

Watershed Conservation Input Forums

The NRCS has announced the local watershed workgroup meeting schedule for this spring. Our forestry partners and our past involvement at these meetings has resulted in considerable funding becoming available for non-industrial forest landowners to manage their forest lands. You are encouraged to participate and/or spread word to those interested in forestry at the local level. Feel free to call me if you have questions. (Greg Sundstrom, 970-491-5342). The announcement and schedule follows:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in coordination with the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) Watershed Associations will be holding a series of Watershed Conservation Input Forums between February 2010 and May 2010. The meetings will be held within the ten Colorado geo-political watershed boundaries, and are designed to provide NRCS customers, natural resource partners, and other organizations with the opportunity to help guide and make recommendations regarding NRCS financial and technical assistance programs.

“NRCS in Colorado is tasked with managing and administering millions of dollars annually to help NRCS customers and partners enhance the quality of the state’s natural resources,” says Petra Barnes Walker, NRCS Public Affairs Officer, Lakewood, CO. *“These forums are a great opportunity for those at the grassroots level and who will most likely be directly impacted by programmatic decision to ensure their input and interests are represented.”*

Discussions during these sessions will revolve around various conservation practices like irrigation water management systems, range management, and many others. Participants will also have the opportunity to discuss their issues regarding high priority natural resource concerns including water quantity, water quality, invasive species, rangeland health, small acreage management, forest health, and many others. Then they will be asked to share input about how NRCS can help mitigate some of their concerns through agency programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP); the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP); and many more.

Don’t miss this important opportunity to contribute to the conversation, as the wise use and conservation of our natural resources is everyone’s responsibility and is critical to sustaining and enhancing the quality of life we enjoy within our community. For additional information about the forum within your watershed, please visit www.co.nrcs.usda.gov or call Petra Barnes Walker at 720-544-2808.

2010 Watershed Forum Meeting Dates

Watershed	Forum Date	Forum Location	Point of Contact	Phone	Email
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N. Platte White Yampa	April 29th 12:30 - 3:30 pm	Meeker	Wayne Jipsen, NRCS Area Conservationist, Grand Junction	970- 243- 5068	wayne.jipsen@co.usda.gov
N. Platte White Yampa	May 6th 12:30 - 3:30 pm	Walden	Wayne Jipsen		
N. Platte White Yampa	May 7th 12:30 - 3:30 pm	Steamboat Springs	Wayne Jipsen		
Colorado	April 1st 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Grand Junction	Wayne Jipsen		
Colorado	March 31st 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Gypsum Eagle Area	Wayne Jipsen		
Gunnison Dolores	March 30th 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Montrose	Wayne Jipsen		
San Juan	April 20th 9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Plata County Fairgrounds, 2500 Main Ave. Durango	Mike Collins, NRCS Area Conservationist, Alamosa	719- 589- 6432	michael.collins@co.usda.gov
Rio Grande	April 13th	Alamosa	Mike Collins		
Upper South Platte			Leroy Hall (Roy), NRCS Area Conservationist, Greeley	970- 330- 0380	leroy.hall@co.usda.gov
Lower South Platte	March 30th		Leroy Hall (Roy)		
Republican	3/24/2010		Leroy Hall (Roy)		
Upper Arkansas	4/15/2010	Pueblo	John Knapp,	719- 384-	john.knapp@co.usda.gov

			NRCS Area Conservationist, La Junta	5408	
Lower Arkansas	2/23/2010	La Junta	John Knapp		