

# BREAKING NEWS

# Conserving SUMMIT COUNTY'S Natural Beauty

Summit 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 NEED YOUR HELP!

### LEAVE NO TRACE when enjoying the outdoors



Join all land agencies in committing to the

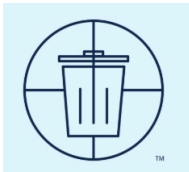
### 7 Principles of Leave No Trace



**Plan Ahead & Prepare**



**Travel & Camp on Durable Surfaces**



**Dispose of Waste Properly**



**Leave What You Find**



**Minimize Campfire Impacts**



**Respect Wildlife**



**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 Summit County Noxious Weed Guide or visiting the Summit County Weed Control website.



# DRY TIMES

Summit 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:

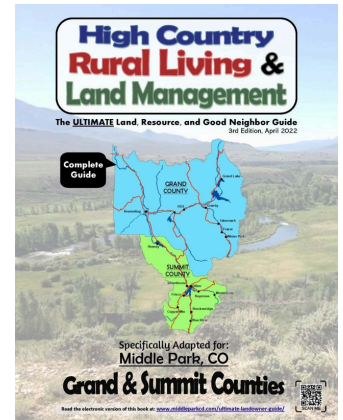
- Checking for leaky water fixtures
- Installing high-efficiency toilets, shower heads, dishwashers, and washing machines
- Taking shorter showers
- Turning off the water when brushing teeth
- Using cooking water to water house plants
- Use the dishwasher rather than handwashing

# HELP OUT DURING DROUGHT

Stay up-to date with the current drought designation released weekly by the US Drought Monitor: [www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://www.droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



## 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!*