

Morgan Conservation District 2023 Annual Report



Board of Supervisors

Nathan Northup, Board President

Derek Weiderspon, Vice-President

Derek Gerken, Treasurer

Alan Lingo, Member

Nathaniel McConnell,

Member



200 West Railroad Avenue, Fort Morgan, CO 80701
970-427-3358 • morganconservationdistrict@gmail.com
www.morganconservationdistrict.com

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Overview:

Morgan Conservation District is a local governmental entity that works with agricultural producers and landowners to enhance local conservation efforts. The District serves as a liaison between local landowners and the federal government to promote practices relevant to the area. Throughout 2023, the District focused on the annual conservation tree seedling sales, and new outreach activities.

Finances:

The District's primary source of income is in the form of the annual conservation tree seedling and tree planting supplies sales. Additional income sources include assistance from Morgan County Government and the Colorado State Conservation Board.

The primary expenses for the District in 2023 included trees and tree planting supplies, contracting expenses, and office operations.

Grants:

The District applied for and was awarded the CSCB Matching Grant for the 2024 Seedling Cost-share program. Through this grant program, District landowners will be able to receive up to 50% or \$500 at maximum in cost-share assistance for conservation seedling trees.

Projects and Programs:

The District sold 16,400 trees from the 2022-2023 conservation tree seedling sales, with 2 separate tree days.

The annual \$1,000 scholarship was awarded to a local college freshman, and a scholarship was also awarded to a local student attending Camp Rocky with CACD.

The District sponsored the Jr. and Sr. Grand Champion of Natural Resources at the Morgan County Fair

Community Outreach:

- Co-hosted South Platte River Water Update with Centennial Conservation District in February 2023, with approximately 60 attendees
- Hosted a 4-part Small Landowner Workshop Series in March in collaboration with CSU Extension agents at Morgan County's Extension Office



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- Hosted a Tree Care & Planting Workshop in March with American Windbreaks with approximately 30 attendees.
- On June 5th, the District hosted their Locally Led Workgroup meeting with Centennial Conservation District in Sterling, with approximately 20 attendees.
- On July 22nd, the District partnered with Bicycle Adventure and Glow CO Studio to host the first ever Morgan County Agri-Pedal, with approximately 40 riders.
- On November 9th, the District partnered with Sandra McDonald of Mountain West Pest to host a Pesticide Applicator Renewal & Noxious Weed Management Workshop at Morgan Community College with approximately 23 attendees.

Other:

Other activities and operations of the District include the following:

- Completed the 2023 Conservation District Supervisor Election; 2 Board Members stepped down, and 2 new Members joined the Board
- Assisted with 7 Soil Maps for Morgan County Planning & Zoning Application Process
- Published bi-annual newsletter
- Assisted Morgan County Government with the Pest Advisory Board appointments, and began hosting Board meetings on a regular basis again
- Partnered with Southeast Weld Conservation District to share a District Manager