



United States Department of Agriculture

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
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## Monthly Middle Park CD Report

As part of NRCS's commitment to continue to provide service to the Middle Park CD we have agreed to update the board each month there is no board meeting scheduled. This will help keep the board informed on NRCS's work within the area.

Derrick was able to staff the service center for one day each week. During the month of March Derrick spent time working with TCP-EQIP applicants and Mark Volt to complete preliminary planning and we have Preapproved 5 applications worth over \$184,000. Derrick and Mark will continue to finalize these applications so that we can get them obligated by the end of the month. NRCS was able to finalize all approved RCPP applications and obligate over \$655,000 for 6 new contracts. That brings the total of RCPP contracts to 8 at over \$840,000. The plan is to begin construction within the year.

With these new contracts and the possibility of 5 more TCP contracts we will have gone from 10 active contracts to 21. We are hopeful that we will be able to finish off a couple older contracts (2015 – 2016) by the end of the season.

The office has one Greater Outcomes for Greater-Sage Grouse RCPP-EQIP program. Jennifer Perkins, the new Partner Biologist in Steamboat Springs, will be handling this application. NRCS needs to move forward with resource inventory on this application and Jennifer will be working on this during spring. However, high snow pack has delayed this work.

Speaking of Snowpack, the recent Drought Monitor has taken all northern Colorado out of drought status. Soil moisture is responding well, and it is currently believed that Lake Powell will add to its elevation this year. This is a positive change as last month they weren't expecting it to rise. Other large reservoirs (Blue Mesa) aren't expected to fully fill but should rise to within normal levels this year. A welcome change from last year.

Streamflow's in the Upper Colorado are within normal for this time of year as we've seen some melt off in lower elevations. Both Grand and Summit county gauges are showing this as well.

If you have any questions about the above information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Stephen Jaouen  
USDA, NRCS  
Glenwood Springs Service Center

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