

Douglas Creek Conservation District Regular Board Meeting

Nov 3, 2026 – 6 P.M.

RBWCD Board Room, 2252 Main St. Rangely, CO
tbd

AGENDA

6:00 Call Meeting to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

6:05	Absentee Board Members	Approve
6:10	Agenda	Approve
6:12	Minutes	Approve
6:15	Financials: Bank Statement not available	No Action
6:18	Payables	Approve
6:20	Public Comments / Guests	
	• NRCS	

BUDGET HEARING

6:30	Consider approval of 2027 Budget	Discussion / Approve
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Old Business

6:50	Annual Plan of Work Updates	
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New Business

7:00	Employee hourly wage adjustment	Discussion / Approve
7:05	Ratify support letter	Approve
7:10	Proposition Results: re Districts	Discussion
7:20	CSCB Training Module	Discussion

Reports

7:50	Board Member Reports	
7:55	Reports: Exec Director / Forest Program Coordinator, Director of Natural Resources, District Manager	
8:10	Adjourn Meeting	

Upcoming Board Meeting:

6pm Dec 8, 2026 (Special), 2026 RBWCD Board Room

Other Meetings:

Nov 11-12: CACD Annual Meeting
Nov 16: Natural Resources Committee Meeting

Douglas Creek Conservation District
DRAFT: Regular Board Meeting Minutes
RBWCD Board Room – Rangely, Colorado
October 6, 2026 6:00pm

A regular meeting of the Douglas Creek Conservation District (DCCD) Board of Supervisors was called to order. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Attendance

Supervisors Present: Rosaly Coombs, Stu Massey, Mario Sullivan, Scott Robertson, Bill Hume (partial)

Supervisors Absent: Bill Hume arrived at 6:28pm

Staff Present: Vanessa Trout, Executive Director / Forest Program Coordinator; Beth Wiley, District Manager

Guests/Partners: Nakayla Lestina, NRCS; Reece Melton, Director of Natural Resources

Approve Absentee Board Members:

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

Bill Hume arrived at 6:28pm and was present for the rest of the meeting

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved and subsequently amended to include the September joint meeting minutes.

Stu Massey motioned to approve the agenda. _____ seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Scott Robertson motioned to amend the agenda to include the September joint meeting minutes. Stu Massey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes:

Stu Massey motioned to approve the September joint board meeting minutes. Mario Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

DCCD Financials: Staff reported no unusual items and noted the \$100 Watershed dues payable.

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

DCCD Payables:

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

Public Comments / Guests

NRCS Update: Nakayla reported fiscal-year closeout, pending CSP payments, ongoing contract management, and application-ranking information expected following a November meeting. She noted Rebecca Bartles had returned as a Pheasants Forever partner biologist working with NRCS,

Pheasants Forever, and BLM, and discussed temporary state leadership coverage and staffing uncertainties.

DNR Update: Reece Melton reported 894 wild horses captured and nine stallions released, with the West Elks count unresolved. Updates included CPW bison planning, wolf-management actions, CWCB in-stream-flow discussions, Lake Avery / Yellow Jacket feasibility work, and interagency meetings. He will clarify the bison engagement process with CPW and reconvene in-stream-flow stakeholders after receiving CWCB guidance.

Old Business

Annual Plan of Work Updates: Staff reported the Community Mitigation Assistance Team (CMAT) will visit October 18–31 to review forest-health and wildfire-mitigation work. A Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation grant request of approximately \$227,000 was submitted for spring and water-line improvements. Discussion addressed pending BLM wild-horse monitoring funds, publishing monitoring data, CRMP landowner projects, and federal-land coordination on bison management. No formal action was taken.

New Business

RBC LUP MOU: The Board reviewed a draft update to the County–Districts land-use-plan MOU, including the Director of Natural Resources role, differing policy positions, information sharing, and earlier District involvement in project planning. Members preferred further discussion with WRCD and the County at an October 20 natural-resource committee meeting or RBC Commissioner work session. Approval was deferred until the November board meetings. No action was taken.

Job Description – FPM: Staff presented the Forest Program Manager job description, combining FRWRM and CWDG grant responsibilities. The Board requested language explaining that employment is contingent on available and continuing grant funding before the position is advertised.

Mario Sullivan motioned to approve the Forest Program Manager job description with the addition of grant-contingent employment language. Scott Robertson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ColoTrust Transfer Policy: The Board reviewed a transfer procedure requiring prior board authorization, authorized supervisor login credentials, and a transfer conducted with District staff physically present.

Stu Massey motioned to approve the ColoTrust transfer policy with the District-office location requirement replaced by a requirement for the physical presence of the individuals involved. Scott Robertson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

District Goals: The Board discussed increasing District-specific projects and visibility for Douglas Creek landowners, including CRMPs, irrigation and ditch projects, rodent-management programs, and a possible landowner outreach meeting to identify priorities. Staff will explore outreach options. The Board also discussed resuming CACD supervisor training modules at future meetings.

Potential Supervisors: Not discussed.

Presentation / Receipt of Proposed 2027 Budget: Staff presented the draft budget for discussion only. The Board reviewed approximately \$61,428 in unrestricted reserves and a proposed \$14,000 wild-horse expenditure, with publication discussed as an alternative to video. Members discussed the existing interdistrict cost-sharing MOU, its 10% provision, and maintaining the current approach pending review in November. Staff will revise projections and expenses. The public budget hearing was set for November 3, 2026. No budget was adopted.

Amend LRP – Mill Levy Increase Planning: Staff reviewed the multi-year planning, public outreach, and community education required before a possible mill-levy ballot question. The Board supported

incorporating a three-year planning roadmap into its long-range plan; the revised plan will return for review and approval at a future meeting.

Stu Massey motioned to include mill-levy increase planning over the next three years in the District long-range plan. Bill Hume seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Reports

Board Member Reports: Scott Robertson discussed federal contacts related to bison and BLM coordination. A more detailed report on his Washington, D.C., meetings was deferred to a future joint meeting.

Staff Reports: Staff reports were incorporated into agenda items above.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Upcoming Board Meeting: DCCD November 3, 6 pm, 2026; public budget hearing planned.

Respectfully submitted, Beth Wiley, District Manager

Douglas Creek Conservation District
Profit & Loss
January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
County Contribution	2,221.88
General Property Tax	
Current Interest	1.04
Current Taxes	6,060.30
Delinquent Tax	0.09
Other	1.13
Senior/Vet Exemptions	5.63
Specific Ownership	227.32
Total General Property Tax	6,295.51
Grants	
Direct Assistance	8,854.40
Total Grants	8,854.40
Interest Earned	
Checking	2.14
Colorado Trust Interest Income	2,804.10
Total Interest Earned	2,806.24
Total Income	20,178.03
Gross Profit	20,178.03
Expense	
Advertisements	135.88
Audits/Accounting	375.00
Awards (Plaques/Posters)	225.00
Dues	
CACD	700.00
Club 20	30.00
NACD	775.00
SDA	359.96
Watershed	100.00
Dues - Other	102.50
Total Dues	2,067.46
General Property Tax Expense	
Treasurer Fee	303.32
Total General Property Tax Expense	303.32
Insurance	
Health/Life Insurance	1,262.59
Insurance - Other	1,090.00
Total Insurance	2,352.59
Meeting Expense (Annual mtg)	390.90
Office Supplies	2,039.48
Payroll Expenses	
RBC - Contracting Expense DNR	2,500.02
Salaries	6,434.38
Total Payroll Expenses	8,934.40
Postage	7.74
Telephone/Internet	120.87

Douglas Creek Conservation District
Profit & Loss
January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25
Travel Expenses	
Conference/Meeting Registration	70.00
Travel	204.82
Total Travel Expenses	274.82
Total Expense	17,227.46
Net Ordinary Income	2,950.57
Net Income	2,950.57

Douglas Creek Conservation District
Profit & Loss
January 1 through October 29, 2026

	Jan 1 - Oct 29, 26
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
General Property Tax	
Current Interest	0.19
Current Taxes	5,988.80
Delinquent Tax	0.04
Other	1.05
Senior/Vet Exemptions	6.94
Specific Ownership	184.26
Total General Property Tax	6,181.28
Grants	
Direct Assistance	8,950.94
Total Grants	8,950.94
Interest Earned	
Checking	0.87
Colorado Trust Interest Income	2,063.21
Total Interest Earned	2,064.08
Total Income	17,196.30
Gross Profit	17,196.30
Expense	
Audits/Accounting	400.00
Douglas Creek Split	11,001.61
Dues	
CACD	700.00
Rangely Chamber	57.50
SDA	374.00
Watershed	100.00
Total Dues	1,231.50
General Property Tax Expense	
Treasurer Fee	299.75
Total General Property Tax Expense	299.75
Miscellaneous	50.00
Total Expense	12,982.86
Net Ordinary Income	4,213.44
Net Income	4,213.44

Balance as of 10/29/26 =
General Fund Checking: \$13,810 before November payables.
ColoTrust: \$76,364.74

White River Conservation District

351 7th St
PO Box 837
Meeker, CO 81641
970-878-9838

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
9/30/2026	Inv-508

Bill To
Douglas Creek Conservation District

Other Payables: \$750 NACD Dues

Due Date
9/30/2026

Quantity	Item Code	Description	U/M	Price Each	Amount
	Reimbursement	July 2026 Split		615.58	615.58
	Reimb Salary	July 2026 Payroll		567.81	567.81
	Reimb Benefits	July 2026 Health Insurance		9.22	9.22
	Reimbursement	Aug 2026 Split		514.73	514.73
	Reimb Salary	Aug 2026 Payroll		624.49	624.49
	Reimb Benefits	Aug 2026 Health Insurance		11.65	11.65
	Reimbursement	Sept 2026 Split		140.33	140.33
	Reimb Salary	Sept 2026 Payroll		552.03	552.03
	Reimb Benefits	Sept 2026 Health Insurance		12.65	12.65
	Reimb Salary	Corrections to Q1 and Q2 non-grant payroll calculations		382.56	382.56
				Total	\$3,431.05

Accounts not paid within 30 days of the date of this invoice are subject to a 2% monthly finance charge.

July for August Payables

Vendor	Details	Amount	Billable to DC
Operating Expenses			
Credit Card Charges			
Clarks	snacks for Community Meeting (CWDG)	\$16.75	
Adobe	Adobe Acrobat One Year Subscription	\$239.88	\$23.99
Hydrosource	PAM	\$271.91	
Valley Hardware	Fuses for sprayer	\$7.00	
Valley Hardware	Tool Set	\$85.19	\$8.52
Valley Hardware	Electrical tape for sprayer	\$2.12	
Valley Hardware	wire harnesses and battery	\$35.94	
Google Play	Gdrive Additional Storage	\$0.49	\$0.05
Microsoft	Microsoft Office Powerapps - June	\$84.00	\$8.40
Microsoft	Microsoft Office Powerapps - July	\$84.00	\$8.40
FBC-Vonage	Office Telephone	\$49.82	\$4.98
Dollar Store	\$1.48: latex balloons for fire prep day (CACD Demo) (\$4.42 accidental personal charge, paid back)	\$5.90	
Walmart	Laptop (MG Supp - Drone)	\$3,499.00	
Total Credit Card Charges		\$4,382.00	
Checking - Operating			
Beth Wiley	Monthly Cell	\$30.00	\$3.00
CEBT	Monthly Insurance (ACH)	\$2,197.09	
Cimarron Telecommunication	Monthly Internet	\$50.00	\$5.00
Colorado CPA	Monthly Services: June and July	\$1,228.75	\$122.88
Rio Blanco County	DNR Payment	\$4,166.67	\$416.67
Streamline / Civic Plus	Website	\$137.03	\$13.70
Total Checks		\$7,809.54	
Total Operating		\$8,669.89	
Grant / Program Expenses			
American GrazingLands Service	Jim Gerrish Speaker Fees and Travel (CACD Speaker) *Hold for Reimb	\$3,100.00	
Herald Times	Wildfire Prep Day Ads (CACD Demo)	\$246.75	
Mike Lopez	Materials for Pipeline (ReStore) *Hold for Reimb	\$5,301.31	
Content for Good	Gerrish Video (CACD Speaker) *Hold for Reimb	\$2,000.00	
Tristan	Travel Reimbursement- GOCO Meeting	\$98.80	
Vanessa Trout	Travel Reimbursement - various site visits	\$114.92	
Tristan	Monthly Cell	\$30.00	
Vanessa Trout	Monthly Cell	\$30.00	
Total Programs / Grant Expenses (Checks)		\$10,921.78	
Total Grant / Programs checks plus credit card		\$10,944.43	
Total Payments		\$19,614.32	\$615.58

July for August Payables			
Vendor	Details	Amount	Billable to DC
Operating Expenses			
Credit Card Charges			
Amazon	Batteries (BLM)	\$110.88	
Amazon	Office Supplies: Pens, clips	\$80.45	\$8.05
Canva	Equipment rental posters (CACD)	\$19.17	
Dollar General	Sales and Rentals	\$1.07	
Google Play	Gdrive Additional Storage	\$0.49	\$0.05
Microsoft	Microsoft Office 365 Jul	\$25.20	\$2.52
Microsoft	Microsoft Office 365 Aug	\$25.20	\$2.52
Microsoft	Microsoft Office Powerapps	\$84.00	\$8.40
Rhinehart Oil	Gas (FRWRM)	\$29.97	
RiseGuide	Education (FRWRM)	\$15.99	
SDA	Annual Conference registration	\$415.00	
TicTok	Capcut Software (CACD Demo)	\$12.77	\$1.28
Vonage	Office Telephone	\$50.22	\$5.02
Valley Hardware	Sales and Rentals	\$63.86	
Valley Hardware	Sales and Rentals	\$22.98	
Wendells	Gift Cert (weekend delivery tip for tire tanks)	\$25.00	
Total Credit Card Charges		\$982.25	
Checking - Operating			
Beth Wiley	Monthly Cell	\$30.00	\$3.00
Ag Spray Equipment	Boomless Boom	\$266.92	
Blair and Assoc	2025 Audit	\$6,800.00	
CEBT (ACH)	Monthly Insurance	\$2,197.09	
Cimarron Telecommunication	Monthly Internet	\$50.00	\$5.00
Colorado CPA	Monthly Services	\$393.75	\$39.38
Rio Blanco County	DNR Payment	\$4,166.67	\$416.67
Streamline / Civic Plus	Website	\$137.03	\$13.70
TDA Construction	Tire Tank loading / unloading	\$400.00	
USPS	Annual PO Box fee	\$172.00	\$17.20
Windy Knolls Fencing	8' Tire Tanks	\$7,500.00	
Total Checks		\$22,113.46	
Total Operating (checks + credit card)		\$22,906.93	
Grant / Program Expenses			
Vanessa Trout	Travel Reimbursement - various site visits	\$135.28	
Vanessa Trout	Monthly Cell	\$30.00	
Total Programs / Grant Expenses (Checks)		\$165.28	
Total Programs / Grant Expenses (checks + credit card)		\$354.06	
Total Payments		\$23,260.99	\$514.73

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



National Association of Conservation Districts

FISCAL YEAR 2027 CONSERVATION INVESTMENT

Invoice Date: October 9, 2026

Customer #: 47997

Your Last Contribution Amount: \$775

Douglas Creek Conservation District

PO Box 837

Meeker, CO 81641-0837

Phone: 970 - 878-9838

Email: whiterivercd@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.whiterivercd.com/>

NACD is the nonprofit organization that represents America's 3,000 conservation districts and the 17,000 individuals who serve on their governing boards.

Through voluntary conservation investments from members, NACD strengthens the collective voice of conservation districts in Washington, D.C., builds relationships with lawmakers and federal agency leaders, and advocates for policies and resources that support locally led conservation.

Your investment also supports practical member services, including leadership webinars, educational resources, district tools, communications, and opportunities to connect with conservation leaders across the country.

As we begin FY2027, please consider renewing your contribution to NACD at the level that best reflects your district or association's available resources. Together, NACD members help advance locally led conservation on all lands across the United States and its territories.

NACD Secretary/Treasurer

Conservation Investment FY27

Review NACD's member benefits at each level on the backside of this form.

☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Sapphire	Platinum	Diamond	Gold	Contributor
\$5,000+	\$3,500 - \$4,999	\$2,500 - \$3,499	\$1,000 - \$2,499	\$999 or less

Payment Methods



To pay online (with credit card, ACH or PayPal), visit:

NACDnet.org/nacd-membership

To pay by check, mail check and form to:

NACD
509 Capitol Court NE
Washington, DC 20002

Please review your contact information and mark any necessary changes or updates on your returned invoice or use the QR code above.

Check Number: _____

Amount Paid: _____

GENERAL FUND BUDGET **Douglas Creek CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2027

DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL 2025	Budget 2026	EST. 12/31/2026	Proposed Budget 2027
Beginning Balance January 1	\$ 82,654	\$ 84,765	\$ 85,598.42	\$ 82,500.00
Gen Fund + Colortrust				
REVENUE				
2024)	\$ 2,222			\$ -
General Property Tax (RBC Mill Levy)	\$ 6,296	\$ 6,018	\$ 6,200.00	\$ 6,200.00
Landowner Volunteer Contributions				
Grants				
Direct Assistance	\$ 8,854	\$ 8,800	\$ 8,950.94	\$ 9,000.00
Other				
Other Income				
Interest Earned		\$ 2,500		
Colortrust	\$ 2,804		\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00
Checking	\$ 2		\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00
Annual Meeting Income				
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 20,178	\$ 17,318	\$ 17,551.94	\$ 17,601.00
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$102,831.89	\$102,083.00	\$ 103,150.36	\$ 100,101.00
EXPENDITURES ON NEXT PAGE				

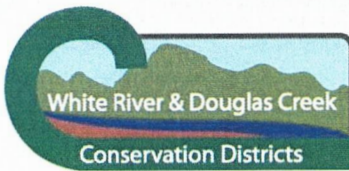
Proposed (Oct 8 Budget) 2027	added liability ins, removed Rosaly travel, updated DC split to reflect current ave of
\$ -	
\$ 6,200.00	
\$ 9,000.00	
\$ 2,000.00	
\$ 1.00	
\$ 17,201.00	
\$ 17,201.00	

DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL 2025	Budget 2026	EST. 12/31/2026	Budget 2027	Budget 2027
EXPENDITURES					
Advertisements	\$ 136	\$ 200			
Audits/Accounting	\$ 375	\$ 750	\$ 400.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Poster Contest	\$ 225	\$ 225	\$ -	\$ 225.00	\$ 225.00
Dues:					
CACD	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
NACD	\$ 775	\$ 775	\$ 775.00	\$ 775.00	\$ 775.00
SDA	\$ 360	\$ 400	\$ 374.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Watershed	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Club20	\$ 30		\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
Community Counts		\$ 50	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Rangely Chamber	\$ 68	\$ 65	\$ 58.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
Dues Other	\$ 35	\$ 35	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00
Election Expenses	\$ -	\$ 30	\$ 100.00	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
General Property Taxes (Treasurer Fee)	\$ 303	\$ 310	\$ 350.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Information/Education		\$ 100		\$ 100.00	
Insurance:					
Employee Bond					
Employee Health/Life	\$ 115				
SDA/CSD Liability Insurance	\$ 1,138	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	
Insurance other					
Landowner Resources Improvements					
Miscellaneous		\$ 75	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	
Natural Resources LUP (update)					
Meetings (District Annual Mtg)	\$ 391	\$ 750			
Office Supplies	\$ 2,040	\$ 2,500			
Employee Exp.					
Employee Salaries	\$ 6,434	\$ 8,000			
Benefits: PERA, Medicare, Unemp., Work comp., Health					
DNR	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000	\$ -		
Postage	\$ 8	\$ 50			

#

wild turkey

Fair
Sponsorship2025 Q4 split
\$1526 - reg
+ truax



Promoting the wise use of all natural resources

P.O. Box 837
351 7th Street
Meeker, CO 81641
(970) 878-9838

October 28, 2026

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission
6060 Broadway, Denver, CO 81216

*Submitted
10/29
10:39*

Re: Opposition to Proposed Prohibition on Recreational Prairie Dog Shooting on Public Lands

Dear Members of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission,

The White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts oppose the proposed prohibition on recreational prairie dog shooting on public lands and urge the Commission to retain Alternative One. As locally led governmental entities focused on conserving soil, water, vegetation, and related natural resources, the Districts believe wildlife management must balance ecological values with the needs of agriculture, ranching, hunting, and responsible land stewardship.

Approximately 75% of Rio Blanco County consists of federally managed lands that support livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Prairie dog colonies can create localized challenges through forage competition, vegetation loss, soil disturbance, and burrowing activity. In an arid landscape where forage is essential to both livestock and wildlife, land managers need practical options to address these impacts. Prohibiting recreational shooting on public lands could complicate coordinated population management across public and private boundaries, increase pressure on adjoining agricultural lands, and shift additional management costs to landowners and agricultural producers.

The Districts' position aligns with Rio Blanco County's **2022 Land and Natural Resources Plan and Policies (LNRPP)**. Section 4.15.3.1 (p. 97) calls for wildlife management objectives that consider habitat carrying capacity and multiple uses, including livestock grazing. Section 4.15.3.2 (p. 97) directs the County to "Support wildlife and wildlife habitat monitoring efforts and refine available habitat data." These policies support science-based, locally informed management that considers regional conditions and the interconnected needs of working landscapes.

We are also concerned that CPW staff acknowledged insufficient time for stakeholder engagement during development of the issue paper. A statewide restriction with potential consequences for ranchers, grazing permittees, public land managers, and neighboring landowners warrants current, regionally relevant scientific evidence and meaningful consultation before further restrictions are considered.

The White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts respectfully ask the Commission to retain Alternative One and not advance Alternative Two or a more restrictive prohibition at this time. Wildlife conservation and agricultural stewardship can coexist, but effective policy must recognize local conditions, multiple-use priorities, and the practical experience of those who manage these lands.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Collins".

Chris Collins, President
White River Conservation District

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rosaly Coombs".

Rosaly Coombs, President
Douglas Creek Conservation District

Purpose: *To make available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.*



LEGISLATIVE, LOCAL, AND REGULATORY ISSUES UPDATE

NATURAL RESOURCES
RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO
555 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 599
MEEKER, COLORADO 81641
reece.melton@rbc.us

1. In Stream Flows

- a. **Summary:** CWCB has sent conditions for E. Marvine, Mirror, and Paradise Creek. Stakeholders need to convene to discuss alternatives. We will present those conditions to CWCB and await their response.

- i. **Recommended Position:** Monitor

2. CPW Commission

- a. **Summary:** The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission is considering a petition to prohibit recreational prairie dog shooting on public lands, while separate petitions seek stricter requirements for wolf damage compensation and lethal control of chronically depredating wolves. Rio Blanco County has provided written comments opposing all three proposals. The County will also provide in-person comments. It is likely the next administration will re-appoint 5 members of the commission and remove the 5 unconfirmed Polis brought forward earlier this year. Best case scenario, the next Governor would remove nearly the whole commission to start “fresh”.

3. Yellow Jacket, Lake Avery Expansion Feasibility Study

- a. **Summary:** Liz hosted our first kickoff meeting with all of the partners. AECOM is in the process of gathering records, data, and other info primarily from the YJWCD and CPW to begin its assessments. The partners all agreed, at the direction of Liz, we should host a stakeholder info session prior to the completion of the study, and then provide stakeholders an opportunity to give feedback on the results.

4. Stream Access Bill

- a. **Summary:** After speaking with Senator Roberts last week, he does not intend to sponsor or lead any stream access legislation at the upcoming 2027 legislative session.

- i. **Recommended Position:** Oppose

5. Colorado River Management

- a. **Summary:** On October 16, 2026, Arizona filed a motion to intervene in Nevada’s lawsuit challenging the federal government’s plan for managing the Colorado River after 2026. Arizona argues the plan places excessive water cuts on the Lower Basin while failing to enforce what it contends are the Upper Basin’s water-delivery obligations. By seeking to join the case, Arizona aims to protect its water allocation and challenge the federal operating plan alongside Nevada. This action is against the federal government and does not constitute a direct lawsuit against Colorado or the other Upper Basin states.

- i. **Recommended Position:** Monitor

6. USGS Gauges White River Basin



LEGISLATIVE, LOCAL, AND REGULATORY ISSUES UPDATE

NATURAL RESOURCES
RIO BLANCO COUNTY, COLORADO
555 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 599
MEEKER, COLORADO 81641
reece.melton@rbc.us

- a. **Summary:** At the September 29 annual meeting, USGS highlighted challenging White River flows over the past two years and relatively few water-temperature standard exceedances in 2025 and 2026. Emergency sampling following the August 2025 Lee Fire debris flows found elevated nutrients, E. coli, and certain metals at downstream sites, demonstrating the monitoring network's value for tracking post-fire water quality. For 2027, Piceance/Yellow Creek stakeholder costs will increase 3.4% to \$128,818, while Rio Blanco County's White River contribution will increase 1.9% to \$19,320. Increased USGS cooperative matching funds helped offset rising monitoring costs, and USGS has asked whether the County is ready to proceed with its funding agreement.
- 7. **Wolves**
 - a. **Sub Topic:** SO (Secretarial Order) 3454 - Supporting America's Ranchers through Resilient Rangelands
 - b. **Summary:** [An important inclusion for Coloradans on Page 9 of the order](#) specifically assigns the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to complete a review and formulate a memorandum of understanding with Colorado "regarding the reintroduction of gray wolves into Colorado to (a) ensure that ranchers are adequately considered and compensated for livestock losses and (b) whether there has been full compliance with the program requirements and (c) evaluate program modifications that will address other problems identified by ranchers." (Club 20)
 - i. This is a significant opportunity to re-affirm the 10(j) rule and solidify lethal removal operations.

[Legislative Tracker 2027](#)

Ongoing Topics (No Update, see Sept 26th tab):

1. Wild Horses
2. Bison
3. Federal Legislation
4. Farm Bill
5. Initiative 137

DISTRICT MANAGER REPORT

Beth Wiley

Oct 2026

In Review

➤ Rentals & Sales

- Tire Tanks – Sales: 1 12', 1 *' sold, waiting on 2nd 12' order

➤ Grant Administration



- Restore final reimbursement still waiting
- Quarterly Reports and Reimbursements submitted in October:
 - CWCB WSRF Semi Annual Report Submitted
 - MG26, extension request denied, working to use up funds by increasing cost share to \$1500, promoting squirrel prepayment. Quarterly report and reimbursement for cost share only received: \$6,957.49
 - DCT Quarterly report and reimbursement submitted and received for: \$2,857.07 (payroll reimb)
 - FRWRM budget and SOW revisions and extension request / report, reimbursement in process. Est. \$15 – 20k (payroll, admin and supplies already paid for)
 - AtB Q3 Submitted for \$2,275.07 (payroll & admin)
 - CWDG Q3 Submitted for \$24,748.91 (\$6,748.91 = admin, payroll, supplies already paid for)
 - ORPD budget revision preparation / report, reimbursement in process

➤ Administrative:

- Ongoing: timesheets, payables, receivables, email correspondence, office organization and filing, meeting packets & agendas, CORA requests, notifications, phone, postal and email communications
- SAM renewal submitted (DC)
- CSD renewal completed
- CEBT renewal
- **2027 Budget preparation**

➤ UPCOMING/ONGOING

- Budget adoption, mill levy certification, election cycle prep
- District policy annual updates
- MG 26 outreach, grant ends Nov. 20