

Colorado State Conservation Board 2008 Matching Grants Project:
Upper Huerfano Conservation District: Conservation Cost-Share

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

Huerfano County's median household income is about half of the Colorado state average. Small conservation projects can help landowners who cannot afford larger projects with best management practices and free up more federal funds for use on larger projects. With this in mind, along with the conservation priorities for the District identified by local stakeholder meetings, the Upper Huerfano District offered **cost-share for conservation practices aimed principally at smaller projects costing under \$7,000** that might be in the scope of limited resource farmers and rancher. The identified conservation priorities were **water efficiency and quality, rangeland and forest health, and wildlife habitat.**

What was achieved?

- **Three water control structures installed** to improve irrigation efficiency reduce soil erosion and improve wildlife riparian habitat.
- **Two stock-water pits installed** to improve grazing practices for better rangeland health reduce soil erosion and improve wildlife riparian habitat.
- **Two stock water tanks and 2,200 feet pipeline installed** to improve grazing practices for better rangeland health reduce soil erosion and provide wildlife watering facility.
- **Gated pipe (1,050 ft) installed** to improve flood irrigation efficiency and reduce soil erosion.
- Huerfano County Farm Bureau, Huerfano Basin Stock Growers Association and the Natural Resource Conservation Service **helped widely publicize the availability of funding for maximum landowner opportunity.**
- **9 of 12 submitted applications funded.** District Conservation District designed and certified proper completion of projects selected by the Upper Huerfano Conservation District Board for funding - **projects will be monitored in future years** to ensure enduring natural resource conservation benefits.



Livestock will not travel too far from water. Stock water pits (left) and stock water tanks (right) are both ways to improve range management for productivity and ecology by encouraging cattle to graze pastures more widely and therefore reduce under or over grazing of plants. They also provide habitat and water availability for wildlife.