

Colorado State Conservation Board 2009 Matching Grants Project:
Double E1 Conservation District: Landowner Cost-Share Program

What natural resource problem(s) did the project address?

Double E1 Conservation District is located east of Colorado Springs. It is at the interface of urban growth along the front-range corridor and the agricultural communities of eastern Colorado. Rangeland conservation and wind and water soil erosion are two of the natural resource issues the district has identified as local top priorities. The District used Matching Grants funds to provide a landowner cost-share program for installation of conservation practices that address the locally identified natural resource concerns of rangeland health and soil erosion.

What was achieved?

6,437 acres benefited from conservation practices and 21.7 tons of soil erosion prevented

- 24 applications funded for \$64,109 of conservation practices installed selected from 30 applicants wishing to install conservation practices totaling \$111,152.
- Landowners provided 61% of the cost-share
- 5,858 feet of terraces and one soil erosion dam installed to prevent soil erosion
- 2,483 feet of tree windbreaks planted to prevent soil erosion and provide livestock/wildlife shelter
- 5 solar pumps, 3 livestock wells, 1 livestock tank and 3,469 feet of cross-fencing installed to enable rotational grazing of rangeland. Rotational grazing allows for better management of grazing pressure on plants so that both the natural ecology and productivity of the range is enhanced.
- 960 acres of Canada thistle and 355 acres of leafy spurge treated (both state listed noxious weeds).
- 851 cu yards of grassed waterway installed



Rotational grazing means that livestock are moved from one pasture to another rather than grazing one large area. Livestock tend to overgraze areas with plants they prefer or which are near their water source, and undergraze other areas. This tends to lead to degradation of the land through soil erosion, weed infestation, reduced plant diversity and proliferation of plants less desirable for stock and wildlife. Rotational grazing allows ranchers to better control livestock grazing and prevent over or undergrazing of plants.

Provision of widespread stock watering facilities - often tanks with solar-powered pumps as in the top left picture - are key for rotational grazing. Also key, is cross-fencing (bottom left picture) to allow for grazing or resting of areas as needed for healthy plant growth and diversity.

