

# GOAL: NATURAL SYSTEMS

## NS-1: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

### LOCAL ACTION 1: PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Create a community-wide green infrastructure plan that is integrated with other relevant local plans

*Provide plan title*

Steamboat Springs Area Open Space and Trails Master Plan

*Link to or upload full plan*

<http://co-steamboatsprings.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/303>

*Date plan was officially adopted, endorsed by the local government, or had last major update*

2008

*If the plan was adopted or updated more than 3 years ago, briefly describe how the plan is still relevant and in use*

The Steamboat Springs Area Open Space and Trails Master Plan was adopted in 2008 and contains ongoing action items, including the identification and protection of additional open space properties.

*Describe the development process and include information on stakeholder involvement and participating agencies, departments, and/or organizations involved*

Involved in the creation of the Open Space and Trails Master Plan was a Technical Advisory Committee and Stakeholders. The Advisory Committee was made up of the Routt County Planning Department, Steamboat Springs (SS) Recreational Services, SS Department of Planning and Community Development, SS Internal Services, Yampa Valley Land Trust, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and EDAW as a consultant. Stakeholders were the Routt County Extension Office, Routt County Riders, Adjacent Emerald Mountain Land Owners, Steamboat II Metro District, Yampa Valley Fly Fishers, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Routt County Purchase of Development Rights Citizens Advisory Board, and the Friends of the Yampa. Taking place in 2006 was an inventory and analysis; preliminary vision, goals, issues, and opportunities; and public workshops. The plan was developed from late 2006 until mid 2007. Public review, implementation,

and recommendations took place in mid to late 2007.

*Provide vision statement or high-level description of plan goals*

Because of Steamboat's population growth and development, open space and park lands are becoming more and more important. "The community will develop a well financed and well maintained open lands program to protect the physical beauty, the open spaces, the special places, and the healthy ecosystem of the valley in perpetuity."

*Describe the key recommendations of the plan*

The plan makes many recommendations based on many goals. A few of those goals include the following. The community should identify and protect key open space areas, and the development of a well connected trail system. Our open spaces should be well integrated with our urban areas. The community should identify critical wetland areas and critical wildlife habitats, and enhance and conserve these areas for future generations. A permanent and constant revenue source dedicated to the acquisition and preservation of open space should also be established. The community should create an open space system comprising of different types of permanent open space such as Community preserve, natural areas, special resource areas, and agricultural lands.

*Does the plan contain quantifiable targets or metrics for evaluating progress?*

yes

*Describe the strategy for implementing plan recommendations, including responsible parties, level of effort anticipated, and resources dedicated*

The plan states that "the most viable mechanisms [for funding] include a dedicated sales tax, lodging taxes, and a dedicated property tax." Grant programs should also be utilized. Incentives for landowners to donate conservation easements should be pursued. City staff also need to be dedicated to the implementation of action items, and county staff are responsible for several action items.

## **LOCAL ACTION 2: POLICY AND CODE ADJUSTMENT**

Adopt local design criteria and associated codes that require proactive green infrastructure practices for new developments

*Provide the title of the specific policy or code*

Green Building Program

*Link to or upload copy of the policy or code requirement*

<http://www.co.routt.co.us/DocumentCenter/View/266>

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the policy or regulation that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

The Green Building Program guidelines identify green components from foundations to finishes that both act as a guide for designing a green home and as a checklist to determine how green a project will be. The City and County have determined minimums and then tiers to determine levels of performance for green homes. Regarding compliance, "a green program checklist will be required at the time of permit application. A plan reviewer will compare the checklist to your blueprints and specifications. If the minimum has been met, the application will proceed as usual through the other departments for sign off. Once the home is completed, a private Home Energy Rating System rater will test the house for energy efficiency. This test result will be submitted to the building department before the Certificate of Occupancy will be awarded."

*Was there public engagement during development of the policy or regulation?*

yes

*Date policy or code adoption was adopted or last major update*

2009

## **LOCAL ACTION 3: POLICY AND CODE ADJUSTMENT**

Adopt a policy requiring relevant departments be engaged during early reviews of proposed developments to ensure that project sites are evaluated for green infrastructure potential and environmental protections are put in place prior to construction

*Provide the title of the specific policy or code*

1) Sec 26-43 Technical advisory committee role and procedures; 2) City of Steamboat Springs Engineering Standards-Drainage Criteria

*Link to or upload copy of the policy or code requirement*

NS-1, A-3.zip

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the policy or regulation that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

Sec. 26-43 Technical advisory committee role and procedures - advances progress towards the desired outcome by ensuring that development permit applications are reviewed by the technical advisory committee (TAC) before any action is taken. TAC members consist of representatives of all City departments which interface with development and with environmental protections. A meeting is set up between the TAC and the applicant to discuss possible issues with the application. The issues range in topics, and include environmental protections. The applicant will receive written comments regarding their application and is given the opportunity to either make revisions to the application, proceed with a recommendation of denial, or withdraw the application. This code was adopted in 2008.

The purpose of the drainage criteria is the promotion of public health, safety, environmental stewardship, and general welfare of City roads and property. The goal is to minimize the possible flood damage to surrounding properties and structures by adopting policies, procedures, standards, and criteria for storm drainage. All new development, redevelopment, and significant remodel projects submitted for acceptance under the provisions of these drainage criteria shall include adequate storm drainage system analysis and appropriate drainage system design. These criteria were adopted in 2007, with minor updates made in 2015.

*Was there public engagement during development of the policy or regulation?*

yes

*Date policy or code adoption was adopted or last major update*

2007

## **LOCAL ACTION 4: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION**

Partner with key community groups and other stakeholders to ensure that green infrastructure practices are used in appropriate settings

*Provide the name of the partnership or committee AND briefly describe each partner's contribution or criteria for committee selection*

The Yampa Valley Sustainability Council (YVSC) is a nonprofit committed to being a resource and catalyst for building a sustainable community. They do this through education, recycling programs, and by building collaboration among individuals, organizations, businesses, and government. The program is comprised of a rotating board of directors and a rotating advisory board. The board of directors are identified by board members or staff for their experience, knowledge, and interest in sustainability. They go through an application and interview process before being voted on the board. The advisory board members are identified for expertise in a specific area (green building, forestry, etc). They offer advice or direction for specific programs. Stormwater Task Force is an appointed committee established in 2013 and comprised of volunteers from the community representing a broad cross section of interests and areas of expertise. They existed only in 2013.

*Type of collaboration*

Community collaboration

*Link to or upload documentation of the partnership or committee's creation or ongoing work*

NS-1 A-4.zip

*Date established*

2005

*Describe key accomplishments in the past 3 years*

Key accomplishments in the last three years include Cen\$ible Energy, the Zero Waste Initiative, Sustainable Schools, Yampa Valley Recycles, and the Energy FIT programs, as well as ReTree and Recycle Day events. Cen\$ible Energy began in 2015 and is an energy-efficiency rebate program available to Yampa Valley Electric Association residential and small business members (customers) in Routt, Moffat, Eagle and Carbon counties. The Zero Waste Initiative has diverted over 95,000 gallons of waste since it began in 2009. Through the Sustainable Schools program, Styrofoam trays have been replaced with reusable plates in the elementary and middle schools, the use of single-use plastic water bottles has been reduced through the use of a 120-gallon drinking water tank at each school, and more than 1,500 students participate in YVSC events during the school year. ReTree Steamboat partners with Sustainable Schools and has been responsible for educating students and has had 2,058 adult and student volunteers to plant and care for 23,190 trees.

The Stormwater Task Force provided recommendations to City Council regarding managing floodplains,

stormwater quality, and drainage conveyance.

*Briefly describe the local government's financial contribution and/or elected official/staff time dedicated in the past 3 years*

\$32,750 in community support funding has gone to the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council from 2013-2015. Members of the task force included the City Engineer, the Director of Public Works, the Finance Director, and members of City Council.

## LOCAL ACTION 5: ENFORCEMENT AND INCENTIVES

Create incentive programs to encourage land owners to adopt green infrastructure practices that link to broader green infrastructure systems

*Number of acres participating in incentive program in the past 3 years*

N/A

*Link to or upload copy of written incentive*

<http://www.yvea.com/content/renewable-energy-interconnection>

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the incentive that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

The Yampa Valley Electric Association (YVEA) connected to the Clean Energy Collective's Solar Energy Array in early 2015. The array is a centralized solar facility owned by participating community members. Those community members receive credits on their electricity bill for the power that is produced. The array is 579,080 W and uses 2,012 panels over 4 acres. In the short time YVEA has been connected to the array, participating customers have saved \$62,100 and have avoided 919,989 lbs of CO2 output.

*Date incentive was created or implemented*

2015

## LOCAL ACTION 6: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Establish a green infrastructure monitoring program and regularly report on status of desired outcomes

*Provide the name and a brief description of the program or service*

MS4-Post Construction Stormwater Management Inspection & Enforcement Program

*Number of participants in the program in the past 3 years*

151

*Number of sites monitored in the past 3 years*

120

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the program or service that advances progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

The Post Construction Stormwater Management Inspection & Enforcement Program consists of the City's Engineering Staff inspecting post-construction best management practices to ensure proper function and level of maintenance needed. For sites requiring maintenance, a notification and enforcement program is employed to ensure that facilities are restored to their proper functioning condition. This ensures that water quality features that are designed to offset the impacts of urban development and its associated imperviousness to water quality are functioning as designed and as approved. By maintaining a system of water quality treatment features throughout the City, pollutant loads from stormwater runoff are reduced.

*Date program or service was created or implemented*

2007

## **LOCAL ACTION 7: FACILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

Increase the percentage of funding invested in green infrastructure

*Percent increase in spending on green infrastructure over the past 3 years*

38%

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the improvement that advances progress towards the desired*

*Outcome(s)*

The City invests money into stormwater treatment and quality management. The increase has involved staff time and capital improvements. Staff increases have provided for better coordination of inspection and maintenance of stormwater quality treatment facilities. Increases in capital improvements have permitted the construction of City-owned stormwater treatment facilities.

Non-potable irrigation systems have led to a reduction in the use of potable water in public parks.

Energy efficient lighting has been used to reduce the use of electricity by our lighting systems.

100 recycling and trash containers were installed in Steamboat's parks and trails. The addition of these containers added to the number of places along our parks and trails where users can recycle. These containers are bear-proof, keeping bears from becoming accustomed to eating near human activity. They also provide for a no-mess cleanup.

The City is also working on the Yampa River Great Outdoors Colorado (GoCo) Project, which involves bank stabilizations and the improvement of aquatic wildlife, river access, and native vegetation at four locations along the river.

*Briefly describe funding invested in facility or infrastructure improvement in the past 3 years*

Two full time employees who focus half their time on stormwater quality management and green infrastructure inspection and tracking have been added to City staff . Approximately \$50,000/year has been dedicated to the installation of City-owned stormwater treatment devices. In 2013, the City spent \$7,400 for repairs on non-potable systems and a feasibility study for non-potable installations in Memorial Park. In 2015, \$5,200 was spent on Memorial Park non-potable systems maintenance. In 2015, the City spent \$220,000 on efficient field lights that were installed at Adams Ball Field and Ski Town Fields. \$86,798 were spent by the City on recycling and trash containers in 2015. In 2013, \$209,000 was spent on the Yampa River GoCo Project, and in 2015, \$70,000 was spent on the project.

## LOCAL ACTION 8: FACILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Upgrade public spaces and public buildings based upon locally-adopted or recognized best practices in green infrastructure. Where possible, create demonstration projects to enhance public support

*Number of places upgraded in the past 3 years*

7

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the improvement that advances progress towards the desired*



*Outcome(s)*

Two places upgraded by the City's Parks and Community Services Department include Memorial Park and Howelsen Ballfield. At Memorial Park, a raw water irrigation system was installed. At Howelsen Ballfield, efficient LED lighting was installed, using less electricity.

Four other places are part of the Yampa River Great Outdoors Colorado (GoCo) Project. The project involves bank stabilizations and the improvement of aquatic wildlife, river access, and native vegetation.

The final upgrade took place in the City's public parks and trails. 100 recycling and trash containers were installed, adding to the number of places along our parks and trails where users can recycle. These containers are bear-proof, keeping bears from becoming accustomed to eating near human activity. They also provide for a no-mess cleanup.

*Briefly describe funding invested in facility or infrastructure improvement in the past 3 years*

\$62,600 was invested into irrigation and \$220,000 was invested into lighting. \$474,000 has been invested into the Yampa River Project since 2013. \$86,798 were spent by the City on recycling and trash containers in 2015.

## LOCAL ACTION 9: FACILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Provide for ongoing maintenance of green infrastructure at levels required to maintain evapotranspiring functions

*List of facilities currently being maintained*

- Lagoon Court-Porous Landscape Detention Basin; Library-Stormceptor; Walton Creek Park & Ride-2 Extended Detention Basins; 5th Street & Yampa St--CDS Stormwater Treatment Device; Over 150 post-construction BMPs
- including rain gardens
- sand filter basin
- mechanical devices
- constructed wetlands
- and more on private land

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the improvement that advances progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

The basins, stormceptors, and treatment devices help to keep pollutants from entering our water system by either evaporating the water and allowing the pollutants to settle out, or by detaining the water underground for a predetermined amount of time, also allowing pollutants to settle out. The Post-Construction BMPs help to treat and/or detain stormwater runoff from City facilities to protect water quality and infrastructure.

*Briefly describe funding invested in facility or infrastructure improvement in the past 3 years*

Two full-time City employees who focus half of their time on stormwater quality management and green infrastructure inspection and tracking have been hired. Approximately \$50,000/year has been dedicated to the installation of City-owned stormwater treatment devices.

## NS-2: INVASIVE SPECIES

### PRELIMINARY STEP

Use a species-led or site-led approach to identify the invasive species of greatest threat, priority areas for protection, and critical entry points

- **Species-led approach** – Identify the species that are of greatest threat to the area and rank them based on their potential impact or threat level. Use this information to identify the key areas to protect and the regional critical entry points.
- **Site-led approach** – Identify local priority natural systems areas. Subsequently identify species that are a threat to those locations and their critical entry points.

*Provide a complete list of all protection areas and critical entry points. Note where appropriate the specific invasive species threat to the location.*

Protection areas and/or Critical entry points	Specific invasive species threat
West end	White top
Rossman Property	White Top
Waste Management	White Top
Overlook Property	White Top
Cook Chevrolet	White Top
Chinook Townhomes	White Top
Olsen Property	White Top

**Protection areas and/or  
Critical entry points**

**Specific invasive species threat**

Yampa River

Northern Pike

## LOCAL ACTION 1: PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Develop a community-wide invasive species integrated pest management plan

*Provide plan title*

Routt County 2013 Noxious Weed Management Plan

*Link to or upload full plan*

Noxious Weed Mgmt Plan Steamboat Springs.pdf

*Date plan was officially adopted, endorsed by the local government, or had last major update*

2013

*If the plan was adopted or updated more than 3 years ago, briefly describe how the plan is still relevant and in use*

N/A

*Describe the development process and include information on stakeholder involvement and participating agencies, departments, and/or organizations involved*

In compliance with Section 35-5.5-106 of the Colorado Weed Management Act, the City of Steamboat Springs made a resolution to adopt the Noxious Weed Management Plan in 2013. Further, in 1997, the City of Steamboat Springs entered into an agreement to implement a noxious weed management plan and to update it at least once every three years. The City of Steamboat Springs, City Council, the Routt County Weed Board, and County Commissioners all approved of the updated 2013 plan.

*Provide vision statement or high-level description of plan goals*

To prioritize weed management and prevent a weed from becoming a problem.

*Describe the key recommendations of the plan*

Under the Colorado Weed Act, there are three lists of noxious Weeds. The Routt County Weed Act organized noxious weeds of threat into those categories. List A contains plants that are serious issues in other Western states, but not yet issues in Colorado. Those plants are to be eradicated. List B contains plants that need to be looked into by the state and by local governments. List C contains plants that are serious problems in this state, but eradication and containment of them is impossible. These plants should be suppressed.

*Does the plan contain quantifiable targets or metrics for evaluating progress?*

no

*Describe the strategy for implementing plan recommendations, including responsible parties, level of effort anticipated, and resources dedicated*

The Routt County Weed Control Department strategized to manage noxious weeds following the principles of integrated weed management, which seeks to create desirable plant communities utilizing a variety of methods to manage noxious weeds. These methods include biological, chemical, cultural, and mechanical control techniques. Integrated weed management also incorporates education, prevention, and good land stewardship.

Landowners will play a major role in helping to eradicate or suppress specified plants. They are encouraged to begin or continue to manage weeds living on their land. The Routt County Weed Management Department provides technical assistance to landowners throughout this process. The County also realizes that managing weeds in county-owned and maintained lands is important as well and commits to do so. The county also commits to map noxious weed infestations.

## LOCAL ACTION 2: POLICY AND CODE ADJUSTMENT

Adopt local ordinance requiring control of listed priority invasive species or enact a native plant ordinance for private and public landscaping

*Provide the title of the specific policy or code*

The Routt County 2013 Noxious Weed Management Plan

*Link to or upload copy of the policy or code requirement*

Noxious Weed Mgmt Plan Steamboat Springs.pdf

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the policy or regulation that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

The plan provides a list of weeds that need to be eradicated (List A), weeds that need determining (List B), weeds that need to be suppressed (List C), and weeds that the county wants the greatest emphasis on (County List). The plan also describes how the landowners and the County and City all are expected to maintain control of noxious weeds; if the County and the City aren't managing weeds on their end, landowners can't be expected to either. The County provides a weed management program that gives technical assistance to landowners throughout the process and commits to control weeds in County owned and maintained land.

For plants in List A, which aren't a serious problem in Colorado but need to be eradicated because of their impact elsewhere in the West, landowners need to work to eradicate them from their property. For plants in List C, which are serious problems in the county, landowners need to continue to control them on their property, as suppression is the goal for List C.

*Was there public engagement during development of the policy or regulation?*

no

*Date policy or code adoption was adopted or last major update*

2013

## **LOCAL ACTION 3: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION**

Partner with local volunteer groups or neighborhood associations to restore priority natural systems areas by planting native plants or improving local wildlife habitat

*Provide the name of the partnership or committee AND briefly describe each partner's contribution or criteria for committee selection*

Yampa Valley Sustainability Council's ReTree program involves volunteers in planting native trees to restore and enhance habitat. The City provides funding.

*Type of collaboration*

Community collaboration

*Link to or upload documentation of the partnership or committee's creation or ongoing work*

NS-2, A-3.zip

*Date established*

2010

*Describe key accomplishments in the past 3 years*

ReTree through the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council receives funding from the City through our Community Support funding. The program "has engaged 2,058 volunteers to plant and care for 23,190 trees" since the program started in 2010. 19,770 of those trees were planted and cared for in the past several years. The program started as a way to replace trees killed by the native/naturally occurring Mountain Pine Beetle and has evolved into a program that enhances natural wildlife habitat. All trees planted through the Retree program are native species.

*Briefly describe the local government's financial contribution and/or elected official/staff time dedicated in the past 3 years*

\$32,750 was provided by the City to the Sustainability Council in the past three years.

## **LOCAL ACTION 4: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION**

Partner with local volunteer groups to monitor vector zones or areas at greatest risk of invasive species invasion, and organize "weed pulls" and other invasive management actions

*Provide the name of the partnership or committee AND briefly describe each partner's contribution or criteria for committee selection*

The Routt County (RC) Weed Program - The City of Steamboat Springs entered into an IGA with the RC Weed Advisory Board and Routt County to carry out the County's Weed Plans. The Program involves educating the public about invasive species and why their control is necessary. The RC Weed Advisory Board is a volunteer group made of 10 Routt County residents, two of which are from the Steamboat Springs district, appointed by County Commissioners. The group is responsible for implementing Colorado Weed Law and has the authority to create and implement a weed management plan.

*Type of collaboration*

Formal partnership

*Link to or upload documentation of the partnership or committee's creation or ongoing work*

Noxious Weed Mgmt Plan Steamboat Springs.pdf

*Date established*

1997

*Describe key accomplishments in the past 3 years*

The partnership involves collaboration and strategizing on controlling noxious weeds in priority areas. The 2013 Noxious Weed Management Plan was adopted by all parties. The Weed Program involves not only controlling noxious weeds, but also educating the public on their potential threats.

The RC Weed Advisory Board, along with the RC Board of County Commissioners and the City of Steamboat Springs, is responsible for enforcement of the weed law and assists landowners with integrated weed control recommendations. Appropriate integrated weed management tools include the use of one or more methods of control, including chemical, cultural, biological, or mechanical. A list of noxious weeds that must be controlled in the area is available on the Routt County Weed Program website. "Pulling for Colorado" was a Weed-Pull program initiated by Routt County, however the program hasn't organized any Weed Pulls in the past three years.

*Briefly describe the local government's financial contribution and/or elected official/staff time dedicated in the past 3 years*

Around \$8,000 of the City's budget was provided for weed control.

## LOCAL ACTION 5: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Create a public education campaign or targeted outreach effort to inform residents and/or plant or animal sellers about the hazards of invasive species

Type of education and outreach effort within the past 3 years – choose 3:

### EVENTS, CLASSES, OR WORKSHOPS

Provide the following for three events, classes or workshops held

*Provide the title and a brief description*

The Noxious and Nuisance Weeds of Routt County

*Date*

02/06/2013

*Provide the title and a brief description*

Evaluating Weed Management Options

*Date*

02/13/2013

*Provide the title and a brief description*

How to Develop a Conservation Plan and Principles for Reseeding and Reclamation

*Date*

03/06/2013



## PRINT MATERIALS

Provide the following for printed material:

*Provide the title and a brief description*

"Routt County's 13 Noxious Weeds" lists invasive species in Routt County, their characteristics, how they should be managed, and why the public should be concerned.

*Link to or upload a copy of the printed material*

<http://www.co.routt.co.us/DocumentCenter/View/231>

## ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Provide the following for electronic media:

*Provide the title and a brief description*

Colorado State University Routt County Extension describes the "undesirable plants" (weeds) in Steamboat Springs and details the Weed Management Plan. The website has extensive information about agriculture in Routt County.

*Provide link (if applicable)*

<http://rcextension.colostate.edu/natu/weedmgt.shtml>

## LOCAL ACTION 7: ENFORCEMENT AND INCENTIVES

Enforce regulations to control the use and sale of listed invasive species

*Number of enforcement actions investigated in the past 3 years*

Over 800 letters of violation have been sent

*Provide description of the enforcement*

A notice of violation letter is sent, and the violator has seven days to respond with the method used.

*List agency(ies) / department(s) responsible for enforcement*

- City of Steamboat Springs Planning Code Department
- Enforcement Officer

*Briefly describe enforcement mechanism and process*

There are fines of up to \$999/day and/or up to 180 days of jail time for noncompliance.

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the enforcement activity that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

The City of Steamboat Springs and the County of Routt have developed a Routt County 2013 Noxious Weed Management Plan that details four lists of weeds that need to be controlled by the City, the County, and landowners. Landowners are well aware of one of the most threatening weeds called White Top. The County also provides education sessions about controlling weeds.

If landowners fail to control the weeds designated in the lists, the City can take action against them, including letters of violation, fines, and/or jail time. As a result, the City and County have seen a dramatic decrease in noxious weeds, most notably in White Top.

*Date enforcement was created or implemented*

1997

## **LOCAL ACTION 8: FACILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

Ensure that all local government-owned buildings use native plants or non-invasive species in landscaping

*Link to or upload procurement guidelines for landscaping local government facilities*

[https://www.municode.com/library/co/steamboat\\_springs/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTIISTSPREMUCO\\_CH26CO136OPSPVESIGR](https://www.municode.com/library/co/steamboat_springs/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIISTSPREMUCO_CH26CO136OPSPVESIGR)

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the improvement that advances progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

In the Steamboat Springs Code of Ordinances, there are several sections that discuss the use of native plants in landscaping. It requires that plants must be chosen for Steamboat's climate zone. The plants must be native to the area. The plants should also live long, look attractive, and not spread. Section 26-136 states that the City must "incorporate a variety of plant materials that have low water needs and are indigenous to the area."

## LOCAL ACTION 9: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Take actions to prevent the spread of invasive species, especially in priority natural systems areas, such as monitoring, eradication, or other control programs

*Provide the name and a brief description of the program or service*

Steamboat Springs' Open Space and Trails Program

*Number of staff hours dedicated to the program in the last 3 years*

120

*Number of participants in program in the past 3 years*

2 contractors hired annually to treat weeds in open space and trails areas

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the program or service that advances progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

The program works towards identifying and treating affected, priority areas and reestablishing native vegetation. The program is responsible for the year-round maintenance and management of over 2,500 acres of undeveloped and agricultural land.

*Date program or service was created or implemented*

2001

## **NS-3: NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION**

### **OUTCOME 3: CONNECTIVITY**

Increase the area of land directly connected to regional natural systems in order to improve ecosystem services

*Baseline year*

2000

*Number of acres connected in baseline year*

1766

*Number of acres connected in most recent year data is available*

2736

*Upload a map documenting the increase over time in connected lands*

NS-3 O3\_SteamboatSprings.pdf

### **LOCAL ACTION 1: PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

Develop a plan to protect and restore natural resources through land conservation, corridor connectivity, and restoration of biological integrity and function

*Provide plan title*

1) Steamboat Springs Area Open Space and Trails Master Plan; 2) Yampa River Management Plan

*Link to or upload full plan*

NS 3 A1 Natural Resource Protection plans.zip

*Date plan was officially adopted, endorsed by the local government, or had last major update*

2003

*If the plan was adopted or updated more than 3 years ago, briefly describe how the plan is still relevant and in use*

1) The Steamboat Springs Area Open Space and Trails Master Plan was adopted in 2008 and contains ongoing action items, including the identification and protection of additional open space properties. <http://steamboatsprings.net/DocumentCenter/View/303> 2) The Yampa River Management Plan was adopted in 2003 and contains ongoing action items. <http://steamboatsprings.net/DocumentCenter/View/1595>

*Describe the development process and include information on stakeholder involvement and participating agencies, departments, and/or organizations involved*

1) Involved in the creation of the Open Space and Trails Master Plan was a Technical Advisory Committee and Stakeholders. The Advisory Committee was made up of the Routt County Planning Department, Steamboat Springs (SS) Recreational Services, SS Department of Planning and Community Development, SS Internal Services, Yampa Valley Land Trust, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and EDAW as a consultant. Stakeholders were the Routt County Extension Office, Routt County Riders, Adjacent Emerald Mountain Land Owners, Steamboat II Metro District, Yampa Valley Fly Fishers, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Routt County Purchase of Development Rights Citizens Advisory Board, and the Friends of the Yampa. Taking place in 2006 was an inventory and analysis; preliminary vision, goals, issues, and opportunities; and public workshops. The plan was developed from late 2006 until mid 2007. Public review, implementation, and recommendations took place in mid to late 2007.

2) The Yampa River Management Plan development process included a proposal review group, City staff, EDAW (consultant), a Citizens Advisory Committee, stakeholders, two public workshops, the City's Parks and Recreation Commission, and City Council.

*Provide vision statement or high-level description of plan goals*

1) Because of Steamboat's population growth and development, open space and park lands are becoming more and more important. "The community will develop a well financed and well maintained open lands program to protect the physical beauty, the open spaces, the special places, and the healthy ecosystem of the valley in perpetuity." 2) "The Yampa River will always be a flourishing, vibrant, bio-diverse natural river corridor that is enjoyed, respected, protected, and supported by its community with commitment, education, and sensible regulation."

*Describe the key recommendations of the plan*

1) The plan makes many recommendations based on many goals. A few of those goals include the following. The community should identify and protect key open space areas, and the development of a well connected trail system. Our open spaces should be well integrated with our urban areas. The community should identify critical wetland areas and critical wildlife habitats, and enhance and conserve these areas for future generations. A permanent and constant revenue source dedicated to the acquisition and preservation of open space should also be established. The community should create an open space system comprising of different types of permanent open space such as Community preserve, natural areas, special resource areas, and agricultural lands.

2) The key recommendations of the plan include protecting river health and managing river recreation sustainably. Commercial river user fees need to be standardized at 5% of gross revenues. Set back requirements and floodplain protection need to be expanded per the Community Plan Update. The monitoring program (described in the last section of this question) should be implemented and funded.

*Does the plan contain quantifiable targets or metrics for evaluating progress?*

yes

*Describe the strategy for implementing plan recommendations, including responsible parties, level of effort anticipated, and resources dedicated*

1) The plan states that "the most viable mechanisms [for funding] include a dedicated sales tax, lodging taxes, and a dedicated property tax." Grant programs should also be utilized. Incentives for landowners to donate conservation easements should be pursued. City staff also need to be dedicated to the implementation of action items, and county staff are responsible for several action items.

2) There are detailed monitoring plans for the aquatic habitat, the terrestrial habitat, land use, and recreation. These plans include an estimated required budget and several indicators including creel and river otter counts, photo-monitoring, and weed inventory.

## LOCAL ACTION 2: POLICY AND CODE ADJUSTMENT

Adopt land use regulations that establish appropriate wetland, stream, and shoreline buffer widths and adjacent land uses

*Provide the title of the specific policy or code*

Article IV. Zone Districts & Permitted Uses

*Link to or upload copy of the policy or code requirement*

[https://www.municode.com/library/co/steamboat\\_springs/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTIISTSPREMUCO\\_CH26CO](https://www.municode.com/library/co/steamboat_springs/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIISTSPREMUCO_CH26CO)

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the policy or regulation that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

Open Space and Recreation Zone District, Purpose and intent: The open space and recreation zone district is intended primarily to provide areas for public or private recreational uses, open space preservation, or other similar uses. This zone district may include protection of environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, floodplains, rivers and streams, development buffers, or public recreation facilities such as parks, athletic fields, ski areas, and community gathering spaces.

*Was there public engagement during development of the policy or regulation?*

yes

*Date policy or code adoption was adopted or last major update*

2008

## **LOCAL ACTION 3: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION**

Create an advisory board to inform land conservation and restoration activities

*Provide the name of the partnership or committee AND briefly describe each partner's contribution or criteria for committee selection*

The Parks and Recreation Commission was set up to collaborate with City Council on the development and maintenance of our parks, open spaces, facilities, and recreational facilities.

*Type of collaboration*

Appointed committee

*Link to or upload documentation of the partnership or committee's creation or ongoing work*

<http://steamboatsprings.net/index.aspx?NID=93>

*Date established*

1993 or before

*Describe key accomplishments in the past 3 years*

The Commission was created in 1977 and has recently supported river projects and trail development, including a new beginner trail on Emerald Mountain, and has obtained grants for restoration projects, operating budgets, and management plans. The Commission also initiated the Alternative Funding subcommittee to look into alternative ways to provide funding for parks and recreation throughout Steamboat Springs.

*Briefly describe the local government's financial contribution and/or elected official/staff time dedicated in the past 3 years*

City Council collaborates with the commission on projects and hears recommendations made by the commission. The commission meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the every month in a government building. The fourth Wednesday meetings are work sessions. Staff members from the City's parks and community services department frequent the meetings and dedicate approximately 250 hours per year.

## **LOCAL ACTION 4: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION**

Partner with adjacent jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, and local or regional non-profit organizations to advance land conservation and restoration efforts

*Provide the name of the partnership or committee AND briefly describe each partner's contribution or criteria for committee selection*

The Yampa River Legacy Partnership was formed in 1997 and operates under a memorandum of understanding between multiple federal, state and local governments in Northwest Colorado. Legacy membership is outlined in the MOU and includes local, state and federal government and non-profit partners, as well as representatives of various stakeholder groups including agriculture, business, recreation, youth and outdoor education, youth and outdoor jobs, public lands, and the Yampa River. The Legacy Partnership provides a forum for partners to develop and implement large and small land conservation, land acquisition, and land/river restoration projects.



*Type of collaboration*

Formal partnership

*Link to or upload documentation of the partnership or committee's creation or ongoing work*

NS-3, A-4.zip

*Date established*

1997

*Describe key accomplishments in the past 3 years*

1. Continued Implementation of the 2011 Memorandum of Understanding: BLM Representative, Wendy Reynolds, Little Snake Field Manager, assumed the responsibility to coordinate AGO funding for projects. Received Federal commitments for \$300,000 (2012). Approval of the Routt County Conservation District as a non-voting Partner (2013). City of Steamboat Springs continues to supply Administrative Staff who prepares agendas, minutes, and maintains communications within the Legacy Partnership (2012-2015)

2. Community Participation and Outreach: Nomination of John Kerst, long-time Business Representative and Chairman of the Legacy Partnership for the Steamboat Springs Heritage Award (2014). Letter and presentation to the Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable and the Colorado Water Conservation Board on the Colorado Water Plan regarding the following "Principles" for the Yampa River Basin: protect flows for agricultural lands and the local recreation economies; protect flows for the natural resources, for the ecology of Northwest Colorado, native riparian habitats, and for native fish; and protect flows in light of compact calls and climate change (2014). Review of State Land Board (SLB) Parcels in the SLB Stewardship Trust and letter of opposition to the SLB proposal to remove the South Beach SLB Parcel from the Stewardship Trust (2014). Consensus concerning the need to work on establishing a Yampa River Leafy Spurge Project to address the leafy spurge infestation in western Routt County and eastern Moffat County (2015)

### 3. Legacy Partnership Projects

- Yampa Valley Land Trust and City of Steamboat Springs grant application to GOCO's River Corridors Initiative which was successful for \$2.4 million (City \$300,000 matched with \$150,000 from AGO, remainder Land Trust) (2012)
- Facilitate Western Rivers Conservancy purchase of the Gum Drop Ranch (Cross Mountain Ranch) to hold for BLM. (2012)
- BLM purchase of the Cross Mountain Ranch (the Gum Drop Ranch) with its 2.5 miles of the Yampa River and 920 acres, which is immediately up stream of the Cross Mountain Canyon of the Yampa River for

\$1,800,000 with funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for hunting and fishing through the America's Great Outdoors Initiative (2013)

- BLM Little Yampa Canyon Project, including public campground and road improvements under the BLM's Recreation Area Planning (2013)
- Identification of the BLM Sarvis Creek Project (2012). Facilitate Western Rivers Conservancy purchase of the Sarvis Creek Parcel to hold for BLM and US Forest Service (2013).
- BLM and the US Forest Service purchased the Sarvis Creek Parcel, 45.54 acs contiguous to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness Area and 2,000 acs of public lands with 1/3 mile of the Yampa River for \$1,250,000 with Land and Water Conservation Funds through the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. (2014)
- Yampa Valley Land Trust facilitated the purchase of the conservation easement on 640 acs of the Iron Springs Ranch with \$750,000 in funds from the Routt County Purchase of Development Rights Fund and \$955,000 of landowner donation (2015)

4. Communication and Information Sharing within the Legacy Partnership:

One of the most important characteristics of the 29 Legacy Partnership meetings held during this time period (2012 through August 2015) is an agenda item called Member Reports. These Reports are an invaluable source of knowledge from this diverse group of Partners. It is through these Reports that information is passed on concerning the activities of the Partners in the Yampa Valley.

*Briefly describe the local government's financial contribution and/or elected official/staff time dedicated in the past 3 years*

The City of Steamboat Springs is a founding member of the Legacy Partnership and has provided monthly staff support to the group since its inception. In the past three years, staff has spent approximately 60 hours providing administrative staff support to the partnership per year, as well as 36 hours per year attending meetings and additional hours carrying out project management of Legacy projects on City property. In addition, the City has spent \$450,000 on Legacy Partnership restoration projects on City lands in the past three years.

## LOCAL ACTION 5: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Sponsor educational and outreach activities to increase ecological literacy and knowledge about natural resource protection

Type of education and outreach effort within the past 3 years – choose 3:

## EVENTS, CLASSES, OR WORKSHOPS

Provide the following for three events, classes or workshops held

*Provide the title and a brief description*

Wednesday Wonderings - a series covering topics including ecology, natural resources, and gardening

*Date*

06/03/2015 - 08/26/2015

*Provide the title and a brief description*

Fish Creek Falls Hike - teaches about local flora, fauna, geology, and history

*Date*

06/25/2015 - 09/03/2015

*Provide the title and a brief description*

Wildflower Walk Series - covers topics relating to Colorado wildflowers and preservation

*Date*

07/25/2015

## ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Provide the following for electronic media:

*Provide the title and a brief description*

Yampatika provides an array of affordable, and free, science-based, cultural, and natural history resources for educators regarding environmental stewardship.

*Provide link (if applicable)*

<http://www.yampatika.org/resources-for-educators/>

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Provide the following for social media:

*Describe social media effort*

The Yampatika Facebook page alerts followers of ecological- and preservation- based events in and around Steamboat Springs and Routt County. They also create informational posts regarding ecology and preservation.

*Link to social media website*

<https://www.facebook.com/yampatika.steamboatsprings>

## **LOCAL ACTION 6: ENFORCEMENT AND INCENTIVES**

Adopt land use strategies to incentivize permanent land conservation

*Number of acres conserved through incentives in the past 3 years*

N/A

*Link to or upload copy of written incentive*

NS-3 A-6 Steamboat Springs Sec.\_26\_184-185.\_\_\_\_Standards\_for\_all\_subdivisions..docx

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the incentive that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

While this part of our municipal code is not an incentive and the number of acres conserved are not tracked, it is a regulation that requires new residential and nonresidential subdivisions in the City of Steamboat Springs to provide open space areas. These regulations can be found at Sections 26-184(d)(1) and 26-185 (d)(1). The open space in new subdivisions may be used for active parks, open spaces, passive recreation facilities, and/or recreation trails. A minimum of 15% of the gross land area must be used for this open space

designation.

*Date incentive was created or implemented*

2001

## LOCAL ACTION 7: ENFORCEMENT AND INCENTIVES

Implement local and market-based financing strategies to acquire land or development easements, or fund restoration and maintenance activities

*Total local funding appropriated in the past 3 years*

Approx. \$1,050,000 from City; approx. \$5,711,410 from County Purchase of Development Rights Program

*Link to or upload copy of written incentive*

NS-3 A-7.zip

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the incentive that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

The Steamboat Springs Area Open Space and Trails Master Plan includes suggested methods for funding land acquisition, restoration, and maintenance. The local funding appropriated comes from the City's open space and trails budget and from grants. Easements have been acquired through both federal and Colorado tax law, which allows land owners to donate land for conservation purposes. In return for the donation, the IRS allows the land owner to receive a deduction from federal income taxes. A similar benefit is given on state income tax by Colorado, including a tax credit. The Yampa Valley Land Trust now holds over 30,000 acres under the federal and state conservation easements. This program began in 2001.

The Routt County Purchase of Development Rights Program (PDR) is a program developed by Routt county in 1995 to preserve our vital open lands. Agriculture represents a significant and relatively stable portion of the County's economy, having an annual fiscal contribution of more than \$46 million. The abundance of agricultural lands and natural areas in Routt County also plays a substantial role in attracting tourists and thus supporting the local recreational economy. Natural areas also sustain the vital ecological communities that support wildlife, waterfowl, and fisheries. PDR protects lands by purchasing a property's development rights from willing landowners. In exchange, the landowner grants a perpetual conservation easement, or deed restriction on the property, thereby permanently protecting the land from development. The land may be sold or transferred, but the deed restriction remains in place. The PDR Program provides landowners an economically attractive alternative to selling land for development by compensating them for the development rights on their land. Ownership of the property remains vested with the landowner, who can

use and manage the property consistent with the terms of the conservation easement.

*Date incentive was created or implemented*

1995

## LOCAL ACTION 8: FACILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Restore, maintain, and monitor conserved natural lands to increase natural resource resilience, adaptability, and biological integrity

*List of projects engaged in during the past 3 years*

- Diseased/dead tree removal
- beetle management
- river improvements
- noxious weed spraying
- revegetation of native areas
- tree planting
- and trash cleanups in river

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the improvement that advances progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

These projects overall improve the function of our natural environment. Beetle kill is a major problem for trees in the Steamboat Springs area. Beetle management is essential for stopping its spread and limiting the number of trees affected. Removing diseased trees also helps to limit the number of trees affected and save more of the population. By spraying weeds, we remove non-native plant species, and through the revegetation of native areas, we ensure that native species replace the non native invasive species.

*Briefly describe funding invested in facility or infrastructure improvement in the past 3 years*

Approximately \$600,000 was spent in the City's open space and trails operating and personnel budgets. Approximately \$50,000 in grants was used for the river.

## NS-4: OUTDOOR AIR QUALITY

### OUTCOME 1: CONCENTRATION AND EMISSIONS

**Option A:** Achieve attainment or maintenance status for all measured criteria pollutants

*Is the community located in a region that has achieved attainment or maintenance status for all measured criteria pollutants?*

yes

*Upload documentation verifying status*

NS-4 Outdoor Air Quality O-1 - Steamboatsprings.docx

### LOCAL ACTION 1: POLICY AND CODE ADJUSTMENT

Adopt regulatory strategies that permit or incentivize increased residential and employment densities and diverse uses in transit-served areas and areas identified for compact, mixed-use development

*Provide the title of the specific policy or code*

Steamboat Springs Code of Ordinances Sec 26-91 (c)(1)p. TND-Traditional Neighborhood Development Zone District

*Link to or upload copy of the policy or code requirement*

[https://www.municode.com/library/co/steamboat\\_springs/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=PTIISTSPREMUCO\\_CH26CO](https://www.municode.com/library/co/steamboat_springs/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIISTSPREMUCO_CH26CO)

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the policy or regulation that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) zoning advances progress toward the desired outcome by permitting, encouraging, and promoting innovatively designed developments involving residential and nonresidential land uses, which together form an attractive and harmonious mixed-use development with an internally consistent hierarchy of building and street types using TND principles.

*Was there public engagement during development of the policy or regulation?*

yes

*Date policy or code adoption was adopted or last major update*

2013

## LOCAL ACTION 5: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

Partner with a local or regional organization to support one or more transportation management association(s) that promote rideshare programs and incentives for commuters to use alternative modes of transportation to work other than single-occupancy vehicles

*Provide the name of the partnership or committee AND briefly describe each partner's contribution or criteria for committee selection*

The City's transit service Steamboat Springs Transit (SST) - the city provides free to rider transit services within Steamboat Springs. In addition, SST participates in Mountain recreation transportation collaboration is a community collaboration around mass transit. Partners include: 1) Steamboat Springs Transit- provides mass transportation around town and to recreational areas. 2) Go Alpine and Storm Mountain Express provide taxi service in Steamboat Springs and transportation to and from the local airport and the Denver airport. 3) Multiple property management companies operate shuttles from lodging to the ski area and other local destinations. Partners meet annually to discuss mass transit needs and issues, as well as to promote use of the transit system.

*Type of collaboration*

Community collaboration

*Link to or upload documentation of the partnership or committee's creation or ongoing work*

<https://co-steamboatsprings.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/7064>

*Date established*

1993 or before



*Describe key accomplishments in the past 3 years*

The City provides free to rider transit within Steamboat Springs. For the past nine years, transit ridership has been over 1 million passengers each year. Passenger survey data indicates that approximately 1,000 trips per day in the summer are local commuters. In the winter, passenger survey data indicates approximately 2,000 - 2,500 trips per day are local commuters.

In addition, the city has switched its transit fleet from diesel buses to hybrid buses to save on fuel efficiency and to protect air quality.

*Briefly describe the local government's financial contribution and/or elected official/staff time dedicated in the past 3 years*

The City of Steamboat Springs, per council policy, spends 14% of its annual operating budget on providing transit services in Steamboat Springs. In 2015, this was \$3.15 million. In 2014, this was \$3.09 million. In 2013, this was \$2.94 million.

## **LOCAL ACTION 6: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

Educate the public about the impacts of poor air quality on human health and the natural environment and the efforts they can take to reduce pollution and exposure

Type of education and outreach effort within the past 3 years – choose 3:

### **PRINT MATERIALS**

Provide the following for printed material:

*Provide the title and a brief description*

The Slash Pile Burning Guide is intended to help landowners better understand what is involved with burning brush piles following a timber harvest or defensible space activity.

*Link to or upload a copy of the printed material*

<http://www.co.routt.co.us/DocumentCenter/View/131>

## ELECTRONIC MEDIA

Provide the following for electronic media:

*Provide the title and a brief description*

CDPHE - Air Quality and Colorado Smoke Outlook

*Provide link (if applicable)*

<http://www.colorado.gov/airquality/addendum.aspx#smoke>

## OTHER

*Description of education or outreach effort*

Individual outreach with open burn permittees

*Total number of participants*

25 Permits per year

## LOCAL ACTION 7: ENFORCEMENT AND INCENTIVES

Enforce anti-idling regulations or burning restrictions to prevent emission of excess pollution, particularly on Air Quality Action Days

*Average number of citations issued annually over the past 3 years*

2

*Provide description of the enforcement*

1. All (indoor and outdoor) solid fuel burning devices need to be registered with the City, and it is unlawful to operate any solid fuel burning device that is not registered. If a person has violated this article, the City can issue a notice describing the corrective action that needs to be taken, and the person has 30 days to comply. The City does not issue citations for violations within this 30 day window. It investigates every call/complaint, and if burning is occurring without a license, it extinguishes the fire and provides notice that the party needs to get a permit/license. 2. Under Colorado law, no person is allowed to leave a car unattended without first turning the engine off. The City enforces this through investigating calls and through officer observation while on patrol.

*List agency(ies) / department(s) responsible for enforcement*

- 1. The City's Fire Department - Steamboat Springs Fire Rescue - enforces outdoor burning restrictions. The Building department enforces indoor burning devices such as fireplaces. 2. Law enforcement agencies throughout the state
- including the Steamboat Springs Police Department.

*Briefly describe enforcement mechanism and process*

1. If the person does not comply with the notice in 30 days, the City can issue an order to comply and can issue a summons and complaint with the municipal court for violations. The City can also obtain injunctive relief, abate the nuisance caused by or otherwise correct the violation through the municipal court. An order to comply shall be temporarily stayed if an aggrieved person files a notice of appeal. It should be noted that compliance with the initial notice has been 100%, so the city has not had to issue an order or file in the district court. 2. Any person who fails to comply with this law is committing a class B traffic infraction, which includes a minimum fine of \$15 and a maximum of \$100. Police officers investigate and issue warnings or citations as needed.

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the enforcement activity that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

1. This article appears in Chapter 7 of the municipal code of Steamboat Springs. The article also describes the mechanism for appeal, the limitation on the number of solid fuel burning devices allowed within residential buildings and commercial buildings. Burning restrictions have enabled the City to meet air quality standards. Prior to burning restrictions (especially for fireplaces), the community did not meet EPA PM-10 air quality standards.
2. The anti-idling state law has positively impacted air quality across the state.

*Date enforcement was created or implemented*

2012

## **LOCAL ACTION 8: FACILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

Improve traffic signal timing or upgrade intersections to relieve congestion

*Number of intersections where traffic signals were retimed or that received other infrastructure upgrades to relieve traffic congestion in the past year*

1

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the improvement that advances progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

CDOT resurfaced Highway 40, the main street of Steamboat Springs, in 2009-2011, and during that process improved all of the downtown intersections and timing of traffic signals. Annual maintenance of the intersections and maintenance on the downtown signals has occurred since their reconstruction. As a small community, the improvements needed to signal timing and intersections at the downtown intersections are limited and relatively easy to perform. Our community has eight signals outside of the downtown area, six of which are on a State highway and under the jurisdiction of CDOT, and two of which are local. In the past three years, we partnered with CDOT to improve one of the CDOT intersections. In 2015, pedestrian and intersection improvements took place at the Pine Grove/US 40 intersection. Specific improvements included shortening pedestrian travel distances, adding an additional period for left hand turns, and improving the timing of the signal at the intersection.

In the downtown Steamboat Springs Area, seven signals between 3rd Street and 13th Street were re-timed from 2009 to 2011. The objective of the project was to accommodate a new traffic signal at 11th Street, and to shorten pedestrian crossing distances with the addition of bulb outs. Another goal was to achieve better progression for the westbound direction due to traffic patterns. The City completed this project in partnership with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT). The travel improvements resulting from this project were identified by performing travel time and delay studies before and after implementation of the new coordination plans. Fuel consumption and pollutant emissions were calculated from these travel profiles. Although travel times did not improve during the morning peak period, signal delay along the corridor was reduced by nearly 20% during the morning peak. During the evening peak, the westbound travel time is reduced, average speeds along the corridor increased by one mile per hour, and there is a reduction of delay over 50% at corridor intersections.

There is also an upgrade at the Elk River Road/US 40 intersection scheduled for 2017.

*Briefly describe funding invested in facility or infrastructure improvement in the past 3 years*

The improvements at Pine Grove/US 40 were performed in partnership with CDOT at a cost of \$820,000. The traffic signal improvements and subsequent travel time and delay studies took place between 2009 and 2011. There have been no further traffic signal improvements since that time, and we therefore have invested no funding into the improvement in the past three years.

## LOCAL ACTION 9: FACILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Increase the mileage of sidewalks and dedicated bicycle infrastructure that connect people with destinations

*Percent increase in sidewalks added on arterial or collector roads in the past 3 years*

6.14% increase in sidewalks

*Upload a map showing the sidewalks or bicycle facilities added*

BE-7 A7.pdf

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the improvement that advances progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

The City constructed 2.2 miles of new sidewalks in the past three years, a 6.14% increase in new sidewalks. The sidewalks constructed were the highest priority sidewalks identified in the City's sidewalk master plan. Each sidewalk segment was on an arterial or collector road, with the exception of the two most northern sidewalks. One of these northern sidewalks connects the end of the highly used Yampa River Core trail and Bear River Park with Highway 40. (Previous to this sidewalk, the Core Trail ended at a dead end in a park, and the only way to reach the park was through the Core Trail.) The other northern sidewalk was built at the airport to ensure pedestrian safety.

*Briefly describe funding invested in facility or infrastructure improvement in the past 3 years*

The City spent \$1,134,000 on new sidewalk construction over the past three years. (2013-2015)

## LOCAL ACTION 10: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Create or enhance programs aimed at increasing tree canopy through active planting or direct tree protections

*Provide the name and a brief description of the program or service*

Open Space Acquisition/Management; Forestry Program/Tree City USA member; Yampa Valley Sustainability Council's ReTree Program

*Number of trees planted or placed into permanent protection in the past 3 years*

Just under 20,000

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the program or service that advances progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

The Open Spaces Acquisition and Management protects forests and lands that the City has acquired either through donations or purchase. It has been a program since 2001.

Steamboat Springs has been a member of Tree City USA for 24 years. As a member, Steamboat is dedicated to maintaining a healthy tree system city-wide. Membership was extended to Steamboat because we were able to show that we had a person/department legally responsible for the care of all the trees in our city, a tree care ordinance, a Community Forestry Program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita, and an arbor day observance and proclamation.

Through ReTree Steamboat, volunteers have planted and cared for a total of 23,190 trees since 2010. The event is run by the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council, which receives funding from the City through their Community Support budget.

*Date program or service was created or implemented*

2001

## LOCAL ACTION 11: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Implement targeted programs to encourage residents to transition to cleaner products

*Provide the name and a brief description of the program or service*

Community Recycles Drop Off Day; Green Building Program; Water Conservation and Quality Program; Yampa Valley Recycles; Cen\$ible Energy

*List of types of products targeted in the past 3 years*

- Household hazardous waste
- solar energy
- efficiency shower heads
- rain sensors
- efficiency appliances and fixtures
- disposable bags

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the program or service that advances progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

The Yampa Valley Sustainability Council was founded in 2008 and receives yearly financial contributions from the City of Steamboat Springs. The Council is largely, if not solely, responsible for the programs mentioned in this Action.

In partnership with the county and local businesses, the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council (YVSC) hosts an annual Community Recycles Drop-off Day. At this event, they accept hard-to-recycle items as well as Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). This event has occurred yearly since 2010.

The YVSC's Green Building Program advances the local green building movement with educational opportunities and collaborative outreach. The program includes events and talks that highlight rebates, sustainable projects, and education. One of these events informed the public about solar leasing and solar gardens and provided financial calculators used to decide whether a home energy efficiency project is cost-effective.

The YVSC's Water Conservation and Quality Program encourages the community to use more efficient products, and to use their existing products more efficiently. The products promoted include water-efficient shower heads, rain sensors on irrigation controls, and efficient appliances and fixtures. They also make suggestions for how to use water heaters, irrigation systems, and faucets more efficiently.

The YVSC's Yampa Valley Recycles Program promotes recycling throughout the community. One targeted product they dissuade community members from using are disposable bags. Beginning in 2013, they offered a bag exchange program at two locations in Steamboat. At these locations, reusable bags can be dropped off and picked up as needed at no cost. The Council also provides Bring Your Bag Tags at no charge; the tags can be personally used as a reminder to bring your bags when shopping.

Cen\$ible Energy began in 2015. It is a rebate program offered to residential and business members of the Yampa Valley Electric Association. The rebates are currently provided for LED lights, Energy Star

Appliances, programmable thermostats, energy audits, and air sealing.

*Date program or service was created or implemented*

2008

## NS-5: WATER IN THE ENVIRONMENT

### OUTCOME 1: HYDROLOGICAL INTEGRITY

Demonstrate that the amount of water withdrawn from the system for human uses does not exceed the amount of freshwater entering the system through precipitation, river flow, and other sources

*Water balance for the community in the last 3 years.*

436.865 million gallons

*Upload a document showing the calculations for the water balance and the relevant data sources*

NS-5 O-1.xlsx

### OUTCOME 2: BIOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

Achieve a biological integrity rating of 'Very Good' or 'Good' based on EPA's 305(b) reporting requirements for all water bodies with appropriate designated uses

*All required reporting water bodies achieved a 'Very Good' or 'Good' rating*

yes

*Upload a map showing water bodies, designated uses, and biological integrity ratings*

NS-5 O-2.zip



*Upload key excerpts from 305(b) submissions*

NS-5 O-2 Key Excerpts.pdf

## OUTCOME 3: CHEMICAL INTEGRITY - POLLUTANTS

**Option A:** Demonstrate pollutant loadings below Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) levels

*TMDL level for each required reporting area and the reporting area name.*

1. None of the waterbodies in Steamboat Springs have TMDLs

*Upload a single document with key excerpts from TMDL, point source, or stormwater permitting reports*

NS-5 Outcomes Overview of Waterbodies.docx

## OUTCOME 4: CHEMICAL INTEGRITY - USABILITY

**Option A:** Demonstrate that all non-industrial water bodies are swimmable and fishable during 90% of days in the past year

*Provide the percentage of days the water body is swimmable and fishable*

1. All waterbodies - swimmable/fishable
2. 100% of days in the past year

*Upload a document listing non-industrial water bodies, the percentage of swimmable and fishable days in the past year, and the dates and reasons for closures*

Steamboat Springs Waterbody List with Map.pdf

## LOCAL ACTION 1: PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Adopt a watershed management plan that integrates natural water bodies with human water use and addresses inputs and outputs of the water systems

*Provide plan title*

1) The Upper Yampa River Watershed Group State of the Watershed Report (SOWR) (Phase II--Watershed Action Plan Development is in-progress); 2) Yampa Basin Section 208 Watershed Plan (208 Plan); 3) Upper Yampa River Basin Implementation Plan (UYIP)

*Link to or upload full plan*

NS-5, A-1.zip

*Date plan was officially adopted, endorsed by the local government, or had last major update*

2014

*If the plan was adopted or updated more than 3 years ago, briefly describe how the plan is still relevant and in use*

Plan 1 (SOWR) was adopted in 2014, plan 2 (208 Plan) was adopted in 2002, and plan 3 (UYIP) was adopted in 2006. Relevant portions of the six policies outlined in the 2002 208 Plan have been integrated into the 2014 SOWR and Draft Watershed Action Plan. A complex and integrated system of policies and programs have been implemented to help meet the targets outlined in the 208 Plan.

*Describe the development process and include information on stakeholder involvement and participating agencies, departments, and/or organizations involved*

1) The 2014 SOWR is the first phase of the Upper Yampa Watershed Group's Plan. The Watershed Group is currently drafting an Action Plan that includes a matrix of prioritized water quality and stream health projects. Financial help was given by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District, the City of Steamboat Springs, the Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Routt County, the Town of Oak Creek, and the Routt County Conservation District. The Water Resources Engineer and City Engineer for the City of Steamboat Springs currently serve on the Technical Committee, and they actively participated in the development of this report.

2) According to the 208 Plan, it was a "cooperative effort between the

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division (WQCD), and the Yampa River Basin Partnership (YRBP). Over the past two years, the WQCD, YRBP, Moffat

County, Routt County, City of Craig, and City of Steamboat Springs have actively participated in the preparation and review of this document."

3) According to the UYIP, the Routt County Conservation District prepared the plan and was awarded a

Colorado Watershed Protection Fund grant to prepare the plan. It continues with watershed planning presented in the 208 Plan.

*Provide vision statement or high-level description of plan goals*

1) The Upper Yampa River Watershed Group (UYRWG) is committed to the physical, chemical, and biological health of the Upper Yampa River and its tributaries. By creating a non-regulatory watershed plan, the UYRWG hopes to increase local partnerships in their capacity to protect and enhance water quality, promote water conservation, and sustain and improve the present health of the watershed. 2) The primary goal of the updated 208 Plan is to address existing facilities, practices, and impacts to water quality, and to identify the necessary actions and responsible entities to carry out actions to protect the integrity of the watershed. 3) According to the UYIP, "this Implementation Plan addresses a smaller land area, provides a more localized plan, and presents further details for management and implementation of the top priority watershed protection recommendations presented in the 208 Plan."

*Describe the key recommendations of the plan*

1) In the SOWR, they found that "the Upper Yampa River Watershed generally has good water quality and biodiversity." However, "observations and data indicate areas where monitoring and implementation of restorative action are needed to improve general water quality and watershed health." Next, watershed objectives need to be established through outreach with public stakeholders and partnering organizations. A watershed plan for the Upper Yampa River Watershed that will characterize existing conditions needs to be developed. Creation of an Action Plan Matrix is currently in progress.

2) In the 208 Plan, six policies were outlined, each consisting of a general statement, various objectives, and a justification. These policies and their objectives include: improving public awareness of water quality conditions in the region; minimizing site disturbances on lands adjacent to surface waters, wetlands, and riparian environments; providing a database/GIS system that is readily available and usable; investigating potential intergovernmental agreements/vehicles for continued water quality programs and evaluations in the basin; and developing a long-range plan for collecting and assessing data, among many other objectives.

3) The UYIP selected a number of projects to be implemented and describes in detail how they will be executed and by whom, the resources that will be needed, and an implementation schedule. The projects chosen were the Headgate Survey (gathering information regarding existing headgates and stream conditions), an Educational Brochure (regarding pollution), Conservation Tours (of successful conservation practices), and a re-visitation of the 208 Plan.

*Does the plan contain quantifiable targets or metrics for evaluating progress?*

yes

*Describe the strategy for implementing plan recommendations, including responsible parties, level of effort anticipated, and resources dedicated*

Various City staff members worked on the three plans, particularly in the Public Works Department. They are dedicated to implementing a number of the recommendations in each of these plans. Partners in the implementation of these plans include CSU Extension, Routt County (RC) Environmental Health, RC Conservation District, the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts, Routt County, and the Colorado Watershed Assembly.

## LOCAL ACTION 2: POLICY AND CODE ADJUSTMENT

Adopt community regulations that protect water quality OR participate in a regional pollutant trading program that reduces watershed pollution levels

*Provide the title of the specific policy or code*

1) Ch. 25, Article VI: Illicit Discharge Ordinance 2) Chapter 27: Watershed Protection Ordinance 3) Chapter 5, Article 1, Section 5-3: Chapter 36 Construction Site Management--Environmental Controls

*Link to or upload copy of the policy or code requirement*

NS-5 A2 Water Quality.zip

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the policy or regulation that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

These ordinances regulate a variety of threats to Steamboat's water systems. The illicit discharge ordinance prevents unauthorized discharges into the storm sewer system, and establishes regulations and oversight authority in order to protect the water environment.

The watershed protection ordinance regulates harmful activities to Steamboat's watershed while establishing best practices for local activities that rely on the city's water resources.

The construction site management ordinance regulates water pollution in construction zones.

*Was there public engagement during development of the policy or regulation?*

yes

*Date policy or code adoption was adopted or last major update*

2003

## LOCAL ACTION 3: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

Create partnerships to address sources of non-point source water pollution not directly covered by local authority or control

*Provide the name of the partnership or committee AND briefly describe each partner's contribution or criteria for committee selection*

1.) Upper Yampa Watershed Group (community collaboration, 2010)--Technical Committee. Stakeholder representation: USFS, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Routt County Environmental Health, City of Steamboat, Industry, Agriculture, Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District, Routt County Conservation District, Environmental consultant (Lyn Halliday), Colorado Parks & Wildlife, and Recreation

*Type of collaboration*

Community collaboration

*Date established*

2010

*Describe key accomplishments in the past 3 years*

The Upper Yampa Watershed Group is an active group that meets regularly and is a current program of the Routt County Conservation District. The Upper Yampa Watershed Group produced the 2014 State of the Upper Yampa Watershed Report that took a watershed-scale look at stream health, water quality, and factors that influence both. The Report identified several concerns for the city reach of the Yampa, including hydrologic conditions that advantage non-native species, warming temperatures, low flow drought conditions, nutrient-loading, and recreational conflicts. A Watershed Action Plan that prioritizes projects that address these concerns is under development with a current draft calling for an update to the Yampa River Management Plan and a Preferred Target Flow.

Briefly describe the local government's financial contribution and/or elected official/staff time dedicated in the past 3 years

1) The City of Steamboat gave \$14,000 to the Watershed Group and dedicated approximately 120 staff hours.

## LOCAL ACTION 4: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Create an education campaign about ambient water quality, pollution prevention, mitigation, and restoration techniques

Type of education and outreach effort within the past 3 years – choose 3:

### EVENTS, CLASSES, OR WORKSHOPS

Provide the following for three events, classes or workshops held

*Provide the title and a brief description*

Catch the Drift Presentation: A River that Works Hard and Plays Hard; 100+ attendees--presentation on water quality and water quantity as they relate to stream health

*Date*

05/29/2015

*Provide the title and a brief description*

Post-Construction BMP (LID) Inspection & Maintenance Training

*Date*

06/8/2015

*Provide the title and a brief description*

Storm Drain Stenciling w/ Yampatika & Service Learning Corp Students

*Date*

various dates throughout summer 2015

## WEBSITE

*Provide the appropriate link*

<http://steamboatsprings.net/index.aspx?NID=408>

## PRINT MATERIALS

Provide the following for printed material:

*Provide the title and a brief description*

Community Agriculture Alliance: State of the Upper Yampa River Watershed - invites readers to a presentation on the State of the Watershed and then goes on to give information about water pollution. Link here: <http://www.steamboattoday.com/news/2014/nov/27/community-agriculture-alliance-state-upper-yampa-r/>

*Link to or upload a copy of the printed material*

Community Agriculture Alliance State of the Upper Yampa River Watershed Steamboat Pilot & Today.mht

## LOCAL ACTION 6: FACILITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Engage in restoration projects for critical water bodies and buffer zones that protect those water bodies

*Number of restoration projects completed in the past 3 years*

3

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the improvement that advances progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

Fornier Park, Bear River Park, and Dr. Rich Weiss Park were restored in the past three years. The restoration projects have included bank improvements, erosion control, native vegetation improvement, aquatic habitat improvements, river access improvements, and recreation structures/flows along the Yampa River. There is another project currently underway in the park temporarily named "Workman Parcel."

*Briefly describe funding invested in facility or infrastructure improvement in the past 3 years*

\$465,000 was invested in these projects in the past three years. The City dedicated \$15,000 to these projects, while the remainder of the money was obtained through grants from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

## **LOCAL ACTION 7: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

Develop and provide water conservation programs to residents, businesses and agricultural water users in order to help ensure that the community is not depleting its water supply

*Provide the name and a brief description of the program or service*

Water Conservation Rebate Program - rebates are given to residents and businesses for replacing old appliances and irrigation fixtures with water-saving appliances and fixtures.

*Number of program participants in the past 3 years*

130 Rebates given between 2013 and 2015

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the program or service that advances progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

The Water Rebates Program encourages residents and businesses to replace aging appliances and fixtures with energy efficient and water saving products. The program works by giving rebates after installation with proof of purchase and installation of qualified fixtures and disposal of non-water efficient fixtures.

Rebate Criteria:

High efficiency Toilets (\$150 rebate for commercial (maximum \$1,050); \$100 rebate for residential (limit 2



per residence)

High Efficiency Clothes Washers (\$100 rebate, limit 1 per residence)

High Efficiency Dishwashers (\$75 rebate, limit 1 per residence)

*Date program or service was created or implemented*

2012

## LOCAL ACTION 8: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Establish or partner with a group that routinely inventories and monitors natural water bodies for biological, chemical, and hydrological integrity

*Provide the name and a brief description of the program or service*

1) Upper Yampa River Watershed Group - Yampa River Water Quality Monitoring; 2) River Watch

*Number of regulatory violations in the past 3 years*

zero

*Number of resolutions in the past 3 years*

zero

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the program or service that advances progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

1) Upper Yampa River Watershed Group - The City of Steamboat Springs is a long time partner in the Upper Yampa River Watershed group. The watershed group has partnered on water quality monitoring efforts for many years. This work included a water quality monitoring study spearheaded by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to develop a "common data repository and water resource assessment for the Upper Yampa River Basin." The study was initiated in 2009 by the USGS, in cooperation with the City, the County, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board, "to compile and analyze historic water-quality data and assess water-quality conditions in the Upper Yampa River watershed." The study is called the "Water-Quality Assessment and Macroinvertebrate Data for the Upper Yampa River Watershed, Colorado, 1975 through 2009." The data was collected throughout those years by federal, state, and local entities. As part of this study, the City of

Steamboat Springs contributed \$53,000. In terms of ongoing work - the USGS maintains a permanent testing site at the 5th Street Bridge, called Yampa River at Steamboat Springs, and tests on a quarterly basis. The constituents tested at all of these sites include physical properties, major ions, nutrients, trace elements, and E. coli. The Upper Yampa River Watershed Group produces their own report as well, the most recent being the 2014 State of the Watershed Report, in which community members are alerted of the state of various local watersheds and of any advisories in place.

2) River Watch is a "statewide volunteer water quality monitoring program that operates under the Colorado Watershed Assembly and in conjunction with Colorado Parks and Wildlife". It began in 1989 at the Yampa River in Routt County. Monitoring in Steamboat Springs ceased for several years but was recently re-funded. Volunteers "receive the training, support, and supplies needed to monitor their respective rivers and provide consistent and accurate data. Volunteers analyze samples for hardness, alkalinity, dissolved oxygen, pH, and temperature. Additional samples are analyzed by a professional lab for metals, nutrients, and macroinvertebrates."

*Date program or service was created or implemented*

1993 or before

## NS-6: WORKING LANDS

### LOCAL ACTION 1: PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Include considerations for protecting working lands and identifying areas where critical BMPs are necessary in the community's land conservation or natural resource plan

*Provide plan title*

1) Steamboat Springs Area Community Plan; 2) Steamboat Springs Area Open Space and Trails Master Plan; 3) Yampa River Management Plan

*Link to or upload full plan*

NS 6 A 1 Working Lands BMPs.zip

*Date plan was officially adopted, endorsed by the local government, or had last major update*

2003

*If the plan was adopted or updated more than 3 years ago, briefly describe how the plan is still relevant and in use*

1) The Steamboat Springs Community Area Plan was adopted in 2004 and is still relevant and in use because it provides perspective and guidance in considering the intent of the code and any variance to it. The community plan also provides guidance to future land use plan amendments, annexations, rezoning, PUDs, subdivision or any other development proposals that may influence the broader community. <http://steamboatsprings.net/DocumentCenter/View/1797> 2) The Steamboat Springs Area Open Space and Trails Master Plan was adopted in 2008 and contains ongoing action items, including the identification and protection of additional open space properties. <http://steamboatsprings.net/DocumentCenter/View/303> 3) The Yampa River Management Plan was adopted in 2003 and contains ongoing action items. <http://steamboatsprings.net/DocumentCenter/View/1595>

*Describe the development process and include information on stakeholder involvement and participating agencies, departments, and/or organizations involved*

1) Public officials, staff, consultants, citizen volunteers, working group members, and the public collaborated over a period exceeding two years from November 2001 through January 2004 to update the 1995 Plan and develop the 2004 Community Plan.

2) Involved in the creation of the Open Space and Trails Master Plan was a Technical Advisory Committee and Stakeholders. The Advisory Committee was made up of the Routt County Planning Department, Steamboat Springs (SS) Recreational Services, SS Department of Planning and Community Development, SS Internal Services, Yampa Valley Land Trust, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and EDAW as a consultant. Stakeholders were the Routt County Extension Office, Routt County Riders, Adjacent Emerald Mountain Land Owners, Steamboat II Metro District, Yampa Valley Fly Fishers, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Routt County Purchase of Development Rights Citizens Advisory Board, and the Friends of the Yampa. Taking place in 2006 was an inventory and analysis; preliminary vision, goals, issues, and opportunities; and public workshops. The plan was developed from late 2006 until mid 2007. Public review, implementation, and recommendations took place in mid to late 2007.

3) The Yampa River Management Plan development process included a proposal review group, City staff, consultants, a Citizens Advisory Committee, stakeholders, two public workshops, the City's Parks and Recreation Commission, and City Council.

*Provide vision statement or high-level description of plan goals*

1) "Our community will maintain its rural heritage and open landscape by limiting development outside the urban growth boundary and encouraging site planning and design that fits the rural character." 2) Because of Steamboat's population growth and development, open space and park lands are becoming more and more important. "The community will develop a well financed and well maintained open lands program to protect the physical beauty, the open spaces, the special places, and the healthy ecosystem of the valley in perpetuity." 3) "The Yampa River will always be a flourishing, vibrant, bio-diverse natural river corridor that is enjoyed, respected, protected, and supported by its community with commitment, education, and sensible regulation."

*Describe the key recommendations of the plan*

1) Key recommendations of the plan include maintaining the rural landscape outside of the City of Steamboat, ensuring rural development is compatible with the rural landscape, and supporting community agriculture and a rural way of life.

2) The plan makes many recommendations based on many goals. A few of those goals include the following. The community should identify and protect key open space areas, and the development of a well connected trail system. Our open spaces should be well integrated with our urban areas. The community should identify critical wetland areas and critical wildlife habitats, and enhance and conserve these areas for future generations. A permanent and constant revenue source dedicated to the acquisition and preservation of open space should also be established. The community should create an open space system comprised of different types of permanent open space such as

community preserve, natural areas, special resource areas, and agricultural lands.

3) The key recommendations of the plan include protecting river health and managing river recreation sustainably. Commercial river user fees need to be standardized at 5% of gross revenues. Set back requirements and floodplain protection need to be expanded per the Community Plan Update. The monitoring program (described in the next section of this question) should be implemented and funded.

*Does the plan contain quantifiable targets or metrics for evaluating progress?*

yes

*Describe the strategy for implementing plan recommendations, including responsible parties, level of effort anticipated, and resources dedicated*

1) Strategies for implementing plan recommendations include developing rural design guidelines, continuing to monitor the County's Land Preservation Subdivision process, and continuing to work with private/public

partners to support agriculture.

2) The plan states that "the most viable mechanisms [for funding] include a dedicated sales tax, lodging taxes, and a dedicated property tax." Grant programs should also be utilized. Incentives for landowners to donate conservation easements should be pursued. City staff also need to be dedicated to the implementation of action items, and County staff are responsible for several action items.

3) There are detailed monitoring plans for the aquatic habitat, the terrestrial habitat, land use, and recreation. These plans include an estimated required budget and several indicators including creel and river otter counts, photo-monitoring, and weed inventory.

## LOCAL ACTION 2: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

Convene owners and operators of working lands to promote sustainable harvesting practices

*Provide the name of the partnership or committee AND briefly describe each partner's contribution or criteria for committee selection*

The Northwest Colorado Food Coalition's mission is to facilitate communication and collaboration, and to integrate solutions among individuals and organizations to develop and sustain a resilient food system in NW Colorado. Working partners include Community Agriculture Alliance, CSU Routt County Extension, Routt County Environmental Health, Yampa Valley Sustainability Council, Lift-up of Routt County, NW Colorado VNA, LiveWell Colorado, Elkstone Farm, Routt County Human Services, Colorado Mountain College, and interested producers & consumers. Their goals are to 1) develop an understanding of the existing state of the local food system in relation to health, obesity, and quality of life; 2) identify opportunities related to agricultural production, including local infrastructure and economics, in response to gaps in the local food systems; 3) identify policies and regulatory partnerships to strengthen local and regional food systems. The existing committees are Food Security, Local Food, and Healthy Eating Community Education. Sub-committees are assigned as necessary.

*Type of collaboration*

Community collaboration

*Link to or upload documentation of the partnership or committee's creation or ongoing work*

<http://rcextension.colostate.edu/localfoods/NCFC.shtml>

*Date established*

2012

*Describe key accomplishments in the past 3 years*

The NW CO Food Coalition's top accomplishments include: the completion of the Routt County Food Assessment Survey; the development of The Local Food Production-Regulatory Advisory Committee (LFP-RAC) review process; played a role in increased local food availability to individual, wholesale & retail consumers; the expansion of an on-line local food marketplace; numerous educational and networking forums and opportunities; played a role in increased awareness of local food insecurity issues; and the development of the Real Food Challenge and the Food Recovery Challenge.

*Briefly describe the local government's financial contribution and/or elected official/staff time dedicated in the past 3 years*

Many of the partners in the NW CO Food Coalition receive financial contributions from the City of Steamboat Springs or Routt County. Community Agriculture Alliance annually submits a grant application, interviews with the granting committee, and receives Community Support funding from the City of Steamboat Springs in the amount of \$26,500 from 2013-2015. The Yampa Valley Sustainability Council has received \$32,750 from the City's Community Support Budget from 2013-2015. The Northwest Colorado VNA has received \$112,500 from the City's Community Support Budget from 2013-2015. In addition to the financial contributions made by the City, the Routt County Environmental Health and the Human Services Departments are partners in the Coalition, with staff members regularly attending meetings.

## LOCAL ACTION 3: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Educate owners and operators of working lands about current best management practices

Type of education and outreach effort within the past 3 years – choose 3:

### EVENTS, CLASSES, OR WORKSHOPS

Provide the following for three events, classes or workshops held

*Provide the title and a brief description*

Ranching Stewardship - part of the Land Stewardship 202 series hosted by Community Agricultural Alliance and CSU Routt County Extension

*Date*

09/15/2015

*Provide the title and a brief description*

Livestock and Wildlife Stewardship - part of Land Stewardship 202 - focuses on issues affecting Northwest CO and features regional experts

*Date*

09/29/2015

*Provide the title and a brief description*

Grazing and Habitat Stewardship - part of Land Stewardship 202 - includes lecture, discussion, and on-site tours

*Date*

10/06/2015

## WEBSITE

*Provide the appropriate link*

<http://www.communityagalliance.org>

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Provide the following for social media:

*Describe social media effort*

The Community Agricultural Alliance's Facebook page promotes information and local events pertaining to working lands and best management practices, among other agricultural topics.

*Link to social media website*

<https://www.facebook.com/AgAlliance>

## LOCAL ACTION 4: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Promote the value of locally produced, certified sustainable harvests and products to the public

Type of education and outreach effort within the past 3 years – choose 3:

### EVENTS, CLASSES, OR WORKSHOPS

Provide the following for three events, classes or workshops held

*Provide the title and a brief description*

Steamboat Springs Farmer's Market - provides local vegetables, meat, plants, and arts

*Date*

Every Saturday over the summer

*Provide the title and a brief description*

Land Stewardship - teaches about local agriculture and land stewardship

*Date*

09/08/2015 - 10/13/2015

*Provide the title and a brief description*

DIY Organic Gardening - teaches how to create and keep a healthy garden



*Date*

03/16/2015 - 10/05/2015

## WEBSITE

*Provide the appropriate link*

<http://caamarket.org/>

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Provide the following for social media:

*Describe social media effort*

The Community Agriculture Alliance Facebook page provides followers with updates on community events regarding locally grown produce.

*Link to social media website*

<http://www.facebook.com/agalliance>

## LOCAL ACTION 5: EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Work with youth groups and community organizations to implement BMPs on local working lands

Type of education and outreach effort within the past 3 years – choose 3:

## WEBSITE

*Provide the appropriate link*

<http://www.communityagalliance.org>

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Provide the following for social media:

*Describe social media effort*

The Community Agricultural Alliance's Facebook page discusses BPMs on local working lands and announces events/informational meetings on the topic.

*Link to social media website*

<https://www.facebook.com/AgAlliance>

## OTHER

*Description of education or outreach effort*

Community Agricultural Alliance works with over 15 different organizations and agencies to provide events, classes and workshops on the topics of drought management, protection of water resources, land use, weed management, range & grazing management, local food production & safety, estate management, and producer-consumer networking. One such program was a series of events called the "Routt County Young AG Producers," which promoted the idea that everyone involved in agriculture, no matter their role, is important. The program brought people from a wide variety of agricultural endeavors together for networking and education. Over 60 young people participated in this program.

*Total number of participants*

60

## LOCAL ACTION 6: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Provide conservation programs and services tailored to the needs of the working lands community

*Provide the name and a brief description of the program or service*

Routt County Purchase of Development Rights Program - a land protection tool in which a property's development rights are purchased from willing landowners; Yampa Valley Land Trust (YVLT) - a land conservation nonprofit; Routt County Conservation District - encourages stewardship of our natural resources

*Total number of participants in all programs in the past 3 years*

6 projects were completed in 2013 and 2014, funding for 7 projects was approved in 2015; YVLT has conserved approximately 5000 acres from 2012-2014; see below for RC Conservation District

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the program or service that advances progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

The Routt County Purchase of Development Rights Program (PDR) is a program developed by Routt county in 1995 to preserve our vital open lands. Agriculture represents a significant and relatively stable portion of the County's economy, having an annual fiscal contribution of more than \$46 million. The abundance of agricultural lands and natural areas in Routt County also plays a substantial role in attracting tourists and thus supporting the local recreational economy. Natural areas also sustain the vital ecological communities that support wildlife, waterfowl, and fisheries. PDR protects lands by purchasing a property's development rights from willing landowners. In exchange, the landowner grants a perpetual conservation easement, or deed restriction on the property, thereby permanently protecting the land from development. The land may be sold or transferred, but the deed restriction remains in place. The PDR Program provides landowners an economically attractive alternative to selling land for development by compensating them for the development rights on their land. Ownership of the property remains vested with the landowner, who can use and manage the property consistent with the terms of the conservation easement.

The Yampa Valley Land Trust receives yearly financial contributions from the City of Steamboat Springs' Community Support Budget. They have received \$22,000 from 2013-2015. YVLT works in partnership with willing landowners to secure conservation easements that permanently protect the rural landscapes and important ecological resources found throughout Northwest Colorado. The program collaborates with a diverse group of landowners that include traditional ranching families, new property owners, local governments and, at times, developers.

Routt County Conservation District (RCCD) receives financial contributions from the City of Steamboat. From 2013-2015, they received \$13,000. RCCD's goals include researching, experimenting, and educating Routt County landowners on strategies to improve soil health, improving the economic viability of farming, and ranching in the County. They also support and maintain the Upper Yampa River Watershed Group and act as a fiscal agent for projects which improve natural resources in the County. RCCD holds Technical Committee meetings, which are open to the public. Approximately 165 people attended these meetings from 2012-2014. An actual number of participants in RCCD programs is hard to determine, in part because their 2014 State of the Watershed Report was broadcast live on their website. The RCCD also acts as a fiscal agents for three organizations on three separate multi-year restoration projects.

## LOCAL ACTION 7: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Encourage owners of working lands to conserve their properties in perpetuity

*Provide the name and a brief description of the program or service*

Routt County Purchase of Development Rights Program - a land protection tool in which a property's development rights are purchased from willing landowners; Yampa Valley Land Trust (YVLT) - a land conservation nonprofit

*Acreege of working lands that added conservation easements in the past 3 years*

17,471.98

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the program or service that advances progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

The Routt County Purchase of Development Rights Program (PDR) is a program developed by Routt county in 1995 to preserve our vital open lands. Agriculture represents a significant and relatively stable portion of the County's economy, having an annual fiscal contribution of more than \$46 million. The abundance of agricultural lands and natural areas in Routt County also plays a substantial role in attracting tourists and thus supporting the local recreational economy. Natural areas also sustain the vital ecological communities that support wildlife, waterfowl, and fisheries. PDR protects lands by purchasing a property's development rights from willing landowners. In exchange, the landowner grants a perpetual conservation easement, or deed restriction on the property, thereby permanently protecting the land from development. The land may be sold or transferred, but the deed restriction remains in place. The PDR Program provides landowners an economically attractive alternative to selling land for development by compensating them for the development rights on their land. Ownership of the property remains vested with the landowner, who can use and manage the property consistent with the terms of the conservation easement.

The Yampa Valley Land Trust, incorporated in 1992, receives yearly financial contributions from the City of Steamboat Springs' Community Support Budget. They have received \$22,000 from 2013-2015. YVLT works in partnership with willing landowners to secure conservation easements that permanently protect the rural landscapes and important ecological resources found throughout Northwest Colorado. The program collaborates with a diverse group of landowners that include traditional ranching families, new property owners, local governments and, at times, developers. YVLT was also responsible for sponsoring two PDR Program projects from 2012-2014.

*Date program or service was created or implemented*

1993 or before

## LOCAL ACTION 8: ENFORCEMENT AND INCENTIVES

Implement financing strategies to conserve working lands and support ongoing restoration efforts

*Total local funding contributed*

\$5,746,410

*Link to or upload copy of written incentive*

NS-6 Working Lands Action 8 - Routt County PDR report January 2015.pdf

*Describe the compelling characteristics of the incentive that advance progress towards the desired Outcome(s)*

The Routt County Purchase of Development Rights Program (PDR) is a program developed by Routt county in 1995 to preserve our vital open lands. Agriculture represents a significant and relatively stable portion of the County's economy, having an annual fiscal contribution of more than \$46 million. The abundance of agricultural lands and natural areas in Routt County also plays a substantial role in attracting tourists and thus supporting the local recreational economy. Natural areas also sustain the vital ecological communities that support wildlife, waterfowl, and fisheries. PDR protects lands by purchasing a property's development rights from willing landowners. In exchange, the landowner grants a perpetual conservation easement, or deed restriction on the property, thereby permanently protecting the land from development. The land may be sold or transferred, but the deed restriction remains in place. The PDR Program provides landowners an economically attractive alternative to selling land for development by compensating them for the development rights on their land. Ownership of the property remains vested with the landowner, who can use and manage the property consistent with the terms of the conservation easement.

The City of Steamboat Springs also provides Community Support Funding for the Yampa Valley Land Trust and the Routt County Conservation District, nonprofits that promote land conservation and help landowners restore and conserve their lands.

*Date incentive was created or implemented*

1995