

PRESENTS

# THE 2022 ROUTT COUNTY WILDFIRE MITIGATION CONFERENCE

*Planning for a resilient future*

Friday, April 29 | 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Colorado Mountain College – Allbright Auditorium  
1275 Crawford Ave

During this afternoon session, community stakeholders come together to discuss the past, present and future of wildfire and mitigation in Routt County

- Past: Lessons learned from the 2021 wildfire season.
- Present: State of the Forest and review of policy and planning efforts for wildfire mitigation and preparedness.
- Future: Challenges, opportunities and the County Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP) update.

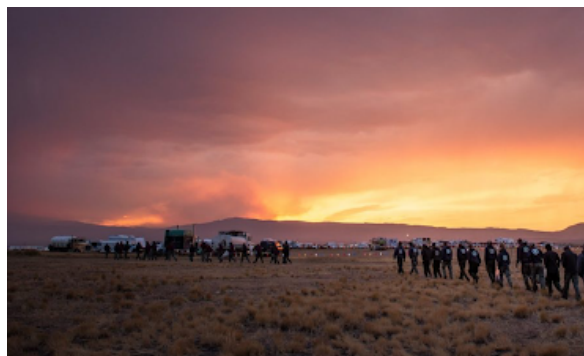
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# SESSION 1: WILDFIRE MITIGATION & PREPAREDNESS – WHERE ARE WE NOW?



## CHECK-IN & REGISTRATION

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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## NETWORKING LUNCH

12-1 p.m.

*Please join us in the CMC Neas Dining Hall for a networking lunch. Lunch ticket provided at check-in.*

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## WELCOME & INTRODUCTION TO THE ROUTT COUNTY WILDFIRE MITIGATION COUNCIL

1-1:05 p.m.

**Commissioner Tim Redmond**

Routt County

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## SETTING THE STAGE

1:05-1:15 p.m.

**Matt McCombs**

Colorado State Forest Service

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## WHERE ARE WE NOW WITH OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT?

1:15-2 p.m.

*An update on our current forest health, wildfire conditions, and past and current fuel reduction efforts.*

### MODERATOR

**Todd Hagenbuch**

CSU Extension

### SPEAKERS

**John Twitchell**

Colorado State Forest Service

**Toni Toelle**

Bureau of Land Management

**Brandon Voegtle**

Bureau of Land Management

**Michael Woodbridge**

U.S. Forest Service



## WHERE ARE WE NOW WITH OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT?

2-2:45 p.m.

*An overview of our current planning, codes, and policies and discussion on how codes and policies could be a tool for wildfire mitigation and preparedness.*

### MODERATOR

**Todd Hagenbuch**  
CSU Extension

### SPEAKERS

**Todd Carr**  
Routt County  
**Kristy Winser**  
Routt County  
**Julie Baxter**  
City of Steamboat Springs

## BREAK

2:45-3 p.m.

## SESSION 2: WILDFIRE MITIGATION & PREPAREDNESS – HOW TO BEST PLAN & PREPARE MOVING FORWARD

### CHAFFEE COUNTY: LESSONS LEARNED AND VALUE OF A COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN (CWPP)

3-3:30 p.m.

### MODERATOR

**Todd Hagenbuch**  
CSU Extension

### SPEAKER

**Commissioner Greg Felt**  
Chaffee County

### FACILITATED DISCUSSION: WHAT DO WE WANT FROM A CWPP?

3:45-4:30 p.m.

### MODERATOR

**Todd Hagenbuch**  
CSU Extension

### SPEAKER

**Pam Wilson**  
Coalitions & Collaboratives

### CLOSING REMARKS: ACTION PLANNING AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE AT THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL

4:30-5 p.m.

### MODERATOR

**Todd Hagenbuch**  
CSU Extension

### SPEAKER

**Matt McCombs**  
Colorado State Forest Service





## About the Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Council

**Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Council Mission Statement:** The mission of the Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Council (RCWMC) is to create resilient fire-adapted communities to minimize potential impacts of wildfire. We do this through partnerships and coordination, education and outreach, and programs that assist with long-term risk reduction.

**2022 Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Conference Steering Committee Members:** Baili Foster, Todd Hagenbuch, Sarah Jones, Phil Lauinger, Carolina Manriquez, Ulrich Salzgeber, Nathan Stewart, Tim Sullivan, Julie Baxter, and Kevin Thompson

Learn more at [routtwildfire.org](https://routtwildfire.org)



# SPEAKERS

## COMMISSIONER TIM REDMOND

Commissioner Redmond moved to Routt County in 1984. He attended Cheyney University (the nation's oldest HBCU) in Cheyney PA. Before becoming a commissioner, Mr. Redmond was on the Hayden Town Council for 12 years and Mayor for one term. He has served on the Hayden Recreation Board, represented Hayden for Club 20, and was appointed to the DOLA Energy Impact Advisory Committee.

When the Commissioner isn't working, he enjoys the outdoors. He is a lifelong fisherman and fly fisherman since 1990. He also coached youth baseball, football, basketball and soccer.



## MATT MCCOMBS

Matthew McCombs is the Colorado State Forester and Director of the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS). Prior to joining the CSFS in January of 2022, McCombs served as the U.S. Forest Service District Ranger for the 1.3-million-acre Gunnison Ranger District, part of the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests.

McCombs' career has spanned natural resources and other government experience. He has worked as the U.S. Forest Service District Ranger for the Appalachian Ranger District and as an aide to Senators Ken Salazar and Jon Tester. McCombs is also a veteran, having deployed to Iraq in 2003 as a combat medic with the Colorado Army National Guard and having served as a Medical Service Officer in the Montana Air National Guard, where he achieved the rank of captain before leaving the service in 2012.

## TODD HAGENBUCH

Todd Hagenbuch is the Ag/Natural Resources Agent and County Director of Colorado State University Extension in Routt County. The fourth generation of his family to ranch in Routt County, Todd understands first-hand the challenges surrounding ranching on the West Slope. Wildfire preparation and the need to think through those efforts hit home when the Green Creek Fire (2002) burned above his family's ranch and they were kept from grazing cattle on their forest permit due to the fire.

He began his career in Extension in 2012 and handles all manners of agricultural issues including land management, weed identification and control, horticulture, family succession facilitation, and more.





## JOHN TWITCHELL

John Twitchell is a Society of American Forester Certified Forester and SAF Fellow. He has worked in both state and private forestry in New Hampshire, Alaska, and Colorado. He has been a forester with the Colorado State Forest Service since 1998. He managed the Colorado State Forest until 2005 and has supervised the Steamboat Springs Field Office since that time. John assists in the management of state, private lands and federal lands throughout Northwest Colorado in his current position as a Supervisory Forester.

John has had the opportunity to fight fire across the west as a wildland firefighter for the CSFS for over twenty-five years of his career. He also worked through the Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic over a similar period of time. These experiences have shaped his views as a proponent of managing forests across ownership boundaries to achieve social and environmental objectives at a meaningful scale. He has worked extensively with the Good Neighbor Authority and other collaborative mechanisms to help achieve these objectives.

## TONI TOELLE

Toni has worked in wildland fire for the past 37 years. She has held various positions throughout those years including Engine Captain, Fire Prevention Technician, Interagency Assistant Fire Management Officer, Fire Management Officer, Fuels Specialist, and Fuels program lead (Supervisory Fire Management Specialist).

Throughout the majority of her career, she was employed by the United State Forest Service (USFS) and most recently the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Toni currently serves as a Type 1 Safety Officer on the Rocky Mountain Type 1 Incident Management Team and has held various positions in the past on Type 2 Incident Management Teams as well as Wildland Fire Use Teams.

She is an avid outdoor enthusiast, and enjoys all things outdoors including hunting, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, biking, camping and outdoor photography. Her work passions include being involved in partnership efforts such as the Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Council, serving on the NW Colorado Habitat Partnership Committee (CPW), working with Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Mule Deer Foundation and others with the common goal of treating hazard fuels and wildlife habitat across the landscape.







## BRANDON VOEGTLE

Brandon was born and raised in Colorado and moved to Northwest Colorado in 2007 to become a Wildland Firefighter. Brandon currently lives in Hayden and is a Fire Management Specialist for the Bureau of Land Management. Brandon is the Mitigation Prevention Specialist for the Northwest District Fire and Aviation Unit. Brandon is an Incident Commander Type 3, Division Group Supervisor, and a Prescribed Fire Burn Boss Type 2. Brandon is also the program officer for the BLM's Community Assistance Program.

## MICHAEL WOODBRIDGE

Michael Woodbridge joined the U.S. Forest Service's Tahoe National Forest in April 2014 as Public Affairs Officer. Before this, he was a public affairs officer for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Southwest Regional Office in Sacramento, where he led the Region's Congressional and Tribal Affairs programs. He also handled public affairs in Ventura for four national wildlife refuges and the binational California Condor Recovery Program. Before coming to California, he spent time in Washington, DC, where he worked for the National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) as Director of Government Affairs and led the Government Affairs department of an environmental, safety and health trade association. His past experience also includes positions in Florida and Colorado Congressional offices and the House Resources Committee.



Michael holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO, and a Master of Arts in Public Policy, with a concentration in Environmental and Resource Policy, from The George Washington University in Washington, DC.



## TODD CARR

Todd has 11 years of experience working for local government and began his career in 2011 with the City of Dubuque acting as a Community Development and Housing Manager focused on Neighborhood Revitalization projects. He also acted as the Facility's Manager and Building Official with the City of Dubuque through 2017.

In 2017, Todd accepted his position as the Routt County Building Official and continues in this role today. He has a true passion for being a Public Servant and strives to make a difference while establishing positive working relationships with those they serve, while incorporating education and outreach into their regulatory work. Todd focuses on partnering with community organizations, professionals, other departments, and agencies to make a positive impact on items related to energy conservation, affordable housing options, water conservation, and safety as it relates to their buildings and structures. Todd is truly grateful to be able to live, work, and play in Routt County and hopes to remain here for years to come.

## JULIE BAXTER

Julie Baxter is the Water Resources Manager for the City of Steamboat Springs. She serves on the Routt County Wildfire Mitigation Council Governing Board and as co-chair of the Plans & Policies Committee. Julie previously served as the program manager for the hazard mitigation planning program for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VIII in Denver. As the senior planner for the Mitigation Division, she managed mitigation planning, technical assistance, and training for local, tribal, and state governments for six states.



She left federal service in 2014 to return to Steamboat Springs and work as a consultant on the program management team for FEMA's RiskMAP program and on several projects supporting the State of Colorado following the 2013 flood disaster. Julie also was the consultant lead for the Steamboat Springs Yampa River Stream Management Plan. She holds a Master in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Oregon and a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan.



## COMMISSIONER GREG FELT

Greg Felt is Chairman of the Chaffee County Board of Commissioners and liaison to the Common Ground Board. He also serves as Co-Lead of Envision Chaffee County and was a driving force behind the ballot measure which authorized funding for the program. A fly fishing guide and outfitter for over 30 years (co-owner of ArkAnglers, LLC), Greg has had a deep and lasting involvement regarding natural resource issues and water.

He has served on the state's outfitter licensing Board, the Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area Citizen's Task Force, and the Colorado Advisory Board for the Trust for Public Land. In the water world, he is Vice-Chairman of the Board for the Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District, represents Chaffee County on the Board of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, and was appointed in 2020 by Governor Polis to serve as the Arkansas River Basin representative on the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

## PAM WILSON

Pam brings a unique blend of federal and nonprofit experience to her role as a consultant with Coalitions & Collaboratives, a national nonprofit based in Colorado, that works with wildfire practitioners across the U.S. During her 23 years with the U.S. Forest Service, Pam became a Type 1 Public Information Officer and worked wildfire and hurricane assignments across the U.S. It was this PIO work - working with communities and educating residents - that inspired Pam to launch her second career in wildfire mitigation.





In 2008, Pam began working for FireWise of Southwest Colorado (now Wildfire Adapted Partnership), where she served as Executive Director for nine years. During her tenure, FireWise, which served a five-county region, added FireWise Coordinators in three counties; participated in numerous collaborative partnerships; oversaw the completion of more than 20 subdivision-level Community Wildfire Protection Plans; helped 15 communities attain Firewise Communities USA recognition, and instituted several incentive programs to assist residents in their mitigation efforts.

In addition to her work with COCO, Pam serves as a Team Leader for the Community Mitigation Assistance Team (CMAT), working with communities to share best practices and bolster their capacity for moving mitigation efforts forward. She is also a co-founder and current Board member of Fire Adapted Colorado (FACO), a state-wide network that brings practitioners together to share and learn from one another and collectively lead the way in creating a more fire adapted culture across the state.