

Colorado State Conservation Board 2008 Matching Grants Project:  
Debeque/Plateau Valley Conservation District: Irrigation Management

**What natural resource problem(s) did the project address?**

Irrigation is an important part of agriculture production in Mesa and Garfield counties on the western slope of Colorado. **Water is a precious resource in such a dry climate and improvements in irrigation can lead to both more water savings and water quality improvements.** Landowners in the area have shown a keen desire to improve their water delivery systems to benefit themselves and their community who use the same water sources. The Debeque/Plateau Valley Conservation Districts has a history of providing cost-share to landowners to **improve their irrigation systems when there is not sufficient federal cost-share available to do so.** In the past, the District has assisted 16 landowners and was able to assist four more with these CSCB matching Grant funds.

**What was achieved?**

- **410 acres in the Plateau Valley benefitted** from improved irrigation control structures and systems
- **Approximately 123 acre feet per year of water savings**
- **Six irrigation water control structures and one gated pipe system installed**
- **Landowners provided 3:1 match** for cost-share funds
- Installations will be monitored and landowners informed on **proper operation, maintenance, and use of water measuring devices** for best management and conservation of water.
- **Natural Resource Conservation Service** provided technical assistance



*Before installation of a proper structure, water controls for irrigation rely on makeshift improvisations that may be very inefficient.*



*Purpose-built water control structures save water and reduce sediment load in the water caused by soil erosion.*