

Colorado State Conservation Board 2008 Matching Grants Project:  
Kiowa Conservation District: Small Acreage Assistance

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

Kiowa Conservation District covers the eastern part of Elbert County and is an area that has seen enormous growth in the development of small acreage properties. **The owners of these properties often have limited knowledge of land management** or of the challenges of maintaining productive vegetation and wildlife habitat in the arid climate of Colorado. Conservation Districts can be the most accessible and locally knowledgeable source of information and help for such small acreage landowners. The Kiowa Conservation District particularly saw a need to educate about and improve grazing practices, to prevent over-grazing that leads to soil erosion and noxious weed infestation. **The introduction of rotational grazing practices and renovation areas already suffering from severe erosion were seen as key solutions to the overgrazing problems.** The District offered cost-share to encourage landowners to adopt these practice. They also offered **cost-share to help landowners improve or provide wildlife habitat.**

**What was achieved?**

- 6,392 feet of cross-fencing erected to **implement rotational grazing on 576 acres**
- Range seeding to **re-establish vegetative cover on 20 acres badly eroded cropland.**
- **7,200 feet of gully renovation and reseeding employed** on 2 acres to prevent ongoing severe soil erosion.
- **3,034 feet of windbreaks/shelterbelt established and 1,575 feet renovated** to reduce soil erosion and provide wildlife habitat.
- **1.5 acres of tree and shrub planting and a water guzzler installed** to develop wildlife habitat.
- **75 acres of lands treated for Colorado B-listed noxious weed infestations.**
- **Natural Resources Conservation Services and CSU Cooperative Extension** provided technical assistance to landowners.
- District to **monitor all projects for two years** to ensure established success.



*After sculpting a slope and reseeding with native species, serious erosion is arrested along a crumbling gully on rangeland in Elbert County.*