

# DOUGLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*- helping people help the land -*

## Conservation Happenings

Newsletter

January 2014

DOUGLAS COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
AND NRCS STAFF

### Douglas County CD

Graham Thompson, President  
Dave Dirkse, Vice-President  
Scott McHenry, Secretary  
William Vanderpoel, Treasurer  
Jeanne-Marie Bakehouse, Member  
Ray Kujawski, Member  
Vacancy, Member  
Pam Brewster, District Admin.

### Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Deric Clemons, District Conservation  
Dan Nosal, Range Management  
Linda Pollick, Civil Engineering Tech  
Deborah Rigo, Civil Engineer  
Lana Armon, Soil Conservationist  
Stacey Collins, Programs Support  
Dennis Smart, WAE

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## DISTRICT CONSERVATIONISTS OF THE YEAR AWARDED TO CHRIS AND JACLYNN PETERSON

The Douglas County Conservation District awarded Chris and Jaclynn Peterson as the District's Conservationists of the Year for 2013 at our annual meeting on November 19, 2013.



(Mike Bahm, Meg Halford, Dave Dirkse, Jaclynn and Chris Peterson)

Chris and Jaclynn Peterson had purchased 200 acres of forest that was densely wooded and unhealthy with Dwarf mistletoe, IPS and Mountain pine beetle, as well as Tussock moth infestations.

They sought help from Mike Bahm, the Colorado State Forest Services' District Forester at that time. Mike visited their property and helped them to understand what was needed to be done to improve the overall forest health. They contacted and hired Forest consultant Keith Worley to develop a forest management plan for them.

Both Keith Worley and Mike Bahm helped them to prioritize the conservation activities that needed to be implemented for their management plan.

Mike Bahm retired and Meg Halford, Assistant Forester, became their CSFS partner. Meg told them about a competitive Cost-Share Grant Program through CSFS that if awarded, the funding could be used to help bring in contractors to complete the work.

The Peterson's passion for a healthy forest moved them to create a flyer sending it to 40 neighboring landowners hoping to get enough combined acreage to receive assistance. Their action paid off and it was successful.

A few years later, Meg told them about EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) monies available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and that they may qualify for this program so they contacted NRCS' District Conservationist Deric Clemons.

Meg Halford, CSFS, led the overall project and with the help from NRCS & CSFS. The Peterson's were able to have nearly all 200 acres, with the exception of riparian areas, treated using various conservation practices such as Forest Stand Improvement, Forest Slash Treatment, Brush Management, Pest Management, & Snags. Thanks to the contractors that worked so hard on this forest management project; Harry Spellman, Brian Pombo, Frank Grzesk, and Cecil logging Company.

Please check out the interview with the Peterson's at <http://www.youtube.com/user/kunda2able>



Before



After

## RAINWATER/SNOWMELT COLLECTION GRANT AVAILABLE

The Douglas County Conservation District has secured a grant from the state to cost share specified rainwater/snowmelt collection systems as a renewable water source to eligible Douglas County landowners. Landowners must meet the state requirements below and have a "Rooftop Precipitation Collection System" permit from the state for eligibility in this grant program.

To apply online for a "Rooftop Precipitation Collection System" permit (form No. GWS-78), go to Division of Water Resources Website: <http://water.state.co.us/DWRIPub/Documents/gws-78.pdf>

**Senate Bill 09-080** which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor during 2009 legislative session, allows limited collection and use of precipitation for landowners, only if:

- The property on which collection takes place is residential and the landowner uses a well, or is legally entitled to a well for the water supply.
- The well is permitted for domestic uses according to Section 37-92-602, C.R.S. and there is no water supply available in the area from a municipality or water district.
- The precipitation is collected only from the residential roof and the water is used only for those uses that are allowed by, and identified on the well permit.
- Landowners have filed a Rooftop Precipitation Collection System permit with the state.

If you are interested in participating in this grant opportunity, please call 303-688-3042 ext. 100, or email [pam.brewster@co.nacdnet.net](mailto:pam.brewster@co.nacdnet.net) to be added to our list and to receive an application to participate. Applications will be reviewed and ranked the end of March. Landowners will be notified shortly after that if their application was approved or not.

### Conservation Webinar Series (Soil Erosion Reduction) and Field Tour

The Douglas County Conservation District, Colorado State University Extension, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service will be sponsoring a "Small Acreage Knowledge at Home and in the Field" program on soil erosion reduction. Participants will be required to watch four webinars prior to the field trip which is scheduled for Saturday May 3rd. The four webinars will be available to view the months leading up to the tour and will be on soil erosion reduction, pasture management, windbreaks, and grass seeding (critical area planting). The tour will consist of viewing a wind-break, proper pasture management,

grass seeding demonstration, etc. There will be a registration fee for lunch and transportation. This fee has not been determined as of yet and more information will be available in our March newsletter. If you are interested in attending this tour and being part of the program, please contact Pam Brewster at 303-688-3042 ext. 100, or email [pam.brewster@co.nacdnet.net](mailto:pam.brewster@co.nacdnet.net) to be added to the list. Space is limited. The district wanted to put this in our newsletter so we could get the word out as soon as possible to you landowners to save the May 3rd date.

#### WEB SOIL SURVEY

The web soil Survey website is a great way for you, the landowner, to check to see what type of soils you have on your property.

This information can help you with grass seeding recommendations and tree and shrub species suggestions to be planted.

go to:  
<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>

### Colorado Landowners Encouraged to Apply for FY2014 EQIP Funding

The Franktown NRCS field office is currently accepting applications from landowners interested in implementing conservation practices to improve natural resources on farm and rangeland areas through its Environmental Quality Incentives Program. The applicant must have control of the land at time of application and for the duration of the contract and must produce \$1000 in agricultural products (Forest land is exempt from the \$1000 requirement). **Application deadline: Friday, January 17, 2014.** For more information please contact Deric Clemons, District Conservationist at 303-688-3042 ext. 107.

## Seedling Trees For Conservation available and Tree Care / Windbreak Design Workshop

Seedling trees are available at a nominal cost on a first come, first served basis to be planted for conservation uses such as windbreaks and shelterbelts, living snow fences, erosion control, wildlife habitat, and reforestation. Species sell out quickly so get your order in soon. There is no minimum acreage required to order trees from the Douglas County Conservation District. There are a wide variety of species available such as bare root shrubs and trees (3 feet top height), 6" to 12" deciduous and coniferous trees, and individual potted evergreen trees top height 18". You can call Pam Brewster at the Douglas County Conservation District 303-688-3042 ext. 100, or email [pam.brewster@co.nacdnet.net](mailto:pam.brewster@co.nacdnet.net) for an order form or if you have any questions. The deadline for ordering trees is March 28, 2014 and the trees will be available to be picked up on April 15, 2014 in Castle Rock in time for spring planting.

**WINDBREAK WORKSHOP** is scheduled for January 15, 2014 at the Franktown Firehouse beginning at 7:00 pm. Recommended tree species, planting and care for your seedlings and windbreak design for your property will be presented. Please RSVP to our office before January 15<sup>th</sup> to attend.

The result of long, dry periods during fall and winter can cause injury or death to part of the plant root systems. Affected plants may appear perfectly normal and resume growth in the spring using stored food energy. Plants may be weakened and all parts may die in late spring or early summer when temperatures rise. Weakened plants also may be subject to insect and disease problems.

Lawns also are prone to winter damage. Newly established lawns, whether seed or sod, are especially susceptible to damage. Susceptibility increases for lawns with south or west exposures.

Plants receiving reflected heat from buildings, walls and fences are more subject to damage. The low angle of winter sun makes this more likely in south or west exposures. Windy sites result in faster drying of sod and plants and require additional water. Monitor weather conditions and water during extended dry periods—one to two times per month without snow cover

Newly planted shrubs and trees require more water than established shrubs that have been planted for at least a year. Trees obtain water best when it is allowed to soak into the soil slowly to a depth of 12 inches. Apply water to many locations under the dripline and beyond if possible.

### Winter Watering



- ◇ Water trees, shrubs and lawns during prolonged dry fall and winter periods to prevent root damage that affects the health of the entire plant.
- ◇ Water only when the air temperature and soil temperatures are above 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Apply water at mid-day so it will have time to soak in before possible freezing at night.
- ◇ Established large trees have a root spread equal to or greater than the height of the tree. Apply water to the most critical part of the root zone at the drip line as pictured above.

### VACANCY ON THE DOUGLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD

If you are interested in conserving the natural resources here in Douglas County, and have a desire to share the urgency in conserving these precious resources with others, and if you are interested in being on a board that is making a difference, then we encourage you to call the Douglas County Conservation District office @ 303-688-3042 ext. 100 or email [pam.brewster@co.nacdnet.net](mailto:pam.brewster@co.nacdnet.net) for more information.

**PRODUCTS**

**Custom Seed Mixes:**

- Pasture and Hay Mixes*
- Native (1 acre bags in office)*
- Introduced Grass Mix*
- Drought Tolerant Turf Seed*

**Wildflower Mixes :**

- All Perennial Mix*
- Low Grow Mix*
- Rocky Mountain Mix*

**Tree and Other Supplies:**

- Seedling Trees*
- Barrier and Staples*
- Fertilizer Tablets*
- Polymer Crystals*
- Gopher Traps*
- Mosquito Larvicide*  
*(40# Bag/Dunks)*



*Grass Seed Drill is available to rent*

**Programs:**

- District Seminars*
- and NRCS Farm Bill Programs*



**Pawnee Buttes Seed Inc.**

**For All Your Seed Needs**

◆ Native Grass, Forb, & Shrub Seed ◆

◆ CRP ◆ Small Grains ◆ Alfalfa ◆ Pasture Mixes ◆

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**HISTORY:** The Douglas County Conservation District's mission is to "promote projects through education to further the long-term sustainable use of natural resources balancing the needs of agriculture and urban growth". The Douglas County Conservation District was formed on September 15, 1960 by consolidation of the West Plum Creek Soil Erosion District and the Cherry Creek Soil Conservation District. These organizations came out of the landowner's recognition of a need to control and prevent further deterioration of the Natural Resources after the drought in the 1930's. The issues today, along with past concerns of erosion & degradation of land, are addressing conservation education, to landowners on water quality, erosion and sediment control relating to urban development, overgrazing on small acreage, and the spread of noxious weeds.

*Helping People Help the Land*

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