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*Colorado Department of Agriculture*

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2013

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## ***CDA Explores Small Hydropower Opportunities***

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – Through the “Advancing Colorado’s Renewable Energy” (ACRE) program, the Colorado Department of Agriculture hopes to create a small hydropower road map for Colorado agriculture.

In 2012, the Colorado General Assembly reauthorized funding over five years for CDA’s ACRE program. The program’s purpose is to promote the feasibility and development of agricultural energy-related projects. In past years, ACRE has funded a broad array of research, feasibility, and implementation projects in agricultural applications of many types of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies.

“In 2013, CDA will focus ACRE resources in just a few energy themes, including small hydropower applications,” said Eric Lane, CDA’s Conservation Services division director. “We continue to explore

new opportunities in renewable energy and energy efficiency within our agricultural community that will, in turn, help producers, the environment and the state as a whole.”

Applegate Group and Telluride Energy have received an ACRE grant totaling \$86,540 to collect, aggregate, and analyze market research data on the opportunities, costs, benefits, and barriers to the application and deployment of small hydropower technologies in agricultural operations throughout the state.

The goal is to identify small hydropower renewable energy opportunities based on the “achievability” of those opportunities. It will also be important to recognize opportunities that are technologically, but not yet economically, feasible to identify future needs for CDA programs, policies, and strategies.

“Our project will identify the most achievable opportunities for small hydro development for existing dams, ditches and canals and on-farm irrigation systems, including center pivots, and will recommend future actions for the Colorado Department of Agriculture,” said Lindsay George, Project Engineer, Applegate Group.

“The majority of hydropower in Colorado was installed prior to 1990 with very few installations in the last 20 years. Understanding which small hydro opportunities have been developed and why some opportunities are not being developed is critical information for identifying barriers and recommending achievable projects,” said Telluride Energy CEO, Kurt Johnson.

The final report and recommendations are expected in December 2013. The Department will then use this information to focus ACRE resources on the implementation of small hydropower technologies in the most cost effective ways possible to benefit Colorado agriculture.

For more on CDA’s Advancing Colorado’s Renewable Energy program, visit [www.colorado.gov/ag/csd](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/csd) and click on “energy.”

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