance the environment and standard of living in designated RC&D areas?

It improves the capability of State, tribal, and local units of government and local nonprofit organizations in rural areas to plan, develop, and carry out programs for resource conservation and development. The program also establishes or improves coordination systems in rural areas. Current program objectives focus on improvement of quality of life achieved through natural resources conservation and community development which leads to sustainable communities, prudent use (development), and the management and conservation of natural resources. RC&D areas are locally sponsored areas designated by the Secretary of Agriculture for RC&D technical and financial assistance program funds.