

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



Prepare Ahead



Minimize Campfire Impacts



Pack In, Pack Out



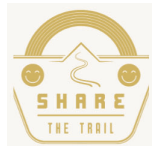
Respect Wildlife



Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces



Leave What You Find



Be Considerate of Others

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

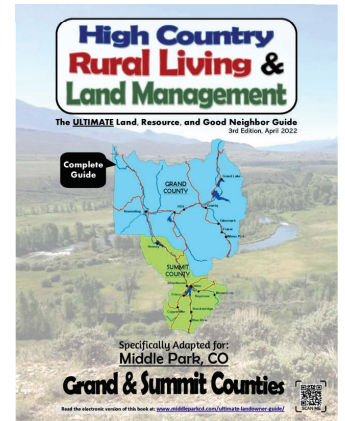
HELP OUT DURING DROUGHT

WATCH WARNING SEVERE EXCEPTIONAL



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!

