

## MISSION STATEMENT

To provide leadership through impactful partnerships to enhance and sustain our natural resources.

## FOCUS AREAS

- Forest Health
- Noxious Weed Control
- Urban Agriculture

## OFFICE LOCATION

Denver Federal Center  
Building 56, Room 2604  
Denver, CO 80225

## MAILING ADDRESS

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#261205  
Lakewood, CO 80226

## PHONE NUMBER

720-661-1738

## WEBSITE

[Jeffersonconservationdistrict.org](http://Jeffersonconservationdistrict.org)

## MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at  
4:30 PM.

## What is a conservation district?

Conservation districts (CDs) are local forms of government empowered by their states to give a local voice to conservation issues. Created as a result of the great Dust Bowl of the 1930s, CDs originally focused on agriculture-related soil and water conservation, but today, they work on a wide variety of natural resource concerns relative to their local geography and land uses. All CDs are governed by their own locally elected volunteer board of supervisors.



## Who is JCD?

Jefferson Conservation District (JCD) provides technical planning and implementation services and financial assistance to landowners, farmers, and community members along the Front Range outside of Denver, Colorado. JCD specializes in the areas of forest restoration, noxious weed management, and urban agriculture. The success of JCD is maintained through important partnerships with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Colorado State Conservation Board (CSCB), and the Colorado Association of Conservation Districts (CACD).



## Board of Supervisors

Every CD has an unpaid board of supervisors, which consists of individuals that own real property (of any size) within the district. Supervisors are elected or appointed officials, with legal responsibilities and duties, that serve 4-year terms. Monthly Board meetings are

### JCD Board Members

Karen Berry President  
Janet Bell Vice President  
Don Moore Secretary/Treasurer  
Cathy Begej  
Gayle Gordon  
Celia Greenman  
Liz Weber

open to the public and are held on the Denver Federal Center near Kipling Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Lakewood. The 2019 Annual Meeting and Local Working Group meeting were held in January. The 2020 meetings will be held in October. Visit JCD's website to learn more about attending meetings.

## JCD is almost 80 years old!

JCD was established in 1942 and is one of 76 Districts in the state of Colorado. The District extends from the plains to the continental divide and includes a variety of ecosystems and elevations that range from 3,500 to over 14,000 feet. The district's ecosystems vary from short grass prairie to alpine tundra with many forest types between.

JCD, like most conservation districts across Colorado, does not receive base funding from the state or county, nor does it have a mill levy. Instead, JCD operates like a non-profit organization, deriving revenue through grants (50%) and fees (50%) charged to landowners for forestry and weed management projects. After giving the opportunity for public input, JCD's budget is set each year by the Board of Supervisors. JCD financials are audited each year by an independent auditor.

| <b>Finances</b>   | 2016 - 2019 Average |
|---|---------------------|
| Annual Revenue  | \$1.1M              |
| Annual Expenditures   | \$1M                |
| 70% of JCD's expenditures are pass through funds to private forestry and weed management contractors. |                     |

| <b>JCD-Managed Forestry Projects</b> |           |           |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                      | 2017      | 2018      | 2019      |
| Acres Treated                        | 230       | 411       | 323       |
| Individual Projects                  | 6         | 6         | 4         |
| Properties Engaged                   | 6         | 19        | 4         |
| Forestry Contracts                   | 7         | 12        | 8         |
| Contract Totals                      | \$448,000 | \$844,000 | \$803,000 |

| <b>JCD-Managed Noxious Weed Projects</b> |          |           |          |
|--|----------|-----------|----------|
|  | 2017     | 2018      | 2019     |
| Acres Treated                            | 307      | 600       | 462      |
| Properties Engaged                       | 12       | 25        | 17       |
| Weed Mgmt. Contracts                     | 1        | 2         | 2        |
| Contract Totals                          | \$61,400 | \$101,800 | \$89,600 |

## PROGRAMS

### Forest Restoration

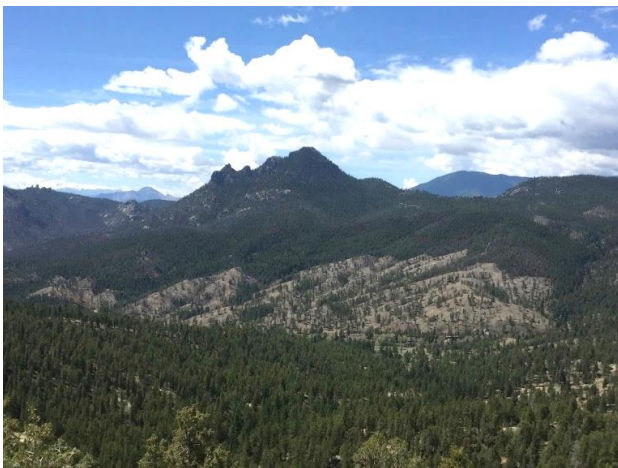
Jefferson Conservation District's (JCD) largest program is forest restoration, which involves working with private landowners to implement mechanical forest treatments designed to reduce fire hazard, improve wildlife habitat diversity, and increase native grass and wildflower abundance. Individual projects range from 40-250 acres in size and may occur on a single property or across multiple neighboring parcels. In partnership with NRCS, JCD delivers the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), providing technical and financial assistance to landowners who want to implement conservation practices. Where appropriate, JCD can also search for additional grant funding assistance and hire/manage professional private forestry contractors on behalf of the landowner.

The photo at left shows the contrast between treated (150-acre unit) and untreated forest. The tan colored area in the thinned treatment unit was newly treated and will become green up over the next 2-3 years as grasses, wildflowers and shrubs reestablish.

### Noxious Weed Control

Noxious weed management is another component of forest restoration. JCD assists landowners in

treating noxious weeds by creating a noxious weed management plan specific for their property and coordinating herbicide applications conducted by professional contractors. Each year, JCD puts out a call to landowners interesting in hiring us and our contractor to spray weeds. If you're interested for 2020, please contact us.



## Urban Agriculture

Urban agriculture is a growing component of metropolitan areas, such as Denver, and JCD provides support to this community with technical and financial assistance through EQIP. Most recently, JCD, in partnership with GoFarm Coop., applied for funding through the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) to create a database of landowners with farmable land within the Denver Metro area and connect them with an urban farmer looking for land to lease. Unfortunately, JCD was not awarded 2020 NACD grant funding, but, we're determined to continue working on land access issues within the urban agriculture community.



## Equipment Rental

JCD and GoFarm work cooperatively to offer several pieces of farming equipment for landowners to rent. This provides small landowners or beginning farmers with resources they may not otherwise have access to. More information is available at <https://www.gofarm.org/>



## STAFF

### Big Staff Changes in 2019

In 2019, JCD said goodbye, but also welcome!, to some excellent employees. Samantha Delfing, who joined in 2017, accepted a new position with American Forest Foundation, and Maria Bumgarner, with us since 2014, started a new job with NRCS. Fortunately, for us and our landowners, Maria will continue to serve Jefferson county.

In March 2019, Mitch Yergert joined JCD as Operations Assistant after 31 years with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, retiring as Plant Industry Division Director. In June, JCD filled Sam and Maria's vacancies with Matt McLemore, Conservation Forester, and Marenna Disbro, Noxious Weed and Urban Agriculture Coordinator. Matt previously worked for Jefferson County Open Space, while Marenna relocated from Nevada, coming from Carson City Parks Recreation, and Open Space. Garrett Stephens, entering his sixth year with JCD, serves as the Director overseeing all day to day activities. Frank Falzone has been with JCD since 2017 and is JCD's second Conservation Forester. JCD also hired Dan Walsh (not pictured) as seasonal Natural Resource Technician during the summer. Dan provided much needed help in mapping and documentation for both the forestry and noxious weed programs.



Frank Falzone



Mitch Yergert



Matt McLemore



Marenna Disbro

## OUTREACH



Congratulations to Bill and Patti!

### **JCD Landowners Named Conservationist of the Year**

Bill and Patti Von Vihl were named the Upper South Platte Watershed Conservationist of the Year, which is an annual award given by all CDs in that particular watershed. The Von Vihls, who live in Conifer, have been very active with JCD's forestry program. They also braved the "bomb cyclone" in March 2019 to testify to the State Legislature about wildfire mitigation grants. The Von Vihls stated that without the assistance from JCD, they and their neighbors would not have been able to afford and manage a mitigation/restoration.

### **JCD Visits the State House**

JCD put a face on forest conservation issues in Colorado by testifying before state legislators and showing them the benefits of continuing to fund program grants at the state level.

In March – the third time in the past five years – district staff, landowners and Colorado Association of Conservation Districts' (CACD) lobbyist Brett Moore (pictured far left) attended a House Rural Affairs and Agriculture hearing on House Bill 19-1006 (Wildfire Mitigation [in] Wildland-Urban Interface Areas), which provides state funding for grants to agencies like JCD for wildfire mitigation projects on private lands. On May 31<sup>st</sup> the Governor



signed the bill into law. "These grants are critically important to getting forest conservation work done on the ground," JCD Director Garrett Stephens said. "Most of the testimony these legislators hear is from agency officials and lobbyists, so it was especially compelling for us to bring private landowners to share their perspective." The legislation provides the continuation of an annual state grant that funds various wildfire mitigation and forest restoration across the state. In 2019, the grants will fund \$1 million worth of projects. In the past six years, JCD has treated nearly 1,000 acres through various projects, using a total of about \$1.2 million in state grants under this type of program. Forestry work on Colorado's Front Range is very expensive, ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 per acre; this is largely due to our steep, rocky terrain and the low quality of wood being harvested. Without grants and other farm bill incentives from partners like the NRCS, these projects would not be possible.

**JCD looks forward to a productive and exciting 2020!**