



ROUTT COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

OFFICE

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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

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

2024 Annual Report

Below are some of the projects that your Routt County Conservation District has been working on in the past year:

SOIL HEALTH: RCCD began a soil health initiative in 2019 and has participated in CDA's STAR program since its inception. The program has included providing a comprehensive soil health evaluation on a field-by-field basis and has helped ranchers by making recommendations, in concert with our local NRCS office, on improvement strategies. We have worked with more than 20 ag producers over multiple years.

The pocket field guide to soil health that we produced was very popular among landowners. We also loan out soil health test kits.

Additionally, RCCD has hosted hands-on soil health field days featuring experts in the field to further education and outreach tailored to our County. These have been widely attended and well received.



RCCD Soil Health Field Day

September 26, 2024 at Fish and Cross Ranch, Yampa CO

Features: Soil Biology & On-farm soil amendments with expertise from The Ground Up;

Rotational grazing & Virtual fencing do's and don'ts;

Hands on soil demonstrations



- RCCD continued the rental of our 200 gallon pull behind weed sprayer for land owners. Routt County recently passed an ordinance which levies fines on landowners who are not managing noxious weeds.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS IN 2024:

- The District held its Annual Landowners and Local Work Group Meeting in Yampa in March featuring, among other topics, our local FFA program.
- 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, Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable, County Master Plan Update, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District, Community Ag Alliance, CSU Extension, Colorado Ag Water Alliance and Headwaters of Colorado.
- Participated in activities with the North Platte/White/Yampa Watershed Association.

2024 RCCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Lyn Halliday
Tyler Snyder
Cam Kuelthau
Kent Sandstedt
Michael Moon
Patrick Stanko
Jeremy Kline
Stephen Evans



Virtual Fence Project

RCCD was awarded a Grazing Land Conservation Initiative (GLCI) grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service in 2023. The District solicited participants and selected ag operations based on a pre-determined ranking process. To date 5 Vence stations have been installed and we are awaiting delivery of collars. Although this project has seen a number of “bumps in the road”, it has provided a steep learning curve relative to implementation do’s and don’ts. If things go as planned, the ranchers should be up and running in spring of 2026.



**Edge of Field Water Quality
Monitoring Apparatus at the
Legacy Ranch**

Edge-of-Field Study

Nutrient loading has been a concern in our watershed for a number of years as has increased prolific algae blooms in local water bodies. Our partners - CAWA and the CSU Ag Water Program - have been performing a nutrient monitoring program at local ranches to better understand how nutrients move through ag fields.

RCCD has been involved as part of our partnership with the Upper Yampa River Watershed Group who has been studying nutrient loading for a number of years.