




Colorado Conservation Districts:

**Working to sustain Colorado's natural resources
2011 Sustaining Colorado's Watersheds Conference**



What is a Conservation District?

The original conservationists, established in 1937 by Congressional Act; evolving out of the 1930s Dust Bowl as today's Grass Roots Leadership Represent private landowners

- 
- **Coordinate local, State, Federal and private funds to conserve Colorado's natural resources**
 - **Provide over 32,000 volunteer hours annually**
 - **76 Conservation Districts in Colorado with 400 elected officials representing landowners**
 - **Coordinate Technical, Financial, and Educational Resources**
 - **Ability to leverage State dollars – Often 3:1 Ratio**
 - **Est. \$40 Million of Federal funding brought into CO yearly**
 - **Tried and true infrastructure in place throughout Colorado implementing conservation with local guidance**

Colorado Conservation Districts

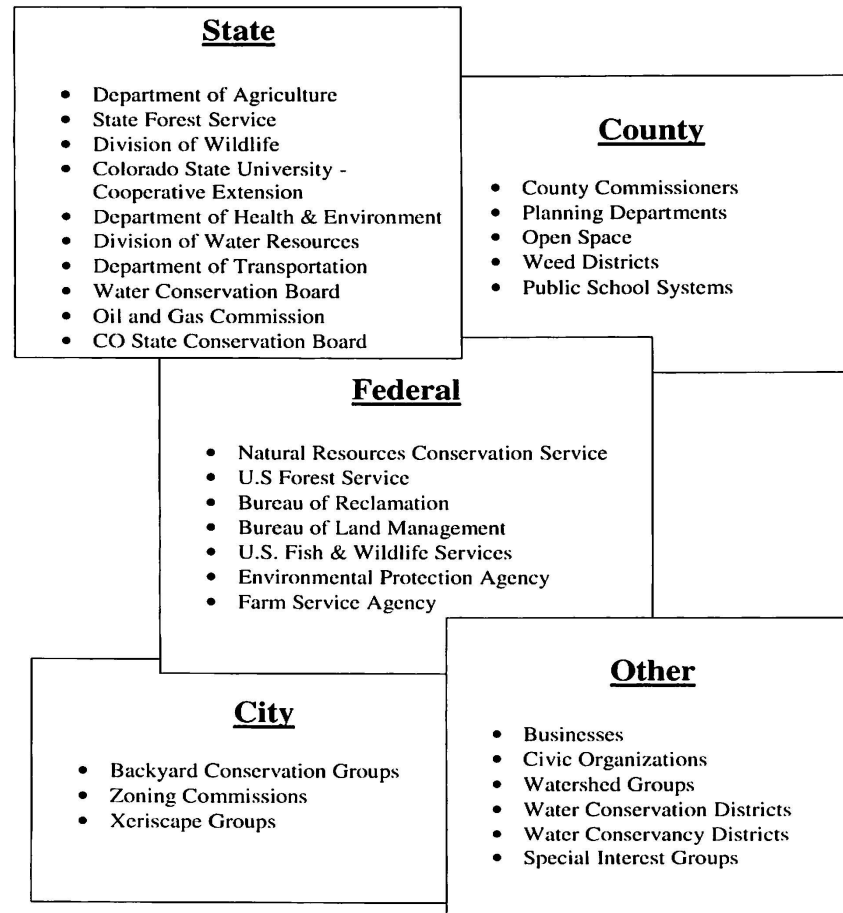


Colorado's 76 Local CD's Concerns:

Conservation Districts implement annual plans of work addressing local natural resource issues on:

- **Drought - mitigate drought issues on private land**
- **Water management - quality and quantity/Riparian areas**
- **Small acreage - education and management assistance**
- **Weed control and management**
- **Soil erosion / Land Utilization - Growth**
- **Wildlife habitat and management**
- **Development of renewable energy conservation practices**
- **Rangeland improvement and management**

Conservation Districts' Partners



Conservation District Activities

Counties, Cities, & Towns

- Soils Information
- Water Quality & Quantity
- Subdivision Plans
- Noxious Weed Management
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Xeriscaping Information
- Flooding Risks
- Mined Land Reclamation
- Developing New Species Of Plants
- Assistance in Economic Development
- Renewable Resources and Alternative Energy
- Small acreage education

Environmental Education

- Conservational Education Materials
- Scholarships
- Range Judging
- Career Days
- Youth Camps
- Stencil A Drain Programs
- Soil Stewardship Materials
- Newsletters and Articles
- Conservation Tours
- Conservation Workshops
- Education Facilities
- Riparian Trailer Demonstrations
- Teachers' Workshops

Farm and Ranch

- Conservation Plans
- Soils Information
- Specialized Equipment
- Salinity Control Plans
- Revegetation
- Non Point Source Pollution Solutions
- Municipal Sludge Application
- Wind Strips
- Conservation Tillage
- Field Windbreaks
- Environmental Quality Incentives Programs
- Conservation Reserve Program
- Carbon Sequestration

Woodlands & Forests

- Fire Rehabilitation
- Forest Management Plans
- Wildlife Habitat
- Living Snow Fences
- Field Windbreaks
- Riparian Areas
- Stream Bank Protection
- Living Barns
- Project Learning Tree

CACD and CAMP ROCKY:

About Camp Rocky

The goal of Camp Rocky is to provide it's high school students with a solid natural resource education so they can use these skills to serve their community as a leader in resource stewardship.

What is Camp Rocky?

Camp Rocky is a week long, residential camp for 14 through 19 year olds who enjoy the outdoors and are interested in natural resources. The Camp Rocky professional staff helps participants learn about their environment through hands-on experience. The students work in teams making new friends from across Colorado. Each year, new and returning students choose one of the following resource fields for their area of focus.

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Students have 5 Natural Resource Disciplines to choose from

Recreation Management:

The recreation management team learns about the importance of managing natural areas for human recreation.

Forest Management:

The forest management team learns about different forest types and Best Forest Management Practices

Rangeland Management:

The rangeland science group learns about the "fitness" of the rangeland and the forage it provides.

Fish and Wildlife Management:

The wildlife biology team will track a radio-collared animal, go electrofishing, learn how Colorado wildlife adapt to their surroundings and complete a habitat enhancement project.

Soil and Water:

The soil and water team learns about the primary components of a watershed. They will "create" a river and learn how different types of soil affect plants, wildlife, water and humans.

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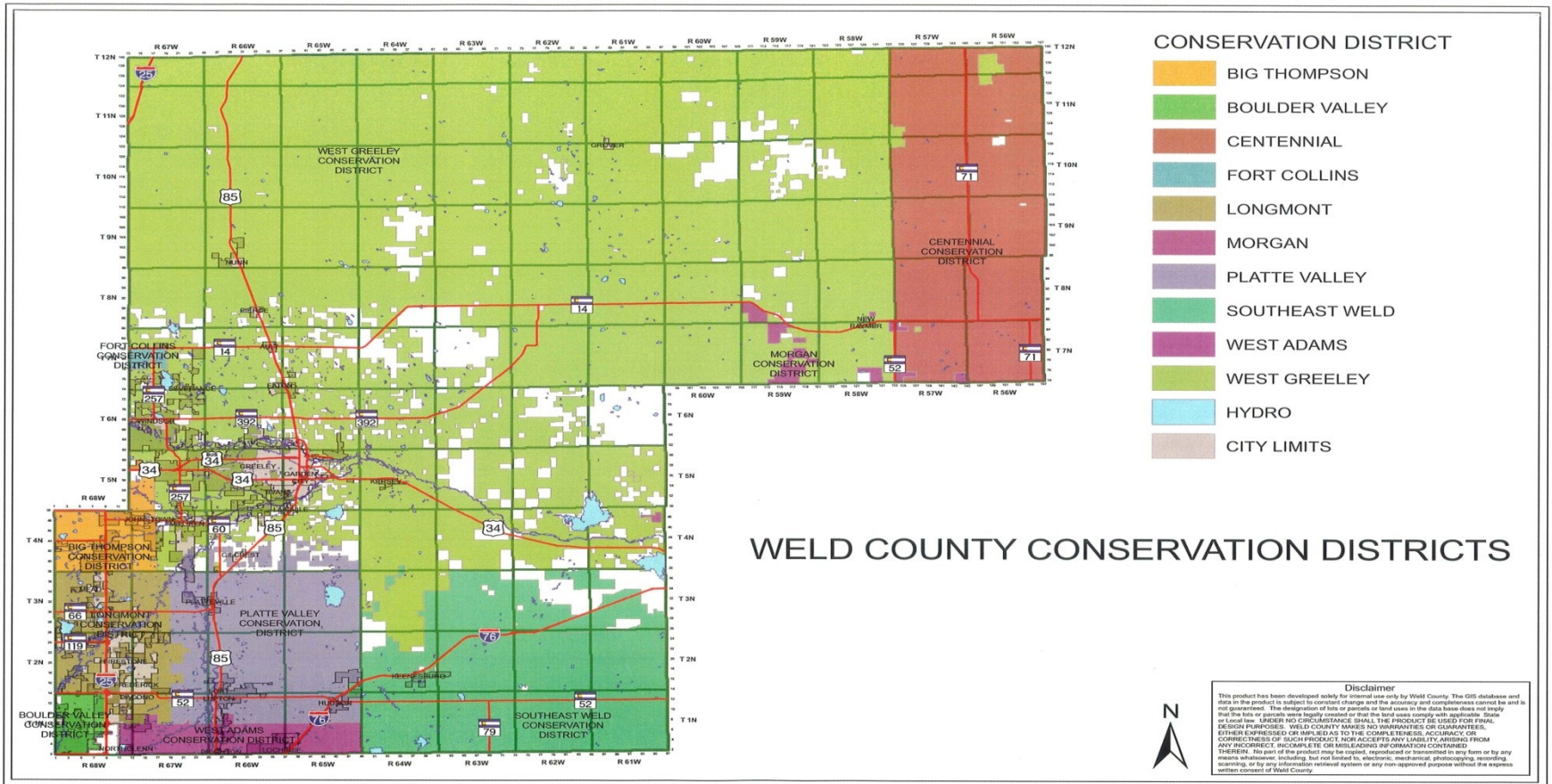
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West Greeley Conservation District



About WGCD

Vision Statement

The WGCD will be a leader in natural resources education and outreach. The WGCD will also be the primary provider of natural resources information and service to the citizens and stakeholders of the WGCD.

Mission Statement

The WGCD will combine education and landowner support to:
Fully support conservation planning that promotes local, agronomic and economic sustainability through wise land use;
Provide a quality experience for stakeholders;
Conduct fundamental implementation of the mechanisms associated with natural resource systems through cost share and educational programming;
Provide innovative outreach to citizens and stakeholders;
Investigate, record, and disseminate information about WGCD's natural resources;
Promote a comprehensive conservation ethic for the effective and appropriate management and sustainable use of natural resources;
Actively participate in local forums designed to promote comprehensive resource management within the WGCD.

WGCD History

West Greeley Conservation District is located in Weld County and was established on June 14, 1948. A total of 1,650,000 acres is covered by the district.

Land ownership within the District is: Private land - 1,390,000 acres
Federal & State land - 260,000 acres

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WGCD Programming

Small Acreage Management and Education
Community Outreach and youth education
Field services including consulting, testing, and management
Mitigation of land management use issues
Representing of District interests in such forums as RMNP Nitrogen Deposition reduction forum, Ag Air Quality forum, 8 Digit Watershed input sessions, etc.

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How does the WGCD give back to our constituents?

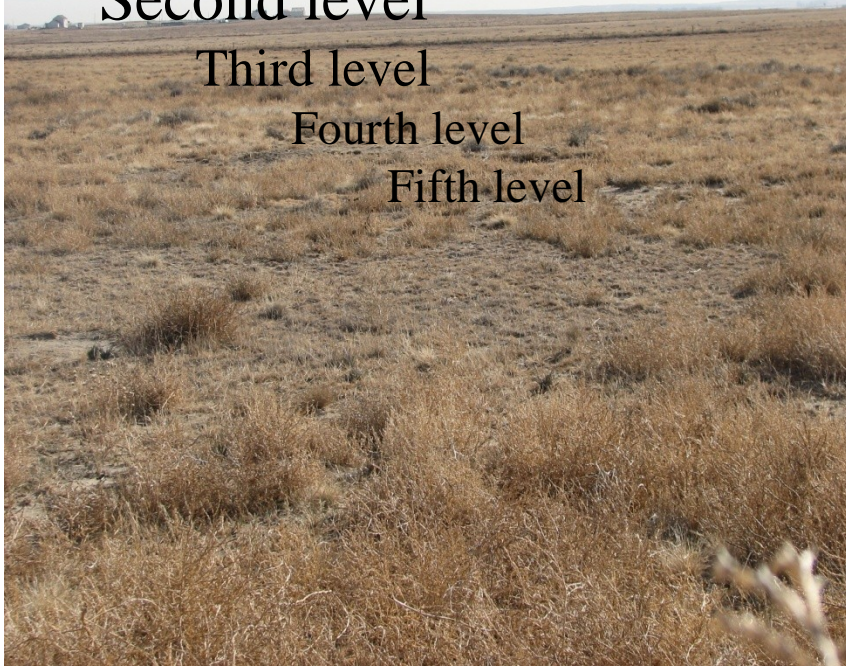
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Education Program: New and growing with WGCD!

A unique partnership with
Central Colorado Water
Conservancy District
Outreach and programming
for classroom and out of
classroom situations
Partnering with many local
organizations to educate our
youth





What kind of activities are
other districts involved in?



**San Juan Conservation
District
Stollsteimer Creek
Watershed Protection**

About the project

Resource Concerns

Identified:

Impaired water quality

Poor forest health

Degraded stream and
riparian condition



Project Progress:

Projects completed in the last 3
½ years include:

Forest stand improvement

Stream Restoration

Updated county land use codes

Public education activities

Approximately \$500,000 has
been spent on restoration
efforts to date.





**Teller-Park Conservation District
Hayman Fire Restoration Efforts**

Hayman Impact Area

- **137,760 acres Total Size**
- **99,266 acres Pike National Forest**
- **373 acres State Forest**
- **15,724 acres Private Property**
- **22,397 acres prior burns, controlled burns, not burned, rocks, reservoirs**
- **5,000 acres Teller & Park Counties**
- **115,363 acres actually burned = 180.25 miles²**
- **180.25 square miles, New Orleans, Albuquerque, Tulsa are each the same size as the Hayman burn**
- **Denver is 153 square miles**

What are we trying to prevent?



What was accomplished

- **2131 acres aerial seeded**
- **1289 acres hand seeded**
- **885 acres hand scarified**
- **451.5 acres hand mulched**
- **1227 acres ATV scarified**
- **2790 acres contour log placement**
- **99 acres of directional tree placement**





Lake County Conservation District
UAARP Project (Upper Arkansas
River Restoration Project)

How did it come about:

Began in 1960's to address 3 major concerns:

1. Improve water quality by reducing the heavy metal loading from mine and milling wastes from superfund site.
2. Prevent loss of property from stream bank erosion as a result of water release.
3. Encourage district cooperators to practice better land and water management

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Clean up project is still going on today:

Most public lands were addressed in early initiatives
Private lands are being addressed still today.

NRCS and Lake County CD as well as the RC&D, which is a non profit organization dedicated to this local area and these efforts.

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