

Colorado State Conservation Board 2008 Matching Grants Project: Northeast Prowers Conservation District: Windbreak Installations

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

In summer of 2007 the Prowers and Northeast Prowers Conservation Districts held a public local workgroup meeting that identified the installation of windbreaks as something this open, windy part of Colorado would benefit greatly from. Benefits were seen as protecting livestock and wildlife from severe weather events such as the severe blizzards of 06-07, and conserving energy around homes by reducing heat needs due to wind-chill in the winter and cooling needs by providing shade in the summer. Windbreaks also reduce soil erosion in high-wind areas. The Northeast Prowers Conservation district used Matching Grant funds to provide landowners with 50% cost-share for windbreak installation. The focus was on properties that did not qualify for federal cost share programs for windbreaks. Remote areas of eastern Prowers County were identified as particularly needing shelter for animals but not having ready water supplied to establish windbreak trees. Artificial windbreaks were considered

What was achieved?

- Five windbreaks installed - 4,461 feet of living tree windbreaks and 300ft of windbreak from used tires and railroad ties.
- Future Farmers of America youth volunteers helped with some of the tree plantings.
- Weed barrier and drip irrigation used to maximize tree seedling survival.
- District and Natural Resource Conservation Service technical staff ensured correct design of windbreaks and proper finished installation.



Using a tree-planter rented from the Northeast Prowers Conservation District and local Future Farmer of America volunteers, landowners plant a windbreak.



In remote areas where water supply is not available to establish trees, man-made windbreaks provide livestock and wildlife protection from extreme weather.