



# DOUGLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

*~helping people help the land~*

## Conservation Happenings

Newsletter

January 2015

### DOUGLAS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT AND NRCS STAFF

#### Douglas County CD

Jeanne-Marie Bakehouse, President  
Dave Dirkse, Vice-President  
Ray Kujawski, Secretary  
William Vanderpoel, Treasurer  
Kevin Shanks, Member  
Vacancy, 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

**Office hours: 8-4:30 M-Th**

**PO Box 688, 7519 E Hwy 86**

**Franktown, CO 80116**

**Phone: 303-688-3042 ext. 100**

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**Pam.brewster@co.nacdnet.net**

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## Forest Health, Fuels Mitigation Seminar February 28, 2015

The Douglas County Conservation District is hosting a free seminar on Saturday February 28, 2015 at the Franktown Firehouse just south of the intersection of Hwy 83 & 86. Registration will be at 8:30am with coffee and light snacks and the program will be from 9:00am until 12:00pm. Kim Spuhler with the Franktown Fire District will help prepare landowners to get "Ready, Set, Go" in an emergency. Assistant District Forester Meg Halford will talk about Insects, Disease, and fuel mitigation projects in the county. Fire Mitigation Specialist for Douglas County Jill Alexander will explain the programs that are going on around the county. Grant opportunities for landowners are available and will be discussed.

RSVP by February 26, 2015  
at 303-688-3042 ext 100 or  
pam.brewster@co.nacdnet.net



## Weed Symposium March 28, 2015



The Douglas County Public Works Operations Weed Control Division is sponsoring a Noxious Weed Symposium on March 28, 2015 from 8:30 to 4:30 at the Philip S Miller Library. The cost is \$12.00 per person for materials and lunch. Topics include: Biological Control, Weed management in natural areas, choosing spray nozzles, contaminated clothing, controlling weeds with livestock, Yellow toadflax research, and Douglas County education/enforcement efforts. RSVP by March 23, 2015 with the county by sending in cost of symposium to: Douglas County Government, PO Box 1390, Castle Rock, CO 80104, Attn: Weed Symposium, or contact the CSU Extension in Douglas County at 720-733-6930 to pay by Credit Card. Contact 303-660-7480 with questions.



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**Conservationists of the Year -Bob & Kristen Welch** run 330 head of cattle on 2,683 acres of the Spruce Meadows Open Space in Douglas County. The Welch's worked closely with the Douglas County Conservation District, Douglas County Open Space, and NRCS and developed a conservation plan in August of 2012 to address natural resource issues and concerns on the rangeland and the plan was fully implemented this year. Practices installed under the plan include 21,432 feet of cross fence, 12,423 feet of stock water pipeline, 8 livestock tanks, 1,233 acres of weed control, two pumping plants, prescribed grazing on 2,190 acres and 2 livestock wells. They were recognized for their outstanding conservation efforts and good stewardship of the land.

## Windbreak Design and Species

Now is a great time to plan for a windbreak. A windbreak is a combination of trees and shrubs planted to protect a home, farmstead, or even driveway from prevailing winds and blowing snow. When planning a windbreak, you should consider many factors in order to have an effective windbreak. These factors include: **Location, Tree Species, Number of Rows desired, and Tree Spacing**

**Location** is the first consideration in planning a windbreak. With our prevailing winds coming from the north and west, place windbreak on the north and west side of the buildings and areas that you want to protect. The windbreak should be planted between 100-300 feet from the area you are trying to protect.

**Species** are very important and can determine how many rows for the effectiveness of the windbreak. **The most effective windbreak is 3 to 5 rows**, the most common is 2 rows with Ponderosa pines and/or Junipers. Shrub row is an important part of a windbreak if you have space. This provides a low dense barrier on the windward side, especially in the winter months, to prevent snow from blowing and drifting.

When planting your windbreak, the **spacing of the trees** will also improve the windbreak effectiveness. For more details on windbreaks, please contact the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at 303-688-3042 ext. 102.

**SEEDLING TREE ORDER FORMS AVAILABLE at [www.dconconservation.com](http://www.dconconservation.com)**

### We are looking to fill a vacancy on the Douglas County Conservation District Board!

*Are you interested in conserving our natural resources here in Douglas County?*

*Do you have a desire to share in the urgency to conserve these precious resources with others?*

*Would you like to be involved in educating landowners through conservation projects and seminars addressing natural resource concerns in the county?*

*If so, and you reside in Douglas County, then feel free to send a letter of intent to join the conservation district board.*

*Mail, email, or fax to:*

*Douglas County CD*

*PO Box 688, Franktown, CO 80116*

*or [pam.brewster@co.nacdn.net](mailto:pam.brewster@co.nacdn.net)*

*Or 303-660-3838*

## Rainwater/Snowmelt Harvesting Grant Report

The outcome of the activities from our Rainwater/Snowmelt Harvesting Grant in 2014 was that five landowners installed rainwater harvesting systems with a total holding capacity of 20,745 gallons of precipitation. The rough rule of thumb for calculating rainfall runoff volume on a catchment surface: You can collect 600 gallons of water per inch of rain falling on 1,000 square feet of catchment surface. The total square feet of rooftop catchment surface for the five landowners in this program are 10,066 sf. One inch of precipitation falling on 10,066 sf calculates to be 6,042 gallons of water to be harvested for outside and/or inside use. According to CoCoRaHS Douglas County annual precipitation average for the past 7 years has been 19.75 inches. Consequently each 1,000 sq. ft. of roof area could collect 11,850 gallons of precipitation per year in Douglas County. In this program alone, for one year, these five landowners with their 10,066 sf of rooftop area would be able to collect an average of 119,329 gallons of precipitation a year. This project will continue to have a significant impact on available water resources by modulating storm water, reducing the demand for ground water and putting precipitation to good use before it is allowed to return to the soil in a controlled fashion. The district will not be offering this grant in 2015.

### Landowner Financial Assistance for:

#### Noxious Weeds (A & B List Species)

The Douglas County Conservation District has an opportunity for landowners to apply for noxious weed control assistance. This grant will assist with a 50% cost share up to \$500.00 per property for chemical and biological control methods for weeds on the Colorado State Noxious Weed "A" and "B" list species. Landscape projects will not be funded. If you are interested, you can obtain an application via email [pam.brewster@co.nacdnet.net](mailto:pam.brewster@co.nacdnet.net) or on our website at [dconconservation.com](http://dconconservation.com). Please complete the application form and mail, email, or fax it in to our office. The deadline is April 20, 2015. If your application reaches our office after the deadline, it will be considered in the second round of reviews if funding is still available.



#### Fuels Mitigation and Defensible Space

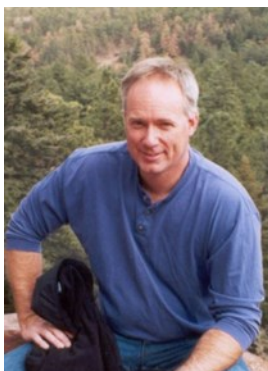
The Douglas County landowners can apply for financial assistance for fire mitigation and defensible space practices on their property. The conservation district will assist small acreage landowners with a 50% cost share of the total project treatment costs not to exceed \$500.00 reimbursement per property. The practices cost shared are tree thinning, fuels reduction, slash mulch/chipping and equipment rental. Landscape projects will not be funded. The grant application will give more detailed information. If you are interested, please get an application via email [pam.brewster@co.nacdnet.net](mailto:pam.brewster@co.nacdnet.net) or on our website at [dconconservation.com](http://dconconservation.com). Complete the application form for Fuels mitigation and Defensible space on your property and mail, email, or fax it in to our office. The deadline is May 18, 2015. The applications will be reviewed and ranked for approval. Landowners will be notified shortly after the 18th. If your application reaches our office after the deadline, it will be considered in the second round of reviews if funding is still available.



### College Scholarships Available

\$1000.00 scholarships available to qualified applicants. This scholarship is open to any graduating 2015 Senior who will be attending college in the fall of 2015 as a Freshman or Sophomore majoring in the fields of Agriculture, Agronomy, Horticulture, Environmental Science, Soil Science, Watershed Management, Earth Resources Sciences, and other fields related to the utilization and conservation of soil, water, plant, and animal resources. Students must have a grade point average of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 point scale. Please send a one to three page letter and a copy of transcripts of previous course work to the Douglas County Conservation District at PO Box 688, Franktown, CO 80116. the deadline is May 18, 2015.

### The Douglas County Conservation District Welcomes Kevin Shanks to the Board



Kevin has been a property owner in Douglas County since 1986. As a registered Landscape Architect in Colorado, he has provided consulting services for 34 years to both private and public clients throughout the western United States. He is a partner in a planning and design firm that specializes in river corridor restoration, sustainable infrastructure design and community development. Kevin has a degree from Iowa State University and comes from an agricultural background. With both a personal and professional interest in sustainable land management, Kevin is excited about joining the Douglas County Conservation Board. We are very thankful to have him as part of the district board of supervisors. His expertise has and will continue to be very valuable to the county.

**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*

**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 from 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 issue today is to educate landowners on water quality, erosion and sediment control relating to urban development, over-grazing on small acreage, fire mitigation, learning to ID and control the spread of noxious weeds.

*Helping People Help the Land*

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