

Watershed Representatives

San Juan River Basin Watershed

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Upper South Platte River Watershed

Mary Sue Liss, *Vice President*

Colorado, Gunnison-Dolores River Watershed

Mel Rettig, *Secretary*

Lower Arkansas River Watershed

Leroy Brase

Lower South Platte and Republican River Watershed

Bud Mekelburg

North Platte, White, Yampa River Watershed

Jim Amick

Rio Grand River Watershed

Danny Neufeld

Upper Arkansas River Watershed

Jack Swennes

Member-At-Large

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Photo courtesy of Nick Hoban

Eroded soil covering a fence in Weld County 2006.

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Colorado State Conservation Board



*A cloud of dust moving over a town in
Southeastern Colorado during the Dust Bowl.*

**Learning from the past,
working on the present,
to improve the future!**



Photo courtesy of Jim Deeds

Haying in the Colorado Rockies.

<http://www.colorado.gov/ag/CSCB>

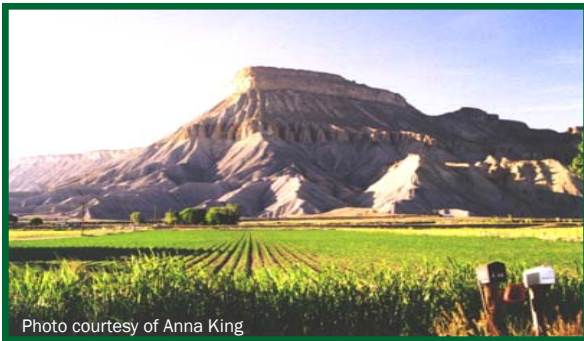


Photo courtesy of Anna King

The Bookcliffs overlooking farmland in the Grand Valley.

History

After national attention was focused on the soil erosion crisis of the Dust Bowl, people of the State of Colorado realized, through wind and water erosion and depletion of subsurface water resources, their state had lost approximately six million acres of agricultural land. It was decided that action needed to be taken. The **Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB)** was created in 1937. The CSCB is a program under the Division of Conservation Services in the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

Eight members of the Colorado State Conservation Board are elected by the Conservation Districts within their watershed. The governor appoints the ninth board member. Board members serve three-year terms. They are dedicated to protecting the sustainability of the land and agriculture.

Purpose

The Board provides administrative and financial assistance to Colorado's **76 conservation districts**. It also coordinates various programs with state and federal agencies on natural resource issues, provides guidance on streambank erosion and riparian concerns and assists districts on various water and energy programs.

Responsibilities

The CSCB has many responsibilities. A few of the Board's responsibilities are:

- ✓ Administer and disburse funds for the purpose of assisting conservation districts;
- ✓ Act as a state board of appeals for the districts;
- ✓ Coordinate activities between districts;
- ✓ Undertake studies of watershed planning;
- ✓ Conduct training for the volunteer members of the governing boards and employees of each district; and
- ✓ Provide oversight of district elections.

Each of the conservation districts has the responsibility to inventory the natural resource concerns within their respective areas and develop a plan to address these concerns. This activity is accomplished through partnership with various federal, state, and local governments and private organizations. Information about these plans are available through the Colorado State Conservation Board.



An eroding riverbank.



Ponnequin Wind Farm-Prowers County, Colorado

The CSCB has oversight for the following programs:

*Conservation Matching Grants

Program—Provides funding to the districts for cost-share assistance to the landowners for installation of conservation practices.

***Salinity Control Program**—Funding is provided by the Bureau of Reclamation through the CSCB to six conservation districts who have cost-share assistance available to the producers in the Upper Colorado River Basin.

*District Conservation Technician

Program—The program provides federal and state cost-share (75%) so districts may hire conservation technicians for planning and implementation assistance to land owners.

*Direct Assistance Program

State legislature authorizes funding to assist districts with expenses such as supporting office space, conducting elections, offering technical or administrative assistance or reimbursing travel expenses. Assistance through this program is merit-based.