

Salinity in the Grand Valley

Celebrating 30+ Years

1979-2012

Evening Sponsors

- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Mesa Conservation District
- Colorado River Water Conservation District
- Colorado State Conservation Board
- Salinity Control Forum



Salinity Partners

- Landowners/ Operators/Producers
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Mesa Conservation District
- Colorado State University Cooperative Extension
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Bureau of Land Management
- Salinity Control Forum
- Colorado State Conservation Board
- Colorado River Water Conservation District
- Farm Service Agency
- United States Geological Survey (USGS)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado Division of Water Resources
- USDA-Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
- Irrigation and Construction Companies
- Ditch Companies
- Drainage Districts
- Many More!



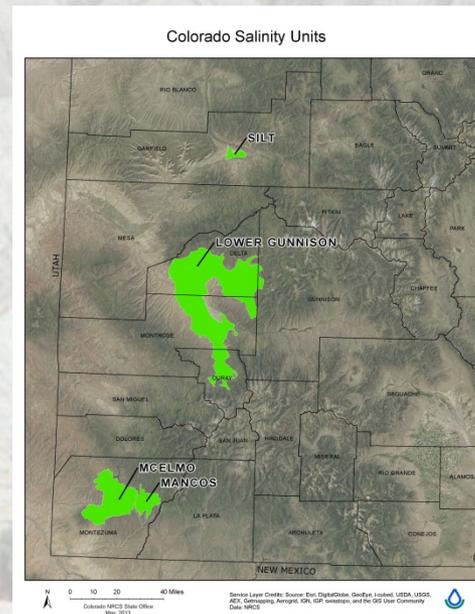
Salinity Projects

- The Grand Valley Salinity Project is the first of five projects initiated in Colorado to address Salinity.
- These projects include:



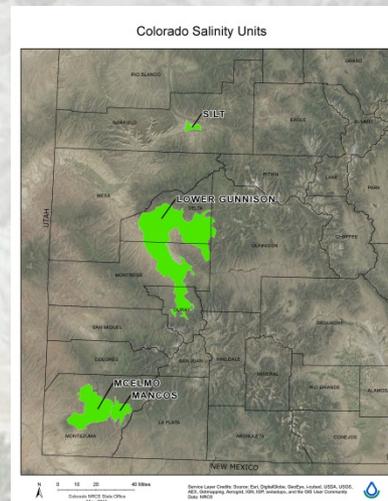
Silt Unit

- Began in 2005
 - Located in west central Colorado on the Silt Mesa just north of the Colorado River between the towns of Silt and Rifle.



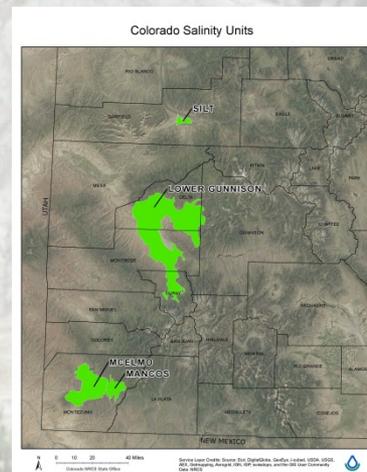
Mancos Valley Unit

- Began in 2004
 - The Mancos Valley is an agricultural valley situated in the middle and lower portions of the Mancos River, in the vicinity of Mancos and Montezuma Counties.



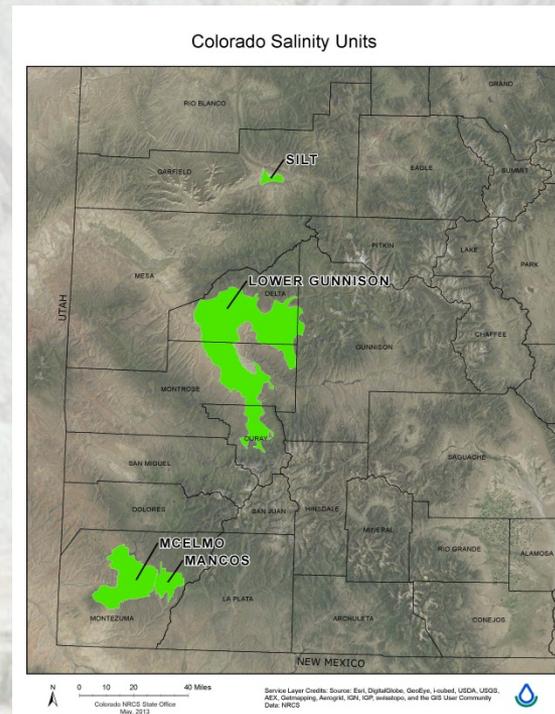
McElmo Creek Basin Unit

- Began in 1989
 - The McElmo Creek Basin is located in southwestern Colorado and covers approximately 720 square miles. About 150 square miles of the basin are agricultural land.

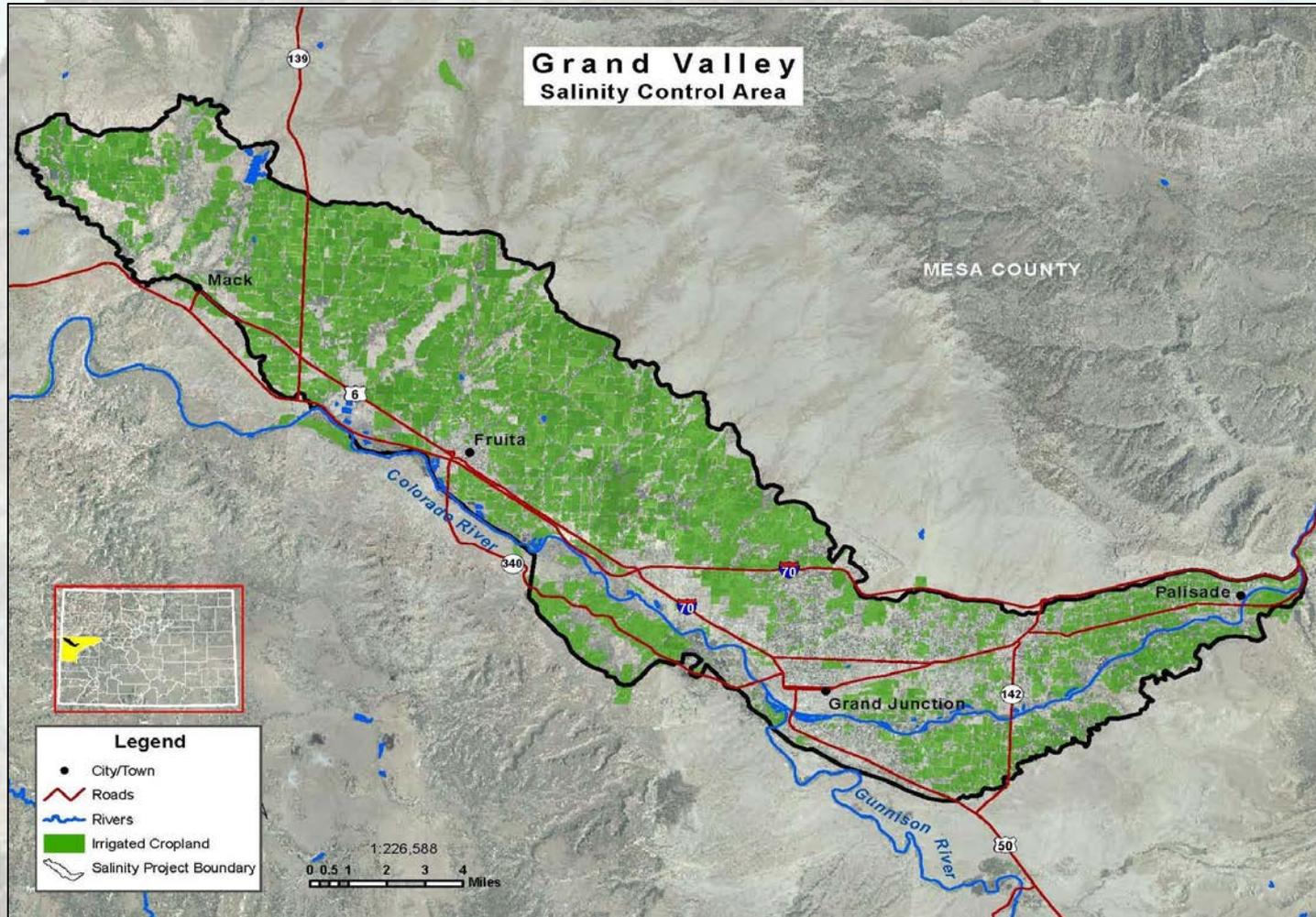


Lower Gunnison Basin Unit

- Began in 1988
 - The Lower Gunnison Basin Unit is located in west-central Colorado in Delta and Montrose Counties.



Grand Valley Project Area



Grand Valley Project Area

- Began in 1979
- One goal in mind: reduce annual salt loading into the Colorado River by **132,000 tons per year**



Breakdown of Salinity Goal

- 1 semi-truck = 10 tons (20,000 lbs)

132,000 tons (salt-loading goal)

10 tons per semi-truck

= 13,200 trucks



Reduced Salt Loading Accomplishments

- The cumulative salt load reduction is **141,099 tons/year**, or **107 percent** of the project goal.
- That is equal to ~**14,110** semi trucks.
- Lined up front to back that is **58.8 miles** of trucks!
- The distance from Grand Junction to Rifle CO.



Improved Irrigation Accomplishments

- The original project plan was to treat approximately **60,000 acres** with improved irrigation systems.
- 2010 field inventory indicated there are **47,600 irrigated cropland acres** remaining in Grand Valley and **2,900 irrigated acres** with unimproved irrigation systems, most on fields of 5 acres or less.



Improved Irrigation Accomplishments

- To date **41,989 acres** ^{/1} have been treated with improved irrigation systems.
 - A 2010 survey of all irrigation systems in the valley showed that **94 percent** of all fields had some type of improved irrigation system.

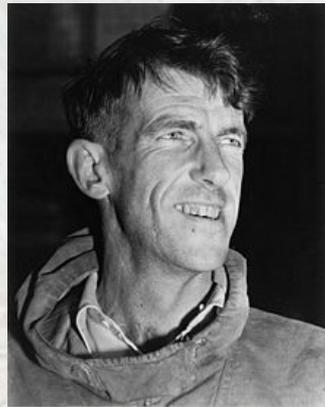
^{/1} Note: The 41,989 acres include acres that have been treated a second time to a higher level of irrigation improvement and salt savings over the course of this salinity project.

Improved Irrigation Accomplishments

- As a result, the NRCS portion of the Grand Valley Salinity Control Project was officially closed effective September 30, 2012.
- It will be the first ever recognized closure of an established Salinity Control Project.



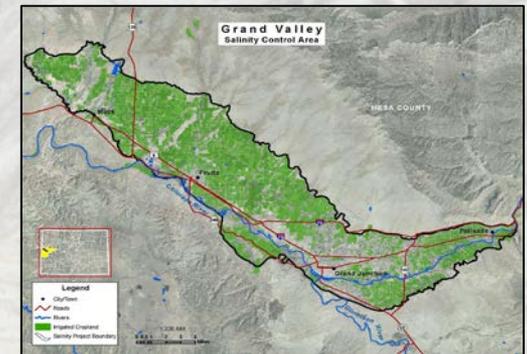
Neil Armstrong



Sir Edmund Hillary



The Wright Brothers



The Grand Valley
Salinity Project

Improved Irrigation Accomplishments

- Total dollars spent for all NRCS and NRCS supported programs was **\$38,905,878.**
 - Only includes the actual cost share/incentive payment amounts, and does NOT include any TA from CTA, EQIP TA, Basin States TA, etc.



Wildlife Habitat Replacement Accomplishments

- The Grand Valley habitat replacement goal is **1,206 acres** of habitat developed or significantly enhanced.



Wildlife Habitat Replacement Accomplishments

- To date, **752 acres** or 62% of the original wildlife habitat replacement goal has been established and is being maintained.

Habitat Replacement Goal = 1206 Acres	
Completed Acres	396
BOR Offset	355
Acres Under Contract	207
Acres Planned and Waiting for Funding	490
Total Acreage	1448

Moving Forward

- Monitoring Improvements
- New Technology
- Technical assistance and funding will still available through the NRCS for irrigation, water quality, wildlife habitat and other resource concern improvements!



Questions?

