SP-PRCD Leverages $45,000 into $120,000 for Local Conservation Projects through CSCB Supplemental Matching Grant

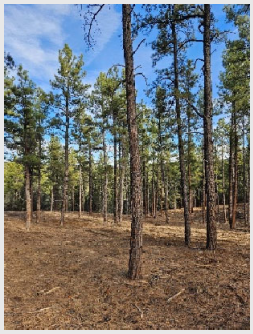
The Spanish Peaks–Purgatoire River Conservation District (SP-PRCD) is proud to announce the successful completion of its **2025–26 Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB) Supplemental Matching Grant 50/50 Cost-Share Program**. This one-time funding opportunity allowed the District to directly advance its 2025–2027 Long Range Plan by improving drought resilience, rangeland management, forest health, and agricultural sustainability. Working alongside **15 local landowners**, SP-PRCD helped implement projects that will provide long-term benefits to agricultural operations, natural resources, and local communities. Overall, the project generated **approximately $2.67 of conservation investment for every $1.00** of CSCB grant funding awarded.

CONSERVATION INVESTMENT BY THE NUMBERS

CSCB Grant Funds of $45,536
+
District Funds of $6,170
+
Landowner Investment of $56,297
+
Labor, technical assistance, equipment, travel of $12,125
=
Total Project Value $120,128

On-the-ground Accomplishments

- 9,870 feet of new fencing installed
- 5 livestock water tanks
- 10.1 acres of forestry stand improvement and woody residue treatment
- 87 square yards of irrigation ditch improvements
- 1 solar-powered livestock water pump
- 1 tank bubbler



Forestry clearing

These projects improve grazing management, increase water availability for livestock, enhance forest health, reduce wildfire fuels, and support more efficient water use across the district.

Livestock Tank

The program demonstrates the value of partnership-driven conservation. Every state grant dollar was matched by local landowners, more than doubling the impact of public funding while supporting practical, on-the-ground improvements that benefit working lands and natural resources.

District Conservation Technicians Keith Mantelli (now retired) and Randee DeCristino coordinated the program with support from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) partners. By offering funding across a variety of conservation practices, the District was able to identify and address priority resource concerns throughout the region. Forestry treatments, water developments, and fencing projects proved especially beneficial for participating producers.

Fence in difficult terrain

SP-PRCD extends its **sincere appreciation to the Colorado State Conservation Board** for making this supplemental funding opportunity possible. Programs such as the CSCB Matching Grant help conservation districts deliver locally led solutions that strengthen agricultural operations while improving stewardship of soil, water, forests, and rangelands.

For information about future cost-share opportunities and conservation programs, contact SP-PRCD at 3590 East Main Street, Trinidad, Colorado, or email spprcd@gmail.com.