



---

# 2019 Annual Report

# WHITE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 837

351 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Meeker, CO 81641

970-878-9838

[whiterivercd@gmail.com](mailto:whiterivercd@gmail.com)

Facebook: @WhiteRiverConservation

# White River Conservation District

## What is the purpose of a Conservation District?

Since 1937, Conservation Districts have represented private landowners' interests in conservation planning and practices. While Conservation Districts are technically considered "local governments," they fall under the statutory guidance of the State. We are political subdivisions of the State of Colorado. The authorities, power and structure are contained in the Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 35, Article 70.

## Mission:

To provide guidance and technical assistance to encourage and promote the wise use of natural resources within the district by private landowners and government land management agencies.

## Board Members

Marc Etchart, President  
Chris Collins, Vice President  
Bill Hume, Secretary-Treasurer  
Neil Brennan, Supervisor  
Janelle Urista, Supervisor

## Staff

Callie Hendrickson, Executive Director  
Tristan Nielsen, District Manager



## Where do the tax dollars go?



A **constituent driven** Long Range Plan of Work for the Douglas Creek Conservation District (DCCD)



Implementation of the **locally led Rio Blanco Land and Natural Resources Plan and Policies** which provides government to government communications with locally led input on federal land management.

Endangered Species, Excess Horses, Grazing, Water, Oil & Gas, Special Designations



**Locally led conservation efforts**

White River Algae Study, Integrated Water Management Planning process, Information and education on natural resource issues, Restoration and Monitoring project, Noxious weed control

# ★ ACCOPMLISHMENTS ★

**Excess “Wild” Horses** Direct communication with local, state and national BLM leadership regarding impacts of excess horses and requesting removal of excess horses in Rio Blanco County.



TAG Meeting

**White River Algae Study** The Study continued for the second year of a three-year study to ascertain what is driving the algae growth in the White River to improve the overall health of the watershed. The 14-member Technical Advisory Group (TAG) continues to guide the study conducted by USGS that will be finalized in 2021.



Algae

## District Conservation Technician (DCT)

The DCT assisted over 30 different producers with projects such as: livestock water and irrigation, pipeline implementation, fire mitigation (post burn), soil samples, easement surveying, and NRCS programmatic compliance reviews.

## Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP)

In partnership with BLM and other agencies the Districts initiated a CRMP program to achieve common goals and meet resource needs across ownership boundaries.

**White River Water Management Planning Process** The Districts initiated a locally led process to determine if the Rio Blanco County community is interested and willing to engage in a water management planning process. The Districts developed a geographically balanced Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) consisting of 16 individuals representing ag., municipalities, industry, environment, recreation, and land/water right holders.

Approximately 30 local citizens were interviewed in preparation for a broader discussion in 2020.

**Restoration & Monitoring Project** The Districts have a financial assistance agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to focus on the development and implementation of a comprehensive range monitoring program and mapping and spraying of noxious weeds within the Piceance basin, primarily in the Piceance East Douglas Herd Management Area. The Districts contracted with Osborn Industries for data collection to help determine and verify what species are using the forage at what time of the year. Over 200,000 acres were included in the project.

**Long Range Planning** The District received input from approximately 40 landowners regarding their resource priorities. Specific priorities included rangeland health, water and wildlife. Landowners also requested the district continue to use and implement the Land and Natural Resource Plan and Policy during federal land management planning processes.

## WATER LAW IN A NUTSHELL

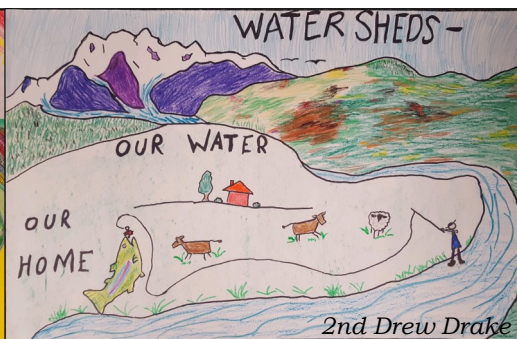
Nineteen landowners attended the seminar by former attorney Aaron Clay. It covered all aspects of the law related to water rights and ditch rights as applied in Colorado. Subject matter included information on the appropriation, perfection, use, limitations, attributes, abandonment and enforcement of various types of water rights.



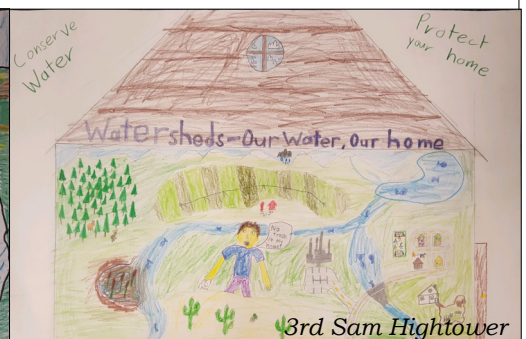
Meeker 6th graders participated in the annual poster contest. This year’s theme: **Life in the Soil – Dig Deeper**



1st Montey Franklin



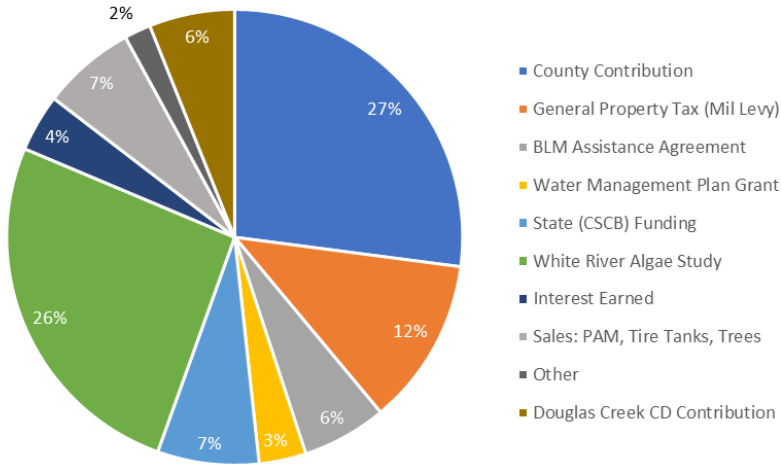
2nd Drew Drake



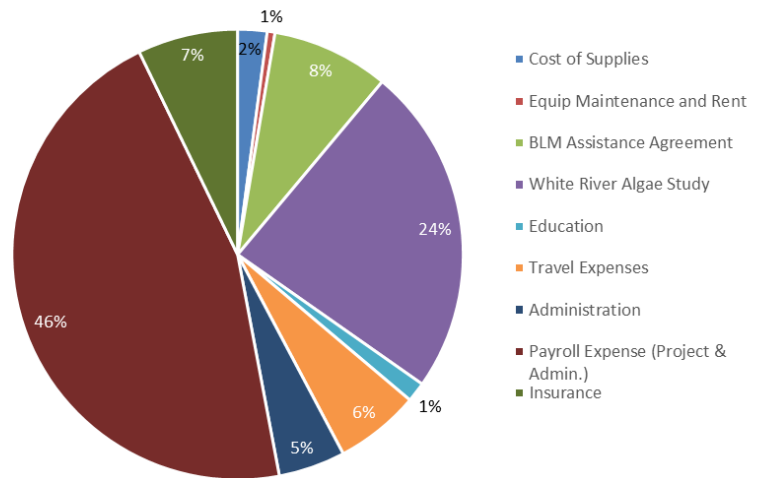
3rd Sam Hightower

# Summary of 2019 Financials

Income



Expenses

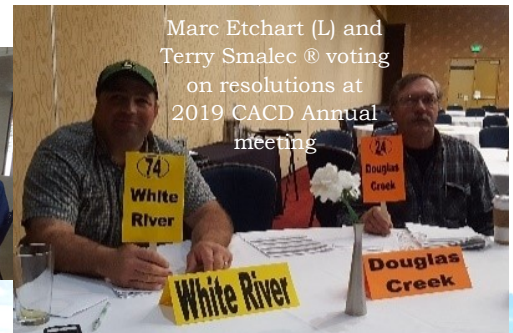


## Partners

Bureau of Land Management	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Colorado River Water Conservation District	Douglas Creek Conservation District	Elk Creek Ranch	Meeker Sanitation District	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Rio Blanco County	Rio Blanco County Farm Bureau	Rio Blanco Stockgrowers Association	Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District	River's Edge West	Town of Meeker	Town of Rangely
Trout Unlimited	US Forest Service	US Geological Survey	West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Assn.	White River Alliance	White River Conservation District	Yellow Jacket Water Conservancy District



2019 Annual Meeting



Marc Etchart (L) and Terry Smalec ® voting on resolutions at 2019 CACD Annual meeting



Ag Producer Training Re: Water Management Planning Process by CO Cattlemen's Assoc. & CO Ag. Water Alliance



Colorado State Conservation Board meeting and tour of Piceance basin to view East Douglas Herd Management Area