

## MANCOS VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT



### Mission:

To conserve water for better distribution within the Mancos Valley, to facilitate improved efficiency of the use of water, and to reduce the amount of salt entering the lower Colorado River system from the Mancos Valley.

## BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

- ✓ I will receive a much larger share of my water because 30-40% of the water will not be lost on its way to my property. Ditch cleaning can be a thing of the past.
- ✓ If most of the ditches in the Mancos Valley participate in the Water Conservation Project, the amount of salt we contribute to our downstream neighbors would be reduced by as much as 10,000 tons/year.
- ✓ If irrigation efficiencies are improved on 7200 acres of Mancos Valley land, we could further reduce our downstream salt contributions by 6,000 tons/year.
- ✓ With sufficient participation, land owners who see their water flow stop early in the season will likely have water for a longer period because of greater water use efficiency by their neighbors.
- ✓ The riparian corridor of the Mancos River will be rejuvenated by restoring the river channel.

Mancos Valley Water Conservation Project  
Raymond Keith, Project Coordinator  
604 Bauer Avenue  
Mancos, CO 81328  
Phone: 920-533-9168  
E-mail: rekeith@fone.net

## WHY SHOULD I BE CONCERNED ABOUT WATER CONSERVATION AND SALINITY IN THE MANCOS VALLEY?

### WATER CONSERVATION

- Increasing population means increasing demands on water supplies for people, job creation, recreation, environmental programs, and agriculture, to name a few.
- Water use rights are property rights but the water itself is a public resource. Individuals can divert water only for beneficial purposes. Water seeping from open ditches, subirrigation, tail water runoff, and deep percolation due to non-uniform application of irrigation water are not beneficial uses of water.
- Water going to non-beneficial ends or not taken when available is a public resource subject to redistribution.
- Controlling water in a pipeline is a big first step toward improving irrigation practices on the farms.

### SALINITY

- Water leaving the Mancos Valley is drinking and/or irrigation water for folks, their animals and their crops in Nevada, Arizona, California, the Republic of Mexico, and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in Colorado.
- Salty water: tastes bad, clogs pipes, destroys soil, and harms crops.
- It costs our downstream neighbors about 10 times more to remove salt from the river than it does for us to reduce the amount of salt entering the river.  
**Down stream interests are willing to pay a big share of the cost of improvements that will lower salinity in the river.**
- It just makes sense to improve water quality if we can. Salt from inefficient delivery and application of irrigation water is a non-point source pollutant.

## GET YOUR DITCH COMPANY INVOLVED TODAY!

The Mancos Valley Water Conservation Project is such a significant opportunity for water users in the Valley, downstream and elsewhere in Colorado, that it really deserves a fair hearing.

To start having a positive impact on water conservation and salinity in the Mancos Valley contact Raymond Keith, Mancos Valley Water Conservation Project Coordinator.

You can also access the Mancos Valley Water Conservation Project "Landowners Guide" that you received in the mail. Detailed instructions are included. In addition, copies are available at the Mancos Conservation District Office at 604 Bauer Avenue in Mancos.



The Mancos Valley Water Conservation Project was initiated, and is coordinated and managed by the Mancos Conservation District.

*"Efficient means of diversion and storage, beneficial use without waste, recognition of all purposes which Coloradans value, these have always been fundamental precepts of Colorado Water Law. The era of their fuller implementation is upon us."*

-Excerpts from the writings of Justice Gregory Hobbs, Jr., Colorado Supreme Court

Mancos Valley Water Conservation Project  
Raymond Keith, Project Coordinator  
604 Bauer Avenue  
Mancos, CO 81328  
Phone: 920-533-9168  
E-mail: rekeith@fone.net