CSCB Matching Grants

ICON LEGEND


Well


River / Riparian


Dam


Summer Camp


Fitness


Energy


Fencing


Solar Pumps


Irrigation / Water Resources


Noxious Weeds


Living Snowfence/ Replanting/Windbreak


Plants / Seedlings


School Garden


Wildlife Habitat


Agreements / Partnerships


Cropland


Education / Field trip


Education Workshops


Evaluation

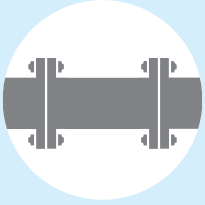

Monitoring / Future Plans


Grazing / Rangeland


Mechanical Methods


BioControl


Soil


Gated Pipes / Water Lines


Landowners, Board Members


Sprayer


Acreage


Value Added


Project Cost

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Agate Conservation District Rangeland Management

Old Windmill & Stock Tanks

New Stock Tank With Solar Pump

ACHIEVEMENTS

Three landowners treated areas for Canada Thistle, benefitting 560 acres.

Three livestock wells, five solar pumping systems, and six livestock tanks were installed.

One pipeline of more than 3,400 feet was installed, benefitting 1,280 acres. This also had the added benefit of saving 7.9 tons of soil erosion.

A total of 5,200 acres of land benefitted from the grant money and the in-kind hard work of the landowners and NRCS.

Total Project Cost - $66,013
Matching Grant Funds - $30,000
Match Contribution - $36,013

PROJECT SCOPE

The Agate Conservation District undertook a rather large endeavor with the 2011 cost share assistance program. Their rangeland management project included addressing noxious weed infestations and soil and water erosion concerns, as well as managing rangeland in on-going drought conditions.

Partners assisting in the grant were the landowners who provided up to 54% match in both cash and in-kind services. The Natural Resources Conservation Service also provided in-kind match for technical assistance. All projects had to meet NRCS technical standards and specifications, and NRCS helped with feasibility, planning, design and project completion check-outs.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Branson-Trinchera Conservation District Rangeland Management

New Fencing In Branson-Trinchera

ACHIEVEMENTS

A total of 20 applications were awarded, representing 19,901 acres. All projects were completed timely.

Eight stock tanks were replaced, and three steel rim tanks were refurbished.

Four solar pumps were installed to replace windmills.

More than 1,750 feet of water line was installed.

The equivalent of 3.75 miles of barbed wire fence was installed to improve grazing and replace fences that were old and in poor condition.

Total Project Cost - $70,283
Matching Grant Funds -$28,916
Match Contribution - $41,367

PROJECT SCOPE

The Branson-Trinchera Conservation District (B-TCD) chose to address issues regarding rangeland health this year. Under that broad banner, they incorporated projects that included domestic and wildlife animal health, plant health, plant diversity and gazing distributions.

While the actual number of landowners remains relatively small compared to other districts, nearly all these district landowners possess larger rangeland tracts. A full 40% of the B-TCD landowners applied to participate in the cost-share program.

B-TCD contacted the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) for supplemental grant funding, which they received. RMBO participated in the applicant ranking process as a result. NRCS also contributed with technical assistance, engineering and inspections.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Burlington Conservation District Soil Erosion Management

New Windbreak

ACHIEVEMENTS

12 Twelve of sixteen applications were able to be funded.

The grant allowed 29 acres of new and renovated windbreaks to be established. Landowners were able to use both weed barrier and drip irrigation to establish better windbreaks.

One solar pump energy unit was installed.

This project provided a 50/50 cost share to small acreage landowners who were not eligible for EQIP funds.

$ Total Project Cost - $65,810
Matching Grant Funds - $30,000
Match Contribution - $35,810

PROJECT SCOPE

In keeping with the mission of the Burlington Conservation District (BCD) to protect Natural Resources and Lands, the BCD implemented a cost-share tree and solar energy project. This project arose in response to concerns expressed at local watershed meetings that the health of area windbreaks were declining due to prolonged drought. Planting new trees and renovating existing windbreaks would contribute a great deal toward reducing soil and water erosion.

A team of experts joined the BCD. They included the NRCS, Colorado State Forest Service, the Division of Wildlife and Pheasants Forever. NRCS donated 162 hours of in-kind technical assistance. Wildlife and Pheasants Forever provided recommendations to landowners for tree species selections that would best benefit wildlife. CSU Extension gave technical support to the project as well.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Center Conservation District Noxious Weed Program

Before & After Noxious Weed Spraying

ACHIEVEMENTS

Two thousand acres were inventoried for noxious weeds in the region and landowners sprayed approximately 320 acres another 185 acres sprayed commercially.

Center CD created information packets and noxious weed ID books and distributed more than 75 books at the Southern Colorado Ag Conference.

Contacted an average of 200 people per day at the conference, distributing the packets and other noxious weed information.

Total Project Cost - $28,324
Matching Grant Funds - $14,162
Match Contribution - $14,162

PROJECT SCOPE

Center Conservation District's Noxious Weed Program has been an active project for over 13 years and has been funded as a landowner cost-share program with Matching Grant funds since 2007. Small acreage landowners received priority ranking for the grant funds. However, all requests for cost-sharing noxious weed control were considered. Projects were ranked according to acreage size, noxious weed species and size of infestations.

Center CD contacted landowners who had an Integrated Pest Management plan in place to inform them of the Cost-Share opportunity. By monitoring previously treated areas, the Center CD was able to determine the most effective control measures. Spraying continues to be the method that obtains the best results, far above mechanical and biological. Plans are to not only continue this project, but improve and expand, due to its continuing success.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Conejos / Rio Grande Conservation District Conservation Education

Students participating on a farm tour

ACHIEVEMENTS

The water quality portion of the project had 2361 participating students.

The river trailer, which allows students to experience the intricacies of water flow from watershed to ocean, had 8224 children and 1467 adults participate.

The annual CACD poster/essay contest had 1785 students participating. These were 5th and 6th graders.

A “Conservation Curriculum” developed 90 “ready-to-go” lessons for teachers to help students learn about natural resources.

Total Project Cost - $95,487
Matching Grant Funds - $40,000
Match Contribution - $55, 487

PROJECT SCOPE

Conejos/Rio Grande Conservation District’s focus on education for this year was hands-on agriculture training for the classroom and developing small acreage landowner community skills by teaching the importance of resource management. Focus areas included water quality and quantity; project learning; a snow survey; a river trailer; farm survey; tree plantings; farm tours; and a teacher workshop for 90 teachers over 10 days for three graduate credit hours.

Project objectives included: the teacher training; reaching community members who employ conservation ethics on their landscapes; increasing the understanding of teachers and students at all grade levels in the science and civics of farming, and the environmental impacts of personal decisions on water, soils and wildlife habitat management; and to develop the Conservation Education Position into a resource for community, teachers and schools.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Cope Conservation District Rangeland Management

New Fencing In Cope

ACHIEVEMENTS

Three producers installed 4.62 miles of fencing which affected 640 total acres.

Four landowners received grant funds for controlling invasive species on more than 475 acres.

One landowner was able to cap seven abandoned wells on his land.

Total Project Cost - $74,195
Matching Grant Funds - $30,000
Match Contribution - $44,195

PROJECT SCOPE

The Cope Conservation District had a variety of issues that needed attention. These included: abandoned wells; pest management of invasive species; and boundary fencing to keep CRP land in grassland.

Cope CD had a mission to help landowners understand that water quality and quantity were dependent upon well management and capping abandoned wells. One landowner had seven wells on his property, and was helped immensely by this program.

Three producers were able to take advantage of the boundary fencing. These producers intended to add expiring CPR lands to their grazing plans, to help keep soil erosion controlled in the area.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

DeBeque-Plateau Valley Conservation District Water Management

One Of The Irrigation Control Structures Completed With This Grant

ACHIEVEMENTS

Eight projects were awarded this grant which affected 545 acres in the Plateau Valley.

A total of eight tons of soil was saved due to reduced erosion.

Measurements indicated an increased irrigation efficiency by 5% on 520 acres; 15% on 20 acres; and 30% on five acres.

Structures and systems will be used as an educational tool for the Plateau Valley FFA and landowner workshops to demonstrate what can be done to enhance water management and conservation in the Plateau Valley.

Total Project Cost - $42,257
Matching Grant Funds - $14,500
Match Contribution - $27,757

PROJECT SCOPE

For the De Beque-Plateau Valley Conservation District, this project addressed irrigation water management and control in the Plateau Valley. Irrigation control structures were installed to facilitate proper control and use of water.

Five irrigation water control structures, one micro-spray irrigation system and two gated pipe systems were installed. Four of the structures were located on small canals and facilitated proper delivery of water to individual users. One structure was a diversion for a canal serving multiple users. Water measurement was also incorporated into the structures.

Designs were provided in a timely manner by NRCS staff. Structures were built and installed by contractors or landowners themselves. System installation and function was checked and certified by NRCS staff. These systems helped deliver water to and facilitate management on approximately 545 acres in the Plateau Valley.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Double El Conservation District Rangeland Management

New Fence In Double El

ACHIEVEMENTS

Three landowners treated 129 acres of Canada Thistle, benefitting 1,440 acres.

Eight landowners installed 12,194 feet of windbreaks and one living snow fence benefitting 1,070 acres.

Two cross-fencing projects used 7,927 feet of fence benefitting 1,170 acres.

One solar pump, five livestock wells, three livestock tanks and two pipelines using 4,561 feet of pipe benefitted 3,020 acres.

A total of 7,940 acres benefitted, and an estimated 23.5 tons of soil saved from erosion.

Total Project Cost - $98,628
Matching Grant Funds - $34,600
Match Contribution - $64,028

PROJECT SCOPE

The Double El Conservation District cost-share grant program addressed noxious weed infestations, wind erosion and rangeland management. Producer's projects were capped at $2,000 in order to be able to serve more landowners and complete more projects. Forty-nine requests were received of which 27 were funded and completed.

Projects included treating Canada Thistle; installing windbreaks; fencing projects for livestock and cross-fencing to improve rangeland management; a solar pumping system, livestock wells and tanks; and pipelines.

This program was very important for Double El landowners as evidenced by the number of applications received. It was especially beneficial during the drought conditions when landowners needed water developments for grazing immediately.

NRCS provided technical assistance for needs and feasibility, planning, design and completion checkout.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Eagle County Conservation District Noxious Weed Control

Roadside Weed Control

ACHIEVEMENTS

A total of 27 applications were received and approved for the grant, a 29% increase from the previous year.

The number of acres treated was nearly double the previous year at 2042, up from 1053.

Partners included NRCS staff, Garfield-Pitkin weed interns, Eagle County Commissioners, Eagle County Integrated Pest Management, and the CSU Extension Service.

Total Project Cost - $43,179
Matching Grant Funds - $12,000
Match Contribution - $31,179

PROJECT SCOPE

The Eagle County Conservation District's (ECCD) 2011 Noxious Weed Cost Share program was designed to assist and incentivize landowners in the effort to control noxious weeds in Eagle County.

Canadian Thistle again, accounted for the most problematic weed treated at 37% with Scotch, Plumeless and Musk Thistles combining for nearly 27% of weeds treated. White top and Houndstongue each accounted for 13% of weeds treated and Leafy Spurge, Oxeye Daisy, Bindweed and other B and C list species made up the other 10%. Chemical treatment was the most common method used with most landowners preferring to spend the extra time/labor to spot spray versus broadcast entire fields. Pulling, mowing and grazing were also were also used.

Our valuable partners, the staff at the Glenwood NRCS office and the Garfield-Pitkin weed interns, made several inspections in the further reaches of our district. The Eagle County Integrated Pest Management Director was also available and eager to provide advice to landowners.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Flagler Conservation District Rangeland Management

New Fence & Living Snowfence

ACHIEVEMENTS

10 A total of 10 applications were accepted for matching grants.

Installation of new tree plantings and restoration of existing living snow fences benefitted 840 acres.

All Flagler CD approved applications totaled a benefit to 1,940 acres.

Water projects installed included two tanks, one well, and two pipelines.

Total Project Cost - $39,623
Matching Grant Funds - $19,812
Match Contribution - $19,811

PROJECT SCOPE

The Flagler Conservation District program addressed several natural resource concerns: Tamarisk/Russian Olive removal in the riparian area of the Republican River and tributaries; rangeland health practices on expiring CRP land; and energy and renewable energy practices.

The actual projects included two living snow fences, two tanks, one well, and two pipelines.

Fliers, newspaper ads and the Flagler CD newsletter were all utilized for soliciting the landowners. The NRCS and Flagler CD office personnel and board members reviewed the projects and accepted or rejected them based on demonstrated need.

All projects met the NRCS technical standards and specifications and participants agreed to maintain their projects for up to 10 years.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

High Plains & Prairie Conservation District Rangeland Management

Before / After Noxious Weed Treatment

ACHIEVEMENTS

Two projects addressing noxious weeds benefitted 429 acres.

Six projects addressing rangeland health included: three solar pump installations benefitting 1,531 acres; one tank installation benefitting 960 acres; and two well systems benefitting 1,440 acres.

Total rangeland health benefits included 3,400 acres.

The conservation district surpassed their goal of two new landowners by signing contracts with four landowners who had not applied before.

Total Project Cost - $42,149
Matching Grant Funds - $16,826
Match Contribution - $25,323

PROJECT SCOPE

The High Plains and Prairie Conservation District projects addressed primary resource trends impacting conservation in the District's long range plan as follows: wind and water erosion; rangeland health; noxious weed control, wind farms and rail roads.

For all conservation practices installed, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff performed site visits to determine needs and feasibility for each practice and worked with each producer on the design. Technical standards and specifications for each practice were provided to producers so that the practices would be implemented correctly. NRCS staff checked and certified practices for proper installation.

Producers are responsible for all cost to maintain practices for at least 10 years. NRCS agreed to perform a status review within one year after the completion of the project to document maintenance for cost-shared practices.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Kiowa Conservation District Noxious Weed Control

Before / After Noxious Weed Treatment

ACHIEVEMENTS

A total of 565 acres were treated for noxious weeds: 204 for leafy spurge; 106 for diffuse knapweed; 56 for yellow toadflax; 86 of Canada thistle; 44 of musk thistle and 69 of common mullein.

A total of 11,547 feet of windbreaks/ shelterbelts were planted to control erosion and offer cover/habitat for wildlife. The windbreak plantings will protect 45 acres of land.

Total Project Cost - $74,006
Matching Grant Funds - $18,144
Match Contribution - $55,862

PROJECT SCOPE

The Kiowa Conservation District's main concern for 2011 addressed noxious weed control ("B" list species), critical area native seed plantings, and windbreaks through tree and shrub plantings. Landowners implemented weed control through combinations of biological, chemical and mechanical means. Noxious weed species included: leafy spurge, diffuse knapweed, yellow toadflax, Canada thistle, and common mullein. The district has seen a rise in soil erosion from wind and water and noxious weeds, due in part to overgrazing and vehicle activity on the land.

Approved applicants met with NRCS to establish a conservation plan, using NRCS technical standards and specifications. NRCS also provided technical assistance, and certification of completed projects. CSU Cooperative Extension and the Colorado Department of Agriculture provided technical assistance in contributing education materials and expertise.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Mancos Conservation District School to Farm Project

Students participating in the School to Farm Project

ACHIEVEMENTS

Four distinct programs were included in the School to Farm Project.

Farm Field Trips produced eight trips for 14 classes with 260 students attending.

Summer Camps were provided for three session, serving 37 2nd to 6th graders.

In-Class Famer Visits showcased the school gardens where a total of more than 2300 student class visits were logged.

After School Programs served 10 students who learned from local farmers how to cook local produce.

Total Project Cost - $24,743
Matching Grant Funds - $12,000
Match Contribution - $12,743

PROJECT SCOPE

The Mancos CD School to Farm Project (STFP) addressed local students' disconnection from the need and joys of farming due to the development of the globalized food market. STFP addressed this problem by engaging public K-12 school students in environmental education at local farms and in their own school gardens to create a better understanding of where food comes from and best agricultural practices.

Use of the school gardens were invaluable in this integral process of connecting students to their food sources. Farmers were brought in on a regular basis to teach students in the school gardens before and after the field trips, allowing students to study agricultural practices, watershed systems and local farming history in a more in-depth way.

Evaluations were given to students pre- and post-field trip experiences. Results show an increased understanding of agricultural practices, an interest to learn more about farming, and an openness to trying local fruits and vegetables, especially after harvesting this produce themselves.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Morgan Conservation District Soil Erosion

New Windbreak in Morgan

ACHIEVEMENTS

24 A total of 24 landowners participated in this program. This exceeded Morgan CD's original goal by 140%.

Morgan County roads will eventually be protected by 14,000 feet of windbreaks, once these mature.

The windbreaks will be monitored for growth and survival rate, which will indicate the effectiveness of the windbreak. If there is a large mortality rate, the district will encourage landowners to replant the trees that have perished.

Approximately 303 tons of soil will be saved through this project.

Total Project Cost - $35,720
Matching Grant Funds - $17,860
Match Contribution - $17,860

PROJECT SCOPE

The top natural resource problem for the Morgan Conservation District was soil erosion. Other conservation practices that were addressed because of this project were: wildlife habitat in which game birds, such as pheasant, turkey and quail will benefit with winter cover, nesting areas and brood rearing habitat from these windbreaks.

More than 1,000 letters were sent to small acreage landowners informing them of this opportunity. As landowners came into the office to apply for this cost-share grant they talked with the NRCS Soil Conservationists about what trees were appropriate for their soil type.

Each partner, or small acreage landowner, purchased seedling trees, weed barrier and fabric staples. A few of the landowners purchased fertilizer tablets, polymer and watering systems for their windbreaks as well.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Olney-Boone Conservation District CRP Projects

New Well Drilled & Fence Installed

ACHIEVEMENTS

A total of 13,588 feet of fencing was built.

A total of 19,188 stock water pipeline was installed and two wells were drilled and put to work.

Consequently, an estimated 175,000 tons of soil will be prevented from blowing by retaining native grasses on these deep Aeolian sandy soils.

The board will continue to monitor these projects, as relationships with the landowners have been established.

Total Project Cost - $59,375
Matching Grant Funds - $29,666
Match Contribution - $29,709

PROJECT SCOPE

The goal of the Olney-Boone Conservation project was to prevent soil erosion from wind on CRP land once the contracts have expired. The main objective of this project was to provide assistance to producers in the construction of water sources for wildlife and livestock along with the construction of fences to keep the land in grazed range instead of being farmed.

The only way to stop isolated fields from being plowed is to have them in condition to accept grazing without delay after the CRP contract is terminated. To graze fields, controlling the animals with fencing water is a must.

Active partners included private landowners, Olney-Boone Conservation District, NRCS, and the Colorado Department of Wildlife. NRCS was instrumental in the feasibility of the projects in addition to the design and construction of each project. They also were involved in verifying that the projects were completed to the technical standards and regulations established by the NRCS. DOW was influential in providing recommendations on fencing that was conducive to wildlife sustainability.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Prowers Conservation District Rangeland Management

Pump & Well Upgrades

ACHIEVEMENTS

Approximately 5,120 acres of CRP ground were protected by fencing, used for grazing, thus keeping soil erosion to a minimum.

The water tank and windmill impacted 1,280 acres .

Landowners averaged 90% hard cash match and 10% in-kind.

NRCS donated approximately 15 hours for cultural resources and project visual documentation.

Total Project Cost - $59,297
Matching Grant Funds - $25,000
Match Contribution - $34,297

PROJECT SCOPE

The natural resource issues facing the Prowers Conservation District is with expiring CRP contracts that maybe being plowed out for cropping. This would result in increased soil erosion that causes loss of fertile topsoil and blowing dirt. The other concern is not enough water being accessible to landowners because of either a wind-mill that is not in working order or a water tank that is not in good condition.

The District's primary criterion was that the producer had to build a mile of fence by NRCS technical standards and specifications. The District awarded grants to the producers who qualified and prioritized awards to those that had CRP acreages and never had a grant before, then to other producers that had applied. The District chose 8-fence projects, one application for a windmill and one application for a water tank. Most landowners wanted more than a mile of fence but the District felt it was better to fund more contracts than fewer larger contracts.

The District priority is to keep CRP land in grass rather than plowing it out as contracts expire.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

San Juan
Conservation District
Conservation Helping Hands

Forest Thinning Before / After

ACHIEVEMENTS

Approximately 40 landowners attended the Backyard Conservation Workshop.

Irrigation and water control structures improved irrigation efficiency from 15% to 70% over 275 acres, depending on the project.

One landowner installed an erosion blanket and rip-rap to stabilize a shoreline for a wetlands area. This improved the riparian vegetation by 70% along the shoreline as well as decreasing the sediment load in the lake.

Two landowners performed forest thinning on 14.4 acres by thinning the trees from 300 to 150 stems per acre which improved the overall health of the forest.

Total Project Cost - $66,560
Matching Grant Funds - $30,000
Match Contribution - $36,560

PROJECT SCOPE

The San Juan Conservation District implemented the "Conservation Helping Hand" program in February, 2007. This was the fifth year offering the program. The program was designed to educate landowners about the importance of conservation on small acreage lots through a Backyard Conservation Workshop held in September at the CSU Extension Service. The workshop focused on biological weed control, forest management, identifying and bringing birds to the area, and water erosion and control. These resource concerns were chosen based on those that were identified through a local public process and were part of the District's Long Range Plan.

Funded projects consisted of: two water control structures, irrigation pipelines, K-line, an irrigation check gate, erosion control for a wetland, and forest thinning. NRCS contributed labor for the implementation and design of the individual projects, materials, and mileage/vehicle expenses.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River Conservation District Rangeland, Animal, & Plant Health

New Fiberglass Tank

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Landowners replaced four stock tanks with fiberglass ones; and refurbished one steel rim tank with a concrete liner.
- Two solar pumps were installed.
- More than two miles of water lines were put in.
- A total of 9.5 miles of barbed wire fence were installed.
- Project improvements affected 6,055 acres.
- Total Project Cost - $86,240
  Matching Grant Funds - $30,000
  Match Contribution - $56,240

PROJECT SCOPE

The Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire River Conservation District's (SP-PRCD) Landowner Cost-Share Program addressed rangeland health, domestic and wildlife animal health, plant health, and plant diversity. Grazing distribution was also addressed through new fencing projects. As a whole, all of the conservation practices implemented through this program will lead to increased agriculture sustainability within the district.

Fencing and water projects are improving the rangeland health by implementing more uniform grazing patterns, which in turn improves plant health and increases plant diversity. Installing water lines, replacing old tanks and making improvements to existing tanks improves the health of livestock and wildlife by providing sources of clean water.

The benefits to wildlife through this program were; increased rangeland health, increased plant diversity and increased accessibility to clean water sources. Wildlife species most affected were; elk, mule deer, antelope, coyotes, bear, fox, and many species of short-grass prairie birds.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Washington County Conservation District Small Acreage Programs

New Windbreak

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Twenty-nine landowners attended the Small Acreage Workshop.
- Approximately 6,798 feet of windbreak planted on nearly three acres of land.
- An estimated 14-16 tons of topsoil saved from erosion.
- Homeowners estimated a 10-40% decrease in home energy costs from the windbreaks due to added protection from the elements.
- Property values may increase due to added sheltering from trees.
- Total Project Cost - $12,763
  Matching Grant Funds - $6,332
  Match Contribution - $6,431

PROJECT SCOPE

Soil erosion is a top priority for the Washington County Conservation District (WCCD). While Washington County is not seeing a great influx of population, the number of small acreage landowners is increasing. The district saw a need to educate these landowners about basic conservation principles by holding an educational workshop.

Landowners worked with the district to develop conservation plans on their properties. Technical assistance was given by the District Conservation Technician as well as NRCS staff. All project plans met NRCS technical specifications. Windbreaks were again the top priority and assistance was also offered for range planting. The CSCB matching grants of the last two years have taken our district in a new direction and has helped the district board to define a new role in our mission by reaching out to a new population of the community.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

West Greeley
Conservation District
Big Thompson River Restoration

Before / After Russian Olive & Tamarisk Removal

ACHIEVEMENTS

Approximately 80 acres of Russian Olive and Tamarisk trees were removed from 576 riparian pasture acres.

Water quality on the Big Thompson River improved resulting in better wildlife habitat.

Landowner education about benefits of removing invasive species such as Russian Olive and Tamarisk through the District's newsletter.

Participating lands will be monitored post-removal to identify any re-growth and pursue follow-up weed control actions.

Total Project Cost - $97,401
Matching Grant Funds - $27,584
Match Contribution - $69,817

PROJECT SCOPE

This project addressed water quality, water quantity, noxious weed management, land use management, and wildlife habitat, all resource concerns identified in the 2010 Upper South Platte Watershed Input Forums. Activities included removing Russian Olive and Tamarisk, and restoring wildlife habitat which improved water quality and riparian zones.

The West Greeley Conservation District (WGCD) in partnership with Weld County Weed Division (WCWD), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), and Colorado Division of Wildlife removed invasive species trees along the Big Thompson River from the Weld County line to the confluence of the South Platte River through a landowner cost-share program.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

West Otero-Timpas Conservation District Timpas Creek Riparian Restoration

Timpas Creek After Aerial Spraying & Dead Tamarisk Removal

ACHIEVEMENTS

Seventy-one acres were treated by cost effective aerial application.

This project has been ongoing since 2007 with approximately 281 acres treated, 75 acres in 2011.

Four acres were part of a demonstration re-vegetation site.

Active partners included private landowners, the NRCS, West Otero-Timpas CD, CO State Forest Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Monitoring and maintenance of previously treated sites will be conducted by landowners, with technical assistance by project partners.

Total Project Cost - $27,950
Matching Grant Funds - $13,596
Match Contribution - $14,354

PROJECT SCOPE

The goal of the Timpas Creek Riparian Restoration Project is to move the drainage towards a more ecologically functioning xeric riparian system by promoting native plants. The main objective for this project is the control of the invasive plant species, tamarisk, which has been invading the drainage for the past 50 years.

Landowners within the drainage area showed interest in controlling these invasive plants, and in 2007 the project was initiated by controlling tamarisk along 15 miles of the drainage near Timpas, CO. More than 150 acres of tamarisk were treated in 2007 and 2008.

Aerial sprayed tamarisk will be checked in mid-summer of 2012 to assess re-growth, if any.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

White River Conservation District Beetle Kill Timber Study

Beetle-kill timber, waiting to be measured for extended viability as construction/decorative wood.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The objective of this study was to determine the recovery rate of useable cut stock processed from lodgepole pine timber killed by mountain pine beetle.

The White River Conservation District, along with partners CSU, CSFS, and the University of Georgia, will work to make the industry and the government aware of the results and encourage industry to harvest the beetle killed timber.

Total Project Cost - $10,210
Matching Grant Funds - $5,000
Match Contribution - $5,210

PROJECT SCOPE

The White River Conservation District wanted to address forest health concerns based on the four million acres of bark beetle killed timber in Colorado. The District's Board believed that standing dead timber may have value for a longer period of time after being killed than was currently assessed. The Board initiated a research study to determine if Colorado beetle killed timber could be utilized for products that would create a demand for the standing dead trees five to ten years after demise.

The District worked with CSU and CO State Forest Service (CSFS) to develop the criteria for the research. Trees were harvested near the Wyoming state line to include a variety of ages, and delivered to a saw mill in Ft. Collins where a CSU researcher began managing the project.

Due to the on-going nature of this study, at this time, there are no definitive results.

2011

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Yuma County Conservation Rangeland Conditions

Projects helped cover 91 acres in windbreaks

ACHIEVEMENTS

Three solar pumps were installed to enhance grazing affecting 1,700 acres.

Three livestock wells installed provided better distribution of grazing on 4,500 acres.

One pipeline provided water on 1,800 acres.

Three livestock tanks were installed to enhance 1,400 acres of rangeland.

Seven installed windbreaks served 91 acres for livestock and homestead.

Total Project Cost - $76,612
Matching Grant Funds - $34,481
Match Contribution - $42,131

PROJECT SCOPE

The Yuma County Conservation District had two natural resource priorities: enhance native rangeland conditions for grazing; and provide protection for livestock, wildlife, homesteads, and roads through windbreak trees.

Practices applied for included livestock solar pump, livestock well, livestock pipeline, livestock tank, and windbreaks for livestock and homesteads. One living snow fence was installed in cooperation with Yuma County Road and Bridge.

All practices met NRCS technical standards and specifications.

No CRP lands were treated as all CRP lands were re-enrolled into the CRP program.

2011