

WRCD Board Packet

White River Conservation District Regular Board Meeting

Oct 8, 2026 – 5 P.M.

WRDCCD Board Room, 351 7th St, Meeker, CO

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82768953648?pwd=S41kZtsl5kB5SKIN15qGlxEAVpmOE.1>

AGENDA

5:00 Call Meeting to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

5:05	Absentee Board Members	Approve
5:10	Agenda	Approve
5:12	Minutes	Approve
5:15	Financials	Approve
5:20	Payables	Approve
5:25	Public Comments / Guests	
	• NRCS	

Old Business

5:35 Annual Plan of Work Update (ED/FPC Report)

New Business

5:45	Presentation/Receipt of Proposed 2027 Budget	Discussion
6:00	Amend LRP to include Mill Levy increase planning	Discussion / Approve
6:05	ColoTrust Transfer Policy & add board member	Approve
6:10	RBC LUP MOU	Discussion
6:15	Job Description: FPM	Approve
6:20	Board Vacancies	Discussion
6:25	CACD Poster Contest Judging	Discussion / Approve

Reports

6:40	DNR / Policy Report
6:55	Board Member Reports
7:00	Staff Reports: Exec Director / Forest Program Coordinator, District Manager, RBC Director of Natural Resources
7:05	Adjourn Meeting

Upcoming Board Meeting:

5 pm Nov 12: WRDC Board Room

Other Meetings:

Oct 18-31: CMAT

Nov 11-12: CACD Annual Meeting

WRCD Board Packet

White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts
DRAFT: Joint Board Meeting Minutes
RBC Commissioners Meeting Room – Rangely, Colorado
September 23, 2026 6:00pm

A scheduled joint meeting of the White River Conservation District (WRCD) and Douglas Creek Conservation District (DCCD) Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:20 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Attendance

Supervisors Present: Chris Collins (WR), Meghan Davis (WR), Bill Lake (WR), Marc Etchart (WR, virtual), Mario Sullivan (DC), Rosaly Coombs (DC), Stu Massey (DC)

Supervisors Absent: Kathy Nelson (WR), Bill Hume (DC), Scott Robertson (DC)

Staff Present: Vanessa Trout, Executive Director / Forest Program Coordinator; Beth Wiley, District Manager; Reece Melton, Director of Natural Resources

Guests/Partners: Allison Hearne, Integral Habitats LLC; Brad Banuelos, Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Nakayla Lestina, NRCS; Troy Osborn, Osborn Industries; others attending virtually

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved.

Bill Lake motioned to approve the agenda. Mario Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approve Absentee Board Members: Kathy Nelson (WR), Scott Robertson (DC) and Bill Hume (DC) were excused.

Marc Etchart motioned to excuse Kathy Nelson. Bill Lake seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Stu Massey motioned to excuse Bill Hume and Scott Robertson. Mario Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes:

Mario Sullivan motioned to approve the DCCD August 4 minutes. Stu Massey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Marc Etchart motioned to approve the WRCD August 13 minutes. Bill Lake seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

DCCD Financials:

Mario Sullivan motioned to approve the DCCD financials. Stu Massey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

WRCD Financials: Staff reviewed the timing differences between the P&L and balance sheet, current operating losses, pending RESTORE and CWDG reimbursements, and financial reports to include in future packets.

Marc Etchart motioned to approve the WRCD financials. Bill Lake seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

WRCD Payables:

Marc Etchart motioned to approve the WRCD payables. Bill Lake seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

DCCD Payables: None, no action.

WRCD Reserve Transfer: The Board discussed cash flow, pending reimbursements, and repeated withdrawals from reserves. The Board agreed to hold a more detailed reserve and budget discussion at the October WRCD meeting.

Bill Lake motioned to transfer \$50,000 from WRCD reserves to the operating account. Marc Etchart seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments / Guests

Allison Hearne, Integral Habitats LLC / Brad Banuelos, Colorado Parks and Wildlife: Hearne summarized summer rangeland field work for CPW in the western portions of GMUs 21 and 30. Field production data from 65 sites were compared with Rangeland Analysis Platform data and long-term trends. Higher-use areas showed more annual or non-native grasses and more degraded condition, while higher-elevation summer range was generally in better condition. The assessment estimated current utilization at approximately 27–28%, slightly above a conservative 25% level, with drought, wild horses, oil and gas disturbance, limited water, livestock, and wildlife all affecting available forage. CPW said the assessment will inform development of a bison management plan; public and tribal engagement will continue, with a draft plan anticipated in 2027. CPW stated there is no commitment to introduce or attract bison into Colorado and that management planning is focused on bison that may enter from Utah.

DNR / NRCS Updates: Reece Melton, DNR, reported on state natural-resource policy and water issues, including voluntary Colorado River conservation programs, upcoming CPW Commission matters, in-stream-flow discussions, and recent beaver-management changes. Nakayla Lestina, NRCS, reported fiscal-year closeout, completion of payments and modifications, upcoming payments, and preparation for the next application and ranking cycle.

Old Business

Annual Plan of Work – Long-term Sustainable Funding: Discussion focused on declining reserves, limited administrative recovery from grants, the need to identify a minimum reserve level, and possible future mill-levy adjustments. Staff and Board members discussed using partner contributions and grant-funded capacity to support CRMP and other programs. A more detailed budget and reserve discussion was deferred to the October WRCD meeting. **Rangeland:** The Board discussed using the DCT position to help move existing CRMP projects through NRCS while dedicated rangeland capacity remains unfunded. Staff also reported early partner interest in a countywide, landscape-scale invasive-weed program that could eventually support a rangeland position. **Water:** Staff discussed Colorado River conservation, in-stream flows, and the need for accurate flow measurement and protection of existing and future agricultural water uses. **Wildlife / Aquatics:** Discussion included bison planning, wild horse impacts, wolves, prairie dogs, and beaver management. **Forestry:** Staffing and grant funding for a full-time forestry position were discussed later under Budget / Finances / Staffing.

New Business

Wild Horse Monitoring: Troy Osborn reviewed a proposal with University of Wyoming researcher Jeff Beck to analyze and publish the Districts' long-term wild horse monitoring data. The preliminary research/publication cost was approximately \$35,000 before university indirect costs, which could add roughly 44.5%. The Board discussed negotiating the indirect rate, using the university foundation, identifying BLM, county, oil-and-gas, and other funding partners, and whether to collect another year of post-gather data before final publication. Troy and Vanessa will continue developing

a two-page fundraising summary, budget, potential funder list, and timeline. A final commitment to the publication project was deferred.

DNR End Date: The Board reviewed the required written notice to end the Districts' DNR agreement and transfer the position to Rio Blanco County. Discussion supported an October 1, 2026 end date and continued collaboration with the County and DNR through a future MOU.

Chris Collins motioned to end the Districts' DNR contract effective October 1, 2026. Stu Massey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

New RBC LUP MOU: The County had not yet provided a new draft MOU. The Board reviewed the prior MOU and discussed preserving coordination, information sharing, and periodic natural-resource committee meetings. The Board preferred receiving a County draft approximately one month before the planned November 16 natural-resource committee meeting so each board could review it. No action was taken.

Extension Agent / Ex Officio Member: The Board reviewed guidance regarding the CSU Extension Agent position. Discussion concluded that the Ag and Natural Resources Extension Agent cannot simultaneously serve as a voting supervisor and ex officio member. Meghan Davis will provide written documentation of the change from supervisor to ex officio CSU Extension representative. The Board also discussed her continuing to assist with financial review as a non-voting reviewer, subject to confirmation with the auditor. No Board vote was taken.

Budget / Finances / Staffing: Staff presented a preliminary 2027 staffing model. The proposed structure combines the Forest Program Coordinator and CWDG Director of Community Engagement work into one fully grant-funded forestry position; retains Vanessa Trout at approximately 20 hours per week as DCT and 20 hours per week as Executive Director/district work; retains the District Manager; and delays hiring a dedicated rangeland position until additional funding is secured. DCT funding is expected to cover 80% of that work, with 20% district match. Staff reported that DCT work could also support existing CRMP landowners through NRCS. The Board discussed mill-levy revenue, operating expenses, grant administrative recovery, reserve drawdown, and the need to distinguish recurring operating costs from reimbursable project cash flow. Board members expressed support for using this staffing model as the basis of the draft 2027 budget; no formal motion was made.

Job Descriptions – Range Manager / FPM: Draft job descriptions were included in the packet. Because the rangeland position is not currently funded, discussion focused on the forestry position, which is funded and could be advertised for a 2027 start. The Board will review the forestry job description for approval at the next meeting. No action was taken.

Reports

Board Member Reports: Rosaly Coombs reported on the Emerging Leaders in Conservation program and plans to share ideas and contacts useful to the Districts. Marc Etchart reported from the Colorado State Conservation Board meeting that all 41 matching-grant applications were funded, noting that the WRCD application was ranked in the top 5. He also announced that he is resigning as vice chair of the Colorado River District Roundtable but will remain involved locally.

Additional Discussion:

Watershed / CACD In-stream Flow Resolution: The Board and staff developed a concise proposed policy for consideration by the Watershed Committee emphasizing preserving reasonable opportunities for existing and future agricultural ditches, stock tanks, ponds, diversion improvements, and emergency water storage under applicable water law, and using improved flow measurement and historical data to inform seasonal minimum flows rather than a single static flow.

WRCD Board Packet

Final language read by Reece Melton:

ISF rights should preserve reasonable opportunities for existing and future agricultural ditches, stock tanks, ponds, diversion improvements, and emergency water storage, subject to applicable water law.

Furthermore CACD supports improved flow measurement and historical data to inform minimum flows that vary by season, rather than imposing a single static flow.

Mario Sullivan motioned to submit the in-stream-flow resolution as read by Reece Melton to the Watershed Committee for policy and action consideration. Stu Massey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Watershed / CACD Data Center Resolution: The Board and staff developed a proposed policy stating that throughout the planning process and discussions, public landowner and community meetings should be required before decisions regarding future data-center development. The intent was to ensure local landowner and community input is incorporated before development decisions are made.

Final language read by Vanessa Trout:

The County shall engage affected landowners and the community before decisions are made regarding any proposed data center development, ensuring local concerns, priorities, and water resource considerations are identified and incorporated into the planning process.

Chris Collins motioned to submit the data-center resolution as read by Vanessa Trout to the Watershed Committee as a policy. Stu Massey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports: Staff reported that the Community Mitigation Assistance Team (CMAT) is scheduled to be in Rio Blanco County October 18–31 and will work from the U.S. Forest Service office to review the countywide forest-health and wildfire-mitigation program. Vanessa Trout will serve as a local liaison. Other staff reports were incorporated into agenda items above.

Adjournment: 10:18 p.m.

Upcoming Board Meetings: DCCD October 6, 2026; WRCD October 8, 2026.

Respectfully submitted, Beth Wiley, District Manager

White River Conservation District

Balance Sheet

As of October 8, 2026

1:31 PM

10/08/26

Accrual Basis

	Oct 8, 26
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
11000 · Bank San Juans Gen Fund-62162	-9,903.53
11001 · Bank of San Juans Savings	20,089.68
11500 · Colo Trust Plus	332,285.66
11501 · Colo Trust Edge	199,038.62
11601 · Recovery Fund Checking	27,985.00
Total Checking/Savings	569,495.43
Accounts Receivable	
13000 · Accounts Receivable	146,385.18
Total Accounts Receivable	146,385.18
Other Current Assets	
14000 · Property Taxes Receivable	358.75
Total Other Current Assets	358.75
Total Current Assets	716,239.36
Fixed Assets	
15000 · Furniture and Equipment	62,149.80
15001 · Accum Depr - Equip	-10,563.39
Total Fixed Assets	51,586.41
TOTAL ASSETS	767,825.77
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
20000 · Accounts Payable	176,724.01
Total Accounts Payable	176,724.01
Credit Cards	
20500 · First Bank Credit Card	197.36
Total Credit Cards	197.36
Other Current Liabilities	
21100 · Direct Deposit Liabilities	0.01
22000 · Accrued Wages	1,402.58
23000 · Compensated Absences	5,318.06
24000 · Payroll Liabilities	
24001 · 941 Liability	375.68
24002 · COWH Liability	142.00
24004 · PERA Liability	1,049.14
Total 24000 · Payroll Liabilities	1,566.82
25500 · Sales Tax Payable	0.26
27000 · Deferred Property Taxes	358.75
Total Other Current Liabilities	8,646.48
Total Current Liabilities	185,567.85
Total Liabilities	185,567.85
Equity	
31300 · Restricted Fund Balance	
31301 · TABOR	44,565.00
Total 31300 · Restricted Fund Balance	44,565.00
31350 · Investment in Fixed Assets	51,586.41

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White River Conservation District
Balance Sheet
As of October 8, 2026

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10/08/26
Accrual Basis

	Oct 8, 26
32000 · Unassigned Fund Balance	590,868.79
Net Income	-104,762.28
Total Equity	582,257.92
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	767,825.77

WRCD Board Packet

September for October Payables			
Vendor	Details	Amount	Billable to DC
Operating Expenses			
Credit Card Charges			
Amazon	toner	\$108.65	\$10.87
Amazon	key cabinet	\$39.99	\$4.00
Google Play	Gdrive Additional Storage	\$2.99	\$0.30
Microsoft	Microsoft Office 365 Jul	\$25.20	\$2.52
Colorado River Dist	online seminar (CWCB)	\$17.50	
Keystone Resorts	Annual Conference meal	\$7.88	\$0.79
RiseGuide	Education (FRWRM)	\$41.99	
Keystone Resorts	Annual Conference lodging (scholarship reimbursement)	\$945.76	
TicTok	Capcut Software (CACD Demo)	\$21.29	
Vonage	Office Telephone	\$50.22	\$5.02
Doodle Poll	Scheduling app annual subscription	\$132.00	\$13.20
Zoom	Annual Subscription	\$175.36	\$17.54
Total Credit Card Charges		\$1,568.83	
Checking - Operating			
Beth Wiley	Monthly Cell	\$30.00	\$3.00
Beth Wiley	Travel and misc reimbursement (SDA conference, misc)	\$366.41	\$36.64
CEBT	Monthly Insurance (ACH)	\$2,190.01	
Cimarron Telecommunication	Monthly Internet	\$50.00	\$5.00
Colorado CPA	Monthly Services	\$282.50	\$28.25
Civic Plus	Website	\$132.08	\$13.21
TDA Construction	Tire Tank unloading (8 ft)	\$400.00	
Colorado First Conservation Dis	Watershed Dues	\$100.00	
Total Non-grant Expenses (checks)		\$3,551.00	
Grant / Program Expenses			
Vanessa Trout	Travel Reimbursement - various site visits	\$373.92	
Vanessa Trout	Monthly Cell	\$30.00	
Barbara Sullivan	YVCF - Round 2 - Wildfire (Recovery Checking)	\$16,666.67	
Chad Carter	YVCF - Round 2 - Wildfire (Recovery Checking)	\$16,666.67	
Heil Meeker	YVCF - Round 2 - Wildfire (Recovery Checking)	\$16,666.66	
Joe Merriam	YVCF - Round 2 - Wildfire (Recovery Checking)	\$16,666.66	
Mike Lopez	YVCF - Round 2 - Wildfire (Recovery Checking)	\$16,666.67	
Samme Purkey	YVCF - Round 2 - Wildfire (Recovery Checking)	\$16,666.67	
John D Livingston Trust	Ditch Cleaning (Recovery Chkg)	\$1,990.25	
Total Grant Expenses (Checks)		\$102,394.17	
Total Grant Expenses (checks + credit card)		\$102,474.95	
Total Operating (checks + credit card)		\$5,039.05	
Total Payments		\$107,514.00	\$140.33

WRCD Board Packet

White River Conservation District

Profit & Loss

September 1 through October 8, 2026

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Accrual Basis

	Sep 1 - Oct 8, 26
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
40000 · General Property Tax (Mil Levy)	
40001 · Current Tax	96.98
40002 · Delinquent Tax	1.11
40004 · Specific Ownership	100.84
40005 · Current Interest	2.53
Total 40000 · General Property Tax (Mil Levy)	201.46
41000 · Grants	
41030 · CACD Demo	5,166.69
41031 · CACD Speakership - Gerrish	3,100.00
410710 · Oak Ridge Park Ditch	25,000.00
41271 · CSCB Match Grant Admin 2025	2,865.22
41290 · Wildfire Recovery - Income	
41298 · YVCF - Round 2 - Misc Needs	100,000.00
Total 41290 · Wildfire Recovery - Income	100,000.00
Total 41000 · Grants	136,131.91
41400 · Sales of Supplies	
41420 · Tire Tanks	8,250.00
Total 41400 · Sales of Supplies	8,250.00
42100 · Interest Earned	1,704.99
Total Income	146,288.36
Gross Profit	146,288.36
Expense	
60020 · Awards	
60023 · Poster contest	18.56
Total 60020 · Awards	18.56
60070 · Dues	
60078 · Watershed	100.00
Total 60070 · Dues	100.00
60100 · Equipment Rent - loading tanks	400.00
60110 · General Property Tax	
60112 · Treasurer Fee	5.03
Total 60110 · General Property Tax	5.03
61000 · Grant Expenses	
61030 · CACD Demo	
61032 · Supplies	144.26
Total 61030 · CACD Demo	144.26
61050 · CWDG -Cmunity Wildfire Def Gran	
61051 · Contractual	7,000.00
Total 61050 · CWDG -Cmunity Wildfire Def Gran	7,000.00
61061 · Oak Ridge Park Ditch Project	3,032.50
61130 · CSFS FRWRM	
61140 · Training	41.99
61141 · Travel	129.20
Total 61130 · CSFS FRWRM	171.19
61150 · CWCB - WRSF - Phase 3	

White River Conservation District

Profit & Loss

September 1 through October 8, 2026

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Accrual Basis

	Sep 1 - Oct 8, 26
61152 · Coordination and Facilitation	262.22
Total 61150 · CWCB - WRSF - Phase 3	262.22
61250 · CSCB Matching Grant 2026	
61251 · Contracted Servies	5,883.60
Total 61250 · CSCB Matching Grant 2026	5,883.60
Total 61000 · Grant Expenses	16,493.77
61520 · Wildfire Recovery - Expense	
61528 · YVCF - Lee/Elk Rnd 2 -Misc Need	100,000.00
Total 61520 · Wildfire Recovery - Expense	100,000.00
62020 · Landowner Resource Improvements	1,990.25
62030 · Meetings	4.13
62110 · Audits/Accounting	282.50
62220 · Website	132.08
65040 · Office Supplies	
65041 · Postage	1.64
65040 · Office Supplies - Other	534.05
Total 65040 · Office Supplies	535.69
65050 · Telephone and Internet	190.22
65120 · Insurance	
65123 · Life/Health	2,190.01
Total 65120 · Insurance	2,190.01
66000 · Payroll Expenses	
66010 · Employee Salaries	12,691.20
66030 · Medicare Company	198.53
66040 · CO Unemployment Company	46.79
66050 · PERA Employer	2,005.20
66000 · Payroll Expenses - Other	1,035.00
Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses	15,976.72
68300 · Travel Expenses	
68310 · Conference, Convention, Meeting	945.76
68320 · Travel	304.76
68340 · Meals	67.89
Total 68300 · Travel Expenses	1,318.41
Total Expense	139,637.37
Net Ordinary Income	6,650.99
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
70100 · Other Income	
70110 · Unrealized Investment Gain/Loss	-398.38
Total 70100 · Other Income	-398.38
Total Other Income	-398.38
Net Other Income	-398.38
Net Income	6,252.61

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White River Conservation District

Profit & Loss

January through December 2026

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Accrual Basis

	Jan - Dec 26
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
40000 · General Property Tax (Mil Levy)	
40001 · Current Tax	31,762.80
40002 · Delinquent Tax	19.49
40003 · Senior/Vet Exemptions	224.37
40004 · Specific Ownership	979.12
40005 · Current Interest	18.18
40008 · Other	81.84
Total 40000 · General Property Tax (Mil Levy)	33,085.80
40300 · DC Contributions	7,238.29
40400 · CSCB Direct Assistance	8,950.94
41000 · Grants	
41010 · BLM Agreement	34,575.26
41020 · BLM Agreement Admin	2,972.24
41030 · CACD Demo	5,166.69
41031 · CACD Speakership - Gerrish	7,120.00
41050 · CDA/America The Beautiful	57,968.55
41060 · CDA/America the Beautiful Admin	5,220.95
410710 · Oak Ridge Park Ditch	25,000.00
41120 · Forestry	
41125 · CSCB/NRCS - DCT	7,640.58
41126 · CSCB/NRCS- DCT Admin	753.84
Total 41120 · Forestry	8,394.42
41170 · Phase 3 WSRF	278.88
41180 · Phase 3 WSRF Admin	10,688.05
41220 · RESTORE Grant	27,740.54
41230 · RESTORE Grant - Admin	1,451.24
41260 · State	
41266 · CSCB Supplemental Matching Gran	7,500.00
Total 41260 · State	7,500.00
41270 · CSCB Matching Grant 2025	42,469.40
41271 · CSCB Match Grant Admin 2025	2,865.22
41290 · Wildfire Recovery - Income	
41291 · Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	23,500.00
41293 · TriState Generation & Transmiss	12,500.00
41294 · Basin	12,500.00
41298 · YVCF - Round 2 - Misc Needs	100,000.00
Total 41290 · Wildfire Recovery - Income	148,500.00
Total 41000 · Grants	387,911.44
41280 · EWP	
41281 · EWP NRCS Contract/Construction	328,541.81
41282 · EWP NRCS Technical Assistance	-328,541.81
41283 · EWP STATE Contract/Construction	2,653.70
41285 · EWP LANDO Contract/Construction	41,922.10
41287 · EWP CRD Contract/Construction	13,485.16
41289 · EWP-CCALT Contract / Construct	14,690.33
Total 41280 · EWP	72,751.29
41400 · Sales of Supplies	
41410 · PAM	352.47
41420 · Tire Tanks	15,675.00
Total 41400 · Sales of Supplies	16,027.47
41520 · Equipment Rent - Fusion	200.00
42100 · Interest Earned	15,610.43
42900 · Miscellaneous Income	33.58

White River Conservation District

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Accrual Basis

	Jan - Dec 26
Total Income	541,809.24
Gross Profit	541,809.24
Expense	
60010 · Advertisements	1,481.53
60020 · Awards	
60023 · Poster contest	18.56
Total 60020 · Awards	18.56
60030 · Bank Charges	40.00
60040 · Cost of Supplies	
60041 · PAM	287.41
60042 · Tires	17,500.00
Total 60040 · Cost of Supplies	17,787.41
60070 · Dues	
60071 · CACD	700.00
60073 · Community Counts	100.00
60074 · Farm Bureau	100.00
60077 · Special Districts Association	1,650.00
60078 · Watershed	100.00
Total 60070 · Dues	2,650.00
60090 · Equipment Purchase	266.92
60100 · Equipment Rent - loading tanks	800.00
60110 · General Property Tax	
60112 · Treasurer Fee	1,602.01
Total 60110 · General Property Tax	1,602.01
61000 · Grant Expenses	
61010 · BLM Agreement	
61011 · Contractual Costs	13,146.25
61015 · Supply Costs	110.88
Total 61010 · BLM Agreement	13,257.13
61030 · CACD Demo	
61031 · Contractual	4,187.50
61032 · Supplies	810.55
61033 · Travel	62.41
61034 · Other Expenses	126.00
Total 61030 · CACD Demo	5,186.46
61035 · CACD - Speakership -Gerrish	
61036 · Travel	169.65
61037 · Contractual	5,850.00
61038 · Printing	36.21
61039 · Food	679.26
Total 61035 · CACD - Speakership -Gerrish	6,735.12
61040 · CDA/America The Beautiful	
61042 · Contractual Services	12,539.55
61044 · Suplies & Materials	43,187.45
61040 · CDA/America The Beautiful - Other	1.45
Total 61040 · CDA/America The Beautiful	55,728.45
61050 · CWDG -Cmunity Wildfire Def Gran	
61051 · Contractual	18,000.00
61056 · Supplies	125.38
61057 · Travel	63.89

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Accrual Basis

	Jan - Dec 26
Total 61050 · CWDG -Cmunity Wildfire Def Gran	18,189.27
61061 · Oak Ridge Park Ditch Project	46,825.50
61070 · CRD - Oak Ridge Ditch	
61072 · Design and Construction	
61074 · Coal Creek	3,238.75
Total 61072 · Design and Construction	3,238.75
Total 61070 · CRD - Oak Ridge Ditch	3,238.75
61120 · CSCB Supplemental Drone Grant	
61121 · Equipment - Drone	8,157.33
61120 · CSCB Supplemental Drone Grant - Other	415.63
Total 61120 · CSCB Supplemental Drone Grant	8,572.96
61130 · CSFS FRWRM	
61133 · Information and Education	-168.87
61140 · Training	904.02
61141 · Travel	693.84
Total 61130 · CSFS FRWRM	1,428.99
61150 · CWCB - WRSF - Phase 3	
61152 · Coordination and Facilitation	490.75
Total 61150 · CWCB - WRSF - Phase 3	490.75
61210 · RESTORE	
61212 · Contractual Services	5,301.31
61215 · Travel/Mileage	51.11
Total 61210 · RESTORE	5,352.42
61221 · CWCB - WSRF - Diversion	
61222 · Installations	0.00
Total 61221 · CWCB - WSRF - Diversion	0.00
61230 · CWCB-ORPD-Expenses	
61233 · Design and Management	
61236 · Little Beaver	3,925.00
Total 61233 · Design and Management	3,925.00
Total 61230 · CWCB-ORPD-Expenses	3,925.00
61240 · CSCB Matching Grant 2025	
61241 · Contracted Services	42,469.40
Total 61240 · CSCB Matching Grant 2025	42,469.40
61250 · CSCB Matching Grant 2026	
61251 · Contracted Servies	5,883.60
Total 61250 · CSCB Matching Grant 2026	5,883.60
61260 · New Venture Fund	
61261 · Contracted Services	16,281.33
Total 61260 · New Venture Fund	16,281.33
Total 61000 · Grant Expenses	233,565.13
61510 · EWP Expense	
61512 · EWP Technical Assistance	0.00
Total 61510 · EWP Expense	0.00
61520 · Wildfire Recovery - Expense	
61521 · YVCF - Lee/Elk Rnd 1 -Ditch Cln	47,524.75

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Accrual Basis

	Jan - Dec 26
61522 · Rocky Mtn Elk Fnd - Reseeding	23,500.00
61528 · YVCF - Lee/Elk Rnd 2 -Misc Need	100,000.00
61520 · Wildfire Recovery - Expense - Other	66.15
Total 61520 · Wildfire Recovery - Expense	171,090.90
62020 · Landowner Resource Improvements	1,990.25
62030 · Meetings	
62032 · Annual	1,229.09
62030 · Meetings - Other	4.13
Total 62030 · Meetings	1,233.22
62050 · Miscellaneous	
62051 · Freight/Shipping on tires	25.00
62052 · Gift	16.20
62053 · Other Adjustments	54.21
Total 62050 · Miscellaneous	95.41
62060 · Office Furniture	50.00
62110 · Audits/Accounting	11,081.72
62140 · Legal	355.50
62160 · Sponsorship	200.00
62180 · Subscriptions	9,673.20
62220 · Website	1,198.14
62840 · Equip Maintenance	165.65
65040 · Office Supplies	
65041 · Postage	107.94
65040 · Office Supplies - Other	2,706.96
Total 65040 · Office Supplies	2,814.90
65050 · Telephone and Internet	1,694.57
65120 · Insurance	
65123 · Life/Health	15,525.77
65124 · Workman's comp	1.63
Total 65120 · Insurance	15,527.40
66000 · Payroll Expenses	
66010 · Employee Salaries	104,644.35
66020 · DNR Position Split	33,333.36
66030 · Medicare Company	1,702.99
66040 · CO Unemployment Company	288.55
66050 · PERA Employer	17,084.54
66000 · Payroll Expenses - Other	11,303.61
Total 66000 · Payroll Expenses	168,357.40
68300 · Travel Expenses	
68310 · Conference, Convention, Meeting	1,459.56
68320 · Travel	659.51
68340 · Meals	118.24
Total 68300 · Travel Expenses	2,237.31
Total Expense	645,977.13
Net Ordinary Income	-104,167.89
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
70100 · Other Income	
70110 · Unrealized Investment Gain/Loss	-594.39
Total 70100 · Other Income	-594.39
Total Other Income	-594.39

WRCD Board Packet
White River Conservation District
Profit & Loss
January through December 2026

1:34 PM

10/08/26

Accrual Basis

	Jan - Dec 26
Net Other Income	-594.39
Net Income	-104,762.28

WRCD Board Packet
White River & Douglas Creek Conservation District
Executive Director and Forest Program Coordinator
Sept 2026 Report (October 6 and 8th Board Meeting)

Water

Marketing District Water Program - Diversion Infrastructure Improvement (open to all landowners)
New LO application for program.
IWMP - in progress. Writing sections.
SMP - interested landowners. Districts Held Community meeting 9/15
Advancing projects for Div/Rip Assessments – Met w TU and CCA 9/1. Letter sent to all landowners 9/14
ISF policy resolution submitted to CACD at Watershed Committee Mtg 9/28
Coal Creek/Little Beaver project in progress
In-Stream Flow Meeting East Marvine Campground – 9/8
State Policy Showcase: Pressing pause on the Data Center Boom – 9/10
Headwaters of Colorado Initiative Meeting in Hayden – 9/16
CRD Annual Water Seminar 9/17 – virtually attendance
USGS Meeting – 9/29
County Water Symposium Meeting 9/24

Forestry/DCT

Community Wildfire Defense Grant - 30 assessments to date. 9 landowners completed fuels work.
Crooks Park Fuels Project partnership with BLM/CSFS - NEPA/ GNA.
Ute/Papoose partnership with USFS and Trout Unlimited for NEPA and fuels work on adjacent land
NDME grant submitted \$900K for public land fuels work around Ute/Papoose private lands
CMAT team in RB Oct 18-31th. Prepare documents and support for team
Working on PAC agenda and Q4 meeting
10 site assessments in September + 3 successful chipping days Ute and in Town.
Weekly meetings with Nakayla.
SheepDog Classic River Trailer Educational sessions with 5 visiting schools.
Finish Job Description - Director of Community Engagement and Forest Program Coordinator 2027
YWG Field Trip in Steamboat – 9/9
CACD requested V to serve on Forestry Panel at Nov 11-12th Meeting
Landowner communications re: grant funding and program
NRCS Conservation Planner Classes – 7 hours
Work on 4 scope of work for LO site assessments

Range

RMEF grant for rejuvra treatments submitted - \$17,203
RMEF grant for water line system improvements and Spring development submitted - \$227,5000
CSCB grant awarded for Rejuvra and reseeding efforts - \$25,000. Starts Jan 1 2027
Wildhorse Monitoring ongoing – meeting with Troy re: publishing
DCT Conservation Planner program – 2 more classes to go
DCT – working on 5 applications
Data Center policy resolution submitted to CACD at Watershed Committee Mtg – 9/28

Landscape-scale invasive weed treatment in progress – District hosted Community Meeting presentation 9/22

Restore grant application follow up after denial

Created Forest Health project display signs for project areas

Emailed landowners about program

Meet with BLM staff re: CRMP, Weed Program and Horse Monitoring. Year 5 funding.

Attend “Campfire on the Range” landowner conservation presentation in Steamboat.

Landscape scale weed treatment 2-day workshop and field tour scheduled October 12/13th.

Turning the Tide; Rejuvra webinar – 9/29

CSU/Districts was awarded funding from our Nov '25 application for Integrated Research and Extension to Foster Post-Wildfire Livestock Grazing and Landscape Recovery – 9/29

Wildfire Recovery

Round 2 - YVCF awarded \$100,000 divided equally to 6 landowners. No FSA/fencing projects.

Attended County Recovery Manager Meetings

Administration

Poster Contest Education to BMS 6th grade class – Sept 22 and Sept 30

2027 Budget work with Beth

Town of Meeker requested V to be co-organizer for CRC Rural Philanthropy Days in June 2027

Meet with board members on variety of topics

Joint Board Meeting Rangely 9/23

Met with other District inquiry about District Drone program

Assist DM with grant reporting and submissions

Revise 2022 MOU and sent updates to Vicky and Reece

Update website

Social Media posts about board members, Fire Resistant plants, Fuels Mitigation before/after

Herald article – 1 year after the Lee/Elk Fires

Interview possible candidate for Forestry or Rangeland position

NWRPD meeting in Hayden 9/15

NWPRD meeting in Meeker 9/11

GIS classes 9/23-24th

GENERAL FUND BUDGET
White River CONSERVATION DISTRICT

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2027

DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL 2025	Budget 2026	EST. CURRENT As of 9/24/2026	Budget 2027	With all applied grants awarded	
Beginning Fund Balance January 1						2026 to date filled in 9/25 by Beth
REVENUE						
ORDINARY INCOME						
Contribution DC	\$ 16,122	\$ 15,000	\$ 7,238	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	2025 higher because grant related expenses were recategorized to 'admin' in allocations and charged to DC
Equipment Rental Broadcast Seeder		\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 600	\$ 600	
Equipment Rent Drill	\$ 396	\$ 2,500	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	
Equipment Rent Fusion Machine	\$ 650	\$ 750	\$ 200	\$ 500	\$ 500	
General Property Tax (Mil Levy)	\$ 47,372	\$ 32,221	\$ 32,884	\$ 42,000	\$ 42,000	
Interest	\$ 27,985	\$ 25,000	\$ 13,903	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	
Meeting Income (Annual & Workshops)			\$ -	\$ -		
Reimbursements/ Refunds	\$ 1,700	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -		confirm 2025
Meeting Income	\$ 6,211	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ -		Annual meeting/workshop sponsorships
Other Income /						
Unrealized Investment Gain/Loss						
Misc. Income			\$ 34	\$ -		
GRANTS						
RANGE						
BLM Agreement (Monitoring/CRMP)	\$ 25,578	\$ 42,500	\$ 34,575		\$ 88,436	Full 55k paid out - not fully spent as of 9/25/26 - ask Troy for invoice before eoy
BLM Agreement Admin	\$ 812.50	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 2,972		\$ 13,265	A - Management & Admin
RESTORE Grant	\$ 26,161.26	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 27,741	\$ -		2026 budget reflected grant app submitted, not grant in hand. This is the final payment of the grant.
RESTORE Grant Admin/Mgmt	\$ 2,522.41	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 1,451	\$ -		B - Management and Admin
CSHP	\$ 53,900.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		

EWP: Landowners			\$	110,000.00	\$	41,922	\$	-		
EWP: CRD Contractual (Carter)			\$	16,034.00	\$	13,485	\$	-		
EWP: CCLAT (Heil)			\$		\$	14,690	\$	-		
SALES OF SUPPLIES										
PAM			\$	430	\$	500	\$	352	\$	500
Tire Tanks			\$	4,025	\$	3,500	\$	9,825	\$	12,000
Trees							\$	-		
Sales tax service fee			\$	8			\$	-		
TOTAL REVENUE			\$	1,544,501	\$	2,726,420	\$	422,918	\$	417,703
EXPENDITURES ON NEXT PAGE										
DESCRIPTION		ACTUAL 2025	Budget 2026		EST. CURRENT As of 9/24/2026		Budget 2027		With all applied grants awarded	
EXPENDITURES										
Advertisements		\$	2,599	\$	2,000	\$	1,361	\$	2,000	\$
Audits/Accounting		\$	9,535	\$	15,000	\$	10,799	\$	15,000	\$
Awards: Poster Contest		\$	225	\$	225	\$	19	\$	225	\$
Bank Charges/Payroll Exp				\$	150	\$	40	\$	150	\$
Cost of Supplies:										
PAM		\$	284	\$	550	\$	287	\$	400	\$
Tires				\$	10,000	\$	17,500	\$	20,000	\$
Trees								\$	-	
Supplies		\$	49					\$	-	
Workshop / Other Meetings								\$	-	
Dues:										
CACD		\$	700	\$	700	\$	700	\$	700	\$
Club 20		\$	300	\$	300	\$	-	\$	300	\$
Community Counts				\$	100	\$	100	\$	100	\$
Farm Bureau		\$	100	\$	100	\$	100	\$	100	\$
Meeker Chamber of Commerce		\$	400	\$	200	\$	-	\$	200	\$
NACD		\$	775	\$	775	\$	-	\$	775	\$
Special Districts Association		\$	1,601	\$	1,100	\$	1,650	\$	1,500	\$

Watershed	\$	100	\$	100	\$	-	\$	100	\$	100	\$	100	
CCDEA			\$	20	\$	-	\$	20	\$	20			
other (Turkey Fed)	\$	35	\$	35			\$	35	\$	35			
Election Expenses			\$	30			\$	100	\$	100		calculate	
Equipment Maintenance	\$	3,762	\$	1,500	\$	166	\$	200	\$	200			
Equipment Rental (loading tires)	\$	150	\$	400	\$	400	\$	400	\$	400			
General Property Tax Treasurer Fee	\$	2,174	\$	1,547	\$	1,597	\$	2,000	\$	2,000		4.80%	
Insurance:													
Employee Bond	\$	50											
Property & Liability	\$	4,043	\$	5,000			\$	6,000	\$	6,000		will pay in fall	
Life/Health (Employee)	\$	24,843	\$	45,000	\$	15,533	\$	45,000	\$	45,000			
Worker's Comp (Employee)			\$	800			\$	500	\$	500			
Payroll Expenses: (All Staff)													
See Staff Exp Sheet for details													
Salaries	\$	127,590.38	\$	238,455.00	\$	100,413.95	\$	198,486	\$	198,486			
BLM part time range payroll total									\$	25,000		If awarded year 5 budget amounts	
Salary Adjustment - Comp Absence	\$	2,564.07											
DNR Split	\$	41,666.70	\$	50,000.00	\$	33,333.36	0						
Medicare	\$	2,104.97	\$	3,293.00	\$	1,627.15		\$2,828		\$2,828			
CO Unemployment	\$	228	\$	900	\$	248.91	\$	390	\$	390			
PERA	\$	19,573	\$	33,452	\$	16,416.14	\$	32,838	\$	32,838			
Workman's Comp	\$	626	\$	800			\$	293	\$	293		will pay in fall	
Direct Dep Fee	\$	475	\$	800			\$	800	\$	800		where is Marlo putting this?	
Payroll Expenses Other	\$	13,013			\$	10,288.61	\$	-				look up what this is	
Annual Meeting	\$	5,240	\$	2,000	\$	1,229	\$	1,500	\$	1,500			
Legal	\$	788	\$	2,500	\$	356	\$	2,000	\$	2,000		need to meet with lawyer	
Natural Resource Tour			\$	5,000	\$	-	\$	5,000	\$	5,000			
Donations					\$	-	\$	-	\$	-			
Misc.	\$	7,701	\$	500			\$	500	\$	500		? Look up 2025	
Office Supplies: Postage	\$	378			\$	106	\$	200	\$	200			
Office Supplies: Other	\$	4,154	\$	3,500	\$	2,308	\$	3,000	\$	3,000			
Office Furniture/Equipment			\$	2,000			\$	2,000	\$	2,000			
Post Office Box/Postage	\$	162	\$	500	\$	-	\$	250	\$	250			
Natural Resource LUP (update)					\$	-	\$	-	\$	-			

Sponsorship				\$	200	\$	200	\$	200		
Publications/Newsletter (Public)			\$	2,500		\$	1,000	\$	1,000		
Subscriptions						\$	9,648	\$	1,000		includes GV and drone
Telephone & Internet		\$	2,298	\$	3,000	\$	1,534	\$	2,500	\$	2,500
Training - Staff & Board		\$	1,243	\$	5,000	\$	-	\$	1,000	\$	1,000
Travel (Lodging, Meals, Conf.)		\$	2,716	\$	10,000	\$	919	\$	2,500	\$	2,500
Website		\$	1,644	\$	2,200	\$	1,066	\$	1,800	\$	1,800
Grants Expenses:											
Range											
BLM Agreement (Monitoring & CRMP Contracts)		\$	25,578	\$	47,500	\$	13,146	\$	-	\$	63,436
RESTORE Grant (Travel)		\$	257			\$	51	\$	-		
RESTORE Grant (Contractors)		\$	48,916	\$	300,000	\$	5,301	\$	-		
STAR+		\$	48,900	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		
America the Beautiful Grant		\$	123,010	\$	80,000	\$	55,728	\$	-		
Water											
CWCB: Oak Ridge Park Ditch: Engineering - Little Beaver/coal		\$	4,099	\$	143,500	\$	3,925	\$	-		
CRD: Oak Ridge Park Ditch: Engineering: Coal Creek		\$	6,801	\$	24,100	\$	3,239	\$	-		
CWCB Water Supply Grant - Phase III WSRF: Data Collection		\$	8,868	\$	43,000	\$	-	\$	-		
CWCB Water Supply Grant - Phase III WSRF: Coordination		\$	10,807			\$	229	\$	1,000	\$	1,000
CWCB Water Supply Grant - Phase III WSRF: Other		\$	61			\$	-	\$	-		
Water Supply Grant - Phase III CRD: Logger Installation		\$	1,638			\$	-	\$	-		
Water Supply Grant - Phase III CRD: Planning and Coordination		\$	2,000			\$	-	\$	-		
											coordination and management shows up in payroll

Water Supply Grant - Phase III CRD: Tributary Measure/ Install	\$	7,218		\$	-	\$	-			
CWCB - Big Ditches: Facilitation and Coordination	\$	2,948				\$	-			current project, no current grant
CRD - Big Ditches: Facilitation and Coordination	\$	3,892								
CDS Big Ditches								\$	25,000	possible award Fall 2027, \$800k over 2 years
USFWS							-			2026
ORPD Ditch Company							-			2026
CAWA							-			2026
Forestry										
USFS: Contractor	\$	40,000					-			
DCT Training							2,000	\$	2,000	
CSCB & NRCS (DCT Forestry): Training	\$	256					-			
CSFS FRWRM Grant: Travel/other	\$	1,068	\$	1,500	\$	1,258	-			capacity cost shows up in payroll
Community Wildfire Defense Grant			\$	173,650	\$	11,189	118,950	\$	118,950	
NDME								\$	300,000	
CACD Demo: Contractual and Supplies	\$	3,813	\$	5,740	\$	5,163	-			not available for 2027
Other										
CACD - Demo Speakership Grant					\$	6,735				not available for 2027
CACD - Demo										not available for 2027
CSCB Supp Drone	\$	37,831			\$	8,573	-			
CSCB Matching Grant 2025: Contracted Services	\$	3,923	\$	40,000	\$	42,469	-			
CSCB Matching Grant 2026: Contracted Services			\$	22,500	\$	352	20,000	\$	20,000	
CSCB Matching Grant 2027: Contracted Services							22,450	\$	22,450	\$1000 additional allocated in timesheets (\$23450)
RMEF Reseeding 2026					\$	23,500	-			
RMEF Rejuvra 2027								\$	17,203	
RMEF Spring/Water line								\$	125,000	
Wildfire Recovery: YVCF			\$	50,000	\$	47,525	-			add \$100,000
Wildfire Recovery: CICA			\$	2,500			-			
Wildfire Recovery: TriState			\$	12,500			-			
Wildfire Recovery: Basin			\$	12,500			-			

Wildfire Recovery: Diversion Inf			\$	100,000			\$	50,000	\$	50,000	
Wildfire Recovery: other					66.15		\$	-			
CFB Relief Fund			\$	100,000			\$	-			
EWP: NRCS Contractual			\$	962,500			\$	-			
EWP: NRCS TA			\$	100,000			\$	-			
EWP: CO State							\$	-			
EWP: Landowners								0			
EWP: CRD Contractual (Carter)							\$	-			
EWP: CCLAT (Heil)							\$	-			
Landowner Resource Improvements							\$	-			
New Venture Fund: Contracted Services		\$ 2,893				\$	16,281		\$		
EWP Contractual		\$ 949,166							\$		
EWP TA		\$ 69,043							\$		
Information/Education/Public			\$	2,500					\$		
Rio Blanco County									\$		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$ 1,688,875	\$	2,676,022	\$	474,677	\$	570,290	\$	1,125,929	
ANNUAL NET		\$ (144,374)	\$	50,398	\$	(51,759)	\$	(152,587)	\$	(128,489)	
Ending Fund Balance December 31 (Beginning Bal. + Annual Net)											
Emergency Reserves - Do NOT Spend (3% of Annual Expenditures)											
Unrestricted Reserves (Ending Balance - Emergency Res.)		\$ 50,666			\$	14,240	\$	17,109			

WHITE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Operational Goals & Objectives

Long Range Plan for: 2026 - 2028

Operational Priority #3: Development of a Mill Levy Adjustment Roadmap

Why is this a concern: The District has primarily relied on mill levy funding since 1989 when it was passed. Beginning January 1, 2017 the District lost 84% of its funding because of an error found in the mill levy assessment. Each year the mill levy income has decreased. **2024/\$80,000. 2025/\$45,000. 2026/\$32,000.** The Districts are experiencing the most competition for funding and support in their history. Over 61.5% of District constituents from 39 responses to the Districts LRP survey, strongly support or support a small increase in the Districts' mill levy to support its mission, operational funding and core functions.

Three Year Goal(s): Develop a formal, written, step-by-step mill levy planning roadmap documenting all legal, financial, public outreach, survey, ballot preparation, and post-election implementation steps.

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
1 st Year	Coordinate with County Attorney, County Assessor, County Clerk and Recorder, and DOLA to verify all statutory and TABOR requirements and specific election deadlines.	County, DOLA,	50 Hours \$1750	Direct Assistance Mill levy
2 nd Year	- Conduct a full District financial sustainability assessment, including: - Current Mill levy authority and revenue - Five-year operating projections - Grant Match requirements - Staffing/program funding gaps - Explore: Social Media Education (Create 6 public listening sessions and stakeholder meetings) - Estimate Revenue - Homeowner/Ag tax impacts - Program/staffing capacity	Same as above	50 Hours \$1750	Direct Assistance Mill levy

	• Provide roadmap progress reports to Board			
3rd Year	• Refine final mill levy financial scenario and develop: -Draft authorized uses of revenue -Accountability & annual reporting framework -Determine whether to proceed to ballot placement -Identify Final mill levy target range • Implement authorized funding users • Conduct an action review and revise the roadmap	Same as above	50 Hours \$1750	Direct Assistance Mill levy



COLOTRUST FUND TRANSFER POLICY

Purpose

To establish a consistent process for authorizing and processing both internal (between COLOTRUST accounts) and external (between COLOTRUST and the General Fund) transfers of District funds in any bank account and to provide appropriate Board oversight, separation of duties, financial review, and documentation of all transfers.

1. Authorized Signers

Transfer(s) shall be initiated by an individual authorized on the District's COLOTRUST account. Authorized signers shall consist of two Board Supervisors, each with their own login credentials and authority to initiate transfers.

Either authorized signer may initiate a transfer when Board approval has been provided. The two authorized signers provide flexibility to complete an approved transfer when one signer is unavailable.

The District Manager shall have view-only privileges for the purpose of accessing and downloading COLOTRUST account statements and supporting financial records and shall not have authority to initiate or approve transfers.

2. District Manager Review and Transfer Recommendation

Prior to a Board meeting, the District Manager shall review the District's financial status, including available cash and any anticipated revenue shortfalls, before proposing a transfer from a COLOTRUST account.

The District Manager shall confirm that the proposed transfer is consistent with the District's budget and applicable financial policies before recommending the transfer to the Board.

The proposed transfer shall be placed on the agenda for the next regularly scheduled Board meeting or considered at a special meeting when necessary.

3. Board Authorization

Transfers of District funds between COLOTRUST accounts, subaccounts, or external financial accounts shall be authorized by the Board of Directors through formal action at a regularly scheduled or special Board meeting.



The Board's authorization shall be documented in the meeting minutes and shall identify, at a minimum, the amount to be transferred and the accounts involved. The purpose of the transfer shall be identified when appropriate.

4. Transfer and Recordkeeping

Following Board authorization, an authorized Board signer, in the physical presence of the District Manager or Executive Director, shall log into the COLOTRUST portal using their individual credentials and initiate the approved transfer.

Documentation of each completed transfer, including the applicable COLOTRUST transaction confirmation and account records, shall be retained with the District's financial records and made available for Board and audit review.

5. COLOTRUST Requirements

All transfers shall comply with current COLOTRUST requirements and procedures. The District Manager may maintain administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy, provided those procedures are consistent with this policy, Board direction, and applicable COLOTRUST requirements.

Adopted: _____

Effective Date: _____

Resolution/Policy No.: _____

White River Conservation District
President

Douglas Creek Conservation District
President

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO,
WHITE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, AND
DOUGLAS CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RIO BLANCO COUNTY LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCE PLAN AND POLICY

October 2026

Purpose & Need Statement: Ensuring effective, efficient, and coordinated implementation of the Rio Blanco County Land and Natural Resource Plan and Policy (NRLUP), while clearly defining the respective responsibilities and authorities of the County, Districts, and Natural Resource Policy Director.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Rio Blanco County, Colorado (hereinafter “County”) and White River Conservation District and Douglas Creek Conservation District (hereinafter “Districts”) on July 12, 2022 updated and restated the Rio Blanco County Land and Natural Resource Plan and Policy (NRLUP);

WHEREAS, the statutes and regulations outlined in the NRLUP detail the legal requirements for federal agencies regarding their duties in working with local governments that have adopted a land and natural resources plan;

WHEREAS, implementing the NRLUP requires the Districts and County to work closely together through a strong working relationship and coordinated engagement with federal, state, and local partners;

WHEREAS, the Districts and County intend, by this MOU, to provide a framework for determining the role of each entity, coordinating efforts, reducing duplication, and presenting a coordinated approach when working with federal agencies and other partners;

WHEREAS, the Districts and County intend to utilize the NRLUP as a guiding document for NEPA-related communications with federal agencies and to maximize the effectiveness of the NRLUP in guiding land management decisions made through NEPA;

WHEREAS, the County funds and retains employment and supervisory authority over the Natural Resource Policy Director, and the parties desire to clearly define the Director’s role in supporting coordinated County and District natural-resource policy work while preserving each entity’s independent governing authority;

WHEREAS, the parties recognize that the County and Districts are separate governmental entities and that each entity retains authority to establish, approve, and represent its own policies and positions;

THEREFORE, the County and Districts agree to the following framework to support effective and efficient implementation of the NRLUP:

1. County Responsibility and Authority for the Natural Resource Policy Director

The Natural Resource Policy Director (hereinafter “Director”) is a County employee and is solely under the employment, administrative, and supervisory authority of Rio Blanco County. The County is responsible for the Director’s employment, compensation, performance evaluation, and overall work priorities.

The Director’s responsibilities to the Districts under this MOU are intended to provide natural-resource policy coordination, information, research, administrative support, and other assistance consistent with this MOU. The Director will coordinate with the Districts on matters identified as District-led or joint priorities, but shall not establish, alter, or represent a District policy position without direction or authorization from the appropriate District Board.

Nothing in this MOU creates an employment relationship between the Director and either District, or grants either District supervisory or employment authority over the Director. The Director's service to the Districts under this MOU remains subject to the County's authority over the Director's employment and workload.

2. Coordination with Federal Agencies

The County and Districts will communicate with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) as identified in the NRLUP, including Section 2.3, County and District Expectations from Land Use Planning Process and Land Use Plan.

The County and Districts will determine whether their respective boards will enter into a Cooperating Agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the appropriate federal agency regarding a specific federal agency action and will communicate that decision to each other.

3. Lead Responsibilities

The County and Districts will identify and assign NRLUP topics to the entity that is the best fit based on expertise, responsibilities, and the nature of the specific issue or agency action. The intent of these assignments is to reduce duplication while ensuring that appropriate local expertise and policy interests are represented.

The designated "Lead" will serve as the primary contact for the assigned category or specific action, coordinate with the other entity and appropriate partners, and, when appropriate, draft initial comments or other materials for review. Lead responsibility does not transfer governing authority from one entity to another.

Lead assignments may be adjusted by mutual agreement when the circumstances of a particular project, agency action, or policy issue warrant a different approach.

4. County Lead Issues

The County will typically take the lead on the following issues identified in the NRLUP when providing written and/or public comment, drafting letters, engaging partners, or otherwise coordinating local-government participation:

- a. Oil, Gas, Coal and Minerals
- b. Travel Management, Access, and Recreation
- c. Wildlife Management

5. District Lead Issues

The Districts will typically take the lead on the following issues identified in the NRLUP when providing written and/or public comment, drafting letters, engaging partners, or otherwise coordinating local-government participation:

- a. Forest Management
- b. Livestock Grazing
- c. Wild Horses, Burros, Estray Livestock
- d. Vegetation Treatments
- e. Soils

6. Joint Issues

The County and Districts will jointly work on the following issues:

- a. **Noxious Weeds and Invasive Species** (vanessa moved these here)
- b. Candidate, Threatened, and Endangered Species; Critical Habitat Designations and Species of Concern
- c. Special Designation Areas & Scenic Byways / Viewshed
- d. Water
- e. Socioeconomics & Economic Viability
- f. County History, Custom, and Culture
- g. Air Quality

h. Climate Change

i. **Wildfire and Community Wildfire Planning** (vanessa moved these here)

Because many natural-resource issues cross subject-matter categories, the County and Districts may jointly address additional issues when appropriate.

7. Policy Coordination and Review

When drafting and submitting comments, preparing public comment or testimony, or otherwise engaging on the issues identified above, the County and Districts will collaborate and share drafts as appropriate to inform and assist each jurisdiction in exercising its own policy authority. When possible, the County and Districts will work to align positions consistent with the NRLUP, while recognizing that approval and execution timelines may not always align.

On issues for which the County is the Lead, the County will confer with the Districts as appropriate to ensure that relevant District interests and expertise are considered before finalizing and submitting comments.

On issues for which the Districts are the Lead, the Districts will confer with the County as appropriate to ensure that relevant County interests and expertise are considered before finalizing and submitting comments. (Reece suggested to remove this)

Nothing in this MOU requires either the County or a District to adopt or approve a position recommended by another party. Each governing board retains sole authority to approve its own policy positions, comments, testimony, letters, resolutions, and other official actions.

8. Differences in Policy or Interpretation

Should the three boards disagree on the interpretation or application of specific policy in the NRLUP, the parties will seek to resolve the difference through a joint meeting of the Boards. If the differences cannot be resolved, each entity may choose to submit its own comments or take its own position, with the understanding that separate positions may affect the collective effectiveness of the parties' engagement.

9. Joint Natural Resource Policy Committee

The County and Districts will convene joint Natural Resource Policy (DNR) Committee meetings at least quarterly to share information, identify emerging natural-resource issues, determine strategic policy actions, review legislative and regulatory developments, provide jurisdictional updates, and identify priorities and action items related to relevant NRLUP issues.

The DNR Committee may identify annual or periodic natural-resource policy priorities, designate lead and supporting responsibilities, and identify specific action items for the Director, County, and Districts. Such priorities will inform the Director's work to the extent appropriate and subject to the County's authority over the Director's employment, workload, and overall priorities.

10. Role of the Natural Resource Policy Director

Under the direction of the County, the Director will serve as Chair of the joint DNR Committee and will organize and schedule quarterly meetings, develop relevant policy briefs and legislative updates, prepare meeting agendas, maintain meeting minutes, and track action items identified by the Committee.

The Director will monitor and communicate relevant federal, state, and local natural-resource policy developments, agency actions, planning processes, legislative and regulatory matters, and other issues that may affect the County or Districts. The Director will make reasonable efforts to provide timely information to the appropriate entity so that the County and District Boards have an opportunity to determine whether and how they wish to engage.

The Director will provide policy coordination, information, research, and administrative support to the Districts on matters identified as District-led or joint priorities under this MOU. This may include assisting with agency coordination, policy research, preparation of draft materials, identification of partners and funding opportunities, and coordination of meetings, as appropriate and consistent with the Director's County-approved workload.

The Director may communicate information and coordinate with agencies, partners, and stakeholders on behalf of the County or in support of District-led work; however, the Director shall not independently establish or represent an official District policy position without authorization from the appropriate District Board.

11. Communication and Information Sharing

The County and Districts will maintain open communication regarding significant natural-resource policy issues, agency actions, proposed legislation or regulations, planning processes, funding opportunities, and other matters relevant to the NRLUP.

The Districts will inform the County and Director of relevant policy issues and proposed actions within the Districts' areas of responsibility. The County will likewise inform the Districts and Director of relevant County policy issues and proposed actions. The parties will share information and draft materials in a timely manner when doing so will assist coordinated engagement.

12. No Transfer of Governing Authority

This MOU is intended to establish a framework for coordination and cooperation and does not transfer, delegate, or diminish the statutory or independent authority of the County or either District. Each entity remains responsible for its own governing decisions, policies, official comments, public testimony, and other actions.

Nothing in this MOU shall be construed to require the County or Districts to act contrary to their respective statutory authority, adopted policies, governing-board direction, or applicable law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands and seals this ____ day of _____, 2026.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF RIO
BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO**

By: _____

Attest: _____

WHITE RIVER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: _____

DOUGLAS CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By: _____

Callie Scritchfield, Chairman

Shawn Luce, Clerk to the Board

President

President



Forest Health Program Manager Job Description

Position Function: The Forest Health Program Manager reports directly to the White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts (CDs) and works closely with the State, Federal and local partners to facilitate program development, project management, and contract management support. The incumbent is responsible for ensuring the development and implementation of forest management projects with agencies, communities, landowners, private sector partners, and other stakeholders to support strategic initiatives and long-term upland vegetation management and community resilience goals.

Position Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Work with partners, including the USFS, CSFS, NFF, CDs and others to help facilitate the develop of scopes of work and planning National Environmental Planning Act (NEPA) for watershed improvement, ecosystem restoration, fuels reduction, wildlife habitat improvement, and recreation enhancement projects.
2. Facilitate the advertisement, negotiation, and awarding of multiple contracts for services related to on-the-ground implementation of watershed improvement, ecosystem restoration, fuels reduction, wildlife habitat improvement, and recreation enhancement projects.
3. Work directly with contractors, consultants, nonprofit organizations, partners, U.S. Forest Service, CSFS, NFF, CDs and to coordinate on-the-ground implementation of watershed improvement, ecosystem restoration, fuels reduction, wildlife habitat improvement, and recreation enhancement projects effectively and efficiently.
4. Work with the USFS, CSFS, and NFF to help develop, modify, manage, and track Stewardship Agreements and Good Neighbor Authority agreements associated with forest restoration projects (e.g., hand thinning, mechanical thinning, prescribed fire).
5. Work closely with the White River Integrated Water Initiative, communities, and individuals to ensure continued public support for proactive forest management.
6. Actively pursue funding opportunities including writing grants for proactive forest management projects.
7. Support on-the-ground projects by facilitating productive and mutually beneficial partnerships between the USFS, CSFS, CDs, NFF, and other partners.
8. Support activities that reinforce existing collaborations and help build new partnerships.
9. Serve as a point of contact for the forest management activities related to the White River Integrated Water Initiative efforts.

Education and Qualifications:

- Minimum of an undergraduate degree or equivalent experience, in conservation, forestry, planning, range management, environmental science, or related field.
- At least two years of work experience with conservation programs, project planning, and/or coordinating project implementation, preferably on federal lands.
- Experience in project planning, coordination, accomplishment and budget tracking, and/or project operations management that involve multiple implementation partners, contractors, contracts for services, and funding sources.
- Experience with land and watershed science, policy, and management. Fire science, vegetation management, wildlife conservation, and/or meadow and stream restoration focus is preferred.
- Familiarity with the U.S. Forest Service purpose, National Forest lands management including special authorities such as the Wyden Act, GNA, and others.
- Strong communication, interpersonal, organizational, and administrative skills.
- Strong writing skills and public speaking experience.
- Familiarity with ArcGIS online, basic cartography, and map design.
- A valid U.S. Driver's License.

Abilities and Skills.

- Ability to understand and clearly communicate about forest restoration treatment types and systems, including restoration prescriptions, on-the-ground operations, treatment specifications, guidelines, and desired conditions for a diversity of forest and watershed ecosystem projects.
- Ability to maintain neutrality when working with people holding differing and sometimes conflicting opinions.
- Ability and willingness to travel regularly (day trips), work in outdoor and office conditions, and maintain a flexible work schedule with participation in weekend and evening events.
- Ability to work well independently and in a team-oriented environment.
- Ability to represent the CDs and partners in a clear and professional manner through excellent written and oral communication, and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to plan and implement projects in an effective, efficient, and organized manner.

Reece Melton, RBC Director of Natural Resources

During September, I supported Rio Blanco County and the White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts through natural resource policy research, document preparation, and project coordination. I advanced the Lake Avery Feasibility Study by reviewing the AECOM agreement against the Yellow Jacket MOU and Colorado River District grant award, developing the Project Coordinator services agreement, reviewing interview questions, and preparing the invoice for Yellow Jacket's \$40,000 contribution. I also drafted a County resolution supporting hunting, fishing, wildlife harvest, and public lands access, and developed support-letter language for a new jurisdictional determination for the Wolf Creek Reservoir project. Additional work included drafting a proposed CACD instream-flow policy addressing agricultural flexibility, landowner involvement, and low-flow administration; reviewing wolf-related citizen petitions and lethal-removal information; and researching the proposed lead-ammunition restrictions and Colorado River management developments. And coordinated and hosted the RBC interagency meeting. I also attended the two day USGS stakeholder meeting in grand junction.

[WRCD Board Packet](#)
2026 Policy Updates: September

1.) Wild Horse Advisory Committee and Wild Horses

Upcoming Meetings:

- Wednesday, October 21st - 8 am to noon
- Wednesday, December 16th - 8 am to noon
- Wednesday, February 10th - 8 am to noon

Elise Lowe-Vaughn is the new Chair.

Gather:

894 Horses Captured

9 Deaths (8 acute or pre-existing)

4 Placed in Foster Care

9 Stallions released in HMA

Only approx. 30 gathered from West Douglas

2.) Bison Update

Issue Description: CPW is finalizing the draft plan. Expect a reconvening of the working group. CPW has indicated they are starting work on the management plan.

Timeline: Wrap up monitoring by August, 75-100 range sites

DNR Committee Recommended Position: Engage on development of mgt plan

BoCC Position: Engage on development of mgt plan

Other Resources:

[Policy Doc](#)

3.) Wolves

Issue Description: On September 30, 2026, CPW temporarily suspended its chronic depredation directive, which guides lethal removal of wolves repeatedly attacking livestock. Future removal requests

WRCD Board Packet
2026 Policy Updates: September

will receive case-by-case review under a much more conservative approach because of concerns about wolf survival, possible disease, and uncertainty about additional introductions. Lethal removal remains possible, and CPW will continue reviewing retroactive permits for wolves taken in the act of attacking livestock or working dogs. Meanwhile, the agency will emphasize nonlethal deterrents, extend range riding in selected areas, and continue compensation under existing regulations.

Timeline: End in April 2027

NR Director Recommended Position: Oppose Comment at CPW Commission Meeting

BoCC Position: Opposed

Other Resources:

4.) Potential Stream Access Bill

Issue Description: There will most likely be a stream access bill carried next legislative session. I do not believe that will be carried by Senator Roberts or Representative Lukens. However, if it does come to the table it may be better to have Lukens and Roberts at the forefront of leading it.

Timeline: 2027 Session

NR Director Recommended Position: **Oppose,**

Districts Position:

BoCC Position:

Other Resources:

5.) Federal Legislation

Issue Description:

Little movement taking place on these federal bills related to NEPA, permitting and public land management. It will be interesting to see how these bills move along once the Senate chooses to address or not address the SAVE Act. Dynamics will most certainly change after the midterms.

Congressman Hurd's office will provide a federal update at Club 20 July 24th.

Post-Disaster Reforestation and Restoration Act of 2025

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2026 Policy Updates: September

Fix Our Forests Act (FOFA)
Healthy Watersheds and Healthy Communities Act
H.R.8682 - Accelerating Forest Management Act
H.R.184 - Action Versus No Action Act
H.R.8688 - Forest Health and Wildfire Risk Reduction Act
H.R.4776 - SPEED Act

Timeline:

Recommended Position:

6.) In Stream Flows

Issue Description: Stakeholder field visit will drive a draft list of conditions from CWCB. We will reconvene stakeholders to hopefully identify a consensus and edit the draft conditions from the State.

It is most likely it will be very difficult to align all local stakeholders on handling individual ISF's, but hopefully we can agree on conditions for flexibility.

Recommendation: Monitor

Timeline: End of 2026 through 2027

7.) Farm Bill

Issue Description: Farm Bill incoming in September. Congressman Hurd's office is working hard to hear local concerns. I plan to work directly with CACD, our Senators and Representatives to maintain critical provisions.

- Maintaining or increasing NRCS technical assistance funding.
- Preserving strong funding for EQIP, CSP, ACEP, and RCPP.
- Supporting watershed-scale projects, drought resilience, and forest health initiatives.
- Ensuring Conservation Districts continue to be recognized as key local delivery partners for USDA conservation programs.

What other key aspects do we need to advocate for?

WRCD Board Packet
2026 Policy Updates: September

Timeline: September

Recommended Position: **Support Passage:** Provide stakeholdering to Senator Bennet, Hickenlooper and Hurd's office(s)

8.) CPW Commission

Issue Description: The Commission continues to pass radical changes outside of staff recommendations. I plan to attend the next two Commission meetings to provide public comment. The Commission has over 10 citizen petitions on the docket that could impact sportsmen, wolf compensation and lethal take.

Commission members admitted the quiet part out loud. They moved forward the Prairie Dog Petition for Step 1 in November, outside of staff recommendations. I am working with CACD for them to engage at the next meeting. We should see a release of an issue paper from staff soon. There will also be two wolf petitions.

Wolf Damage Compensation Petition

Seeks to require producers to implement appropriate nonlethal measures after the first confirmed wolf depredation to remain eligible for compensation for subsequent losses. It also seeks stronger verification of indirect losses, such as reduced livestock weight. [ColoradoWild](#)

Wolf Chronic Depredation Petition

Filed by the **Center for Biological Diversity on March 9, 2026**. Seeks additional requirements before lethal removal, including site visits, documented use and exhaustion of nonlethal measures, carcass management, written determinations, and shortening chronic depredation permits from 45 to 30 days.

Recommendation: Submit written comments on Issue Paper. Attend Nov Meeting. I strongly encourage board members to attend. Carpool?

Timeline: Next Meeting Nov 4th and 5th Fort Morgan

NR Director Recommended Position: ENGAGE

9.) Initiative 137 Sales tax on sportsmen goods

Issue Description: This has made the Ballot. CACD is working with the proponents and DNR. Abbey plans to include us in discussions as they advance. Potential funding for districts and on the ground projects.

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Timeline: 2026 Election

NR Director Recommended Position: Monitor

10.) Final EIS Preferred Alternative Colorado River Management

Issue Description: The Bureau of Reclamation's August 2026 post-2026 Colorado River decision requires Arizona, California, and Nevada to collectively reduce Lower Basin deliveries by 1.25 million acre-feet annually for 2027–2028, while Colorado and the other Upper Basin states currently face no mandatory reductions. Nevada has filed a federal lawsuit challenging the decision, arguing that it unfairly places the shortage burden on the Lower Basin, signaling that unresolved disputes between the Upper and Lower Basins may increasingly move toward litigation.

Timeline: Ongoing

NR Director Recommended Position: Monitor

11.) Yellow Jacket Feasibility Study

Issue Description: I am the lead via the County. YJ and I will interview candidates for Project Coordinator sometime in September. The County needs to approve the grant award, RFP from YJ and Bid Proposal from AECOM. I will work directly with the project coordinator to meet grant requirements, get regular updates from AECOM and coordinate billing with county finance team. We have hired a Project Coordinator, Liz Chandler, we are finalizing her contract and contract with AECOM.

Timeline: Ongoing

NR Director Recommended Position: None

Interagency meetings

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

Beth Wiley

September 2026

In Review

- Rentals & Sales
 - Tire Tanks – Sales: 8 12' sold, another order in process, 8' tanks received
- Grant Administration
 - CACD Speakership final report and reimbursement completed and submitted
 - CACD Demo Grant reimbursement request and final report submitted
 - Waiting on Restore final reimbursement
 - MG25 Reseed final report and reimbursement submitted
 - DCT grant budget revised, submitted and approved for half time DCT position
 - Preparing for quarterly report cycle: AtB final report / reimb, FRWRM budget and SOW revisions and reimbursements, DCT, MG26, CWDG, CWCB / CRD ORPD, BLM annual report
- Administrative:
 - Ongoing: timesheets, payables, receivables, email correspondence, office organization and filing, meeting packets & agendas, notifications, phone, postal and email communications
 - SAM renewal submitted
 - CSD renewal in process
 - **2027 Budget planning**
 - Reset Tristan's email and other account passwords and monitoring correspondence
 - Attended SDA conference
 - Attended Watershed Committee meeting in Craig
- UPCOMING/ONGOING
 - MG2026 extension for ground squirrels
 - Budget adoption, mill levy certification, election cycle prep
 - 3rd Quarter reports