



Center Conservation District

2024 Annual Report

USDA Service Center

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Center, Colorado 81125

Contact Us

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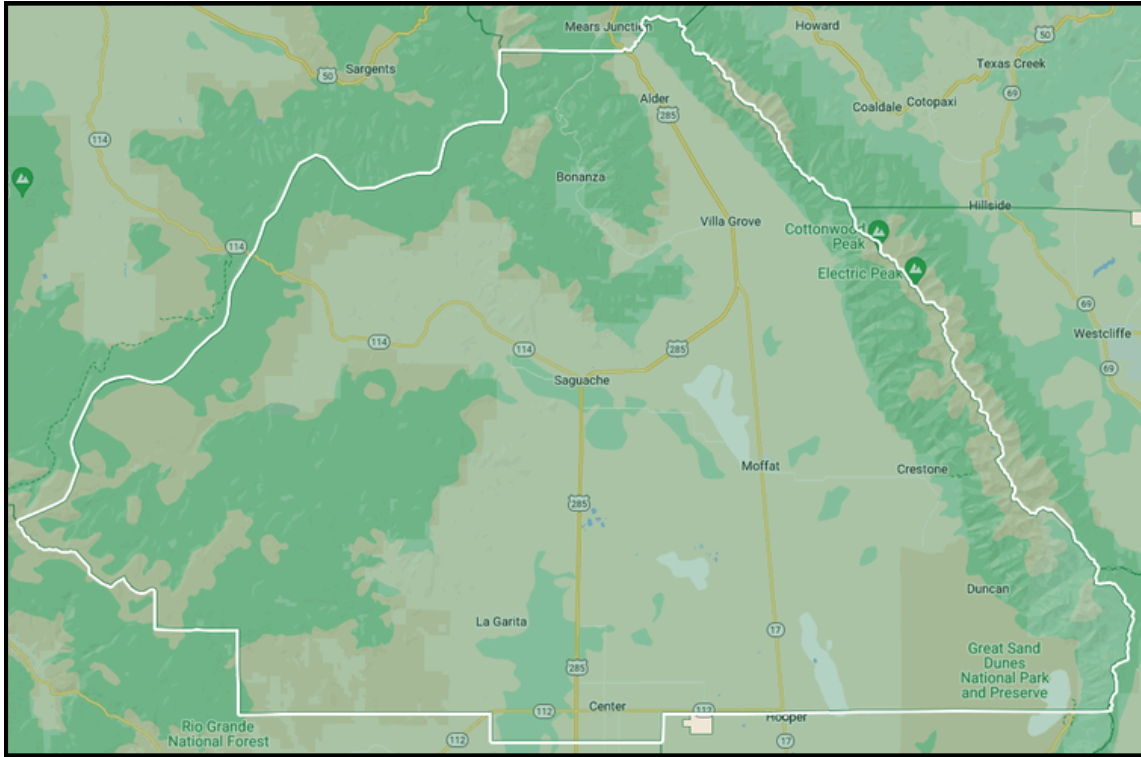
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@CenterConservationDistrict 

<https://centercd.colorado.gov>

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

Shawn Beiriger, 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

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



★ SLV Wool Pellet Project

In partnership with the CSU Research Farm in Center, Center Conservation District piloted a field study using wool pellets as a soil amendment to increase soil water holding capacity and act as an organic fertilizer. This research is being conducted to find a solution to the SLV water crisis and provide a market for wool.

★ Weed Management Program

The Center Conservation District provides weed management services for primarily List B, List C, and Watch List species in Saguache County with an estimated 230 acres of private and public land treated in 2024.

★ Colorado Soil Health Program

The Center Conservation District and summer interns worked with 9 producers on 10 fields to initiate conservation practices, install soil moisture probes, conduct soil tests, and provide technical assistance via the Colorado Soil Health Program.



A Year's Overview

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



◆ Joint Farm Circle

In partnership with the Rio Grande Conservation District, Center Conservation District leases its jointly-owned farming circle to local producers to test conservation efforts in real, applicable scenarios. This year, potatoes grew on the circle as part of a conservation-cash crop rotation.

◆ Tree Planting Activity

Together with the Rio Grande Conservation District and Colorado State Forest Service, the Center Conservation District invited students from Sargent Schools to our office to learn the importance of trees while planting their own.

◆ Soil & Water Connection Workshop

The Center Conservation District hosted a Soil & Water Connection Workshop with the Rio Grande Conservation District and guest speaker Annie Overlin to educate producers on this relationship, the 7 missing links of soil health, and soil chromatography.



Last Year's

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



◆ Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference

The Center Conservation District shared a booth at the Southern Rocky Mountain Ag Conference with Mosca-Hooper CD, Rio Grande CD, and RGWCEI to provide conservation education and promote community outreach.

◆ San Luis Valley FFA Range Judging

Focusing on growing future generations of conservationists, the Center Conservation District sponsored and participated in the 2024 San Luis Valley FFA Range Judging Competition where 42 students competed in plant identification and site ecology judging.

◆ Educational Activities

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.



2024 Local Work Group Meeting

February 8th, 2024 at 1:00 pm

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

Attendees:

Bill Brinton, Tyler Neely, Matt Martinez, Bryton Burkhart, Sherry Haugen, Mattea Freil, Patrick O'Neill, Jae Sanders, Trudi Kretsinger, Brian Neufeld, Pete Clark, Leah Clark, Emily Brown, Garth Schaefer, Hannah Thill, Ron Riggensbach, Sam Scavo, Mark Wagner

NATURAL RESOURCE PRIORITIES

1. Water quality and quantity
2. Soil health and erosion
3. Noxious/invasive weed control

RESULTING WORK ITEMS

- SLV Wool Pellet Project research
- SLV Revegetation Project
- Increased education on weed control methods

Looking Forward

FUTURE PROJECTS



Working Lands Climate Corps

The Center Conservation District was selected by the Colorado State Conservation Board to host full- and part-time Working Lands Climate Corps members to assist with the research and implementation of conservation practices. These members will work with other conservation groups in the SLV throughout 2025 with projects such as the SLV Wool Pellet Project, SLV Revegetation Project, and the Colorado Soil Health Program.

SLV Wool Pellet Project Continuation

The Center Conservation District and the CSU Research Farm will be continuing the SLV Wool Pellet Project in 2025. The goal for this project in Year 2 is to acquire prototyped equipment to create the wool pellets and direct the study at the CSU Research Farm to determine product efficacy for soil water retention and additional soil benefits. This study will closely monitor irrigation levels, soil moisture, wool pellet application rates, and other variables to determine if wool pellets will be a viable product for local producers to reduce irrigation rates in their operations.

More to Come in 2025!

A Year's Overview

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

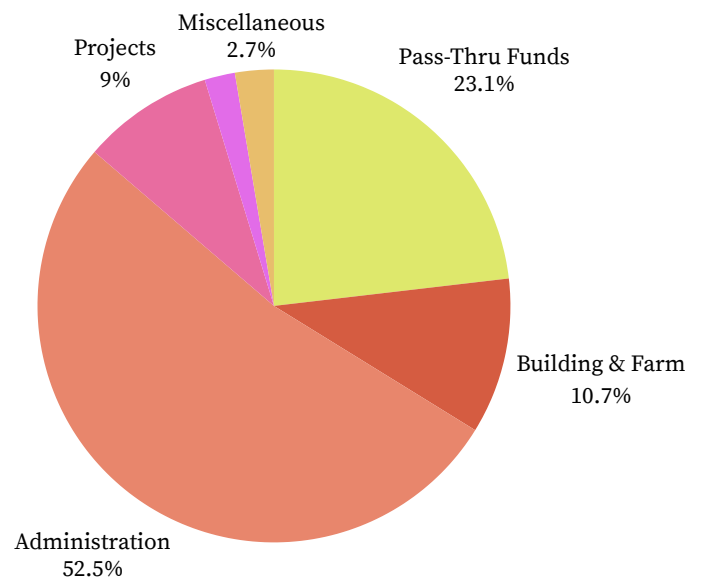
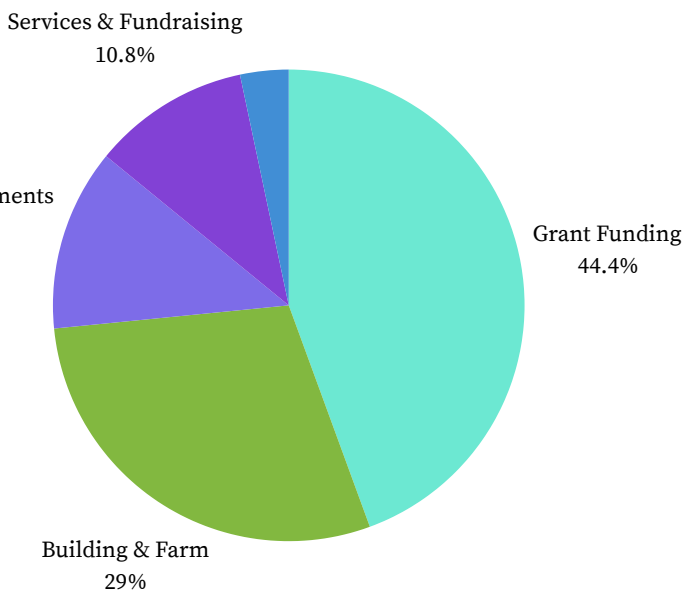


Revenue

Building & Farm.....	\$80,450
Grant Funding.....	\$123,122
Miscellaneous.....	\$9,198
Reimbursements.....	\$34,557
Services & Fundraising.....	\$29,882
Total.....	\$277,229

Expenses

Administration.....	\$102,844
Building & Farm.....	\$20,881
Miscellaneous.....	\$5,193
Pass-Thru Funds.....	\$45,358
Projects.....	\$17,607
Services.....	\$4,073
Total.....	\$195,956



We Appreciate Our

DISTRICT PARTNERS



The Center Conservation District strengthened partnerships in 2024 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!



Great Stories Begin Here



SAN LUIS VALLEY AREA
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION