



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request Form for Discretionary Grant Requests

This form must be completed and attached to all supporting documentation for items to be included in the Garfield County Board of Commissioners Agenda. One (1) form is required per agenda item.

Note: The BOCC occasionally receives requests for funding through its discretionary fund. Entities that are eligible for funds are either non-profit organizations with current 501(c)3 status or are public entities including special districts. All such requests must be for bonafide public purposes, must be for **\$5,000 or less**, and usually require matching funds after the grant is awarded.

Requesting Entity (public or non-profit): Roaring Fork Conservancy (non-profit)

Submitted By: Heather Lewin, Science and Policy Director

Phone Number: (970) 927-1290

E-mail: heather@roaringfork.org

Date of Board of County Commissioners Meeting to consider this item: May 4th

Topic of Request: Discretionary funding and letter of support for Roaring Fork Valley Drought Resiliency Study

Name(s) of presenters: Heather Lewin and Rick Lofaro

Board Action Requested: Yes

Funding Requested: \$5,000

Specifically explain what the funding will be used for: Support of Drought Resiliency Study in Garfield County. Additional details attached.

Fund Balance (Current Year): See attached P & L

PLEASE PROVIDE: **Seven (7) paper copies and one (1) E-mail copy** of all documentation to support the agenda request to **Vola Mercer**, email: vmercerc@garfieldcountycogov or mail to 108 8th Street, #101, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601, no later than Wednesday, 11 a.m. prior to the Monday meeting. Failure to provide backup material timely and as requested may result in removal or continuance of your agenda item at the County's discretion.

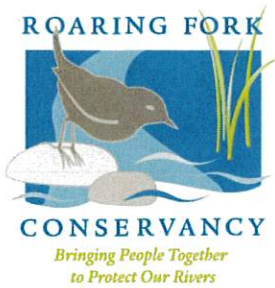
Profit and Loss
Roaring Fork Conservancy
January-March, 2026

| | Total |
|--|---------------------|
| Income | |
| 4000 Donations | |
| 4010 General Donation | 23,313.92 |
| 4045 National Council Membership | 31,520.26 |
| 4050 Restricted Donation | 5,000.00 |
| Total for 4000 Donations | \$59,834.18 |
| 4200 Outreach Activity Income | |
| 4290 Other Activities Income | 1,258.46 |
| Total for 4200 Outreach Activity Income | \$1,258.46 |
| 4400 Event Income | |
| 4410 River Gala Income | 8,000.00 |
| Total for 4400 Event Income | \$8,000.00 |
| 4500 Conservation Easements | 13,381.12 |
| 4800 Interest Income | 934.12 |
| Total for Income | \$83,407.88 |
| Gross Profit | \$83,407.88 |
| Expenses | |
| 5100 Payroll Expenses | |
| 5110 Payroll Wages | 207,365.96 |
| 5120 Payroll Taxes | 19,304.54 |
| 5130 Payroll Fees | 547.06 |
| 5140 IRA Contribution | 4,132.26 |
| 5150 Health Insurance | 35,747.12 |
| Total for 5100 Payroll Expenses | \$267,096.94 |
| 5210 Bank & Finance Charges | \$361.79 |
| 5211 Credit Card Fees | 668.03 |
| Total for 5210 Bank & Finance Charges | \$1,029.82 |
| 5215 Computers/Database | 13,705.59 |
| 5400 Event Expense | \$295.00 |
| 5410 River Gala Expense | 29,399.60 |
| Total for 5400 Event Expense | \$29,694.60 |
| 5450 Outreach Activity Expense | \$160.00 |
| 5451 Outreach Expense | 2,250.34 |
| Total for 5450 Outreach Activity Expense | \$2,410.34 |

Profit and Loss

Roaring Fork Conservancy
January-March, 2026

| | Total |
|--|----------------------|
| 5455 Program Expense | \$100.10 |
| 5456 Program Expense - Education | 624.47 |
| 5457 Program Expense - Field Work | 187.98 |
| Total for 5455 Program Expense | \$912.55 |
| 5462 Office Expense & Supply | 979.05 |
| 5465 Marketing | |
| 5467 Printing & Mailings | 13,419.48 |
| Total for 5465 Marketing | \$13,419.48 |
| 5470 Meals & Entertainment | 614.91 |
| 5475 Memberships & Dues | |
| 5476 Memberships & Dues - General | 1,821.00 |
| Total for 5475 Memberships & Dues | \$1,821.00 |
| 5480 Mileage & Parking | 993.76 |
| 5482 Travel & Lodging | 1,152.35 |
| 5485 Miscellaneous | 3,115.20 |
| 5490 Postage | 171.60 |
| 5500 Occupancy | |
| 5501 Rent | 1,141.00 |
| 5505 Repairs/Maintenance/Snow | 7,759.59 |
| 5506 Building Cleaning | 1,968.00 |
| 5515 Telephone/Utilities | 7,522.42 |
| Total for 5500 Occupancy | \$18,391.01 |
| 5800 Mortgage Payments | |
| 5805 Interest Expense | 3,469.56 |
| Total for 5800 Mortgage Payments | \$3,469.56 |
| Total for Expenses | \$358,977.76 |
| Net Operating Income | -\$275,569.88 |
| Other Expenses | |
| 7012 Lincoln Creek-Water Quality- Expenditures | 4,830.00 |
| 7017 Watershed Display Expense | 9,900.00 |
| Total for Other Expenses | \$14,730.00 |
| Net Other Income | -\$14,730.00 |
| Net Income | -\$290,299.88 |



Roaring Fork Conservancy's Drought Resiliency Project Summary

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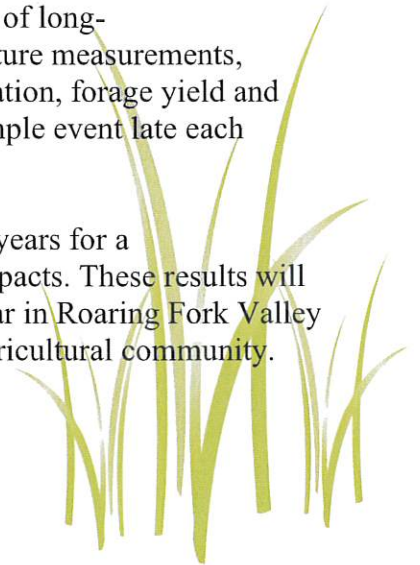
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Phoebe Caldwell
Business Manager
Megan Dean
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Jennifer Brown
Education Coordinator
Chad Rudow
Water Quality Program Manager
Sheryl Sabandal
Development Director
Andrea Tupy
Ecologist
Matthew Anderson
Water Quality Technician

As a watershed organization, Roaring Fork Conservancy understands the inherent link between land use and water quality and quantity. The residents of the Roaring Fork Valley collectively benefit from the existence of irrigated agriculture. Irrigated fields contribute to local food supplies, maintain open spaces for wildlife, and are aesthetically pleasing. Lost irrigated lands may be followed by a proliferation of dry, weed-infested fields or rapid transition of large acreages to urban and suburban development.

Roaring Fork Conservancy's Drought Resiliency Project encompasses a third- and fourth-year case study on Roaring Fork Valley ranches to identify soil management practices that improve agricultural drought resilience. This collaborative effort between RFC, private landowners/water users, and county governments evaluates drought mitigation practices on mid- to high-elevation grass pastures and hay fields, the dominant local agricultural land use. This effort evaluates outcomes associated with a limited set of scalable, no-till soil management practices to provide a conservation tool for agricultural users as they adapt to a reality of less water. The project is currently supported by Pitkin County Open Space and Trails, Eagle County, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

In 2023, Soil aeration and biochar amendments were applied to four study sites. Data was collected at selected field sites in July, August, and September 2023. Soil treatments were applied in late October 2023 when grasses are dormant. Irrigation treatments were applied during the 2024 growing season. In 2024 and 2025, the first rounds of post treatment data was collected. This study seeks to continue data collection and site evaluations on three of the four properties in 2026 and 2027. Evaluation of long-term impacts requires multiple years of weekly soil moisture measurements, monthly multispectral imaging to estimate evapotranspiration, forage yield and quality sampling at harvest, and an annual soil health sample event late each season to best detect microbial activity.

All data will be analyzed annually and compared to past years for a comprehensive understanding of short- and long-term impacts. These results will help build an understanding of the functionality of biochar in Roaring Fork Valley Agriculture. Results will be shared with the water and agricultural community.





Drought Resiliency Study: Year 3

Garfield County Board of County Commissioners

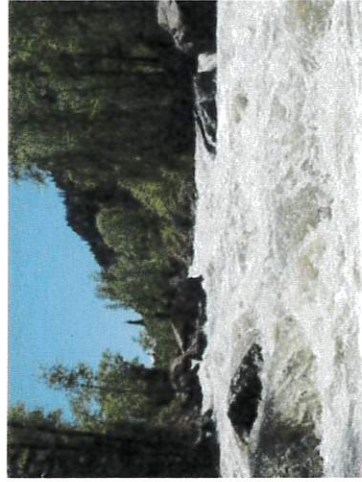
May 2026



Science & Policy



Education



Water Quantity



Water Quality



Habitat Preservation

Explore. Value. Protect.

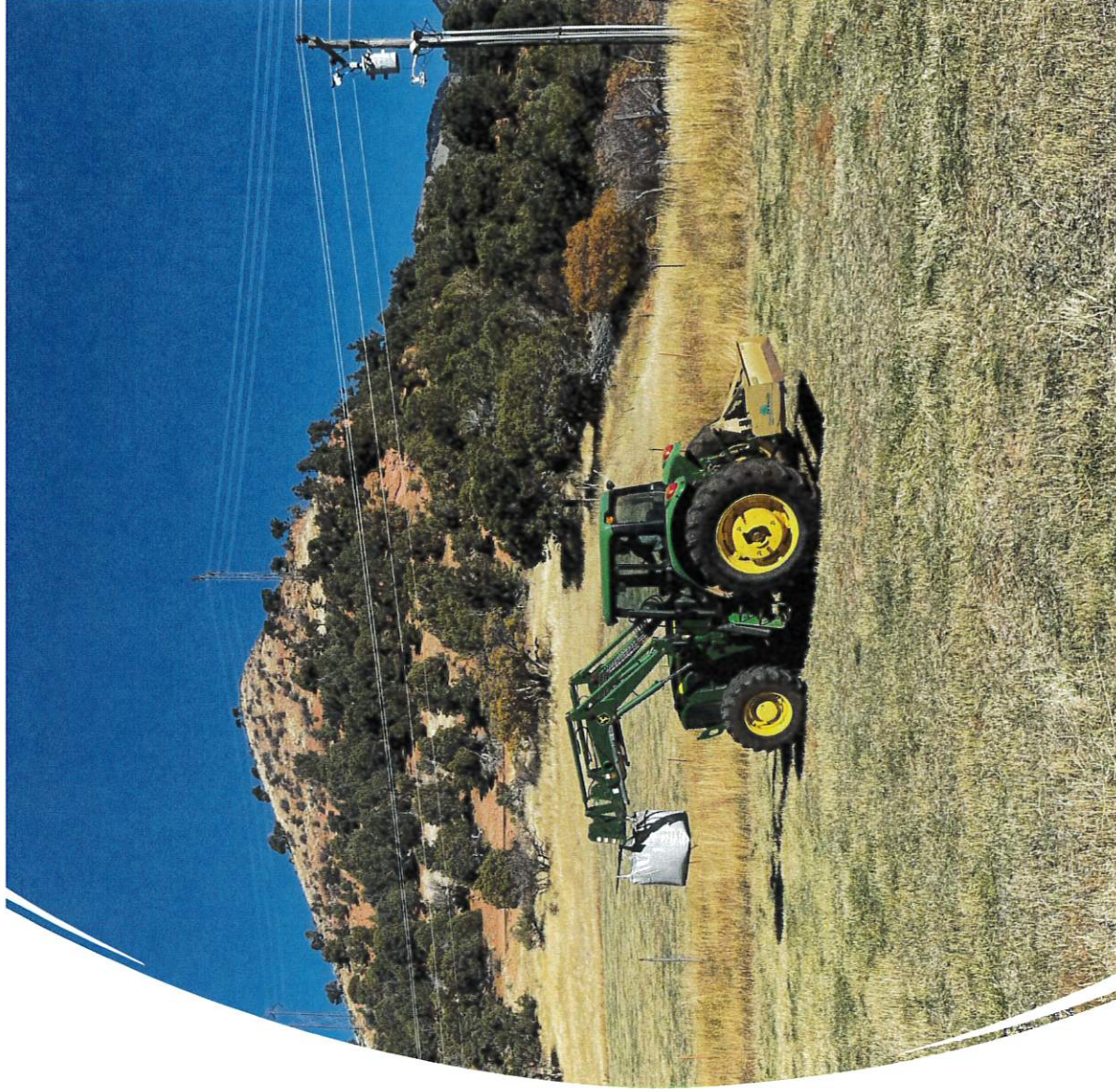
Agriculture Drought Resiliency

CONCERNS

- Prolonged Drought
- Reduced Access to Water

QUESTION:

Can improved soil health help mitigate impacts of reduced water availability and/or decrease post- drought recovery?



An Unlikely Pair?

Maybe not...

What brings together a watershed group and ranchers?

Value of local agriculture

- Community
- Economic
- Historic and Future Protections
- Scenic

Wildlife Habitat and Migration Corridors

The Alternatives are Detrimental to Communities and Watersheds

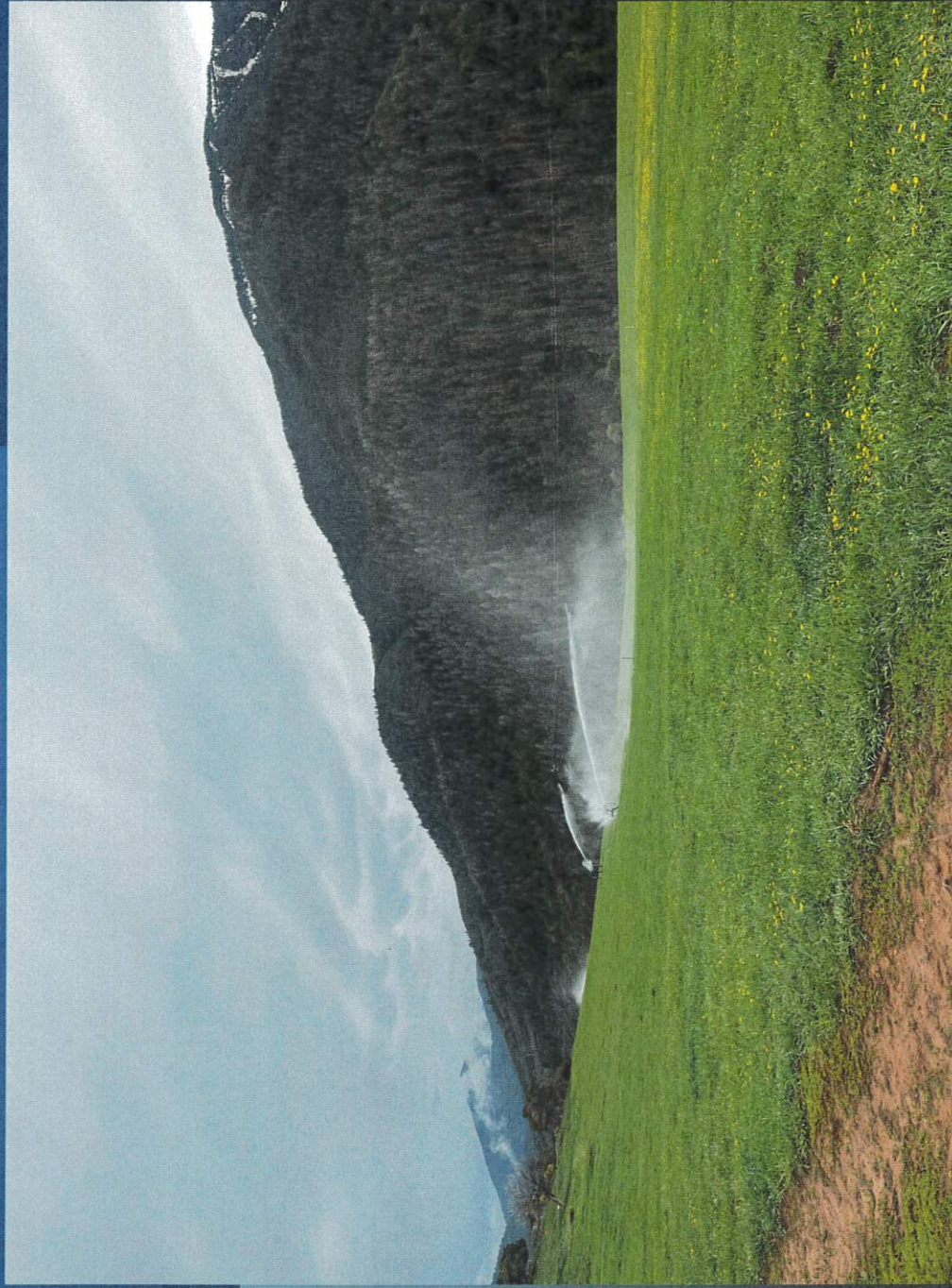


A Collaborative Effort

Project partners

- Lynn Nichols, Jim Gilchrist, and Carson Gilchrist, Joufflas Field
- Alison and Mike Spayd, Spradley Farms at Martineau
- Drew Walters, Pitkin County Open Space and Trails, Shippee Property

Study Design

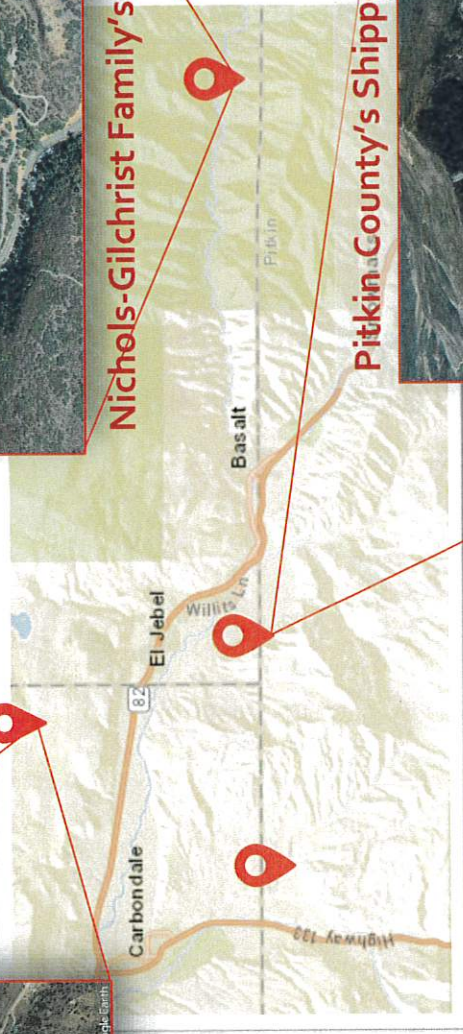




Spradley Farm's Marineau lease



Nichols-Gilchrist Family's Joufflas property



Pitkin County's Shippee Open Space



Selected Treatments

Soil Aeration- October 2023

- Expected to reduce soil compaction and encourage water infiltration deeper in soil column
- Conducted with a pasture aerator

Biochar Amendment- October 2023

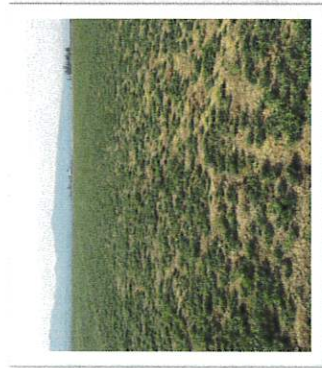
- Expected to increase microbial activity in soil column, increase soil moisture retention, and reduce N losses
- Applied topically to aerated soil with a manure spreader at 12 yd³/acre

Deficit Irrigation- Summer 2024- present

- Intended to mimic drought impacts
- Irrigation shutoff at selected date early in summer

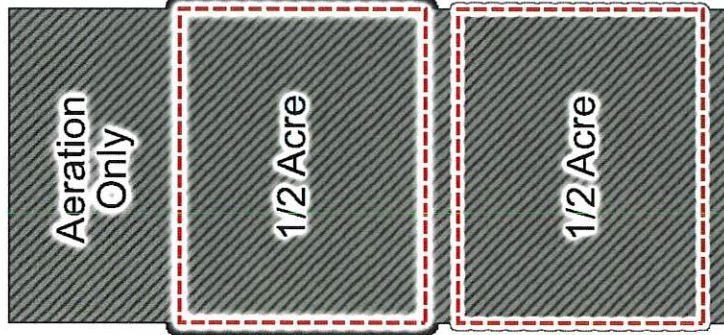
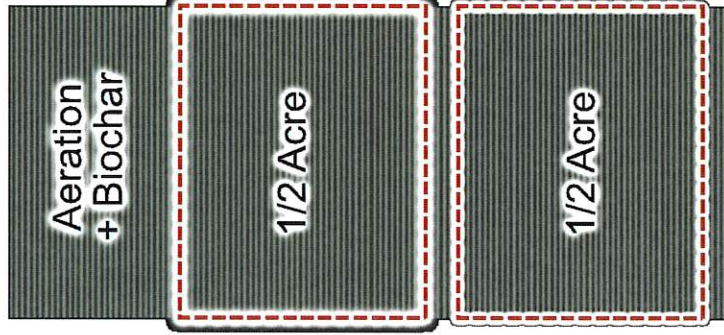
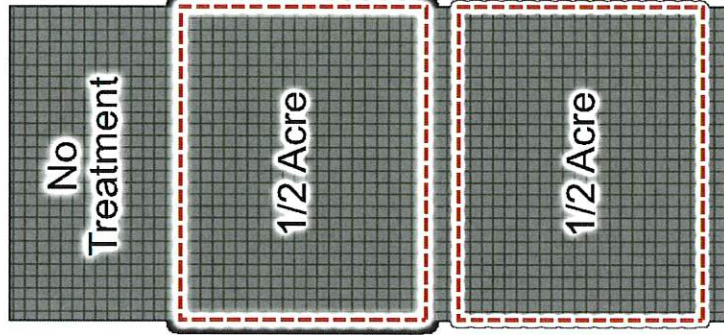


Experimental Design



Deficit Irrigation

Full Irrigation



Monitoring

Field Measurements

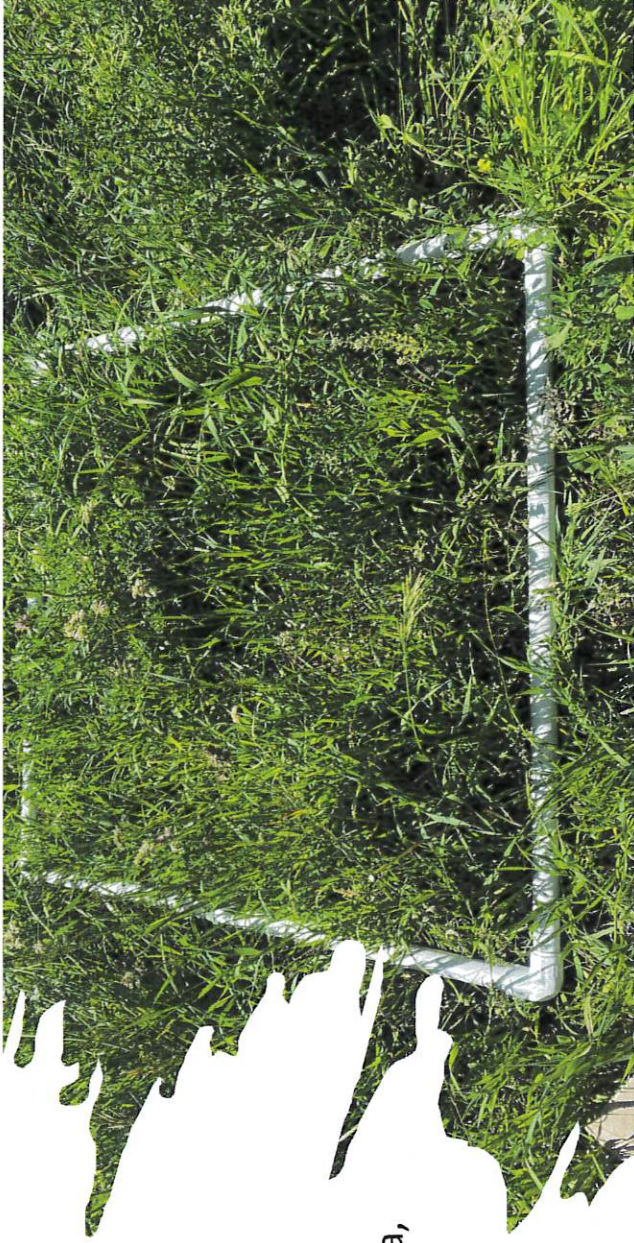
- Soil Moisture (0-15cm)
- Soil health (pH, organic matter, P, Po, Ca, Su, Mg, cation exchange)

Remote Sensing

- NDVI
- Evapotranspiration

Biomass Sampling

- Crop yield (dry weight)
- Dominant cover species, % weed species
- Forage quality



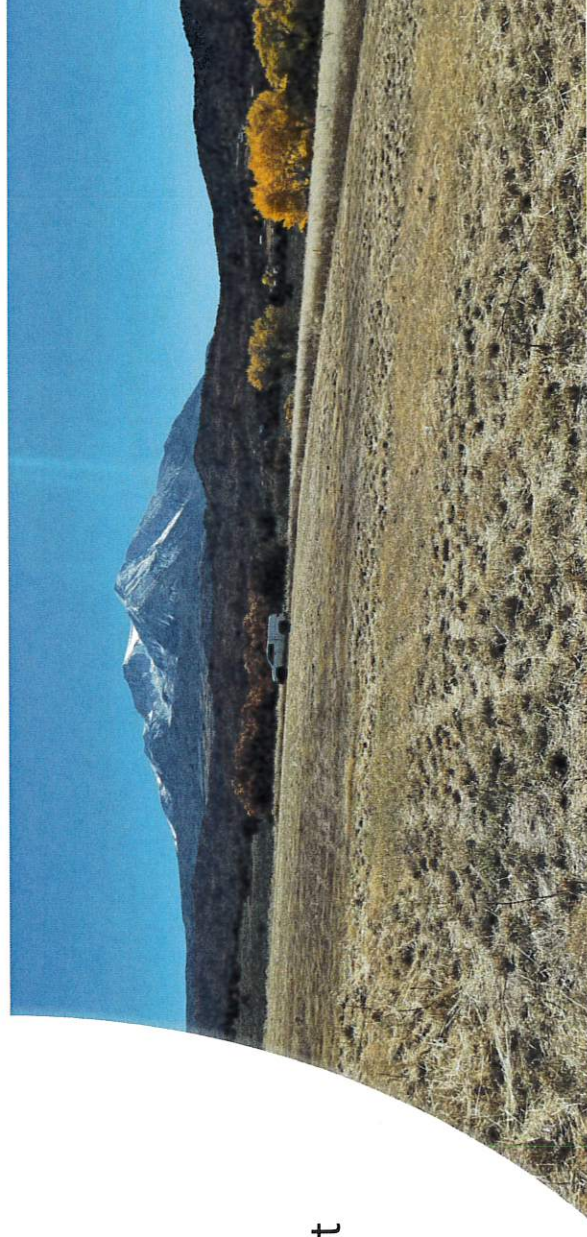
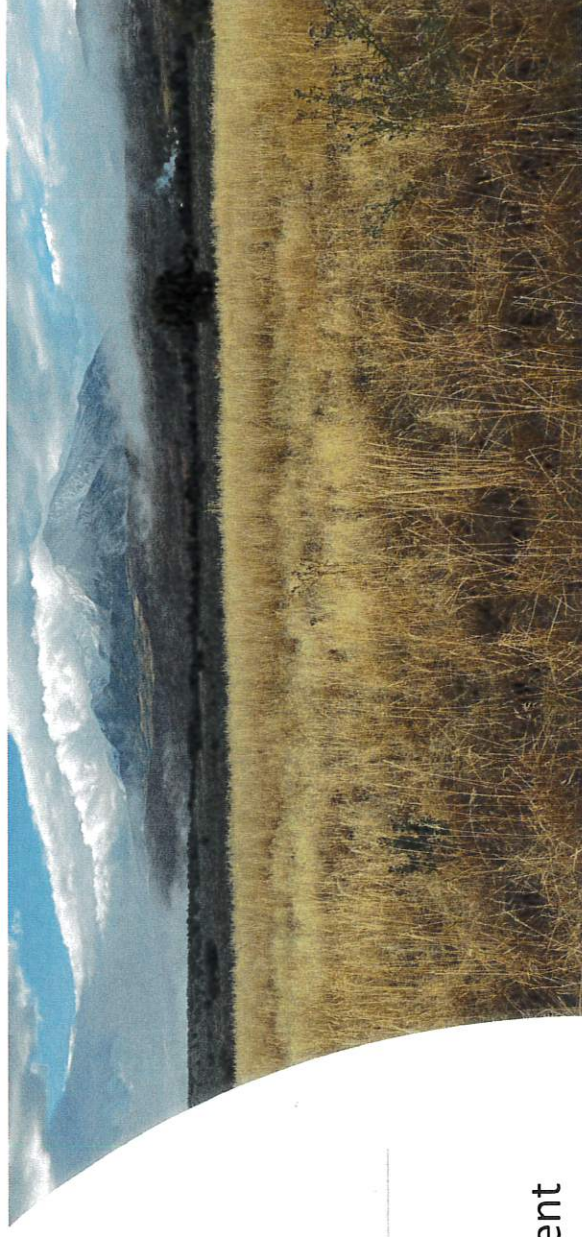
Analysis

Treatment Effects

- Overall impact of irrigation curtailment
- Yield reduction offset produced by aeration & aeration + biochar treatments

Simple Economic Evaluation

- Cost of treatments evaluated against economic loss offsets produced by treatments



Budget

2026-2027 Years 3-4 Monitoring

- Study Plot Sampling, Soil Moisture Monitoring, Laboratory Analysis
- Project Management and Reporting

Total Cost: \$71,975

Garfield County Request: \$5,000

Additional Funding: CWCB \$12,644

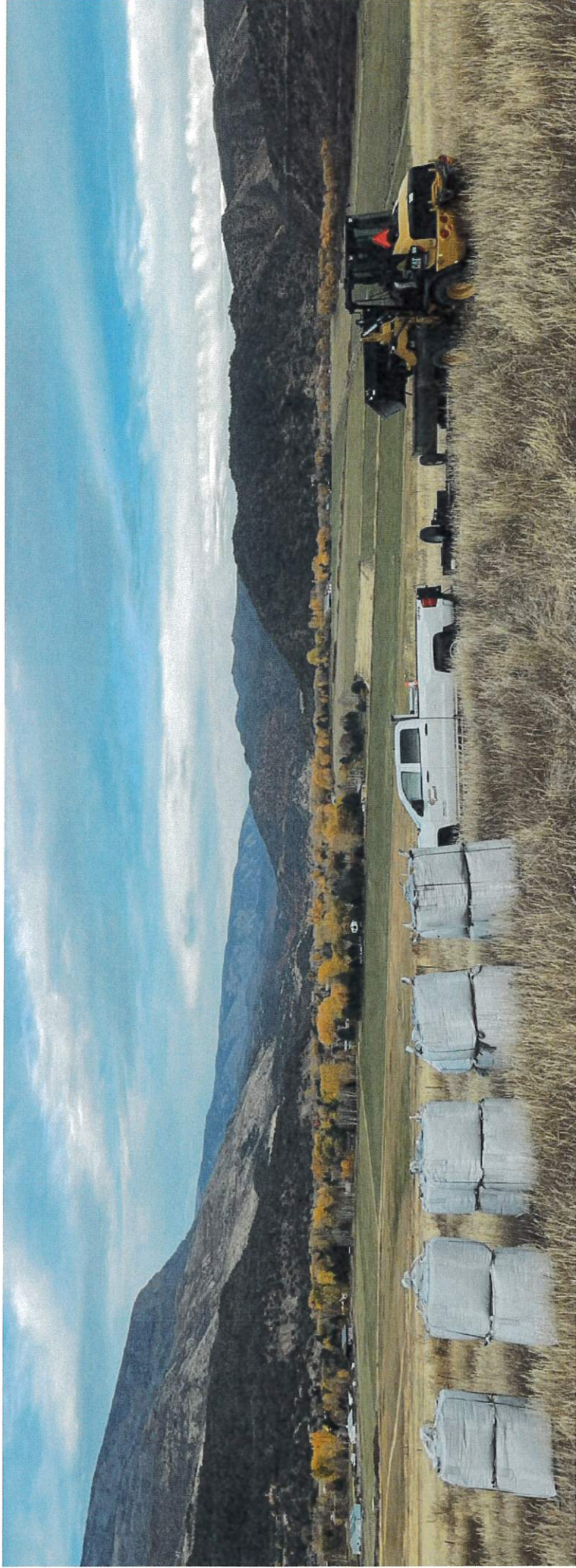
Eagle County \$13,000 (\$6,500 annually)

Colorado River District CFP \$20,000 (pending)

Anonymous Match \$10,000 (pending)

RFC In-kind Contribution \$11,331





Thank you.



Heather Lewin, Roaring Fork Conservancy
heather@roaringfork.org

