

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Public Hearing Set to Consider Conservation Districts' Consolidation**

With changing land uses, farmers, ranchers and other landowners in the various Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel Counties need strong and focused assistance in addressing natural resource conservation issues on their properties. According to supervisors from the San Miguel Basin and Shavano Conservation Districts, this is one of several important reasons to consolidate the two districts. A public hearing to discuss the proposed consolidation of the district is scheduled for Monday, March 22nd at 6:00 pm via Zoom. For the Zoom link, email: [shavanocd@gmail.com](mailto:shavanocd@gmail.com)

Shavano Conservation District includes most of the land of Montrose and Ouray Counties with portions of Gunnison and Delta County. The majority of land in San Miguel County and some of Montrose County are the San Miguel Basin Conservation District.

For a number of years, the boards have partnered on a variety of conservation projects and educational programs. According to Ken Lipton, President of the Shavano Conservation District, "The purpose of this consolidation is to strengthen and coordinate natural resource conservation activities in San Miguel County and the west-end of Montrose County. The merger will provide additional financial resources to fund soil and water conservation programs and outreach and educational programs." Carl McKinney, President of the San Miguel Basin Conservation District, said, "The San Miguel Basin Conservation District is currently inactive. By joining with the Shavano Conservation District, we will have a stronger voice in conservation issues and better serve our constituents throughout the San Miguel Basin." Shavano Conservation District Board Supervisor, Jack Brungardt, added, "Working together will preserve and enhance the mission of both Conservation Districts. There is strength in numbers and by consolidating Districts, we will be better able to serve the conservation needs and provide resources to landowners currently in the San Miguel Basin Conservation District."

The petition for consolidation and boundaries for the proposed district will be available at the meeting and by contacting Alyssa Clarida at [alyssa.clarida@state.co.us](mailto:alyssa.clarida@state.co.us).

After the public hearing, a special election to address the consolidation is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, 2021, from 7:00am to 7:00pm at the USDA Service Center, 102 Par Pl, Montrose, CO. Landowners or their official agents who are registered voters are eligible to vote in this election.