

# CSCB Matching Grants

## ICON LEGEND



Fencing /  
Snow Fence



Solar Pumps



Irrigation /  
Water Resources



Noxious Weeds



Living Snowfence  
/ Replanting



Plants /  
Seedlings



Wildlife Habitat



Wildlife Habitat



Agreements /  
Partnerships



Cropland



Education /  
Field trip



Education  
Workshops



Evaluation



Monitoring /  
Future Plans



Grazing /  
Rangeland



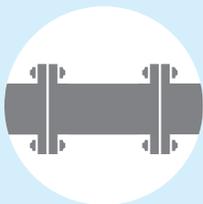
Weed Removal



BioControl



Soil



Gated Pipes /  
Water Lines



Landowners,  
Board Members



Sprayer



Acreage



Value Added



Project Cost

2013



# CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

## Douglas Creek Conservation District Range Monitoring Project

### ACHIEVEMENTS



Tim Canterbury conducted a two day training seminar on Range Monitoring. CDDC staff, landowners, and NRCS staff participated in this event.



Five landowners were visited. Monitoring was conducted on three ranches. One landowner used our contractor from last year, and another needed more time before beginning monitoring.



Monitoring this year covers approximately 150,000 acres, with potential new monitoring up to 450,000 acres.



The monitoring data will provide information about how to improve the management of overgrazed land. Long-term monitoring will indicate if the management is improving the range health.



Total Project Cost - \$9,142  
Matching Grant Funds - \$3,813  
Match Contribution - \$5,329



Tim Canterbury sets up a transect before taking photo points

### PROJECT SCOPE

The **Range Monitoring Project** developed out of the 2011 Colorado Resource Monitoring Initiative (CRMI) workshop hosted by both the Douglas Creek and White River Conservation District. Ranchers attending the workshop wanted to begin monitoring to improve their management of the range but felt they either didn't have the time or the expertise. The District saw an opportunity to help the landowners by teaching more about monitoring while setting up monitoring sites on the respective ranchers' BLM/USFS permits and private land.

The Douglas Creek Conservation District staff spent two days with Tim Canterbury (rancher who initiated range monitoring over 20 years ago and has worked with Cattleman's and CRMI to develop the above program), NRCS, and landowners to get trained on how to do range monitoring. The Districts promoted the program through newsletters, presentations and the Districts' annual meetings. In addition, many ranchers within the Piceance Basin and Douglas Creek area were contacted directly regarding this assistance.

2013



# CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

## Branson-Trinchera Conservation District Rangeland Management

### ACHIEVEMENTS



Projects increased plant diversity and improved vegetative health, while establishing more uniform grazing opportunities.



Nearly six miles of barbed wire fence was built.



460 feet of water line were installed, along with two tire tanks and one fiberglass tank.



Two ponds were cleaned out resulting in revived water sources.



Two solar pumps were installed.

The projects cover 16,250 acres.



Total Project Cost - \$83,724  
Matching Grant Funds - \$25,000  
Match Contribution - \$58,724



New wire fence in Branson-Trinchera

### PROJECT SCOPE

The Branson-Trinchera Conservation District participated in the Range Management Cost-Share Program to enhance agricultural sustainability for rangeland health, domestic and wildlife animal health, plant health and plant diversity. New fencing projects enabled landowners to improve grazing distribution practices, new solar pumps to replace windmills, new tanks to insure water sources were available for livestock and wildlife and ponds were cleaned out for the same effect.

District landowners possess larger rangeland tracts and are committed to conservation practices. Thirty-five applications were received for the program, which represented more than one-third of the landowners. Landowners were contacted by the district board and manager with letters and phone calls to encourage them to apply for the funds. The district was able to fund 17 projects.

2013



# CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

## Dolores Conservation District Rural Resource Handbook

### ACHIEVEMENTS



1500 booklets were produced for the community.



Colorado Parks and Wildlife paid for 500 of those booklets for distribution outside of Montezuma County.



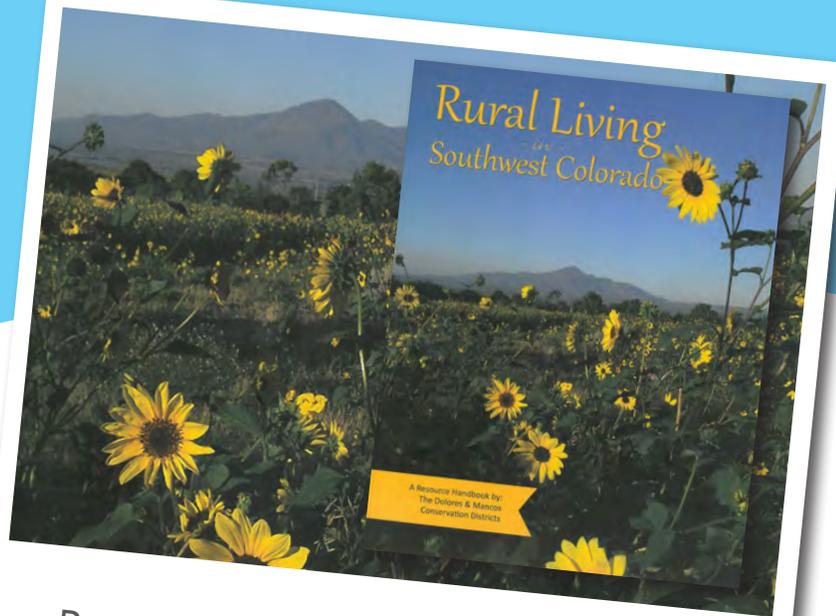
Additional distribution was carried out by acting partners Four Corners Ag Expo, Southwest Seed, Montezuma County Weed Board, NRCS, the Home and Garden Show and Montezuma County CSU Extension office.



A board member of a local elementary charter school suggested that the program be incorporated into their curriculum.



Total Project Cost - \$ 21,431  
Matching Grand Funds - \$ 4,750  
Match Contribution - \$ 16,681



Rural Living in Southwest Colorado

### PROJECT SCOPE

The Dolores Conservation District partnered with the Mancos Conservation District to produce the publication, "Rural Living in Southwest Colorado." The booklet encourages an awareness of conservation practices and how they impact the quality of life now and for the future.

The booklet linked together many different natural resource concerns and encouraged conservation as the "norm" for all aspects of daily life. Specific topics included soil health, water quality and quantity, weed control, grazing management, wildlife, riparian areas, energy resources and air quality.

Experts from the Cortez Cultural Center, BLM, US Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Dolores Water Conservancy, Montezuma County Weed Board, and CSU Extension all contributed articles and information for the distribution of the 1500 booklets produced.

2013



# CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

## Eagle County Conservation District Noxious Weed Cost Share Program

### ACHIEVEMENTS



2119.5 acres were treated for Canadian Thistle and Houndstongue, (30%) as well as Scotch, Plumeless and Musk Thistle (30%). White Top, bindweed and several other B and C list weeds made up the rest.



Chemical treatment by spot-spraying was the most popular method of control.



Eagle County Commissioners and the Eagle County Conservation District partnered to provide herbicide to Eagle County landowners at a reduced cost.



Total Project Cost - \$14,744  
Matching Grant Funds - \$4,403  
Match Contribution - \$10,341



Hauling off the weeds in Eagle county

### PROJECT SCOPE

The Eagle County Conservation District's Noxious Weed Cost Share program was designed to incentivize and assist landowners in an effort to control noxious weeds in Eagle County. Landowners also gained knowledge on the negative impact these weeds can have, especially if left unchecked or uncontrolled.

Outreach for participants in the program included direct contact by the board to all 2012 applicants; applications being available at the local NRCS office, CSU extension and Eagle County Integrated Pest Management office; Eagle County Fair; Eagle County Cattlemen's Association and CSU Small Acreage workshops.

This resulted in a total of 10 applications that were received and 8 applications were approved.

2013



# CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

## Fort Collins Conservation District Irrigation Scheduling Program

### ACHIEVEMENTS



The project involved six landowners and four farm managers and more than 1000 acres of farmland.



Producers learned how to determine soil moisture and soil type by hand.



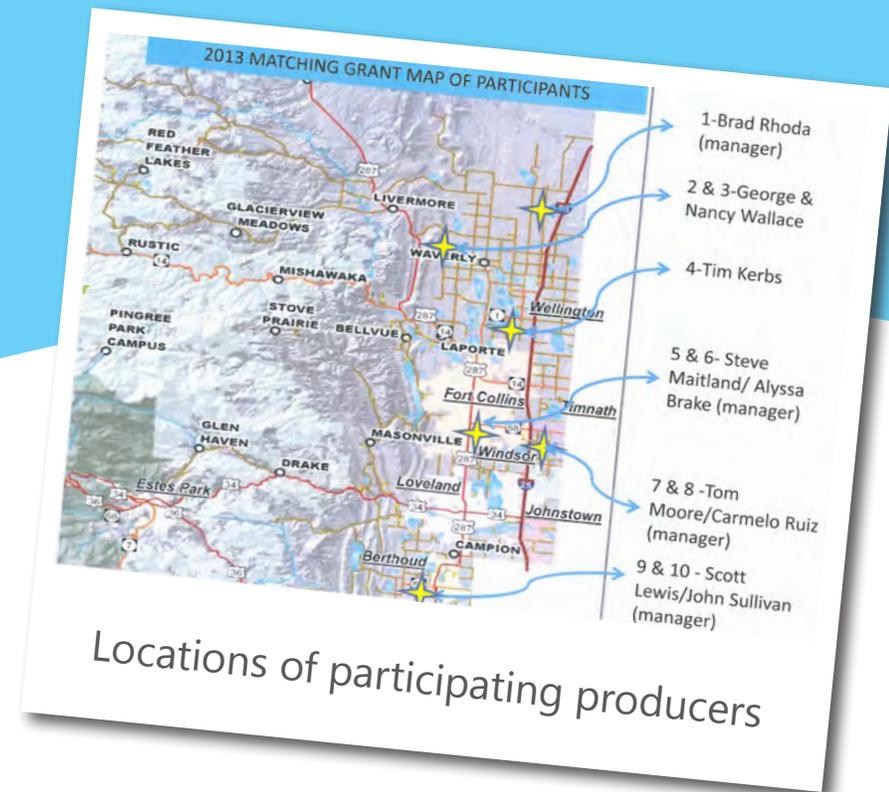
All participants increased their knowledge of soil types and how each specific type affects irrigation, based on specific crop needs. The sensors allowed the producers to make better decisions about when to irrigate and how much water to apply.



The project was empowering to the producers. They were able to apply new technology to help increase their overall productivity.



Total Project Cost - \$11,054  
Matching Grant Funds - \$5,000  
Match Contribution - \$6,054



Locations of participating producers

### PROJECT SCOPE

This Fort Collins Conservation District project was specifically designed to help growers conserve irrigation water. It also contributed to the reduction of soil erosion. The focus was on one-to-one training in support of consistent landowner conservation of irrigation water involving the use of soil moisture sensors. Training included seeing how the sensors worked, how to prepare them, and general training about soils and what soil moisture information indicates. They practiced installing both types of sensors, meters and gauges, and then learned how to set up the computers and spreadsheets to interpret the field data. Overall the project was empowering to the producers. They became familiar with the technology and the spreadsheets, along with other useful programs to support their irrigation decision making. This also enhanced other management decisions, such as nutrient management.

# CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

## Kiowa Conservation District Noxious Weed Control

### ACHIEVEMENTS



The completed applications impacted more than 1300 acres.



A windbreak of 1500 feet was planted to help control soil erosion and provide a habitat for local wildlife.



Articles on the completed projects were submitted to local news media to help educate local landowners on the continued need for conservation awareness, education and implementation.



Total Project Cost - \$26,011  
Matching Grant Funds - \$13,005  
Match Contribution - \$13,006



*Fillmore property after spraying for weeds*

### PROJECT SCOPE

The Kiowa Conservation District (KCD) participated in a program to eliminate weeds. Noxious weeds (lists A and B) were of primary concern as Elbert County has no weed control unit. The KCD addressed these concerns with education and assistance to small acreage landowners to help implement sound conservation practices.

Assistance was provided by the Franktown Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for help with weeds including Leafy Spurge, Russian Olive, Diffuse Knapweed, Yellow Toadflax, Canada Thistle, Mush Thistle and Common Mullein. Windbreaks were established and re-seeding of critical areas also took place. NRCS offered technical assistance for the layout and design of the practices to NRCS standards and specifications. They also provided technical assistance in the evaluation and certification of completion of the practices.

# CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

## Middle Park Conservation District Irrigation Systems and Water Control Project

### ACHIEVEMENTS



There was an increased irrigation efficiency of 5%, affecting 363 acres.



Irrigation-induced soil erosion on these projects was also reduced to near zero.



Project completions came after hay production, so measurements for hay yield, irrigation water management and irrigation times will be completed in 2014. However, landowners did express their pleasure with the improvements made so far.



Total Project Cost - \$41,053  
Matching Grant Funds - \$19,812  
Match Contribution - \$21,241



Gated pipe water control structure

### PROJECT SCOPE

The goal of the Middle Park Conservation District was to improve irrigation water efficiency while increasing hay production and controlling erosion. This involved having landowners install irrigation water control structures including underground pipelines, gated pipe, irrigation diversions, check and turnout pipes/structures, and flumes.

Grants were awarded in May with the understanding that projects had to be completed by November. NRCS District Conservationists met with applicants prior to the deadline to take “before” photos and discuss the proposed projects.

Many of the projects were completed after the year’s haying season had ended, so the immediate outcome of increased hay production will have to be measured in 2014.



# CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

## Olney-Boone Conservation District Rangeland Enhancement Project

### ACHIEVEMENTS



Nearly 40,000 feet of fencing was installed on ten landowners' CRP properties to allow for cover growth to stop heavy wind erosion.



42,000 acres of fragile farmland is now able to be used for grazing.



Although the project was expensive, the cost share program gave the producers the incentive they needed to proceed with grazing management, thus providing native range for cattle.



Total Project Cost - \$65,485  
Matching Grant - \$25,000  
Match Contribution - 40,485



Grazing CRP land in Eastern Colorado

### PROJECT SCOPE

The Olney-Boone district is 18 miles by 23 miles and is located in Southeast Colorado. Wind erosion from non-irrigated farmland exceeded 40 tons per acre. 42,000 acres were signed up into the Conservation Reserve Program with NRCS to allow for grass growth cover to stop the massive erosion problem. This allowed grazable land to develop while it was under the protection of the CRP program, but the land needed to be fenced and water added in order for it to be ready for grazing.

Active partners included private landowners, Olney-Boone Conservation District and NRCS. Fencing was installed on ten landowner's CRP properties, allowing them to be developed for grazing. NRCS was instrumental in the feasibility of the projects, in addition to the design and construction of each project.

2013



# CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

## Prowers Conservation District Fencing Project

### ACHIEVEMENTS



Landowners averaged 90% hard cash and 10% in-kind. NRCS donated approximately 15 hours of time to take pictures before and after project completion. They also donated vehicle use for driving to all fields to take pictures and measure the completed fence.



PCD board members donated approximately 10 hours to help with grant writing, checking the fencing when completed, and the final report for the project.



Ten landowners received the maximum \$2,500 to install a mile of fencing on their land.



The success of this program has sparked interest in several other area landowners who want to participate in a similar program in the future.



Total Project Cost - \$46,697  
Matching Grant Fund - \$25,000  
Match Contribution - \$21,697



New wire fencing in Prowers

### PROJECT SCOPE

The Prowers District Fencing Project grew out of the need to keep Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands with expiring contracts from being plowed for crops.

Approximately 6,400 acres of Conservation Reserve Program land needed fencing to allow for ground cover to grow to prevent soil erosion from wind and farming.

Active partners included ten landowners, Prowers Conservation District and NRCS. The primary criterion was that the producer had to build a mile of fence to NRCS standards and specification and had to be located in the Prowers County District, and on CRP properties, allowing them to be developed for grazing.

# CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

## Rio Grande Watershed Combined Education Program

### ACHIEVEMENTS



The small acreage land owner expo reached 384 people over six counties.



Students worked on real-world projects for water conservation after the West Fork Complex Fire. They adapted their work for a regional science fair, where 56 students won awards. Two students went on to the state science fair, and one won a trip to the International Science Fair in Arizona.



Other programs like the Conservation Curriculum, Wetland Tours, Crane Fest, Farm Safety Days, Live Snow Fence Planting, and Beaver Creek Youth Camp allowed the group to get their message in front of more than 10,000 people in 2013.



Total Project Cost - \$129,038  
Matching Grant Funds - \$25,000  
Match Contribution - \$104,038



Students use a model to learn the components of a riparian system

### PROJECT SCOPE

The Rio Grande Conservation district teamed up with four other San Luis Valley districts, several ranches and three county water conservancies to present a Conservation Education Program. It covered soil health, soil conservation, water conservation and management, and FFA student and producer alliance partnerships. They held expos and workshops across six counties, reaching thousands of students and small ag producers.

Eighty-seven percent of the core learners were return attendees, up 4% over the previous year. They are expanding their program by distributing the curriculum throughout the state with the help of one of their partners on the Colorado Potato Administrative Committee.

2013



# CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

## San Juan Conservation District "Helping Hand" Program

### ACHIEVEMENTS



Four landowners installed structures to improve their irrigation system by 15% over 575 acres.



Two landowners performed reseeding to improve irrigation. Water efficiency went from 35%-70% over 10 acres, which helped establish a grazing rotation plan for improved management of 59 acres of rangeland.



The rangeland condition was improved by increasing the residue left on the soil from nothing to at least 400 pounds per acre. Plant diversity increased by 40%, and usable biomass by livestock and wildlife was increased from 200 lbs./acre to 500 lbs./acre.



The planting of trees and shrubs along the banks of Stollsteimer Creek prevented erosion and restored 1800 feet of stream.



Total Cost - \$57,166  
Matching Grant - \$25,000  
Cash Contribution - \$32,166



*Crowley property after improvements*

### PROJECT SCOPE

The San Juan Conservation District offered their "Conservation Helping Hand" program for the seventh year in a row. The program was designed to educate landowners about the importance of conservation, and to provide 50% cost share to landowners to implement conservation practices on properties that might not otherwise be considered prime candidates for cost sharing programs such as EQIP.

They received 11 applications, all of which were funded. Applicants received 50% of the NRCS approved cost-share amount for each practice upon completion, not to exceed \$3,500. The 11 projects consisted of six forest health projects, one grazing land project and four water/irrigation projects.

2013



# CSCB Matching Grants Project Highlight

## South Side Conservation District Mamm Creek Tamarisk Removal Project

### ACHIEVEMENTS

100

The project had 100% participation from landowners in the area in the first year.



A total of 112.3 acres were treated with mechanical and chemical tools.



20,000 Tamarisk beetles were released for biological control.



382 trees were received from the Conservation Seeding and Restoration and Meeker Plant Center and used for replanting. 25 acres were burned and re-seeded.



Due to the success of the project, South Side Conservation District, the NRCS, and Garfield County Vegetation have been recognized locally as partners that can produce results.



Total Costs - \$212,092  
Matching Grant - \$22,148  
Contribution - \$189,944



Defoliated tamarisk along Mamm Creek

### PROJECT SCOPE

The South Side Conservation District had a large noxious weed infestation of Tamarisk and Russian Olive trees, particularly along Mamm Creek. Garfield County Vegetation Management had begun work on Mamm Creek in 2006 to remove all Tamarisk between the towns of Rifle and Silt.

A treatment plan developed by NRCS and Garfield county included \$75,000 to begin on Mamm Creek. Different treatment options included cut and chemicals; Hydroaxe mechanical treatment; and biological control with Tamarisk beetles. Each treatment method was determined by the ease of access and terrain.

The follow-up plan was to plant native vegetation to prevent the re-growth of the invasive elements, as well as to prevent noxious weeds such as Russian Knapweed from taking hold. That portion of the project was met with moderate success, and will continue to be monitored.

2013

