

## Colorado State Conservation Board 2008 Matching Grants Project: Center Conservation District: Noxious Weed Control Cost-Share

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

The Center Conservation District has been prominent in noxious weed control efforts in Saguache County for the last decade, working with partners to implement the main county weed control service. They have a strong weed program but are always looking for ways to increase their role as weed control leaders. With the CSCB matching Grants funds the District offered cost-share mainly to target the **number one priority noxious weed in their area - black henbane**. They also favored small acreage landowners who did not qualify for any other funding assistance. The District promotes the **use of Integrated Pest Management Plans (IPMs) to ensure the most impactful overall treatment of a weed infestation**. Effective weed control also includes mapping of weed populations for treatment and education efforts to boost public awareness and action. Center Conservation District is active in both these efforts as well as providing a service to treat weeds.

### What was achieved?

- **Increase in implementing IPM plans on-the-ground by 45% over 2007**
- **3,153 acres of noxious weeds treated** - main target was black henbane but Canada thistle, hoary cress and perennial pepper weed also treated.
- Average weed treatment contract length is 5 years to ensure **enough persistence for maximum effectiveness of control**.
- Final step of infestation treatment is **re-vegetation with native plants** to prevent other weeds establishing
- Additional **3,800 acres of weeds mapped and inventoried** - an increase of 52% from 2007.
- District currently working with the Bureau of Land management in Saguache County to **create an IPM plan for the entire San Luis Valley**



*Black henbane is the number one noxious weed priority in Saguache County - following spray treatment (right), monitoring for re-growth and re-treatment will be needed for several years. Weeds, noxious and otherwise, tend to thrive in bare soil areas - so re-vegetation will also be carried out to ensure the establishment of desirable species on the treated area.*