

# Sangre de Cristo



## Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 15

Issue No.1

Summer 2007

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### **Council Awarded Reclamation's "Commissioner's Water Conservation Award"**



Brian Little, of the Eastern Colo. Projects Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, presented the Sangre de Cristo RC&D Council with Reclamation's "Commissioner's Water Conservation Award" at the Council's annual meeting. Chairman Dean Oatman accepted the award on behalf of the Council.

The Bureau of Reclamation and Sangre de Cristo RC&D Council have partnered on several educational projects to promote improved water management. The Council developed and distributed, in partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service, an Irrigation Checkbook to improve irrigation water management on farms. Reclamation and the Council, again in partnership with NRCS, constructed two mobile River and Riparian Study Centers. The river trailers, as they are known, teach the importance of rivers and riparian areas to people of all ages. The trailers are in use throughout the Arkansas River basin at water festivals, schools, county fairs, and the Colorado State Fair.

The Council appreciates the support of the Bureau of Reclamation to achieve its goal to improve and wisely manage our water resources. \* \* \*

### **Upper Arkansas CWMA Sponsors Weed Management Tour**

The Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) partners sponsored an invasive weed management tour on June 2. The tour featured invasive weed management efforts by the USDA Forest Service on the Mason Gulch Burn area in Custer County and salt cedar management carried out by CWMA partners in Fremont County.

The rugged terrain of the Mason Gulch Burn area poses challenges to weed management. Much of the area is inaccessible to motorized vehicles. Problem solved with ingenuity from Forest Service's Daryl Bressan and one patient mule aptly named "Dandelion." Daryl and "Dande" traverse the steep, rock and shrub covered hillsides spot treating isolated patches of invasive weeds to prevent their spread throughout the vulnerable burn area. Weeds of concern are Canada and musk thistle, leafy spurge, and diffuse knapweed.

Many of the side drainages and areas along the Arkansas River are infested with salt cedar, aka tamarisk. Dr. Scott Nissen, Colo. State University weed scientist, partnered with the Upper Arkansas CWMA to establish large salt cedar management test plots. *(continued on pg 3)*



## Colorado League of RC&D hosts 2007 Western RC&D Association Conference



Adapted from an article in the Colo. League Newsletter by: Katherine Burse-Johnson, NRCS Public Affairs Specialist

The Colo. League of Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils recently hosted the 2007 Western RC&D Association Conference in Colorado Springs.

The 2007 theme, *Revitalizing the Old West*, consisted of an informative 3-day conference that provided tools and strategies to create workable solutions to local issues. The conference provided a mix of expertise that addressed energy issues, community and economic development, land management, non-profit management, and water issues.

The conference kicked off with a Reception hosted by Joe Leichtnam, President of the Western RC&D Association. At the general session, Leichtnam welcomed everyone during opening ceremonies. Keynote speaker was Richard Skorman, Director, Pikes Peak Regional Office of the Honorable Ken Salazar, United States Senator.

The breakout sessions included topics of discussion such as the community economic value of working landscapes, energy as a means to sustainable community development, working with power companies for renewable energy partnerships, RC&D and the NRCS Strategic Plan, and invasive weed management in the future, to name a few.

Throughout the conference, the attendees were able to enjoy musical performances by Sonny McAdams and Lani Torres; participate in silent and live auctions; attend a presentation of awards that recognized RC&D councils; and laugh at "Donk" the Clown, also known as Rich Mulaney, Coordinator, Northeast Colorado RC&D.

The Western RC&D Association consists of over 80 RC&D Councils in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. Each RC&D Council is organized and directed by local people to meet local needs. The RC&D Program identifies and solves problems in rural communities that include human, economic and environmental issues.

The Colorado League of RC&D Councils provides leadership to develop RC&D Councils. The League actively participates in rural legislative initiatives and resource management partnerships to accelerate the conservation, development and use of natural resources; improve the general level of economic activity; and enhance the environment and standard of living in RC&D areas. \* \* \*

## From the Archives



Before

### Marvin Park Recreation Area—Salida, Colorado

Marvin Field in Salida began its transformation from an unsightly dump area to an attractive recreational park as an RC&D project beginning in 1983. Salida Mayor Edward Touber and Soil Conservation District President Frank McMurry submitted the application for financial and technical assistance to USDA's Resource Conservation and Development program. Cost of the project was estimated at \$367,000 to be shared by USDA and the City of Salida. \* \* \*



After

### QUOTE

*The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary.*

Vince Lombardi

### Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area Receives CWMA's Partnership Award



Mel Shumway, left, presented CWMA award to J.R. Phillips  
Photo by: CWMA Newsletter Feb. 2006

Fremont County Weed Coordinator JR Phillips accepted the Colorado Weed Management Association's 2006 "Partnership Award" for the Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area. The Partnership Award recognizes local groups who have advanced weed management through team effort or communication or educational efforts. The Sangre de Cristo RC&D Council coordinated the formation of the Upper Arkansas CWMA and is a partner in the Association. \* \* \*

### Upper Arkansas CWMA Sponsors Weed Management Tour (Continued from pg 1)

Dr. Nissen's research demonstrates that salt cedar in the Arkansas River Basin can be effectively treated mechanically followed by herbicide treatment the following year. Management of much larger salt cedars in other states has required a two year waiting period prior to herbicide treatment allowing the salt cedars another year of significant regrowth. Nissen is also researching herbicide rates which hopefully will result in a reduced cost of herbicide treatment.

The group also toured additional salt cedar management carried out at the Florence River Park, Pathfinder Regional Park, and Bureau of Land Management's Heron Bend along the Arkansas River in Fremont County. The Florence River Park site demonstrated the common invasion of other weed species after salt cedar removal and the need for reclamation. Native willows were planted at this site. These projects were carried out in partnership by Fremont Conservation District, City of Florence, Fremont County, Florence High School, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management and Environmental Protection Agency's 5-Star Program. The tour concluded with a lunch provided by Fremont County 4H at the new Florence High School. \* \* \*

**QUOTE**

*People will listen when they're ready to listen and not before. Probably, once upon a time, you weren't ready to listen to an idea that now seems to you obvious, even urgent. Let people come to it in their own time. Nagging or bullying will only alienate them. Don't preach. Don't waste time with people who want to argue. They'll keep you immobilized forever. Look for people who are already open to something new.*

Daniel Quinn -Beyond Civilization!



**RC&D Web Resources**

**Sangre de Cristo RC&D**  
[www..sangredecorstorcd.org](http://www..sangredecorstorcd.org)



**Colorado League of RC&D's**  
[www.coloradoleaguercd.org](http://www.coloradoleaguercd.org)

**Western RC&D Association**  
[www.westernrcd.org](http://www.westernrcd.org)

**National Association of RC&D Councils**  
[www.rcdnet.org](http://www.rcdnet.org)

All programs and services of the Sangre de Cristo RC&D Council are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital or family status, disability, sexual orientation, or political beliefs.

**Sponsors of the Sangre de Cristo Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.**

- |                              |                         |                          |                        |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Chaffee County               | Upper Arkansas CD       | Spanish Peaks-Purgatoire | City of Walsenburg     |
| Custer County                | Lake County CD          | River CD                 | Town of Aguilar        |
| Fremont County               | Upper Huerfano CD       | Town of Westcliffe       | City of Trinidad       |
| Huerfano County              | Custer County-Divide CD | Town of Silver Cliff     | City of Leadville      |
| Lake County                  | Fremont CD              | City of Canon City       | City of Buena Vista    |
| Las Animas County            | South Pueblo County CD  | City of Florence         | City of Salida         |
| Pueblo County                | Turkey Creek CD         | City of Pueblo           | Town of Poncha Springs |
| Fremont Economic Development |                         | Teller County            | Town of Branson        |

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