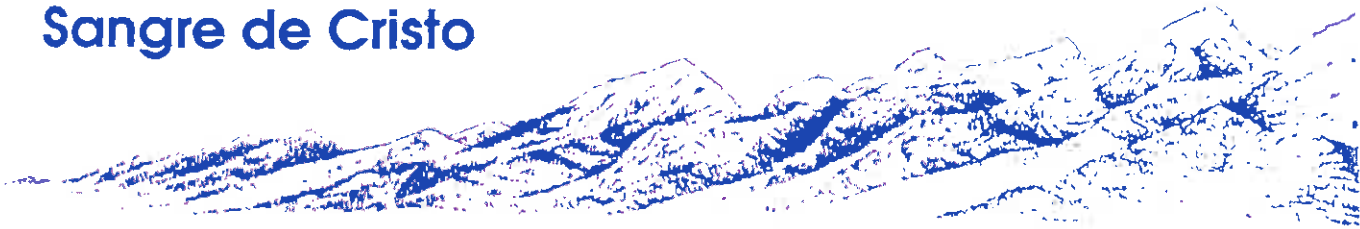


Sangre de Cristo



RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.

200 S. SANTA FE AVE., 4TH FLOOR, PUELO, CO 81003 • 719-543-8386 X 4 • FAX: 719-545-4835

Visit our website at: sangredecristorcd.org

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR VISION

Harmony and prosperity, and a fulfilling life for our citizens, with the environment and natural resources conserved for future generations

OUR MISSION

The Sangre de Cristo RC&D Council, through strong partnerships, will carry out a results oriented, locally directed program to encourage and improve the economic and social well-being of individuals and communities, and will promote responsible use and enhancement of our natural resources in south central Colorado

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

Chaffee County	Custer Co.-Divide CD	Town of Alma	City of Canon City
Custer County	Fremont CD	Town of Aguilar	City of Cripple Creek
Fremont County	Lake County CD	Town of Buena Vista	City of Florence
Huerfano County	South Pueblo Co. CD	Town of Fairplay	City of Leadville
Lake County	Spanish Peaks-	Town of Poncha Springs	City of Pueblo
Las Animas County	Purgatoire River CD	Town of Silver Cliff	City of Salida
Park County	Teller-Park CD	Town of Victor	City of Trinidad
Pueblo County	Turkey Creek CD	Town of Westcliffe	City of Walsenburg
Teller County	Upper Arkansas CD		City of Woodland Park
Fremont Economic Development Corp.	Upper Huerfano CD		



2008 Board Members

Dean Oatman, Chairman, Las Animas County
Mike Stiehl, Vice Chairman, Fremont County
Patricia K. Coffee, Sec.Treas., Pueblo County
Jonnalea Tortorelli, Trustee, Las Animas County
Dick Downey, Trustee, Custer County
Bill Alt, Trustee, Pueblo County

Staff

Jane Wustrow, RC&D Coordinator



Demonstration Phase of Regional Geographic Information System (GIS) Begins



Recognizing the benefits of GIS technology, the Council is supporting an initiative to enhance the use of GIS technology within the RC&D Area. The purpose of the GIS Initiative is to build a regional, collaborative Geographic Information System. The regional system will provide GIS capability to citizens, government, and businesses that operate within the RC&D Area. The Initiative's four goals are to 1) establish a Cooperative structure to promote, manage, and oversee the delivery of services 2) improve access to GIS expertise and leadership 3) simplify acquisition of GIS data and 4) improve access to local and regional GIS data.

The RC&D Council received a grant from the U. S. Geological Survey to begin the demonstration phase of the project. This phase will establish local data access policies, data sharing agreements, and a cooperative structure; demonstrate access to data through web services; establish a regional web-based GIS community; and determine and test a business model to reduce participant costs. The project is guided by a steering committee of GIS practitioners and is a partnership with the Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments.

Cooperative Weed Management Continues in the Upper Arkansas River Basin

In the West, the patchwork of land ownership between federal, state, municipal and private land requires cooperation if weed management is to be carried out on a watershed basis. In 1998, the Sangre de Cristo Resource Conservation and Development Council sponsored a planning meeting to initiate coordinated weed management in the upper Arkansas River basin. From this meeting developed the Upper Arkansas Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), a group of federal, state, and local partners who have worked together across jurisdictional boundaries for almost a decade to manage invasive weeds on a watershed basis.

Each of the partners contributes funding, technical assistance, and equipment per their particular budget to help implement a comprehensive weed management program.

Partners also collaborate on training and workshops, share and coordinate resources, and work toward common goals. Through building local, state and federal partnerships, the Upper Arkansas CWMA is able to leverage resources and be more effective in their weed management efforts. A coordinated approach has helped this group of like-minded individuals to set common goals, acquire funding and carry out tested and proven weed management on a watershed basis.



Rivers and Riparian Areas Focus of River Trailer Demonstrations

The Council's two river and riparian study centers, aka the river trailers, made the rounds of fairs and festivals, schools and teacher workshops throughout the river basin. Council members and partners showed both children and adults the benefits of riparian areas and wetlands, the relationship between surface and ground water, the effects of human activities on a river system and more.

The river trailers are housed in Canon City and La Junta to provide easier access throughout the basin. Contact the RC&D office to schedule a presentation.



Conservation and Renewable Energy: First in a Series of Workshops

In response to an over-whelming interest in renewable energy, the RC&D Council formed an Energy Committee to determine how the Council could best respond to this growing area of interest. The committee determined that a series of workshops targeting specific audiences and renewable energy sources would be most effective.



The first of the workshops, *Conservation and Renewable Energy: a Toolkit for Reducing Your Carbon Footprint and Energy Costs*, was held September 13 in Pueblo. The agenda focused on energy conservation with an introduction to renewable energy for homeowners. Topics included the role of conservation and renewable energy in meeting future energy demands; energy conservation in the home; fossil fuel, energy and water use in agriculture; recycling's role in energy conservation, and an introduction to renewable energy for homeowners. Speakers were from the Governor's Energy Office, Pueblo Housing Services, Northern Arizona University, Upper Arkansas Recycling, and the Colorado Renewable Energy Society.

Pictured above is the Colorado League of RC&D Council's new display that features Colorado's RC&D Councils' involvement in renewable energy. The display was presented at the annual conference of the Western Association of RC&D Councils held in Las Cruces, NM in January.

2008 Arkansas River Basin Water Forum *Rolling Down the River*

The 14th Annual Arkansas River Basin Water Forum was held April 30-May 1, 2008 at Hermit Basin Lodge outside of Westcliffe. The Forum provides information about water issues and promotes an open dialogue to create a greater understanding of water use and conservation. The Forum opened with keynote speaker Dick Wolfe, Colorado State Engineer. A panel featured several of the area's land trusts, followed by a tour of the land holdings of the San Isabel Land Protection Trust of Westcliffe. Popular State Climatologist Nolan Doesken returned to the Forum to present information on Colorado's notable weather events and climatic outlook. Other topics of interest were stormwater management, findings from US Geological Survey on aquifer storage and urbanization effects on stream ecosystems, and updates from water management organizations in the basin. A tour of local mining and historical sites provided long-term perspective on the issues at hand.



The 2009 Arkansas River Basin Water Forum will be held in Pueblo. Additional information can be found on the Forum's website at <http://www.arbwf.org>.

GOAL #1

Retain, improve and wisely manage our water resources.

Objectives

- Develop and improve water storage facilities.
- Develop and improve irrigation systems.
- Develop water and sewer districts where needed.
- Increase the knowledge of both adults and children about ways to conserve water.
- Increase cooperation among water users.



GOAL #2

Coordinated planning of all programs among all levels of government and the private sector.

Objectives

- Support planned growth efforts.
- Balance infrastructure Development with growth.
- Coordinate projects with local government master plans.



GOAL #3

Natural resources maintained or improved to a healthy and productive condition.

Objectives

- All concerned agencies work together to develop standardized guidelines for land stewardship.
- Increase the health of government and private forests through good management practices.
- Improve watershed health through watershed management planning.

GOAL #4

Increased understanding and cooperation among a diverse public.

Objectives

- Promote and support public education to conserve and enhance natural resources.
- Increase diversified membership in RC&D.
- Educate public to have reasonable expectations when living in rural areas.

GOAL #5

Support enhanced and balanced economic development to achieve a diversified economy.

Objectives

- Increase contact with local government and other agencies to coordinate master plans to enhance economic development.
- Support and increase the economic impact of tourism based industry while seeking year-round opportunities.
- Diversify and develop markets for natural resources and alternative industries and products.

GOAL #6

Preservation of historical sites and buildings, and enhanced preservation of Western heritage.

Objectives

- Increase public awareness of this challenge through education.
- Increase funding opportunities for local communities and organizations to enable preservation.



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 status or handicap.