



# ROUTT COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## OFFICE

1475 Pine Grove Rd, Ste 201A  
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[www.routtcountycd.com](http://www.routtcountycd.com)

(under re-construction)

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

3rd Tuesday of each month

## District Established

December 7, 1942

## Mission Statement

*To encourage stewardship of our natural resources which will ensure the preservation and sustainability of working landscapes through education, financial and technical assistance.*

## Land Ownership

Routt County – 2,368 sq.mi.  
Federal Land – 775,000 acres  
State & County Land – 69,000 acres  
Private Land – 672,000 acres

## Land Use

Rangeland – 730,000 acres  
Irr. Crop - 63,000 acres  
Non-Irr. pasture - 86,000 acres  
Woodlands - 535,000 acres  
Recreation – 47,000



## 2019 Annual Report

In April 2019 at the Annual Landowners Meeting, a new RCCD Board was elected. The 30+ attendees also discussed resource issues and completed a survey to identify their priorities.

Since April the Board has had their hands full catching up on the required legal proceedings, filings and paperwork that had been neglected. A great deal of time was spent on revisiting and revising the antiquated by-laws with the help of our western slope CSCB Conservation Specialist Alyssa Clarida. Additionally, back budgets, audit exemption requests, and Long Range Planning documents had to be updated and filed. All of this with no District staff!

Now that the enormous task of getting back in business is complete, it is time to re-establish the RCCD's niche in the conservation community. Having an entirely new board is both an advantage and a disadvantage. Free of previous conceptions, the board has the opportunity to find new and innovative ways to implement conservation programs and outreach. It also means that any new efforts must essentially be built from the ground up.

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

President, Lyn Halliday  
VP, Tyler Snyder  
Treasurer, Cam Kuelthau  
Secretary, Kent Sandstedt  
Supervisor, Nadine Arroyo



### Conservation District Operational Goals & Objectives for 2020

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1. Develop a professional grade website to use as a communication, education and resource tool.
  2. Develop a communications plan to engage a larger group of landowners in our district.
  3. Continually visit what value the district can provide.
  4. Develop lasting partnerships with conservation-minded agencies and entities.
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In addition to monthly RCCD meetings, Board members have been attending the following local meetings monthly or as scheduled: Community Ag Alliance; Upper Yampa River Watershed Group; Yampa Water Fund; Integrated Water Plan Committee; Wildfire Mitigation Committee; Upper Yampa Water Conservancy. These are some of our key partners going forward.

On the regional and statewide scale, Board members also attended the annual CSCB meeting in Rangely in June; and the North Platte/ Yampa/ White Watershed Group meeting in Walden in September.

### 2020 -23 Long Range Plan

To seek input from local landowners, ranchers, farmers and the citizenry at large we have scheduled the Annual Landowners and Local Working Group meetings for February of 2020. We plan to have an educational component to the meetings as well. The board has also been reconnecting with and is cultivating important partners. Because the website was lost during the down time, a new and improved website is being developed and will soon be launched. The Board meets monthly and we are starting to have public attendance at meetings which is very encouraging.

The board members hope to create meaningful, collaborative projects and programs and are currently finalizing the short and long range plans. In 2020 a key focus will be on soil health education and related initiatives.

The top three broad conservation resource issues have been identified as Soil Health; Rangeland Health & Forestry; and Water Quantity and Quality.

### **SOIL HEALTH**

**Why is this issue a concern and what is the location:** Soil Health is a pillar of Conservation Districts. A Soil Health initiative in Routt County is consistent with the Colorado Department of Agriculture state wide initiative to help gardeners, farmers and ranchers build drought resiliency, improve water quality, sequester carbon and reduce soil erosion through cost effective and sensible soil management practices.

**Three Year Goals:** Define effective and efficient ways to support land owners and Ag producers relative to beneficial soil health practices. Develop framework for feedback from producers in gardening, farming and ranching with technical service providers and others invested in agriculture and the health of our soils to build a program that will benefit Routt County Agriculture and Water Quality.

### **RANGELAND HEALTH & FORESTRY**

**Why is this issue a concern and what is the location:** Rangeland, Pastureland, and Forestry make up a large portion of Routt County's agricultural land. Ensuring that these lands remain healthy is vital to conservation in Routt County.

**Three Year Goals:** To develop a strategy to improve and maintain rangelands and forests in the conservation district through collaboration, education and conservation assistance.

### **WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY**

**Why is this issue a concern and what is the location:** There has been much activity on the water "front" in the Yampa Valley in recent years including healthy watershed implementation initiatives by the Upper Yampa River Watershed Group (UYWG) of its 2016 Watershed Plan; implementation of the Basin Implementation Plan by the Y/W/G Basin Roundtable (BRT); establishment of a large endowment to benefit the Yampa River titled the Yampa Water Fund; efforts to improve diversion infrastructure amplified by a first ever call on the Yampa to name a few. In the past, RCCD has been active in water issues and fills a distinctive niche due to its ability to work with land owners and ag producers as well as being part of a statewide network of conservation districts.

**Three Year Goals:** Work with land owners and ag producers to help them navigate the myriad of regulatory mandates; the multitude of water programs and agencies; and the potential sources of funding available to them to meet their water-related goals. Partner with other local, state and federal agencies and entities to maximize the value to landowners

## **FINANCIALS**

The Routt County Conservation District currently relies on grants, and cooperative agreements to fund our activities. We will spend the vast majority of our budget directly on natural resource conservation projects, technical assistance, conservation planning, and education.

Currently RCCD has no employees. Until such time that sustainable funding sources can be established, this will likely remain the case.