

San Luis Valley Conservation Districts Educational Outreach Programs

Outdoor Lessons:

Snow Surveys & Water Forecasting: Snow surveys are taught by utilizing both a PowerPoint presentation and by taking classes into the field to measure snow pack. The density of the snow is calculated and from that information the students are able to determine the amount of water in the snow. Youth also learn the importance of snow as a resource and how crucial spring run-off from the mountains is for providing both surface water and ground water recharge to the San Luis Valley.

Harvest Tours: Visit a local farm and observe first-hand harvest in the San Luis Valley. Visit fields, talk to producers, and learn how products are transported, stored, and packaged before they reach the grocery store.

Conservation Tours: Several local farms and ranches illustrate many conservation practices on their land. These practices are vital to the productivity of their operation. Visiting a local farm or ranch provides students with a firsthand look at the strategies producers utilize to maximize their productivity while conserving the soil, water, and wildlife habitat on their land. Topics discussed include; windbreaks, agricultural water use and irrigation management, range management, tillage and agronomy, wildlife habitat, and the importance of healthy rivers and riparian areas.

River Study & Water Quality Trips: The goal of this trip is to introduce several aspects of river systems. During this trip, youth perform several tests to measure key water quality indicators. Discussion focuses on why these qualities are important for the health of a river system.

Tree Plantings: Students learn the importance of a wind break/living snow fence to help reduce soil erosion and the movement of snow. Working with their hands, youth plant trees, put guards around them, and set up a shade to protect them from the intense sun.

River & Riparian Study Center: Experience Rivers and Watersheds like never before! The River and Riparian Study Center provides an interactive and hands-on look at river systems. Learn all about sediment transport, meanders, riparian areas, and channelization. The Study Center can easily be transported to your school, so schedule a viewing today.

Indoor Lessons:

Ground Water Model: Have you ever wondered about the San Luis Valley's supply of groundwater? This educational model illustrates water movement, the

relationships between surface water and ground water, how water is replenished or recharged underground, and how it is depleted or over drafted. The model is available for presentations in your classroom.

Snow Survey & Water Forecasting: The importance of snow as a natural resource is the focus of this lesson as well as how crucial spring run-off from the mountains is for providing both surface water and ground water recharge to the San Luis Valley. In this lesson, youth learn how to measure snow pack, why snow pack is measured throughout the winter, and who benefits from this information. A PowerPoint presentation is utilized to provide several images and youth observe the equipment that is used to measure snow pack.

Community Projects

- 6th Grade Conservation Poster Contest
- Arbor Day—School/Windbreak Tree Plantings
- Living Snow Fence
- Earth Team Volunteer Program
- Community & School Gardens
- Service Projects

Literature & Audiovisuals

- Soil & Water Conservation
- Environmental & Conservation Resource Materials
- Agriculture Resource Materials
- Brochures
- Posters
- Pamphlets
- Colorado Content Standard—Lesson Plans
- PowerPoint Presentations
- Videos
- Displays

Additional Opportunities

Beaver Creek Junior Natural Resources Camp (8-14 years). During early June youth travel to Beaver Creek to learn about natural resources. Youth can choose to learn about soil & water, range, forestry, wildlife, or to obtain their hunter's safety license. For more information, contact the CSU Extension office at 719-657-0213.

Colorado Association of Conservation District's Camp Rocky (14-19 years). Camp Rocky is held in early July in Divide, CO. At Camp Rocky teens interested in natural resources gather to learn about forest management, rangeland science, soil and water conservation, or fish and wildlife management.

Food, Land, & People Curriculum

This curriculum educates people about the connections among agriculture, the

environment and people of the world. Workshops can be scheduled year-round.

***For information or to schedule a field trip or classroom visit,
please call Angie Graber at 719-589-3907 x117. Thanks!***