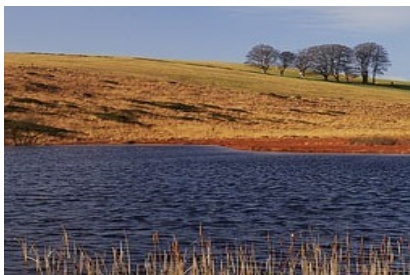


## HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

The Huerfano County Water Conservancy District (HCWCD) was organized by landowner petition on September 27, 1971 in Huerfano County District Court under the Colorado Water Conservancy Act of 1963, CRS Section 37-45-101. **This is not part of County government or any municipality.** The Board of Directors monitors Water Court applications and opposes those which threaten the stability of water rights and water availability in Huerfano County.



*Paid for by  
Water for Huerfano's Future*

Water conservancy districts were originally created to construct, pay for and operate water projects. There are over 50 such districts in Colorado. A conservancy district may issue bonds and levy taxes and user fees. In 2009, HCWCD set a goal to establish regional water augmentation plans on the Huerfano and Cucharas Rivers. The plan is to cover property owners in the entire County.

Conservation and development of water resources for the greatest beneficial use in Huerfano County, as well as combating water development pressure in Huerfano County, is the responsibility of HCWCD.

One of the primary goals of HCWCD is to purchase and own water rights and reservoirs to keep water in Huerfano County for use by local residents. Lack of water inhibits commercial and residential development, and pressure on water resources is stronger every year.

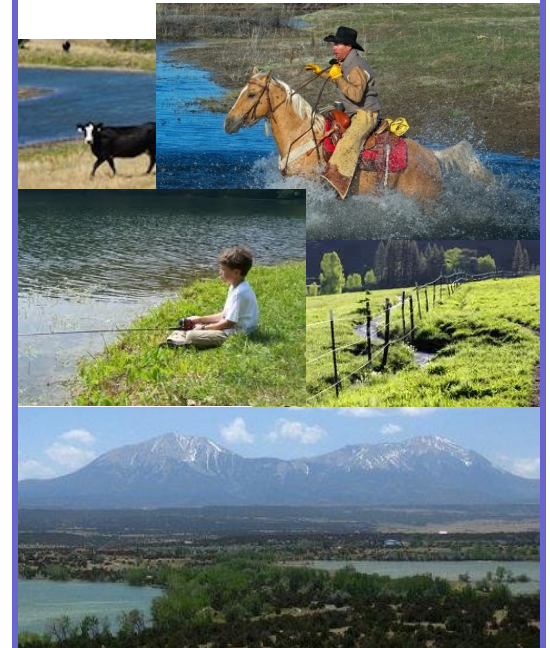
Water is one of Huerfano County's most valuable resources.

HUERFANO COUNTY  
WATER CONSERVANCY  
DISTRICT

PO Box 442 La Veta, CO 81055  
Phone: (719) 746-2413 or 738-1483  
E-mail: twodjs.jordan@hotmail.com

## HUERFANO COUNTY WATER FOR HUERFANO COUNTY

### Leveraging Your Tax Dollars Without Increasing Your Taxes



# What Will Change ?

## What Difference Does it Make?

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights, or TABOR, limits revenues and spending by local government agencies and special districts like HCWCD. Under TABOR, HCWCD can only keep and spend the tax money it collects from its mill levy. It is restricted from accepting grants to add to those tax monies in order to fund the large projects needed to protect Huerfano County water, like augmentation plans, water rights and construction of storage reservoirs. Only by using a combination of revenue sources can HCWCD eventually achieve these goals.

Another limitation on HCWCD is the ability to only enter into loan agreements for a period of up to 15 years. On the scale of borrowing that HCWCD must undertake—in the millions of dollars—and within its financial framework, finding appropriate 15-year funding has proved to be very difficult. Loans of 30 years in length provide more favorable financing options for the types of water projects that Huerfano County needs.

## Lands Represented by the Board of Directors

City of Walsenburg

Beaver Edmundson

Town of La Veta

Scott King

Lands taking water from the Cucharas River

Sandy White

Lands taking water from the Huerfano River

Dawson Jordan

Lands irrigated by ditches taking water from decreed ponds & reservoirs

Kent Mace

In November 2013, voters will have the opportunity to approve two ballot measures for the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District. These will help the District accomplish its goals with no new taxes.

When passed, the ballot measures will give HCWCD more flexibility in obtaining grants and borrowing funds to accomplish its overall mission of keeping Huerfano County water in Huerfano County.

The District plans to purchase water rights as they become available and develop reservoirs to store that water. These are expensive projects that the taxpayers voted in 2012 to support.

## Ballot question 5C—Leveraging funding

WITHOUT CREATING OR IMPOSING ANY NEW TAX AND WITHOUT INCREASING ITS TAX RATES OR ITS EXISTING MILL LEVY, SHALL THE HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN AND SPEND ALL REVENUES, FUNDS AND INCOME FROM ANY AND ALL SOURCES, DURING 2013 AND IN EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THAT ARE IN EXCESS OF THE REVENUE, SPENDING, OR ANY OTHER LIMITATIONS IMPOSED UPON THE DISTRICT BY ARTICLE X, SECTION 20 OF THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION?

## Ballot question 5D—Longer time of indebtedness

SHALL THE HUERFANO COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT (HCWCD) BE ALLOWED TO INCREASE ITS DEBT REPAYMENT TERMS TO A MAXIMUM OF THIRTY (30) YEARS, WHICH IS AN INCREASE FROM THE FIFTEEN (15) YEAR REPAYMENT TERM APPROVED BY THE VOTERS IN REFERRED MEASURE 5B IN NOVEMBER, 2012? THERE SHALL BE NO INCREASE IN THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED THREE MILLION DOLLAR (\$3,000,000.00) BORROWING LIMIT, NO INCREASE TO THE MAXIMUM REPAYMENT COST, NOR ANY INCREASE IN TAXES OR HCWCD'S MILL LEVY TO REPAY THE DEBT. THE PURPOSE OF THE LOAN(S) SHALL BE FOR ACQUIRING AND DEVELOPING WATER STORAGE FACILITIES AND ACQUIRING AND DEVELOPING WATER RIGHTS. THE LOAN(S) MAY BE FROM DIFFERENT LENDERS WITH DIFFERENT PAYMENT TERMS, INTEREST RATES AND MATURITY DATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. IF THIS QUESTION IS NOT APPROVED BY THE VOTERS, IT SHALL HAVE NO EFFECT UPON HCWCD'S ABILITY TO BORROW UNDER THE TERMS APPROVED IN 2012 REFERRED MEASURE 5.B.