Western Colorado Research Center - Fruita
Accomplishments for the year

Scope
• Concept and Engagement Plan on WCRC-Fruita and water
• Integration of CSU Extension and CWI
• Undertake search for AES/Ext Agronomist

Specific Projects
• Water Bank and Colorado River District
• Irrigation Efficiency Evaluations
• Remote Sensing
• CoAgMet and USBR (Climate Center)
Staffing and Structure

Permanent Staff (Key Assets)
- Fred Judson (Farm Manager, Foundation Seed Manager)
- Kevin Gobbo (Technical Coordinator)
- Agronomist TBD

Support Staff
- Dr. Greg Litus
- Donna Iovanni
- Project-funded students
- Community Service
Limitations and Vulnerabilities

Major limitations to operation
• Viewed in the context of what we want the facility to be
• Integrated cropping systems cluster (soil science, weed science, entymology, plant science, agricultural economics)
• Associated resources for these disciplines
• Excited for proposals to give preference to off-campus units.

Key Vulnerabilities
• Transition plan (apprenticing current staff)
• Equipment age and service (leasing programs?)
Scientific Challenges and Opportunities

New Scientific Challenges

• Water Conservation and Savings (on-farm, regional, basin)
• Alternative and Specialty Cropping (A3Fs)
• Climate and energy
• Economic Issues – Distance to Total Market (e.g., wheat)

Creating pathways to address challenges

• Understanding and documenting unique geographical assets of Western Slope (e.g., legislators, EDPs)
• Develop greater industry partnership throughout AES
• Relevancy of AES research to broader national, global
Facility and Advisory Board Update

What would I change?

• Advisory and Advocacy Committee
• Incentives for support staff (commitment to off-campus)
• Suitability for main office building to promote synergy between stakeholders, campus, regional Extension, AES

• *I’m the one with the bathtub* …
Connection to Campus

“All organizations are perfectly designed to get the results they get.” – Variously attributed

Connected to campus? Important to WCRC?

• Yes we want that …

Improvements needed?

• Simple tech upgrades for videoconferencing and webinars
• Student and Faculty accessibility (air travel, lodging)
• Coordination of CSU inter- and intra-department travelers
• Targeted priorities for off-campus proposals