



Shavano

District



SERVING MONTROSE, GUNNISON, AND OURAY COUNTIES

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

LGP Expands Funding Opportunity 2

Annual Meeting Snap-Shots 3

Organic Producers and Handlers May Apply for Certification Cost Share Reimbursements 4

Bureau of Reclamation Funding Opportunity Announcement 5

Cover Crop Corner 6

Colorado Statewide Time Series Snowpack Summary 6

Dates to Remember 8

Local Work Group Meeting Determines 2018

Farm Bill Programs

Katie Alexander, NRCS Conservation Planner and Soil Scientist (right), gives a presentation at the May 2016 Local Work Group Meeting



Shavano Conservation District (SCD) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) want feedback from local landowners on local conservation and natural resource concerns. The feedback on the identified concerns will be used by the NRCS when developing the Farm Bill Conservation Programs in fiscal year 2017-2018. Your Local Work Group (LWG) meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 13, 2017, 6:00-8:00pm, in Montrose to determine the top two highest priorities within our district, as well as the “what” and “why” of each concern, and “how” each concern might be addressed in order to achieve a successful outcome. The top 2 concerns and priorities will then be sent on to the NRCS State Technical Committee (STC) in order to establish statewide priorities for 2018.

The meeting will be held at the Montrose Lions Clubhouse located at 602 N Nevada Ave., Montrose, CO. Beginning with a light dinner at 6:00pm (please RSVP to Mendy Stewart at 970-249-8407 x113 or at mendy.stewart@co.nacdnet.net), the meeting agenda will include a report on concerns identified during last year’s Local Work Group Meeting, how that information was used, and will feature guest speaker David Harold on Cover Crops and Soil Health. Following the meeting SCD will conduct their monthly Board of Directors meeting. The public is invited to stay and attend the Directors meeting.

Local Work Groups are subcommittees of the NRCS State Technical Committee and they meet annu-

Continued to pg. 5...



LGP Expands Funding Opportunity

The Colorado River District has announced an additional funding opportunity (up to a total of \$1.8 million) for the planning and implementation of on-farm irrigation efficiency improvement projects in the Lower Gunnison.

The Lower Gunnison Project (LGP) is an integrated and cooperative partnership that endeavors to implement water efficiency improvement projects by "Modernizing Agricultural Water Management in the Lower Gunnison River Basin." The LGP is taking place in four primary Focus Areas of the Lower Gunnison Basin: North Fork Water Conservancy District, Crawford Water Conservancy District, Bostwick Park Water Conservancy District, and Uncompahgre Project (operated by the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association). The LGP On-farm program is funded by the Colorado River Water Conservation District utilizing Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding.

LGP Informational Meeting

June 28, 2017
At DMEA Community Room

6:00-8:00pm
Light Dinner Included
RSVP

970-249-8407 x113
Mendy.stewart@co.nacdnet.net

The LGP is a proactive set of measures to ensure that irrigated agriculture remains sustainable while addressing natural resource concerns in the Lower Gunnison River Basin including insufficient water, water quality degradation, soil quality degradation, and inadequate habitat for aquatic wildlife. The LGP is a cooperative effort of local agriculture producers and irrigation water providers to leverage financial resources for lower Gunnison basin landowners. The LGP is designed to increase water use efficiency, agricultural productivity, and sustainability by integrating and coordinating modernized irrigation conveyance systems with upgraded on-farm high efficiency irrigation application systems. In general the LGP has both technical and financial assistance funding available to help put good irrigation practices in place.

This is the third LGP public funding opportunity and the application window closes on July 21, 2017 for producers/landowners within the focus areas who desire a high efficiency irrigation system. These proposed irrigation system may take the form of a center pivot, side-roll, drip system, big gun sprinkler, soil moisture monitoring system, or many other options. Landowners are encouraged to visit the LGP website for an application and additional information, <http://gunnisonriverbasin.org/projects/lower-gunnison-project/>.

Visitors to the Website will not only find LGP information and applications, but also find links to State and local water plans, funding opportunities for water efficiency in the Gunnison Basin, and a multitude of other water information. The website is intended to be an inclusive 'go-to site' for all things water resource-related in the Gunnison Basin.

In addition, interested applicants are also encouraged to attend an informational meeting on the LGP on Wednesday, June 28th in Montrose and Thursday, June 29th in Hotchkiss. The Montrose meeting will be held at DMEA from 6:00-8:00pm and the Hotchkiss meeting will be at the Hotchkiss Memorial Hall, also 6:00-8:00pm. The meetings are free but an RSVP is requested to attend either meeting, as a light dinner will be served. The Delta Conservation District is taking RSVP responses for the Hotchkiss meeting by phone at 970-399-8194 or by email to deltaconservationd@gmail.com. To attend the Montrose meeting, RSVP at 970-249-8407 x113 or by email to mendy.stewart@co.nacdnet.net.

Selected applicants will work with a Technical Service Provider (TSP) to complete a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) which will be used to determine if the project will be selected to receive cost-share funds towards installation of their proposed on-farm high efficiency irrigation system .

Because LGP funding is sourced from NRCS EQIP, selected on-farm improvements must comply with all



Annual Meeting Snap-Shots

In case you missed the Shavano Conservation District Annual Meeting at the Holiday Inn Express in Montrose on Friday, March 10th, we have included some snap-shots of the evening! Greg and Martha Catlin accepted the Conservation Producer of the Year Award on behalf of the Catlin Family. Krista Javoronok, 4th grade teacher at Ridgway Elementary, was awarded Conservation Educator of the Year. And finally, Angelica Clacey, 6th grader at Olathe Middle School, and Jedidiah Williams, 6th grader with San Juan Christian Home Educators, each received a \$30 award for winning Champion in the Shavano District Conservation Poster Contest.



Left, Martha and Greg Catlin receives Conservation Producer of the year award on behalf of the Catlin Family from Ken Lipton (middle, right), SCD Board President, and Steve Woodis (far right), NRCS Wildlife biologist.

LGP...Continued from pg. 2...

NRCS standards, rules and regulations including landowner eligibility requirements, irrigation history, engineering standards and specifications, etc.

However, LGP RCPP EQIP on-farm funding is different from NRCS (Salinity EQIP) funding in that the program is being managed by the Colorado River District and is set up to meet a different set of objectives. Specifically, the LGP funding is focused on areas where on-farm improvements take advantage of adjacent and/or nearby off-farm improvements occurring within the project area.

Additionally, the LGP RCPP EQIP utilizes a different cost-share calculation and different ranking procedure than those used by NRCS. The LGP provides a fixed 75% cost share based upon real project costs and ranks proposed project benefits within four resource areas: water quantity (e.g. increased efficiency), water quality (e.g. decreased selenium, TDS, nutrient loading), soil health quality, and aquatic wildlife habitat quality. Typically, the NRCS (Salinity EQIP) ranks projects primarily on cost effectiveness of salinity reduction.

The LGP also gives ranking preference to, and encourages, innovation and projects that enable farmer-to-farmer education and outreach to expand adoption of locally-proven, successful practices.

Lastly, the LGP funds and utilizes Technical Service Providers (TSPs), rather than NRCS personnel, to perform on-farm planning and engineering activities.

Water is a major factor in why we all choose to live, work, and play in the Gunnison Basin. None of us want to see that change due to lack of water quantity or quality. Increasing irrigation efficiency in the Lower Gunnison Basin ensures agriculture sustainability, economic viability and drought resiliency. Good irrigation practices are just good business.



Below, Ken Lipton, SCD Board President (right), presents Conservation Educator of the Year award to Krista Javoronok (left), 4th grade teacher at Ridgway Elementary.

Would you like the SCD News delivered to your in-box?

Call Mendy Stewart at 249-8407 x113

or email to mendy.stewart@co.nacdnet.net



Organic Producers and Handlers May Apply for Certification Cost Share Reimbursements

Starting March 20, 2017, organic producers and handlers are now able to visit over 2,100 USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices to apply for federal reimbursement to assist with the cost of receiving and maintaining organic certification.

USDA reimburses organic producers up to 75 percent of the cost of organic certification, but only about half of the nation's organic operations currently participate in the program. After March 20, USDA is providing a uniform, streamlined process for organic producers and handlers to apply for organic cost share assistance either by mail or in person.

USDA is making changes to increase participation in the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program (NOCCSP) and the Agricultural Management Assistance Organic Certification Cost Share Program, and at the same time provide more opportunities for organic producers to access other USDA programs, such as disaster protection and loans for farms, facilities and marketing. Producers can also access information on nonfederal agricultural resources, and get referrals to local experts, including organic agriculture, through USDA's Bridges to Opportunity service at the local FSA office.

Historically, many state departments of agriculture have obtained grants to disburse reimbursements to those producers and handlers qualifying for cost share assistance. FSA will continue to partner with states to administer the programs.

For states that wanted to continue to directly administer the programs, applications were due Feb. 17, 2017.



Eligible producers include any certified producers or handlers who have paid organic or transitional certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent. Application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement/arrangement requirements, travel/per diem for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage are all eligible for a cost share reimbursement from USDA.

Once certified, producers and handlers are eligible to receive reimbursement for up to 75 percent of certification costs each year up to a maximum of

\$750 per certification scope—crops, livestock, wild crops and handling. This announcement also adds transitional certification and state organic program fees as additional scopes.

To learn more about organic certification cost share, please visit www.fsa.usda.gov/organic or contact a local FSA office

by visiting <http://offices.usda.gov>.

NEED LANDELEVELING SERVICES?

Shavano CD has heavy equipment services available to area producers

Call 249-8407 x115 today to schedule an on-site visit.



We offer competitive rates and quality work.

Hourly Rates: Bull Dozer \$135.00 per hour

John Deere Scraper \$150 per hour



Bureau of Reclamation

Funding Opportunity Announcement BOR-UC-17-F003

Colorado River Basinwide and Basin States Salinity Control Program

The Bureau of Reclamation’s Upper Colorado Region is requesting applications for salinity control projects that reduce salinity contributions to the Colorado River system.

Listening Sessions will be held by Reclamation to help applicants understand the requirements of the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), and to obtain answers regarding the FOA, in Roosevelt,

Utah; and in Delta and Cortez, Colorado.

DELTA, COLORADO
 Tuesday, June 20th 1:00pm
 Bill Heddles Recreation Center
 530 Gunnison River Drive
 Delta, CO 81416
 Phone: 970-248-0640

If you have any questions, about the listening session, please contact the Delta Conservation District at 970-399-8194 or the Shavano Conservation District at 970-249-8407 x115.

Local Work Group Meeting on June 13

Continued from pg 1...

ally to provide recommendations on local natural resource priorities to assist USDA NRCS in providing Farm Bill Conservation Programs in Colorado.

Participants in an LWG can be agricultural producers, owners of private agricultural lands, including nonindustrial private forest land, representatives of agricultural organizations, environmental organizations, and governmental agencies carrying out environmental, agricultural, or natural resource conservation programs and activities.



Save the Date
for your

Local Work Group Meeting
Tuesday, June 13, 2017
6:00-8:30 pm
Light Dinner Included
Montrose Lions Clubhouse
Lions Park, 602 N Nevada Ave.
Montrose, CO

Local Landowners Partnering with NRCS and Shavano Conservation District

Share Your Agricultural and Conservation Concerns!

Local Work Group meetings are critical to identify your agricultural and natural resource concerns and provide feedback to assist NRCS in offering Farm Bill conservation programs in FY2017-2018. Join us and determine:

- Your top 2 local resource conservation concerns.
- Practices that would address the issues.
- Challenges to implementing those practices.

WITH GUEST SPEAKER
David Harold on Cover Crops and Soil Health

PLEASE RSVP TO:
Shavano Conservation District
102 Par Place, Ste. 4
Montrose, CO 81401
Phone: 970-249-8407 x113
Email: mandy.stewart@co.nrcs.district.net






Cover Crop Corner

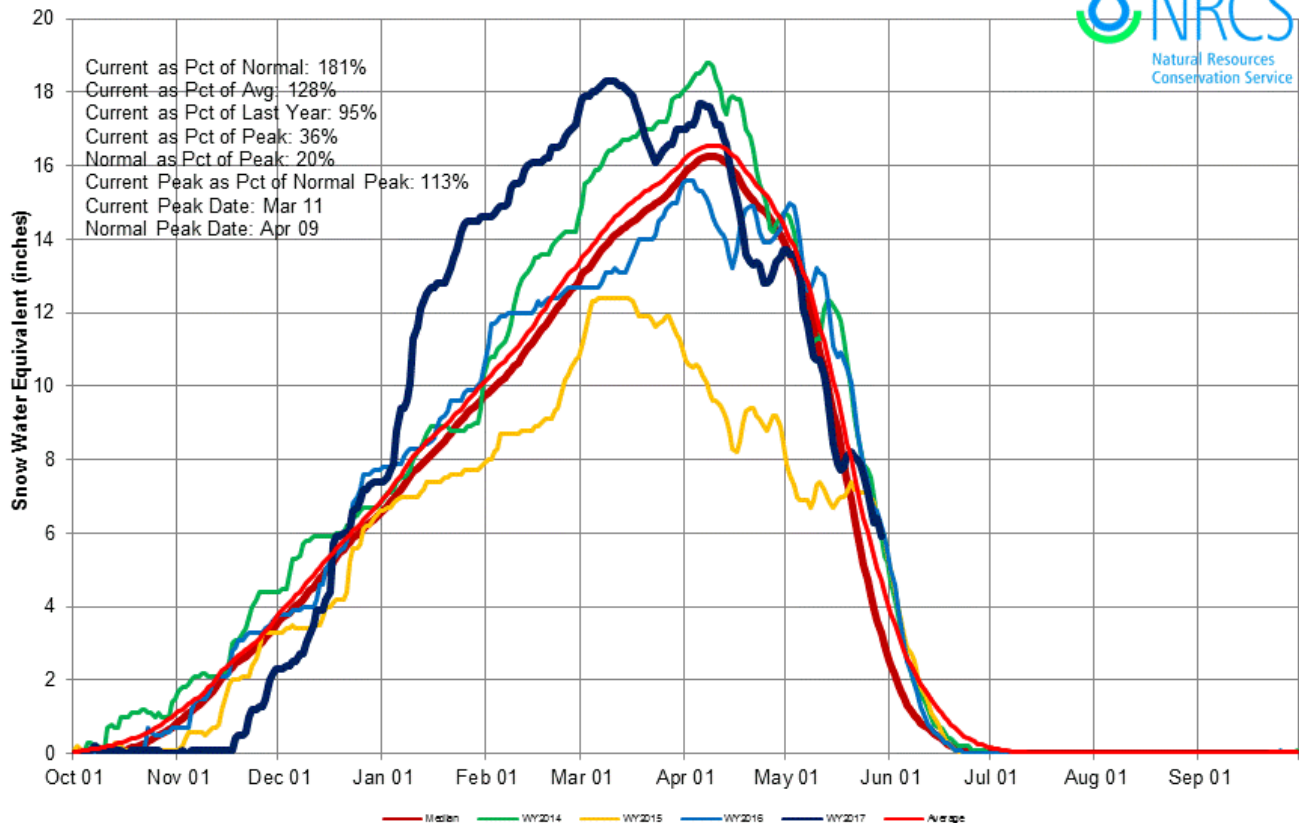
by Steve Woodis, NRCS Wildlife Biologist

Mike Sander of PeteDog Produce, in Shavano Valley, is planting a cover crop this spring using a broadcast seeder behind an ATV. Mike took soil samples earlier this year and based on the soil test results he needed to build up the organic matter as well as build nitrogen in the field. His cover crop mix consists of several legumes (berseem clover, spring forage pea, wooly pod vetch and chickling vetch) to build the nitrogen levels. Spring oats, barley, and triticale, 2 types of yellow mustard and tillage radish are also in the mix to add organic matter, help break up any compaction layers in the soil, and suppress weeds. He added flax and phacelia to the mix for the benefit of pollinators. Mike is working towards his organic farm status and will be growing organic vegetables with the goal of selling them at local farmers markets and developing a small CSA.



Colorado Statewide Time Series Snowpack Summary

Based on Provisional SNOTEL data as of May 29, 2017



USDA SERVICE CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

970-249-8407	Phone Extension
MIKE STEFFEN , District Director	123
ALAN BULL , County Executive Director	121
BOB SACCO , Program Technician	124
JO TRICE , Program Technician	101



MONTROSE-GUNNISON-OURAY COUNTY COMMITTEE

JOHN FIELD , Chairperson (Montrose)
PATTY BENNETT , Vice Chairperson (West End)
DALE IRBY , Regular Member (Gunnison)
STEVE COLLIN , Regular Member (Ouray)
BRYAN DISTEL , Regular Member (North Montrose)



SHAVANO CONSERVATION DISTRICT

KEN LIPTION , President	626-3951
RICHARD ST. JEAN , Vice President	874-9856
BRUCE LEBEN , Secretary/Treasurer	249-6393
RON GERMANN	250-1201
JASON MERKLEY	626-3515
LANNY DENHAM	323-5461
TEDDY BERGER	319-850-9915
BERT EARLE , Manager	249-8407x115
MENDY STEWART , Education Coordinator	249-8407x113



Website: www.shavanocd.org

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



970-249-8407	Phone Extension
ASHLEY JACKSON-BAILLIE , Range Conservationist	124
BILL HEAD , Civil Engineering Technician	116
DALE WOODBURY , District Conservationist	104
DEBBIE STEWART , Planning Technician	105
DENNIS WAGGONER , Soil Conservationist	107
DAVID DREWRY , Ag Engineer Project Leader	117
JEREMY OMVIG , Cultural Resource Specialist	128
JERRY ALLEN , Irrigation Water Management Specialist	106
KATHY BOYCE , Soil Conservationist	109
KATIE ALEXANDER , Soil Conservationist	111
MARCELLA FREMGEN , Range/Wildlife Ecologist	129
MARRIANE WATSON , Program Support Assistant	100
STEVE WOODIS , Wildlife Biologist	108



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
AUSTIN SHELBY , Assistant District Forester	133
SHARON LASSITER , Administrative Assistant	102

SALIDA DISTRICT - 719-539-2579

(Chaffee and Lake Counties)
7980 W Hwy 50
Salida, CO 81201
DAMON LANGE, District Forester
KATHERINE HARDGRAVE, Assistant District Forester

Gunnison Field Office—970-641-6852

(Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties)

P.O. Box 1390

Gunnison, CO 81230-1390

SAM PANKRATZ, Assistant District Forester

ANN WOOD, Administrative Assistant

HOW TO CONTACT US

Montrose USDA Service Center
102 Par Place – Montrose, CO 81401
PHONE (970) 249-8407

	Phone Extension
Farm Service Agency.....	2
Natural Resources Conservation Service.....	3
State Forest Service.....	150
Shavano Conservation District.....	115
Website: www.shavanocd.org	

WEST REGION WILDFIRE COUNCIL

Phone 970-615-7300
www.cowildfire.org



LILIA FALK, Director
wrwc.lilia@gmail.com
Cell 970-729-1418

JAMIE GOMEZ, Mitigation and Education Coordinator for
Delta, Ouray, and San Miguel Counties
wrwc.coordinator@gmail.com
Cell 503-867-6759

MIKE TARANTINO, Mitigation and Education Coordinator for
Montrose, Hinsdale, and Gunnison Counties
wrwc.mike@gmail.com
Cell 719-439-8493

Dates to Remember

June 12-16, 2017	Ag in the Classroom Summer Teachers Institute, Rifle, CO
June 13, 2017	Local Work Group Meeting/Shavano CD Board Meeting, 6:00pm
June 15, 2017	Acreage Reporting Deadline for Onions
June 20, 2017	Bureau of Reclamation Listening Session for FOA, 1:00pm
June 28, 2017	LGP Information Meeting, 6:00pm
July 4, 2017	Independence Day - Office Closed
July 9-15, 2017	Camp Rocky, Divide, Colorado
July 11, 2017	Shavano CD Board Meeting, 7:00pm
July 15, 2017	Final Acreage Reporting Deadline
July 16, 2017	CRP 2017 Summer/Fall Managed Harvesting and Routine Grazing Begins (with prior County Committee Approval of Request)
August 1, 2017	Deadline for 2017 ARC and PLC Enrollment
August 1, 2017	Deadline to Request Farm Transfers for 2017 Fiscal Year
August 1, 2017	Last Day to File Nomination Forms at the local USDA Service Center
August 8, 2017	Shavano CD Board Meeting, 7:00pm

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