



Conservation District 3-Year Plan (2026 to 2028)

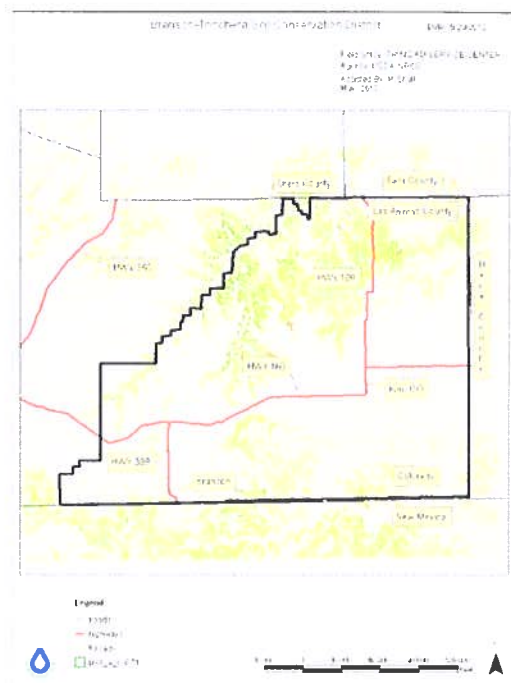
For more information contact: Lori Chatterley, District Manager

BACKGROUND

Organization of the Branson-Trinchera Conservation District

The Branson-Trinchera Conservation District was organized under the Colorado Soil Conservation Act of 1937. This District was established by a referendum of landowners on October 10, 1945. All incorporated municipalities and areas devoted excessively to commercial or industrial uses, as they existed at the time the original District was formed, are excluded from the District. Conservation Districts are political subdivisions of the State of Colorado – The

authorities, powers, and structure are contained in Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 35, Article 70.



Function of the Branson-Trinchera Conservation District

To make available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager with conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

Mission of the Branson-Trinchera Conservation District

The Branson-Trinchera Conservation District is a local organization of farmers/ranchers which provides information and education to the general public. The District also offers guidance and direction to the various federal and state agencies in an attempt to influence their application of conservation practices to the land. These efforts are made to better the community, conserve the natural resources and improve the communications about various conservation programs.

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

Natural Resource Data

Land Ownership

Private: 1,178,910 acres
Federal: 50,460 acres
State: 105,163 acres

Land Use

Rangeland: 1,303,033 acres
Non-irrigated cropland: 26,500 acres
Irrigated cropland: 1,000 acres

RESOURCE PLANNING

Trends Impacting Conservation in the Conservation District

- Brush Management, grazing plans, lack of water distribution systems, degrading species diversity and stocking rates impact rangeland health within the District.
- Water quality and quantity continue to be a major natural resource concern as a result of lack of ground cover, invasive species, lack of water distribution systems and ground water pollution from geologic formations, sedimentation, erosion and depletion of ground water sources due to continuing drought.
- Invasive species non-beneficially consume water, impact water quality and quantity, increase erosion, reduce plant diversity, impede natural hydrology and negatively impact the local economy.
- Wind and water erosion on rangeland and cropland contribute to ground water pollution, reduces water quality, impedes good hydrology and negatively impacts the agricultural and local economy.
- Continuing drought and lack of water. Reduced ground water sources.

Prioritized Natural Resource Issues & Goals

1. Groundwater Quality and Quantity

Example: Livestock water wells either drying up or decreased output due to an extended drought event.

Goal: To disseminate groundwater information gathered in the last cycle (ARID) and to determine if/which conservation practices will enable producers to improve their livestock water systems.

- Objective 1: Evaluate research
- Objective 2: Implement programs to assist landowners
- Objective 3: Education

2. Invasive Species

Example: Invasive species non-beneficially consume water, impact water quality, increase erosion, reduce plant diversity, impede natural hydrology and negatively impact the local economy.

Three Year Goal(s): 50% of District landowners have an increased awareness of invasive species and are implementing weed control practices.

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- Objective 1: Evaluate weed control success and alternative methods like insects
- Objective 2: Fund further projects
- Objective 3: Educate and keep landowners up to date on invasive species

3. Rangeland Health

Example: Degrading species diversity and extended drought impact rangeland health throughout the entire District.

Goal: To reestablish Rangeland Health as a District priority and seek funding for fencing and water projects.

- Objective 1: Encourage grazing management plans be updated
- Objective 2: Implement programs to assist landowners
- Objective 3: Education on updated technologies for water and fencing

Natural Resource Information /Education Priorities and Goals

The Branson-Trinchera Conservation District will continue to make Natural Resource information and education a priority by continuing the following: providing financial assistance to students for attendance at Camp Rocky; providing financial assistance to students who may qualify to attend the Society of Range Management conference; provide technical and/or financial assistance to local schools for Conservation activities and workshops and for FFA Range and Soil Judging classroom activities and contests; provide information and education to all landowners within the District.

Conservation District Operational Goals & Objectives

One of the major goals of the Branson-Trinchera Conservation District is to find ways to increase District funds in order to provide more services to our landowners. Maintaining an actively participating Board of Supervisors is also very important.

Staffing Needs

The annual objectives identified in this Long-Range Plan can be accomplished with one part time District Manager, a part time District Technician, and the support of the Board of Supervisors, NRCS staff, CSCB Staff, and other Conservation Partners.

BRANSON-TRINCHERA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Natural Resource Goals & Objectives

Long Range Plan for: 2026-2028

Natural Resource priority: Groundwater Quantity and Quality

Why is this a concern and what is the location: Livestock water wells either drying up or decreased output due to an extended drought event have contributed to an increased burden to livestock producers. Also, a suspected degradation of ground water quality continues to be a natural resource concern throughout the entire District. Water distribution systems have been developed by some producers; others have seen the quantity of ground water decrease to the point of preventing them from installing distribution systems and making current systems obsolete.

Three Year Goal(s): Continue to work with landowners and Zeigler Geologic Consulting on groundwater quantity and quality.

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP*	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2026	A. Apply for grant funding to assist landowners in implementation of groundwater conservation practices. B. Implement cost share incentive program for District landowners for groundwater testing. C. Share ARID groundwater report produced in last LRP.	CSCB, NRCS, CSU, USGS, PWP, CPW, CSLB, ZGC	12 months Funding TBD	Available grant funding and District funds.
2027	A. Apply for and implement cost share incentive program for District landowners. B. Research and understand those conservation practices that could improve groundwater quantity and quality. C. Convey to the District producers those practices and encourage them to begin implementation.	CSCB, NRCS, CSU, USGS, PWP, CPW, CSLB	12 months Funding TBD	Available grant funding and District funds.
2028	A. Offer educational workshops on new or innovative practices that improve groundwater quantity and quality. B. Apply for grant funding to assist landowners in implementation of groundwater conservation practices. C. Implement cost share incentive program for District landowners.	CSCB, NRCS, CSU, USGS, PWP, CPW, CSLB	12 months Funding TBD	Available grant funding and District funds.

* Use of acronyms – please spell out each acronym the first time it is used followed by the acronym. From that point on, use only the acronym.

Colorado State Board of Conservation (CSCB)

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Colorado State University (CSU)

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

Purgatoire Watershed Partnership (PWP)

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)

Colorado State Land Board (CSLB)

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (BCR)

Zeigler Geologic Consulting (ZGC)

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

BRANSON-TRINCHERA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Natural Resource Goals & Objectives

Long Range Plan for: 2026 – 2028

Natural Resource priority: Invasive Species

Why is this a concern and what is the location: Invasive species non-beneficially consume water, impact water quality, increase erosion, reduce plant diversity, impede natural hydrology and negatively impact the local economy. This is an issue that encompasses the entire District.

Three Year Goal(s): 50% of District landowners have an increased awareness of invasive species and are implementing weed control practices.

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2026	A. Survey landowners who have treated Tamarisk in the past to determine the amount of re-growth. B. Encourage landowners to re-treat areas of Tamarisk that have experienced substantial re-growth. C. Tour areas of Pinion/Juniper (any woody species) that have been treated with Power Pellets. D. Host workshop with a focus on BTCD priority invasive and control methods, incorporate insects.	CSCB, NRCS, CSU, USGS, PWP, PWMMC, CPW, CSLB, Kim Vo-Ag & FFA, Branson Vo-Ag & FFA, BCR	12 months Funding TBD	Available grant funding and District funds.
2027	A. Obtain cost share funding for invasive species treatment. B. Continue retreatment of Tamarisk. C. Encourage retreatment of areas of brush that have had prior treatment and re-growth warrants additional action. D. Find opportunities with insects in addition to chemicals.	CSCB, NRCS, CSU, USGS, C PWP, PWMMC, CPW, CSLB, Kim Vo-Ag & FFA, Branson Vo-Ag & FFA, BCR	12 months Funding TBD	Available grant funding and District funds.
2028	A. Obtain cost share funding for invasive species treatment and retreatment. B. Evaluate treated areas. C. Release evaluation finding to District landowners. D. Find opportunities with insects in addition to chemicals.	CSCB, NRCS, CSU, USGS, C PWP, PWMMC, CPW, CSLB, Kim Vo-Ag & FFA, Branson Vo-Ag & FFA, BCR	12 months Funding TBD	Available grant funding and District funds.

BRANSON-TRINCHERA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Operational Goals & Objectives

Long Range Plan for: 2026 – 2028

Operational Priority: Increase funds and maintain active board

Why is this a concern: Grant funding for cost share programs to landowners is increasingly harder to obtain. Funding is also vital to be able to continue with or conservation educational goals and objectives.

Three Year Goal(s): Increase district funds to be able to offer cost share and increased educational opportunities to area youth and District producers.

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2026	A. Research and implement fund raising opportunities. B. Regularly review long range plan of work to make sure the board of supervisors is on track to accomplish goals.	CSCB, CACD, NRCS	12 months Funding TBA	Available grant funding and District funds.
2027	A. Continue to implement existing fund-raising efforts and research new funding opportunities. B. Continue review District business plans to assure goals are being met and implement new plans and goals as needed.	CSCB, CACD, NRCS	12 months Funding TBA	Available grant funding and District funds.
2028	A. Continue to implement existing fund-raising efforts and research new funding opportunities. B. Continue review District business plans to assure goals are being met and implement new plans and goals as needed.	CSCB, CACD, NRCS	12 months Funding TBA	Available grant funding and District funds.

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BRANSON-TRINCHERA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Operational Goals & Objectives

Long Range Plan for: 2026 – 2028

Operational Priority: Rangeland Health

Why is this a concern: Brush management, lack of water distribution systems, degrading species diversity and stocking rates impact rangeland health throughout the entire District. Water quality and quantity continue to be a major natural resource concern as a result of persistent drought, lack of ground cover, invasive species, lack of water distribution systems.

Three Year Goal(s): Continue to increase the percent of landowners who are implementing new or improving existing water distribution systems and fencing for managed grazing. Encourage updated grazing plans.

PROGRAM YEAR	MEASURABLE ANNUAL OBJECTIVES	COOPERATING AGENCY/GROUP	TIME AND FUNDING NEEDED	SOURCE OF FUNDING
2026	A. Source and apply for funding for cost share projects. B. NRCS/FSA program workshop presented in the district regarding water and fencing projects along with updating grazing plans.	CSCB, NRCS, CSU, USGS, PWP, CPW, CSLB, ZGC, FSA	12 months Funding TBD	Available grant funding and District funds.
2027	A. Obtain funding for cost share. Accept applications. B. Assist landowners with implementing new fencing and water projects or updating grazing plans.	CSCB, NRCS, CSU, USGS, PWP, CPW, CSLB, ZGC, FSA	12 months Funding TBA	Available grant funding and District funds.
2028	A. Continue to seek funding and implementation of cost share for water/fencing/grazing projects. B. Evaluate projects and success with Rangeland tours.	CSCB, NRCS, CSU, USGS, PWP, CPW, CSLB, ZGC, FSA	12 months Funding TBA	Available grant funding and District funds.

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RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that this Long Range Program of the Branson-Trinchera Conservation District be adopted as the official program of the District as of this

17th day of November, 2025.



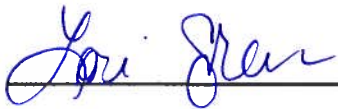
Dale Yocam, President



Dick Loudon, Vice President



Harold Unwin, Secretary/Treasurer



Lori Green, Member



Will Ward, Member

Reviewed by the Colorado State Conservation Board

Colorado State Conservation Board, President

Nikki Brinson, Program Manager

Date