



# **2024 Annual Report** **Bookcliff, Mount Sopris** **& South Side** **Conservation Districts**

**Our mission is to promote stewardship of our natural resources and environment, provide leadership, and encourage wise resource management decisions through education.**



# BOOKCLIFF CONSERVATION DISTRICT

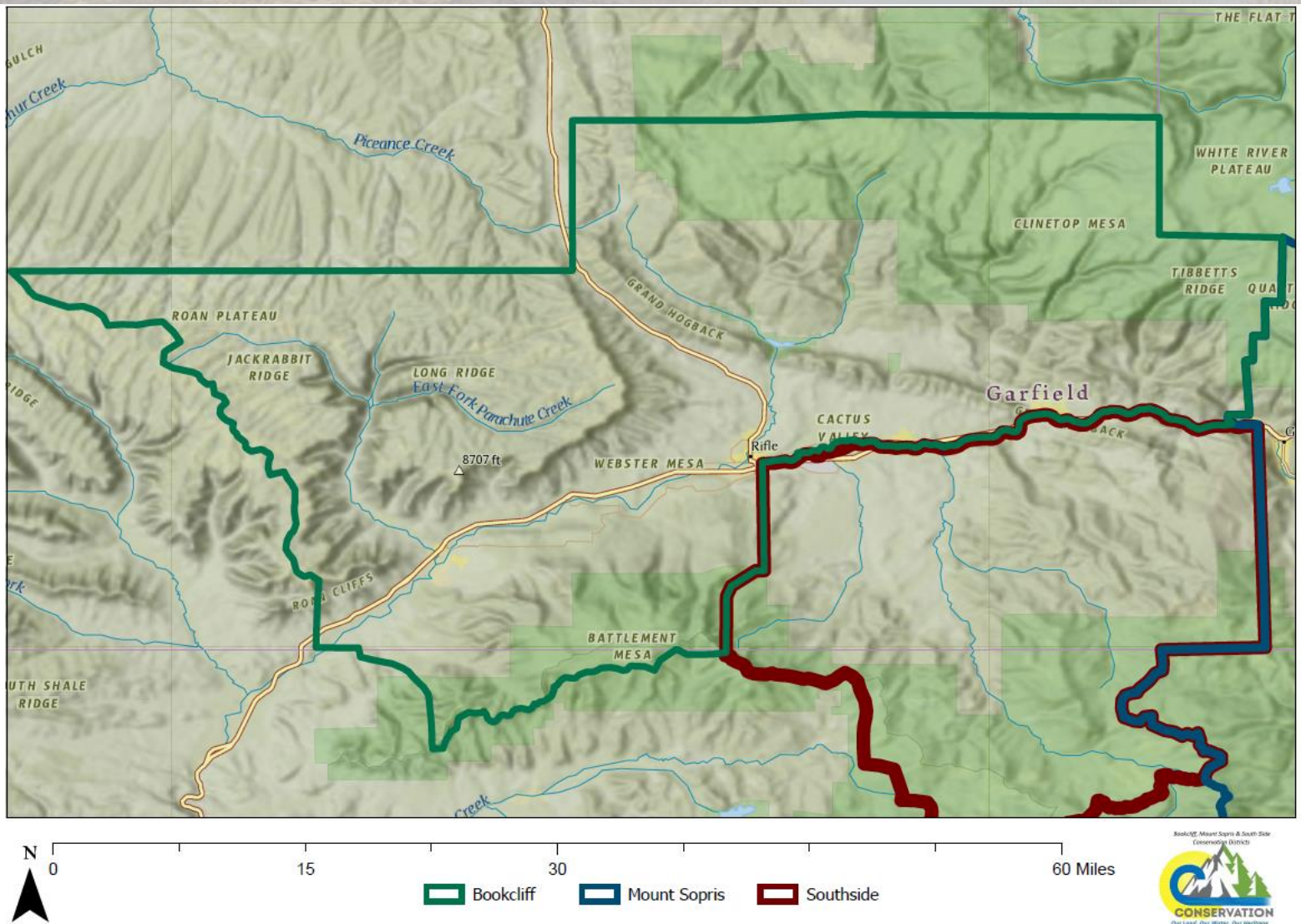
## Board Members

Raymond Langstaff, President  
 Tony Barrie, Vice President  
 Charles Ryden, Secretary/Treasurer  
 Elizabeth "Grey" Mello, Board Members  
 Jen Ghigiarelli, Board Member

### **In 2024 Boards approved increasing the Norman Hunt Memorial Scholarship**

Scholarship of \$1,000.00 every year for up to four years. We will require student to maintain a 2.5 GPA through the 4 years and submit yearly proof of enrollment and a written progress report.

2024 Recipient: Kellen Johnson





# MOUNT SOPRIS CONSERVATION DISTRICT

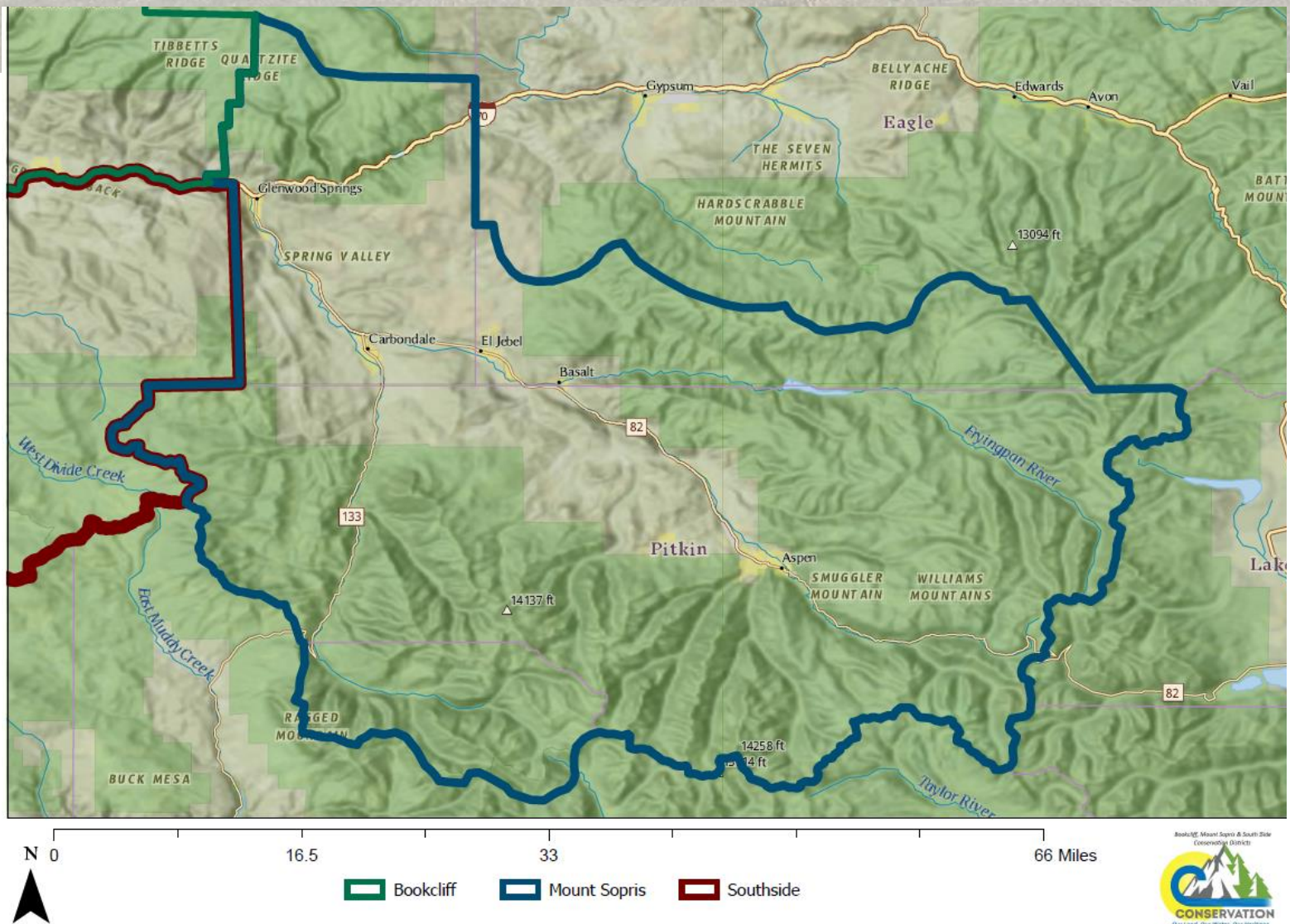
## Board Members

Jeff Nieslanik, President  
Sandy Jackson, Vice President  
Robert Burry, Secretary/Treasurer  
Cassie Cerise, Board Members  
Mike Wilde, Board Member

### Scholarships:

**\$1000 awarded to:**

**Taylor Antes from Basalt High School**





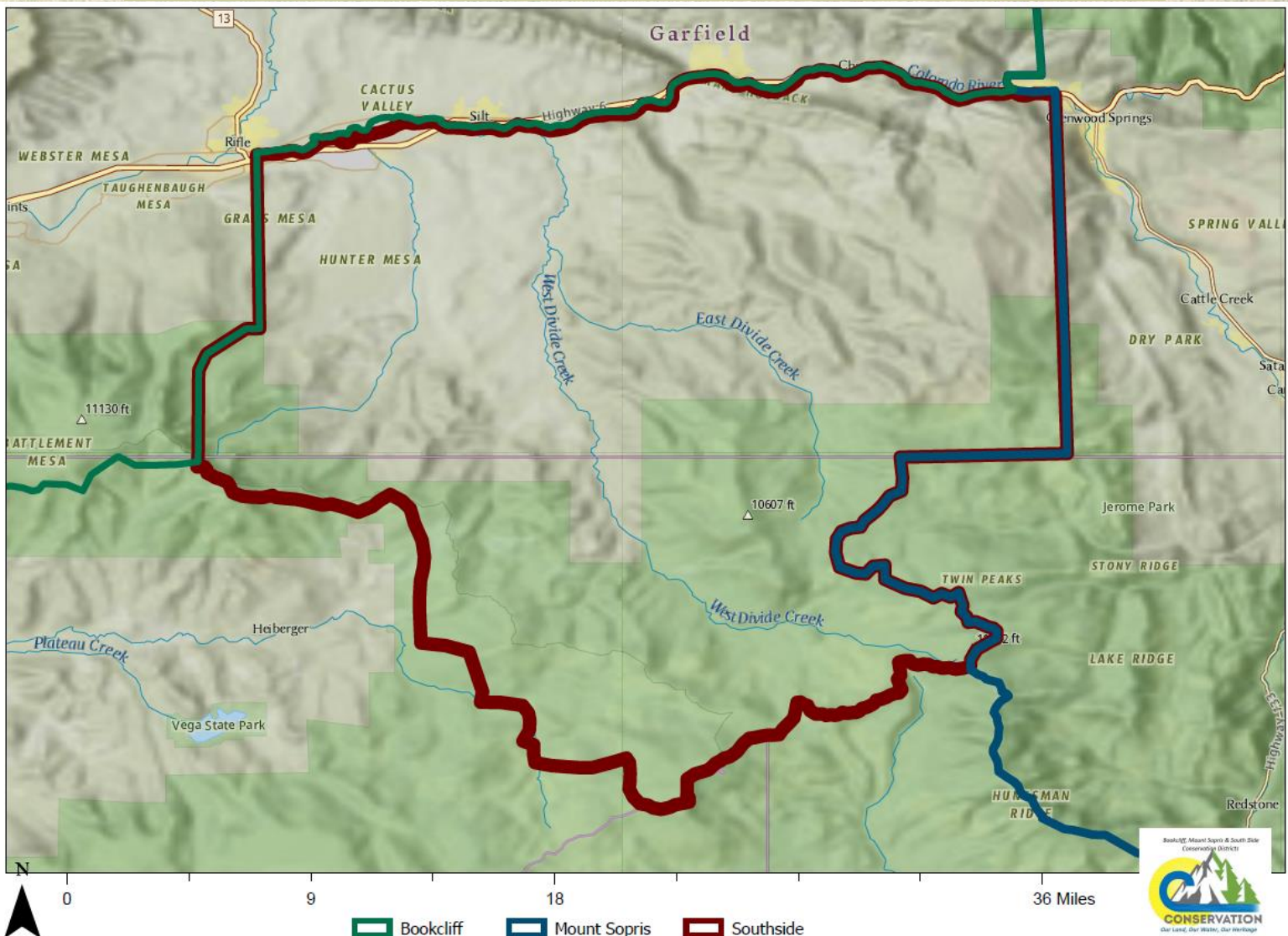
# SOUTH SIDE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Board Members

Brett Jolly, President  
Mike Tornes, Vice President  
Brit McLin, Secretary/Treasurer  
Angela Ryden, Board Members  
Kyle Laidlaw, Board Member

Supplemental Noxious Weed Cost Share Reimbursements in South Side:  
**\$13,000**

**Made Possible by grant from CDA and matched by unanimous approval from the board of supervisors.**





# SOIL HEALTH PROGRAM

## Soil Health Principles



Minimize soil disturbance



Continual live plant/root



Through the Colorado Department of Agriculture's Soil Health Program we have enrolled  
**14 Producers. Total Acres: 992.7**

Reimbursement to Landowners in 2024:

**\$36,656.25**

Estimated Reimbursement to Landowners in 2025:

**\$54,123.75**





# SOIL HEALTH PROGRAM

**All participants receive soil tests on year 1 and 3 and a Soil Moisture Monitor.**

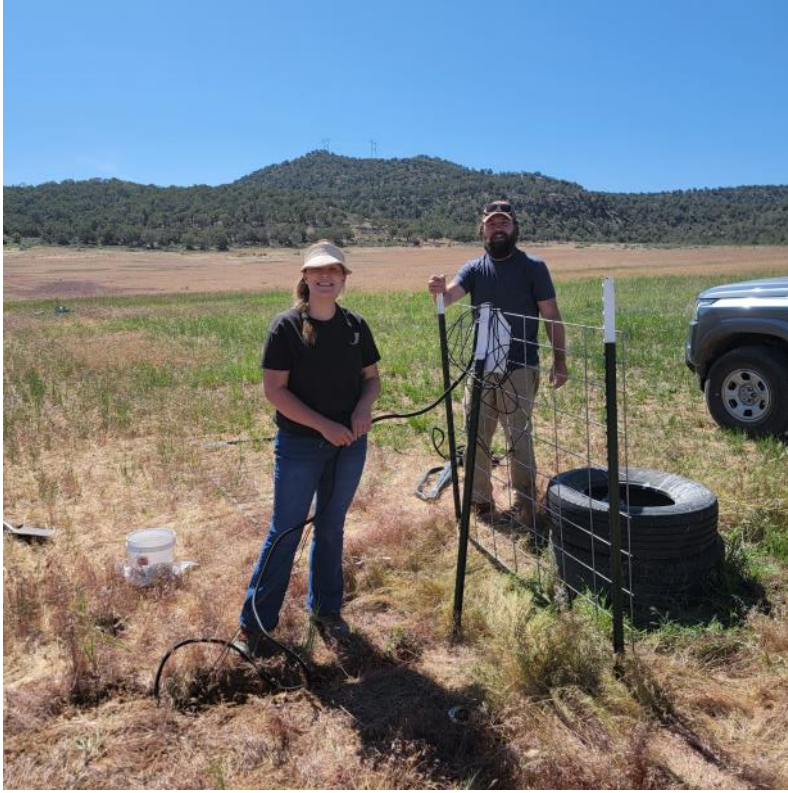
**13 Participants in Garfield County**

4 in Mount Sopris CD

5 in Bookcliff

5 in South Side CD

**Participants from Rulison to Missouri Heights**





# 2024 GRANTS

**\$395,329.00** paid or will be out to landowners and producers.

## Active Grants

Topic	Sources	Amount	To Landowners (Including Cash Match from CDs)	
Grazing Mgmt. Noxious Weeds	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Ran through	\$160,000	\$145,000	Over Three Years
Soil Health	Climate Smart Commodities - NRCS	\$222,369	\$162,369	Over Three Years
Noxious Weeds	CDA - Noxious Weed	\$10,000	\$20,000	
Noxious Weeds	CDA - Noxious Weed	\$6,500	\$13,000	
Water - Irrigation Cost Share	Colorado State Conserva- tion Board	\$25,000	\$45,360	
Soil Health	CSCB	\$9,600	\$9,600	
Staffing	NRCS	\$41,253		Staff Time for Tech- nical Assistance
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$474,722</b>	<b>\$395,329</b>	

## Grants Completed in 2024

Year Awarded	Topic	Sources	Amount	To Landowners (Including Cash Match from CDs)
2023	Noxious Weeds	CDA - Noxious Weed	\$3,500.00	\$5,500.00
2023	Noxious Weeds	CDA - Noxious Weed	\$5,000.00	\$11,155.68
2023	Noxious Weeds	USFS - Disaster Relieve Ran through CDA	\$20,000.00	Outreach & Education
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,500.00</b>	<b>\$16,655.68</b>



# OUTREACH: RIPARIAN TRAILER

It was used for:

- 7th and 8th grade agricultural system design based on Mesopotamian Agriculture,
- “AVLT’s Party in the Pasture”
- loan to partner organizations
- 4th and 7th Grade Field trips to Rifle Arch
- STEM station for CSU Extension at the Garfield County Fair.





# EVENTS AND OUTREACH

## GARFIELD COUNTY FAIR

The Conservation District served as the STEM education booth for Garfield County CSU Extension at the Garfield County Fair.



### **Great Outreach to Kids!**

This year a returning kid from previous years told us about his families trip to the Royal Gorge. He said when ever they take trips he looks for things to build in the water trailer. He proceeded to build a "Gorge" with towns, ranches, power generating stations etc. after a few tries he got the water to flow through his design.

We recommend becoming an engineer... he let us know that was his plan in when he grows up!



We have restarted our monthly newsletter!

Featured on the website and emailed out to mailing list.

Includes:

- Upcoming Events
- Current Projects
- Updates from us and partners
- Board Member and Staff information

## WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

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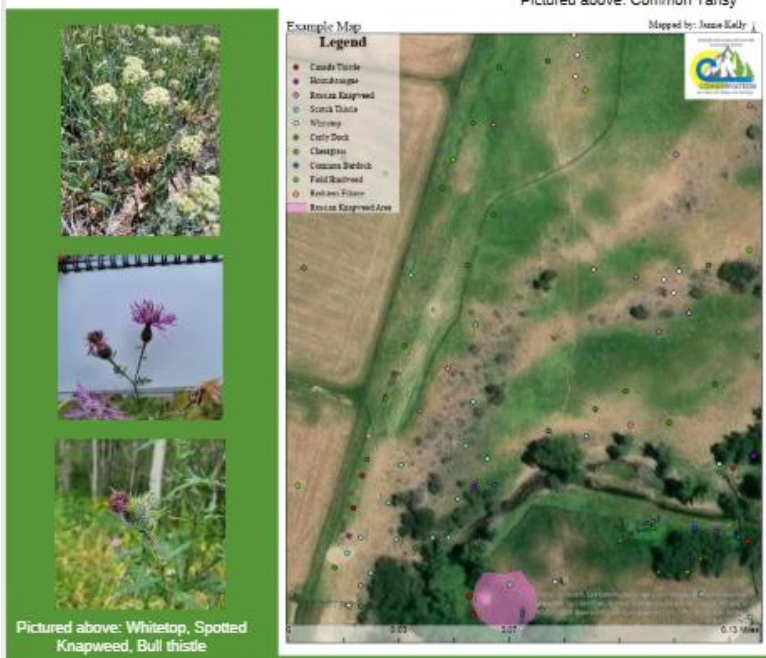
### >>> NOXIOUS WEED MAPPING

Our District Technician and District Intern have been busy completing noxious weed mapping for the upcoming cost share deadline. So far this year they have nearly 70 different property maps, ranging from small acreages within municipalities, as well as large 1000+ acre ranches.

We covered approximately 12,544 acres of property and mapped approximately 5,328 acres of noxious weeds.



Pictured above: Common Tansy



Pictured above: Whitetop, Spotted Knapweed, Bull thistle



October 2024

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

**BOOKCLIFF, MOUNT SOPRIS, & SOUTH SIDE**

**CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

Our Land, Our Water, Our Heritage



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Noxious Weed Cost Share Due**



**FRI NOVEMBER 1ST**

Please have your complete applications to us. If you need any assistance please reach out. [2024 Application](#)

**TUES NOVEMBER 5TH 10 AM - 2 PM**

Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Parks and Wildlife & CSU Extension host this training.

[Register Here](#)



**CDA and CSU Extension: Non-Lethal Wolf Conflict Reduction Training**





**OUR BOARDS AND STAFF**

BOOKCLIFF	MOUNT SOPRIS	SOUTH SIDE
Raymond Langstaff, President	Jeff Nieslanik, President	Brett Jolley, President
Tony Barrie, Vice President	Sandy Jackson, Vice President	Mike Ternes, Vice President
Charles Ryden, Treasurer	Robert Burry, Treasurer	Brit McLin, Treasurer
Gray Mello, Member	Cassie Cerise, Member	Angela Ryden, Member
Vacant, Member	Mike Wilde, Member	Kyle Laidlaw, Member

**DISTRICT STAFF**

District Manager: Emily Schwaller

Engineering Tech: Mike Kishimoto

Intern: Jacob Cox




Completed Irrigation Cost Share from Fall 2023



# EVENTS AND OUTREACH

## LANDOWNER BBQ & LOCAL WORK GROUP

Hosting a “Local Work Group” is a requirement of our agreement with Natural Resource Conservation Service. The goal is to utilize the grassroots connections of Conservation Districts to gather local landowners’ resource concerns. We also utilized this event to gather information on how we can better serve landowners and users.



Most frequent resource concerns noted across all land uses were:

- Inefficient Irrigation (pipeline, pumps, water control structures)
- Plant Pressure (Weeds/Insects)

Also Noted was:

- Source Water Depletion
- Soil Quality Limitation
- Degraded Plant Conditions
- Livestock Production Limitations
- Fire Management and Hazard



# PARTNERSHIP - EVENTS AND OUTREACH

## AG EXPO

### May 16 2024



## Garfield County Ag Expo

Garfield County Fairgrounds  
Featuring: Veterinarian Franklin Gary  
Veterinary Specialist Ragan Adams

Located at the  
Garfield County  
Fairgrounds  
(1001 Railroad Ave., Rifle)  
at Rifle Rendezvous  
9:00am-4:00pm  
Lunch will be provided!

**Topics Include:**

- Beef Production & Record Keeping
- Emergency Management
- Rangeland Health
- Land Leasing
- Water & Soil Testing
- And more!

**Family Fun:**

- Colorado Master Gardeners Plant Sale
- Soil Conservation Erosion Trailer
- Partner Booths
- Cowboy Poetry



Get your tickets here










## PESTICIDE APPLICATOR'S WORKSHOP

### Pesticide Applicator Workshop

Please join us Wednesday, March 13th, 2024 at the Morgridge Commons (2nd Floor) at 815 Cooper Ave., Glenwood Springs for precertification training for Private Applicator License and Continuing Education Credits for current cardholders and Commercial Applicators.

Preregistration is required by March 6, 2024 and the fee is \$50.00 which includes lunch. This program meets all continuing education requirements for private pesticide applicators licensed with the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

This session fulfills core categories for commercial applicators, as well as Category 109: Industrial and Right of Way Weed Control, Category 107: Rangeland Pest Control, and Category 103: Agricultural Weed Control.

Register online at:

<https://col.st/qtfS2>

or contact Annie MacGregor at:

- (970) 625-3969 ext 3
- [Annie.MacGregor@colostate.edu](mailto:Annie.MacGregor@colostate.edu)



8 a.m. **Introduction**  
Drew Walters – CSU Extension Pitkin County

8:15 a.m. **Label Reading**  
1 Credit: Use of Pesticides  
Lisa Blecker and Sarah Hirnyck – CSU Extension

8:45 a.m. **Mode of Action**  
1 Credit: Pesticides and Their Families  
Lisa Blecker and Sarah Hirnyck – CSU Extension

9:15 a.m. **CDA Update**  
1 Credit: Laws and Regulations I  
1 Credit: Laws and Regulations II  
Brad Spelts - Colorado Department of Agriculture

10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:30 a.m. **Endangered Species**  
1 Credit: Environmental Protection  
Lisa Blecker and Sarah Hirnyck – CSU Extension

11:00 a.m. **Respiratory Protection**  
1 Credit: Applicator Safety  
Lisa Blecker and Sarah Hirnyck – CSU Extension

11:30 a.m. **Pesticides Spills and Emergency Response**  
1 Credit: Public Safety  
Lisa Blecker and Sarah Hirnyck – CSU Extension

12:00 p.m. **LUNCH** (Provided w/registration)

12:45 p.m. **Tamarisk and Russian Olive Control in Garfield County**  
1 Credit: Category 107-Rangeland Pest Control  
Sarah LaRose-Garfield County Vegetation Mgmt

1:45 p.m. **Strategies to Control Annual and Biennial Invasive Plants**  
1 Credit: Category 109-Industrial & Right-of-way  
Kallie Rand- Eagle County Vegetation Mgmt

2:45 p.m. **Break**

3:00 p.m. **Managing Noxious Weeds in Hay Fields**  
1 Credit: Category 103-Agricultural Weed Control  
Steve Anthony-Garfield County Vegetation Mgmt

### Sponsors



For directions,  
address is  
below or scan  
the QR Code:



Morgridge Commons, Colorado Mountain College  
815 Cooper Ave. Glenwood Springs, CO

For More Information Please Contact:  
Garfield County Vegetation Mgmt at  
970-945-1377 ext. 4315

CSU Extension - Garfield County  
(970) 625-3969 ext 3  
[Annie.MacGregor@colostate.edu](mailto:Annie.MacGregor@colostate.edu)

Colorado State University, U.S. Department of  
Agriculture and Garfield County cooperating.  
Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

In Partnership with Garfield  
County Vegetation  
Management, Garfield  
County CSU Extension, Eagle  
County Vegetation  
Management and Pitkin  
County CSU Extension.  
Approximately **48 applicators**  
took the course.



# NO-TILL DRILL RENTAL

**Total Income:**  
**\$4,016.40**

**Spring 2024**  
Total Acres Seeded: **75.4**  
Rented to: **9 Landowners**

**Fall 2024**  
Total Acres Seeded: **101.8**  
Rented to: **6 Landowners**

In the three years we have owned the new drill landowners have  
no-till drilled/seeded **1048 acres!**





# **NOXIOUS WEED** **COST SHARE**

## **2023 Totals**

Number of Applications: **85**  
 Reimbursed: **\$56,003.29**  
 Total Cost of Treatment:  
**\$139,007.53**  
 Total Acres: **22,196**  
 Infested: **5,437**



## **2024 Totals**

Number of Applications: **89**  
 Reimbursed: **\$50,312.15**  
 Total Cost of Treatment:  
**\$123,850.00**  
 Total Acres: **18,086**  
 Acres Treated: **3110**

## **Spring 2024**

Applications: **31**  
 Reimbursed: **\$11,837.03**  
 Total Cost of Treatment:  
**\$24,964.96**  
 Total Acres: **662.01**  
 Acres Treated: **228.69**

## **Fall 2024**

Applications: **58**  
 Reimbursed: **\$38,475.12**  
 Total Cost of Treatment:  
**\$98,885.04**  
 Total Acres: **17,423**  
 Acres Treated: **2,881.31**

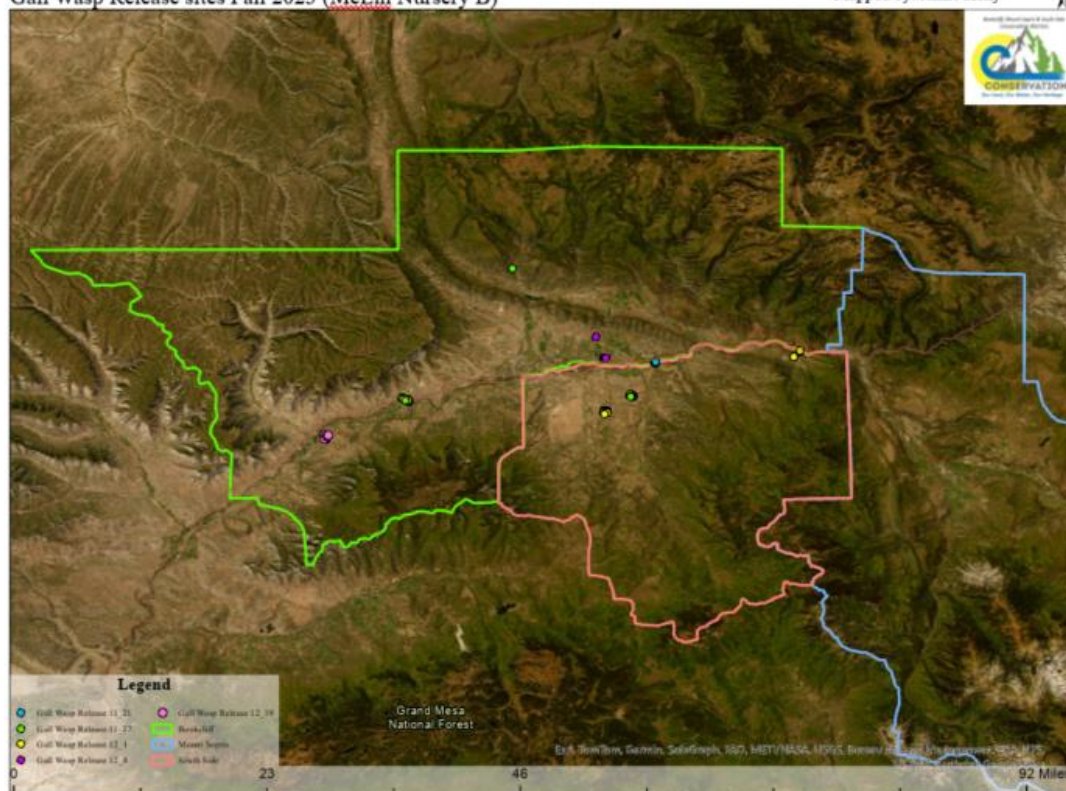
**2024: 61 Noxious Weed Maps completed by District Staff**





Gall Wasp Release sites Fall 2023 (McL in Nursery B)

Mapped by: Jamie Kelly



## Biocontrol Releases Winter 23 and 24

From established nursery sites in Garfield County released biocontrol at 12+ properties FREE to land owners

## Site Visit and Recognition from Colorado Dept. of Ag.— Noxious Weed Program Newsletter Updates 09/6/2024

### Noxious Weed Team Summer Travels (Patty)

In early August, I (Patty York) traveled to the West Slope to meet with three grant managers about their projects and programs. It was great to get out of the office and see how our various grant funds are helping around the state!



My first stop was in Glenwood Springs to meet with Emily Schwaller, District Manager of the Bookcliff, Mount Sopris and South Side Conservation Districts, collectively known as the Gar-Pit Association of Conservation Districts. Emily and Jamie Kelly, District Technician of Noxious Weeds, took me to some of their cost-share sites, along with showing me a Russian knapweed biocontrol nursery they have established. It was clear that the treatments at the cost-share sites had reduced the abundance of noxious weeds, as the spotted knapweed was only sporadic

through the area. The Russian knapweed biocontrol site was doing so well that none of the plants were even flowering! The Districts have taken full advantage of grant opportunities through CDA, and we applaud the work they're doing with the funds they have received!



# CONSERVATION/IRRIGATION

## COST SHARE

Last year was the highest request (number of application and dollar amount) the CDs have ever had for this cost-share.

Due to this we applied and received a **Colorado State Conservation Board grant for \$25,000** to help cover the cost of reimbursements.

### 2024 Totals— Completed Projects

**Number of Complete Projects: 10**

**Total Reimbursement: \$45,360.00**

**Total Cost of Projects: \$274,000.00\***

**\*Estimated from invoices received—many did not include labor.**



**Projects Include:** Headgates, Diversion Structures, Big Guns, Piping, Wobbler Micro-Irrigation system



### 2024 Totals—New Applications

**Number of Applications: 4**

**Approved: 4**

**All applications receive designs and technical assistance from Mike Kishimoto**



# DISTRICT STAFF



**District Manager**  
Emily Schwaller  
Started Aug. 2020



**Technician - Engineering**  
Mike Kishimoto  
Started Aug. 2018  
Part-Time



**Intern**  
Jacob Cox  
Started June 2023  
Senior at Rifle High School



**Technician—Vacant**  
Will hire 1-2 in March/April  
Approved for a shared technician  
with NRCS for 2025



# BUDGETS

## Gar-Pit Association of Conservation Districts

DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL PRIOR YEAR 2023	ESTIMATED CURRENT YEAR 2024 As of 10/14/2024	BUDGET YEAR 2025
Donations	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	
Equipment Rental-No Till	\$4,725.00	\$2,613.50	\$4,000.00
Interest Income	\$349.54	\$4,463.42	\$5,000.00
Other Inc: Dividends Insur- Grants	\$35.00	\$0.00	
USFS Disaster Relief Grant -		\$20,000.00	
STAR+ Grant Capacity Sup-		\$20,000.00	\$28,000.00
STAR+ Grant Payments to		\$36,656.25	\$54,123.75
CSCB Matching Grant		\$25,000.00	\$9,600.00
CDA - Vence Collars			\$53,333.00
CDA - Noxious Weed			\$10,000.00
County Weed	\$45,000.00	\$47,250.00	\$50,000.00
Administration:	\$150,000.00	\$195,000.00	\$148,500.00
Total	\$205,109.54	\$350,983.17	\$362,556.75

### Bookcliff

DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL PRIOR YEAR 2023	ESTIMATED CURRENT YEAR 2024	BUDGET YEAR 2025
Donations	\$5,000.00		
Interest Earned	\$1,889.62	\$3,000.49	\$ 4,500.00
State			
Direct Assis-	\$8,625.27	\$8,688.61	\$ 8,600.00
Colorado Soil		\$20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Colorado Soil		\$36,656.25	\$ 54,123.75
Total	\$ 15,514.89	\$68,345.35	\$87,223.75

### Mount Sopris

DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL PRIOR YEAR 2023	ESTIMATED CURRENT YEAR 2023 10/14/2024	BUDGET YEAR 2025
Interest Earned	\$ 18.50	\$ 1,141.85	\$ 2,500.00
State (Specify			
Direct Assistance	\$8,625.27	\$8,688.61	\$ 8,600.00
CDA Noxious Weed Grant		\$ 3,500.00	
Total	\$ 8,643.77	\$ 13,330.46	\$ 11,100.00

### South Side

DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL PRI- OR YEAR 2023	ESTIMATED CURRENT YEAR 2024 (10/14/2024)	BUDGET YEAR 2025
Interest Earned	\$ 330.99	\$ 3,215.42	\$ 4,000.00
Grants			
Direct Assistance	\$ 7,243.41	\$8,625.27	\$ 7,500.00
CDA - Noxious		\$ 5,000.00	\$ 6,500.00
Total	\$ 7,574.40	\$ 16,840.69	\$ 18,000.00



# BUDGETS

## Gar-Pit Association of Conservation Districts: Expenditures

DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL PRIOR YEAR 2023	ESTIMATED CURRENT YEAR 2024 As of 10/14/2024	BUDGET YEAR 2025
Accounting	\$4,566.25	\$3,095.00	\$5,000.00
Advertising	\$247.91	\$0.00	\$300.00
Bank (Bank Service)	\$38.00	\$0.00	
Dues (Dues and Subscrip-	\$1,240.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,500.00
No Till Drill	\$178.69	\$133.52	\$200.00
Water Trailer	\$241.69	\$112.62	\$115.00
Equipment - Other	\$20.97	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office Supplies	\$1,279.61	\$38.44	\$725.00
Cost Shares			
Irrigation Cost Share	\$15,700.00	\$45,360.00	\$30,000.00
Total Noxious Weed Pro-	\$61,001.06	\$11,837.03	\$50,000.00
Meeting Expense			
Ag Day	\$2,268.80		\$800.00
Ag Expo		\$973.96	\$400.00
Landowner Appreciation	\$289.04	\$312.23	\$400.00
Meeting Expense - Other	\$2,328.20	\$1,283.00	\$1,800.00
Employee Costs			
Training	\$1,310.62	\$93.00	\$1,000.00
Payroll Expenses: Wages	\$110,703.83	\$85,696.40	\$120,000.00
Payroll Expenses	\$22,928.64	\$28,994.75	\$35,000.00
Unemployment Insurance	\$134.70	\$215.79	\$300.00
Workmans Comp Insur-	\$427.00	\$860.00	\$900.00
Health Insurance	\$10,341.17	\$11,785.40	\$15,000.00
Liability Insurance	\$1,630.00	\$1,690.00	\$1,700.00
Surety Bond	\$189.00	\$189.00	\$189.00
Grants			
Educ / Info: USFS Disaster	\$11,902.91		
USFS Disaster Relief		\$20,000.00	
STAR+ Grant Payments to		\$36,656.25	\$54,123.75
CSCB Matching Grant		\$25,000.00	\$9,600.00
CDA - Vence Collars			\$53,333.00
CDA - Noxious Weed			\$10,000.00
	\$248,968.09	\$275,526.39	\$392,385.75

Total  
\$11,2  
Total



# BUDGETS

## Bookcliff Expenditure

DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL PRIOR YEAR 2023	ESTIMATED CUR- RENT YEAR 2024	BUDGET YEAR 2025
Dues	\$1,650.00	\$359.22	\$1,800.00
Mileage	\$857.62	\$686.40	\$1,000.00
Election Expense	\$21.66		\$30.00
Meeting Expense	\$240.19		\$300.00
Scholarship	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
CoAg Meter Maintenance	\$ 2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,250.00
Donation to GarPit - Payroll	\$5,000.00		
Outreach - Morrisania Mesa Lunch	\$551.56		
Grants			
Colorado Soil Health Capacity Support		\$20,000.00	\$28,000.00
Colorado Soil Health - Payments to Producers		\$36,656.25	\$ 54,123.75
	\$12,321.03	\$61,701.87	\$ 89,503.75

## Mount Sopris Expenditures

DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL PRI- OR YEAR 2023	ESTIMATED CURRENT YEAR 2024	BUDGET YEAR 2025
Dues	\$1,550.00	\$362.44	\$1,800.00
Mileage	\$864.81	\$1,132.95	\$1,000.00
Election Expense	\$22.77		\$50.00
Scholarships	\$2,350.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,250.00
CoAg Meter Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
CDA Noxious Weed Grant Reimbursement		\$3,500.00	
Banking Expense - Checks	\$31.46		\$35.00
	\$6,787.58	\$ 7,995.39	\$ 6,135.00

## South Side Expenditures

DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED CURRENT YEAR 2023	ESTIMATED CURRENT YEAR 2024	BUDGET YEAR 2025
Dues	\$1,838.61	\$505.20	\$1,000.00
Mileage	\$723.81	\$676.65	\$700.00
Election Expenses	\$22.77		\$50.00
Noxious Weed Reimbursements		\$11,155.69	\$13,000.00
	\$ 2,585.19	\$ 12,337.54	\$ 14,750.00



We owe a huge THANK YOU to the Garfield County Board of County Commissioners. Our successes in serving landowners in Garfield County is due to your continued support!

We would like to extend additional gratitude to Commissioner John Martin for being a tremendous advocate of our work, supporting landowners and Agriculture in Garfield.

THANK YOU!