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FOREST MANAGEMENT TOUR ENLIGHTENED PARTICIPANTS

The Shavano Conservation District (SCD) sponsored a forest management tour put on by the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on October 10, 2008, which attracted over 30 attendees. Projects have primarily been conducted in pinion-juniper forest over the past several years, but aspen and ponderosa forest types have also been actively managed to achieve various landowner objectives.



Jodi Rist, District Forester(left), talking with participant



Kathy Boyce, Soil Conservationist, NRCS, examining the different type of grasses and forbs

Those attending the tour included private landowners, SCD board members and employees, NRCS employees from Montrose, Delta and Norwood field offices, representatives from the CSFS, Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), US Fish & Wildlife Service, Uncompahgre Plateau Project, and the primary contractor involved in the forest management treatments, Enviro Land Management.

The projects involve thinning and clearing areas within the pinion-juniper forest through the use of a hydroaxe. After the mechanical treatment, most sites are seeded with grasses and forbs. The goal is to create a pattern of openings and different age classes of trees within the forest, which should promote increased plant diversity, improve forage quality and quantity for wildlife, increase wildlife species richness, improve forest health, and provide protection from catastrophic wildfires to landowners and fire fighters.

Over 60 landowners have or are currently participating in these projects in the Dave Wood Road and Government Springs Road areas, Log Hill Mesa and in the

Norwood area. Funding for these projects has come from the participating landowners, grants acquired by the Shavano CD from the Colorado State Conservation Board & Colorado Department of Agriculture, grants acquired by the CSFS, cost share through NRCS's Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, CDOW Uncompahgre Habitat Partnership Program, and the Bookcliff Chapter of Safari Club International.

To date, over 700 acres have been treated with an additional 200 acres slated for treatment this fall.



This will result in over 2650 acres of habitat enhanced for wildlife. More of these types of projects will be conducted in the future as long as there are interested landowners. For more information on these practices contact Jodi Rist, District Forester with the CSFS at 249-9051 ext. 132, or Steve Woodis, Wildlife Biologist with NRCS at 249-8407 ext. 108.

SIGN-UP DEADLINE FOR RANGELAND PROJECTS

Do you have rangeland improvement projects that need to be done? The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is encouraging landowners with concerns dealing with rangeland issues such as: cross fencing, stock water development, and brush management to apply for cost assistance and incentives through the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

NRCS offers conservation programs like EQIP which provide financial and technical assistance to help landowners meet their land use and natural resource concerns. Please contact Lars Santana, NRCS Range Conservationist, at 970-249-8407 ext. 134 or stop by the NRCS office at 102 Par Place, Montrose CO.



NEW DCP POLICY FOR FARMS WITH 10.0 OR LESS BASE ACRES

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (the 2008 Act) was enacted on June 18, 2008. The Act provided that a producer on a farm will **not** receive direct payments, counter-cyclical payments or crop revenue election payments if the sum of the base acres of covered commodities on the farm is 10.0 acres or less.

H.R. 6849 enacted on October 13, 2008, provides for contract year 2008 **only**, farms with 10.0 base acres or less of covered commodities may receive payments, provided all eligibility criteria has been met. H.R. 6849 also provides for an extension of the 2008 DCP enrollment deadline for farms with 10.0 base acres or less to November 26, 2008. Producers on farms with 10.0 base acres or less have until November 26, 2008, to initiate and complete enrollment of a farm for 2008 DCP. This **does not** extend the DCP signup deadline for farms with greater than 10.0 base acres.

DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLICAL PAYMENT PROGRAM

The Direct and Counter-cyclical Payment Program (DCP) provides payments to eligible producers on farms enrolled for the 2008 through 2012 crop years. There are two types of DCP payments – direct payments and counter-cyclical payments. Both are computed using the base acres and payment yields established for the farm. DCP is authorized by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill).

The 2008 Farm Bill direct payments have been made, please check your bank accounts and make sure the payments are there. Direct payment rates for the eligible DCP commodities are as follows:

- Barley : \$0.24 per bushel
- Corn: \$0.28 per bushel
- Grain sorghum: \$0.35 per bushel
- Oats: \$0.024 per bushel
- Wheat: \$0.52 per bushel.



For each commodity, the total direct payment for 2008 for producers on a farm equals 85 percent of the farm's base acreage times the farm's direct payment yield times the direct payment rate. For 2009-2011, the payment percentage changes from 85 to 83.3 percent of the farm's base acreage. For 2012, the payment percentage reverts to 85 percent.

NAP SALES CLOSING DATE

Producers are reminded of the following sales closing dates for those who wish to purchase NAP (non-insured assistance program) coverage on their 2009 crops. The application deadline date for the 2009 coverage on fall seeded crops has been extended to December 1, 2008. In order to be eligible for disaster assistance programs, like SURE, producers are required to timely purchase, at a minimum, CAT coverage for all insurable crops and/or NAP coverage for all non-insurable crops on their entire farm.

December 1 – Final date to purchase coverage for alfalfa forage, mixed forage for forage and grass for forage, alfalfa, mixed forage, and grass for grazing, and honey.

Producers must have either NAP or FCIC insurance coverage to be eligible to participate in the new 2008 Farm Bill Disaster Programs. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, effective May 22, 2008, increased the administrative service fees for NAP from \$100 to \$250 per crop, from \$300 to \$750 per county, and from \$900 to \$1,875 per producer for all counties.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The Montrose-Gunnison-Ouray FSA County Committee will be conducting an election beginning on November 3, 2008 to fill the position of representative for Ouray County on their committee. The elected representative will service a 3 year term beginning January 1, 2009, and will represent all Ouray county producers. The representative will provide guidance to the FSA county office while it implements the new 2008 Farm Bill proposals including disaster programs. All ballots must be returned to the County Office or postmarked no later than December 1, 2008 to be counted.

Steve Collin's name has been submitted to the committee as a candidate to fill the position as representative. The current representative, Daris Jutten,

has served 3 consecutive 3 year terms and is ineligible to continue as representative on the committee. Daris has represented Ouray County well for the past 9 years and will be missed for his contributions to the committee.

If you have any questions or if you wish to make sure you are eligible to vote and will receive a ballot for the election, please contact the FSA Office at 970-249-8407 extension 2.

AGI PROVISIONS FOR 2008

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, enacted on May 22, 2008, continues the administration of the \$2.5 million average AGI limitation for 2008 crop, program, or FY commodity and conservation programs.

2008 COMMODITY LOANS AVAILABLE

Eligible producers may obtain a 9-month low interest loan on harvested commodities by storing the eligible commodity in approved farm storage structures. Loans are an effective management tool for producers who wish to wait for the best market prices for their commodity or need operating capital for their farming operation. The loans can be repaid any time within the 9 month period of the loan.

Wool & Pelts	\$.40 per pound
Wheat	\$2.80/ bu.
Barley	\$2.06/bu.
Corn	\$2.31/bu.
Oats	\$1.35/bu.

LOAN DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS (LDPs)

With the harvesting of 2008 crops beginning, producers are reminded that LDPs are available on the harvested crop anytime that the County Posted Price for the commodity is lower than the established county loan rate for that commodity. LDPs are available for barley, corn (both grain and silage), oats (both grain and hay), wheat and sorghum. LDP rates change daily

and the LDP must be requested by the producer before beneficial interest (ownership) of the crop is lost. Quantity of the crop may be determined by producer certification (use of weigh tickets or other acceptable documentation) or by requesting a measurement service from our office at a cost of \$46.00. LDPs are subject to spot check provisions and can not be repaid to request a subsequent loan or LDP on the same quantity. All farms are eligible to participate providing the producer and crop meet eligibility requirements. **Remember FSA has switched to the CCC-633-EZ form.** It's a one-size-fits-all form utilizing page 1 to indicate your intention to receive loan deficiency payments for all your crops at the beginning of the crop year, long before you've lost beneficial interest. Page 2 or Page 3, as applicable, of the CCC-633EZ is used to submit a request for an LDP any time during the loan/LDP availability period before or after losing beneficial interest. The CCC-633EZ and eLDP online requests are the only methods available to request LDPs. Contact the county office for details.

PAYMENT LIMITATION

No program benefits subject to limitation may be provided to any producer until the necessary payment limitation determinations are made. The producer will remain ineligible until all required forms for the specific situation are provided.

Payment limitation and payment eligibility determinations may be initiated by the COC or requested by the producer. There are statutory provisions that require entities earning program benefits subject to limitation to :

- ❖ Provide the names, addresses and ID numbers of the entities/members to the CO
- ❖ inform the entities/members of the requirements for designating permitted entities.

All CCC-501s and CCC-502s submitted by producers are subject to spot check through the end-of-year review process. Programs subject to the above provisions include DCP, Price Support, CRP and EQIP.

A determination of "not actively engaged in farming" results in the producer being ineligible for:

- ❖ deficiency payments
- ❖ gains from marketing loans and loan deficiency payments
- ❖ CRP annual rental payments

- ❖ any payment or benefit requiring a determination of "actively engaged in farming"

PERSON DETERMINATIONS

A "person" for payment limitation purposes may be many things, including an individual, a limited liability partnership, a limited liability company, a corporation, a joint stock company, an association, a limited stock company, a limited partnership, an irrevocable trust, a revocable trust together with the grantor of the trust, an estate, a charitable organization, and a State, political subdivision, or agency thereof.

For an individual or entity to be considered a separate "person" the individual or entity must have a separate and distinct interest in the land or crop involved, exercise separate responsibility for this interest, and maintain funds or accounts separate from that of any other individual or entity for this interest.

Please note the OCR name change revision in USDA's non-discrimination statement as pointed out during the STO Civil Rights review:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of **Adjudication and Compliance**, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C., 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



NEED LAND LEVELING SERVICES?

Did you know the Shavano CD has heavy equipment services available to area producers? If you have earth Work that needs to be completed call 249-8407 x115 today to schedule an on-site visit.



We offer competitive rates and quality work.

IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT

By David Seymour, IWM Specialist

The 2008 growing season is done and irrigating crops will be complete by the time you read this article. It has been a good growing season. Spring was cool but a timely rain assured a good corn stand. Summer was long, warm and dry without damaging thunderstorms. Flooding did occur in the foothills above the Roatcap dam. Irrigation was again our saving grace during the long dry spell in June, July, and August.

Irrigation provides water for the thirsty crops each year although, irrigation can also do damage. 2008 was a year with plentiful water which can cause the leaching of nitrogen and in some cases drown the crops. Ensilage corn that is yellow, onions that are soft,

and grass growing in short alfalfa are crops where irrigation has caused damage.

The Shavano Conservation District, in cooperation with the Montrose NRCS, is working to increase the benefit and reduce the damage of irrigation. Irrigation water management is a science which involves both irrigation timing and quantity. Subsurface drip irrigation has been introduced to allow precision management of timing and quantity on high value crops. Sprinkler irrigation has also been introduced for better water management over a greater variety of crops.

Optimal irrigation coupled with soil conservation continue to be learning curves for all area producers. The Shavano District in conjunction with several local agriculture suppliers and the CSU Cooperative Extension Office wanted to learn more about drip irrigation. In 2008 a demonstration of yellow onions under drip irrigation was planted on a one acre plot donated by Kenny Hines. The seed was donated by Les Watada of Logan Zenner Seeds; fertilizer by Bob Beyer of Producers Coop; weed and pest chemicals by Schall Chemical; and applied by Loren Britton; drip tape by Alan Hunt from Grand Junction Pipe, and the coordination of the demonstration was done by myself David Seymour, Montrose area IWM specialist. Unfortunately the demonstration was abandoned in June due to a poor seed germination and a poor stand. We would like to thank all the agriculture businesses for their support and especially Kenny Hines for the use of his land.

WATERSHED ANNUAL MEETING HELD

On September 25 the Gunnison-Dolores Watershed held their annual dinner meeting at the DMEA facility in Montrose. The Gunnison-Dolores Watershed is comprised of the Delta, Gunnison, San Miguel and Shavano Conservation Districts. All Districts were present with the exception of the San Miguel Conservation District. Some of the others in attendance included staff from the NRCS local offices as well as the State Office; staff from the Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB) and the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD). A delightful dinner was served courtesy of the Daily



Bread and enjoyed by all attendees. The business meeting that followed involved adoption of a new set of bylaws, updates from each of the conservation districts and updates from NRCS, CSCB and CACD respectively. The current officers were retained for the

2008-2009 year: President – Jim Cochran, Gunnison CD; Vice President – Ken Greenhill, Shavano CD; Sec/Treasurer – Jim Cazer, Delta CD. The next meeting of the Gunnison-Dolores Watershed will be during the first quarter of 2009.

Kids Korner

Where Does the Garbage Go?

What happens to the broken pencil you throw into the trash can at school? What about the old baseball cap you toss into the garbage at home? To find out where your garbage goes, follow the path. Trace each word. Color the pictures.

Begin

At home we put garbage in a pail .		In some places garbage is sent to a dump .
Trucks come to pick up the trash.		Bulldozers dig up dirt to put over the trash.
End	Other cities burn their garbage.	
Trash is buried in the ground.	The smoke makes the air dirty.	
	On a farm food scraps are saved for the pigs.	



Steve Ellis, the new SW Zone Fire Management Officer for the Colorado State Forest Service. "I am fourth generation native of Montrose, as my great grandmother was born here in 1880's. There is a lot of history in my family. I retired

from the BLM on September 03, 2008 after 33 years in wildland fire management. The last 12 years I served as the Fire Management Officer for the Montrose Interagency Fire Management Unit, managing the Wildland Fire Management Program for the BLM, USFS, and NPS in West Central Colorado. A great chapter in my life working with great people and doing a job I loved.

I have been married to a wonderful lady and great friend Vanessa for 20 years and she works as a personal banker at Montrose Bank (North). We have two great children Annika 19 and Addison 17 whom are still at home but I am sure will be leaving soon. We love animals as we have 4 cats and 3 dogs so our house is very full. I just love western Colorado and all it has to offer in terms of hunting, fishing, and a great place to enjoy the outdoors.

I just was hired as the SW Zone Fire Management Officer for the Colorado State Forest Service. I am to assist the District Foresters in the Montrose, Gunnison and Durango Districts in Fire Management and to serve as a liaison between the local Fire Departments, County Sheriffs, and the two federal dispatch centers located in Montrose and Durango. I am looking forward to the new challenges in my new job."

USDA SERVICE CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION



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YONNA MILLER, PT	101
JOHN DOMANN, DD Dist. #4	123

MONTROSE-GUNNISON-OURAY COUNTY COMMITTEE

GEORGE ETCHART, Chairperson (Montrose)
 DARIS JUTTEN, Vice Chairperson (Ouray)
 WAYNE BREW, Regular Member (North Montrose)
 MARK RAGSDALE, Regular Member (West End Montrose)
 JOE YOUMANS, Regular Member (Gunnison)
 PATRICE MOSHER, Advisor

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



970-249-8407

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DEBBIE STEWART, Planning Technician	105
DENNIS WAGGONER, Soil Conservationist	107
HAL CHAPMAN, Soil Conservationist	126
DAVID SEYMOUR, Irrigation Water Management Specialist	130
STEVE WOODIS, Wildlife Biologist	108
KATHY BOYCE, Soil Conservationist	109
FERANDO MORALES, Ag Engineer Project Leader	117
BILL HEAD, Civil Engineering Technician	116
CHRIS SCHOTTEL, Soil Conservation Technician	129
BILL SELF, Soil Conservation Technician	135
DAVE DEARSTYNE, Soil Scientist Project Leader	119
LARS SANTANA, Range Conservationist	134
BRAD BEHYMER, Soil Conservationist	111

SHAVANO CONSERVATION DISTRICT

TOM GRETT, President	323-8935
STEVE HALE, Vice President	240-4875
KEN GREENHILL, Secretary/Treasurer	323-0982
ERIC KEEP	252-0903
JIM WEBB	874-7390
LANNY DENHAM	323-5461
GARY RIESSEN	240-0106
KEN LIPTON	626-3951
RICHARD ST. JEAN	874-9856
SHANNON CASTRODALE, Manager	249-8407, EX: 115
CYNTHIA FESKE, Education Coordinator	249-8407, EX: 113
FRED FISHER, Representative	249-1384



Web Site: www.shavanoscd.org

e-mail: shavanocd@shavanoscd.org

COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

Web Site: csfs.colostate.edu

Montrose District - 970-249-9051

(Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties) Phone Extension

JODI RIST, District Forester	132
CASEY HARRISON, Forester	127
STEVE ELLIS, Fire Management Officer	118
BARABARA LACKMAN, Administrative Assistant	102

Gunnison District - 970-641-6852

(Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties)

BRIAN AYERS, District Forester

DAVID CASEY, Forester

Colorado State Forest Service

P.O. Box 1390

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Phone Extension

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Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	3
State Forest Service.....	150
Shavano Conservation District.....	115
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DATES TO REMEMBER

November 11, 2008	Shavano CD Board Meeting 7:30
November 11, 2008	Holiday - Veterans Day - Office Closed
November 20, 2008	Deadline for NAP coverage for fruits
November 26, 2008	Deadline for 10 acre base farm signup
November 27, 2008	Holiday – Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed
December 1, 2008	Deadline for NAP coverage for Alfalfa, Mixed forage, and grass
December 9, 2008	Shavano CD Board Meeting 7:30
December 25, 2008	Holiday – Christmas Day – Office Closed
January 1, 2009	Holiday – New Year’s Day – Office Closed
January 31, 2009	Deadline for 2008 Wool and Mohair LDPs
March 2009	Shavano CD Annual Dinner Meeting
March 31, 2009	Deadline for 2008 Wheat, Barley and Oats LDPs
May 31, 2009	Deadline for 2008 Corn LDPs

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