

Colorado State Conservation Board 2008 Matching Grants Project: Agate Conservation District: Cost Share Program

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

The Agate Conservation District supports both crop and range production in Elbert county. They have a history of helping landowners to install natural resource conservation practices on over 15,000 acres during the last decade. With this new opportunity for funding they addressed three of the resource concerns in their long-range plan as identified by local stakeholders - grazing management, wind and water soil erosion, and water quality and supply. The District provides earth-moving equipment to facilitate practice implementation and District staff, alongside the Natural Resource Conservation Service, provided technical expertise.

Agate Conservation District offered 50% cost-share to landowners to install conservation practices that addressed the numbers 1,3 and 4 priorities in the District long-range plan - particularly encouraging projects for which federal funding was not available.

What was achieved?

- 14 of 18 projects funded with **60% matching funds provided by landowners**
- **3 livestock wells installed**, improving grazing management on 725 acres of grazing lands
- **3 Ponds installed or repaired** to improve grazing management and wildlife habitat on 1,149 acres
- **Solar pumping system** installed impacting water supply to 640 acres
- **5,790 feet of pipeline installed** to improve management on 714 acres
- **4,485 feet of cross-fencing** installed to improve grazing management on 324 acres
- **4 windbreaks installed** (6783 feet) to prevent soil erosion and provide wildlife habitat
- **Gullies and cattle trails repaired** to reduce soil erosion on 325 acres
- **Total of 3,906 acres impacted and estimated 10.3 tons soil erosion/yr prevented**
- **Grazing lands Workshop and Riparian walk and Seminar conducted**



Access to water affects cattle grazing patterns and if water is scarce, overgrazing of some areas and undergrazing of others degrades range condition. Strategic installation of water tanks help with better grazing management.



Cross-fencing allows cattle to mimic the wild buffalo's high intensity followed by long rest pattern of grazing that Colorado native grasses evolved to thrive under.