



# ROUTT COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## OFFICE

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

## 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



## 2022 Annual Report

2022 saw many highlights including:

- After participating in the STAR pre-pilot program (selected as one of four conservation districts in the State) 2022 saw the implementation of a three-year STAR PLUS program with Colorado Department of Agriculture. RCCD signed up five ranches from across the County who volunteered to participate in the program. An RCCD Board member, the Board's consultant and local NRCS staff met with each rancher, performed comprehensive soil sampling, analysis and interpretation, and developed an action plan based on each rancher's conservation goals. Financial incentives for implementing prescribed Best Management Practices were provided to participants.
- Worked with CSU Ag Water Program on Edge of Field water quality monitoring and soil moisture probe project.

(cont'd)



- RCCD also continued its own soil health initiative which was started in 2019 with local funding sources. Each year the District has offered free comprehensive soil health analysis to the first ten ranching volunteers and then works with them to prescribe management practices to improve soil health.
- The District held its Annual Landowners Meeting in March 2022 with a series of excellent speakers on topics pertinent to Routt County Ag. A separate Local Working Group meeting was later held in the Fall to solicit input for NRCS and other ag programs going forward.
- The Long Range Plan for 2023-2025 was developed by the Board and disseminated to the local ag community via a series of events that were attended in the area.
- RCCD continued to work with many partners and participated on local boards including the Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Council, Upper Yampa River Watershed Group, Integrated Water Management Plan, County Master Plan Update, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District, Community Ag Alliance, CSU Extension, Colorado Ag Water Alliance, and presented at events such as the Yampa Rendezvous and Routt County Fair.
- Participated with North Platte/White/Yampa Watershed Association.
- Purchased a 200 gallon pull behind weed sprayer and started a rental program for land owners.
- Purchased two soil health test kits to loan to landowners.



2022 RCCD Annual  
Landowners Meeting

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

President, Lyn Halliday

VP, Tyler Snyder

Treasurer, Cam Kuelthau

Secretary, Kent Sandstedt

Supervisor, Nadine Arroyo

Supervisor, Jeremy Kline

Supervisor, Stephen Evans

Supervisor Michael Moon



**Routt County**  
Conservation District

# Routt County Landowners TOOLKIT

for drought, wildfire, & soil health resiliency

- 1**  
**CONDUCT VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT**
  - Assemble a Task Force comprised of landowners, ag producers, and partners
  - Invite landowners and partners to 3 community listening sessions, one in North Routt, South Routt, & Steamboat/Hayden areas
  - Compile information, prepare draft Vulnerability Assessment and review with RCCD Board and NRC's lead for input
  - Present draft Vulnerability Assessment to Task Force
- 2**  
**DEVELOP TOOLKIT**
  - Draft a Drought, Wildfire and Soil Health Resiliency Toolkit with NRC's based on Vulnerability Assessment, and applicable resource conservation practices such as cover crops, no-till, rotational grazing, riparian protection, nutrient management, prescribed grazing, prescribed burning, and conservation tillage
  - Review draft Toolkit with RCCD Board for input
  - Present draft Toolkit to Task Force
  - Finalize Toolkit for dissemination using FSR's Story Book format
- 3**  
**OUTREACH & EDUCATION**
  - Conduct 3 Field Days, one in North Routt, South Routt, & Steamboat/Hayden areas, to promote and demonstrate best practices presented in Toolkit
  - Disseminate Toolkit via print (minimal quantities) and QR code insert in YVEA, tax bills, social media, and other media options
  - Prepare grant summary report for RCCD Board and UYVCD.

The District began work on a Drought and Wildfire Resilience Toolkit focusing on improving soil health after receiving a small local grant for the project and held 5 listening session throughout the County.

### Highlights Continued:

- Supported, including financial sponsorship, the Western Colorado Range Management Teachers Workshop and rangeland judging contest for High School students.
- RCCD is fortunate to be able to continue to add new Board members.
- Provided education through brochures, rack card, events, articles in publications, and at partner meetings.
- The District began work with the Routt/Medicine Bow U.S. Forest Service on implementing a Virtual Fencing Demonstration project in North Routt with two local ranchers.