

Connecting Colorado

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Marisa Neuzil Selected for Colorado Earth Team Individual Volunteer Award

by Amber Freouf, Soil Con, Holly & Lamar Field Offices

Marisa Neuzil has been the District Manager for the Teller-Park Conservation District for the past three years. Outside of her district responsibilities; Marisa has committed 62.5 hours of volunteer time in 2019 to community outreach and education. She utilizes her communication skills to interact with the local community members at public events including the Seed Swap, Harvest Center, Earth Promise Day, Community Clean-up, Homestead Series workshops and the Historical Society Pioneer Garden.

Marisa's presence during these community outreach events has provided her the opportunity to discuss and educate upon important conservation topics with local landowners, such as the need for locally sourced foods, establishing food banks and encouraging growing efforts. She endorses best management practices through recommending native grass species and the control or eradication of noxious weeds. She brings awareness to landowners of the responsibility of living in a wildland-urban interface. Marisa promotes excitement and interest in the younger generation through conservation activities at local schools, programs such as

Junior Conservator, and support for the high school Envirothon team. She coordinates with the schools and NRCS Soil Conservationists to provide watershed education and demonstrations with the district's water trailer.

A primary focus for Marisa is networking partnerships with other conservation focused organizations, such as USFS, BLM, CPW, CSU Extension, local government/county groups, schools, and private contractors. She attends countless meetings while representing both the Teller-Park Conservation District and NRCS as a working partnership.

In addition, Marisa also earned her certification as a Qualified Supervisor in Pesticide Management this year. She invested over 50 hours of her own time in studying toward earning this certification. This is a huge asset to our office and community as she now has the legal authority and expertise to discuss and recommend all aspects of integrated pesticide management to our landowners.

Other Earth Team Awards for Colorado are:

- Chief's Field Office Award for Earth Team - Longmont Field Office
- National Earth Team Group Volunteer Award - Our Lands to Your Hands (Longmont)
- NRCS Employee Award for the Wester Region - Stephen Jaouen, RTL for Glenwood Springs & Kremmling