



**11 Mancos Conservation District  
3-Year Plan (2014 to 2016)**

**Executive Summary**

**For More Information Contact: Lea Cody, District Manager, (970)  
533-1152, leacody.mancoscd@gmail.com**

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**Organization of the Mancos Conservation District**

A political subdivision of the State of Colorado – authorities, powers and structure contained in Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 35, Article 70.

The Mancos Conservation District was established on August 31, 1948. Tourism, farming, and ranching constitute the major industries in the Mancos area.

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**Function of the Mancos Conservation District**

To make available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their origin, and focus or coordinate those resources so that they meet the needs of the local land manager and aid in conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

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**Mission of the Mancos Conservation District**

The mission of the Mancos Conservation District is to promote the long-term sustainable use and protection of the natural resources of the Mancos River Watershed by providing educational opportunities for residents and financial and technical assistance to landowners and managers seeking to meet conservation goals.

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**Trends Impacting Conservation in the Mancos Conservation District**

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**Natural Resource Data:**

Land Ownership: 61,400 acres privately owned; 68,400 acres US Forest Service; 23,800 acres Bureau of Land Management; 1,700 acres County and State lands; 700 acres Bureau of Reclamation.

Land Usage: 16,000 acres irrigated hay fields and pasture; 400 dry cropland; 45,000 acres range and woodland.

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**Natural Resource Priorities & Goals:**

*Water Quality and Quantity – continue developing watershed management plans for implementation.*

*Preventing Soil Erosion – working with the Salinity Control Forum to install pipeline distribution systems to replace dirt ditches and flood irrigation.*

*Sound Range Management – provide educational, financial, and technical assistance to land owners to improve grazing sustainability.*

*Noxious Weeds Program – conducting workshops and weed management and cropping techniques to reduce noxious weeds.*

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**Natural Resource Information /Education Priorities and Goals:**

- *Support Camp Rocky scholarships for any interested students.*
- *Children's Poster Contest*
- *Support Teacher Workshops for interested teachers*
- *Host Weed, Water and Irrigation workshops throughout the year for all interested landowners.*

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**Staffing Needs:**

*The Mancos Conservation District employs a District Manager and 2 Technicians to carry out the plan of the Conservation District. These positions are funded through private and state grants.*

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**Conservation District Operational Goals & Objectives:**

*The Mancos Conservation District has 5 board members, 2 who are relatively new. Board member training is on-going. Each member is a volunteer and spends time on a project assigned or chosen. Fund raising efforts are a priority along with all of the educational workshops planned.*

MANCOS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Natural Resource Goals & Objectives**

Long Range Plan for: 2014 – 2016

**Natural Resource Issue: Promotion/Education**

**Why is this issue a concern and what is the location:** It is imperative that the landowners and partners are able to find information about the district as easily as possible. Regular updates to our website keep information current and provide convenient information to the public.

**Three Year Goal(s):** Maintain our website; partnering with the Dolores Conservation District

<b>PROGRAM YEAR</b>	<b>MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP</b>	<b>TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED</b>	<b>SOURCE OF FUNDING</b>
2014	☞ Update website quarterly to reflect new information and upcoming events.	Dolores CD	10 Hours \$500	Direct Assistance Funding
2015	Update website quarterly to reflect new information and upcoming events.	Dolores CD	10 Hours	DA Funding
2016	☞ Update website quarterly to reflect new information and upcoming events.	Dolores CD	10 Hours	DA Funding

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\* 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.

MANCOS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Natural Resource Goals & Objectives**

Long Range Plan for: 2014 – 2016

**Natural Resource Issue: Update By-Laws**

**Why is this issue a concern and what is the location:** Modern technology has surpassed the language and rules in the current by laws. These by laws need to be updated in order to meet the current communications available to the board members.

**Three Year Goal(s):** Completely review and redraft the current By Laws.

<b>PROGRAM YEAR</b>	<b>MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP</b>	<b>TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED</b>	<b>SOURCE OF FUNDING</b>
<b>2014</b>	A. Create committee to begin to review and redraft the current By Laws B. Get new draft typed and to board for board approval. C. Submit revamped By Laws to all appropriate entities.	N/A	30 Hours N/A	N/A
<b>2015</b>				
<b>2016</b>				

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MANCOS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Natural Resource Goals & Objectives**

Long Range Plan for: 2014 – 2016

**Natural Resource Issue: Large Ditch Company Piping**

**Why is this issue a concern and what is the location:** There are a few large ditch companies who did not qualify for the salt load requirements for funding prior to the new BSP program. Investigating whether or not these ditches could now qualify and help them gain the benefits of having their ditch piped would be very helpful for the salinity program.

**Three Year Goal(s):** Meet with current ditch companies and attempt to get them qualified and the design and construction done.

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2014	A. Meet with the ditch companies that need qualifying – Webber, Webber Auxiliary, Root/Ratliff. B. Get them qualified if they are interested C. Begin design	NRCS, BSP	150 Hours \$5,000	Tech Assistance Funds and or District Conservation Technician Funds
2015	A. Complete design if approval has come in B. Begin construction on pipeline	NRCS, BSP	1000 HOURS	BSP; DCT
2016	A. Complete construction on ditches	NRCS, BSP	1000 HOURS	BSP; DCT

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MANCOS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Natural Resource Goals & Objectives**

Long Range Plan for: 2014 – 2016

**Natural Resource Issue: Diversion Project**

**Why is this issue a concern and what is the location:** Obtaining funding to design and replace existing diversion from the Mancos River into private ditches has been a goal of the district. These diversions are in very poor shape and in desperate need of replacement. There are also a number of opportunities to facilitate management and production of riparian habitat during the redesign of ditch diversions.

**Three Year Goal(s):** Complete Construction on 7 ditch diversions. This project is well under way from previous years of work, but is still ongoing. Funding has already been acquired from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB).

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2014	A. Complete construction and implementation of diversions from the Veits ditch downstream to the Exon ditch for Diversion-Phase II. B. Complete construction of the Sheek and Henry Bolen diversions on Chicken Creek.	NRCS, ARMY CORP OF ENG; TOWN OF MANCOS	250 HOURS; \$25,000	CWCB
2015	A. Follow up on diversion implementation. B. Monitor stability and effectiveness of habitat and diversion structures.	NRCS, ARMY CORP OF ENG; TOWN OF MANCOS	100 HOURS	N/A
2016	A. Design and plan for Diversion Project-Phase III.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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MANCOS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Natural Resource Goals & Objectives**

Long Range Plan for: 2014 – 2016

**Natural Resource Issue: Watershed Plan**

**Why is this issue a concern and what is the location:** There needs to be a rough plan for the intended future of our Watershed; especially since the Weber Fire in 2012.

**Three Year Goal(s):** Develop a management plan for assessed concerns, continue the water quality database, involve and educate students and landowners regarding the watershed plan, and improve water resource database for the Mancos Valley.

<b>PROGRAM YEAR</b>	<b>MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP</b>	<b>TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED</b>	<b>SOURCE OF FUNDING</b>
<b>2014</b>	A. Use the results of the Rapid Watershed Assessment to develop a watershed management plan in written form for use. B. Monitor contamination responsible for abiotic condition of East Fork of Mancos River. C. Monitor sediments eroding from Weber Fire.	NRCS; USFS; BLM; SCB; NPS; UTE TRIBE; VOLUNTEERS	500 HOURS \$12,500	BSP; DCT; CWCB
<b>2015</b>	A. Continue the watershed management plan of 2008 with respect to the lower valley river restoration, imbedded cobble and ash eroding from Mesa Verde and Weber Fires. B. Repeat and expand watershed assessment using RSRA protocols – Annually.	NRCS; USFS; BLM; SCB; NPS; UTE TRIBE; VOLUNTEERS	400 HOURS \$10,000	BSP; DCT; CWCB
<b>2016</b>	A. Annually – Continue watershed outreach programs; stakeholders meetings; Mancos River Water Day; etc.	NRCS; USFS; BLM; SCB; NPS; UTE TRIBE; VOLUNTEERS	400 HOURS \$10,000	BSP; DCT; CWCB

MANCOS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Natural Resource Goals & Objectives**

Long Range Plan for: 2014 – 2016

**Natural Resource Issue: Water Quality, Irrigation Water Management**

**Why is this issue a concern and what is the location:** Water is arguably the most valuable resource in the West. How this resources is used is of the utmost concern to any conservationist in the area.

**Three Year Goal(s):** Maximize conservation and salinity savings and include more landowners in Salinity Program. Improve outreach.

<b>PROGRAM YEAR</b>	<b>MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP</b>	<b>TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED</b>	<b>SOURCE OF FUNDING</b>
<b>Annually 2014</b>	A. Continue to host 2 irrigation water management seminars each year. Workshops help by NRCS IWM specialist at the board office. B. Offer yearly weed workshops with board members and invited speakers.	NRCS; WATER INFO PROGRAM	50 HOURS	MCD
<b>Annually 2015</b>	A. Improve and expand irrigation water management services offered to landowners. Use portable soil/water evapotranspiration monitors purchased in previous years. B. Offer yearly water workshops emphasizing basic water law, change and trends and rules and regulations regarding distribution of water in the Mancos Valley. Include guest speakers.	NRCS; WATER INFO PROGRAM	50 HOURS	MCD; DA
<b>Annually 2016</b>	A. Expand Mancos Valley Water Conservation Project. B. Expand Outreach programs C. Update Handbook titled "Water in the Mancos Valley; Where it Comes from, how its Used, and Who to contact for Help."	NRCS; WATER INFO PROGRAM	100 HOURS	MCD; DA

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MANCOS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**Natural Resource Goals & Objectives**

Long Range Plan for: 2014 – 2016

**Natural Resource Issue: School to Farm Program**

**Why is this issue a concern and what is the location:** Agriculture is disappearing from our way of life in the Mancos Valley and its heritage is not understood by youth. The knowledge base of how to produce food and fiber needs to be kept alive.

**Three Year Goal(s):** Implementing a program that can be passed to the school system as a continuing curriculum and used as an education tool for our future youth.

<b>PROGRAM YEAR</b>	<b>MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP</b>	<b>TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED</b>	<b>SOURCE OF FUNDING</b>
<b>2014</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Further building volunteer base.</li> <li>B. Plan in class visits, implement field trips, and hold camps.</li> <li>C. Evaluate summer camps, implement after school programs, work on fund raising.</li> <li>D. Further networks of local administrators and community members.</li> <li>E. Expand school garden production areas</li> <li>F. Develop and implement drought education curriculum</li> </ul>	Local Public Schools; AMERICORP	1,000 HOURS \$50,000	LiveWell; CSCB; Ballantine; Anshcutz; SWWCD; private donations; local governments
<b>2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Continue in class visits, field trips in the spring and fall, summer camps, and after school programs.</li> <li>B. Build sustainable internship positions.</li> <li>C. Connect with similar programs and local experts to increase the impact of the program.</li> </ul>	Local Public Schools; AMERICORP	1,000 HOURS \$50,000	LiveWell; CSCB; Ballantine; Anshcutz; SWWCD; private donations; local governments
<b>2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Further community engagement.</li> <li>B. Create multiple-use facilities to increase community involvement</li> <li>C. Expand on current classroom features.</li> </ul>	Local Public Schools; AMERICORP	1,000 HOURS \$50,000	LiveWell; CSCB; Ballantine; Anshcutz; SWWCD; private donations; local governments

**RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION**

THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that this Long Range Program of the MANCOS Conservation District be adopted as the official program of the District as of this \_\_\_12th\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_NOVEMBER\_\_\_, 2013.

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**ELDON SIMMONS**, President

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**ALAN ROLSTON**, Vice President

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**STEVE HAWKINS**, Secretary/Treasurer

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**TERRY MOORES**, Member

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**ROBERT BECKER**, Member

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**BEN WOLCOTT**, Member

Reviewed by the Colorado State Conservation Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
XXXXXX, President

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Cindy Lair, Program Manager

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Date