



Middle Park Conservation District

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

2025 Annual Report

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

John Longhill—Board Member
Brien Rose—Board Member
Katlin Miller—District Manager
Mark Volt—District Conservation Tech (DCT)

Best Nature Photo of 2025



Northern Lights dazzle the sky on 11/11/2025.

REACHING THE MASSES

As a result of our 2024 Community Survey, the Board of Supervisors learned that **Middle Park Conservation District (MPCD) needs to increase our outreach to the non-agrarian residents of Grand and Summit Counties** to ensure that everyone is prepared to enact conservation practices no matter the size of their property.

To achieve this goal, **Middle Park Conservation District collaborated with the Grand and Summit County Treasurer's Offices to reach every landowner in both counties.** In January of each year, the Treasurer's Offices send property tax invoices to every property owner in their county. MPCD created a two-page informational flyer to accompany the 2026 tax invoices.

Roughly 18,000 flyers will go out in Grand County and 30,000 in Summit County.

We are excited about this outreach initiative and are eager to see if our efforts pay off with increased awareness about conservation and MPCD.

BREAKING NEWS

Conserving GRAND COUNTY'S Natural Beauty

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Grand County's scenery is the picture perfect postcard of alpine beauty, lush valley meadows, and dense forests of spruce, pine, and aspen. Several organizations in the county work to conserve our most valuable commodity - the Great Outdoors.



We cannot do it alone.

Read on to learn how you can help maintain Grand County's natural beauty.

LEAVE NO TRACE when enjoying the outdoors



Join Headwaters Trails Alliance and all land agencies in committing to the

7 Principles of Leave No Trace



CHECK OUT MIDDLE PARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT FOR MORE WAYS TO CONSERVE | WWW.MIDDLEPARKCD.COM

Death to Noxious Weeds



ORANGE HAWKWEED "LIST A" NOXIOUS WEED

Noxious weeds are non-native, invasive species. They are aggressive, spread rapidly, possess the ability to reproduce profusely, and can be challenging (but not impossible) to control.

Noxious weeds often establish when soil is disturbed by construction, motorized vehicles, road maintenance, recreation, improper livestock grazing, fire or mudslides. Noxious weed seeds can also be transported to new sites by wind, water, tires, people, and on wild and domestic animals.

Due to their ability to alter plant diversity and ecosystem integrity, it is CRITICAL that we all do our best to properly identify and manage noxious weeds on our properties.

Learn more about noxious weeds by checking out the Grand County Noxious Weed Guide or contacting Grand County Natural Resources.



DRY TIMES

Grand County has been in a persistent drought cycle for over two decades, and with climate unpredictability becoming the new norm, an increase in drought periods is predicted to become more frequent and severe.

In fact, some climatologists are beginning to describe this decades-long trend as "aridification" - a permanent shift towards a drier climate, as opposed to the episodic nature of drought.

When people think about drought (or aridification), they often think about hot, dry weather. However, the reality is that the drought conditions can begin in the middle of the winter. When we experience below average snowfall, we often experience earlier snowpack runoff, depleted soil moisture conditions, and increased vegetative stress in the spring. During the winter of 2024-2025, snowpack in the Upper Colorado River Basin was 67% of normal.

Water Conservation

Nearly 50% of the water consumed for residential use is applied outdoors.

Save water outside by:

- Not using sprinklers when it is windy
- Not watering when rain is in the forecast
- Watering your lawn every third day
- Watering from 6pm to 10am
- Installing drip or micro irrigation
- Xeriscaping (planting native, drought-tolerant vegetation and using rocks/pavers in landscaping)
- Limiting how often you wash your car

Save water inside by:

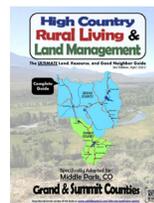
- Checking for leaky water fixtures
- Installing high-efficiency toilets, shower heads, dishwashers, and washing machines
- Taking shorter showers
- Turning off the water when brushing teeth
- Using cooking water to water house plants
- Use the dishwasher rather than handwashing



During the summer months, stay up-to-date with the current drought designation released by the Grand County Drought Preparedness Committee.



Ultimate Landowner Guide



When Grand and Summit Counties were settled, most residents were homegrown experts in agriculture and proper land management. Nowadays, most residents and newcomers are second homeowners and town folk. Living in rural mountain communities promises both challenges and rewards. We hope, through this guide, you will:

- Better understand the limitations and opportunities created by living in the mountains;
- Set achievable goals for your property and lifestyle;
- Grasp conservation-minded principles and acknowledge the importance of conserving our precious natural resources.

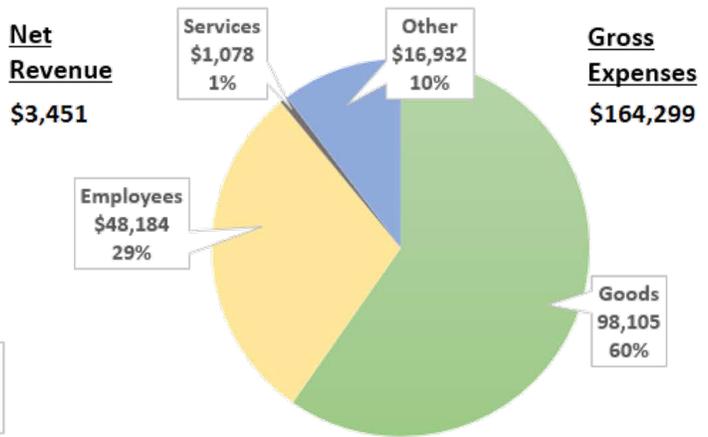
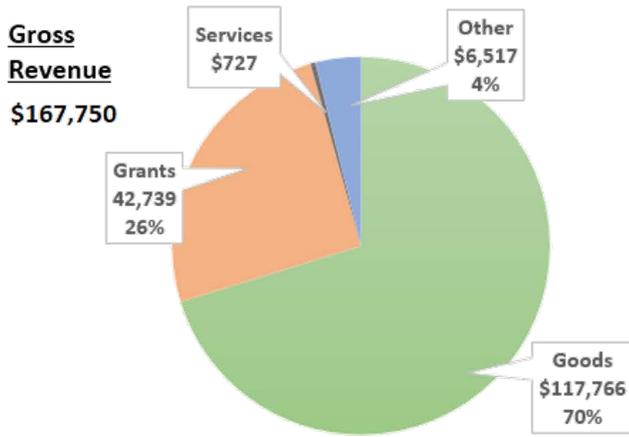
This 64-page guide is so thorough that everyone is bound to learn something new. Sections include:

- Contacts for Local Organizations and Need to Know Info
- Homesite Preparation and Conflict Minimization in rural areas
- Noxious Weeds, Forest Health, and Wildfire Mitigation
- Water Conservation, Gardening, Wildlife, and Production Agriculture
- and more!



CONSERVE TODAY SO YOUR CHILDREN CAN ENJOY TOMORROW!

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



Note: Gross Expenses do not include the cost of the tax mailers described on the previous page. They will be on the 2026 finances.

NOTE FOR ARTICLE TO THE RIGHT: In January 2026, NRCS decided to reimburse us for the costs of the DCT during the shutdown. MPCD appreciatively accepted this reimbursement, but it does not negate the importance of our other funding sources. This reimbursement was not guaranteed, and without our other funding sources that could "pick up the tab" when our grant funding was uncertain, we would have had to furlough Mark.

WORKING THRU THE SHUTDOWN

As we all know, this year's federal government shutdown affected many. Middle Park Conservation District is a political subdivision of the State, similar to a special district. Despite being locally-run, MPCD is innately tied to the federal government through our association with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Our office is in an NRCS-leased building. Additionally, the salary of our District Conservation Technician (DCT), Mark Volt, is funded primarily through a grant from NRCS. Per the terms of the DCT grant, Mark is required to work primarily on NRCS projects.

During the shutdown, MPCD personnel were not permitted to work in our office building, use any NRCS-owned equipment or vehicles, or receive any federal grant funding. Fortunately, our District Manager, Katlin, works remotely and is entirely funded by MPCD, so she was not affected by the shutdown. Mark was impacted, but that did not stop him. Mark worked in the field on projects that required no NRCS specialty equipment and that were close to home (because he had to use his personal vehicle).

Despite the shutdown's limitations, Mark persevered and helped landowners get quality conservation projects on the ground. During this time, MPCD paid his whole salary with funds acquired through local grants and the sale of seed, trees, tire tanks, and polyacrylamide.

MPCD is very grateful for Mark Volt. His passion for the job he loves and his dedication to the community members he serves make him an incredible human being and an invaluable resource for the Middle Park Conservation District.



Leaky ditch repair, irrigation erosion control, and simple headgate diversion installation



Irrigation pump project on the Colorado River. Mark worked during the shutdown to see this project through completion.