



HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Serving Montezuma County for 76 Years

2020 Annual Report



CONTACT US

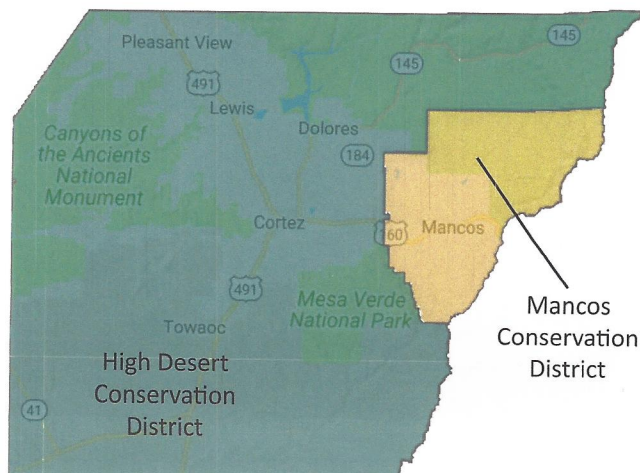
High Desert Conservation District

628 West 5th Street

Cortez, CO 81321

(970) 529-8368

info@highdesertconservation.org



Montezuma County Conservation Districts

High Desert Conservation
District
Mancos Conservation
District



High Desert

Conservation District

Our Mission:

**Planting Seeds of
Inspiration to
Promote
Conscious
Stewardship**

Our Projects

No-Till Seed Drill – For Rent

Over 2000 acres of land in Montezuma County have been seeded with the No-Till Seed Drill in the past 4 years. Land managers, public utilities engineers, public land stewards, farmers and ranchers use the drill to reseed ditches, right-of-ways, and leach fields, and to establish new forage stands. It is most often used to rejuvenate tired pastures without having to disc or plough and to plant competition for weeds after a control method has been applied.



HDCD Education and Events

Current Events and Programs

“There are two great times
to plant trees:
the first was twenty years ago...
the other is NOW.”

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Call the District at 970-529-8368 if you are interested in learning more.

Conservation Supplies Sales

HDCD sells a number of items for conservation needs. We are not a typical business with high markups for profits – we just cover our costs to provide you with quality and cost-effective products for conservation on your land!

Call to make an appointment.

Annual Seedling Tree Sale

Each year around October, we open our Annual Tree Sale. Trees, shrubs, and even native plants are on the list for your conservation needs. Pre-orders arrive in April of the next year.

2019-2020 Sale will be re-vamped by adding more varieties and a larger number of items to purchase.

For More Information, please call the District at 970-529-8368.

Soil Testing & Recommendations for Soil Health

This program is administered through HDCD with assistance from our District Manager, Greg Vlaming.

The District Manager is available to help with one-on-one site visits, technical design, and consultations. Our Manager is an Agronomist and can assist with soil testing and will give recommendations based upon the results.

For More Information, please call HDCD's District Manager, Greg Vlaming, at 970-529-8365.

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Cortez, CO 81321
(970) 529-8368

Regular Open Hours:

Our office is closed due to COVID-19. Please call the office number or 970-769-3271 to schedule an appointment. Thank you!



EST. 1985





The Colorado State Forest Service offers seedling trees, shrubs & perennials at a low cost to encourage conservation plantings.

For more information, call the High Desert Conservation District at 970-529-8365
Greg@highdesertconservation.org

The Colorado State Forest Service is offering affordable ways for anyone to get involved in conservation by supporting local trees and plantings. Contact the High Desert Conservation for more information!

Regular Monthly Board of Supervisors Meetings

These meetings occur on the second Tuesday of every month. You can join the Zoom meeting per below information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87908769869?pwd=OW8xUENLT2ZJYktGMVVoRUdMZTRPUT09>

Meeting ID: 879 0876 9869

Passcode: 554136

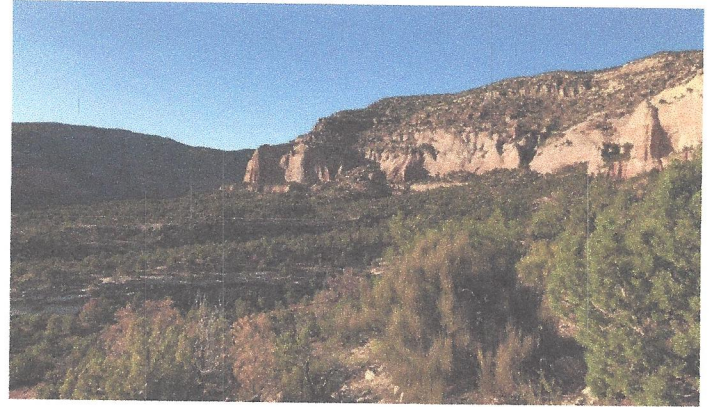
Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdMjQnSOQf>



Contact Information

Greg Vlaming

Cell: 970.769.3271

Office: 970.529.8365

Greg@HighDesertConservation.org

Manure Spreader Rental

- Now, you can spread your bullshit wherever you like
- Holds 2000 lb. and is a ground drive, no PTO needed
- Rental Cost: \$75/day (24Hrs) or \$100 per weekend



Manure Spreader Rental!

High Desert Conservation District is now offering a manure spreader for local producers to rent. For scheduling a time to utilize this equipment or for any questions, please contact Greg Vlaming.

We're excited to help you spread some BS!

CALLING ALL FARMERS & RANCHERS!!!

**BUILD ON EXISTING CONSERVATION EFFORTS WHILE STRENGTHENING
YOUR OPERATIONS**

EXPLORE NEW FUNDING OPTIONS/PROGRAMS



**NRCS WORKGROUP MEETING TO ADDRESS CHANGES IN THE 2018 FARM
BILL AND CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH – 10 AM TO NOON

FOZZIES FARM EDUCATION CENTER

19760 Road W, Lewis, CO 81327

Hosted by **High Desert Conservation District**

(970) 529-8368 for further information

CACD/NRCS EDUCATION WORKSHOP

High Desert Conservation District

Carbon Think Tank for Sequestration

Solutions and Education

To Address

Climate Change

Stable Soil Health

Agricultural Carbon Emissions



Project Overview – Narrative: Limit 2,500 Characters (approx. 25 lines):

Describe **what** the project is and **why** it is important. Describe the activities that will take place. **Provide details of what the CACD matching funds will specifically be used for.**

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, an increase in average temperature can: lengthen the growing season in regions with relatively cool spring and fall seasons; adversely affect crops in regions where summer heat already limits production/ increase soil evaporation rates and increase the chance of severe droughts. Innovative farming practices such as conservation tillage, organic production, improved cover cropping systems, are ways that farmers can address climate change. Good management practices have multiple benefits that may also enhance profitability, improve farm energy efficiency and boost air and soil quality. By employing farming practices that involve minimal disturbance of the soil and encourage carbon sequestration, farmers may be able to slow or even reverse the loss of carbon from their fields.

On January 17, 2019 a Carbon Think Tank was hosted by High Desert Conservation District. The stakeholders invited to attend were Montezuma County landowners who had shown interest in carbon sequestration strategies by attending a previous seminar hosted by Crow Canyon Archeological Center. Also included were representatives from High Desert's longstanding partners such as Montezuma Land Conservancy, Cortez NRCS, CSU Research Center in Yellow Jacket, and DWCD. From among the 50 or so participants, a smaller committee was formed to pursue the focus for an educational workshop and possible field trials (i.e. perennial wheat grasses, biochar usage, reduction in fossil fueled field equipment, etc.).

Matching funds would be used to pay for the salary and services of our District Manager, Greg Vlaming, who holds a Master's of Soil Science degree as well as obtaining speakers who hold expertise in the specific areas of the topics to be determined. Potentially, equipment, seeds, and necessary supplies to accomplish any field trials will also need to be considered.

Measurable Deliverables:

Who and how many people will be influenced in what way? For example, 50 attendees; 500 people receive noxious weed fact sheet, etc.

All agricultural landowners within Montezuma County will be eligible to participate in any of the workshops, demonstrations, trials. High Desert Conservation District currently has a landowner list serve of 600. All participants will be influenced by the facts surrounding climate change and concrete ways in which they can have an impact on reducing agricultural carbon emissions while learning the evidence based strategies for regenerative farming and sustainability for future generations.

Colorado State Conservation Board

Matching Grants Program

2021 Application

Continuation of the Nozzle Package Upgrade

&

Irrigation Water Management Project for FSA
Irrigators

Objectives:

1. 10-20% efficiency increase through the use of new pressure compensating nozzles
2. IWM education during the analysis of each system
3. Soil conservation will also result from practices that minimize runoff and erosion



HIGH DESERT CONSERVATION DISTRICT
CONNECTING OUR FARMING HERITAGE WITH OUR
FUTURE BY SUPPORTING
THE
MONTEZUMA SCHOOL TO FARM PROJECT

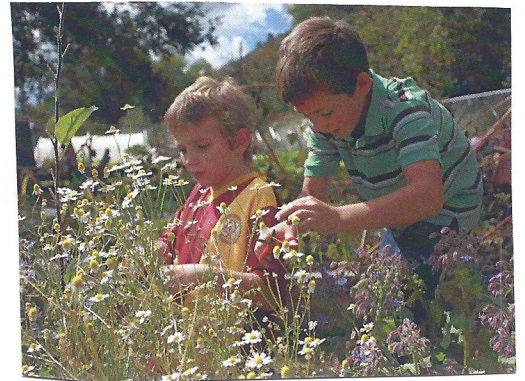
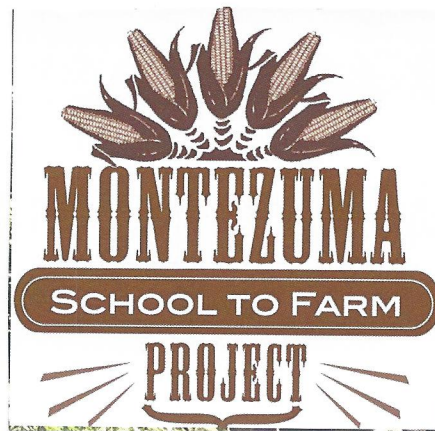
Uniting our rural heritage with our growing future by engaging students at the crossroads of sustainable agriculture, resource conservation, health, and economics through educational experiences in outdoor garden classes, on field trips, and in summer programming.

30,000 + Education Hours

2,800 + Students Reached

7,000 Pounds of food distributed

7 School Garden Sites



MEET THE 2020 BOARD

&

STAFF

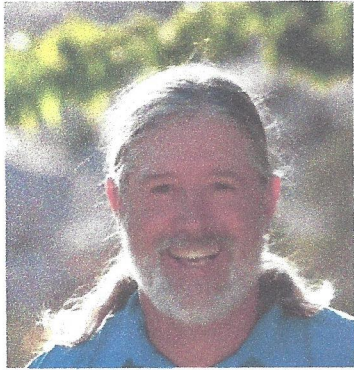
OF THE

HIGH DESERT

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Suzanne Aikin- Board President

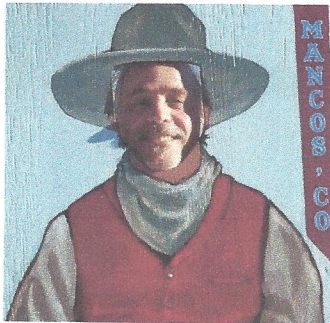


David Temple- Vice President

A Colorado native, owner David B. Temple, has been involved in the green industry for 40 years. He has the distinction of being one of the nation's few Board Certified Master Arborists.

He graduated from Colorado State University with a degree in Landscape Horticulture and is affiliated with the International Society of Arboriculture, Colorado Nurseryman's Association, Tree Care Industry Association and the Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado, where he served a term as President.

David now concentrates his efforts at Trees of Trail Canyon where he grows specialized and diverse varieties of large, specimen trees



Hassan Hourmanesh- Treasurer

Hassan has been a High-Tech Supply Chain Manager for over 30 years. Hassan graduated from Logan (Utah) High School and attended Utah State University where he earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Business Administration. Hassan started his career with National Semiconductor after graduation and worked for Intel, Tektronix, Microsoft, and Lam Research as a Materials Engineer, Quality Engineer, and Business/Commodity Manager till he retired in March 2018.

Hassan and his wife, Gladys who is from Aneth Utah, moved to Dolores in 2018 from Portland, OR. Gladys and Hassan moved into a 40-Acre property on Summit Ridge and started building their house and developing the property as an Ag. Land with plans to add cows and horses after building a coral. Hassan enjoys walking, swimming, Tai Chee, and hiking.

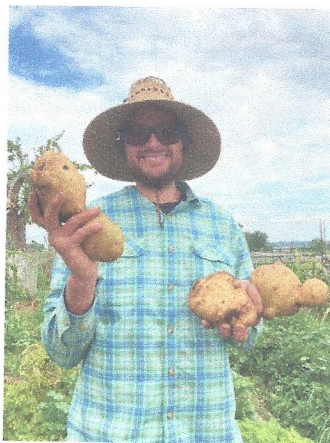
Hassan started as a High Desert CD in March 2020 and as the Treasurer in May.

Adam Kackstetter- Secretary

Adam Kackstetter is a firm believer in the power of humans working together towards a common goal. He is grateful to live in Montezuma county.

A resident of Colorado since 2017 by way of Alaska, he and his wife Sarah started a small homestead farm on 10 acres near Cortez, to produce organically grown leaves, stems, fruits, roots, herbs, eggs and meat—like producers used to do before man-made (potentially harmful) chemicals entered our lives. We farm with compost, companion planting, and diversity, while sharing our yields with nature, and doing most of it by hand.

Adam enjoys learning, and the satisfaction that comes from a job well done. He is proud to serve his community through this board, his neighborhood irrigation association, his employment through a local non profit, and as a producer of food for humans and other wildlife.

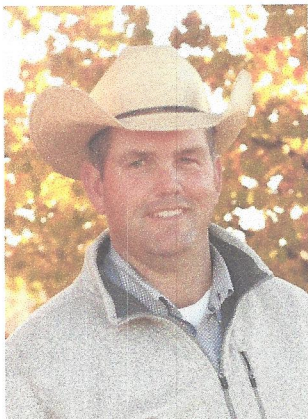




Susan Thomas- Member at Large

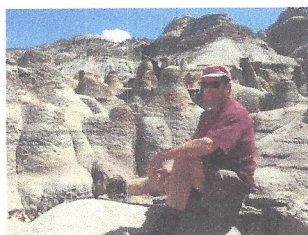
I grew up in Cleveland, Ohio and first set foot in the Four Corners to attend Prescott College in Arizona. After finishing school in North Carolina, I headed west again, addicted to the high desert. Two seasons as a Ranger Interpreter giving tours through cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde NP in the 1970'S really set the hook, and even when I left again, I always came back.

I worked primarily in land use planning - city, county, tribal - and more recently with local non-profits. I currently help with administration at Battle Rock Charter School, and serve as coordinator for Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway. With my dogs, a cat and three horses, I live near Sand Canyon Trailhead in McElmo Canyon. Over the years I have followed the work of High Desert Conservation District with interest and respect, so I am happy to be the most recent addition to its board.



Joe Lanier- Member at Large

Joe Lanier is a 4th generation farmer in Pleasant View, Colorado.

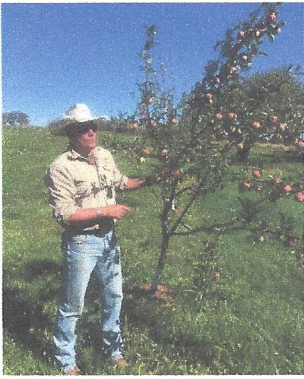


Jim Farrier- Member at Large

Engineering, Manufacturing, and Montezuma County crops (Alfalfa, Dry Beans, and small grains)

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Greg Vlaming- District Manager

As District Manager for HDCD, Greg combines a wealth of education (B.S. Horticulture, M.S. Soil & Crop Science, Colorado State University) with professional experience as an Extension Horticulturist for Colorado State and Michigan State Universities. A commercial, organic farmer/rancher for over 20 years, Greg can help clients with the challenges of nurturing our land while conserving soil and water, with a focus on landowner vision and goals.



Cory Schmitt- District Conservation Technician

Meet our District Conservation Technician, Cory Schmitt. Cory is a 4th generation farmer/rancher deeply rooted in SW CO and is committed to maintaining agriculture as a primary economic driver in SW CO. He brings a lifetime of experience in irrigation, crop production and livestock management. Cory and his family own/operate a registered Black Angus cattle outfit that provides breeding stock to our local cattle industry on the family's 750 acre property in Montezuma county. Cory's 20 plus years of field work are a valuable asset to the engineering team at the NRCS Cortez Field office and looks forward to a career designing more efficient irrigation systems helping to mitigate local salinity issues in addition to conserving our irrigation water.

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