



# ROUTT COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## OFFICE

1475 Pine Grove Rd, Ste 201A  
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80487  
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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



## 2023 Annual Report

**We are excited to report RCCD highlights from 2023 including:**

-Virtual Fence Project: In September of 2023 the Routt County Conservation District (RCCD) was awarded a Grazing Land Conservation Initiative (GLCI) grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The purpose of the two year project is to improve forest health, soil health, and wildlife habitat by demonstrating the feasibility of prescribed grazing management using virtual fencing. Goals include increasing awareness of the benefits of managed grazing through development of Grazing Management Plans in Routt County, and demonstrating the effectiveness of virtual fencing as part of those plans.

RCCD believes that providing grazing technical assistance, demonstration projects, peer-to-peer education, and monitoring effectiveness will help ag producers develop and implement grazing plans that are essential to maximizing successes and opportunities presented by prescribed grazing. Additional benefits include improving wildlife habitat, soil health, water conservation and water quality, carbon storage and sequestration, drought resiliency, and wildfire fuel load reduction.



- RCCD continued the rental of a 200 gallon pull behind weed sprayer for land owners.
- The District also loans out free soil health test kits to local landowners.
- In addition to participating in the STAR soil health program, 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 2023 where virtual fencing, among other topics, was highlighted.
- RCCD continues to implement its Long Range Plan focusing on water, forestry, rangeland management and soil health.
- 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, and Colorado Ag Water Alliance.
- Participated in activities with the North Platte/White/Yampa Watershed Association.

## BUILD DROUGHT, WILDFIRE & SOIL HEALTH RESILIENCY

*What can I do?*

 Soil Health Assessment	 Forest Management Plan	 Grazing Management Plan
 Cover Crops	 Riparian Restoration	 Weed Control

Are these practices something you would consider?

**WE CAN HELP!**



**RCCD created and published a pocket-sized Toolkit for Routt County Landowners to Build Soil Health and Create Drought and Wildfire Resiliency**

## 2023 RCCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Lyn Halliday  
Tyler Snyder  
Cam Kuelthau  
Kent Sandstedt  
Nadine Arroyo  
Jeremy Kline  
Stephen Evans  
Michael Moon



**RCCD Hosted a Soil Health Field Day featuring Eric Fuchs from Understanding Ag – a free, full day event both in the classroom and in the field.**

**Attendees learned from experts about ways to increase drought resiliency and enhance their bottom line through improved soil health.**

### Highlights Continued:

- Supported the North Routt virtual fencing project by the Routt/Medicine Bow US Forest Service.
- Provided education through brochures, rack card, events, articles in publications, and at partner meetings.
- Supported the third annual Northwest Colorado Regional FFA High School Range Judging event.



*At the event held near Craig the Southern Routt County FFA received first place team award. Tim Bedell, SOROCO FFA, received first place individual honors for both plant id and ecological site judging.*



RCCD provides input as a stakeholder to the nutrient and sediment loading study in the Bear River sub-basin of the Yampa River watershed as sources of nutrients contributing to prolific algae blooms are being analyzed by the Upper Yampa Watershed Group. This is an extensive, multi-year, science and system based endeavor.