

# Colorado District Conservation Technician Program

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Colorado  
Conservation  
Districts



Pam King  
NASCA, September 2007

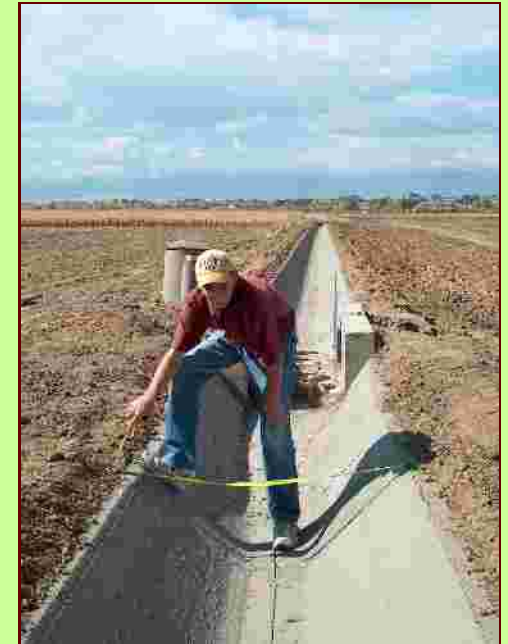
# What Does the Program Do?

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- TSP funds to Conservation Districts
- 3-way partnership
- NRCS: \$400,000 - \$600,000: training, vehicles, office space, general liability, supervision

## Deliver:

- Technical assistance to landowners
- Increased District capacity
- Increased District visibility





# District Program Eligibility

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- 25% District match
- 80% min Farm Bill or CTA planning or practice implementation
- 20% max Other Technical duties
  
- Hire according to need
- Single or joint district partnerships



# District Program Expectations

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- ü Workload on PRS
- ü Quarterly reports
- ü Financial accountability
- ü Match tracking and validation
- ü Publicity efforts
- ü Open competitive hiring and job description
- ü Keep position filled!

A map of Colorado showing its various counties. The map is partially obscured by a large green text box in the center. Visible county names include Sedgewick County, Yuma County, Burlington, Cheyenne, Larimer County, San Miguel Basin, Doña Creek, Dolores, Conejos County, Purgatoire River, Branson-Trinchera, and Baca County. The green box contains a title and a list of points.

# **District Solicitation Process**

- **Renewing District priority**
- **January to December hiring**
- **Workload relevance and need**
- **Workload: Staff ratio**
- **Recognition of district benefit**
- **Experience: Partnering**
- **Budget**



# Keeping the \$\$ Coming .....

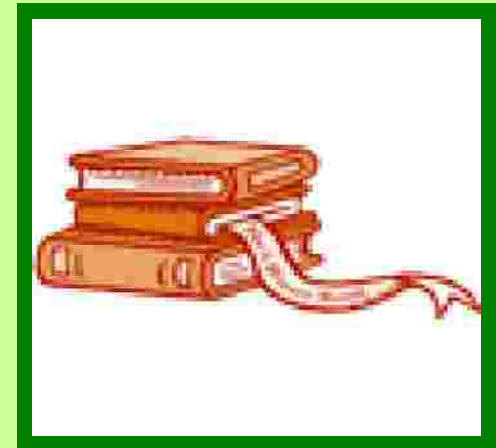
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- What does NRCS and state partners intend and require as outcomes, limitations and assurances?
- How do we ensure program integrity?
  - Is sufficient workload being done?
  - Are duties of permitted type?
  - Are funds being spent appropriately?
  - Is match being raised and is it appropriate?
  - Is district capacity/visibility being raised?

# Program Monitoring

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- Board quarterly reports to NRCS
- Board reimbursement requests to NRCS
- State Board and legislature reports
- Awards made and unspent funds adjustments
  
- District quarterly reports: design to provide multi-level information for monitoring
- PRS
- Annual District visits
- District audits





# District Assistance

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- Program web page: <http://www.colorado.gov/ag/csd>  
(follow links to State Board then technician program page)
- **Contract Handbook**
- Employer Handbook
- Fundraising handbook
- Spreadsheets and templates: report template, match tracking, employee hiring and management
- Report and application guidelines
- **Annual and special visits**





# Match Tracking

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- Cash or in-kind
- Is the source eligible – who is providing it
- How much is it worth – how is it validated
- Is it valid match – what is being provided
- Template to identify sources

# Successes and Challenges ...

- Almost half Colorado districts participating
- Flexibility to meet technical assistance needs
- Increasing and renewing participation
  
- Raising the match
- Attracting and retaining good technicians
- Relationship with NRCS and State

