



# Center Conservation District

## 3-Year Plan (2021 to 2023)

For More Information Contact:

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### BACKGROUND

#### Organization of the Center Conservation District

Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of the State of Colorado –The authorities; powers and structure are contained in Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 35, Article 70.

The Center Conservation District was organized on March 11, 1944 under Section 8 (k) of the Colorado Soil Conservation Act. The district is located in areas of Saguache, Alamosa, and Rio Grande Counties, consisting of 1,573,370.

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#### Function of the Center Conservation District

To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

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#### Mission of the Center Conservation District

*“The prudent use and adequate treatment of all land, water and related resources within its boundaries, to sustain the use of these resources for future generations and to restore that portion of these resources damaged through improper use.”*

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### RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

#### Natural Resource Data

Land Ownership: 608,000 acres of private land; 965,370 acres of public land. Land Use: 87,880 acres of Irrigated Cropland, 10,740 Irrigated Pasture/hayland, 666,835 acres Rangeland, 674,780 Woodlands, 33,135 Recreation, Urban and other land.

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### RESOURCE PLANNING

#### Trends Impacting Conservation in the Center Conservation District

- Drought Conditions causing decrease snowpack, river flows and aquifer recharge.
  - Ag industry changes including more hemp production, fallowing ground, and decreasing irrigated acres. Decreasing water use in Sub-District 1.
  - Forested private lands have increase fire risk due to arid climate and unmanaged tree, vegetation.
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#### Prioritized Natural Resource Issues & Goals

Building the Next Generation of Conservationists

- Work with local students to create project utilizing the Rio Grande/Center Conservation District Mini Pivot and promote conservation-oriented youth projects on the Farm.

Expand Conservation Projects

- Utilize the Rio Grande/Center Conservation District Farm in order to test new conservation practices in a real-world setting

Invasive Species

- Continue to collaborate with Federal, State and County Governments as well as landowners to control noxious weed species within the area.
- Expand educational efforts within groups including community leaders and youth.

#### Water Conservation

- Through the Rio Grande Water Conservation Initiative, focus on water education activities for all age groups.

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### ***Natural Resource Information /Education Priorities and Goals***

The District's long term information/education goals include:

- Expand Conservation Education:
  - Currently participating in Envirothon, Poster Contest, Youth Conservation Camp, Farm Safety Day.
  - Educational Farm Project

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### **Conservation District Operational Goals & Objectives**

- The Districts would like to focus on staying financially stable while supporting local conservation efforts.
- The District needs to focus on board recruitment to sustain a full board slate.

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### **Staffing Needs**

Currently the District consists of four board members:

- Anthony Lobato, President
- Judy Jolly, Vice President
- Brian Neufeld, Secretary/Treasurer
- Danny Neufeld, Supervisor

The District currently has one year-round part-time employee, Nikita Christensen, District Manager. The manager works 10 hours per week. Additional staff are hired during the summer months as spray technicians for the noxious weed spray program.

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## Center Conservation DISTRICT

### Natural Resource Goals & Objectives

Long Range Plan for: 2021 - 2023

**Natural Resource priority:** Building the Next Generation of Conservationists

**Why is this a concern and what is the location:** This concern addresses the lack of involvement on conservation boards. The District sees an opportunity to build relationships with young people to build more conservation leaders into our communities.

**Three Year Goal(s):** A competitive, sought after youth program, allowing youth to gain firsthand conservation experience on the Rio Grande/Center Conservation District's Mini Pivot.

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year</b>	A. 1 <sup>st</sup> Objective: Build a relationship with the local FFA Chapter Advisor and Alumni/Support Group. B. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Objective: Hold planning meeting with Rio Grande and Center Conservation District Boards to create program outline.	Sargent FFA, FFA Alumni/Support Group, Rio Grande Conservation	40 Hrs \$500	Farm Income
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Year</b>	A. 1 <sup>st</sup> Objective: Create application process, interviews and selection process for applicants. B. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Objective: Facilitate first official year of project with youth farming on mini pivot. C. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Objective: Obtain funding for project if needed. D. Work with youth partner to create reporting structure.	Steering Committee made up of all stakeholders	80 Hrs Funding needs to be determined dependent on project	TBD
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Year</b>	A. 1 <sup>st</sup> Objective: Begin implementation of Watershed Plan based on the findings and strategic planning done in year 2. B. 2 <sup>nd</sup> objective C. 3 <sup>rd</sup> objective	Steering Committee & Landowners	2,080 Hrs \$41,000  EQIP Contract Implementation	DA, CDPHE Grant  EQIP, NRCS, & Land-owners

\* Use of acronyms – please spell out each acronym the first time it is used followed by the acronym. From that point on, use only the acronym.

**ABC CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**District Operational Goals & Objectives**

Long Range Plan for: 20xx – 20xx

**Operational Priority:**

**Why is this a concern:**

**Three Year Goal(s):** Identify specific outcome expected three years from now.

<b>PROGRAM YEAR</b>	<b>MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP</b>	<b>TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED</b>	<b>SOURCE OF FUNDING</b>
<b>Example 1<sup>st</sup> Year</b>				
<b>Example 2<sup>nd</sup> Year</b>				
<b>Example 3<sup>rd</sup> Year</b>				

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**RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION**

THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that this Long Range Program of the XXXXXX Conservation District be adopted as the official program of the District as of this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20xx.

\_\_\_\_\_  
XXXXXX, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
XXXXXX, Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
XXXXXX, Secretary/Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
XXXXXX, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
XXXXXX, Member

Reviewed by the Colorado State Conservation Board

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Colorado State Conservation Board, President                      Cindy Lair, Program Manager

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date