

# 2007 Colorado Congressional Districts Report

## Mission Goals

- High Quality, Productive Soils
- Clean and Abundant Water
- Healthy Plant and Animal Communities
- Clean Air
- Adequate Energy Supply
- Working Farm and Ranch Lands

## 2007 Accomplishments

- NRCS in Colorado contributed more than \$34,075,216 through Farm Bill conservation programs
- 8,059 comprehensive nutrient management plans applied
- 3,498 conservation plans developed for 2,189,201 acres
- 1,594 acres of wetlands created, restored, or enhanced
- 125,691 acres of irrigation water management applied

**Helping People  
Help the Land.**

## Colorado State Senators



Wayne Allard



Ken Salazar

## Colorado State Representatives



Diana Degette  
District 1



Doug Lamborn  
District 2



John Salazar  
District 3



Marilyn Musgrave  
District 4



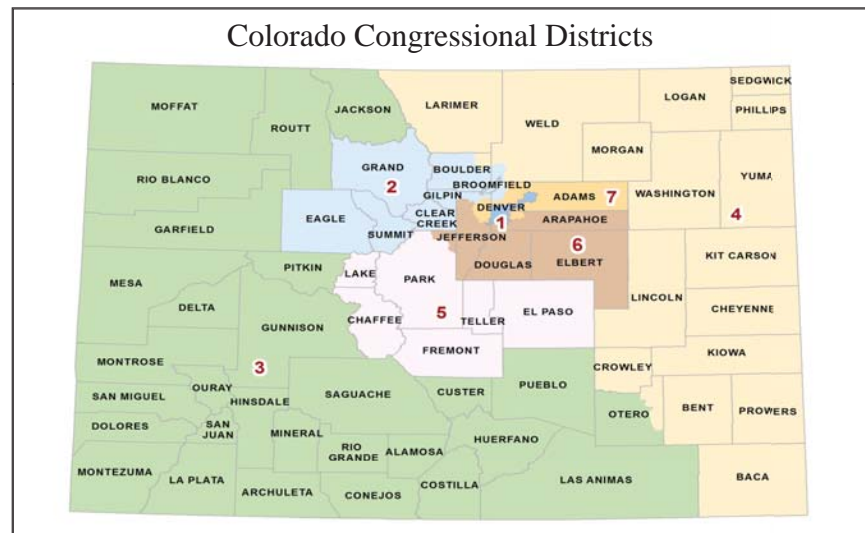
Ed Perlmutter  
District 5



Tom Tancredo  
District 6



Mark Udall  
District 7



## NRCS...Who We Are

NRCS is one of the United States Department of Agriculture's lead conservation agencies, addressing the health and well-being of America's resources: soil, water, air, plants, and animals.

NRCS, in cooperation with Conservation Districts, provides leadership in a partnership effort to help conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

Colorado has some 66.3 million acres, of which 49 percent are farms and ranches. Colorado's agricultural lands are desirable landscapes, yet complex ecosystems.

NRCS provides within its programs and activities the variety of flexibility needed to assist Colorado's farmers and ranchers conserve their natural resources.

NRCS partners with farmers and ranchers, conservation districts, state and local conservation agencies, tribal governments, rural communities, businesses, and other entities to get conservation on the land to help conserve the landscape, increase agricultural productivity, improve the environment, and strengthen the quality of life.

# Conservation Technical Assistance

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CTA is one of the most fundamental conservation programs NRCS uses to accomplish its goals. CTA provides voluntary conservation technical assistance to landusers, communities, units of state and local government, and other Federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems.

NRCS employees in Colorado work with ten grassroots watershed associations and 77 local Conservation Districts to serve as the primary building block in our efforts to get the best conservation on the ground. Colorado has leveraged this program to make great strides to:

- Deliver science-based technology to our customers
- Provide a local presence in the communities with our conservation partners
- Ensure one-on-one assistance in the voluntary conservation of our natural resources

## CTA Programs

**Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI)** is a nationwide collaborative process of individuals and organizations working to maintain and improve management, productivity, and health of the Nation's privately owned grazing land. For the past five years, GLCI has focused its efforts to assist ranchers to properly manage livestock and resources to minimize drought impacts.

**Plant Materials** -- The Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center (UCEPC) serves Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, finding conservation solutions for the diverse intermountain region. At 6,500 feet in elevation, the Center is unique in that it is the highest elevation center in the plant material system.

**Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting** works with Colorado's water users and managers to provide information on water availability across the State. In this region, there are 154 automated SNOTEL (SNOWpack TELEmetry) sites, including 99 in Colorado, and an additional 138 manually measured snow courses.

**Soil Survey** data is available online, or in draft form, for 99 percent of the State's privately-owned land, 100 percent of Native American land, 40 percent of U.S. Forest land, and 100 percent of Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service lands.

## Other NRCS Initiatives

**Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D)** encourages and improves the capability of volunteers, locally elected and civic leaders in RC&D areas to plan and carry out projects that improve the quality of life.

**Small Watershed Programs (PL-566)** work through local government sponsors to help solve natural resource problems on a watershed basis. Colorado has 154 watershed dams, and growth in the State has made these flood prevention projects critical to protect life and property.

**The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)** is designed to help protect lives and property threatened by natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and wildfires. In 2007, NRCS completed \$280,000 in EWP watershed protection treatments on three projects in Colorado.

**Watershed Planning and Operations** -- Colorado has four watershed projects for land treatment practices to address water quality and quantity. The state is currently working on rapid watershed assessments on the 94 8-digit hydrologic units in Colorado.

## NRCS Grant Opportunities

In 2007, NRCS provided funding in Colorado for competitively selected proposals from state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and individuals for projects in four conservation emphasis areas:

- **Conservation Innovation Grants (EQIP):** Approximately \$618,000 was funded for 10 projects to address traditional natural resource issues concerning agriculture such as water quantity, grazing lands and forest health, and soil resource management as well as emerging natural resource issues including energy conservation.
- **Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative:** Conducted 38 grazing land management workshops to approximately 1,363 participants. Through the assistance of GLCI grant program, 11 demonstration projects have been conducted on grazing lands.
- **Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative:** About \$223,000 was funded to help partners identify and solve regional, state, and local natural resources concerns.
- **Colorado Invasive Plant Program (EQIP)** - More than one million dollars in cost-share assistance was funded to 20 approved project areas to assist in reducing the impact of noxious weeds.

# USDA Farm Bill Programs Summary

These programs are summarized by Congressional District and reflect program activity throughout the state of Colorado during fiscal year 2007. Over the last five years, the Colorado NRCS provided nearly \$200,000,000 in assistance through numerous financial and easement programs to landowners, farmers, and ranchers on more than 11 million acres of land.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

A voluntary program that provides technical, educational, and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on their land in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner.

Congressional District	Number of Applications	Approved Applications (Contracts)	Approved Funding	Total Treated Acres
1	0	0	\$0	0
2	56	38	\$829,914	14,647
3	957	641	\$14,949,001	188,278
4	584	333	\$7,830,581	289,238
5	55	40	\$796,910	16,610
6	38	29	\$424,812	10,649
7	17	14	\$554,017	10,659
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,707</b>	<b>1,095</b>	<b>\$25,385,235</b>	<b>530,081</b>

## EQIP - Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSWC)

A voluntary program that helps to conserve water and meet compact requirements. GSWC practices may include less water-intensive crop production, conversion to non-irrigated crop or grazing land use, and efficient irrigation systems.

Congressional District	Number of Applications	Approved Applications	Approved Funding	Total Treated Acres
1	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0
3	26	23	\$239,334	3,483
4	103	67	\$2,560,490	10,625
5	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	\$12,358	33
7	1	1	\$70,750	330
<b>Total:</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>\$2,882,932</b>	<b>14,471</b>

## Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

A voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitat that support wildlife populations of national, state, Tribal, and local significance.

Congressional District	Number of Applications	Approved Applications	Approved Funding	Total Treated Acres
1	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0
3	20	14	\$338,899	10,508
4	3	2	\$54,922	80
5	0	0	0	0
6	1	1	\$12,879	54
7	0	0	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$406,700</b>	<b>10,642</b>

These accomplishments could not have been met without the hard work and dedication of the approximately 300 Colorado NRCS employees. The conservation programs authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill help to provide the support needed to reduce the gap between the level of environmental quality the general public demands and the level of environmental quality farmers and ranchers can provide.

**Fiscal Year  
2007**

### Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

A voluntary land retirement program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands.

Congressional District	Number of Applications	Approved Applications	Approved Funding	Approved Acres
1	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0
3	6	2	\$567,307	355
4	7	2	\$407,955	366
5	1	1	\$175,300	60
6	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$1,150,562</b>	<b>781</b>

### Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)

A voluntary program that helps landowners keep their productive land in agriculture through conservation easements limiting conversion of property from non-agricultural uses.

Congressional District	Number of Applications	Type Approved		Approved Funding	Approved Acres
		Farm	Ranch		
1	0	0	0	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0
3	3	0	3	\$999,490	804
4	1	1	0	\$2,136,910	60
5	2	0	2	\$842,520	310
6	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>\$3,978,920</b>	<b>1,174</b>

**Helping People Help the Land**