

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



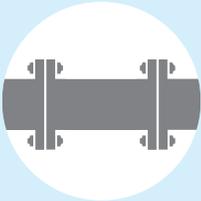
Mechanical
Methods



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

ACHIEVEMENTS



Two living snow fences provided protection on 4,259 feet on a county road for public safety from drifting snow and wind erosion.



Three windbreaks installed protected 2,943 feet and 50 acres.



Five solar pumps, two livestock tanks and two livestock wells, along with 7,840 feet of pipeline benefited 1,920 acres, improving rangeland management, especially providing relief on the drought conditions in the district.



Noxious weed treatment for Canada thistle benefited 320 acres.



Total acres benefited were 2,950 and 10.9 tons of soil erosion savings.



Total Project Cost - \$75,802
Matching Grant Funds - \$25,000
Match Contribution - \$50,802



Old Pump



New Solar Pump

PROJECT SCOPE

The Agate Conservation District provided cost share assistance to landowners on 14 projects in the region. Projects included: three windbreaks; two living snow fences; fencing around the windbreaks and snow fences for protection from livestock damage; five solar pumping systems; two livestock tanks and two livestock wells; and nearly a mile and a half of pipeline.

Landowners were contacted by public announcements, letters and applications mailed to all cooperators. The application was also posted on the website, and word was spread with one-on-one contact through NRCS district staff and board members. Of the original 27 applications, 14 projects were approved and completed. No project was funded for more than 50% of the total cost, and many projects were funded for much less than 50%. Landowners provided a 67% match for the conservation practices installed.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Bent Conservation District Fire Fence Restoration

ACHIEVEMENTS



McCloy Ranch had 41,180 linear feet of fencing to replace. They received a grant for \$4,500, and contributed \$17,089 in materials and labor.



Davidson Ranch had 7,445 linear feet of fencing to replace. They received a grant for \$4,500, and contributed \$7,654 in materials and labor.



J Bar S Farms had 10,000 linear feet of fencing to replace. They received a grant for \$1,720 and contributed \$10,191 in materials and labor.



Total Project Cost - \$44,094
Matching Grant Funds - \$11,440
Match Contribution - \$32,654



Before: Burned Fence & Ground



After

PROJECT SCOPE

The goal of the grant was to help repair/replace fencing that had been damaged/destroyed by a large rangeland fire in the spring of 2011. After speaking with the fire department and mapping the fire area, it was determined that three individual producers were affected by the fire in the Bent Conservation District. Restoring fencing destroyed by the fire was vital to the enhanced recovery of native rangeland, and the ongoing effects of drought on grazing lands.

All three projects were completed in a timely fashion, and complied with the technical specifications set forth by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Branson-Trinchera Conservation District Rangeland Management

ACHIEVEMENTS



Landowners installed 4.7 miles of barbed wire fence to replace fences that were old and in poor condition.



Two solar pumps were installed to replace windmills that either were not working or were not reliable.



More than 350 feet of water line was installed to enhance a clean water supply.



Overall benefits included improved rangeland health, increased plant diversity, and increased accessibility to clean water sources for both livestock and wildlife.



Total Project Cost - \$50,832
Matching Grant Funds - \$23,387
Match Contribution - \$27,445



New Solar Pump

PROJECT SCOPE

The Branson-Trinchera Conservation District implemented a range of conservation activities designed to enhance agricultural sustainability throughout the district with such projects as new fencing, which enabled landowners to improve grazing distribution practices, new solar pumps that replaced non-working windmills, and replacing float chambers that leaked and created mud holes from loss of water.

NRCS helped to compile necessary maps to complete the sign-up and establish the criteria to be met for the projects. Overall, 92% of the landowners who received the awards successfully completed their projects on time and according to NRCS technical standards.

The district was able to assist 11 landowners in completing improvement projects on 6,301 acres of rangeland and wildlife habitats.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Burlington Conservation District Rangeland Management

ACHIEVEMENTS



The joint project included the District, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Colorado State Forest Service, the Division of Wildlife, and Pheasants Forever. The NRCS and CSU Extension Service provided technical support.



Earth Team Volunteers were also a part of this project.



All 12 windbreaks were completed.



Total Project Cost - \$56,003
Matching Grant Funds - \$23,000
Match Contribution - \$33,003



New Windbreaks

PROJECT SCOPE

The Burlington Conservation District implemented a cost share conservation practices project with landowners to assist with renovating existing windbreaks and planting new ones. This project was in response to declining windbreaks due to prolonged drought. Windbreaks provide a first line of defense against soil and water erosion. These new windbreaks included trees, mulch, and drip irrigation.

The District was only able to fund 12 of the 19 applications received and all 12 were awarded by May and completed by the end of August. The results were that 27 acres of new and renovated windbreaks were established and one tank insulation was installed. The community also benefited from having more trees and decreased wind and soil erosion, and more opportunities to view wildlife. This directly addresses the district's Long-Range Plan of creating conservation activities that are locally led and directed.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Burlington Conservation District Healthy Soils Workshop

ACHIEVEMENTS



A total of 115 people attended the workshop, including 73 landowners and two FFA chapters.



The Burlington Conservation District recruited 14 enthusiastic partners, including the districts of Yuma, Flagler, Cheyenne Wells and Cope to help defray expenses.



The Soil and Water Conservation Society/Colorado Water contributed cash, as did 10 local agribusinesses.



In-kind match was provided by NRCS in labor and technical support.



Total Project Cost - \$4,757
Matching Grant Funds - \$2,000
Match Contribution - \$2,757



Soil Health Presentation

PROJECT SCOPE

The Burlington Conservation District held a day-long workshop to increase producers' understanding of how soils function to reduce their dependency on chemical fertilizers, pesticides and fuel.

Keynote speakers talked about growing cover crops and using grazing systems based on soil health to improve nutrient cycling and build organic matter.

The NRCS soil health team partnered with the District to present the Rainfall Simulator, demonstrating the effect of residue on soil erosion and water filtration.

The impact of the workshop was demonstrated the following day by the large volume of calls received by the NRCS office from producers wanting to know more about implementing some of the practices discussed at the workshop, including cover crops and rotational grazing practices.



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Center Conservation District Soil Health & Riparian Protection

ACHIEVEMENTS



The first project of cross-fencing allowed for the district to provide materials and equipment with the landowner's labor providing the match.



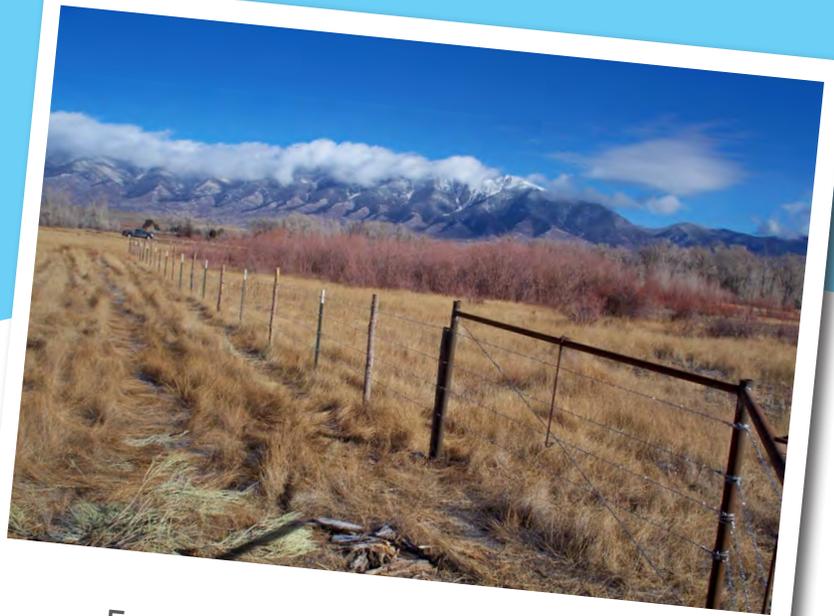
This was the first time that a rancher had tried this system with sheep. It was a learning experience, and she is receiving advice from various experts on when to graze and what type of forage works best.



The long-term goal in the riparian area is new growth, development, density and structural diversity of native plants that will benefit a wide array of Neotropical songbirds.



Total Project Cost - \$30,698
Matching Grant Funds - \$14,500
Match Contribution - \$16,198



Fencing Off The Riparian Area

PROJECT SCOPE

In 2012, the Center Conservation District changed the focus of its cost-share program from noxious weeds to soil health. The response from landowners was less than they had anticipated, but the two projects that were approved provided valuable information for both the landowners and the district.

The first project involved cross-fencing for grazing rotation, allowing for herds of sheep to be moved to fresh forage with the intent to maximize the quality and quantity of forage growth. Resting grazed lands allows the vegetation to renew energy reserves, rebuild shoot systems and deepen root systems, the result being long-term maximum biomass production.

The second project was for riparian fencing to keep cattle away from a creek and prevent erosion issues on the creek. The purpose was to protect 1.3 miles of riparian habitat along Kerber Creek and enhance 60 acres of adjacent riparian corridor to allow for the regeneration of several native tree and shrub species. This also included bank shaping and erosion control on the creek.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

DeBeque-Plateau Valley Conservation District Water Management

ACHIEVEMENTS



Irrigation control structures and systems helped deliver water to and facilitate management on approximately 450 acres in the Plateau Valley.



Erosion reduction was equal to 9.5 tons of soil saved.



There was approximately a 9.5% increase in irrigation efficiency on the 450 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 - \$39,729
Matching Grant Funds - \$14,500
Match Contribution - \$25,229



Kenshalow Hill Pipeline

PROJECT SCOPE

The DeBeque-Plateau Valley Conservation District helped to fund a project that addressed irrigation water management and control in the Plateau Valley. Irrigation structures were installed to facilitate proper control and use of water.

Three irrigation water control structures and six pipeline systems were installed. Two 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.

Structures were constructed and installed by contractors or landowners themselves. System installation and function were checked by certified NRCS staff.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Double E I
Conservation District
Noxious Weeds, Rangeland,
& PL566 Watershed Dam
Maintenance

ACHIEVEMENTS



Two landowners treated 45 acres for Canada Thistle, benefiting 227 acres total.



Six solar pumping systems helped provide water to assist with drought effects. A total of 7,940 acres and estimated 3.5 tons of soil erosion were saved.



Landowners provided more than 60% match for the projects. NRCS provided in-kind match in technical assistance, planning, design, vehicle use, office supplies and office equipment.



Five watershed dams were repaired meeting ongoing maintenance obligations and flood prevention.



Total Project Cost - \$67,063
Matching Grant Funds - \$25,000
Match Contribution - \$42,063



Tank Before

Tank After

PROJECT SCOPE

The Double E I Conservation District undertook some diverse cost-share programs in order to help its district with a number of different concerns. These included noxious weeds, wind erosion, rangeland management and PL566 watershed dam maintenance.

Awards were given to 14 landowners out of 21 funding requests. The timeliness of the funds were especially beneficial in the face of drought conditions in the area when landowners need water developments for grazing immediately.

Projects included treating acres for Canada Thistle/Knapweed; two fence projects for windbreak livestock exclusion; one well; one livestock tank; 2760 feet of pipeline; and five PL566 watershed dams repaired as part of ongoing maintenance obligations.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Douglas-Creek Conservation District Range Monitoring

ACHIEVEMENTS



This project had a number of partners who contributed cash and in-kind match. They included: BLM, USFS, the Grazing Advisory Board, the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.



30 attendees received the Colorado Rangeland Monitoring Guide and instruction where they learned the value of monitoring to improve their management and to keep accurate records for future needs.



The long-term goal is to be able to showcase the improvement in range health in the areas where it is needed.



Total Project Cost - \$15,656
Matching Grant Funds - \$7,600
Match Contribution - \$8,056

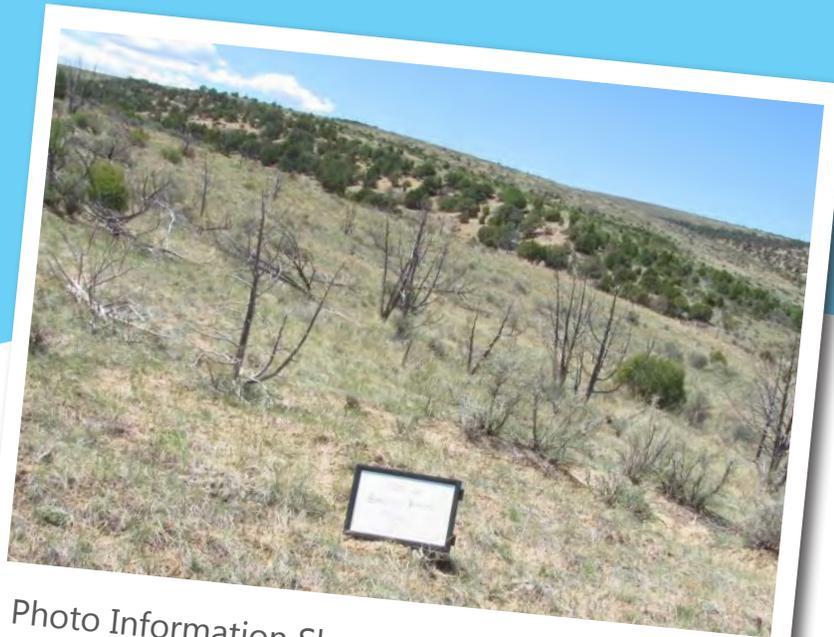


Photo Information Sheets for monitoring contain:
Unit Name , Pasture Name, Study Site, Observer, Date

PROJECT SCOPE

The Douglas Creek Conservation District co-hosted a workshop in 2011 with the White River CD on Range Monitoring, originally inspired by the Colorado Resource Monitoring Initiative Workshop. Ranchers wanted to begin monitoring their private and BLM leased lands to improve rangeland health. So Douglas Creek CD contracted with a retired BLM range specialist to help the five ranchers who signed up for the monitoring program.

The project involved monitoring BLM and private land where feral horses range. Range monitoring allows for photos to be taken at the same location several times a year to see if efforts to fence off certain areas are helping with range regeneration. Ranchers received an instruction guide and several hours of hands-on data collection to develop necessary technical skills. This year the project covered 150,000 acres, with future possibilities of expanding to 450,000 acres.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Eagle County
Conservation District
Noxious Weed Control

ACHIEVEMENTS



Several partners participated to make this project successful: the Glenwood NRCS staff; the Garfield-Pitkin County weed interns ; the Eagle County Integrated Pest Management director; the CSU Extension Service ; and the Eagle County Commissioners.



Most weeds were treated chemically treated.



Pulling, digging, and mowing were also employed to reduce seed reproduction.



Total Project Cost - \$26,664
Matching Grant Funds - \$6,848
Match Contribution - \$19,816



Canada Thistle In Eagle County

PROJECT SCOPE

The Eagle County Conservation District first announced the Noxious Weed program in December of 2011. Applications for the program became available in February of 2012, and 16 applications were initially received, with 15 approved.

The local altitude and climate make for a late, short growing season, generally from June to September, but the drought delayed the weed growth for nearly a month. The district provided herbicides for sale in the county from May to September to all eligible customers who had a cost share application.

The majority of the noxious weeds consisted of Canadian Thistle, Scotch, Plumeless and Musk Thistles, which comprised nearly two-thirds of the weeds. Chemical treatment was the most common method used, with most landowners preferring to spend the extra time and labor to spot spray versus broadcasting entire fields. Pulling, digging and mowing were also used.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

East Adams Conservation District Rangeland Management



ACHIEVEMENTS



The windbreak was 6,102 linear feet, impacting 160 acres and providing shelter for livestock while reducing soil erosion by 30%.



Three stock tanks affected 720 acres with better grazing distribution and more reliable water source.



Cross-fencing used 1,500 linear feet and affected 40 acres, improving forage quantity and quality and reducing soil erosion.



Three solar panels affected 807 acres, providing reliable well water for livestock.



1,040 linear feet of water pipeline impacted 80 acres.



Total Project Cost - \$41,570
Matching Grant Funds - \$19,993
Match Contribution - \$21,577

PROJECT SCOPE

The East Adams proposed projects were to preserve and protect our natural resources through proper land management practices including.

Seventeen projects approved by the District included windbreaks, stock tanks, cross fencing, solar panels and water pipeline to improve rangeland health and enhance wildlife habitat.

A surprise benefit was that due to weather conditions, some projects could not be completed, so three districts combined their talents and expertise to create a "riparian trailer" to travel a 60-mile radius and educate school-age students on the importance of conservation. The trailer is shared by the Deer Trail, East Adams and West Arapahoe Districts. As a result, approximately 3,000 students were anticipated to receive riparian education in the first year.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Gunnison Conservation District Noxious Weed Reduction

ACHIEVEMENTS



Approximately 429 acres of noxious weeds were treated by landowners in the Upper East River watershed. Weeds treated after the August rain were completely wiped out.



The Natural Resources Conservation Service provided technical support and evaluation.



Some of the grant funds were used to purchase educational materials for landowners (weed identification booklets) that can help to reach a much broader audience.



Landowners were very happy with the program and openly thanked the District for its efforts.



Total Project Cost - \$22,234
Matching Grant Funds - \$11,115
Match Contribution - \$11,119



Scentless Chamomile

PROJECT SCOPE

Scentless Chamomile is a Colorado State List B Noxious Species and is one of the most abundant noxious weeds in the Gunnison Conservation District. Most of the infestations occur in subdivisions and other small acreage land parcels in the Upper East River watershed. Land ownership is fragmented, so there has been little cooperative effort to control this weed as well as Yellow Toadflax, Oxeye Daisy and Houndstongue. The matching grant provided a great incentive for landowners to treat their infestations.

Twenty-two properties enrolled in the program, including six private landowners, five HOAs, and one land trust. Those properties covered 6,555 acres. All chemical application was planned to meet NRCS technical standards and specifications. Each landowner was responsible for proper practice implementation through chemical treatment.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Kiowa Conservation District Noxious Weed Control

ACHIEVEMENTS



A total of 748 acres were cleared of noxious weeds.



Landowners planted 23 acres in native grass to help protect against soil erosion.



A total of 2.76 miles of windbreaks and shelterbelts were planted to control erosion and provide wildlife habitat, which affected more than 50 acres.



District partners included the NRCS, Colorado State University Extension, and the Colorado Department of Agriculture



Total Project Cost - \$70,412
Matching Grant Funds - \$20,000
Match Contribution - \$50,412



Before / After Weed Treatment

PROJECT SCOPE

The main concern of the Kiowa Conservation District was noxious weed control in the face of severe drought conditions. The object of the project was to clear B List species of weeds and replace with native seed and tree and shrub plantings.

Noxious species treated were mostly Leafy Spurge, Diffuse Knapweed, Yellow Toadflax, Canadian Thistle, Musk Thistle, and Common Mullein.

Nineteen landowners qualified for the cost-share program. Landowners used biological, chemical and mechanical means to eliminate the weeds. The NRCS followed up with the landowners at the end of the season to certify the completed projects.

The weed removal and replanting of more beneficial plants affected nearly 1330 acres.

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Mancos Conservation District School to Farm Project

ACHIEVEMENTS



The School to Farm project produced field trips for 31 classes, serving 530 students in total. Thirty-one teachers and more than 20 farmers also participated.



Summer camps included an 11-week program for 5-10 year olds on a "Seed to Table" curriculum for 50 children.



Forty-five middle and high school students participated in the "Farm, Food and Fitness Camps" offered by the City of Cortez.



The student gardens produced more than 600 pounds of produce that was utilized by the cafeterias for school lunches. Food Service directors also began purchasing from local growers.



Total Project Cost - \$50,000
Matching Grant Funds - \$25,000
Match Contribution - \$25,000



Montezuma School to Farm Kids' Garden

PROJECT SCOPE

The Mancos Conservation District participated in an innovative School to Farm project, involving 1st to 8th grade students in Cortez, Dolores and Mancos. The project addressed the local students' disconnection from farming by engaging the students in environmental education at local farms and in their own school gardens to create a better understanding of where food comes from and how to best agricultural practices. Students took field trips to local farms and benefited from the local farmers coming to the schools to help the students plant and create their own gardens. More than 5400 student hours were logged in at the school gardens for 2012, which was double the hours for 2011.

The city of Cortez Recreation Center received a Columbine Award for Innovation in Programming for their Farm, Food and Fitness Camps offered to middle and high school students. This result was a request for an advanced level camp for 2013.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Morgan Conservation District CRP Perimeter Fencing

ACHIEVEMENTS



A total of 54,936 feet or 11-plus miles of fence was installed.



The installed fence protected 1,037 acres of CPR ground.



An estimated 9,600 tons of soil were protected from wind and water erosion.



The district worked in partnership with the NRCS and the FSA in order to get the project up and running and to follow through on the five-year agreements with the landowners.



Total Project Cost - \$61,397
Matching Grant Funds - \$25,000
Match Contribution - \$36,397



CRP fence with 12 1/2 gauge barbed wire strung 18-48" high and 20 feet apart between posts.

PROJECT SCOPE

The Morgan Conservation District took part in the CRP Perimeter Fencing project to help protect land and water erosion since local landowners would not be converting CRP land to crop land. By keeping the acreages in native grass, the district estimates that it saved 9,600 tons of soil from eroding by wind and water.

All landowners in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) were notified by mail and eventually eight landowners participated in the project. The perimeter fencing had to be able to hold livestock, and the NRCS Range Conservationist was instrumental in helping the landowners establish adequate fencing. Due to extreme drought conditions, the landowners had to sign an agreement to leave the land in reserve for five years. During that time the Farm Services Agency will do yearly spot checks to make sure landowners hold to the agreement.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Northeast Prowers Conservation District Rangeland Management

ACHIEVEMENTS



Nearly three miles (15,602 feet) of fencing was constructed in support of rotational grazing.



Three new stock tanks were installed, three stock tanks were repaired, and one float chamber was installed.



One livestock well was drilled, one solar pump installed and heavy use protection was placed around one of the stock tanks.



With the additional improvements of fencing and water supply, the district expected a 25% increase in range health quality, allowing producers to keep more of their herds intact.



Total Project Cost - \$44,993
Matching Grant Funds - \$21,596
Match Contribution - \$23,397



Before / After Cross-fencing

PROJECT SCOPE

The Northeast Prowers Conservation District is 41% rangeland. The region is susceptible to drought, and history shows that rotational grazing systems provide the most resilience against drought conditions. However, this system requires investment in infrastructure, which this grant helped address.

Each of the 10 producers who received the grant money met with district staff with their plans for implementation of grazing land improvement projects. The 10 projects covered cross fencing, well drilling, heavy use protection, water tank replacement and tank repair.

Producers were able to improve the ability to manage their rangeland resources, through infrastructure and supportive practice development. In addition, they improved their forage reserve through development of grazing opportunities, which helped their animals maintain body condition during extreme weather situations.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Olney Boone Conservation District Rangeland Preparation for CRP Land

ACHIEVEMENTS



There were 40,868 feet of fencing and one tire tank installed.



This impacted 11 landowners and approximately 4,000 acres. Grass growth was stimulated and mineral cycles were encouraged.



Preventing an estimated 140,000 tons of soil erosion by retaining native grasses on these lands.



NRCS was instrumental in the feasibility of the projects in addition to the design and construction of each project.



The Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife gave input on wildlife needs for the area.



Total Project Cost - \$64,559
Matching Grant Funds - \$24,993
Match Contribution - \$39,566



Fighting erosion with good grazing land.

PROJECT SCOPE

The Olney Boone Conservation District is located in a dry, sandy part of Colorado. Historically 50,000 acres of the district was farmed in non-irrigated Pinto Beans, Milo and Forage Sorghum. The yields from these crops were marginal and wind erosion rates exceeded 40 tons per acre per event. 42,000 of these acres were signed up into CRP and the resulting grass cover stopped the massive erosion problem. This is an ongoing project that has the main objective 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 board's idea was to make CRP ground ready for livestock grazing now before the CRP contracts expire. The board used the matching grant money to construct fences, water systems, wells and solar pumps in wells on existing CRP ground before the land has to chance to be put under the plow. Eleven landowners participated in the project and were happy with the results.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Prowers Conservation District Pond Study

ACHIEVEMENTS

As this is a two-year study, the actual goals will not be met until the conclusion in 2014. However, there are some projections:



Possibly save augmentation water up to 17 acre-feet per sprinkler and potential cost savings of up to \$3000 per sprinkler.



Every surface-irrigated acre of the Lower Arkansas Valley could be impacted.



The study will establish the correct number for water loss of the pond model for the "Efficiency Rules," and hopefully lead to lessening of water augmentation.



Total Project Cost - \$3,000
Matching Grant Funds - \$1,500
Match Contribution - \$1,500



One Of The Ponds In The Study

PROJECT SCOPE

Prowers Conservation District is involved in a two-year study of leakage of 20 ponds supplied by surface water rights from water short canals on the Arkansas River. The inflow and out flow of the ponds and rain is electronically measured and the evaporation is subtracted to give an onsite loss number. The study was a court-approved settlement to determine pond loss, for current and future ponds, for the Irrigation System Analysis Model (ISAM) that supply sprinklers of surface water rights to determine the amount of augmentation needed because of increased irrigation efficiencies.

The outcome of the study will be heard in Colorado Water Court, and possibly the State Supreme Court under the "Efficiency Rules" regarding sprinklers supplied by surface water rights. The decision will greatly affect the future of irrigated agriculture in the Arkansas Valley.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Prowers Conservation District Water Quality / Sand Traps

ACHIEVEMENTS



Approximately \$30,000 will be saved in labor for sand removal.



An additional savings of \$40/acre foot due to less water loss and 12 to 18 hours of irrigation time will be saved annually per 160 acres of flood ground.



Thirty farms in the area benefit from less sand in the sprinkler system and pipelines.



The district will use the project to promote the use of sand traps on private lands.



Total Project Cost - \$10,404
Matching Grant Funds - \$4,385
Match Contribution - \$6,019



Finished sand trap

PROJECT SCOPE

The Prowers Conservation District has established that its first priority is water quality and quantity. In keeping with that goal, they installed two lateral sand traps to prevent sand sediment in the irrigation water from damaging pipelines and sprinkler systems along the canal.

The Fort Lyon Canal Company was used as the contractor to ensure the structures did not interfere with the operation of those canals. The sand traps were built to NRCS technical specifications. Both the Columbine Lateral and Clover Meadow Lateral committed the space for the sand traps, as well as a donation to cover any costs the district would incur.

This was a team effort, with hours donated by the board president, the district manager, the NRCS and the canal company. The project keeps 9,000 to 15,000 yards of sand from entering the ditch laterals.

CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Rio Grande Conservation District Education Initiative



ACHIEVEMENTS



Water Fest included 13 schools, 787 students and 42 community leaders.

90

Ninety teachers attended the Teachers' workshop and training.



The Small Acreage Landowner Expo had 494 attendees from 6 counties.



A Producer Forum about conservation best practices held three conservation tour events, each attended by 40-60 agriculture producers.



Eleven FFA chapters (350 members) attended soil management classes.



Total Project Cost - \$71,300
Matching Grant Funds - \$24,000
Match Contribution - \$47,300

PROJECT SCOPE

The Rio Grande Conservation District decided to fund a Conservation Education Specialist position, hired by Rio Grande River Watershed and utilized by the five conservation districts in the San Luis Valley. The Specialist implements a wide range of hands-on education events and activities designed to engage a variety of stakeholders involved in integrated water, soil and resource management. This includes engaging teachers in agricultural production called "Watershed to Table;" getting students from the schools onto the farms for a look at agriculture in action; training FFA chapters in field soil and range management; hosting a water festival for 3rd and 4th grade students in the upper Rio Grande Basin; and hosting a Small Acreage Landowners Expo. Three and six month follow-up for the Teachers' Workshop, Water Fest and FFA events were carried out, demonstrating 60-80% understanding of the conservation principles taught at these events.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

San Juan Conservation District Forest Management / Land Management

ACHIEVEMENTS



Three landowners installed irrigation pipeline to improve their water efficiency from 35% to 55% over 20 acres.



One landowner performed land leveling and reseeded to improve irrigation, and increased efficiency from 35% to 70% over 10 acres.



Cross-fencing helped establish a grazing rotation plan affecting 24 acres.



One landowner installed an erosion control dam and a sediment pond.



Total Project Cost - \$61,715
Matching Grant Funds - \$25,000
Match Contribution - \$36,715



Forest Property Before / After

PROJECT SCOPE

The San Juan Conservation District began offering the “Conservation Helping Hand” in 2007, and due to its popularity, has continued to offer it every year. This year the program was the Fall Forest Forum, and focused mostly on forest management. It was attended by more than 50 people. Participants toured a local biomass project site and learned about chainsaw safety and how to fell a tree.

There were 12 projects that qualified for assistance, four of those being forest thinning projects. The thinning occurred on 20 acres, taking the trees from 300 stems per acre to 150, which improved the overall health of the forest.

Other projects included rangeland improvement by increasing the residue left on the soil after grazing from nothing to 400 pounds per acre. Plant diversity increased by 40%, and usable biomass increased from 200 lbs/acre to 500 lbs/acre.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Spanish Peaks
Conservation District Animal,
Rangeland, and Plant Health

ACHIEVEMENTS

13

A total of 13 landowners benefited from the funds for these projects.



Partners included NRCS, the district manager and a district technician in helping to establish the parameters for the projects.



More than 1.6 miles of water line were installed, along with several new tire tanks and repairs to leaking storage tanks.



7.44 miles of barbed wire fence was installed to replace fences that were old and in poor condition, establishing more uniform grazing, which in turn, improves plant health and diversity.



Total Project Cost - \$83,016
Matching Grant Funds - \$25,000
Match Contribution - \$53,016



2/13 Projects Constructed With This Grant:
New Fence & Repaired Storage Tanks

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. Overall, the program led to increased agricultural sustainability within the district.

The SP-PRCD contributed another 25% in District funds to the grant in order to better serve local landowners. This allowed work to be done on rangeland and wildlife habitat totaling 20,917 acres. A good portion of the improvements went to water lines and tanks, providing fresh, clean water not only for livestock, but for wildlife species including: elk, mule deer, antelope, coyotes, bear, fox and many species of short-grass prairie birds.

New fencing also provided rotational grazing, resulting in improved rangeland health.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

White River Conservation District Rangeland Health

ACHIEVEMENTS



With the addition of these water sources on the range, approximately 8960 acres benefited.



Countless man-hours and money was saved in not having to haul supplemental water to livestock.



These new reliable water sources ensure clean drinking water and reduce the impacts to naturally occurring seeps, springs and riparian areas.



NRCS donated their expertise by helping the landowners determine the quantity and placement of the tanks. This was extremely helpful in this severe drought year.



Total Project Cost - \$11,650
Matching Grant Funds - \$5,313
Match Contribution - \$6,337



Tire tank in place and functional

PROJECT SCOPE

The White River Conservation District addressed several natural resource concerns with their tire tank project. By providing additional watering facilities within existing pastures, landowners can better distribute livestock on the range and more efficiently utilize available forage. This applies to livestock and to local wildlife, minimizing grazing around limited water supplies.

The addition of one stock tank can effectively supply the watering needs of livestock over a one-square-mile area. Tires were generally donated from local coal mines and the district paid for shipping and cutting of the tires. A total of 14 tires were cut and used for this project. This will allow landowners in the next year to modify their existing grazing systems to utilize the new tank locations.

A total of five landowners participated in the program, but it generated so much public interest that an additional 15 tire tanks were sold without the matching grant funds.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Yuma
Conservation District
Water & Energy Conservation

ACHIEVEMENTS



740.5 acres of irrigated ground were treated under this program.



On average, 0.65 inches less water was applied on these acres than in the past for a cumulative average water savings of 64.343 acre feet.



Energy consumption dropped as well for a total average of 3,860 KWH.



Total Project Cost - \$83,709
Matching Grant Funds - \$10,000
Match Contribution - \$73,709



New Irrigation Panel

PROJECT SCOPE

The Yuma Conservation District has been involved since the late 2000s with upgrading water and energy controls on center pivots used for irrigating large tracts of land.

A number of older panel models were ready for replacement. There were also new options for farmers to be able to access the new units through their home computers or their smart phones. This would allow remote adjustments, based on weather conditions and energy requirements.

Five producers signed up for the program, although another 12 expressed interest after the registration period had closed. Pictures of the panels were taken before and after installation, and training was given to those producers who had not had an irrigation panel before. Challenges occurred due to weather and the growing season, but there were still water and energy savings that were realized by producers.

2012



CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

Yuma County Conservation District Rangeland Management

ACHIEVEMENTS



Four solar pumps and panels protected and enhanced grazing on 3,440 acres of rangeland.



One livestock pipeline provided water for livestock on 2,320 acres.



Livestock tanks enhanced 3,080 acres of rangeland.



Windbreaks protecting homesteads, livestock and wildlife enhanced 45 acres.



On 260 acres, 2.1 inches of water per acre was saved with irrigation water management.



Total Project Cost - \$61,269
Matching Grant Funds - \$25,000
Match Contribution - \$36,269



New Livestock Water Tank

PROJECT SCOPE

The Yuma County Conservation District chose to address three different natural resource priorities. They were: water and soil sustainability; plant management; and rangeland management. A total of 35 applications were received, some of which qualified for EQIP funding. Four were canceled by the producers. NRCS provided technical assistance for planning, design, installation and certification.

Projects included livestock fencing, wells, pipeline, tanks and windbreaks. No applications were received for crop cover, pertaining to soil health, but that was attributed to the drought conditions experienced in the district.

Overall, the projects helped enhance more than 14,000 acres through this program. All contracts provided the district with positive landowner contact. It is expected this goodwill will carry forward into upcoming years.

2012

