United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

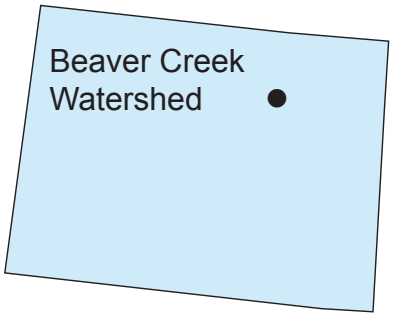
Watershed Operations

August 2009

Investing in the Beaver Creek Watershed, Colorado

Introduction

This watershed project will help landowners improve their management strategies and irrigation systems on cropland and adjacent properties located within the Beaver Creek Watershed along the South Platte River in northeastern Colorado.



Beaver Creek Watershed is located in northeastern Colorado in Morgan and Washington Counties.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood 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.

Project Description

- **Location:** Morgan and Washington Counties, 4th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** $2,500,000

The project will contract with mostly family-owned farms to implement conservation practices that will result in significant improvement of water quality, water supply, and enhancement of scarce wildlife habitat.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Washington Conservation District
- Morgan Conservation District
- Colorado State Conservation Board

Benefits

When the project is complete, the 1,200 residents, as well as the floodplain along the South Platte River, will realize benefits including reduction in on-farm seasonal water use and soil erosion; reduction of nitrates and pesticides in water sources; improved fish and wildlife habitat; and protection of irrigated agriculture and the local economy.

Installation of a Low Energy Sprinkler System increases the efficiency of water use.

Investing in the Beaver Creek Watershed, Colorado

Economic Opportunities

The funding for the Beaver Creek Project contracts will provide for the installation of structures that require labor to install and/or implement. This creates or saves jobs and when this project is completed, it will provide $.6 million in average annual benefits.

Statewide Perspective

Irrigated agriculture drives the economy in northeastern Colorado. Improvement of water use from agriculture will reduce economic and environmental impacts.

For More Information

USDA, NRCS
655 Parfet Street, Room E200C
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-5517
Phone: 720-544-2810
Fax: 720-544-2962
www.co.nrcs.usda.gov

Preparation for mesh liner to be installed on a confined animal feeding operation to help prevent the leaching of nitrates and nutrients into groundwater.

Installation of lining.

Placement of final piece of liner.

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer