



Southeast Colorado RC&D

Community Development/Energy Conservation - Governor's Energy Office "Community Energy Coordination"

In April 2010 Southeast Colorado RC&D Council began a 28 month project, funded at \$155,000 by the Governor's Energy Office to develop local strategies for increasing energy efficiency in the state's rural regions. The grant was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to create Community Energy Coordinators responsible for helping towns, counties, residents and businesses become more energy efficient.



By the end of 2010 SEC RC&D had the region's Strategic Energy Plan in place, working across government boundaries, implementing locally led strategies and identifying the best energy efficiency opportunities for their 6 county area of Baca, Bent, Kiowa, Prowers, Otero and Crowley counties.

Community Development/Water Management - USDA/Rural Development "Clay Tile Line Maintenance"

Southeast Colorado RC&D Council was awarded \$65,000 from a Rural Development *Rural Business Enterprise Grant* to initiate a small company to clean and maintain 140 miles of deep clay tile lines installed many years ago to drain agricultural land in the Lower Arkansas Valley.



Dustin DeWitt of DeWitt Excavating Inc. received specialized training from staff at the South Columba Basin Irrigation District in Pasco, Washington, on tile line maintenance, equipment operation, equipment servicing training, tile line maintenance safety, on-the-job field training in tile line cleaning procedures, and creating a tile line maintenance schedule for agricultural landowners. DeWitt also purchased very specialized equipment necessary to perform the clay tile maintenance for farmers including a jetter/vac Boom truck to access/install manholes and for cleaning out the lines, root saws, and a water truck. This business created two new jobs in Prowers County.

Land Management - Lower Arkansas Tamarisk Control Project

In 2010 Southeast Colorado RC&D Council coordinated a \$151,000 tamarisk control project on the Lower Arkansas River Watershed. This on-going project involved follow-up ground spraying and aerial helicopter spraying of 1565 acres of tamarisk on 34 sites. Funding was leveraged from many sources including the USDA/NRCS EQIP program, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Colorado Division of Wildlife, County funds, Drainage District, and others. Project cooperators included 23 landowners, one federal agency, two state agencies, two water conservancy districts, conservation districts, and others. Tamarisk control work will continue in 2011, with coordination already underway.



Summary of FY10 Accomplishments

Projects Adopted: 23

Projects Completed: 13

Active Projects: 36

Leverage: Local Support 324.4 : 1

Combined local, state, and federal grants funded: \$778,595

Acres Benefitted: 1,565

Jobs/Businesses Created/Retained: 8

Grants Prepared: 16

Leverage: NRCS Support 6.5 : 1