



HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3-Year Plan (2020 to 2022)

Executive Summary

For More Information Contact: 970-529-8368

info@highdesertconservation.org

www.highdesertcd.org

Organization of the High Desert Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Colorado – authorities, powers and structure contained in Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 35, Article 70. The High Desert Conservation District was organized following an election of landowners in the District on April 11, 1942. The original name of the District was the Dolores Soil Conservation District. District activities are directed by consensus of a seven member Board of Supervisors and operations are conducted by a part-time District Manager.

Function of the High Desert Conservation District

To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil; adopting practices that promote of soil health, efficient agricultural water use and sustainable management of related natural resources.

Mission of the High Desert Conservation District

Planting Seeds of Inspiration to Promote Conscious Stewardship of our Natural Resources is the mission of the High Desert Conservation District.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the High Desert Conservation District

1. Salinity of waters being released from the area is overly high, contributing to high salinity in water released downstream.
2. Noxious and invasive weeds are decreasing available agricultural land.
3. The fertility and health of soils are at risk due to overuse and misuse of conventional farm practices.
4. Locally grown foods are being demanded by the community.
5. Drought conditions have been prevalent and are creating a water shortage.
6. The Colorado Water Plan is demanding greater scrutiny of irrigation water usage.
7. It is becoming more and more difficult for farmers to make a profit from their farm.

Natural Resource Data:

The High Desert Conservation District and Mancos Conservation District share the resources of Montezuma County. The 2012 population of Montezuma County was 25,431 with a land area of 2,037 square miles. Of these, 30% are private lands, 33% are tribal (Ute Mountain Ute), and 37% are state and federal lands. In 2012 farmlands occupied 690,656 acres of land, with an average farm size of 607 acres. There were 1,138 farms in Montezuma County in 2012.

Natural Resource Priorities & Goals:

Soil Health and Practices

- Landowners and land managers within the District will improve soil health and resiliency of their properties
- Producers will be aware of the connection between soil fertility and efficient use of irrigation water

Weed Management

Promote community supported weed management.

Water Use and Management

Provide staff that can work one-on-one with producers to improve water use efficiency

Promotion, District Development, and Agriculture

- Maintain and promote information dissemination with the technologies most widely accepted and requested by the producers in Montezuma County.
 - High Desert Conservation District be recognized by all of the community as a hub for conservation information. Promoting and supporting agriculture in Montezuma County.
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HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Natural Resource Goals & Objectives

Long Range Plan for: 2020 – 2022

Natural Resource Issue: Soil Health and Practices

Why is this issue a concern and what is the location: In Montezuma County, fertile top-soil is being lost to wind and water erosion, soil fertility and production is lost with mismanagement of irrigation water (leaching and salinity) and irrigation water is becoming less available due to drought and greater demand for water throughout Colorado. Producers are trying to remedy a loss of production by increasing primarily synthetic inputs. Many of these inputs have become too costly to allow for a profit from the crop(s) and continue to exacerbate the loss of soil fertility. Coupled with concern of losing irrigation water if participating in a conservation effort, producers continue to over irrigate, contributing to the leeching of soil nutrients of all types. Additionally, the demand for locally grown foods is increasing and with it, the number of small acreage production farms. Although the principles of healthy soil are the same regardless of the number of acres being farmed, this demand has created the need for more information on farming for profit with smaller number of acres in addition

Three Year Goal(s):

- Landowners and land managers within the District will improve soil health and resiliency of their properties
- Producers will be aware of the connection between soil fertility and efficient use of irrigation water

Soil Health and Practices

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2020	The DCT (District Conservation Technician) will be retained by the HDCCD (High Desert Conservation District). Continue promotion of soil health through covercrops, no-till practices, sale of conservation supplies, rental of seed-drill, and sales of seedling trees. Provide 3 rd Annual SW Ag Seminar.	NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service), CSCB (Colorado State Conservation Board), CSFNSN (Colorado State Forest Service Nursery, Southwest Seed	50 hrs per year 500 Board Supervisor Hours \$10,000 2080 DCT Hours & Funding	HDCCD (High Desert Conservation District) NRCS CSCB (Colorado State Conservation Board) SWCD (Southwestern Water Conservation District)
2021	The DCT (District Conservation Technician) will be retained by the HDCCD (High Desert Conservation District). Continue promotion of soil health through covercrops, no-till practices, sale of conservation supplies, rental of seed-drill, and sales of seedling trees. Provide 4 th Annual SW Ag Seminar.	NRCS CSCB	50 hrs per year 500 Board Supervisor Hours \$10,000 DCT Funding	HDCCD NRCS CSCB SWCD
2022	The DCT (District Conservation Technician) will be retained by the HDCCD (High Desert Conservation District). Continue promotion of soil health through covercrops, no-till practices, sale of conservation supplies, rental of seed-drill, and sales of seedling trees. Provide 5 th Annual SW Ag Seminar	NRCS CSCB	50 hrs per year 500 Board Supervisor Hours \$10,000 DCT Funding	HDCCD NRCS CSCB SWCD

*** Use of acronyms – please spell out each acronym the first time it is used followed by the acronym. From that point on, use only the acronym.**

HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Natural Resource Goals & Objectives

Long Range Plan for: 2020 – 2022

Natural Resource Issue: Weed Management

Why is this issue a concern and what is the location: Productive agricultural lands are negatively impacted by uncontrolled weeds. Both private and public lands contribute to the seed source impacting agricultural lands. Education is lacking among landowners regarding weed control methods—biological, mechanical, chemical and when it is appropriate to use them. Once weeds or invasive species are controlled, revegetation is necessary to prevent erosion and maintain weed competition. Communication and collaboration among organizations with similar concerns is vital to the success of a noxious weed control program.

Three Year Goal(s): Promote community supported weed management.

Weed Management

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with (MCWCP) Montezuma County Weed Control Program to deliver consistent message. • Support HDCCD (High Desert Conservation District) Board Supervisor, with County Weed Management Program. • Provide biological control workshop. • Continue to find funding for staff to provide in-office and on-site consultation needed to outline viable weed management plans • Introduce noxious weed management to youth 	MCWCP Palisade insectory NRCS CSCB/DCT CSU Extension MSTFP	310 DM hours 250 supervisor hours \$7500	CWMA (Colorado Weed Management Association) MCWCP

<p>2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with MCWCP to deliver consistent message. • Provide conventional control workshop including weed identification. • Continue to find funding for staff to provide in-office and on-site consultation needed to outline a viable weed management plan 	<p>MCWCP Palisade insectory NRCS CSCB/DCT CSU Extension MSTFP</p>	<p>310 DM hours 250 supervisor hours \$7500</p>	<p>CWMA (Colorado Weed Management Association) MCWCP</p>
<p>2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with MCWCP to deliver consistent message. • Continue to find funding for staff to provide in-office and on-site consultation needed to outline a viable weed management plan 	<p>MCWCP Palisade insectory NRCS CSCB/DCT CSU Extension MSTFP</p>	<p>310 DM hours 250 supervisor hours \$7500</p>	<p>CWMA (Colorado Weed Management Association) MCWCP</p>

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Natural Resource Goals & Objectives

Long Range Plan for: 2020-2022

Natural Resource Issue: Water Use and Management

Why is this issue a concern and what is the location:

High salinity soils in Montezuma County contribute to make water unusable downstream if irrigation waters are mismanaged. Promoting a healthy downstream watershed depends on the understanding and willingness of farmers to irrigate appropriately without bringing additional salts to the surface for deposit into surface water.

Yield is also dependent on appropriate water distribution. Erosion and loss of soil fertility can be a by-product of mismanaged irrigation waters. Aging irrigation projects have lost their efficiency and need to be evaluated and landowners provided with a current water use and management plan that will meet their production needs. In addition, new technology has become available that may be able to increase the efficiency of this dwindling resource.

Acknowledging the limited sources of water in this area and the dry environment, the efficient use of irrigation water is crucial to the agricultural and economic development of this area.

Three Year Goal(s):

Provide staff that can work one-on-one with producers to improve water use efficiency

Water Use and Management

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basin Salinity Technician will continue as HDCCD (High Desert Conservation District) staff. • Provide services to NRCs (Natural Resources Conservation Service) for EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) and Basin Salinity projects • Provide financial support to WIP (Water Information Program) including Children's Water Festival 	<p>NRCs CSCB (Colorado State Conservation Board)-BSP (Basin Salinity Program) BOR (Bureau of Reclamation) WIP (Water Information Program) SWCD (Southwestern Water Conservation District)</p>	<p>240 DM Hours 24 Supervisor Hours \$850 2080 Staff Hours Basin Salinity Funding</p>	<p>DA (Direct Assistance) MC (Montezuma County) CSCB-BSP BOR SWCD</p>
2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basin Salinity Technician will continue as HDCCD staff. • Provide services to NRCs for EQIP and Basin Salinity projects • Provide financial support to Water Information Program including Children's Water Festival • Develop IWM Specialist program 	<p>NRCs CSCB BSP BOR WIP SWCD</p>	<p>240 DM Hours 24 Supervisor Hours \$850 2080 Staff Hours Basin Salinity Funding</p>	<p>DA MC CSCB-BSP BOR SWCD</p>

<p>2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basin Salinity Technician will continue as HDCCD staff. • Provide services to NRCS for EQIP and Basin Salinity projects • Provide financial support to Water Information Program including Children's Water Festival 	<p>NRCS CSCB BSP BOR WIP SWCD</p>	<p>240 DM Hours 24 Supervisor Hours \$850 2080 Staff Hours Basin Salinity Funding</p>	<p>DA MC CSCB-BSP BOR SWCD</p>
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HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Natural Resource Goals & Objectives

Long Range Plan for: 2020-2022

Natural Resource Issue: Promotion and District Development and Local Agriculture

Why is this issue a concern and what is the location:

The agricultural community by the nature of its requirements, tends to separate by distance many of the people involved in production. It is crucial that producers have a hub for information.

Three Year Goal(s):

Maintain and promote information dissemination with the technologies most widely accepted and requested by the producers in Montezuma County. High Desert Conservation District be recognized by all of the community as a hub for conservation information. Promoting and supporting agriculture in Montezuma County.

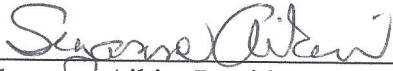
Promotion, District Development, & Local Agriculture

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2020	Website development and maintenance. Facebook and other social media. Signage Promotional/Branding materials	San Juan Watershed Association	250 hours \$10,000	HDCCD (High Desert Conservation District)
2021	Website development and maintenance. Facebook and other social media. Signage Promotional/Branding materials	San Juan Watershed Association	150 hours \$5000	HDCCD
2022	Website development and maintenance. Facebook and other social media. Signage Promotional/Branding materials	San Juan Watershed Association	150 hours \$5000	HDCCD

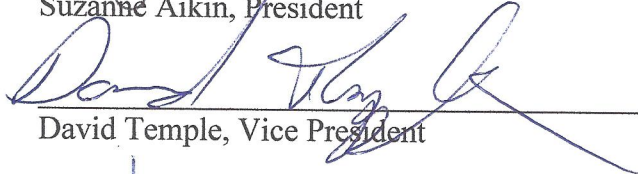
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RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

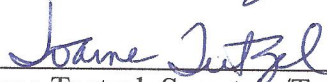
THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that this Long Range Program of the High Desert Conservation District be adopted as the official program of the District as of this 10th day of September, 2019.




Suzanne Aikin, President



David Temple, Vice President




Joanne Teetzel, Secretary/Treasurer



Joe Lanier, Member



Adam Kackstetter, Member



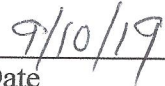
Jim Farrier, Member

Reviewed by the Colorado State Conservation Board



Suzanne Aikin, President

Cindy Lair, Program Manager



Date

Date