



Center Conservation District

2023 Annual Report

USDA Service Center


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Center, Colorado 81125

Contact Us

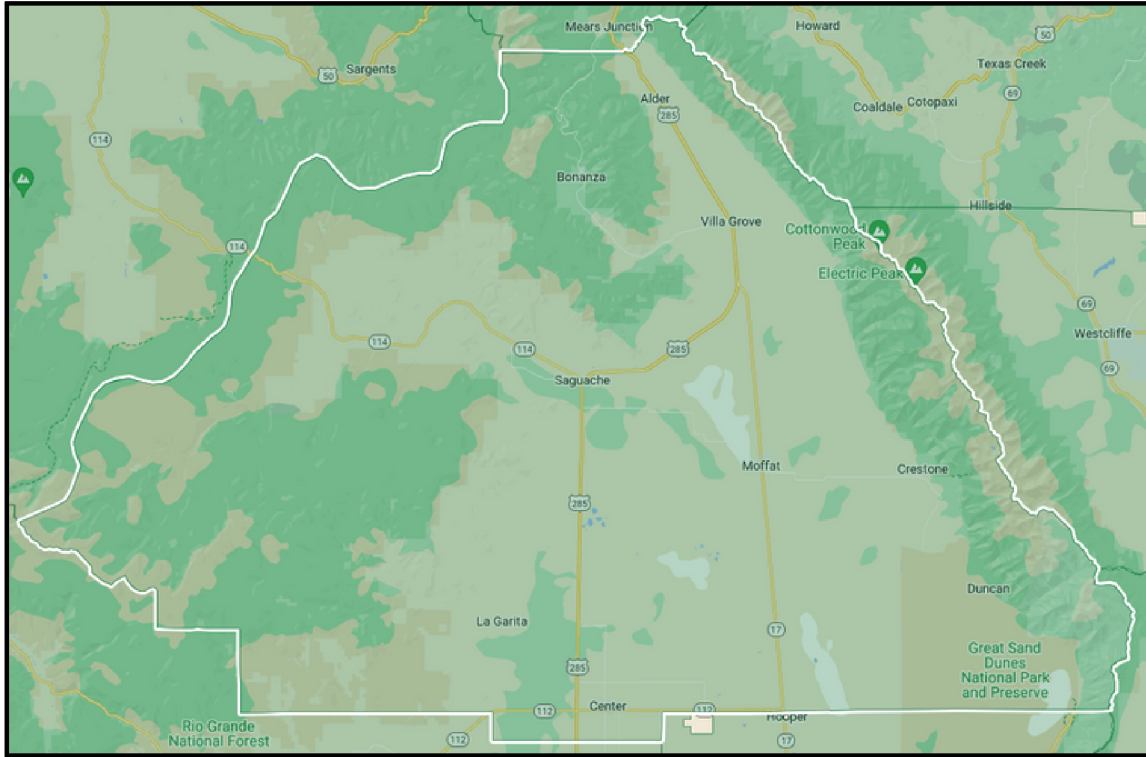
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WHO IS CENTER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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.”

District Supervisors

Brian Neufeld, President

Danny Neufeld, Vice President

Lynne Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer

Sherry Haugen, Supervisor

District Staff

Mattea Freel, District Manager

A BRIEF HISTORY



The Center Conservation District has been operating since

1944

Land Ownership (in acres)

Private Land.....	608,000
Public Land.....	965,370
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Total.....	1,573,370

Land Use (in acres)

Irrigated Cropland.....	87,880
Irrigated Pasture/Hay.....	10,740
Rangeland.....	666,835
Woodland.....	674,780
Recreation, Urban, Other...	33,135

Population.....	6,471
Number of Farms.....	277

A Year's Overview

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



◆ Joint Farm Circle

In partnership with the Rio Grande Conservation District, the Center Conservation District owns and leases a farm circle to test large-scale conservation practices. In 2023, upgrades were made to the center pivot with the installation of a LEPA system and monitoring cameras.

◆ Weed Management Program

Center Conservation District provides weed management services for primarily List B, List C, and Watch List species in Saguache County with an estimated 150 miles of Right-of-Ways and 500 acres of private land treated in 2023.

◆ STAR+ Program

The Center Conservation District was contracted to enroll 10 producers for the 2024-2026 STAR+ Program in the fall of 2023 to encourage producers to try new conservation practices. All 10 producer spots were filled for the program!



Last Year's

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



◆ **Crestone Energy Fair: Community Food Sovereignty Panel**

The Center Conservation District's District Manager participated on a panel for discussions about local conservation production methods, available programs for producers and youth, and the future of agriculture in the San Luis Valley.

◆ **San Luis Valley FFA Range Judging**

Focusing on growing future generations of conservationists, the Center Conservation District sponsored and participated in the 2023 FFA San Luis Valley Range Judging Competition where 21 students competed in plant identification and site ecology judging.

◆ **Ecology Field Trips**

The Center Conservation District participated in educating future generations of conservationists through ecology field trips partnered with the Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative. Topics included forestry, wildlife habitat, stream systems, and range ecology for 40 students.



2023 Local Work Group Meeting

June 20th, 2023 at 5:00 pm

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

Attendees:

- Lynne Thompson
- Sherry Haugen
- Ed Nielsen
- Mattea Klein
- Chay Yund
- Bryton Burkhart
- Danny Neufeld
- Brian Neufeld
- Tyler Neely
- Nikita Cooper

NATURAL RESOURCE PRIORITIES

1. Water quality and quantity
2. Soil health and erosion
3. Stream management

RESULTING WORK ITEMS

- Virtual Fencing Program
- Mini Pivot Drought-Resiliency Project

Looking Forward

FUTURE PROJECTS



Virtual Fencing Program

Resulting from the 2023 Local Work Group Meeting, the Center Conservation District, in partnership with the Rio Grande Conservation District, submitted a grant proposal in November 2023 for an NRCS CIG On-Farm Grant to secure funding to begin a virtual fencing program for 10 local producers or 1,500 head of cattle to reduce overgrazing, assist with invasive weed management, and encourage innovative conservation practices.

Mini Pivot Drought-Resiliency Project

The Center Conservation District, using the jointly shared mini pivot in partnership with the Rio Grande Conservation District, designed a project that will run from 2024-2026 for Adams State University students to utilize the 6 acres for testing drought-resilient crop rotations that can be applied to local operations. This project will be partially funded by the Adams State University USDA NextGen grant. For additional funding, the Center Conservation District submitted a grant proposal for the CWCB Water Plan grant in November 2023.

More to Come in 2024!

A Year's Overview

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

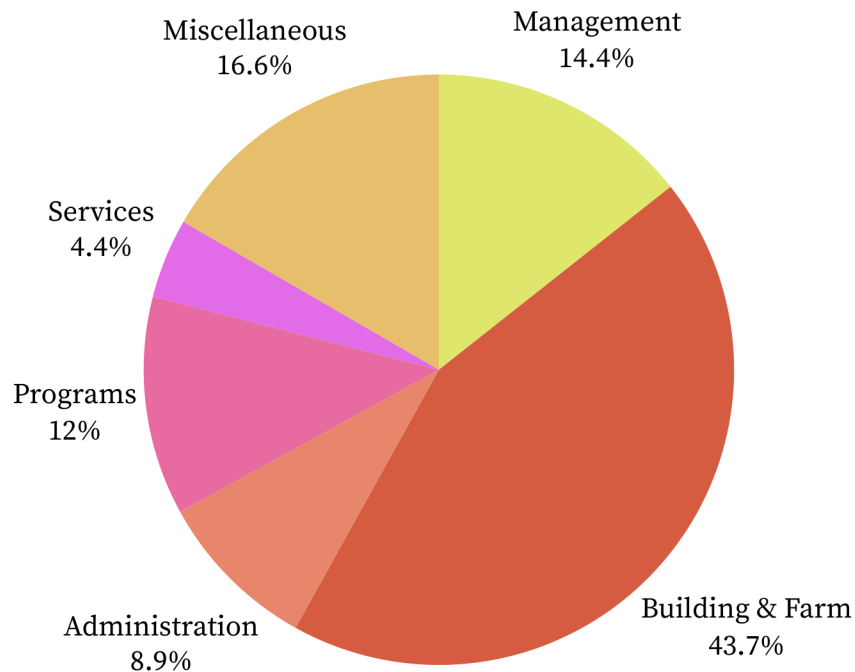
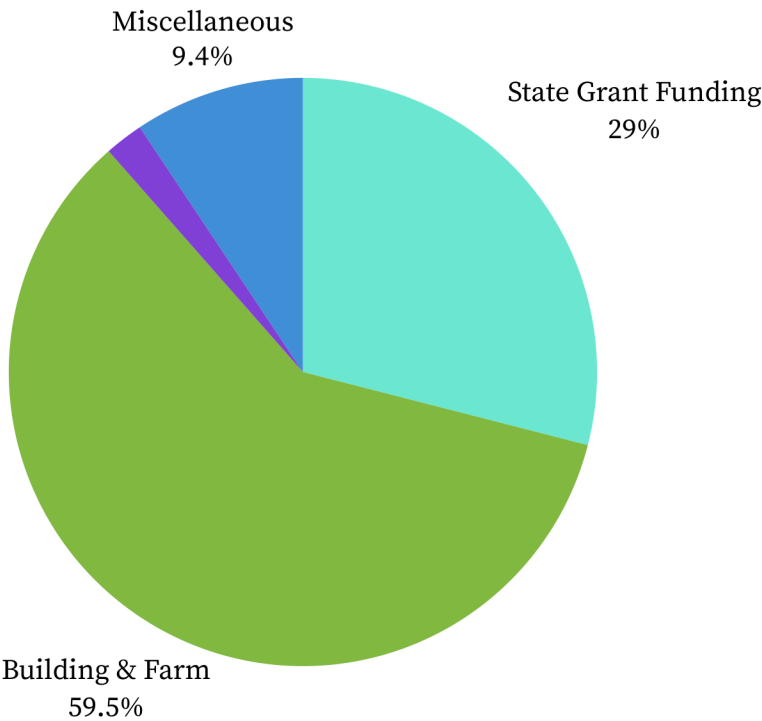


Revenue

Building & Farm.....	\$70,000
Miscellaneous.....	\$11,000
Services & Fundraising.....	\$2,500
State Grant Funding.....	\$34,100
Total.....	\$116,600

Expenses

Administration.....	\$8,600
Building & Farm.....	\$42,000
Management.....	\$13,800
Miscellaneous.....	\$2,000
Programs.....	\$11,500
Services.....	\$4,200
Total.....	\$95,900



We Appreciate Our

DISTRICT PARTNERS



The Center Conservation District strengthened partnerships in 2023 and looks forward to partnering with more organizations in the future. We want to thank our wonderful partners for another successful year of education, outreach, programs, and activities!

