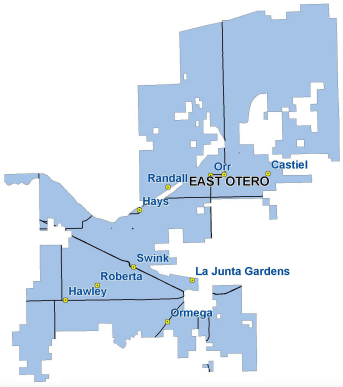
East Otero Conservation District



East Otero Conservation District Office

200 South 10th Street
Rocky Ford, CO 81067
Phone: 719-254-7672 ext. 3
Fax: 719-254-4541

Monthly Meetings

First Monday every month;
winter 7:00 pm
summer 8:00 pm

Mission Statement

The East Otero Conservation District is a voluntary organization of private land owners who monitor and solve conservation needs, secure funding, provide education and promote research. Other services include providing direction and advice to various federal and state agencies. The District also influences legislation on conservation issues. These services are provided to the landowners and general public to preserve production of the land and conserve the natural resources.

Addressing Local Concerns

Districts generate funding through local, state, and federal sources. Local citizens elect the District board to identify and address local natural resource issues. The board involves locals and experts to help develop strategic plans. The district holds open monthly meetings, publications, events, presentations to communicate with district partners and residents about district services, good conservation practices and financial/technical services.

This conservation district serves its landowners as they participate in:

The East Otero Conservation District (EOCD) supports education and research into irrigated cropping and subsurface drip irrigation at the CSU Research Center in Rocky Ford, CO. The District provides scholarship money to local High School Students who continue their education in agriculture and sponsorship of the 6th grade conservation poster contest and student(s) who attend Camp Rocky. The EOCD helps sponsor the FFA State Range Judging contest with facility judges and judging sites and materials, and the Ag Forum for alternative agriculture production that is held in Rocky Ford annually.

Fostering Sound Range Management

Ensuring sound range management for future generations is important to conserve natural resources and improve production as well as enhance wildlife habitat.

This conservation district serves its landowners as they participate in:

The District sponsors drought monitoring photo documentation and publication of continuing drought efforts. EOCD also supports rotational grazing as a sound alternative for range management, to prevent overgrazing or possible plow-out.

Preventing Soil Erosion

Preventing erosion preserves soil producitivity long term for agriculture, production, and other uses on rural lands. It also provides improved stream flows, decreases sedimentation, and improves overall water quality. Some common practices that help producers prevent soil erosion and build soil quality include no till, minimum tillage and cover cropping.

This conservation district serves its landowners as they participate in:

East Otero CD takes a strong stand to reseed abandoned irrigated cropland to permanent vegetative cover. The District also provides education to landowners on proper use of soils to help minimize erosion.

COLORADO
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Major economy:

Agriculture

Points of Interest:

Historical sites on Santa Fe Trail, Otero Junior College, Koshare Indian Museum, Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site

The Conservation District was established

May 25, 1945.

Land Ownership:

Private land - 132,641 acres
State land - 40,000 acres

Land Use:

Irrigated Cropland - 52,000 acres
Rangeland - 115,841 acres
Other land - 4,500 acres

Protecting Water Quality and Quantity

The District provides assistance to managers, landowners, and residents with conservation practices and management tools to protect near stream areas. In addition, they work together on reducing the movement of chemicals and nutrients to streams in sedimentation or runoff. These efforts help stabilize streambanks and protect water bodies from impacts.

This conservation district serves its landowners as they participate in:

The EOCD helps with subsurface drip irrigation producer application workshop and application review; the district works on 4 PL 566 projects - Highline Breaks, Holbrook Canal, Fort Lyon and cost share on farm irrigation improvements to increase irrigation water management. The District actively pursues adequate quantity and quality of water to maintain irrigated crops and supports investigation for city leasing of water on a rotational basis

Preventing the Spread of Noxious Weeds

Conservation Districts implement measures to reduce the spread of invasive populations and help implement weed control projects.

The district has completed the following:

Together with the county, efforts are being made to control both List A and B weeds. The District is working to help control tamarisk on the Arkansas River.