



Middle Park Conservation District

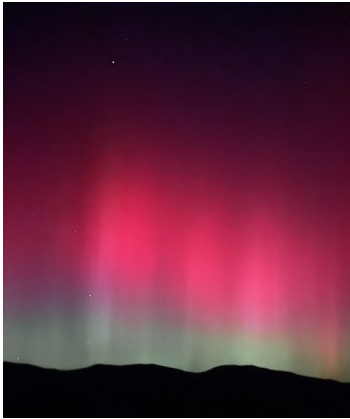
Motivating landowners to Pursue, Commit, and Deliver on-the-ground conservation practices

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Deb Wood—President
 Jay Yust—Vice President
 Justin Fosha—Secretary and Treasurer

John Longhill—Board Member
 Brien Rose—Board Member
 Katlin Miller—District Manager
 Mark Volt—District Conservation Technician

Photos of 2024



Aurora borealis near Granby in October



Double rainbow outside of Granby in June



Cattle grazing on lush spring shoots



A rare comet graces the sky in October

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Every three years, conservation districts in the State of Colorado must complete a Long Range Plan (LRP) to review accomplishments, assess current needs, and project future demands on the district. **In preparation for our 2025-2027 LRP and to better understand Middle Park Conservation District’s (MPCD) constituents and their interests, MPCD conducted a Community Survey in 2024.** This survey was available at our annual dinner meeting, included in our summer newsletters, and advertised in the Sky-Hi News and Summit Daily. In total, 65 people participated in the survey.

The results of the survey indicate a continued shift toward smaller acreage landowners and away from agriculture. Though the Middle Park Conservation District was founded by a group of ranchers from Grand and Summit Counties in 1957, the loss of prime agricultural lands to development has been a trend for more than a decade. As more city folk move into the area, it is important for MPCD to adapt with the times and **uphold our mission of promoting the conservation and wise use of land, soil, water, air, wildlife and related natural resources through education, program administration, and technical assistance for the benefit of all.**

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

⇒ **Half of survey respondents own 2 acres or less, only 10% of respondents own 100+ acres**

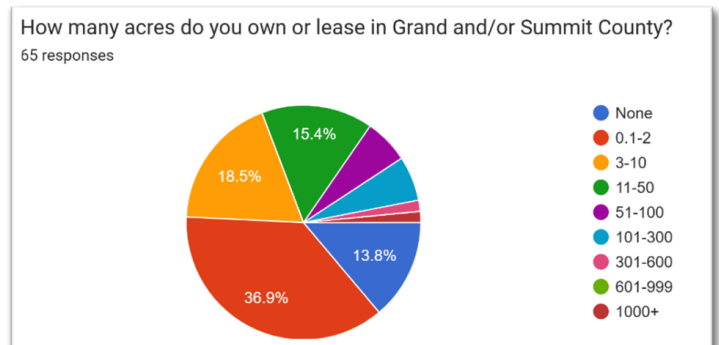
⇒ **Top resource concerns**

1. Noxious weeds
2. Wildfire prevention and preparedness
3. Water conservation and drought
4. Forest health
5. Water quality and soil erosion

⇒ **Traditional “agricultural resource concerns” like grazing, irrigation, range and livestock management ranked as secondary interests.**

⇒ **Top reasons for NOT ACTING on conservation practices**

1. Not knowing what to do or who to ask for help
2. Not having the time, equipment, or funds to complete conservation practices
3. The perceived belief that their land is perfectly conserved.



INSIGHTS TO ACTIONS

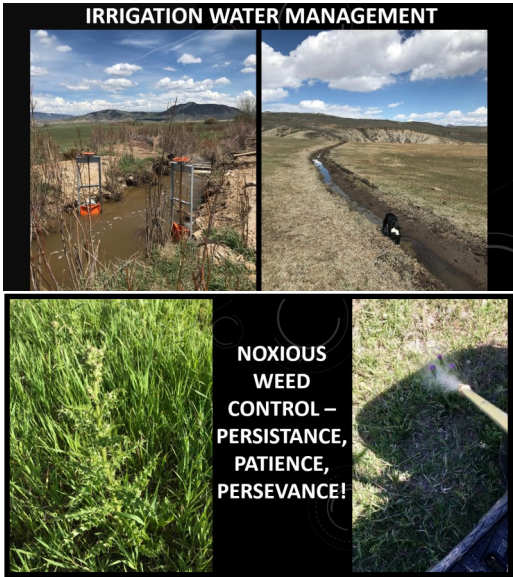
As MPCD transitions into 2025 and beyond, **we must increase our outreach to the non-agrarian residents of Grand and Summit Counties.** Whether you own 2 acres or 200 acres, noxious weeds will still encroach on disturbed sites, soil erosion will still persist in areas devoid of vegetation, wildlife will still meander through your property, and wildfires will still burn.

It is up to the Middle Park Conservation District to ensure that everyone is prepared to enact conservation practices no matter the size of their property.

Check out MPCD’s complete 2025-2027 Long Range Plan on our [District Transparency](#) webpage.

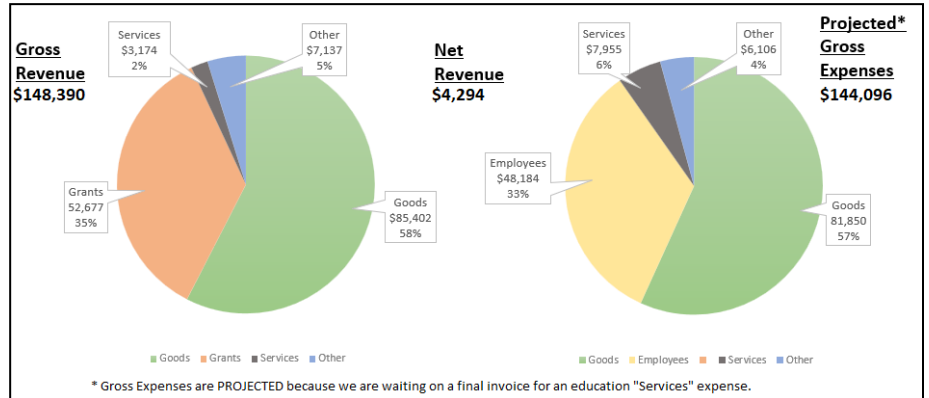
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2024 MPCD FINANCES

Grants received and goods sold account for the primary revenue sources of the District. Grants primarily come from the Colorado State Conservation Board and the Grand and Summit Boards of County Commissioners. Goods we sell include grass seed, tree seedlings, tire tanks, and polyacrylamide (PAM).



WORKING TOGETHER TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In 2024, Grand County owners and operators received \$265,645 in contract obligations through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding programs. Of the funds received, \$242,531 were obligated through our Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) that pays owners and operators to continue implementing conservation on their properties for 5 years. Funds obligated to improve water quality and quantity through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) totaled \$23,114. **In the last 5 years, NRCS has obligated \$1.3 Million in contracts within Grand County.** These contracts not only benefit the producer but also all the local businesses and contractors they work with to complete their projects.

Practices with contracts planned implementation in 2025

Herbaceous Weed Treatment
Conservation Cover
Fence
Irrigation Pipeline
Irrigation System, Microirrigation
Livestock Pipeline
Prescribed Grazing
Pumping Plant
Spring Development
Streambank and Shoreline Protection
Open Channel
Channel Bed Stabilization
Structure for Water Control
Watering Facility
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
Existing Activity Payment-Land Use
Existing Activity Payment-Resource Concern
Herbaceous weed treatment to create plant communities consistent with the ecological site
Harvest of crops (hay or small grains) using measures that allow desired species to flush or escape
Forage testing for improved harvesting methods and hay quality

ANNUAL GRANT PROVIDES CONSISTENCY IN THE OFFICE

Though MPCD and NRCS are two separate organizations, **we work hand-in-hand to provide conservation services and technical assistance to landowners.** Mark Volt, MPCD's District Conservation Technician, has worked in the Kremmling NRCS Service Center longer than anyone. He has local knowledge that others only dream of thanks to his history working for NRCS and MPCD since 1983. This local insight proves invaluable when working with landowners on various conservation projects.

Mark's position with MPCD is funded through an annual grant with NRCS and the Colorado State Conservation Board. We have been fortunate to retain Mark's position every year since 2017, and he will be retained for 2025 as well. In addition to providing technical assistance on conservation projects, Mark will hopefully train a new NRCS Resource Conservationist in Kremmling in 2025. Kara Vigneau, the previous Resource Conservationist, moved to Pennsylvania in early November. NRCS plans to replace Kara as soon as a suitable candidate is found.

