

West Greeley Conservation District
4302 W. 9th St. Rd. Greeley, CO 80634
Tel: (970) 356-8097 X 3 Fax: (970) 351-0392 Email joyce.wallace@wgcd.org

For Immediate Release:

Contact Joyce Wallace, District Manager
Tel: (970) 356-8097 X 3

Release Date June 24, 2008

West Greeley Conservation District names Conservation and Education Technician

Ellen Nelson had joined the West Greeley Conservation District as their Conservation and Education Technician. Ellen recently completed her course work for a master's degree in Integrated Resource Management at Colorado State University. This program focuses on innovative approaches to improving the sustainability and profitability of forage-based agriculture and natural resource systems. Today's agricultural producer faces tough decisions and trade-offs involving food production, recreation, urban development, water, wildlife, human, and financial resources that affect the resiliency of both the business and the land. Ellen is excited to be involved with the West Greeley Conservation District and is looking forward to meeting, working with and learning from landowners in the district.

Prior to joining the District, in spring and early summer of this year, Ellen served as Weed Coordinator for the North Fork Weed Cooperative. This cooperative is a community-based organization dedicated to promoting weed awareness, best management practices and community-based approaches to integrated weed management. They recognize that weeds do not recognize property boundaries and so attempt to coordinate management practices across private and public lands to enhance the stewardship of native plant and animal communities.

Ellen's interests in agricultural production and small acreage issues stem from a family history with roots on a dry-land wheat farm in western Nebraska and from personal involvement on her own acreage that she manages with her husband, Charlie Cote. They raise chickens, turkeys, dry-land hay and run a few steers every year. She served on Larimer County's Animal Task Force that helped bring public input into the Land Use Code planning process as it affects zoning regulations for livestock and domestic animals. She also served as a volunteer in Larimer County's Small Acreage Management Program, assisting landowners with questions related to managing small acreages.

Ellen has a Master of Science in Animal Science from the University of California, Davis, has participated in Alan Savory's Holistic Resource Management seminars and attended the Robert Taylor Beef Symposium at Colorado State University. She has taught college courses in Biology, Math and Computer Science. She has worked for the US Forest Service, Farmer's Home Administration and Cooperative Extension. She hopes to apply her background and experience to benefit the landowners in the West Greeley Conservation District.

###