



## 2010 Annual Report

### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

### Colorado River Salinity Control Program

This report contains fiscal year activity for the state of Colorado from the time period of October 2009 to September 2010.

#### Who We Are

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. NRCS has six mission goals that include high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

#### Vision

Productive Lands -  
Healthy Environment

#### Mission

Helping People Help the Land

*“Reduced salinity in the Colorado River water helps to improve agricultural productivity and water efficiency, allow water to be used multiple times, and lengthen the life of utility treatment facilities and pipelines.”*

**Salinity Program Manager**



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#### Fiscal Year 2010 Colorado River Salinity Control Program Statewide Activities

Number of Contracts Approved.....	115
Dollar Amount Approved.....	\$4.6 Million
Acres under Contract .....	4,214

#### Overview

The Colorado River is the primary source of domestic water supply for some 27 million people in the seven Colorado River Basin states.

It also provides irrigation water for more than 3.5 million acres of farmland within the basin and hundreds of thousands more acres outside the basin.

Near its headwaters in the Rocky Mountains, the salinity concentration of the Colorado River is typically 50 parts per million acre-feet of water or less.

About one half of the salinity in the river comes from natural sources and the other half comes from human uses of the water and activities near the river.

The quality of water in the Colorado River is critical to the economics of small communities and large cities in both the U.S. and Mexico.

#### The Program

The Colorado River Basin Salinity Program reduces salinity by preventing salts from dissolving and mixing with the River's flow.

Irrigation improvements and vegetation management reduce water available to transport salts vertically, laterally, and on the soil surface.

A long term, interstate and interagency public/private partnership effort is being carried out to reduce the amount of salts in the River and its associated impacts in the Basin.

The Basin states formed the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum in 1973 to develop these standards including numeric salinity criteria and a basin-wide plan of implementation for salinity control.

Title II of the 1974 Colorado River Basin Control Act created the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program and directed the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of the Interior to manage the River's salinity, including salinity contributed from public lands.

The law directed that preference be given to those projects which are the most cost-effective, that is, obtaining the greatest reduction in salinity concentration per dollar spent.

#### The Assistance

NRCS provides financial cost-share assistance to agricultural producers who voluntarily implement land management and irrigation practices that reduce salt loading.

Participants are provided incentive payments but are required to contribute at least 25 percent of the cost of the measures installed to reduce salt loading.

NRCS also provides technical assistance to producers to plan, design, and install more efficient water use and reduce the movement of salt from saline shale deposits that underlie the soil throughout the Colorado.

#### For More Information

Visit our web site at [www.co.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov).