

Colorado State Conservation Board 2007 Matching Grants Project: Middle Park Conservation District: Irrigation Efficiency Project

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

Middle Park Conservation District serves Grand and Summit counties. Within the District many irrigation systems are over 50 years old and in these times of increasing water demands, improvements to these systems are sorely needs. **Wasted water, nutrient leaching, irrigation-induced soil erosion and subsequent water sediment loading have all been identified as concerns exacerbated by these old inefficient systems.** Individual small installations are typically not eligible for federal cost-share for improvements, yet they contribute to the performance and sustainability of the wider water networks. **The Middle Park Conservation District offered 50% cost-share to landowners who wished to renovate these individual practices to fill a gap in overall regional water systems management.**

What was achieved?

- Five irrigation projects improved irrigation efficiency on 380 acres.
- 24 irrigation water delivery structures and associated pipelines installed
- 3,700 feet gated pipe installed
- Natural Resource Conservation Service technical staff designed and certified installations
- Projects will be assessed in spring of 2009, when irrigation season begins, and landowners will be interviewed to ascertain how successfully projects are working.



Small scale irrigation improvements add to the overall efficiency of water use in the Middle Park Conservation District. Pipeline and structures to control water flow require engineering expertise to properly install.