



Yuma County Conservation District 2022 Annual Report

247 N. Clay Street, Wray, CO 80758 • 970-332-3107 ext. 9002 • www.ycconservation.com

WHO IS YCCD?

Land Ownership

Federal Land - 3,763 ac
State Land - 36,640 ac
County & City - 680 ac
Private Land - 1,018,373 ac

Land Use

Irrigated Crop - 175,500 ac
Non-Irrigated - 236,154 ac
Rangeland - 575,095 ac
Other Lands - 65,360 ac

Mission Statement

To provide a legal organization to assist the effort to accomplish maximum economical and beneficial use and conservation of all land, water, and plant resources by providing technical assistance, facilities and equipment as is available. Our goal is to create as many good stewards of natural resources as possible without use of mandates and regulations.

Board of Supervisors

Margaret Lenz - President
Ron Richards - Vice President
Dustin Wise - Sec./ Treas.
Jeff Wingfield - Member
Chester Zwirn - Member
Travis Taylor - Ex Officio
Tanya Fell - District Manager

Monthly Meetings

2nd Tuesday each Month

The History Behind the Yuma County Conservation District

Formation of soil conservation districts in Yuma County began in 1949. On May 9 of that year the Hale Soil Conservation District was formed. The district covered approximately 727,000 acres in southern Yuma County. The Northeast Yuma Soil Conservation District was formed on January 6, 1950 and contained approximately 320,000 acres in northeast Yuma County. The Yuma Soil Conservation District was formed in 1958 covering the northwest portion of the county.

The first board members for the Northeast Yuma District were: Ivan Leech, Harvey Nickel, E.H. Kinnie, Raymond Anderson, Lawrence Wisdom, T.E. Brophy, Ray Merritt, and Henry Bledsoe.

The first available list of board members for the Hale District is from 1955 and includes: Clarence Stults, Gerald Zion, Clifford Like, Herman Reitmeyer, Harold Renzelman, Robert O'Brien, O.G. Gurs and Clifford Akey.

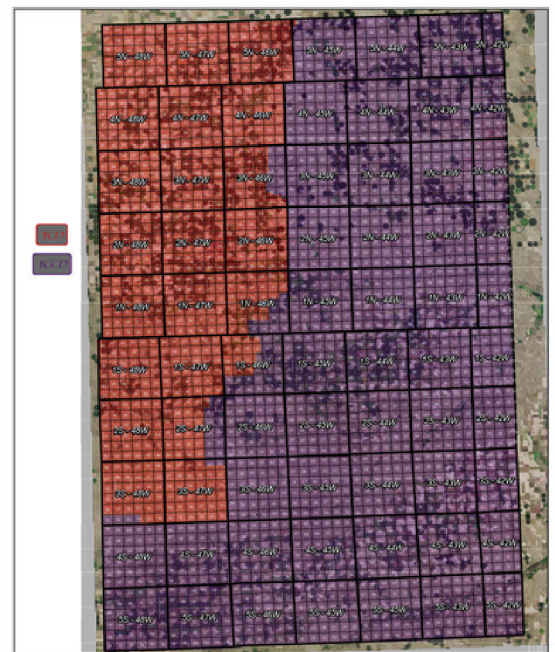
Hale SCD and Northeast Yuma SCD consolidated in 1970 forming Yuma County Soil Conservation District with an area of 1,044,087 acres of land and 2,367 acres of surface water. Land uses include native rangeland, irrigated cropland, nonirrigated cropland, nonirrigated pastureland, urban lands, recreation and wildlife. The landownership consists of private, state and federal.

The first board members for the newly formed Yuma County SCD were: Richard Wisdom, Dean Witte, Chester Wingfield, Warren Noffsinger, Harold Kamla, Harry Fonte, Joe Connally, Dallas Oestman, Oscar Stults, and Bill Reitmeyer.

In 2002 the name was changed statewide to drop the word soil. The district is a member of the Republican River Watershed Association, the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts and the National Association of Conservation Districts.

Where We Are Located

This map shows the boundaries of the two Yuma County Conservation Districts. The area colored in purple is the Yuma County Conservation District located in Wray with NRCS at the Yuma County Service Center at 247 N. Clay Street. The red is the boundary area for the Yuma Conservation District which is located in Yuma at 508 East 8th Ave.



Matching Grant Grazing Land Improvement Projects Completed

The YCCD was awarded a demonstration project grant by the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD) in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). This grant is for \$10,000 with 75 percent being the grant and 25% funded by the YCCD. In addition, the Habitat Partnership Program (HPP) has awarded two supporting grants totaling \$12,777.

Due to the Republican River Compact between Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas, took precedence over water storage at Bonny and was consequently drained to meet water demands of the compact. Since December 2011 waterflow through the Bonny site has been impaired by a significant amount of phreatophytes, invasive and noxious trees, plants and weeds that multiply annually. The goal of this project is to clear out the phreatophytes, trees and weeds by utilizing intensive grazing to harvest and breakdown the nonbeneficial biomass in the reservoir area.

YCCD will work with specialists from the Bureau of Reclamation, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension and NRCS field staff to develop an intensive grazing program that will improve the following:

- Increased Water Quantity, Quality and Distribution
- Plant Structure and Composition
- Livestock, Wildlife Feed and Forage Balances.

The key milestone for this project is to return the Bonny reservoir area back to a natural and usable habitat for wildlife while eliminating phreatophytes and prohibited and noxious weeds. Through the elimination of the phreatophytes and the breakdown of the nonbeneficial biomass it is the anticipation that we may ultimately see water flow again in that area.



YCCD Demonstration Grant Facts

- 3 Grants
- \$22,777 Awarded
- 4 miles of fencing
- 300 head of cows
- Grazing 300 acres

Jaden Dodsworth & Bradie Midcap Receive 2022 Raymond Peters Memorial Scholarships

The Yuma County Conservation District is happy to announce the recipients of the 2022 Raymond Peters Memorial Conservation Scholarship. Help us in congratulating Jaden Dodsworth and Bradie Midcap.

Jaden is the son of Duaine and Wanda Dodsworth of Wray. He is currently attending the University of Nebraska Lincoln to pursue a degree in Agricultural Economics.



Bradie is the daughter of Nate and JoLynn Midcap of Wray. She is currently attending Butler Community College in El Dorado, KS to study Ag Business and Animal Science with a focus in genetics.

This \$4,000 scholarship was established by the Yuma County Conservation District to assist students to attend post-secondary education in areas of study related to conservation and/or natural resources i.e., agriculture, agronomy, ecology, precision ag, soils, natural resources, conservation, wildlife, or related fields. The student must reside, or parents must own property in the Yuma County Conservation District.

Scholarships

- 2 - \$1,000 Scholarships Awarded



Cheatgrass Control Grant

The YCCD held a learning session and also a Field Day in conjunction with Envu Range and Pasture to learn more about cheatgrass control in Yuma County. A grant was funded through RESTORE Colorado National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant program. This project treated invasive annual grasses on native mixed grass and sand sagebrush habitats in targeted sections of working rangelands in Yuma County, Colorado.

The grant project used Rejuvra herbicide, proven to be highly effective at controlling cheatgrass. This project restored 2,500 acres of native grassland habitat to increase forage for cattle and wildlife. Partners included Yuma County Conservation District, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Envu Range and Pasture, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Pheasants Forever.



Grant Facts

- 8 producer participants
- \$155,000 in funding
- 2500 acres treated

Two Yuma County Youth Attend Camp Rocky to Learn Natural Resource Preservation and Conservation

Ashlyn Carpenter and Lydia Mekelburg both from Wray attended the 2022 Camp Rocky. This week-long educational camp for 14 through 19-year-olds was developed for youth who enjoy the outdoors and are interested in natural resources.

Ashlyn and Lydia had the opportunity to learn about the environment through hands-on experiences by working in teams focusing on specific resource areas: Rangeland Management, Forestry Management, Soil and Water Management and Fish and Wildlife Management. At the end of the week, they developed and used their group learning plan to complete a natural resource management project to better the Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. The camp is located outside Divide, Colorado.

Carpenter and Mekelburg are both planning to attend the camp again next year. The Yuma County Conservation District awards a full camp scholarship



to Camp Rocky annually to the winner of the 4-H Natural Resources

division at the Yuma County Fair (Lydia Mekelburg was the 2021 winner). In addition, partial Camp Rocky Scholarships in the amount of \$250 are available to all District Camp Rocky applicants.

Camp Rocky is Sponsored by the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts and strongly sponsored by the Colorado Conservation Districts; along with additional financial and volunteer help from Natural Resource Conservation Services (NRCS), Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB) and staff and many other natural resource conservation partners from Colorado.

Camp Rocky Facts

- 2 - with \$650 in Scholarships Awarded



YCCD Seedling Tree Sales Big in 2022

The Yuma County Conservation District had a successful tree sales season in 2022. The YCCD had such large sales that tree pickup was moved to the fish hatchery and delivery pickup times were scheduled to accommodate the increased demand. In addition, the YCCD recruited assistance from the district FFA organizations. We would like to thank the Wray and Liberty FFA members for all of their hard work and help to make tree sales successful!!

Tree sales increased from 3,318 trees in 2021 to 7333 trees in 2022 with total tree and irrigation supply sales of \$80,093.27. We also sold a total of 37,408 feet of irrigation drip line and 31,531 feet of landscape fabric!

These low-cost trees can be used for wind breaks, erosion control, snow breaks, wildlife habitat or any other use that can be beneficial to the landowner. In addition, the YCCD offers larger potted fruit trees and bushes including elderberry, apple, apricot, Chokecherry, cherry, Nanking Cherry, peach, pear, plum, Sandhill Plum, grapes and even rhubarb!



Tree Sales Facts

- 7,333 trees sold
- \$80,093.27 in sales
- 37,408 feet of drip line
- 31,531 feet of landscape fabric



YCCD also offers native grass seeds, landscape fabric, staples, fertilizer tablets, polymer and a full line of drip irrigation materials as well.

The YCCD also rolled out a new website the end of 2021 for online tree ordering. The website is www.ycconservation.com. Orders can also be placed over the phone, by email or in person at the YCCD office.

Conservation District Poster Contest Winners Announced PLUS a State Contest Winner!!

The Yuma County Conservation District (YCCD) had students from 5th and 6th grade, at Idalia, Liberty and Wray, design posters and submit them for the 2022 Conservation District Youth Poster Contest with the theme of Healthy Soil, Healthy Life!

The poster contest is a national competition sponsored by the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). The contest starts at the local level through the YCCD; winners advance to the Colorado state level, and then to the national level, where they receive recognition at NACD's annual meeting.

Awards will be distributed at the YCCD Annual Meeting on March 1. The 2022 YCCD local contest winners are as follows:

- Liberty 6th Graders: 1st place - Harley Vaughn
2nd place - Travis Wise
3rd place - Kilah Rojas
- Idalia 5th Graders: 1st place - Charliann Soehner
2nd place - Chloe Soehner
3rd place - Kimena Cordova
- Idalia 6th Graders: 1st place - Blake Hardwick
2nd place - Beckett Kite
3rd place - Bristol Weyerman
- Wray 5th Graders: 1st place - Kendree Reyna

Charliann Soehner's poster was selected as the Grand Champion overall and Blake Hardwick's poster was selected as the Reserve Grand Champion overall for the YCCD county competition. Both posters participated in the Colorado Association of Conservation District competition the end of November. Charliann Soehner's poster was selected as the top poster for the State of Colorado and has been sent to participate at the annual NACD meeting that will be held in February in New Orleans.



Charliann Soehner was Grand Champion overall for YCCD and then won the Colorado State contest and was presented with her check by YCCD President Margaret Lenz.

Poster Contest Facts

- 150+ YCCD 5th and 6th graders participated
- 4 local school grade level winners
- 1 Colorado state poster contest winner

Fell Elected to State and National Conservation District Officer Positions

The Yuma County Conservation (YCCD) District Manager, Tanya Fell, was elected as the 2023 Colorado Conservation District Employee's Association (CCDEA) President at the Colorado Association of Conservation District's (CACD) Annual Meeting. The CCDEA offers the following to employees across Colorado:



1. Support to the CACD, Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB), and, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with assistance with projects and office personnel;
2. Support all District employees with education opportunities through meetings, teleconferences, and webinars;
3. Encourage all District employees to be members of the Colorado Association of Conservation District Employees (CACDE);
4. Encourage networking opportunities between Districts; and
5. Support the annual fundraisers (live and silent auctions) of CACD and CACDE at the CACD Annual Meeting.

In addition to being elected President of the CCDEA, Tanya was also selected as the Southwest Regional Director for the National Conservation District Employees Association and will be representing Wyoming, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico conservation district employee associations at the national level.

Windbreak Tree Drip Irrigation Grants

The Yuma County Conservation District with funds from the Colorado Department of Agriculture through the Colorado State Conservation Board offered a matching grant project. The project assisted with windbreak tree dripline improvement projects specifically to help with natural resource conservation in the YCCD.

Funds were requested by landowners for materials needed to create or improve irrigation to windbreak trees that are currently being planted or have been planted within the past FIVE years. Water had to be provided by the producer to the edge of the windbreak. The projects included the installation of dripline including the purchase of dripline, emitters, connectors, filters and other necessary supplies to water windbreak trees.

The maximum amount for each grant was \$500. Each grant required matching funds amounting to 50% of the grant total.



Grant Facts

- 5 participants - with \$1865.70 in drought funding provided



Yuma County Conservation District Annual Meeting Set for March 1st in Wray

The Yuma County Conservation District will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 1 at 6:00pm at the Roundhouse Community Room in Wray.

A free dinner will begin the evening followed by a presentation regarding the Bonny Reservoir Grazing Project that the YCCD received demonstration grant funding for this past year. Chris West from the National Fish and Wildlife/RESTORE Colorado will also do a presentation regarding their organization and future projects with YCCD. Travis Taylor from CSU Extension will also discuss Grazing Recommendations for 2023. Awards from the 2022 Conservation District Poster Contest will also be given to students from Liberty, Idalia and Wray. Ashlyn Carpenter and Lydia Mekelburg will give a presentation on what they learned while attending Camp Rocky this

past summer. Lastly, an annual meeting will be conducted to close out the evening.

You can RSVP to attend at <https://www.ycconservation.com/events/> or contact Tanya Fell at the Yuma County Conservation District at 970-332-3107 ext. 9002 or yccd77@gmail.com.



YUMA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT FREE PRODUCER APPRECIATION DINNER

2023 ANNUAL MEETING



Bonny Grazing Project Report | RESTORE Colorado Grazing Recommendations for 2023 | and more

Date & Time
**Wednesday
March 1, 2023
6:00 pm**

Location
**Wray Roundhouse
Community Room
245 West 4th Street
Wray, CO**



Save the Date

Pesticide Applicator Workshop

The YCCD coordinated with Sandra McDonald from Mountain West PEST to offer a virtual pesticide applicator workshop. This workshop provided producers with ALL seven required core credits including: laws and regulations, applicator safety, public safety, environmental protection, use of pesticides and pesticides and their families meeting the requirements for Colorado pesticide applicator license recertification.

The Colorado Pesticide Applicators' Act requires that a person may not use restricted-use or state-restricted-use pesticides unless licensed (certified) by the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA). The Colorado Private Pesticide Applicator License is required of individuals who use or supervise the use of restricted-use pesticides on land in agricultural production that is owned, leased, or rented by them or their employer. CDA has a two-part system for private pesticide license renewal:

1. Applicators accumulate the seven (7) required Continuing Education Credits (CECs)
2. Applicators pay a renewal fee (\$75.00) to the Colorado Department of Ag



Pesticide Applicator Facts

- 23 producers participated online

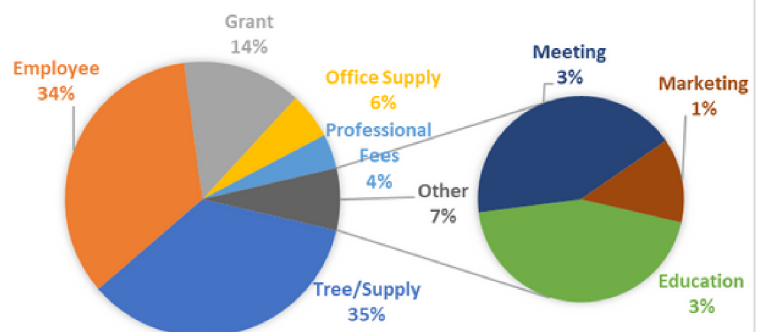
YCCD 2022 Financial Standing

INCOME:		EXPENSE:		SUMMARY:	
Tree/Supply Sales	\$ 80,093.27	Tree/Supply	\$ 50,058.54	Income	\$160,333.05
Mill Levy	\$ 45,981.60	Employee	\$ 48,827.96	COGS	\$ 28,232.41
Grants	\$ 33,743.41	Grant	\$ 20,005.54	Gross Profit	\$132,100.64
Interest	\$ 336.35	Office Supply	\$ 7,795.03	Expenses	\$142,876.09
Misc.	\$ 178.42	Professional Fees	\$ 5,786.46	NET LOSS	\$ 10,775.45
TOTAL INCOME	\$160,333.05	Education	\$ 4,608.90		
		Meeting	\$ 4,415.26		
		Marketing	\$ 1,378.40		
		TOTAL EXPENSES	\$142,876.09		

2022 YCCD INCOME

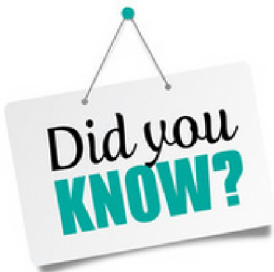


2022 YCCD EXPENSES





247 N. Clay Street
Ray, CO 80758
970-332-3109 ext. 9002
www.ycconservation.com



The Yuma County Conservation District has a newly updated website. You are now able to order trees directly online! Go to www.ycconservation.com.



[Home](#) [About](#) [Programs](#) [News](#) [Events](#) [Tree, Grass & Supplies](#) [Tree Planting & Care](#) [Contact](#)



ABOUT

The history behind the Yuma County Conservation District.



PROGRAMS

Funding, Workshops, Programs and Technical Information



NEWS

News and updated research information for conservation.



EVENT CALENDAR

Current and Upcoming Events



TREE & GRASS SALES

Seedling Trees, Potted Trees, Shrubs, Grass Seed, Irrigation Supplies and Planting Services