



# Shavano District

# News

SERVING MONTROSE, GUNNISON, AND OURAY COUNTIES

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## Public Hearing Set to Consider Conservation Districts' Consolidation

With changing land uses, farmers, ranchers and other landowners in the various Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel Counties need strong and focused assistance in addressing natural resource conservation issues on their properties. According to supervisors from the San Miguel Basin and Shavano Conservation Districts, this is one of several important reasons to consolidate the two districts. A public hearing to discuss the proposed consolidation of the district is scheduled for **Monday, March 22nd at 6:00 pm via Zoom**. For the Zoom link, email: [shavanocd@gmail.com](mailto:shavanocd@gmail.com)

Shavano Conservation District includes most of the land of Montrose and Ouray Counties with portions of Gunnison and Delta County. The majority of land in San Miguel County and some of Montrose County are the San Miguel Basin Conservation District.

For a number of years, the boards have partnered on a variety of conservation projects and educational programs. According to Ken Lipton, President of the Shavano Conservation District, "The purpose of this consolidation is to strengthen and coordinate natural resource conservation activities in San Miguel County and the west-end of Montrose County. The merger will provide additional financial resources to fund

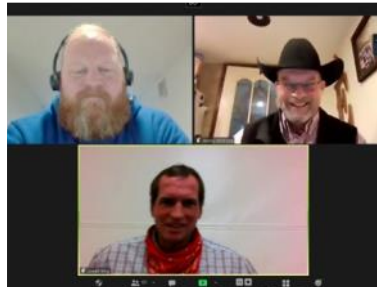
soil and water conservation programs and outreach and educational programs." Carl McKinney, President of the San Miguel Basin Conservation District, said, "The San Miguel Basin Conservation District is currently inactive. By joining with the Shavano Conservation District, we will have a stronger voice in conservation issues and better serve our constituents throughout the San Miguel Basin." Shavano Conservation District Board Supervisor, Jack Brungardt, added, "Working together will preserve and enhance the mission of both Conservation Districts. There is strength in numbers and by consolidating Districts, we will be better able to serve the conservation needs and provide resources to landowners currently in the San Miguel Basin Conservation District."

The petition for consolidation and boundaries for the proposed district will be available at the meeting and by contacting Alyssa Clarida at [alysa.clarida@state.co.us](mailto:alysa.clarida@state.co.us).

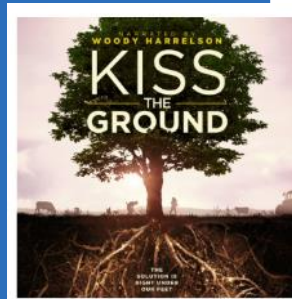
After the public hearing, a special election to address the consolidation is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 4, 2021, from 7:00am to 7:00pm at the USDA Service Center**, 102 Par Pl, Montrose, CO. Landowners or their official agents who are registered voters are eligible to vote in this election.



Dr. Elaine Ingham answers questions during the virtual conference.



Farmer Panel during Zoom Conference, Adam Chappell (top left), Jimmy Emmons (top right), and Lowell King (lower, center).



Soil health documentary narrated by actor Woody Harrelson and featuring Ray Archuleta, certified Professional Soil Scientist with the Soil Science Society of America. Currently found on Netflix or vimeo . For more info go to <https://kissthegroundmovie.com/> .

## Western Colorado Soil Health Hosts Virtual Conference

Like so many events, conferences, and meeting this last year, the Western Colorado Soil Health Conference opted to go virtual, using Zoom, in order to abide by health recommendations and to protect our conference attendees and speakers.

Using the Zoom format provided opportunities that the conference has not had before, including recordings of the conference presentations. If you missed out on the conference and are still interested in viewing the recordings, for a limited time, you can still pay the \$25 conference registration fee and we will send you the link and password for accessing the recordings. For more information, contact Mendy Stewart at 970-964-3582 or at [mendy.stewart@co.nacdnet.net](mailto:mendy.stewart@co.nacdnet.net).

## SCD Annual Meeting and BBQ Dinner Temporarily Postponed

Traditionally Shavano Conservation District holds our Annual Meeting and BBQ Dinner in March. As we continue to social distance and take precautions against the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the annual meeting and dinner has been postponed until we can meet together in person later in the year. Stay tuned—we will announce the date and location of the event as soon as planning can be made.

## Open Position on the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee

Colorado Department of Agriculture is inviting applications for a vacant seat on the state Noxious Weed Advisory Committee. The position open is for an Agricultural Producer. This position represents individuals who earn at least part of their income from agriculture (this includes retirees) or are involved with agriculturally based businesses. **The deadline to apply is March 12, 2021.** If you are interested and would like to apply, please go to <https://ag.colorado.gov/conservation/noxious-weeds/advisory-committee> and fill out the online application form. If you have questions, please contact Steve Ryder, (303) 828-8329.



# Jamison Jewkes Joins Montrose/Gunnison NRCS as New Resource Team Leader



Jamison Jewkes

Jamison Jewkes started in January as the new NRCS Resource Team Lead for the Montrose and Gunnison Field Offices. Jamison was born and raised in Aurora, Utah. He and his wife, Brienne, have two kids, Micah age 12, and Eli age 9. Jewkes has worked for NRCS for 14 years. Throughout his career Jamison has been in several positions. He started out as Cartographic Aide digitizing soil maps, and while in college got an internship with NRCS as a Soil Conservationist and later as a Range Conservationist. After graduating college Jamison worked in the Randolph Utah as a Range Conservationist, and later as a Resource Conservationist. In 2015 he transferred to Casper, Wyoming where Jamison has been a State Program Manager for the past 5 years. Jamison and his family enjoy spending time together outdoors and are excited to move to the Montrose area!

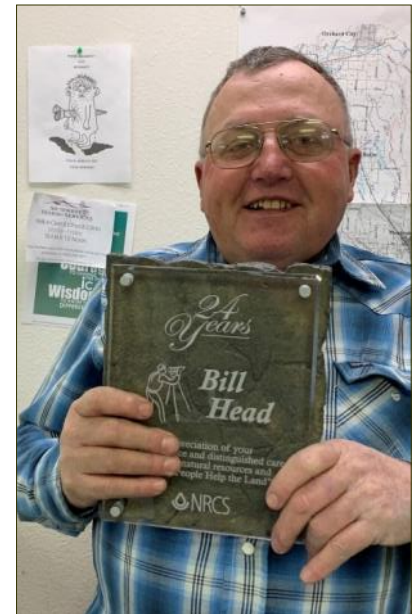
Currently Jamison is working remotely from Casper until conditions

surrounding the covid pandemic allow for him to move to Montrose permanently.

# Bill Head Retires From Montrose NRCS

After 24 years as an NRCS Civil Engineering Technician in the Montrose Field Office, Bill Head retired on January 1, 2021. Having designed, surveyed, performed project inspections, and completed countless irrigation projects in the Uncompahgre Valley, Bill says he is going to sit on the couch and take it easy. (But we all know Bill has plenty of other jobs to keep him busy!) Although he won't be in the NRCS office, he plans to continue chasing cows, cow breeding, and working on Barbara's honey-do list. Referring to the highlights of working in the Montrose NRCS Office, Bill expressed his appreciation for local producers and NRCS coworkers saying, "It's the people, both in and out of the office, that really made this job special."

So,...who is going to tell Bill that he owes donuts (ie. "Donut Ticket") for both retiring and receiving a plaque?



Bill Head displays retirement plaque he received from NRCS.

**Advertise with the Shavano District News**

If you have a business that you would like to advertise in the SCD News, contact Mendy Stewart at 970-964-3582 for more information and rates.



## USDA Extends General Signup for Conservation Reserve Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is extending the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General Signup period, which had previously been announced as ending on Feb. 12, 2021. USDA will continue to accept offers as it takes this opportunity for the incoming Administration to evaluate ways to increase enrollment. Under the previous Administration, incentives and rental payment rates were reduced resulting in an enrollment shortfall of over 4 million acres. The program, administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides annual rental payments for 10 to 15 years for land devoted to conservation purposes, as well as other types of payments.

Before the General CRP signup period ends, producers will have the opportunity to adjust or resubmit their offers to take advantage of planned improvements to the program.

"The Conservation Reserve Program provides a tremendous opportunity to address climate change both by retiring marginal cropland and by restoring grasslands, wetlands, and forests," said Robert Bonnie, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Secretary. "CRP has a 35-year track record of success beyond just climate benefits, by providing income to producers, improving water quality, reducing erosion, and supporting wildlife habitat and the hunting and fishing opportunities that go along with it. By extending this signup period, we'll have time to evaluate and implement changes to get this neglected program back on track."

As one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the United States, CRP provides both economic and conservation benefits by taking land out of agricultural production. Program successes include:

- Sequestering in soils and plants over 12 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e), or about the same amount that the entire state of Delaware emits annually.
- Preventing more than 2 billion tons of soil from being blown away by wind erosion over the life of currently

enrolled acres.

- Reducing phosphorous reaching streams by almost 85 million pounds, nitrogen by nearly 450 million pounds, and sediment by over 160 million tons in 2020 alone.
- Creating more than 2.3 million acres of restored wetlands while protecting more than 177,000 stream miles with riparian forest and grass buffers, enough to go around the world seven times.
- Establishing over a half million acres of dedicated pollinator habitat and nearly 15 million more acres of diverse plantings that provide forage for pollinators.
- Increasing populations of ducks and other game birds, prairie chickens, and such grassland songbirds as Baird's Sparrow. CRP in the Northern Great Plains supports an estimated 8.6% of the grassland bird population.
- Increasing habitat that supports economic opportunities, such as job creation, related to hunting and fishing activities.

This signup for CRP gives producers an opportunity to enroll land for the first time or re-enroll land under existing contracts that will be **expiring Sept. 30, 2021**. All interested producers, including those on Indian reservations and with trust lands, are encouraged to contact their local USDA Service Center for more information.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Our program delivery staff will continue to work with our producers by phone, email, and using online tools. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).



## Enrollment Begins for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs for 2021

Agricultural producers can now make elections and enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2021 crop year. The signup period opened Tuesday, Oct. 13. These key U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) safety-net programs help producers weather fluctuations in either revenue or price for certain crops, and more than \$5 billion in payments are in the process of going out to producers who signed up for the 2019 crop year.

### **Enrollment for the 2021 crop year closes March 15, 2021.**

ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guaranteed level. PLC provides income support payments on historical base acres when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its reference price.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

### **2021 Elections and Enrollment**

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in crop-by-crop ARC-County or PLC, or ARC-Individual for the entire farm, for the 2021 crop year. Although election changes for 2021 are optional, enrollment (signed contract) is required for each year of the program. If a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2021, it will be necessary to sign a new contract.

If an election is not submitted by the deadline of March 15, 2021, the election defaults to the current election for crops on the farm from the prior crop year.

For crop years 2022 and 2023, producers will have an opportunity to make new elections during those signups. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.

### **2019 Crop Year ARC and PLC Payments**

FSA began processing payments last week for 2019 ARC-County (ARC-CO) and PLC on covered commodities that met payment triggers on farms enrolled for the 2019 crop year. In addition to the \$5 billion now in process, FSA anticipates it will

issue additional payments by the end of November for 2019 commodities covered under ARC-Individual (ARC-IC) and additional commodities that trigger PLC and ARC-CO payments for which rates have not yet been published.

Producers who had 2019 covered commodities enrolled in ARC-CO can visit the ARC and PLC webpage for payment rates applicable to their county and each covered commodity. For farms and covered commodities enrolled in 2019 PLC, the following crops met payment triggers: barley, canola, chickpeas (small and large), corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, peanuts, seed cotton and wheat.

Oats and soybeans did not meet 2019 PLC payment triggers.

2019 PLC payment rates for the following covered commodities have not been determined: crambe, flaxseed, long and medium grain rice, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed, sunflower seed and temperate Japonica rice. Payment rates for these commodities will be announced at a later date.

### **Web-Based Decision Tools**

In partnership with USDA, the University of Illinois and Texas A&M University offer web-based decision tools to assist producers in making informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations. Tools include:

- Gardner-farmdoc Payment Calculator, the University of Illinois tool that offers farmers the ability to run payment estimate modeling for their farms and counties for ARC-County and PLC.
- ARC and PLC Decision Tool, the Texas A&M tool allows producers to analyze payment yield updates and expected payments for 2021. Producers who have used the tool in the past should see their username and much of their farm data already available in the system.

### **More Information**

For more information on ARC and PLC, including two online decision tools that assist producers in making enrollment and election decisions specific to their operations, visit the ARC and PLC webpage.

For additional questions and assistance, contact your local USDA service center. To locate your local FSA office, visit [farmers.gov/service-locator](https://farmers.gov/service-locator).



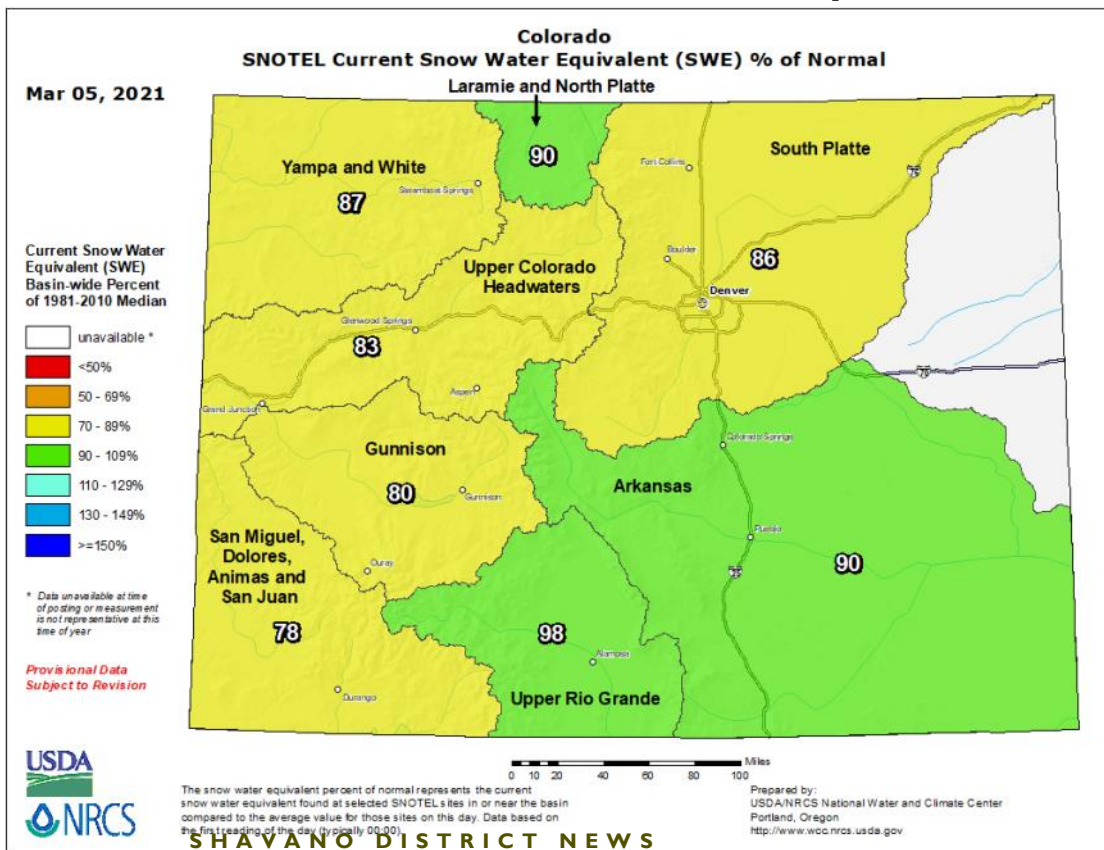
### Colorado SNOTEL Snow/Precipitation Update Report

As of TUESDAY: March 9, 2021

BASIN	ELEV.	SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT			TOTAL PRECIPITATION		
Data Site Name	(Ft)	Current	Median	%	Current	Average	%
				Median			Avg
<b>GUNNISON RIVER BASIN</b>							
Butte	10160	9.5	11.5	83	9.9	13.7	72
Cochetopa Pass	10020	4.8	3.3R	145	4.7	6.0R	78
Columbine Pass	9400	12.2	16.1	76	12.5	19.7	63
Idarado	9800	10.1	11.4	89	11.8	15.4	77
Mc Clure Pass	9500	10.8	14.8	73	12.7	17.5	73
Mesa Lakes	10000	9.4	14.0	67	10.1	17.6	57
Overland Res.	9840	7.5	11.3	66	9.7	14.1	69
Park Cone	9600	7.1	8.8	81	7.6	10.3	74
Park Reservoir	9960	16.0	21.8	73	15.6	23.4	67
Porphyry Creek	10760	10.0	12.9	78	9.6	12.7	76
Red Mountain Pass	11200	16.7	19.1	87	15.7	21.7	72
Sargents Mesa	11530	9.5	N/A	*	9.3	N/A	*
Schofield Pass	10700	21.3	26.3	81	19.5	27.5	71
Slumgullion	11560	10.1	11.2	90	8.5	11.1	77
Upper Taylor	10640	10.6	N/A	*	11.8	N/A	*
Wager Gulch	11100	7.9	N/A	*	9.1	N/A	*
Basin Index (%)				80			70

- M = Missing data
- \* = Data may not provide a valid measure of conditions.
- R = Rough, less than 10 years of data available.

Units = inches for the Current and Normal Snow Water Equivalent and Total Precip. values



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Mendy Stewart  
at 970-964-3582  
or email to  
mendy.stewart@co.nacdn.net

# USDA SERVICE CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

## FARM SERVICE AGENCY

970-249-8407

Direct Phone

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**LORI MEIER**, County Executive Director 964-3589  
**JO TRICE**, Program Technician 964-3572  
**DEBBIE STEWART**, Program Technician 964-3571  
**LANELLE MILLER**, Program Technician 964-3587



## MONTROSE-GUNNISON-OURAY COUNTY COMMITTEE

**BRYAN DISTEL**, Chairperson  
**CHERRI COOPER**, Vice Chairperson  
**ERNIE ETCHART**, Regular Member  
**SARAH MCCONNELL**, Regular Member  
**TYLER HANSON**, Regular Member



## HOW TO CONTACT US

Montrose USDA Service Center  
 102 Par Place, Montrose, CO 81401  
 PHONE (970) 249-8407

Phone Extension

Farm Service Agency.....2  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service.....3  
 Shavano Conservation District.....3

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

970-249-8407



Direct Phone

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**JAMISON JEWKES**, 964-3588  
 Montrose & Gunnison Resource Team Lead  
**JEFF LONG**, Ag Engineer Project Leader 249-8407  
**JEREMY OMVIG**, Cultural Resource Specialist 964-3593  
**JERRY ALLEN**, Shavano IWM Specialist 964-3575  
**JOHN MILLER**, Civil Engineering Technician 964-3576  
**NANCY DEANS**, Program Support Assistant 964-3570  
**SARAH ERICKSON**, Soil Conservationist 964-3578



## COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE

Web Site: [csfs.colostate.edu](http://csfs.colostate.edu)

### MONTROSE FIELD OFFICE — 970-249-9051

(Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel Counties)

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### GUNNISON FIELD OFFICE - 970-641-6852

(Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties)

**106 Maintenance Drive, Gunnison, CO 81230**  
**SAM PANKRATZ**, Supervisory Forester  
**MIKE TARRANTINO**, Forester  
**KYLE KLEVE**, Forester  
**CURRIE NOWELL**, Administrative Assistant, phone 719-687-2951



## SHAVANO CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Website: [www.shavanoccd.org](http://www.shavanoccd.org)

Direct Phone

**KEN LIPTON**, President 626-3951  
**LANNY DENHAM**, Vice President 323-5461  
**ROXI STEWART**, Secretary/Treasurer 249-0706  
**EDWARD ATENCIO** 303-898-5855  
**JACK BRUNGARDT** 249-5081  
**SHELLY MCLAUGHLIN-MALISH** 424-4451  
**STEVE HALE** 209-0126  
**SETH URBANOWITZ**, CSU Extension, ex-officio 874-2197  
**PENNY BISHOP**, Manager 964-3584  
**MENDY STEWART**, Education Coordinator 964-3582



## WEST REGION WILDFIRE COUNCIL

Phone 970-615-7300 [www.cowildfire.org](http://www.cowildfire.org)  
**510 S Cascade Ave, Montrose**

**LILIA FALK**, Director of Finance & Agreements [Lilia.Falk@COwildfire.org](mailto:Lilia.Falk@COwildfire.org)  
**JAMIE GOMEZ**, Executive Director [Jamie.Gomez@COwildfire.org](mailto:Jamie.Gomez@COwildfire.org)  
**COURTNEY HAYNES** [Courtney.Haynes@COwildfire.org](mailto:Courtney.Haynes@COwildfire.org)  
 Wildfire Mitigation Specialist - Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray,  
 and San Miguel Counties

## Dates to Remember

March 9, 2021	Shavano CD Board Meeting, via Zoom (contact us for info), 6:30pm
March 15, 2021	2021 ARC/PLC Enrollment Deadline
March 20, 2021	Meat-In Day— A day to promote the benefits of Meat Consumption
March 22, 2021	Public Hearing via Zoom to Consider Conservation Districts' Consolidation, 6pm
April 13, 2021	Shavano CD Board Meeting, via Zoom (contact us for info), 7:00pm
April 25-May 2, 2021	Stewardship Week
May 4, 2021	Special Election to Address Conservation Districts' Consolidation
May 10 & 11, 2021	4th Grade Natural Resource Festival, Tentative
May 11, 2021	Shavano CD Board Meeting, via Zoom (contact us for info), 7:00pm
May 31, 2021	Memorial Day - Office Closed
June 8, 2021	Shavano CD Board Meeting, via Zoom (contact us for info), 7:00pm
June 15, 2021	Acreage Reporting Deadline for Onions
July 4, 2021	Independence Day
July 5, 2021	Independence Day (Observed) - Office Closed
July 11-17, 2021	Camp Rocky, Divide, Colorado
July 13, 2021	Shavano CD Board Meeting, via Zoom (contact us for info), 7:00pm
July 15, 2021	Acreage Reporting Deadline for Perennial forage and all other crops
August 28, 2021	UWP Ridgway RiverFest

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