



]OLNEY BOONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3-Year Plan 2023 to 2025

For More Information Contact: Nancy Aschermann, District Manager
200 south 10th Street, Rocky Ford, CO 81067; 719-254-7883; rockyfordcd@gmail.com

BACKGROUND

Organization of the Olney Boone Conservation District

Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of the State of Colorado – The authorities; powers and structure are contained in Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 35, Article 70.

- The Olney Boone Conservation District was organized under the Colorado Soil Conservation Act of 1927, as amended. The original district was established by a referendum held November 1, 1952. The certificate of organization was issued by the Colorado Secretary of State on August 20, 1954.
 - The District is in western Crowley and northeastern Pueblo Counties. The original District covered 168,200 acres. Due to four additions over the years involving 62,400 acres, the total acreage is now up to 230,600.
 - A Board of Supervisors composed of five landowners governs the District. Members of the Board are elected at a public election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of May of even-numbered years (until 2023, when districts are switching to odd years). Each Supervisor serves a four-year term with 3 Supervisors elected at one election and 2 elected at the next election. The Board of Supervisors held a successful special election to remove voter mandated term limits on elected officials.
 - On July 1, 2002, by an act of the Legislature the Colorado Conservation Districts and the State Conservation Board removed the word “Soil” from their names to better reflect the current activities of the Districts.
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Function of the Olney Boone Conservation District

To make available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

Mission of the Olney Boone Conservation District

The Olney Boone Conservation District is a local organization governed by a five-member board elected by the landowners. The District provides assistance to, advises, and directs the landowners, operators, and community. The purpose of these activities is to improve the natural and renewable resources and enhance the lifestyle in our District.

Optional Services

Olney Boone Conservation district has a grass drill that is available for rental.
OBCD has a water trunk/tank to assist during high fire alerts.

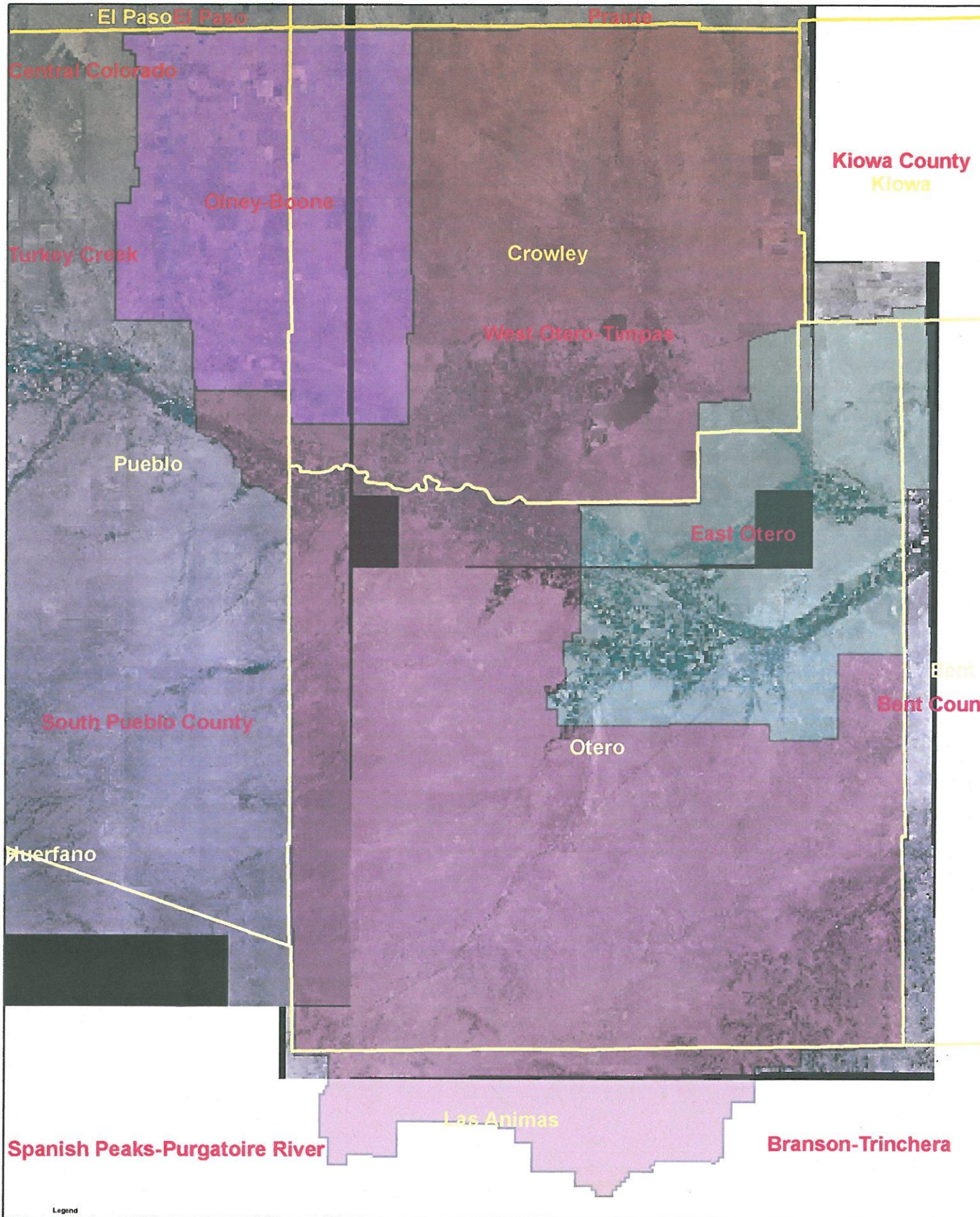
RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

Natural Resource Data

The land ownership within the Olney Boone Conservation District is as Follows:

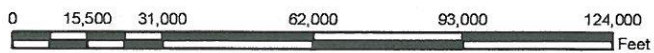
Private owner land	218,440 acres
State lands	12,160 acres
Rangeland	180,600 acres
Non-irrigated cropland	5,000 acres
Conservation Reserve Program lands	45,000 acres

Conservation Districts



Legend

- County Line
- East Otero
- Olney-Boone
- West Otero-Timpas



RESOURCE PLANNING

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Olney Boone Conservation District

- Drought in southeastern Colorado impacts all phases of conservation. Coupled with the drought come the following problems:
 1. Change of the species surviving in the CRP mix with sand love, weeping love, switch grass and yellow blossom sweet clover disappearing.
 2. Increased populations of rodents, particularly prairie dogs.
 3. Increase in invasive species, including cheat grass, kochia, and lambs quarter.
 4. Over grazing of drought impacted ranges.
 5. Soil erosion on non-irrigated cropland and rangeland.
 6. Increased pressure from tumbleweeds.
- Five sections were sold for 16 - 40-acre plots each making a total of 80 plots. These plots have little water. New landowners have little knowledge of how to care for the fragile land.
- 40% of CRP lands are owned by out of state landowners. This land is not managed and cared for in a proactive manner.
- Grassland is vacant due to low cattle prices and cattle sales.
- Changing economics are encouraging a plethora of marijuana farms to spring up in the area which use valuable water.
- Solar companies are leasing and/or buying land to develop solar farms. Companies do not care for the land.
- Colorado Power Pathway being developed by Xcel Energy threatens to encroach on producers land, income, and lifestyle.

Prioritized Natural Resource Issues & Goals

PRIORITY ISSUE: Erosion Control on Cropland and Rangeland

Goal: OBCD will support and educate at least 10 landowners on erosion control in this fragile country.

Objectives:

1. Brochure and/or fact sheets will be shared with landowners and realtors concerning wind and water erosion as well as the danger of burning that become uncontrolled fire.
2. Articles and a link to NRCS, FSA web pages to educate landowners on erosion control.
3. Use income from Service Center Building ownership to provide grant funds to producers.
4. Keep as much land as possible in rangeland and CRP to minimize erosion.

This is a concern in our district because erosion reduces the ability of soil to store water and nutrients; erosion exposes subsoil which often has poor physical and chemical properties, erosion leaves deposits of silt in low-lying areas.

PRIORITY ISSUE: Rangeland Management

Goal: Support and educate 10 landowners on proper maintenance of rangeland

Objectives:

1. Help 2 new landowners to write grazing plans that implement effective rangeland practices.
2. Observe changes to grassland if it comes out of CRP and transitions to different species.
3. Seek funding to help implement rangeland management.

This is a concern in our district because rangeland health is critical to the environment and to the local, state, and national economies. The long-term drought conditions have brought more awareness to the need to proactively manage rangelands to prevent wind erosion and dustbowl conditions.

PRIORITY ISSUE: Invasive Species

Goal: Support and provide educational opportunities for 10 landowners to raise awareness and treatment options for invasive species.

Objectives:

1. Newsletter/Newspaper/Facebook articles on identification and extermination of invasive species.
2. Continue working with county Land Use Administrators on identification and location of undesirable weeds.
3. Maintain *Rural Living Handbook* for our area, have it available for small acreage farmers.

This is a concern in our district because invasive species are generally injurious to agriculture since they use precious water, force out desired plants, and can be toxic to animals. Prairie Dogs can render rangeland unsuitable for cattle grazing.

Natural Resource Information / Education Priorities and Goals

Educating the public and our students about natural resource conservation is critical to the well-being and the survival of agricultural in rural Colorado. The following programs and activities will be utilized:

- Support and conduct workshops that promote the District's Goals and Priorities;
- Support K-12 educational opportunities for students and staff such as Camp Rocky, Colorado Literacy Project for primary students, Fourth Grade Arbor Day; Sixth Grade Poster Contest; FFA Rangeland Judging, and teacher workshops;
- Support post-high school education opportunities for students such as the Otero College agriculture program and student scholarships.

Conservation District Operational Goals & Objectives

Goal: The Olney Boone Conservation District will continue to provide opportunities for Supervisors and staff to fulfill their duties and to effectively accomplish our mission.

- Maintain an engaged five-member board;
- Continued partnership with EOCD and WOTCD to employ a DCT;
- Continued partnership with EOCD and WOTCD to employ a district manager.
- Continued partnership with EOCD to own and operate the Service Center Building.

Staffing Needs

The annual objectives identified in the LRP can be accomplished by the part time District Manager (shared with WOTCD and OBCD) and one full time District Conservation Technician with the support of the Board of Supervisors.

- Nancy Aschermann, District Manager
- Jessica Hiebert, District Conservation Technician
- Ed Hiza, President
- Joe Pope, Vice President
- Garth Perry, Secretary/Treasurer
- Taren Mantz, Member
- Wade Sigler, Member

Acronyms Used:

Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA); Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS); West Otero Timpas Conservation District (WOTCD); East Otero Conservation District (EOCD); Olney Boone Conservation District (OBCD); Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB); Farm Service Agency (FSA); Colorado State University – Extension (CSU-Ex); Colorado State University Research Center (CSU-RC); Conservation Reserve Program (CRP); Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP); District Conservation Technician (DCT)

OLNEY BOONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Natural Resource Goals & Objectives

Long Range Plan for: 2023– 2025

Natural Resource priority: Erosion Control on Cropland and Rangeland

Why this is a concern and what is the location: Erosion reduces the ability of soil to store water and nutrients; erosion exposes subsoil which often has poor physical and chemical properties, erosion leaves deposits of silt in low-lying areas. Location is eastern Pueblo County and western Crowley County.

Three Year Goal(s): OBCD will provide opportunities to support and educate 10 landowners about erosion control with the goal of improving the sustainability of rangeland health.

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
1 st Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Maintain <i>Rural Living Handbook</i> for our area, have it available for small acreage farmers. B. Articles and a link to NRCS, FSA web pages to educate landowners on erosion control. C. Provide matching grants using income from ownership of Service Center Building, as available. D. Keep as much land as possible in rangeland and CRP to minimize erosion. 	NRCS FSA Board	100 hours	General Fund CSCB Grants Rental income from building ownership
2 nd Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Maintain <i>Rural Living Handbook</i> for our area, have it available for small acreage farmers. B. Articles and a link to NRCS, FSA web pages to educate landowners on erosion control. C. Provide matching grants using income from ownership of Service Center Building, as available. D. Keep as much land as possible in rangeland and CRP to minimize erosion. 	NRCS FSA Board	100 hours	General Fund CSCB Grants Rental income from building ownership

<p>3rd Year</p>	<p>A. Maintain <i>Rural Living Handbook</i> for our area, have it available for small acreage farmers.</p> <p>B. Articles and a link to NRCS, FSA web pages to educate landowners on erosion control.</p> <p>C. Provide matching grants using income from ownership of Service Center Building, as available.</p> <p>D. Keep as much land as possible in rangeland and CRP to minimize erosion.</p>	<p>NRCS FSA Board</p>	<p>100 hours</p>	<p>General Fund CSCB Grants Rental income from building ownership</p>
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OLNEY BOONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Natural Resource Goals & Objectives

Long Range Plan for: 2023 – 2025

Natural Resource Issue: Rangeland Management/Health

Why this issue a concern and what is the location is: Rangeland health is critical to the environment and to the local, state, and national economies. The Long-term drought conditions have brought more awareness to the need to proactively manage rangelands to prevent wind erosion and dustbowl conditions. Location is eastern Pueblo County and western Crowley County.

Three Year Goal(s): Support and educate 10 landowners on proper maintenance of rangeland.

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
1st Year	A. Help 2 new landowners to write grazing plans that implement effective rangeland practices. B. Be aware of changes to grassland as it comes out of CRP and transitions to different species. C. Seek funding to help implement rangeland management.	NRCS FSA Board	100 hrs.	General Fund CSCB Grants
2nd Year	A. Help 2 new landowners to write grazing plans that implement effective rangeland practices. B. Document changes to grassland as it comes out of CRP and transitions to different species. C. Implement grant (if received) and continue to apply for more funding.	NRCS FSA Board	100 hrs.	General Fund CSCB Grants
3rd Year	A. Help 2 new landowners to write grazing plans that implement effective rangeland practices. B. Document changes to grassland as it comes out of CRP and transitions to different species. C. Implement grant (if received) and continue to apply for more funding.	NRCS FSA Board	100 hrs.	General Fund CSCB Grants

OLNEY BOONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Natural Resource Goals & Objectives

Long Range Plan for: 2023 – 2025

Natural Resource Issue: Invasive Species

Why is this issue a concern and what is the location is: Invasive species are generally injurious to agriculture because they use up precious water, force out desired plants, and can be toxic to animals. Prairie Dogs can render rangeland unsuitable for cattle grazing. Location is eastern Pueblo County and western Crowley County.

Three Year Goal(s): Support and provide educational opportunities for 10 landowners to raise awareness and treatment options for invasive species.

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
1st Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Newsletter/Newspaper/Facebook articles on identification and extermination of invasive species. B. Continue working with county Land Use Administrators on identification and location of noxious weeds. C. Maintain <i>Rural Living Handbook</i> for our area, have it available for small acreage farmers. 	NRCS FSA Board Land Use Administrators	100 hrs.	General Fund CSCB Grants
2nd Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Newsletter/Newspaper/Facebook articles on identification and extermination of invasive species. B. Continue working with county Land Use Administrators on identification and location of noxious weeds. C. Maintain <i>Rural Living Handbook</i> for our area, have it available for small acreage farmers. 	NRCS FSA Board Land Use Administrators	100 hrs.	General Fund CSCB Grants
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OLNEY BOONE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Operational Goals & Objectives

Long Range Plan for: 2023 – 2025

Operational Priority: Empowered Board

Why this is a concern: The role of conservation districts is to empower local producers to lead their peers in conservation practices. It is a continuing challenge to find strong participating board members who actively engage in the process.

Three Year Goal(s): The Olney Boone Conservation District will continue to provide opportunities for Supervisors and staff to fulfill their duties and to effectively accomplish our mission.

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
1 st Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Maintain a five-member board that regularly attends at least 9 meetings. B. Continue partnership with EOCD and WOTCD to employ a DCT. C. Continue partnership with EOCD and WOTCD to employ a district manager. D. Continue partnership with EOCD to own and operate the service center building. 	EOCD WOTCD Board	100 hours	General Fund
2 nd Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Maintain a five-member board that regularly attends at least 9 meetings. B. Continue partnership with EOCD and WOTCD to employ a DCT. C. Continue partnership with EOCD and WOTCD to employ a district manager. D. Continue partnership with EOCD to own and operate the service center building. 	EOCD WOTCD Board	100 hours	General Fund
3 rd Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Maintain a five-member board that regularly attends at least 9 meetings. B. Continue partnership with EOCD and WOTCD to employ a DCT. C. Continue partnership with EOCD and WOTCD to employ a district manager. D. Continue partnership with EOCD to own and operate the service center building. 	EOCD WOTCD Board	100 hours	General Fund

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that this Long Range Program of the Olney Boone Conservation District be adopted as the official program of the District as of this eight day of December 2022.

Ed Hiza, President

Joe Pope, Vice President

Garth Perry, Secretary/Treasurer

Taren Mantz, Member

Wade Sigler, Member

Reviewed by the Colorado State Conservation Board

Colorado State Conservation Board, President

Cindy Lair, Program Manager

Date