

Colorado State Conservation Board 2008 Matching Grants Project: Double E Conservation District: Rangeland Health Improvement

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

The Double E Conservation District identified **rangeland conservation and wind and water soil erosion** as the **locally identified top two natural resource conservation priorities**. They decided to offer landowners in the District - particularly those not eligible for federal cost-share programs - an opportunity to apply for **50% cost-share to install or renovate conservation practices that addressed these issues**. Noxious weed treatment for Colorado listed weed species was one of the practices included because it provided an opportunity to restore native vegetation and thus reduce soil erosion - also enhancing range productivity and wildlife habitat.

What was achieved?

- **3,253 acres benefited** from conservation practices installed and **4.8 tons/yr of soil erosion prevented**
- **14,385 feet of tree windbreaks** installed to prevent soil erosion - over a third of these **fenced to keep out grazing livestock and enhance wildlife benefit**
- **Rangeland management on 3,253 acres improved** by the installation of 3 windmills/stock tanks and pipeline for water delivery. This distributes grazing patterns better and prevents under or overgrazing of grasses for better rangeland health that benefits wildlife as well as livestock.
- **104 acres of noxious weeds treated** - Canada thistle, leafy spurge, musk thistle and bindweed.
- **23 landowners received assistance**
- District co-sponsored Seedling Tree workshops, a noxious weed seminar, a grazing workshop and riparian walk and seminar to provide **education in support of conservation objectives**.



Strategic installation of water tanks help with better grazing management on rangeland by evening out cattle grazing patterns. In remote areas, windmills or solar panels provide the energy source to pump the water.



In dry eastern Colorado trees that will eventually grow up as windbreaks to reduce soil erosion, establish and grow better with low-volume drip irrigation for regular moisture and plastic weed barrier to reduce plant competition.