

**Teller/Park Soil Conservation District
and Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Incorporated in the mid-1940's as a non-profit special district of State government, the Teller-Park Soil Conservation District (T-PSCD) is tasked with helping to protect the natural resources of both Teller and Park Counties. The District is affiliated with, and receives a limited amount of funding from, the State Soil Conservation Board which is headquartered in Denver. The SCD was set up as part of the State Soil Conservation Act which resulted from the environmental problems of the Dust Bowl days of the 1930's.

T-PSCD has authority, under Senate bill 35, to review subdivisions and mine reclamation permits. It may also become a sponsor or participant in various erosion control or watershed projects as circumstances warrant. Due to its limited funding, however, rather than spend a small amount of funds on very large problems, the SCD prioritizes its funds on conservation awareness programs and partnering with other resource protection agencies, private groups and units of government.

The programs of the District have been evolving in recent years from serving primarily agricultural producers to increasingly serving urban or suburban residents and small "ranchettes". This is due to the sale or diversion of almost all of the available water to metropolitan areas - water which traditionally had been used to irrigate ranches; and also due to the fact that the larger, historic ranches and farms in both Counties have been decreasing in numbers in recent years for a variety of reasons.

Educational activities sponsored by the District include an annual Conservation Poster Contest for 6th graders, scholarships to a teachers' conservation workshop and scholarships to both the Junior and Senior Conservation Workshops at the Rocky Mountain Camp in Divide. In the past the SCD has also sponsored Conservation Tours and paid tuition for ranchers to attend such courses as the CSU Ranch Management Course and the Holistic Range Management Course. A recent addition to the list of education materials available through the SCD is a trailer mounted Stream bank and Riparian Display/Model which can be scheduled for school or civic group use. This model illustrates the watershed concept of natural resource management with various options showing different (positive & negative) impacts on a drainage basin resulting from human activity or mitigation.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

A USDA agency, the NRCS was originally formed in 1935 and was called the Soil Erosion Service. It was known as the Soil Conservation Service and was changed to NRCS in late 1995. The NRCS provides technical resource personnel to the local SCD to assist with accomplishment

of its mission. The NRCS, through T-PSCD sponsorship, can help public and private landowners with erosion problems, drainage issues, watershed management, water developments (ponds & springs), irrigation assistance and similar concerns. Services are free.