

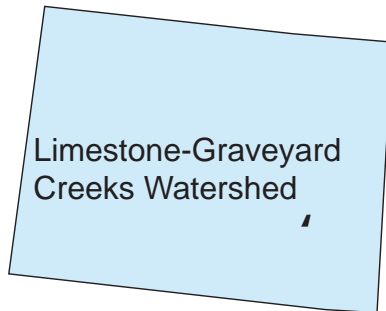
Watershed Operations

August 2009

Investing in the Limestone-Graveyard Creeks Watershed, Colorado

Introduction

This watershed project will help landowners improve management strategies and install efficient irrigation systems applied on cropland and adjacent properties located along the Arkansas River in southeastern Colorado.



The Limestone-Graveyard Creeks Watershed is located in southeastern Colorado in Bent and Prowers Counties.

Project Description

‡ **Location:** Bent and Prowers Counties, 4th Congressional District
 ‡ **SWCS #:** V Y \$187,000

This project will fund five contracts with mostly family-owned farms that will result in significant water quality improvement, conservation of an over-used water supply, and enhancement of scarce wildlife habitat.

Partners

- ‡ USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ‡ Bent Conservation District
- ‡ Prowers Conservation District
- ‡ Fort Lyon Canal Company
- ‡ Colorado State Conservation Board

Benefits

The project will benefit 1,250 local residents through more efficient practices that reduce soil erosion and conserve irrigation water which will reduce sediment and salt deposits to the Arkansas River. These practices will also reduce nitrates in the groundwater aquifer and improve 20 miles of stream corridor to enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administrations plans to modernize the nations infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging food control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.



Construction practices, like land leveling (above), are sometimes required prior to installing structural conservation practices, which results in more efficient use of irrigation water and improved water quality.

