

# media release

*Colorado Department of Agriculture*

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Christi Lightcap, (303) 239-4190, [Christi.Lightcap@state.co.us](mailto:Christi.Lightcap@state.co.us)

### ***Conservation Grants Awarded to Colorado Conservation Districts***

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – Grants totaling more than \$1,059,400 were recently awarded to Colorado conservation districts in order to protect Colorado’s natural resources. The grants, 44 in all, are part of two cooperative efforts:

- The *Farm Bill-District Conservation Technician (DCT) Program* serves to employ technically trained individuals in the field to assist landowners with planning and implementing natural resource conservation measures on their lands.
- The *Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB) Natural Resources Matching Grant (MG) Program* aims to install conservation measures on private lands and to provide conservation education to youth and adults.

“Together with our local and Federal partnerships, I am pleased that we can leverage State Severance Tax dollars to support local conservation needs throughout the state. The more we collaborate, the more we are able to improve our natural resources for the benefit of future generations,” explained Cindy Lair, the CSCB Program Manager in the Department of Agriculture.

**Farm Bill-District Conservation Technician (DCT) Program**

Conservation measures encourage and enable sustainable private land use for the short and long-term benefit of all Colorado citizens. The DCT may be directed by NRCS staff to protect or improve water supply, water quality, soil fertility and stability, wildlife species or habitat, forest health, air quality, energy supply, or other natural resource issues identified as important at the local level. The DCT Program is funded jointly by the US Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the CSCB, and the conservation districts of the State.

The following conservation districts received DCT awards for 2014:

<b>District</b>	<b>County Area Benefitting From Grant</b>
Baca County	Baca
Bent	Bent
Burlington	Kit Carson
Center	Saguache, Rio Grande, Mineral, Hinsdale
Colorado First	Moffat
Costilla	Costilla
Deer Trail	Arapahoe and Adams
Delta	Delta and Gunnison
Double El	Elbert and El Paso
East Otero	Otero and Crowley
Fort Collins	Larimer
Fremont	Fremont and Custer
Gunnison	Gunnison, Saguache, and Hinsdale
Jefferson	Jefferson
Longmont	Boulder and Weld
Mancos	Montezuma
Mesa	Mesa
Northeast Prowers	Prowers
Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River	Las Animas
Teller-Park	Teller and Park
Washington County	Washington
West Greeley	Weld

**Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB) Natural Resources Matching Grant (MG) Program**

The MG Program is a 50/50 cost-share opportunity for conservation districts. Oftentimes, the match from Districts and/or their partners greatly exceeds the fifty percent minimum. The conservation measures may include cross-fencing, windbreaks, living snow fences, water tanks, gated pipes for irrigation, planting cover crops, applying noxious weed treatments, etc., to improve rangeland conditions and wildlife habitat, reduce soil erosion from wind and water, and for improved grazing management. The conservation education ranges from Small Acreage and

other specialty workshops for adults to larger-scale efforts involving whole school districts and their students, local producers, parents, and educational volunteers.

The following conservation districts received MG awards for 2014:

<b>District</b>	<b>Project Summary</b>
Agate	Rangeland and livestock health
Branson-Trinchera	Rangeland, wildlife and livestock water issues
Burlington	Windbreaks and cover crops
Center	Small Acreage Soil Health Expo
DeBeque-Plateau Valley	Irrigation Water Control structures
Double El (2 awards)	Rangeland projects, windbreaks, and living snow fences
Douglas County	Rainwater/snowmelt harvesting
Douglas Creek	Range monitoring training and materials
Flagler	Pipelines, water tanks, and windbreaks
Gunnison	Sage grouse habitat improvement
Kiowa	Noxious weed applications, wildlife habitat improvement
Mancos	School-to Farm conservation education program
Northeast Prowers	Rangeland and animal health
Prowers (2 awards)	Canal sand traps/debris shields and fencing
Rio Grande	School-based conservation education
San Juan	Irrigation, grazing management, and forest restoration
Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River	Water facilities (livestock and wildlife) and soil chiseling
West Greeley	Colorado Envirothon Competition
White River	Forestry documentary video
Yuma	Rangeland, soil health, and plant management

The CSCB, through the Colorado Department of Agriculture, provides services to the seventy-six conservation districts in the state. The State’s portion of the DCT and MG programs is largely funded by the State Severance Tax Fund, derived from mineral extraction.

To learn more about the Farm Bill-District Conservation Technician Program and the Colorado State Conservation Board Natural Resources Matching Grant Program visit [www.colorado.gov/ag/cscb](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/cscb) or call (303) 239-4170.

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