



MOTIVATING LANDOWNERS TO PURSUE, COMMIT, AND DELIVER ON-THE-GROUND CONSERVATION PRACTICES

MIDDLE PARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO BOX 265 106 S. 2ND ST.

KREMMLING, CO 80459

PH: 970-724-3456, EXT 4

middleparkcd@gmail.com www.middleparkcd.com

MIDDLE PARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT LONG RANGE PLAN 2025-2027

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Deb Wood—President

Jay Yust—Vice President

Justin Fosha—Secretary/Treasurer

John Longhill—Member

Brien Rose—Member

EMPLOYEES

Katlin Miller—Executive Director/District Manager

Mark Volt—District Conservation Technician (DCT)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

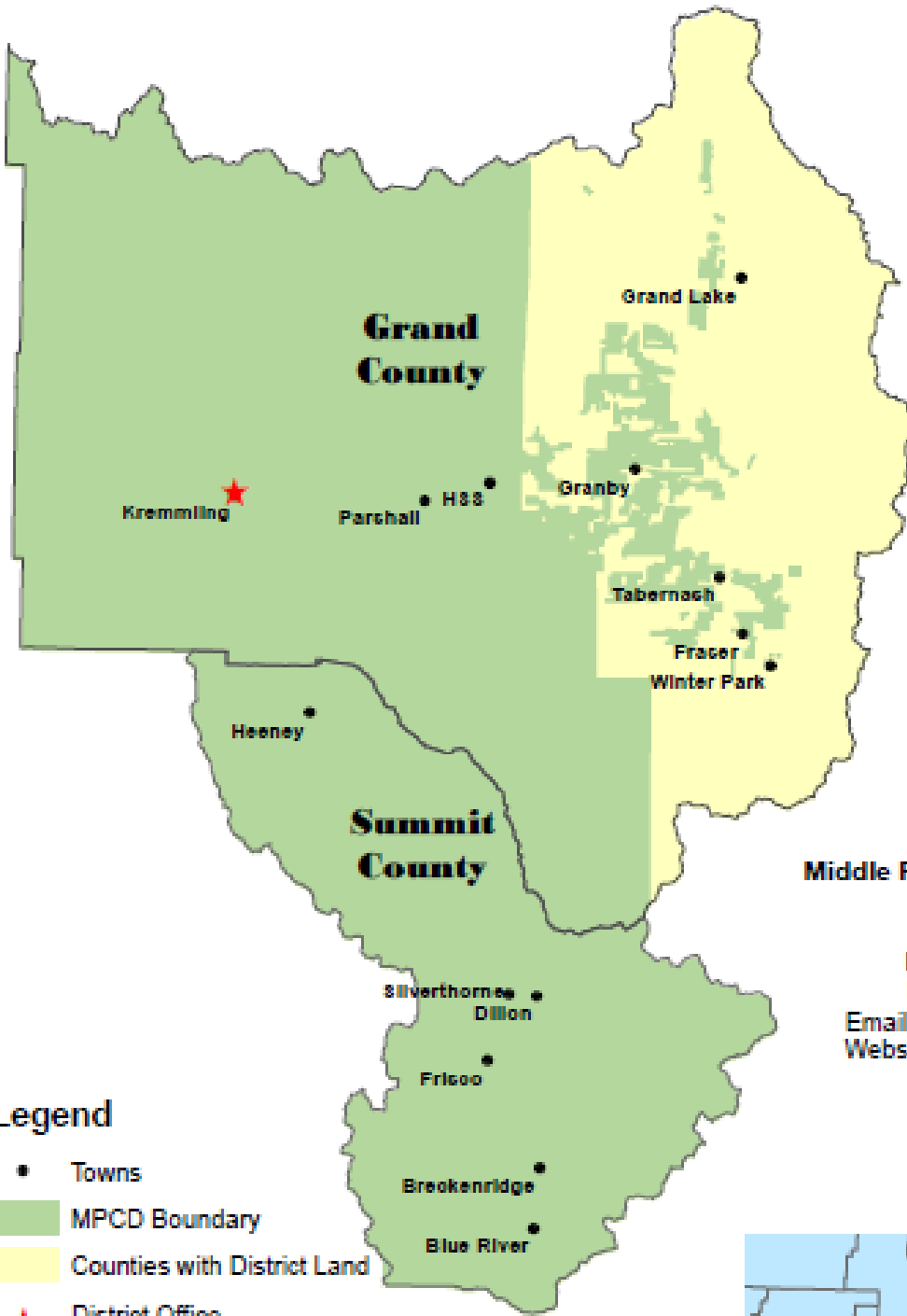
Kara Vigneau—NRCS

Ryan McNertney—CSFS Forester, Granby Office

Brianna Osborn—CSU Extension Director, Grand County

Dan Schroder—CSU Extension Director, Summit County

Middle Park Conservation District



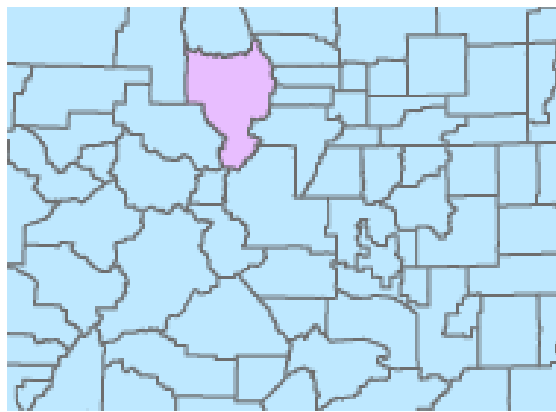
District Acres:
1,170,464

Updated:
December 29, 2015

Middle Park Conservation District
108 S. 2nd St.
PO Box 265
Kremmling, CO 80459
Phone: 970-724-3458
Email: middleparkcd@gmail.com
Website: www.middleparkcd.com

Legend

- Towns
- MPCD Boundary
- Counties with District Land
- ★ District Office





Middle Park Conservation District 3-Year Plan (2025-2027) Executive Summary

For more information contact: Katlin Miller, 970-724-3456, ext 4 (middleparkcd@gmail.com)

Organization of the Middle Park Conservation District

A political subdivision of the State of Colorado – authorities, powers and structure contained in Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 35, Article 70 (Colorado Soil Conservation Act).

- In February 1937, a proposed Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Law was submitted to the Governors by President Roosevelt. All states were encouraged to give authority to farmers and ranchers to organize Soil Conservation Districts. Colorado enacted its law three months later, in May 1937.
 - Twenty years after the enactment of the State Soil Conservation District Law, the Middle Park Soil Conservation District was formed. Ranchers from Grand and Summit County initially met at Jerry's Cafe on February 9, 1956, to discuss the formation of a soil conservation district. Then, on August 12, 1957, the certification of organization was issued by the Secretary of State and was recorded with the County Clerk and Recorder of both Grand and Summit counties.
 - The District initially consisted of approximately the western two-thirds of Grand County and all of Summit County; however, approximately 61,500 acres in the eastern one-third of Grand County were later added to the District by petition. According to 2015 ArcGIS files, the District now contains approximately 1,170,000 acres within its boundaries.
 - The office of the Middle Park Conservation District is based in Kremmling, and the 5-member District Board of Supervisors meets at least four times a year for regular board meetings and an Annual Dinner Meeting of the District's constituents.
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Function of the Middle Park Conservation District

To make available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so they meet the needs of local land managers regarding conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

Mission of the Middle Park Conservation District

To promote 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. We are committed to good land stewardship and sustainable use practices within Grand and Summit Counties.

Vision of the Middle Park Conservation District

To be recognized and respected leader in the community by fostering natural resources conservation and cooperation among government officials, non-governmental groups, developers, community organizations and associations, landowners and the general public through education, technical assistance, and planning.

Services of the Middle Park Conservation District

Middle Park Conservation District provides technical assistance through NRCS; provides information about funding opportunities available to landowners; and, when funds are available, the District provides cost-share programs for on-the-ground projects. The District also facilitates educational activities for local students and adults via workshops; classroom visits; publications; and quarterly newsletters containing information about events, natural resource issues, and educational articles. Finally, the District sells grass seed, tree seedlings, tire tanks, and polyacrylamide (PAM) to aid landowners in their conservation efforts.

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Middle Park Conservation District

Trends impacts conservation in Middle Park include conversion of agricultural lands to development, increased water diversions to Front Range and downstream users, climate changes trending toward a drier climate, high cost of conservation practices, and an influx of second homeowners (non-agrarian) to Middle Park.

Middle Park Conservation District
Long Range Plan 2025-2027

Natural Resource Data

The Middle Park Conservation District is located on the western slope of the Continental Divide in Grand and Summit Counties. The average elevation is 8,000' and above. The topography is characterized by rough, steep sloping mountains, gently sloping to rolling mesas, and valley bottoms dissected by numerous creeks and rivers. Most lands adjacent to these drainages are flood irrigated pastures and hay meadows, although some of those lands are succumbing to development. Major waterbodies in Middle Park include Grand Lake, Shadow Mountain Reservoir, Lake Granby, Williams Fork Reservoir, Wolford Reservoir, Green Mountain Reservoir, and Dillon Reservoir. Major waterways include the Colorado River, the Blue River, and both of their tributaries. Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and Denver Water both have storage reservoirs and transmountain diversions in Grand and/or Summit County.

Though Middle Park Conservation District's boundaries technically exclude much of 'East Grand County', the residents who live in the excluded area are not served by any other conservation district, as defined by the Colorado Soil Conservation Act of 1937. As a result, for over 60 years now, the Middle Park Conservation District has functionally served ALL landowners in Grand and Summit Counties.

- Middle Park, in its entirety, is approximately 1,592,000 acres in size (~1,196,000 in Grand and ~396,000 in Summit). The MPCD boundaries include approximately 1,170,000 acres (~774,000 acres in Grand County and all of Summit County's ~396,000 acres). According to July 2023 census estimates by the US Census Bureau, about 15,935 people live in Grand County and about 30,465 people live in Summit County.

- Approximate percentage of land ownership in GRAND COUNTY (2018 parcel data obtained from Grand County Gov):

67%	Federal Government (USFS, BLM, NPS)
17%	Agriculture/Forest Ag
8%	Residential, Commercial, Planned Development, Everything Else Not Listed Elsewhere in this Table
7%	Other Natural Resources/Conservation Easements
1%	Mining

- Approximate percentage of land ownership in SUMMIT COUNTY (2018 parcel data obtained from Summit County Gov):

80%	Federal Government (USFS, BLM)
9%	Agriculture/Forest Ag
6%	Residential, Commercial, Planned Development, Everything Else Not Listed Elsewhere in this Table
3%	Other Natural Resources/Backcountry/Open Space/Recreation
2%	Mining

- Approximate percentage of land ownership within the defined boundaries of MIDDLE PARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT (2018 data clipped from Grand and Summit Gov):

65%	Federal Government (USFS, BLM, NPS)
19%	Agriculture/Forest Ag
7%	Residential, Commercial, Planned Development, Everything Else Not Listed Elsewhere in this Table
7%	Other Natural Resources/Conservation Easements/Backcountry/Open Space/Recreation
2%	Mining

- Resource Inventories of the District

NRCS Soil Surveys

Grand County 1976, Summit County 1974, Web Soil Survey

- Below are current and historical data from the ag census/survey to illustrate trends in agriculture throughout Middle Park over time. In general, agriculture has decreased in Grand and Summit Counties over the years.

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National Agricultural Statistics Service's Quick Stats database, **GRAND COUNTY** (<https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov>)

Program	Year	County	Data Item	Value
CENSUS	2022	GRAND	AG LAND, INCL BUILDINGS - OPERATIONS WITH ASSET VALUE	267
CENSUS	2012	GRAND	AG LAND, INCL BUILDINGS - OPERATIONS WITH ASSET VALUE	205
CENSUS	1997	GRAND	AG LAND, INCL BUILDINGS - OPERATIONS WITH ASSET VALUE	168
CENSUS	2022	GRAND	AG LAND, OWNED, IN FARMS - ACRES	153,861
CENSUS	2022	GRAND	AG LAND, OWNED, IN FARMS - NUMBER OF OPERATIONS	261
SURVEY	2024	GRAND	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - INVENTORY	11,200
CENSUS	2022	GRAND	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - INVENTORY	11,389
SURVEY	2012	GRAND	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - INVENTORY	14,000
CENSUS	1997	GRAND	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - INVENTORY	25,066
SURVEY	1980	GRAND	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - INVENTORY	22,500
SURVEY	1965	GRAND	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - INVENTORY	24,000
SURVEY	1940	GRAND	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - INVENTORY	15,105
CENSUS	2022	GRAND	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - OPERATIONS WITH SALES	72
CENSUS	2012	GRAND	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - OPERATIONS WITH SALES	79
CENSUS	1997	GRAND	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - OPERATIONS WITH SALES	101
CENSUS	2022	GRAND	FARM OPERATIONS - ACRES OPERATED	249,554
CENSUS	2012	GRAND	FARM OPERATIONS - ACRES OPERATED	226,886
CENSUS	1997	GRAND	FARM OPERATIONS - ACRES OPERATED	242,866
CENSUS	2022	GRAND	FARM OPERATIONS - NUMBER OF OPERATIONS	267
CENSUS	2012	GRAND	FARM OPERATIONS - NUMBER OF OPERATIONS	205
CENSUS	1997	GRAND	FARM OPERATIONS - NUMBER OF OPERATIONS	169
CENSUS	2022	GRAND	HAY - ACRES HARVESTED	29,819
CENSUS	2012	GRAND	HAY - ACRES HARVESTED	30,297
SURVEY	1997	GRAND	HAY - ACRES HARVESTED	27,600
SURVEY	1980	GRAND	HAY - ACRES HARVESTED	33,200
SURVEY	1965	GRAND	HAY - ACRES HARVESTED	32,300
CENSUS	2022	GRAND	HAY - OPERATIONS WITH AREA HARVESTED	106
CENSUS	2012	GRAND	HAY - OPERATIONS WITH AREA HARVESTED	115
CENSUS	2022	GRAND	HAY - PRODUCTION, MEASURED IN TONS	35,710
CENSUS	2012	GRAND	HAY - PRODUCTION, MEASURED IN TONS	31,513
SURVEY	1997	GRAND	HAY - PRODUCTION, MEASURED IN TONS	45,000
SURVEY	1980	GRAND	HAY - PRODUCTION, MEASURED IN TONS	41,900
SURVEY	1965	GRAND	HAY - PRODUCTION, MEASURED IN TONS	51,150
CENSUS	2022	GRAND	SHEEP, INCL LAMBS - INVENTORY	135
CENSUS	2012	GRAND	SHEEP, INCL LAMBS - INVENTORY	224
CENSUS	1997	GRAND	SHEEP, INCL LAMBS - INVENTORY	643

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National Agricultural Statistics Service's Quick Stats database, **SUMMIT COUNTY** (<https://quickstats.nass.usda.gov>)

Program	Year	County	Data Item	Value
CENSUS	2022	SUMMIT	AG LAND, INCL BUILDINGS - OPERATIONS WITH ASSET VALUE	59
CENSUS	2012	SUMMIT	AG LAND, INCL BUILDINGS - OPERATIONS WITH ASSET VALUE	38
CENSUS	1997	SUMMIT	AG LAND, INCL BUILDINGS - OPERATIONS WITH ASSET VALUE	36
CENSUS	2022	SUMMIT	AG LAND, OWNED, IN FARMS - ACRES	14,385
CENSUS	2022	SUMMIT	AG LAND, OWNED, IN FARMS - NUMBER OF OPERATIONS	53
SURVEY	2024	GRAND	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - INVENTORY	600
CENSUS	2022	SUMMIT	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - INVENTORY	582
SURVEY	2012	SUMMIT	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - INVENTORY	1,800
CENSUS	1997	SUMMIT	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - INVENTORY	2,798
SURVEY	1980	SUMMIT	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - INVENTORY	1,800
SURVEY	1965	SUMMIT	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - INVENTORY	5,800
SURVEY	1940	SUMMIT	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - INVENTORY	4,599
CENSUS	2022	SUMMIT	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - OPERATIONS WITH SALES	18
CENSUS	2012	SUMMIT	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - OPERATIONS WITH SALES	13
CENSUS	1997	SUMMIT	CATTLE, INCL CALVES - OPERATIONS WITH SALES	17
CENSUS	2022	SUMMIT	FARM OPERATIONS - ACRES OPERATED	17,258
CENSUS	2012	SUMMIT	FARM OPERATIONS - ACRES OPERATED	25,365
CENSUS	1997	SUMMIT	FARM OPERATIONS - ACRES OPERATED	34,321
CENSUS	2022	SUMMIT	FARM OPERATIONS - NUMBER OF OPERATIONS	59
CENSUS	2012	SUMMIT	FARM OPERATIONS - NUMBER OF OPERATIONS	38
CENSUS	1997	SUMMIT	FARM OPERATIONS - NUMBER OF OPERATIONS	37
CENSUS	2022	SUMMIT	HAY - ACRES HARVESTED	1,967
CENSUS	2012	SUMMIT	HAY - ACRES HARVESTED	3,551
SURVEY	1997	SUMMIT	HAY - ACRES HARVESTED	6,000
SURVEY	1980	SUMMIT	HAY - ACRES HARVESTED	5,000
SURVEY	1965	SUMMIT	HAY - ACRES HARVESTED	6,670
CENSUS	2022	SUMMIT	HAY - OPERATIONS WITH AREA HARVESTED	21
CENSUS	2012	SUMMIT	HAY - OPERATIONS WITH AREA HARVESTED	17
CENSUS	2022	SUMMIT	HAY - PRODUCTION, MEASURED IN TONS	2,503
CENSUS	2012	SUMMIT	HAY - PRODUCTION, MEASURED IN TONS	3,160
SURVEY	1997	SUMMIT	HAY - PRODUCTION, MEASURED IN TONS	11,500
SURVEY	1980	SUMMIT	HAY - PRODUCTION, MEASURED IN TONS	5,300
SURVEY	1965	SUMMIT	HAY - PRODUCTION, MEASURED IN TONS	9,620
CENSUS	2022	SUMMIT	SHEEP, INCL LAMBS - INVENTORY	12
CENSUS	2012	SUMMIT	SHEEP, INCL LAMBS - INVENTORY	6
CENSUS	1997	SUMMIT	SHEEP, INCL LAMBS - INVENTORY	(D)

Middle Park Conservation District
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Natural Resource Priorities & Goals

Every year, the Middle Park Conservation District conducts a Local Working Group meeting and/or a Community Needs Survey to determine if we are still meeting the needs of our landowners. While many of the objectives stated below remain the same from year to year, they are adaptable. Our Board of Supervisors is prepared to modify any priority or objective as deemed necessary by landowner feedback and/or emergency priorities that arise. For example, in 2020, MPCD made a quick but necessary adjustment to normal activities to prioritize wildfire recovery after the East Troublesome Fire devastated 193,000 acres and nearly 600 structures.

From our 2024 Community Needs/Local Working Group Survey, we had 65 responses and learned the following:

- 75% of respondents were not involved in agriculture
- 50% of respondents owned 2 acres or less and all but 15% owned less than 50 acres
- Topics with highest interest are Noxious Weeds, Wildfire Prevention, Water Conservation, Wildlife Habitat, and Forest Health
- Reasons why people are not doing conservation projects:
 - They don't know what to do
 - They don't know who to ask for help
 - They think their property is perfectly conserved or is too small to do anything
 - HOA policies restrict their ability to do conservation practices
 - They believe having a conservation easement means they do not need to do conservation practices
 - They believe doing conservation projects is "very complicated and full of political issues"
 - For those actively involved in ag, "old age" was listed as a reason why they have not installed NRCS practices
 - For those involved in agriculture, irrigated cropland (hayland) and inefficient irrigation remain the top priorities.

The current natural resource priorities in Middle Park, as identified by our Board, are ***Forest Management & Wildfire Mitigation; Noxious Weed Management; Water Quantity, Quality & Conservation; and Ag Land/Livestock Management***. Wildlife Habitat Conservation is incorporated into each of these focal priorities as wildlife are impacted by each of them.

- **Forest Management & Wildfire Mitigation**: As a result of the East Troublesome Fire, Williams Fork Fire, and several other smaller wildfires in Grand and Summit Counties over the last few years, forest health and wildfire mitigation are now at the forefront of many residents' minds. While we do not celebrate the tragedies that have happened, we have and will continue to increase our efforts in forest health/wildfire mitigation realm.
- **Noxious Weeds**: Noxious weeds are a statewide concern due to their potential to degrade otherwise healthy habitats. Our goal is to curb the encroachment of noxious weeds in Grand and Summit Counties through partnerships with the Grand County and Summit County Noxious Weed Departments.
- **Water Quantity, Quality, & Conservation**: Grand County is the headwaters of the Colorado River, yet reduced water quality, loss of water to downstream/trans-basin users, and worsening drought conditions are concerns. We plan to work with our partners to educate landowners on drought and water conservation. Additionally, inefficient irrigation systems remain a top concern for our ranchers. Accordingly, we will work with NRCS to promote their Farm Bill programs. Furthermore, as workload allows, we will seek grant dollars to assist landowners with irrigation projects.
- **Ag Land & Livestock Management**: Agriculture has a large presence in Middle Park, especially in West Grand. This resource priority primarily deals with the management of range, hay, pasture, and soil for the purpose of sustaining livestock herds. This also includes promoting wildlife/livestock conflict mitigation. Our goals are to work with partners to promote programs that will a) maintain and improve the health, productivity, and ecological services of ag lands; and b) minimize wildlife/livestock conflicts.

Natural Resource Education Priorities and Goals

We desire to increase the Middle Park Conservation District's prominence in the community and become recognized by the residents of Grand and Summit Counties. We will continue doing this through outreach advertising and partner collaboration.

We also hope to inspire children to conserve our natural resources and go into STEM fields of study. We will continue to work with our partners on youth education programs, including field trips for local youth.

Conservation District Operational Goals & Objectives

We desire to enhance our current programs, work more closely with our partners, and continue to adjust priorities as needed based on community feedback and emergent situations that arise.

Based on a 2024 Community Needs Survey, we also need to increase our outreach to smaller acreage homeowners that are not interested in agriculture. We will NOT decrease our services to the ag community - just enhance our services for our non-ag clientele.

Staffing Needs

The District has a 5-member Board of Supervisors. The Board maintains one part-time Executive Director/District Manager. We also employ a part-time District Conservation Technician (DCT) who assists with Farm Bill programs and provides conservation technical assistance (CTA) to landowners in Grand and Summit Counties. The DCT position is funded through an annual grant from the Colorado State Conservation Board and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Accordingly, the DCT position is reevaluated on an annual basis based on need and grant funding.

Other Notes

The Middle Park Conservation District has a Colotrust Savings Account currently worth approximately \$122,000. Though it may seem like a lot of money, the Board feels it is important to retain these savings as an emergency fund in case of economic downturn or natural disaster in Middle Park.

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Natural Resource Priority: Forest Management & Wildfire Mitigation

Why is this issue a concern: The forests of Middle Park were plagued with the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic at the turn of the century. As a result, the majority of our mature lodgepole pine stands are now dead and prone to wildfire. While post-beetle kill forest restoration and management has been a concern of the District for years, the East Troublesome Fire brought this issue to the forefront of our residents’ minds and priorities. Our forests also provide habitat for many wildlife species, and it is essential that we conserve that habitat now and in the future. As so perfectly said by Pam Leschak of the USFS Community Mitigation Assistance Team (CMAT) *“It is time to move from awareness to action, messaging to mitigation, and words to work.”*

Three Year Goal(s): 1) Improve the health and productivity of our forests through proper forest management and wildfire mitigation; 2) Help landowners implement home ignition zone guidelines around their homes and work toward becoming a “Fire Adapted Community”; 3) Increase the habitat value of our forests for the wildlife that inhabit them and use them as corridors; 4) Provide landowners resources for post-fire recovery of their forests.

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY OR GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Sell tree seedlings and supplies to landowners for conservation purposes through the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) Nursery in Fort Collins or One Canopy Nursery in Loveland. <i>Increase sales by 1% over 2024.</i> B. Collaborate with partners to educate the public on forest health/management and how to improve the habitat value of those lands for wildlife. <i>If a workshop is held, increase attendance at workshops by 1% over the previously held workshop.</i> C. Collaborate with the Grand County Wildfire Council and other partners to assist landowners with wildfire prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and survival. Support Grand County’s efforts to create a “Wildfire Ready Watersheds’ Program. D. Collaborate with the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and NRCS on forest management planning and implementation. E. Encourage landowners to consider doing a 'Forest Stewardship Plan' with the CSFS and/or NRCS to properly manage their forests. 	CSFS, Grand County Wildfire Council (GCWC), CSU Extension, NRCS, Tree Nursery	60+ hours per year, \$18,000 per year. More money needed if grant funds become available for projects.	Tree Sales, Workshop Fees (if applicable), Grants (if applicable)
2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Continue selling tree seedlings and supplies. <i>Increase sales by 1% over 2025.</i> B. Continue educating the public on forest management. <i>If a workshop is held, increase attendance at workshops by 1% over the previously held workshop.</i> C. Continue working with the Grand County Wildfire Council, Grand County, and other partners on wildfire mitigation. D. Continue collaborating with the CSFS/NRCS on forest management planning and implementation. E. Continue encouraging landowners to do a 'Forest Plan'. 	CSFS, Grand County Wildfire Council (GCWC), CSU Extension, NRCS	60+ hours per year, \$18,000+ per year	Tree Sales, Workshop Fees (if applicable) Grants (if applicable)
2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Continue selling tree seedlings and supplies. <i>Increase sales by 1% over 2026.</i> B. Continue educating the public on forest management. <i>If a workshop is held, increase attendance at workshops by 1% over the previously held workshop.</i> C. Continue working with the Grand County Wildfire Council and other partners on wildfire mitigation. D. Continue collaborating with the CSFS/NRCS on forest management planning and implementation. E. Continue encouraging landowners to do a 'Forest Plan'. 	CSFS, Grand County Wildfire Council (GCWC), Extension, NRCS	150+ hours per year, \$18,000+ per year	Tree Sales, Workshop Fees (if applicable) Grants (if applicable)

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Natural Resource Priority: Noxious Weed Management

Why is this issue a concern: Healthy ecosystems are the foundation that support healthy wildlife populations and livestock herds. They are also the basis for ranchers and farmers to make a living and for recreational users to explore nature. When weeds encroach on otherwise healthy ecosystems, it creates a firestorm of events that deteriorate native habitats and pose a risk to the wildlife, livestock, ranchers, and recreational users that utilize those lands.

Three Year Goal(s): Curb the encroachment of noxious weeds throughout Grand and Summit Counties.

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY OR GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Promote the distribution of free, unregulated herbicide to landowners in Middle Park through the Grand and Summit County Noxious Weed Programs. B. Collaborate with partners to educate landowners on noxious weeds, the impacts of noxious weeds on native biodiversity, and noxious weed identification and control. <i>If a workshop is held, increase attendance at workshops by 1% over the previously held workshop.</i> C. Attend the annual county-wide Noxious Weed Board Meeting for Grand County. D. Work with Grand County Natural Resources and CSU Extension Summit County to provide seed for sale at their office. Planting desired vegetation can help mitigate weed encroachment. 	Grand County DNR, Summit Weed Department, Middle Park Habitat Partnership Program (MPHPP), NRCS, CSU Extension	30+ hours per year, \$500 per year	Workshop Fees (if applicable), Grants (if applicable)
2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Continue promoting the distribution of free, unregulated herbicide to landowners in Grand and Summit. B. Continue educating landowners on noxious weeds. <i>If a workshop is held, increase attendance at workshops by 1% over the previously held workshop.</i> C. Continue attending the county-wide Noxious Weed Board Meeting for Grand County. D. Continue providing seed for sale at Grand County Natural Resources and CSU Extension Summit County. 	Grand & Summit County DNRs, Middle Park Habitat Partnership Program (MPHPP), NRCS, CSU Extension	30+ hours per year, \$500 per year	Workshop Fees (if applicable), Grants (if applicable)
2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Continue promoting the distribution of free, unregulated herbicide to landowners in Grand and Summit. B. Continue educating landowners on noxious weeds. <i>If a workshop is held, increase attendance at workshops by 1% over the previously held workshop.</i> C. Continue attending the county-wide Noxious Weed Board Meeting for Grand County. D. Continue providing seed for sale at Grand County Natural Resources and CSU Extension Summit County. 	Grand & Summit County DNRs, Middle Park Habitat Partnership Program (MPHPP), NRCS, CSU Extension	30+ hours per year, \$500 per year	Workshop Fees (if applicable), Grants (if applicable)

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Natural Resource Priority: Water Quantity, Quality, & Conservation

Why is this issue a concern: Middle Park is the headwaters of the Colorado River. Water quantity and quality are highly dependent on the health and resiliency of watershed and ecosystem from which the water originates. As such, what happens here in Middle Park has the potential to affect millions of downstream and transbasin users. Water shortages, drought, and growing populations threaten the water resources here in Middle Park. However, if efficient water conservation practices are implemented, landowners will be able protect their water resources now and into the future. Additionally, many wildlife species inhabit the streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs, and wetlands in Middle Park. It is imperative that we conserve our water resources for the wildlife that use them.

Three Year Goal(s): 1) Educate landowners on water conservation and the link between water quantity/quality and watershed resiliency; 2) Provide funding opportunities for water conservation projects; 3) Increase the habitat value of our water resources for the wildlife that use them.

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY OR GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Collaborate with partners to educate landowners on the importance of water conservation for ag purposes, wildlife habitat conservation, and watershed resiliency. <i>If a workshop is held, increase attendance at workshops by 1% over the previously held workshop.</i> B. Assist landowners with irrigation improvements on their lands. C. Provide Polyacrylamide (PAM) for sale to improve ditch efficiency and reduce leakage. <i>Increase sales by 1% over 2024.</i> D. Provide Tire Stock Tanks for sale to landowners to better protect natural springs and as an alternative to rusted metal tanks. <i>Increase sales by 1% over 2024.</i> E. Work with Middle Park Habitat Partnership Program (MPHPP) to promote spring developments for livestock and wildlife. F. Work with other groups, as deemed beneficial by the Board, to conserve local water resources and water-dependent wildlife species. G. Collaborate with partners on Drought planning, education, and mitigation. 	NRCS, CSU Extension, High Country Conservation Center, Middle Park Habitat Partnership Program, Others as deemed appropriate, Grand and Summit Counties	1000+ hours per year, \$30,000 per year. More money needed if grant funds become available projects. Note: Irrigation work is primarily what our DCT works on. His salary and time are included above	PAM & Tire Tank Sales, Workshop Fees (if applicable), Grants (if applicable)
2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Continue educating landowners on the importance of water conservation. <i>If a workshop is held, increase attendance at workshops by 1% over the previously held workshop.</i> B. Continue assisting landowners with water efficiency projects. C. Continue selling Polyacrylamide (PAM). <i>Increase sales by 1% over 2025.</i> D. Continue selling Tire Stock Tanks. <i>Increase sales by 1% over 2025.</i> E. Continue working with MPHPP on water projects. F. Continue working with other groups, as deemed beneficial by the Board. G. Continue collaborating with partners on Drought planning, education, and mitigation. 	NRCS, CSU Extension, High Country Conservation Center, MPHPP, Others as deemed appropriate, Grand and Summit Counties	1000+ hours per year, \$30,000 per year	PAM & Tire Tank Sales, Workshop Fees (if applicable), Grants (if applicable)

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2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Continue educating landowners on the importance of water conservation. <i>If a workshop is held, increase attendance at workshops by 1% over the previously held workshop.</i> B. Continue assisting landowners with water efficiency projects. C. Continue selling Polyacrylamide (PAM). <i>Increase sales by 1% over 2026.</i> D. Continue selling Tire Stock Tanks. <i>Increase sales by 1% over 2026.</i> E. Continue working with MPHPP on water projects. F. Continue working with other groups, as deemed beneficial by the Board. G. Continue collaborating with partners on Drought planning, education, and mitigation. 	NRCS, CSU Extension, High Country Conservation Center, MPHPP, Others as deemed appropriate, Grand and Summit Counties	1000+ hours per year, \$30,000 per year	PAM & Tire Tank Sales, Workshop Fees (if applicable), Grants (if applicable)
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Natural Resource Priority: Ag Land & Livestock Management

Why is this issue a concern: Agriculture (specifically ranching) is an essential industry in Middle Park. Healthy ag lands provide wildlife habitat, creating the basis for ranchers and farmers to make a living, and supplying open space and quality aesthetics for recreational users. These resources are threatened by development, overgrazing, and weed infestation. Despite the ecological and economic benefits of agriculture, a new threat to ag in Middle Park is wildlife-livestock conflict, specifically the newly reintroduced grey wolf.

Three Year Goal(s): 1) Maintain and improve the health and productivity of our aglands and rangelands; 2) Increase the habitat value of our range and pasturelands for the wildlife that inhabit them and use them as corridors; 3) Enhance awareness about the importance of soil health to ecosystem health, services, and functioning; 4) Educate non-ag interests about the threat of wolves to agriculture and work with partners to improve wolf-livestock conflict mitigation measures.

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY OR GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Collaborate with partners to educate landowners about what healthy range/hay/pastures/ soils look like, how to better manage them, and how to improve the habitat value of those lands for wildlife. <i>If a workshop is held, increase attendance at workshops by 1% over the previously held workshop.</i> B. Sell weed-free grass seed to encourage revegetation of bareground, disturbed sites, and low-yielding haylands. <i>Increase sales by 1% over 2024.</i> C. Encourage landowners to test their hay quality to determine nutrient deficiencies. D. Encourage landowners to consider doing a 'Ranch Plan' with NRCS/ the District's DCT to better assess the needs, goals, and management of their properties. E. Work with Middle Park Habitat Partnership Program (MPHPP) to support range projects. F. Work with other groups, as deemed beneficial by the Board, to conserve rangelands and support soil health programs. G. Work with partners on wolf reintroduction education and wolf-livestock conflict mitigation measures. H. Support irrigation improvement projects and noxious weed management on ranchlands, as described above in the above resource concerns. 	NRCS, CSU Extension, Seed Wholesalers, MPHPP, CACD, Middle Park Stockgrowers, others	100+ hours per year, \$50,000 per year	Seed Sales, Hay Analysis Fees, Workshop Fees (if applicable), Grants (if applicable)

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<p>2026</p>	<p>A. Continue educating landowners on a variety of topics related to range, hay, pasture and soil management. <i>If a workshop is held, increase attendance at workshops by 1% over the previously held workshop.</i></p> <p>B. Continue selling weed-free grass seed. <i>Increase sales by 1% over 2025.</i></p> <p>C. Continue encouraging landowners to test their hay quality.</p> <p>D. Continue encouraging landowners to do a 'Ranch Plan'.</p> <p>E. Continue working with MPHPP on range projects.</p> <p>F. Continue working with other groups, as deemed beneficial by the Board, to conserve rangelands and support soil health programs.</p> <p>G. Continue working with partners on wolf reintroduction education and wolf-livestock conflict mitigation measures.</p> <p>H. Continue supporting irrigation improvement projects and noxious weed management on ranchlands</p>	<p>NRCS, CSU Extension, Seed Wholesalers, MPHPP, CACD, Middle Park Stockgrowers, others</p>	<p>100+ hours per year, \$50,000 per year</p>	<p>Seed Sales, Hay Analysis Fees, Workshop Fees (if applicable), Grants (if applicable)</p>
<p>2027</p>	<p>A. Continue educating landowners on range, hay, pasture, and soil management. <i>If a workshop is held, increase attendance at workshops by 1% over the previously held workshop.</i></p> <p>B. Continue selling weed-free grass seed. <i>Increase sales by 1% over 2026.</i></p> <p>C. Continue encouraging landowners to test their hay quality.</p> <p>D. Continue encouraging landowners to do a 'Ranch Plan'.</p> <p>E. Continue working with MPHPP on range projects.</p> <p>F. Continue working with other groups, as deemed beneficial by the Board, to conserve rangelands and support soil health programs.</p> <p>G. Continue working with partners on wolf reintroduction education and wolf-livestock conflict mitigation measures.</p> <p>H. Continue supporting irrigation improvement projects and noxious weed management on ranchlands</p>	<p>NRCS, CSU Extension, Seed Wholesalers, MPHPP, CACD, Middle Park Stockgrowers, others</p>	<p>100+ hours per year \$50,000 per year</p>	<p>Seed Sales, Hay Analysis Fees, Workshop Fees, (if applicable), Grants (if applicable)</p>

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Education & Additional Priorities

Why is this issue a concern: In addition to the natural resources goals and objectives listed above, the Middle Park Conservation District performs other activities throughout the year that are not directly tied to a Natural Resource Priority. Many of these activities relate to our District’s Vision and overall Educational/Operational Goals.

Three Year Goal(s): 1) Increase the Middle Park Conservation District’s prominence in the community and become more recognized by the residents of Grand and Summit Counties. 2) Inspire children to conserve our natural resources and go into STEM fields of study. 3) Work with partners, Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC), and County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to plan and prepare for future natural disasters.

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY OR GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2025-2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Promote MPCD’s <i>“High Country Rural Living & Land Management”</i> book. This guide is the ultimate guide to living in Grand and Summit Counties. B. Collaborate with partners to educate the youth of Grand and Summit Counties about conservation and agriculture through school, 4-H, and other programs. C. Increase general district outreach by talking with people about who we are, what we do, products we sell, and services we provide. D. <i>Increase our newsletter subscribers and our web presence by at least 1% each year.</i> E. Seek to renew the employment our part-time District Conservation Technician on an annual basis. The DCT is to work on Farm Bill programs and conservation technical assistance (CTA) for the District’s landowners. F. Prepare presentations for the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in Grand and Summit Counties on our annual activities & successes. G. Hold an Annual Dinner Meeting of the District’s constituents in collaboration with the Middle Park Stockgrowers Association. H. Work with NRCS to host an annual Local Working Group meeting and/or a Community Needs Survey to determine local natural resource concerns, priorities, and recommendations. I. Participate in the Colorado River Watershed Association and Colorado Association of Conservation Districts. Pay dues as funds allow. J. Perform Subdivision Reviews as needed for Grand and Summit County governments as needed. K. Provide an annual scholarship to a graduating senior in Grand or Summit Counties to continue their education in the fields of natural resource management, agriculture, or conservation. L. Work with partners, Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC), and County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to plan and prepare for future natural disasters. 	NRCS, CSFS, CSU Extension, Grand County Water Information Network, USFS, Local Teachers, CACD, Colorado River Watershed Association, BOCC (Grand & Summit), Grand and Summit County Planning Departments, Middle Park Stockgrowers, Northern Water	832 hours per year and \$27,000+ per year for DCT. 300+ hours per year and \$18,000 per year DM salary.	Direct Assistance, Product Sales, Grants (if applicable)

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MOTIVATING LANDOWNERS TO PURSUE, COMMIT, AND DELIVER ON-THE-GROUND CONSERVATION PRACTICES

MIDDLE PARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO BOX 265 106 S. 2ND ST.

KREMMLING, CO 80459

PH: 970-724-3456, EXT 4

middleparkcd@gmail.com www.middleparkcd.com

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that the 2025-2027 Long Range Program of the **Middle Park Conservation District** be adopted as the official program of the District as of this **7th day of December, 2024.**

Deb Wood, President

Jay Yust, Vice President

Justin Fosha, Secretary/Treasurer

John Longhill, Member

Brien Rose, Member

Reviewed by the **Colorado State Conservation Board**

CSCB President

CSCB Program Manager

Date

Date