

# Ridgway Town Council Regular Meeting Agenda Wednesday, March 12, 2025

Pursuant to the Town's Electronic Participation Policy, the meeting will be conducted both in person and via a virtual meeting portal. Members of the public may attend in person at the Community Center, located at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado 81432, or virtually using the meeting information below.

## ***Join Zoom Meeting***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89271947513?pwd=54uhp5XrUJyIxlKefUGS5bdz28TWwy.1>

Meeting ID: 892 7194 7513

Passcode: 830431

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US

+1 253 215 8782 US

**5:30 p.m.**

**ROLL CALL** Councilors Kevin Grambley, Polly Kroger, Beth Lakin, Terry Schuyler, Josey Scoville, Mayor Pro Tem Russ Meyer and Mayor John Clark

## **ADDITIONS & DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT CALENDAR** All matters listed under the consent calendar are considered to be routine by the Town Council and enacted by one motion. The Council has received and considered reports and recommendations prior to assigning consent calendar designations. Copies of the reports are on file in the Town Clerk's Office and are available to the public. There will be no separate discussion on these items. If discussion is requested, that item will be removed from the consent calendar and considered separately.

1. Register of Demands for March 2025.
2. Renew restaurant liquor license for Taco Del Gnar.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** Established time for the public to address the Council regarding any item not otherwise listed on the agenda. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

3. Introduction of new Administrative Assistant, Julie Huun - Town Clerk.

**POLICY MATTERS** Public comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person; overall discussion of each item may be limited to 20 minutes.

4. Presentation and requested adoption of the Ouray County Multijurisdictional Evacuation Plan - Glenn Boyd, Ouray County Emergency Manager.

**PUBLIC REQUESTS AND PRESENTATIONS** Public comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person; discussion of each item may be limited to 20 minutes.

5. Presentation regarding the Cimarron Athletic Field Project - Susan Lacy, Ridgway School District.
6. Presentation regarding Homegrown Pathways' Spark Lab Youth Pre-Accelerator Program - Colin Lacy and Taylor Poyner, Homegrown Pathways.

7. Request for permanent access into the Ouray County Ranch History Museum and Ridgway Railroad Museum - Joan Chismire.
8. Proclamation: International Dark Sky Week - Mayor Clark.
9. National Donate Life Month Proclamation - Jessi Rochel, Chris Klug Foundation.

**POLICY MATTERS** Public comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person; overall discussion of each item may be limited to 20 minutes.

10. Interviews of Sustainability Advisory Board candidates and appointment of member - Town Manager.
11. First Reading of Ordinance No. 01-2025 Amending Section 7-4 "Zoning Regulations" and Section 8-5 "Short-Term Rentals" of the Ridgway Municipal Code - Senior Planner.
12. First Reading of Ordinance No. 02-2025 Amending Chapter 11 of the Ridgway Municipal Code Concerning the Sale of Dogs and Cats Born or Raised in Inhumane Commercial Breeding Facilities - Town Manager.
13. Resolution No. 25-05 Canceling the April Regular Election - Town Clerk.
14. Discussion regarding setting of a Special Town Council meeting the week of April 28, 2025 - Town Manager.

**WRITTEN AND VERBAL REPORTS** Written reports may be provided for informational purposes prior to the meeting updating Council on various matters that may or may not warrant discussion and action.

15. Town Manager's Report

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS** Informational verbal reports from Councilors pertaining to the following committees, commissions and organizations:

Committees & Commissions:

Ridgway Planning Commission - Councilor Meyer and Mayor Clark  
Ridgway Parks, Trails & Open Space Committee - Councilor Kroger  
Ridgway FUSE - Councilor Grambley  
Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board - Councilor Schuyler; alternate - Councilor Lakin  
Ridgway Scholarship Committee - Councilor Lakin and Mayor Clark

Board Appointments:

Ouray County Weed Board - Councilor Lakin; alternate - Town Manager  
Ouray County Joint Planning Board - Councilor Meyer, citizens Rod Fitzhugh & Tom McKenney; alternate - Councilor Schuyler  
Sneffels Energy Board - Councilor Schuyler and Town Manager; alternate - Mayor Clark  
Region 10 Board - Mayor Clark  
WestCO Dispatch Board - Town Marshal; alternate - Town Manager  
Gunnison Valley Transportation Planning Region - Town Manager  
Ouray County Transit Committee - Town Manager  
Ouray County Water Users Association - Councilor Meyer; alternate - Councilor Lakin

Water and Land Committee for the Uncompahgre Valley - Councilor Meyer; alternate -  
Town Manager

Colorado Communities for Climate Action - Councilor Lakin; alternate - Town Manager

Colorado Municipal League Policy Committee - Town Manager

Home Trust of Ouray County - Town Manager

Liaisons:

Chamber of Commerce - Councilmember Scoville

Communities That Care Coalition - Mayor Clark

Ouray County Fairgrounds - Councilor Schuyler

**ADJOURNMENT**

Deadline for agenda items for next regular meeting, Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 4:00 p.m., Town Clerk's Office, 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado.

# Consent Agenda



**Town of Ridgway**  
**Register of Demands**  
Jan 2025

Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
<b>Black Hills Energy-Broadband</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	1/23/25 - 2/21/25	783PO1 · Broadband Station	-15.10
TOTAL			-15.10
<b>Black Hills Energy-Hartwell Park</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	1/23/25 - 2/21/25	742POO · Utilities	-41.66
TOTAL			-41.66
<b>Black Hills Energy-Lift Station</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	1/23/25 - 2/21/25	942SOO · Utilities	-25.45
TOTAL			-25.45
<b>Black Hills Energy-PW Building</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	1/23/25 - 2/21/25	742POO · Utilities	-68.46
	1/23/25 - 2/21/25	642GO2 · Utilities	-68.46
	1/23/25 - 2/21/25	942SOO · Utilities	-68.46
	1/23/25 - 2/21/25	942WOO · Utilities	-68.47
TOTAL			-273.85
<b>Black Hills Energy-PW Office</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	1/23/25 - 2/21/25	642GO2 · Utilities	-29.72
	1/23/25 - 2/21/25	942SOO · Utilities	-29.73
		942WOO · Utilities	-29.73
TOTAL			-89.18
<b>Black Hills Energy-Town Hall</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	1/23/25 - 2/21/25	742PO1 · Utilities - comm cntr/town hall	-79.05
	1/23/25 - 2/21/25	842GO3 · Utilities	-79.04
	1/23/25 - 2/21/25	542GOO · Utilities	-79.04
TOTAL			-237.13
<b>True Value</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
		632GO2 · Supplies & Materials	-71.51
		732POO · Supplies & Materials	-212.33
		732PO1 · Supplies - c center/town hall	-42.97
		932SOO · Supplies & Materials	-107.15
		932WOO · Supplies & Materials	-159.15
		778PO1 · Decker Room	-102.05
		861GO3 · Vehicle Maintenance & Repair	-63.97
TOTAL			-759.13
<b>Clear Networx, LLC</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	Mar 2025	778PO1 · Decker Room	-100.00
TOTAL			-100.00

**Town of Ridgway**  
**Register of Demands**  
Jan 2025

Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
<b>Clear Networx, LLC</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	Mar 2025	543GOO · Telephone	-56.00
	Mar 2025	643GO2 · Telephone	-56.00
	Mar 2025	843GO3 · Telephone	-61.00
	Mar 2025	943WOO · Telephone	-56.00
	Mar 2025	943SOO · Telephone	-56.00
	Mar 2025	530GOO · Computer	-50.00
	Mar 2025	630GO2 · Computer	-50.00
	Mar 2025	730POO · Computer	-50.00
	Mar 2025	830GO3 · Computer	-50.00
	Mar 2025	930WOO · Computer	-50.00
	Mar 2025	930SOO · Computer	-50.00
	Mar 2025	930WOO · Computer	-50.00
	Mar 2025	930SOO · Computer	-25.00
	Mar 2025	630GO2 · Computer	-25.00
	Mar 2025	843GO3 · Telephone	-40.00
TOTAL			-725.00
<b>Bell Tech Pros</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	Feb 2025	556GOO · IT Services	-281.54
	Feb 2025	615GO2 · IT Services	-1,000.00
	Feb 2025	729POO · IT	-3,315.50
	Feb 2025	820GO3 · IT Services	-306.00
	Feb 2025	917WOO · IT Services	-148.00
	Feb 2025	917SOO · IT Services	-252.00
TOTAL			-5,303.04
<b>CEBT</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	Apr 2025	902SOO · Health Insurance	-1,679.00
	Apr 2025	902WOO · Health Insurance	-2,397.00
	Apr 2025	602GO2 · Health Insurance	-469.50
	Apr 2025	502GOO · Health Insurance	-9,138.00
	Apr 2025	802GO3 · Health Insurance	-5,114.00
	Apr 2025	702POO · Health Insurance	-1,408.50
	Apr 2025	526GOO · Life Insurance (all)	-132.44
	PRDD - Apr - DeFrancesco	66000 · Payroll Expenses (Payroll expen...	-980.00
	PRDD - Apr - Duncan	66000 · Payroll Expenses (Payroll expen...	-48.00
	PRDD - Apr - Neill	66000 · Payroll Expenses (Payroll expen...	-1,412.00
	PRDD - Apr - Schmalz	66000 · Payroll Expenses (Payroll expen...	-41.00
TOTAL			-22,819.44
<b>Kim's Housekeeping LLC</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	Feb 2025	779POO · Janitorial Service - parks	-1,363.50
	Feb 2025	779PO1 · Janitorial Services-c c/t hall	-454.50
	Feb 2025	545GOO · Janitorial Services	-454.50
	Feb 2025	778PO1 · Decker Room	-360.00
TOTAL			-2,632.50
<b>Minerva West</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
		5141GO1 · Minerva West Performing Arts	-2,700.00
TOTAL			-2,700.00

**Town of Ridgway**  
**Register of Demands**  
Jan 2025


Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
<b>Hartman Brothers Inc</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	cylinder lease renewal	661GO2 · Vehicle & Equip Maint & Repair	-48.00
	cylinder lease renewal	961SOO · Vehicle & Equip Maint & Repair	-48.00
	cylinder lease renewal	961WOO · Vehicle & Equip Maint & Repair	-48.00
	Feb 2025	661GO2 · Vehicle & Equip Maint & Repair	-7.66
	Feb 2025	961SOO · Vehicle & Equip Maint & Repair	-7.65
	Feb 2025	961WOO · Vehicle & Equip Maint & Repair	-7.65
TOTAL			-166.96
<b>Community Planning Strategie...</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	Feb 2025	513GOO · Planning Consulting	-2,683.50
TOTAL			-2,683.50
<b>USABlueBook</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	compactor / rammer	672GO2 · Equipment Purchase	-743.73
	compactor / rammer	732POO · Supplies & Materials	-743.74
	compactor / rammer	932SOO · Supplies & Materials	-743.74
	compactor / rammer	932WOO · Supplies & Materials	-743.74
	de-watering pump - 2"	932WOO · Supplies & Materials	-1,338.04
	de-watering pump - 2"	672GO2 · Equipment Purchase	-1,338.04
TOTAL			-5,651.03
<b>Bobcat of the Rockies LLC</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	bucket repair - Bobcat skidsteer	961SOO · Vehicle & Equip Maint & Repair	-349.00
	bucket repair - Bobcat skidsteer	961WOO · Vehicle & Equip Maint & Repair	-349.00
	bucket repair - Bobcat skidsteer	661GO2 · Vehicle & Equip Maint & Repair	-349.00
TOTAL			-1,047.00
<b>Shums Coda Associates</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	plan review - Vista Park Commons	519GOO · Contractual Services	-202.50
TOTAL			-202.50
<b>Colorado Communities for Cli...</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	CC4CA 2025	5040GO1 · Other Contributions	-1,030.00
TOTAL			-1,030.00
<b>UNCC</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	Feb 2025	915WOO · Dues & memberships	-24.08
	Feb 2025	915SOO · Dues & Memberships	-24.08
TOTAL			-48.16
<b>Jeff Rivera</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	Rivera	919WOO · Wellness Program	-171.91
TOTAL			-171.91

**Town of Ridgway  
Register of Demands**

Jan 2025

Name	Memo	Account	Paid Amount
<b>Gerald Barnes</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	B. Barnes	536GOO · Wellness Program	-293.02
TOTAL			-293.02
<b>Jordan Batchelder</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
	reimb - 2024 Int'l code book	541GOO · Office Supplies	-239.36
	reimb - code study course - Batchelder	521GOO · Confer,Workshops,Training	-79.00
TOTAL			-318.36
<b>VISA - Alpine Bank</b>		<b>Alpine-Operating Account</b>	
		Alpine Bank	-8,517.60
TOTAL			-8,517.60

## AGENDA ITEM #4



# Ouray County Multijurisdictional Emergency Evacuation Plan

PRESENTATION TO THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY TOWN  
COUNCIL

MARCH 2025

# Introduction

- ▶ Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway developed an emergency evacuation plan.
- ▶ The plan provides a structured approach for evacuations in response to disasters.
- ▶ Aims to protect residents, workers, and visitors from emergency hazards.
- ▶ Uses an all-hazards approach to cover wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and other threats.

# Purpose & Authority

- ▶ Purpose: Ensure the safety of residents and visitors by establishing evacuation procedures.
- ▶ Authority: Ouray County Sheriff's Office & Emergency Management oversee evacuation operations.
- ▶ Legal Basis: Colorado Disaster Emergency Act (C.R.S. 24-33.5-700) grants evacuation authority.



# Evacuation Stages

- ▶ Be Ready – Awareness of potential evacuation, prepare family and supplies.
- ▶ Get Set – Voluntary evacuation for at-risk individuals, prepare to leave.
- ▶ Go Now – Mandatory evacuation; immediate departure is required.

# Evacuation Routes

- ▶ North: US Highway 550 to Montrose.
- ▶ South: US Highway 550 to Silverton.
- ▶ West: CO Highway 62 to Placerville.
- ▶ East: Ouray County Road 8 to Cimarron/Gunnison.
- ▶ Routes may change based on emergency conditions.

# At-Risk Populations & Special Considerations

- ▶ Elderly, disabled individuals, and those with medical conditions.
- ▶ School children and daycare facilities.
- ▶ Tourists, hikers, and transient workers unfamiliar with the area.
- ▶ Pet owners & livestock evacuation support.
- ▶ Coordination required for non-English speakers.

# Decision & Activation of Evacuation Plan

- ▶ • Decision made by Emergency Manager, Sheriff, or designated representative.
- ▶ • Criteria: Wildfires, hazardous materials, rockslides, severe flooding, or other emergency threats.
- ▶ • Evacuation phases are implemented based on risk severity.
- ▶ • Law enforcement and emergency personnel coordinate evacuations.

# Shelter & Re-entry Procedures

- ▶ • Evacuation shelters: Ouray County 4-H Event Center & Fairgrounds.
- ▶ • Pet & livestock sheltering coordinated with Second Chance Humane Society.
- ▶ • Re-entry only when conditions are deemed safe by officials.
- ▶ • Residents must show proof of residence for security purposes.

# Communication & Public Notifications

- ▶ Multi-channel notification system: social media, radio, emergency alerts.
- ▶ Public Information Officer (PIO) handles official updates.
- ▶ WestCO Regional Dispatch assists with notifications.
- ▶ Residents encouraged to sign up for emergency alerts and stay informed.

# Next Steps & Community Preparedness

- ▶ Community education on evacuation preparedness (Go Bags, emergency contacts, alert systems).
- ▶ Conduct evacuation drills and tabletop exercises.
- ▶ Improve road signage and identify additional egress routes.
- ▶ Ensure coordination with local emergency services and volunteer organizations.

# Conclusion & Questions

- ▶ Ouray County and its municipalities are committed to ensuring public safety through emergency preparedness.
- ▶ Residents must be proactive in evacuation readiness.
- ▶ Questions and discussion on next steps for Ridgway's involvement.





# Ouray County Multijurisdictional Evacuation Plan

Ouray County, Colorado

12/2024

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## ***Record of Changes***

The most current copy of this document, including any revised pages, is available through the Ouray County Emergency Management office, County Commissioners, or other designated representatives.

<b>Change No.</b>	<b>Date Entered</b>	<b>Posted By</b>	<b>Description of Change</b>
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

## ***Key Acronyms***

EEP    Emergency Evacuation Plan  
EOC    Emergency Operations Center  
IC      Incident Commander  
ICS    Incident Command System  
PIO    Public Information Officer

# Executive Summary

Ouray County, the City of Ouray, the Town of Ridgway, and other project partners have collaboratively developed an **emergency evacuation plan** for residents, workers, and tourists within scenic Ouray County, Colorado. Evacuation Plans are designed to help protect people by providing guidance during an emergency. As the nature of every emergency cannot be known beforehand, this plan was developed with an all-hazards approach to be adaptable and flexible no matter the reason for evacuation. While wildfire is a significant and prominent concern in Colorado, other events, such as flooding or chemical spills, can prompt local officials to declare an evacuation.

***You evacuate to evade the threat, not to go to a specific location!***

Evacuation plans take place in several stages. It's critical to understand what stage of an evacuation your county, community, or neighborhood is in. Ouray County uses a three-phase approach called Be Ready, Get Set, Go Now!

- **Be Ready** – be aware an evacuation order may be coming due to hazardous conditions. Be prepared to evacuate by getting family and supplies together and watching local news media.
- **Get Set** – a **voluntary** evacuation order is in effect. Your family can evacuate now if you feel in danger or if it will take longer for you to evacuate, such as with children, elderly family, large domestic animals, or health/mobility concerns.
- **Go Now** – a **mandatory** evacuation order is in effect. All persons in the identified locations are at risk and need to evacuate the area immediately.

Residents and visitors to Ouray County should be aware that evacuation assistance resources are limited. If you need assistance evacuating, contact your local officials as quickly as possible. It is your responsibility to evacuate your family as quickly and safely as possible! If you choose not to evacuate, emergency responders will not be able to rescue you.

In general, evacuation routes are identified to lead people away from the danger. Designated evacuation routes include:

- North-bound towards Montrose via US Highway 550 and Ouray County Road 1
- South-bound towards Silverton via US Highway 550
- West-bound towards Placerville via CO Highway 62
- East-bound towards Cimarron/Gunnison via Ouray County Road 8

**However, evacuation roads may change during an event – always follow the direction of local officials to see the safest ways away from danger.**



## Where to Get Information:



Check the following locations for information about evacuation orders and status:

### RADIO:

- KUBC (580 AM)
- KKXK (94.1 or 99.3 FM)

### FACEBOOK:

- @OurayCountySheriff
- @OurayCountyAlerts
- @OurayCountyEM
- @OurayCountyGov
- @OurayPD
- @CityOfOuray
- @TownOfRidgway

### INSTAGRAM:

- @OurayCountySO
- @OurayCountyGov
- @OurayPD
- @CityOfOuray

## Evacuation Guidance:



Areas or people who should plan to evacuate early:

- Campgrounds and recreation areas
- Neighborhoods with one egress road (one way in/one way out)
- People with mobility or transportation concerns
- Families with children or the elderly
- Those with large animals

## Shelter Locations:



Families are welcome to take temporary shelter at:

- Ouray 4-H Center
- Ouray Community Center
- Ouray Elks Lodge
- Ouray Schools
- Ridgway Schools



Pets and hobby farm animals can take temporary shelter at:

- Second Chance Humane Society (small pets)
- Ouray County Fairgrounds (large domestic animals)

Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway are committed to protecting people and property throughout the county from disaster events. Help ensure your own safety by following safety guidance and news alerts, having a plan for your family, and being familiar with evacuation stages!

**Be Ready – Get Set – Go Now!**

# Introduction

## ***Purpose***

Ouray County, Colorado, is charged with ensuring the safety of residents and persons visiting the county, particularly during large-scale events. This document establishes procedures to implement the Ouray County Emergency Evacuation Plan (EEP) to direct the evacuation and road closures across the county during emergency events. This plan is specific to Ouray County, Colorado. The principles and strategies outlined in this plan can be scaled and adapted to address events as needed throughout the county, such as the County Fair and 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

## ***Authority***

The Ouray County Sheriff's Office and Ouray County Emergency Management serve as the primary or lead agencies for the Ouray County Emergency Evacuation Plan. C.R.S. 24-33.5-700 Colorado Disaster Emergency Act outlines the powers of local and state governments to respond to emergencies and disasters, including the authority to evacuate residents and visitors to provide for public safety. Evacuation orders of local authorities and Sheriffs are enforced by criminal sanctions, and a person disobeys an evacuation order at his or her own peril. This authority was backed by an official Attorney General Opinion on June 27, 2002.

This document is **For Official Use Only**. Portions of the Ouray County Emergency Evacuation Plan may contain information that raise personal privacy or other concerns, and those portions may be exempt from mandatory disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (see 5 United States Code §552, 41 Code of Federal Regulations Part 105- 60). It is to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with internal security protocol and is not to be released without prior approval of the County Emergency Manager to the public or other personnel who do not have a valid need to know. The disclosure of information in this plan could compromise the security or implementation of essential actions in this plan.

## ***Areas of Coverage***

This plan evaluates emergency evacuation procedures that would impact all or parts of Ouray County, including unincorporated Ouray County, the City of Ouray, the Town of Ridgway, Log Hill Mesa Fire Protection District (LHMFPD), Ouray Fire Protection District (OFPD), Ridgway Fire Protection District (RFPD), Montrose Fire Protection District (MFPD) and other public lands. Horsefly Volunteer Wildland Fire Protection association provides first response to wildfires that start in northern Ouray County lands accessed by and from Government Springs Road.

## ***Plan Assumptions***

### *Overall Assumptions*

- Large scale events will require state or federal assistance



- It is unlikely the entire county would require evacuation, but rather select portions of the county and/or communities may be evacuated depending on the situation
- Some individuals will resist an order to evacuate.
- Some percentage of the population automatically assigns suspicion to the motives of government agencies, particularly in regards to evacuations.

### *Transportation*

- The primary means of evacuation for most individuals will be personal vehicles. Individuals who do not have personal vehicles may require assistance in evacuating.
- Individuals with access and functional needs or people with disabilities may require evacuation assistance and/or transportation coordination.
- There is a potential for roadways to be damaged or for traffic disruptions. This will require maximum flexibility in response.

### *Communications*

- Residents will not have access to all available public information sources to acquire emergency information.
- Information that is available to the public may be conflicting amongst various sources and may cause credibility issues with official information sources.
- It may be difficult to locate and inform seasonal, tourist, and homeless populations, and to estimate the scope of the transportation requirements.

## ***Plan Maintenance***

This plan is the principal source of guidance for evacuation in Ouray County. Overall coordination of this plan will be administered by the Ouray County Sheriff's Office or Local Law Enforcement. The Ouray County Office of Emergency Management is responsible for developing and maintaining this annex.

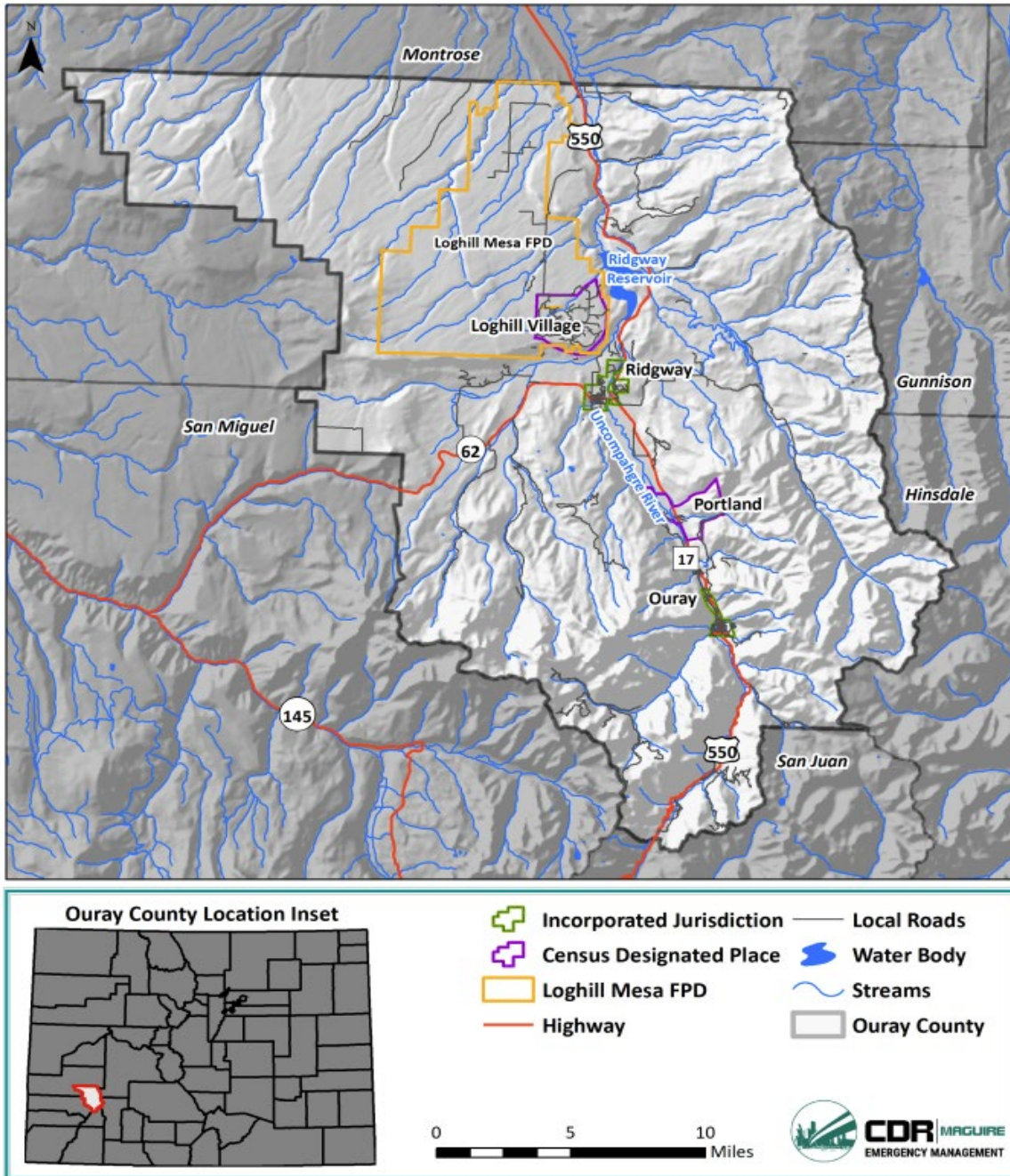
The plan will be reviewed and updated annually from the publication date, with the review led by the County Emergency Manager. Annual reviews are designed to keep contact information current and reflect organizational or procedural changes that might impact continuity. Beyond annual reviews, the plan should be updated following hazard events which require the plan's activation. Additional plan maintenance and review activities are documented in the table below and include associated tasks and suggested frequency.

Activity	Tasks	Frequency
Update/train new staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide EEP overview briefing to all new personnel involved in continuity operations</li> <li>• Ensure new staff engage in annual review of the EEP as appropriate</li> </ul>	Within 30 days of hire
Orient new policy officials and senior management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief officials on EEP</li> <li>• Brief each official on their EEP responsibilities</li> </ul>	Within 30 days of appointment
Update and test equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update and test vital equipment so that they are working correctly</li> </ul>	Quarterly
Maintain shelter location agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain agreements with shelters</li> <li>• Verify contact information</li> </ul>	Quarterly
Update rosters and logs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update and revise employee rosters</li> <li>• Update and revise equipment logs</li> </ul>	Quarterly or as needed
Plan update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review plan for accuracy</li> <li>• Update based on incident events</li> <li>• Manage distribution of plan updates</li> </ul>	Annually
Review/update supporting MOUs/MOAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review MOUs/MOAs as needed for currency and new needs</li> </ul>	Annually
Plan and conduct exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct joint exercises with agencies</li> <li>• Support and participate in interagency exercises</li> </ul>	Bi-Annually

As part of the plan maintenance and review, staff should be trained on the Incident Command System (ICS) and regularly take part in exercises, drills, and workshops. The goal is to ensure all staff are familiar with the critical functions associated with response efforts during EEP activation. Local department leadership and the designated county representative will determine the level of training and amount of participation in exercises.

## Community Overview

Ouray County covers 540.7 (US CENSUS) square miles in southwestern Colorado. The 2022 population is 4,936 people. Ouray County ranges in elevation from 5,285 feet at its north boundary to 14,158 feet at the peak of Mount Sneffels. It is and is a scenic destination for tourism and outdoor recreation. Ouray County contains the upper Uncompahgre River Valley and northern San Juan Mountains. Ouray County borders Montrose, San Miguel, San Juan, Hinsdale, and Gunnison Counties. Ouray County contains two incorporated municipalities: the City of Ouray (2020 population = 898 people) and the Town of Ridgway (2020 population = 1,183 people). There are three census-designated places in unincorporated Ouray County: Colona (2020 population = 36 people), Loghill Village (2020 population = 617), and Portland (2020 population = 136).



Ouray County Basemap  
 (Source: Ouray County HMP)

## Demographics

Ouray County and the incorporated community's population estimates and general demographic vulnerabilities are described in the following section. Characteristics such as age, disability, and/or primary language spoken at home will significantly impact a resident's ability to evacuate in a timely manner.

Table 1: Population and At-risk Persons

Jurisdiction	2020 Census	Median Age	Disability %	Language %*
Ouray County	4,874	54.6	15.1%	0.8%
City of Ouray	898	47.7	11.3%	0.0%
Town of Ridgway	1,183	45.5	15.8%	0.2%

Source: U.S. Census, 2023

\*Note – Language % indicates “speaks English less than “very well””; Disability % is designated as “total civilian noninstitutionalized population %”

The local planning committee noted approximately 8% of the population is English as a Second Language due to the large transient working population during the summer months.

### **At-risk Populations**

In general, at-risk populations may have difficulty with medical issues, poverty, extremes in age, and communication due to language barriers. Several outliers may be considered when discussing potentially at-risk populations, including:

- Not all people who are considered “at-risk” are at-risk;
- Outward appearance does not necessarily mark a person as at-risk;
- A hazard event will, in many cases, impact at-risk populations in different ways.

The following locations may house “at-risk” populations or persons with functional access needs. Note there are no licensed health facilities in Ouray County. This includes assisted living, nursing homes, or hospitals.

Type	Facility Name	Address	Other Note
Health Clinic	Cedar Point Health	295 Sherman St Ridgway CO	Phone – 970-626-5123
Health Clinic – Physical Therapy	Mountain View Physical Therapy (Montrose Regional Health)	185 Sherman St. Unit 103 Ridgway CO	Phone – 970-626-4050
Health Clinic -- Ouray County Public Health	Ouray County Public Health	177 Sherman St. Unit 103 Ridgway CO	Phone – 970-325-4670
Health Clinic -- Dentistry	Ridgway Family Dentistry	166 Liddel Dr. Ridgway CO	Phone – 970-626-3774
Schools	Ridgway Elementary School	1115 Clinton St Ridgway CO	Phone – 970-626-5468
	Ridgway Secondary School	1200 Green St Ridgway CO	Phone – 970-626-5788
	Ouray School District R1	400 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave Ouray CO	Phone – 970-325-4505
Daycares	Early Learning Center of Ouray (toddler/preschool)	400 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Ouray CO	Phone -- 970-325-4505
	Katrina Thomsen (Infant/Toddler/Preschool/School Age)	399 N Cora St Ridgway CO	Phone – 970-729-2319
	Ridgway Elementary School (Toddler/Preschool)	1115 Clinton St Ridgway CO	Phone – 970-626-5468
	VOYAGER YOUTH PROGRAM (Preschool/School Age)	280 N Cora St	Phone – 970-626-4279

### ***Population Groups of Concern***

To create effective community evacuation plans for vulnerable populations, it's crucial to address potential weaknesses and build on the strengths through ongoing collaboration. Potential risks and identified challenges for various demographics may include:

- ***Persons with Functional Needs –***
  - Persons with physical limitations will likely require assistance with transportation out of evacuated areas and back into affected areas once the emergency is stabilized. Evacuation routes and shelters may not be fully accessible, posing challenges for individuals with mobility issues.
  - Persons deaf or hard of hearing may have challenges receiving all emergency alert information.
  - Service Animals shall be allowed to remain with their owner throughout evacuation, shelter, and re-entry.

- Not all persons (either residents, transient workers, or tourists) have access to vehicles or transportation.
- *School-age Children* – Separated families (parents vs. kids) are a concern for evacuation during the school year or during working hours. Non-driving children who remain at home while parents commute to surrounding areas for work are a concern. It is not possible to maintain a full roster of homes with children at home.
- *Transient Workers* - There is a population of transient or homeless population, particularly during the summertime, in Ouray County which are at heightened risk during evacuation procedures. Notification and transport of these non-housed workers is difficult and should be of priority to emergency personnel. Additionally, non-native persons may not be culturally aware of challenges inherent to living in the mountains, leading to difficulties for individuals from diverse backgrounds or those who do not understand the gravity of a situation.
- *Those who Speak English as a Second Language* - Lack of accessible communication methods may lead to confusion and exclusion during evacuation efforts.
- *Pet Owners* - Residents with animals or pets are likely to resist evacuation orders if barred from bringing their animals. Accommodations and/or information regarding animal housing should be a priority to incentivize people to evacuate as quickly as possible.
- *Tourists* – Those unfamiliar with the area or without knowledge of main roads will require additional notification and education to evacuate. Extra vehicles or transport methods may be required to assist travelers and tourists without adequate transportation.
- *Campers, Hunters, Hikers* - Campers, hikers, hunters, and other recreational enthusiasts can also be distributed throughout the surrounding areas and are often out of range of cellphone towers. Campgrounds around Ouray County include:
  - Amphitheater Campground – Ouray RD (USDA/USFS)
  - Angel Creek – *Tent Camping Only*
  - Beaver Lake
  - Columbine
  - Divide Forks
  - Ironton Townsite
  - Thistledown – *Tent Camping Only*
- *Daycare Providers* - In addition to family reunification plans, infant seats and close supervision will be required.

*Livestock Producers* – There is a relatively large population in Ouray County who have large-animals (cattle and horses primarily). Livestock producers face unique challenges and risks when attempting to evacuate during emergencies or disasters. The process of evacuating animals involves careful planning and coordination to ensure the safety and well-being of the animals. **The assumption shall be made that some ranchers will likely prioritize their livestock’s welfare over self-evacuation to ensure the livestock and their livelihood are safe.** Concerns to be aware of include:



- Limited transportation resources – livestock require specialized transportation such as trucks and trailers which not all owners may have on hand. Evacuating large numbers of livestock can also contribute to traffic congestion especially on rural roads.
- Size and number of animals – the large size and number of animals challenge evacuation logistics (such as travel time and available road capacity). Maintaining access to adequate feed and water during evacuation is challenging, especially for prolonged periods.
- Lack of suitable shelters – not all shelter facilities are designed to accommodate livestock. Additionally, lack of adequate shelters for long term storage if housing is damaged or roadways are impassable.
- Limited Advance Warning – rapidly evolving hazard conditions may provide inadequate time to wrangle, load, and relocate animals.
- Financial considerations – evacuation efforts can result in a significant financial burden for producers, including transportation costs and potential property damage.

Due to privacy issues, the county may not have adequate information on the location and extent of assistance required by people with special needs. Because resources and emergency conditions may not allow for house-to-house contact, persons with special needs, the elderly, pets, or livestock should outline a plan for emergency evacuation and, if necessary, appoint a primary person to assist them.

### ***Existing Capabilities***

Ouray County encompasses a mosaic of land ownership and jurisdictional boundaries. Because of this, interagency cooperation is essential not only for emergency response, but also for prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and fiscal issues. Between Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway, there are a multitude of complimentary and competing plans, procedures, capabilities, and resources available. The capabilities table below lists which planning and regulatory, administrative, financial, and outreach capabilities the County and communities have.

<b>Planning and Regulatory Capability</b>	<b>Ouray County</b>	<b>Ouray</b>	<b>Ridgway</b>
Comprehensive Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes
Capital Improvements Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes
Economic Development Plan	No	Yes	Yes
Emergency Operational Plan	Yes	County	County
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	Yes	Yes	Yes
Storm Water Management Plan	No	Yes	Yes
Building Codes	Yes	Yes	Yes (2019)
Zoning Regulation/Ordinances	Yes	Yes	Yes
National Flood Insurance Program	Yes	Yes	Yes
Floodplain Management Plan/Ordinance	Yes	Yes	Yes
Community Rating System	No	No	No
Mutual Aid Agreements	Yes	Yes	Yes

<b>Administrative &amp; Technical Capability</b>	<b>Ouray County</b>	<b>Ouray</b>	<b>Ridgway</b>
Planning Commission	Yes	Yes	Yes
Floodplain Administration	Yes	Yes	Yes
GIS Capabilities	Yes	No	No
Chief Building Official	Yes	Yes	Yes
Civil Engineering	Yes	No	Yes
Grant Manager	No	No	No
Local Staff Who Can Assess Community's Vulnerability to Hazards	Limited	Limited	Limited
<b>Fiscal Capability</b>	<b>Ouray County</b>	<b>Ouray</b>	<b>Ridgway</b>
Authority to Levy Taxes for Specific Purposes such as Mitigation Projects	Yes	Yes	Yes
Utility Service Fees	No	Yes	Yes
Storm Water Service Fees	No	No	No
Development Impact Fees	No	No	No
General Obligation Revenue or Special Tax Bonds	No	No	Yes
<b>Education &amp; Outreach Capability</b>	<b>Ouray County</b>	<b>Ouray</b>	<b>Ridgway</b>
Local citizen groups or non-profit organizations focused on hazard risk reduction and community protection	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ongoing public education or information program (e.g., responsible water use, fire safety, household preparedness, environmental education)	Yes	No	No
StormReady Certification	No	No	No
Firewise Communities Certification	No	No	No
	Loghill Mesa – Yes		
Tree City USA	No	No	No

***Other Available Resources***

Agencies who assist or can support evacuation efforts include but may not be limited to the following:

<b>Ouray County Departments</b>		
County Fairground	Emergency Management	Human Services
County PIO	Geographic Information System (GIS)	County Officials
Road and Bridge	Emergency Medical Services	Search and Rescue
County Assessor	County Public Information Officer	County Attorney



<b>Municipalities' Departments</b>		
City of Ouray Public Works	City of Ouray: Community Development + Building Dept/Building Inspector	Town of Ridgway Public Works
City of Ouray Officials	Town of Ridgway: Community Development/Town Planner + Building Inspector	Town of Ridgway Officials
City of Ouray Police Department		Town of Ridgway Marshals Office
<b>Fire Districts or Associations</b>		
Log Hill Mesa Fire Protection District	Montrose Fire Protection District	Ouray Fire Protection District
Ridgway Fire Protection District	Horsefly Volunteer Fire Protection (association)	
<b>School Districts</b>		
Ridgway School District	Ouray School District	Montrose School District
<b>State and Federal Agencies</b>		
Colorado Department of Transportation	Colorado Office of Emergency Management	Colorado State Forest Service
Colorado State Parks and Wildlife	Colorado State Patrol	National Park Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	U.S. Forest Service	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
<b>Non-profit or Other Potential Resources</b>		
Local HAM radio groups	Local livestock producers	Home Health Care Providers
American Red Cross	WestCO Regional Dispatch Center	Colorado West Region Healthcare Coalition of Colorado
Sheriff's Posse		Second Chance Humane Society
<b>Utilities</b>		
San Miguel Power Association	Propane Companies	Rocky Mountain Source Gas
City of Ouray – Water & Sanitation	Town of Ridgway – Water & Sanitation	Dallas Creek Water
Fairway Pines Sanitation District	Cornerstone Metro District – Water & Sanitation	

## **The largest limiting factor facing the county and communities for effective emergency response is a lack of adequate staff capacity.**

### ***Identified Resources and Opportunities for Improvement***

During a review of existing plans, policies, and capabilities for the planning team, key themes and opportunities for improvement were identified. These improvements may be carried forward and should be integrated into other plan updates, trainings, or projects in the future.

- Zoning Ordinances
  - New developments should be platted and permitted only if they include multiple egress routes.
- Roadway Projects and Improvements
  - Roads should be widened to account for emergency response access along shoulders and/or include signage for emergency access routes.
  - Evacuation Routes should require specific markings or designation signage.
- Training, Maintenance, Education Needs
  - Tabletop exercises or designated trainings for emergency responders/local officials/law enforcement should occur regularly.
  - A community evacuation drill days would bolster local knowledge of the plan and promote self-reliance.
  - Conduct education campaign on preparing for evacuation – preparing go-bags, community alert sign-ups
  - Evaluate and implement specific warning siren systems (siren blasts indicating evacuation notice) with public education campaign of siren blast patterns.
- Funding Opportunities
  - All jurisdictions could benefit from additional funding opportunities to support local resiliency endeavors – particularly if funds could be used to augment local staff resources. See State Emergency Fire Fund information below:

#### **State Emergency Fire Fund (EFF)**

The EFF was established in 1967 by a few counties that recognized that some fires may exceed the capabilities of county resources and abilities. County participation is voluntary. Majority of the counties in Colorado participate including Ouray County contribute into this insurance-type fund that can pay for catastrophic wildfires on state and private land that exceed a participating county's capabilities including suppression costs. EFF funding must be requested by the county sheriff and can only be approved by the director of DFPC.

The EFF is strictly a fire suppression fund and cannot pay for rehabilitation. However, repair of damage directly related to suppression (e.g., water bars on cat lines) may be authorized by a DFPC line officer if accomplished as a suppression component at the time of the fire suppression effort. Alternate resources can be negotiated depending on resources appropriate for the fire. The EFF is a necessary link to FEMA funds; however, federal agencies cannot obligate EFF funds.

# Emergency Evacuation Procedures

The Ouray County EEP can be implemented without warning and should be implemented immediately upon activation.

## ***Decision to Activate the EEP***

The Ouray County Emergency Manager, County Sheriff, or a representative designated by either has the authority to activate the EEP. The decision to activate will be tailored for the situation and based on projected or actual impact. Based on the type and severity of the emergency, the EEP may be activated by any of the following events.

- **Wildfire events** in the county which may impede transportation corridors or encroach on communities,
- A **hazardous materials incident** capable of impacting the physical wellbeing of residents or visitors,
- An **avalanche/rockslide/debris flow** impacting a community or major thoroughfare,
- **Severe flooding** on the Uncompahgre River or other creeks which would block adequate access to portions of the county or communities, and/or
- Any **other emergency event** which compromises the integrity or safety for residents.

## ***Direction and Control***

During EEP activation, the representative who activated the EEP maintains overall direction and control of operations, but may delegate relocation, continuity, and reconstitution operations to the other authorized staff.

A point of contact for each zone or region under evacuation order should be established that is then responsible for tracking when and where warnings have been issued, number evacuated, status on shelter capacity, and those remaining the risk area including functional needs and people with disabilities in their zone.

## ***Operational Phases***

This evacuation plan is broken down into three main phases:

- **Be Ready: Pre-Evacuation Readiness and Preparedness** – places the emphasis on preparing residents of potential future evacuation orders. Education is based around developing situation and preparing to evacuate.
- **Get Set: Activation of Voluntary Evacuation** – emphasis shifts to collecting materials, communicating a plan to family members, or evacuating voluntarily for those with additional risk factors. Emergency procedures may include rerouting traffic, establishing detours, clearing traffic for EMS, opening shelters, etc.

- **Go Now! Activation of Mandatory Evacuation** – mandatory evacuation orders established for areas at risk. Actions include canvassing areas, assisting with evacuations as needed, or closing and securing hazardous areas. All messaging pertains to imminent danger, shelter locations, closed routes or detours.
  - **Mandatory or full evacuation only directed if remaining in the area poses significant risk or danger to life.**

### ***Refusal to Evacuate***

Persons who refuse to comply with a mandatory evacuation order will not be arrested nor forcibly removed from their homes. Those who refuse to evacuate should be informed that they should not expect rescue or other lifesaving assistance during the incident. If minor juvenile children are present and under the care of those who refuse to evacuate, the children may be taken into protective custody if Law Enforcement believes the children are in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death. According to county policies, the Ouray County Human Services Department will be contacted for continued care and custody of juvenile children. Additionally, and depending on the circumstances, those who refuse to evacuate and are under the influence of alcohol, or drugs or displaying severe behavioral health issues may be taken into protective custody if: (1) a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe the person is gravely disabled or there is an imminent danger to that person or others, as a result of a mental health disorder; or (2) a law enforcement officer or emergency service patrol has probable cause to believe a person is incapacitated or clearly dangerous to themselves or others, as a result of alcohol, drugs, and/or other substances."

- Under an EVACUATION ORDER, the responding agency or evacuation entity will flag entrances to residences, if time permits, with crime-scene flagging to indicate that residents have been notified. Two flags will be applied where residents have refused to evacuate.
  - *Adults* refusing to cooperate with area closures or evacuations will be advised of the impending danger and that emergency resources will not be risked rescuing them after the time of the Evacuation Order. The officer or volunteer involved will note the address and report it to the IC as soon as practical.
  - *Minors* will be evacuated regardless of their decision to stay, unless a parent or legal guardian is present who is also staying and insists that the minor must stay with them.

### ***Reconstitution or Event Termination***

The County Emergency Manager and Sheriff's Office are responsible for determining if the overall safety conditions are favorable enough to allow residents to return to their homes and businesses.

## Expected Actions

- Sheriff's office or local Police Departments determine conditions are safe to return.
- Designated staff will identify areas where repopulation can be safely accomplished without interfering with emergency response activities (such as fire suppression efforts or debris removal)
- EM and Sheriff Dispatch to notify all emergency responders the evacuation order is to be lifted.
- PIO will then share public notices on all used media channels: social media, local news media, county website, etc., for residents.
  - *Anticipate members of the public may attempt to enter through unauthorized pathways.*
  - *Advise evacuees how and when to return to their homes and businesses, indicating preferred travel routes and identification requirements for proof of residence.*
- Coordinate with special care facilities regarding the return of evacuees to those facilities.
  - *Note only those with significant health issues or anticipated medical procedures can be relocated to other hospitals. Surrounding health facilities are not holding facilities for medically vulnerable populations.*

To prevent looting, the responsible law enforcement agency will attempt to provide security to the evacuated areas. Only individuals who reside in the evacuated area should be allowed to enter the area when it is deemed safe to do so. Residency will be determined by driver's license or other documentation of record.

Upon termination of the evacuation order, the IC will use the primary designated Evacuation Center (4-H building) as an evacuee meeting place, to advise them of what to expect and how to obtain recovery resources to contend with losses and to obtain updated contact information from returnees.

## ***Shelter in Place***

In some cases, evacuation may not be necessary for residents or visitors. Shelter in place orders indicate residents should stay indoors or in a safe location instead of evacuating the area. Depending on the nature of the event a shelter in place order shall be issued rather than evacuation. Events which may lead to a Shelter in Place Order can include:

- Chemical spill or hazardous materials
- Impending severe winter weather
- Terrorist event such as a mass shooter or escaped prisoner

### *Expected Actions*

The expected actions for county and city officials will consist of regular Emergency Response or Operation Actions with specific messaging to be shared via the PIO to inform the public regarding the situation.

- Perform standard Emergency Operations Plan procedures as necessary.
- Notify key stakeholders at risk if events indicate specific shelter in place considerations.
  - Schools
  - Daycares
  - Large ongoing events – 4H or Campground event organizers
- Send out Shelter-in-Place messaging relevant to the specific area at risk.

## Expected Actions

The following list of Expected Actions are expected to occur to ensure all departments or personnel can be aware of the situation and take their own individual actions. While this is a more general list of actions, department specific actions and responsibilities are further detailed under their appropriate section.

### *Overall Expected Actions*

- Activate the county's Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
  - Relevant departments send designated representative to EOC.
- Incident Commander is to monitor the ongoing emergency event and determine if Emergency Evacuation Plan is to be activated.
- Determine EEP Level.
  - **Be Ready** – general notification, FYI. Areas have been identified as “at risk”.
  - **Get Set – Voluntary Evacuation**. Emphasis areas at highest risk such as single egress neighborhoods near threat or vulnerable population. Areas at risk are threatened.
  - **Go Now! – Mandatory Evacuation**. Threat is imminent or occurring. Areas at risk have been breached.
- Notify all county and community responding departments of EEP activation level
  - All responding departments to perform individual expected actions.
- Share all media posts or messaging as provided by the PIO.
- Activate evacuation centers.
  - Identify and obtain additional resources needed to operate the Ouray County 4-H Event Center and Fairgrounds as an Evacuation Center for evacuees and animals, such as generators, portable showers, food preparation facilities, sleeping accommodations, animal care, etc.
- Activate animal evacuation centers.

- Contact Second Chance Humane Society to implement procedures for managing and staffing the small and large animal Evacuation Centers.
- Communicate any blocked/damaged/impassable roadways to the Incident Commander.
  - IC will coordinate with Ouray County Road and Bridge Department to place road closure signage.
  - Colorado DOT also assists with closures, directing traffic, and barriers.
  - Establish Control Points to block re-entry to evacuated zones.
- Track time, labor, and resources utilized for reimbursement and After-Action Reports.
- Assist with Damage Assessments and/or area sweeps for re-entry conditions.
  - Remove debris from major roads, chokepoints, or public rights-of-way.
  - Terminate the evacuation order and allow residents to return home.

## Expected Actions by Designated Representative

The following section lists out the anticipated actions for each individual department or designated representative involved in evacuation procedures for Ouray County. Note, this is not an exhaustive list, and responsibilities or tasks may be added or skipped depending on the nature of the event. This section is designed to allow new representatives to pick up the plan and have a clear task list.

- Ouray County Officials and Staff
  - Ouray County Emergency Manager
  - Ouray County Sheriff and Sheriff's Office
  - Ouray County Public Information Officer (PIO)
- City of Ouray Officials and Staff
  - City Administrator/Finance
  - Administrative Staff
  - GIS/IT
  - Community Development + Building Dept/Building Inspector
  - City Council
  - Public Works
  - Ouray Police Department
- Town of Ridgway Officials and Staff
  - Town Manager
  - Town Clerk
  - Town Council
  - Community Development/Town Planner + Building Inspector
  - Public Works
  - Town Marshal
- Fire Protection Districts and Emergency Services

- Lophill Fire Protection District
- Ouray Fire Protection District
- Ridgway Fire Protection District
- Ouray County Emergency Medical Services
- Ouray County Mountain Rescue Team
- State of Colorado Departments or Agencies
  - Colorado Department of Transportation
  - Colorado State Patrol
  - Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Sheltering or other Assisting Agencies
  - American Red Cross / Salvation Army
  - Ouray County School District
  - Ouray County Fairgrounds/4H Event Center

### ***Ouray County Emergency Manager***

#### *Pre-event*

- Coordinate and ensure mutual aid documentation is completed and filed.
- Coordinate and manage plan maintenance, training, and/or exercises.
- Distribute copies of the plan to all recipients of the original evacuation plan.
- Provide updated contact information (staff personnel, phone, other information as needed) for inclusion in the Evacuation Plan on an annual basis.

#### *Mid-event*

- Activate and serve as manager of Ouray County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
  - Provide technical support to EOC staff and other county personnel for resource management, damage assessment, intergovernmental coordination, disaster recovery, hazard mitigation, and other emergency management functions as needed.
- Serve as the primary point of contact to communicate with municipalities and the State EOC.
  - Establish communication with the state to request state assistance as needed.
- Notify and activate emergency personnel to staff EOC and implement EEP.
- Assess information and data for determination of emergency level;
- Determine if an evacuation order should be issued and what category.
  - Issue the BE READY pre-evacuation notice when the existing hazard condition is “at risk with likelihood to continue or increase in severity.
  - Initiate the GET SET voluntary evacuation notice when the exiting hazard condition is “areas are becoming threatened.”
  - Initiate the notification process for GO NOW mandatory evacuation when the existing hazard condition is “areas are breached, or breach is imminent due to hazard conditions.



- Provide assessment of emergency conditions and determine evacuation status level.
  - Provide recommendations to the Sheriff, County Administrator, and/or County Commissioners for local disaster declarations, travel restrictions, curfews, or other restrictions.
- Obtain formal Disaster Declaration and commitment of resources.
  - Coordinate necessary resources or request for resources as required by incident level.
- Determine opening status of temporary shelter locations.
  - Coordinate with American Red Cross for shelter openings and operation.
  - Contact and activate Second Chance Humane Shelter and for animal/livestock sheltering.
- Serve as the secondary County PIO if necessary.
  - Implement and share public warning measures or disaster-related information including safety warnings and casualties.
- Coordinate with Public Health Director and Ouray County Social Services to assist with persons with access and functional needs.
- Coordinate with utilities if service needs to be shut off from areas at risk.

#### *Post-event*

- Prepare and provide final damage or situation reports to County Commissioners and/or State officials.
- Oversee post-disaster impact reports.

### ***Ouray County Sheriff and Sheriff's Office***

#### *Pre-event*

- Participate in annual trainings and maintenance efforts for EEP.
- Provide updated contact information (staff personnel, phone, other information as needed) for inclusion in the Evacuation Plan on an annual basis.

#### *Mid-event*

- Implement the Incident Command System (ICS).
- Provide a representative to staff and coordinate with EOC.
- Assess information and data for determination of emergency level.
- Identify and implement the means of communication to support direction, control, and coordination of emergency management activities.
- Coordinate evacuations in designated areas – notify EOC of evacuated areas as cleared by deputies. Use grid pattern to ensure all homes are notified as appropriate.
  - *if time permits - Flag entrances to residences with crime-scene flagging to indicate that residents have been notified. Two flags will be applied where residents have refused to evacuate.*
- Fire Departments and Law Enforcement sweep designated evacuation zones to ensure

areas are cleared.

- Work with Public Health for residents with special needs or those who require assistance.
- Conduct search and rescue in impacted areas within their jurisdictions.
- Share and distribute public warning measures as provided by PIO.
- Participate in the decision to terminate the emergency condition.

#### *Post-event*

- Lead area surveys to determine if conditions are safe to return for residents.
- Establish, coordinate and monitor checkpoints and roadblocks in unincorporated areas of the county.
  - Coordinate with Colorado Department of Transportation for road closures or traffic management.
  - Ensure license checks are conducted at entry points for security purposes.
- Provide security to evacuated areas as appropriate.

#### ***Ouray County Public Information Officer***

##### *Designated Representatives*

The Public Information Officer (PIO) releases all emergency public information about local operations and assistance during a disaster. All media inquiries must be routed through the designated PIO. Additionally, the PIO will coordinate the printing of publications and flyers.

##### *Pre-event*

- Maintain a list of Press Contacts (including local, state, and national).
- Maintain a working relationship with local and state media sources.
- Participate in annual trainings and maintenance efforts for EEP.

##### *Mid-Event*

- Coordinate or review all emergency public information releases from local, State, or Federal agencies.
- Advise the appropriate government officials with status reports and information for news releases. PIO to notify the following when evacuation notice implemented:
  - Ouray County Government
  - The local media (KUBC and KKXK) and all social media distribution
  - American Red Cross.
  - Ouray Mountain Rescue
  - WestCO Regional Dispatch.
- Coordinate the release of emergency public information with other agencies of the local, State, and Federal government.
- Utilize any or all of the following methods to disseminate public notification language:

- Social media – County webpage, X [Twitter], Facebook, Instagram
- Local broadcasts - radio stations
  - *KUBC (580 AM) or KKXK (94.1 or 99.3 FM)*
- Available county/community email listservs
- Portable bullhorns in communities
- Highway message signs
- Emergency Alert Systems – Ouray County Alerts
- Door to Door
- Fire sirens in Ouray for Ouray FD and in Ridgway for RFPD
- Google Chat (for internal county employee communication)
- Disseminate and respond to requests from the public for pre-, active, and post-disaster information.
- Coordinate with WestCO Regional Dispatch when appropriate.
  - Activation Procedure: Call WestCO Dispatch 970-249-9110 and request activation in Ouray and/or Ridgway.
- Coordinate and notify surrounding counties if evacuation orders are in place.

#### *Post-Event*

- Ensure that the public is informed about the proper identification required for re-entry.
- Ensure that the public is notified once re-entry begins. Provide guidance on which areas are open for re-entry and ways to access areas.

#### ***Ouray County Officials and Staff***

- County Commissioners
  - Provide formal disaster declaration to Governor’s Office to receive state and/or federal assistance as needed.
  - Provide approval and commitment of county resources and funds for disaster response purposes.
  - Issue official orders for required public safety measures (i.e. evacuation orders, curfew establishment, price controls, etc.).
- County Manager/Deputy County Manager
  - Provide assistance to the IC, EOC, and Sheriff as needed.
  - Approve allocation of County resources and funds for disaster or emergency purposes as authorized by the Board of County Commissioners.
  - Serve as intergovernmental liaison and initiate formal request for outside assistance from other local jurisdictions as needed.
  - Participate as part of County-wide damage assessment team at EOC and on local/state field damage survey teams, (primarily for County owned facilities), as needed.
  - Issue directives to County departments and personnel regarding changes in normal duties/work schedules, temporary reassignments, and employment of temporary workers, as needed.

- Procure emergency-related supplies and materials and oversee the administration of vendor contracts for emergency services and equipment as authorized by the Board of County Commissioners.
- Establish and maintain an incident-related financial record-keeping system.
  - Track financials and prepare documents necessary to recover monies from insurance providers, State/Federal Disaster Assistance Programs, or other funds or combinations of funding sources.
- Attorney
  - Provide legal counsel as needed to county officials regarding emergency incidents.
  - Prepare legal documentation - disaster declarations, resolutions, or regulations required to facilitate emergency operations – as needed or requested.
- Assessor
  - Provide Sheriff and EOC of requested assessor data that may be needed to determine if there are structures in areas needing evacuation that may contain people or livestock.
- Coroner
  - During Incident – be available for Emergency Manager or IC deployment to assist with other needs as they arise.
  - During/Post Incident – coordinate and operate temporary morgue and mortuary services, if needed. Contact Montrose Regional Health and/or Community Hospital to establish additional morgue space or request additional surge trailers or supplies.
  - Participate and assist with Damage Assessment Teams post-incident.
- GIS/IT
  - Provide situational and incident maps to the IC or Emergency Management or response workers as needed.
  - Provide updated map graphics as needed for evacuation purposes to reflect any changes in pre-established routes or plans.
  - Maintain and provide telecommunication systems for governmental use during incident.
    - Including for EOC, ICP, or other agencies as needed through the duration of the hazard incident.
  - Coordinate and manage wired and radio communications in conjunction with the EOC and communications center.
- Human Resources
  - Track which employees are assisting with emergency response actions or those off work time.
  - Prepare, provide, and/or assist with Worker’s Compensation Plans for injured workers, as needed.

- Land Use & Planning + Building Inspector
  - Staff should remain available for Emergency Manager or IC deployment to assist with other needs as they arise.
  - Participate and assist with Damage Assessment Teams post-incident.
  - Provide public education materials related to community disaster recovery and reentry by citizens into disaster-impacted structures and neighborhoods (e.g., safety of stored goods, removal of mildew, cleaning of smoke damages, etc.).
- Maintenance
  - Coordinate and assist with opening shelter and facilities for emergency use
    - Includes managing or providing staff, supplies, as well as power, water, or heat needs.
  - Assist Public Works and Roads Departments in debris removal and clearance of public right-of way (prioritize emergency lifeline routes).
- Public Health
  - Assist the Sheriff, EMS, and Human Services in identifying homebound and/or special needs residents who may require assistance evacuating.
  - Request and coordinate assistance from outside health and medical resources aiding Ouray County, as needed.
  - Provide staff to serve as a member on the Damage Assessment Team (Environmental Health Officer or Public Health Director).
  - Assist EOC/IC in evaluating and managing medical resources needed during hazard events – make requests to EOC to pass to state officials if requiring state or federal assistance.
  - Identify and document to EOC/ICP any biological, chemical, or environmental hazards that present health hazards to the general public.
    - Coordinate with the Designated Emergency Response Authority for the mitigation of identified hazards.
- Road and Bridge
  - Provide transportation and support of emergency response and recovery efforts (e.g., movement of county personnel, equipment, and supplies to designated staging areas).
  - Provide barricades and assist with road closures and traffic control.
  - Assist with traffic control and road closures as necessary to include posting of variable messaging signs.
  - Remove debris, clear public rights-of-way, and plan for street/route recovery operations, with priority assigned to critical emergency services lifelines.
  - Coordinate and lead Damage Assessment Teams post-incident for full damage assessment to county infrastructure and facilities.
    - Provide status report to County Sheriff and EOC
  - Provide resources to responders (IE, assist the fire department in obtaining water when needed or other provisions requested, etc.).

- Evaluate and monitor alternative transportation corridors identified for evacuation to ensure safety and capacity allows for timely evacuation of residents.
- Work with CDOT for road closures or blocked transportation routes – install signage indicating roads blocked.
- Human Services
  - Assist the Sheriff, EMS, and Public Health in identifying homebound and/or special needs residents in the case of population evacuation.
  - Assist the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and other volunteer organizations in the provision of emergency shelters, temporary housing and other assistance to displaced citizens.
    - Responsible for coordinating sheltering of displaced families.
    - Responsible for reuniting displaced families.
  - Coordinate and track volunteer roster and efforts for reimbursement.
  - Post event – coordinate resources for stress counseling/crisis counseling for disaster victims and disaster relief workers, as needed.
- Vegetation Management
  - Assist Roads Departments in debris removal and clearance of public right-of-way (prioritize emergency lifeline routes).
  - Staff should remain available for Emergency Manager or IC deployment to assist with other needs as they arise.
  - Participate and assist with Damage Assessment Teams post-incident.

All other departments shall remain available for Emergency Manager or IC deployment to assist with other needs as they arise and participate and assist with Damage Assessment Teams post-incident. Including:

- Clerk & Recorder
- Public Trustee/Treasurer

***City of Ouray Officials and Staff***

- City Administrator/Finance
  - Coordinate, commit, and direct City of Ouray government activities in support of emergency or disaster relief efforts.
  - Provide approval and commitment of city resources and funds for disaster response purposes as authorized by the City Council.
  - Issue directives to city departments and personnel regarding changes in normal duties/work schedules, temporary reassignments, and employment of temporary workers, as needed.
  - Provide assistance to the IC/EOC, City Council, and Police Chief as needed.
  - Serve as intergovernmental liaison and initiate formal requests for outside assistance from other local jurisdictions as needed.

- Participate in and provide personnel for the County-wide damage assessment team at EOC and on the local/state field damage survey team, as needed.
  - Establish the safety of buildings or implement condemnation procedures when necessary.
- Procure emergency-related supplies and materials and oversee the administration of vendor contracts for emergency services and equipment as authorized by the City Council.
- Establish and maintain an incident-related financial record keeping system.
  - Track financials and prepare documents necessary to recover monies from insurance providers, State/Federal Disaster Assistance Programs, or other funds or combinations of funding sources.
- Administrative Services Staff
  - Track which employees are assisting with emergency response actions or those off work time.
  - Prepare, provide, and/or assist with Worker's Compensation Plans for injured workers, as needed.
- GIS/IT
  - Provide situational and incident maps to the IC or Emergency Management or response workers as needed.
  - Provide updated map graphics as needed for evacuation purposes to reflect any changes in pre-established routes or plans.
  - Maintain and provide telecommunication systems for governmental use during incident.
    - Including for EOC, ICP, or other agencies as needed through the duration of the hazard incident.
- Community Development + Building Inspector
  - Staff should remain available for Emergency Manager or IC deployment to assist with other needs as they arise.
  - Participate and assist with Damage Assessment Teams post-incident.
  - Provide public education materials related to community disaster recovery and reentry by citizens into disaster-impacted structures and neighborhoods (e.g., safety of stored goods, removal of mildew, cleaning of smoke damages, etc.).
- City Council
  - Approve and commit city resources and funds for disaster response purposes.
  - Issue official orders for required public safety measures (i.e. evacuation orders, curfew establishment, price controls, etc.).
- Public Works
  - Provide transportation and support of emergency response and recovery efforts (e.g., movement of city personnel, equipment, and supplies to designated staging areas).

- Remove debris, clear public rights-of-way, and plan for street/route recovery operations, with priority assigned to critical emergency services lifelines.
- Coordinate and lead Damage Assessment Teams post-incident for full damage assessment to county infrastructure and facilities.
  - Provide status report to County Sheriff and EOC.
- Provide resources to responders (IE assist fire department in obtaining water when needed or other provisions requested, etc.).
- Evaluate and monitor alternative transportation corridors identified for evacuation to ensure safety and capacity allow for timely evacuation of residents.
- Ouray Police Department
  - Conduct search and rescue in impacted areas within their jurisdictions.
    - Coordinate with Ouray County Maintain Rescue for response.
  - Enforce curfews within their municipalities, if required.
  - Monitor road conditions and report traffic flows and counts within their municipalities.
  - Provide mutual aid to municipal law enforcement through the Operation Section of the EOC.
  - Assess emergency conditions and determine resource needs.
    - Needs can be filled with requests from county, mutual aid or outside agency resources.
  - Share and/or implement available public warning measures corresponding to current operational phase.

### ***Town of Ridgway Officials and Staff***

- Town Manager
  - Coordinate, commit to, and direct the government activities of the Town of Ridgway in support of emergency or disaster relief efforts.
  - Provide approval and commitment of town resources and funds for disaster response purposes as authorized by the Town Council.
  - Issue directives to town departments and personnel regarding changes in normal duties/work schedules, temporary reassignments, and employment of temporary workers, as needed.
  - Provide assistance to the IC/EOC, Town Council, and Town Marshal as needed.
  - Serve as intergovernmental liaison and initiate formal requests for outside assistance from other local jurisdictions as needed.
  - Participate in and provide personnel for County-wide damage assessment team at EOC and on local/state field damage survey team, as needed.
    - Establish safety of buildings or implement condemnation procedures when necessary.



- Procure emergency-related supplies and materials and oversee the administration of vendor contracts for emergency services and equipment as authorized by the Town Council.
- Procure emergency-related supplies and materials and oversee the administration of vendor contracts for emergency services and equipment as authorized by the Town Council.
- Town Clerk
  - Establish and maintain an incident-related financial record-keeping system.
    - Track financials and prepare documents necessary to recover monies from insurance providers, State/Federal Disaster Assistance Programs, or other funds or combinations of funding sources.
  - Responsible for resource tracking, record-keeping, and documentation of disaster-related costs and financial commitments.
  - Track the work hours and off-work time of employees that are assisting with the emergency response actions.
  - Prepare, provide, and/or assist with Worker's Compensation Plans for injured workers, as needed.
- Town Council
  - Provide approval and commitment of town resources and funds for disaster response purposes.
  - Issue official orders for required public safety measures (i.e. evacuation orders, curfew establishment, price controls, etc.).
- Community Development/Town Planner + Building Inspector
  - Oversee damage assessments of properties impacted by hazard event to determine safety for reoccupation.
- Public Works
  - Provide transportation and support of emergency response and recovery efforts (e.g., movement of city personnel, equipment and supplies to designated staging areas).
  - Coordinate and lead debris removal, clearance of public rights-of-way, and planning for street/route recovery operations, with priority assigned to critical emergency services lifelines.
  - Coordinate and lead Damage Assessment Teams post-incident for full damage assessment to county infrastructure and facilities.
    - Provide status report to Town Manager for coordination to EOC.
  - Provide resources to responders (IE assist fire department in obtaining water when needed or other provisions requested, etc.).
  - Evaluate and monitor alternative transportation corridors identified for evacuation to ensure safety and capacity allow for timely evacuation of residents.

- Town Marshal
  - Coordinate and lead search and rescue in impacted areas within their jurisdictions.
  - Enforce curfews within their municipalities, if required.
  - Monitor road conditions and report traffic flows and counts within their municipalities.
  - Provide mutual aid to municipal law enforcement through the Operation Section of the EOC.
  - Assess emergency conditions and determine resource needs.
    - Needs can be filled with requests from county, mutual aid or outside agency resources.
  - Share and/or implement available public warning measures corresponding to the current operational phase.

### ***Fire Protection Districts and Emergency Services***

#### **Fire Departments and Districts**

- Procure and maintain equipment for emergency response situations.
- Provide updated contact information (staff personnel, phone, other information as needed) for inclusion in the Evacuation Plan and emergency management on an annual basis.
- Exercise and train with local response agencies.
- Delegate authority as needed (during absence, vacation, etc.).
- Provide fire protection, suppression, and hazardous materials response.
- Monitor transportation routes that may be inundated or experience debris build-up during high water/debris flow/deadfall events.
- Assist as able with traffic control and road closures as necessary.
- Fire Departments and Law Enforcement will sweep designated evacuation zones to ensure areas are cleared as available.
- Work with Public Health for residents with special needs or those who require assistance.
- Assist local law enforcement in door-to-door contact if available and requested.
- Collaborate with partner agencies to identify necessary response equipment/resources and prioritize the deployment of equipment/resources.
- Participate in the ICS as required by emergency levels and specific situations.
- Collaborate in planning the prioritization of response efforts.
- Track time, labor, and resources being utilized for reimbursement and After-Action Reports.

#### **Ouray County Emergency Medical Services (OCEMS)**

- Assist the Ouray County Sheriff and the Ouray County Public Health Agency in identifying homebound and special needs residents in the case of a population evacuation.
- Respond to emergency medical needs.

- Assist EMS in evacuating citizens with access and functional needs if available.
- Set up rehabilitation for all emergency responders.

#### **Ouray County Mountain Rescue Team**

- Provide trained personnel and equipment in support of search and rescue operations of the Ouray County Sheriff's Office as available and necessary.
- Assist with traffic control with EMS and uniformed law enforcement personnel, crowd control assistance, assistance with site security as assigned by the Ouray County Sheriff or Emergency Management Director.
- Provide Emergency Locator Transmitter Search Team requests through the EOC if needed
- Assist local law enforcement in door-to-door contact if available and requested.

#### ***State of Colorado Departments or Agencies***

##### **Colorado State Patrol**

- Provide a representative to EOC and or ICP as needed.
- Monitor traffic conditions on state and federal highways and communicate findings to the EOC.
- Assist in traffic control and road blocking, if requested.
- Provide security for sheltering locations and/or EOC as needed.
- Establish and help monitor one-way routes for emergency vehicles and needed personnel.
- Provide Hazardous Material Incident response, if needed.

##### **Colorado Department of Transportation**

- Can supply heavy equipment.
- Provide traffic control on State Highways, if needed.
- Assist Road and Bridge with road maintenance, if requested.

##### **Colorado Parks and Wildlife**

- Provide a representative to EOC and or ICP as needed.
- Provide security for sheltering locations and/or EOC as needed.
- Assist with identification and monitoring of one-way routes for emergency vehicles and needed personnel.

#### ***Sheltering or other Assisting Agencies***

##### **American Red Cross / Salvation Army**

- Once called in by IC/EOC, open and establish emergency shelter locations.
  - Help shelter staff establish a check-in station.
  - Organize feeding, lodging, and public inquiries concerning sheltering populations – food, water, clothing, and/or medical assistance.

- Work with Public Health to provide shelter and supplies to vulnerable populations requiring additional resources.
- Coordinate provision of food, water, and/or other assistance as needed for emergency response personnel and relief workers.
- **PRE-EVENT** – Provide training to volunteers prior to emergency or disaster declaration.
- **DURING EVENT** - assist with on-site training to volunteers for disaster events.
- Provide recorded damage assessment information upon request.
- Coordination of mental health services (in cooperation with Ouray County Human /Social Services Department)

Note: The American Red Cross has a disaster coordinator and volunteers in Montrose as well as Shelter Trailers in Montrose (50 cots), Delta (50 cots), and Grand Junction (300 cots), which can presumably be mobilized if conditions warrant the establishment of a shelter providing housing and meals.

### **Ouray County School Districts**

- Coordinate with Emergency Management, in cooperation with American Red Cross, to provide schools as temporary shelters, when needed.
- Provide buses for evacuation and transportation, when needed/if available.

### **Ouray County Fairgrounds/4H Event Center**

- Evacuation Center staff to confer with County authorities regarding the need for involvement of the American Red Cross and other volunteer agencies.
- Open and assist in the management of the Event Center when opened as a shelter location during hazard events.
- Establish a check-in and information-gathering procedure.
  - Resident Log required with names, number of persons, address, contact information, and list of specific need.
- Coordinate supply needs with facility management, Ouray County, the American Red Cross, and volunteers.
  - Determine and arrange for physical resources: generators, portable showers, toilets.
- Assure that medical assistance is available.
- Operate kitchen to provide food for sheltered citizens.
- Serve as a point of animal and livestock collection.
- Provide for a heliport or base.

### ***Service Animals, Pets, and Livestock Sheltering***

The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 requires local jurisdictions to aid individuals with service animals and for the sheltering and care of household pets and service animals during emergencies when a shelter has been established. Pet and service animal sheltering and care in Ouray County has been assigned to Social Services, the American Red Cross,

the Second Chance Humane Society (SCHS), and Colorado State University Cooperative Extension.

The primary Evacuation Centers for small and large animals are the Ouray County Fairgrounds and the Second Chance Humane Society. The staffing and management of the small and large animal Evacuation Centers will be performed by the Second Chance Humane Society and the Ouray County Cattlemen’s Association (OCCA), respectively. A fee will be charged, or donations will be accepted to help defray feeding costs and other daily care expenses. Pet owners are directly responsible to attending veterinarians for any cost of medical care provided to pets in need of it. Owners, if available, will be asked to sign liability waiver/temporary custody forms for each pet left in the care of a shelter location (**SEE APPENDIX**). The costs for housing owned animals, as well as any legal releases, should the animals get sick or injured during their holding period, are the responsibility of the jurisdiction that is in charge of the shelter and may be eligible for State or federal reimbursement.

Normal veterinary medical care in a community is provided by private practitioners and clinics throughout the area. The majority of veterinary medical care provided by area shelters is done for their animals and is not provided for non-shelter animals. There are approximately three veterinary clinics in the Ouray County area (Ridgway Animal Hospital, Ouray County Veterinary Services, and Animals Wings). During a disaster, area veterinary medical care may become compromised. It will be on the local veterinarian community and Social Services to determine the extent of disruption of vet services and a potential need for local, regional, and/or State of Colorado assistance.

Each Animal Sheltering Facility should operate under the following assumptions:

- People should not be separated from their pets unnecessarily.
- An area for waste excretion must be identified for animals who do not utilize a litter box
- When possible, animals should be separated by species.
- All animals must be restrained – crates/kennels are preferred.
- All crates/kennels should be positioned to limit an animals view of other animals to reduce stress. Draped blankets over kennels can be utilized to block view.
- Pet owners will bring extra food supplies; Shelter facilities are responsible for water for animals.

***Second Chance Humane Society - Small Animal Operations:***

177 County Rd 10, Ridgway CO 81432      Phone: 970-626-2273

In addition to pets brought to the Evacuation Center by their owners, SCHS may assist with the evacuation of pets brought to evacuation assembly areas or found astray in the evacuation area. SCHS does not have the legal authority to enter private property for the purpose of removing an animal. SCHS may provide assistance to a law enforcement officer for the removal of a pet from private property.

SCHS is not able to recover or accept dangerous animals, wildlife kept as pets, or exotic pets, such as fish or reptiles. As a member of the Western Colorado Animal Resources (WeCARE) Coalition, SCHS can request access to an emergency response trailer. This trailer is outfitted with the supplies needed to set up a mobile animal shelter, including crates, medical supplies, food and water bowls, cat litter pans, and first aid kits. Located at the Mesa County Shelter in Grand Junction, this trailer is a limited resource that is available unless previously occupied for a different emergency incident.

**Staffing:** Staffing will be by volunteer members of the Second Chance Humane Society.

### ***Ouray County Fairgrounds Director - Large Animal Operations:***

It is estimated that the fairgrounds can accommodate up to 400 head of large animals. Promptly needed feed should be available from local ranches and corrals and fence panels are available at the fairgrounds. Local vets will be contacted to help with animal needs. During the wildfire season, most cattle are located in the western part of the LHMFPD near Horsefly Mesa. There are few roads in a large area and there will be little time to organize an evacuation. For the most part, cattle will be on their own. Horses, pigs, milk cows, sheep, goats, and even buffalo and llamas may also be evacuated by their owners.

#### *Fairground Needs:*

- **Staff Contact:** POC is Erin Stadelman
- **Capacity:** Estimated capacity of ~400 head total with 80 in containment.
  - Animals welcome include llamas, pigs, sheep, camels, zebras, yaks, cattle, and horses. Other exotics must be contained (tubs or travel containers).
  - Large ranching operations in the county have own contingency plans and will release cattle to roam.
- **Staffing:** Staffing will be by volunteers, arranged by the Fairgrounds Director. Available roster currently has about 20 members. To operate as an evacuation site, fairgrounds needs 10 people (5 people on rotating 12-hr shifts).
  - **Police/Law Enforcement** - need one security officer to assist with traffic control/security.
- **Time:** Need two (2) hours lead time to prepare for animals to arrive. One hour notification to open and bring staff in, one hour to prepare set up at fairgrounds.
- **Requirements:**
  - Animals must be harnessed or contained.
  - Owners must have proof of ownership, health certificates, and vaccinations.
  - Feed/water will be provided, owner should bring any food for dietary restrictions or medications.

#### *Expected Actions*

- Fairgrounds and SCHS will be notified of impending Evacuation activities by the County Emergency Manager or Ouray County Sheriff.
- Shelter locations should be opened by primary staff member.
  - Call volunteer/staff roster in preparation of shelter activation.

- Staff at shelter locations will establish a check in location and registration venue.
- Point person will notify Ouray County PIO of shelter capacity and when locations are operational.
  - Operational is defined as the capacity to accept animals at a given time.
- Shelters will continue to temporarily house animals during short-term evacuation activation. These animals will be released to their owners as they return to claim them if temporarily housed or will leave with owners who remain at the facility with their pets.
  - *For dispersal, owners must show proof of ownership – vaccination records, ID/contact information, branding, or other documentation indicating ownership.*
- Temporarily sheltering stray animals with no known owner for at least 3 days to give possible owners time to come claim them. The hold period may be 10 days for tagged animals.
  - *Stray animals are defined as “roaming with no physical restraint beyond the premises of animal’s owner or keeper.”*
- Termination:
  - As soon as possible, the temporary shelters will be closed, and the remaining animals will be transferred to the appropriate animal control authority or humane organizations to complete their hold period.

### *Abandoned Animals in Shelters*

Animals abandoned at temporary animal housing areas associated with a human shelter will become property of the Social Services. They will be handled as per established protocols after 3 days. Any extension of the hold period will be decided on a case-by-case basis with input from the Humane Society (for small animals), Fairgrounds Director (for large animals) and/or local veterinarians.

## Public Information and Notifications

Rapid dissemination of information about evacuations is critical to protect life and safety. The County will use a coordinated public information system to distribute emergency information, warnings, and instructions for the duration of an emergency. The following section provides an overview of public information dissemination and warnings.

Any disseminated information shall provide clear, concise, and accurate information on the existing situation in the disaster area, actions being taken by the authorities, and those to be taken by the public. Every effort shall be made to minimize and counter rumors, hearsay, and half-truth information.

### Designated Representatives

The Public Information Officer (PIO) releases all emergency public information about local operations and assistance during a disaster. **All media inquiries must be routed through the designated PIO.** Additionally, the PIO will coordinate the printing of publications and flyers.

The identified PIOs for as of April 2024 Ouray County are:

<b>PRIMARY</b>	<b>SECONDARY</b>
Public Information Officer Jennifer Peterson <a href="mailto:jpeter@ourayco.gov">jpeter@ourayco.gov</a> 970-318-6225	Emergency Manager Glenn Boyd <a href="mailto:gboyd@ourayco.gov">gboyd@ourayco.gov</a> 970-318-9603
<b>BACKUP</b>	<b>BACKUP</b>
Sheriff Sheriff Justin Perry <a href="mailto:jperry@ourayco.gov">jperry@ourayco.gov</a> 970-325-7272	County Manager Connie Hunt Chunt@ourayco.gov 970-325-7263

### Public Information and Outreach

All notifications which are provided to the public should include specific information related to the incident at large. This information may include the nature of the emergency, the location of the emergency or impacted area, what protective action to take/actions needed, where to find information or ask for help, and/or when the situation will be or is anticipated to be remedied. General messages should be easily edited and disseminated via all available methods.

**Most notifications will reach only a small portion of the total population. Thus, it is imperative that multiple warning systems be used to reach the largest audience possible.**

The PIO will share evacuation messaging through the following systems, as available, to notify the public:

- Social media – County, City, and Town webpages, X [Twitter], Facebook, Instagram
- Local broadcasts - radio stations
  - *KUBC (580 AM), KKXK (94.1 or 99.3 FM) or KVNF (89.1 FM)*
- Available county/community email listservs
- Portable bullhorns in communities
- Highway message signs
- Emergency Alert Systems – Ouray County Alerts
- Door to Door



*A heavy reliance on mobile phone communications can be detrimental during large-scale emergency events. Cellular communication infrastructure can quickly be overwhelmed, preventing adequate channels of communication. Other methods of communication should be evaluated to ensure all responding agencies can collaborate effectively and receive notification of plan triggers and expected actions.*

*Social media serves as a major hub of communication for residents and visitors. Social media can quickly share photos, instructions, and descriptions of events across a wide audience; however, confusing, inaccurate, or misleading information is also likely to be shared simultaneously. County officials should designate a Public Information Officer (PIO) to quickly disseminate accurate information through all available social media channels to control the narrative of events.*

## Messaging Examples

The following sections provide specific language and messaging that can be edited and copy pasted for various messaging platforms.

### Be Ready - Prepare to Evacuate/Preparedness Messaging

This stage has two main objectives:

1. Provide education on how to prepare in case of an emergency evacuation.
2. Notify citizens that an evacuation order may be coming in the near future.

During this stage, citizens should have heightened awareness and be advised to anticipate and listen to upcoming messages and warnings. Preparing animals and considering future actions should be planned. Public information should provide education on where citizens can access information and maintain awareness of the situation, but an evacuation is not being executed at this time.

#### Notification Example Language

*Website, Facebook, Local News*

***“BE READY - 🚒 Prepare for Future Evacuations 🚒***

*There is currently no evacuation order in place. Conditions locally may be hazardous – please monitor local media here for updates. You are advised there may be an evacuation order in the future.*

*Fire and law enforcement personnel are working in this area to provide specific information about when to leave and the route to take. You can prepare to evacuate by making a Go Bag:*

- *Medications and personal hygiene items*
- *Infant and Child supplies – extra clothes, formula, diapers, wipes*
- *Pet supplies – harness/leash, vaccination records, food, medications*
- *Phone and chargers*
- *Important documents*
- *First Aid Kit*
- *Extra change of clothes*
- *Flashlight/headlamp and batteries*
- *Local Map*
- *Water and snacks*
- *Cash*
- *Glasses*

## ***“BE READY***

*Officials are monitoring the local conditions – at this time there is no evacuation order in place. But you can still be prepared if conditions worsen. If officials suggest evacuating, it’s best to leave right away to avoid danger and keep roads clear for emergency responders. During big events there is no time for door-to-door warnings – be prepared to move you and your family quickly!*

### **Vulnerable Populations language**

*“Residents with special concerns such as mobility and health issues, large animals/pets, or children should take note and prepare now. If you will require assistance to evacuate, please contact the Ouray County Sheriff’s Office at 970-325-7272 immediately.”*

### **Evacuation Education Language**

*“We are heading into wildfire season – prepare your family in case of an emergency. If an evacuation is necessary, the following steps can help you leave safely and quickly!*

- 1. Review your Household Evacuation Plan Checklist – include notes on where to go, who to contact, and where to meet if you are separated.*
- 2. Monitor local updates – make sure you’re signed up for Ouray County Alerts to receive emergency notifications!*
- 3. Pack a Go Bag – keep an emergency supply kit stocked and ready in case you must leave quickly. If you can’t pack up a Go Bag, make a list and review what will be included.*

*“Wondering what to do if your power goes out? Follow these steps!*

- Keep fridge and freezer shut to preserve your cold food*
- Turn off gas lines and propane tanks*
- Avoid overhead powerlines or electrical equipment*
- Stay updated with a battery-powered radio or cellphones*

*“Ways to stay prepared for evacuation orders:*

- Stay Informed – you’ll be advised of potential evacuation orders as early as possible. Listen to local radio or TV for updates from authorities.*
- Officials decide: Local officials, Law Enforcement, and Emergency Personnel decide when and where to evacuate based on the conditions, wind, and terrain.*
- Law enforcement role: Police enforce evacuation orders. Follow their directions right away.*
- Act fast: In severe conditions, there’s no time to waste. If advised to leave, do so without delay. Assistance is limited.*
- Don’t wait for orders: It’s safer to leave before a mandatory order is issued.*
- Stay alert: You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location. Available roads away from danger may change.*
- Help Emergency Responders: Don’t return home until officials notify you that it’s safe to do so.*

## Pets/Animal Evacuation Language

**BE READY - 🚨 *Prepare for Future Evacuations – Pets and Livestock* 🚨**

*“Prepare your pets for a possible evacuation! Ensure you know what to take and where to go, if evacuating your animals. Small domestic animals can be taken to Second Chance Humane Society, and large domestic animals can be taken to the Ouray County Fairgrounds. Evacuation Shelters may have limited capacity and require proof of ownership and equipment (crates and leashes)! Be proactive – put together pet evacuation kits and arrange for transportation assistance if needed. Evacuation kits should include medications or medical food, collar/harness, vaccination records, proof of ownership, and crate/kennels.”*

## Get Set - Voluntary Evacuation

This stage has two main objectives:

1. To notify citizens of worsening conditions and an active evacuation order
2. To encourage mobilization to reduce time delays and resource expenditures.

Citizens should be evacuating from areas of concern. The focus of evacuation should be on those in an area of concern, those who will take longer to evacuate, or those who will require assistance to evacuate.

### Notification Example Language

**GET SET - 🚨 Voluntary Evacuation Order in Effect 🚨**

*There is significant danger to your area. A VOLUNTARY EVACUATION ORDER has been ordered for these areas: [INCLUDE SPECIFIC NEIGHBORHOODS OR ZONES AT RISK].*

*Please evacuate immediately. For temporary shelter go to the 4-H Event Center (22739 Hwy 550 Ridgway CO) by way of [list route]\_\_\_\_\_:*

*(CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX OR BOXES)*

- County Road 1 North to Colona and proceed to the Evacuation Center at the 4-H Event Center in Ridgway.*
- County Road 1 South down the Escarpment and proceed to the Evacuation Center at the 4-H Event Center in Ridgway.*

*Residents should voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the affected area. If you don't check in at the Evacuation Center, it is important that you notify the Sheriff's Office at 970-325-7272 about where you will be staying so we can contact you if necessary. **Resources are limited – do not wait to request assistance.***

*You will be kept advised as conditions change. Area radio stations have been asked to broadcast periodic updates. Listen to KUBC (580 AM) or KKXK (94.1 or 99.3 FM).*

### Supplemental Language

*There is significant danger to your area. A VOLUNTARY EVACUATION ORDER has been ordered for these areas: [INCLUDE SPECIFIC NEIGHBORHOODS OR ZONES AT RISK].*

*Please evacuate now if you:*

- Have children or elderly family*
- Are in forested or recreational areas*
- Have health or mobility concerns*
- Live in an area with only one way in/out*
- Will be evacuating large domestic animals*

### Supplemental Language

A VOLUNTARY EVACUATION ORDER has been ordered for these areas: **[INCLUDE SPECIFIC NEIGHBORHOODS OR ZONES AT RISK]**. If you require assistance to evacuate, contact the Ouray County Sheriff's Office at 970-325-7272 immediately. **Resources are limited – do not wait to request assistance.**

### Supplemental Language

A VOLUNTARY EVACUATION ORDER has been ordered for these areas: **[INCLUDE SPECIFIC NEIGHBORHOODS OR ZONES AT RISK]**.

**[SPECIFIC ROAD NAME]** roadways are inaccessible – use detour **[SPECIFIC ROAD NAME]** to evacuate to the **[NORTH/SOUTH/WEST]**.

If you require assistance to evacuate, contact the Ouray County Sheriff's Office at 970-325-7272 immediately. **Resources are limited – do not wait to request assistance.**

### Pets/Animal Evacuation Language

GET SET - 🚒 **Prepare for Future Evacuations – Pets and Livestock** 🚒

“Ouray County Residents! A voluntary evacuation order is in effect for **[LOCATION]**. Make your plans for bringing pets (cats and dogs) to Second Chance Humane Society. Large domestic animals/pets will be sheltered at the County Fairgrounds.

**If you are evacuating with pets or animals, bring crates/kennels, medications, special food (if needed), vaccination records, tags, and proof of ownership. All animals must be leashed or harnessed.**

**#Evacuation #OurayCounty.”**

## GO NOW - Mandatory Evacuation

This stage has one main objectives:

1. To instruct all citizens at risk of an active evacuation order

This means that the risk is imminent and threat to life and/or property is inevitable. Citizens at this time should be immediately leaving the area as soon as possible. Citizens should be evacuated from areas of concern. The focus of evacuation should be on those in an area of concern, those who will take longer to evacuate, or those who will require assistance to evacuate.

### ***GO NOW 🚨 Mandatory Evacuation Order in Effect 🚨***

**A MANDATORY EVACUATION ORDER has been ordered for these areas: [INCLUDE SPECIFIC NEIGHBORHOODS OR ZONES AT RISK]. Leave the area immediately!**

Evacuation routes [Northbound/Southbound Hwy 550/other] are in use – Drive safely and pay attention!

[Southbound Hwy 550 does not allow RVs, campers, or trailers]

If you need temporary shelter the Ouray County Fairgrounds [or other shelter options] is open and providing shelter to residents.

If you choose to ignore this order, you must understand that emergency services will not be available and there is a good chance you could not be rescued. Volunteers will NOT be allowed to enter the area to provide assistance.

## Pets/Animal Evacuation Language

### ***GO NOW - 🚨 Mandatory Evacuation in Effect – Pets and Livestock 🚨***

“Ouray County Residents! A mandatory evacuation order is currently in effect for [LOCATION]. If you are evacuating with pets that need sheltering, remember:

- Cats and Dogs must go to Second Chance Humane Society
- Large domestic animals must go to Ouray County Fairgrounds

All animals must be leashed or harnessed. Bring your animal’s crate/kennels, medications, special food (if needed), vaccination records, tags, and proof of ownership.

Emergency crews will not be available to rescue animals. Owners are responsible for the transport of animals to shelter locations. Be safe and go now!

#Evacuation #OurayCounty #PetEvacuation.”

## Shelter in Place - Shelter in Place, Stay Put Messaging

In some cases, it may be necessary to instruct citizens to shelter at home or to remain in place. The following examples may be used to share this message.

This stage has two main objectives:

1. Provide education on existing or forecasted hazardous conditions.
2. To instruct citizens to stay at home or remain in place until conditions improve.

### *Education Example Language*

#### ***Before the Event – Be Ready***

1. **Stay Informed:**
  - Monitor local news and weather reports regularly for updates on the weather situation.
  - Understand the difference between weather watches and warnings issued for the area.
2. **Emergency Kit:**
  - Prepare an emergency kit that includes non-perishable food, water (at least one gallon per person per day for at least three days), a flashlight, batteries, a first aid kit, medications, and personal hygiene items.
3. **Family Communication Plan:**
  - Develop a communication plan with family members regarding what to do, where to go, and how to communicate if you are not together when a severe weather event occurs.
4. **Home Inspection and Maintenance:**
  - Regularly inspect your home for potential vulnerabilities, such as loose shingles, debris piles, or damaged roofing, and make necessary repairs.
  - Clear gutters and drains to prevent water backup or fuel loads near structures.
5. **Safe Room:**
  - Identify a safe room within your home to take shelter. This room should be on the lowest floor, away from windows and exterior doors, and preferably have no outside walls, such as a bathroom, closet, or interior hallway.

#### ***During the Event***

1. **Stay Indoors:**
  - Go to your designated safe room immediately.
  - Bring your emergency kit with you.
2. **Seal Windows and Doors:**
  - Close and lock all windows and exterior doors.
  - If you have time, board up windows with plywood or metal shutters to prevent glass breakage.
3. **Monitor Updates:**



- Use a battery-powered or hand-crank radio to stay updated on the weather situation and instructions from local authorities.
4. **Conserve Resources:**
    - Use resources sparingly, especially if the severe weather event is expected to last several days. Ration food, water, and battery power.
  5. **Avoid Floodwaters:**
    - If your area is experiencing flooding, do not go into your basement or any room if water covers the electrical outlets or if cords are submerged. Avoid contact with floodwater, as it may be contaminated.

### ***After the Event***

1. **Wait for Clearance:**
  - Do not leave your safe room until you have received official word from local authorities that it is safe to do so.
2. **Inspect for Damage:**
  - Carefully inspect your property for damage. Take photos for insurance purposes and make temporary repairs to prevent further damage, where possible.
3. **Check on Neighbors:**
  - If it is safe, check on neighbors, especially those who may require additional assistance, such as the elderly or individuals with disabilities.
4. **Report Hazards:**
  - Report downed power lines, broken gas lines, or other hazards to the appropriate authorities.

### ***Notification Example Language by Hazard Type***

#### *Social Media Prompt 1: Severe Weather Warning*

#### **Severe Weather Alert**

Attention residents of [Community Name]: Due to the imminent threat of severe weather, we are issuing a **TEMPORARY SHELTER-IN-PLACE** advisement effective immediately. Please move to an interior room on the lowest floor of your home, away from windows. Stay tuned for updates and remain indoors until further notice. Your safety is our priority. #SevereWeatherSafety #ShelterInPlace #[CommunityName]

### *Social Media Prompt 2: Hazardous Material Incident*

#### **Hazardous Material Leak – Urgent Community Notice**

URGENT: A hazardous material incident has occurred near [Location/Area]. All residents within the [general area description/neighborhoods/cross streets] area are advised to **SHELTER IN PLACE NOW**. Close all windows and doors and turn off HVAC systems to avoid outside air intake. Stay inside and await further instructions. Follow us for real-time updates. Your cooperation is vital for your safety. #HazardousLeak  
#[CommunityName]

### *Social Media Prompt 3: Active Threat Situation*

#### **Immediate Safety Alert: Active Threat**

Attention [Community Name] residents: Due to an active threat in the vicinity of [specific area], all individuals are advised to **SHELTER IN PLACE** immediately. Lock all doors and windows, turn off lights, and remain quiet and out of sight. Do not leave your location until you receive an all-clear signal from local authorities. Please do not call 911 unless you have a life-threatening emergency. Stay alert for official communications.  
#ActiveThreat #[CommunityName]

## Evacuation Routes

There are very limited evacuation routes available for Ouray County. This section identifies key evacuation routes that may be utilized by different areas of the county which may be at risk during specific events. Additional information is provided with the estimated time (in hours) it would take per route.

### ***Routes and Maps***

Depending on the hazard event in play, evacuation routes may change as the incident progresses. Tributary roads should be identified in local developments and treated similarly to facilitate a safe and orderly evacuation. Evacuation route maps can be found in the appendix.

**Inbound Emergency Access Routes** - If possible, one lane on every evacuation route will be kept available for inbound emergency vehicles. The inbound routes will be used for authorized emergency travel, including ambulances, buses, fuel trucks, tow trucks, etc. There may be circumstances where both lanes of any given road/highway will be used for evacuation purposes or circumstances where the road is not wide enough for two-way traffic.

## ***Restricted Access Areas***

There are several areas at higher risk due to limited transportation corridors throughout Ouray County. Many of them include, but are not limited to the areas identified below:

<b>Area Name</b>	<b># of Ways In &amp; Out</b>	<b>Road Identifiers</b>
Black Lake	2	CR 17 North or CR 17 South
Colona	2	US Hwy 550 North, US Hwy 550 South, or County Road 1
City of Ouray	3	US 550 North, US 550 South, or CR 17
Elk Meadows	1	CR 5
Idlewild/KOA	2	CR 23 or CR 17
Log Hill Mesa	3	CR 1, CR 24, or CR 22
Mineral Farms	1	CR 361
Park Estates	2	CR 17 North or CR 17 South
Panoramic	1	CR 14
Pleasant Valley	1	CR 24
Ponderosa Village	2	US Hwy 550 North or US Hwy 550 South
Ridgway Reservoir	2	US Hwy 550 North or US Hwy 550 South
Town of Ridgway	4	US HWY 550 North, US Hwy 550 South, US Hwy 62, or CR
Whispering Pines	1	US Hwy 550 North, US Hwy 550 South, or CR 17

**Means of Controlling Flow of Evacuees** - The evacuation of large numbers of people from vulnerable areas will stress the limited capabilities of roadways available for this purpose, potentially requiring additional time to complete an evacuation. Consequently, evacuation must be initiated as soon as feasible upon recognition of the threat, and must continue to function efficiently until completion. In order to manage the flow of evacuees in a safe and orderly manner, evacuation zones will be established by Incident Command. These zones will be identified in advance of a threat whenever possible.

**Disabled Vehicle Removal** - Tow trucks and/or those resources that can provide similar services may be essential during an evacuation. The function of this service would be to remove disabled vehicles and assist with the repair of vehicles so the evacuation routes are kept moving. Limited fuel supplies could also be delivered.

## ***Large-Scale Events and Conditions***

Tourism is a large part of the county's economic makeup. Visitors are largely concentrated in the spring through fall months, and the most visitors in attendance for the County Fair and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

### **Ouray County Fair**

The county hosts a large western fair and rodeo every September over Labor Day Weekend at the Ouray County 4H Events Center and Fairgrounds in Ridgway.

## **Ouray County 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration**

Ouray County's annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade in the City of Ouray draws a large population to the center of the city. The parade typically traverses Main Street from the early morning to mid-afternoon. The local population during 4<sup>th</sup> of July exceeds 25,000.

It is important for Ouray County Road and Bridge to have CR17 and CR23 open with dust control applied (for visibility and air quality) prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event and related traffic pattern. In excess of 25,000 people attend the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events in the City of Ouray which exceeds the capacity of US 550. A high volume of knowledgeable traffic use CR17 to/from Whispering Pines or CR17 and 23 to/from Ridgway as high volume alternate routes.

### *Challenges for Evacuation during 4<sup>th</sup> of July/County Fair Events*

It is crucial to understand the event-specific concerns the county and emergency responders may face during these large-scale events. While these celebrations are a source of revenue, recreation, and pride, they pose unique challenges and ramifications for evacuation purposes. An overview of potential challenges faced by emergency responders is below:

- **Crowd Management:** Large gatherings increase the risk of stampedes, lost children, and conflicts among attendees. Emergency responders must be prepared for crowd control and quick intervention in disputes or emergencies.
- **Traffic Congestion:** The influx of visitors can lead to significant traffic congestion, complicating emergency vehicle access to the event site and surrounding areas.
- **Fire Hazards:** Fireworks pose significant fire risks, including the potential for wildfires in dry areas, structural fires from misfired rockets, and personal injuries from mishandling fireworks.
- **Noise Concerns:** The loud noise from fireworks and concerts can make communication difficult, both for emergency responders coordinating efforts and for the public trying to hear instructions or warnings.
- **Alcohol-Related Incidents:** Alcohol consumption often increases during celebrations, leading to a rise in DUI incidents, public intoxication, and related accidents or altercations. Inebriated persons will also have difficulty understanding emergency warnings.
- **Heat-Related Illnesses:** Extreme heat can pose significant health risks, especially in crowded outdoor events with limited shade or hydration options, leading to heat exhaustion or heatstroke cases.
- **Terrorism and Security Threats:** High-profile public events are potential targets for terrorist attacks or other security threats, requiring heightened vigilance and extensive security measures.

Pre-event planning, establishing clear communication channels, designating emergency access routes, and ensuring the availability of sufficient emergency personnel are all required to ensure safe and effective evacuation.

## ***Large Scale Event Specific Actions***

### *Pre-event*

- City of Ouray should consider pre-staging buses/emergency vehicles in Ouray/Ridgway for 4<sup>th</sup> of July or County Fair.
- Set up road barriers in key locations and have a clear roster of barrier locations
- Designate key point of contact, identify backup, identify PIO to tap in case of emergency
  - *Particularly in case of staff vacation time, sickness, or unavailability*
- Ensure all equipment is full/loaded or equipped to go into use. Tankers full, engines gassed up, etc.
- Ensure all designated staff have clear uniforms (orange or reflective vests) to indicate status.
- Pre-identify a staging area for a base of operations.
- Prepare a roster of all agencies in attendance.
- Pre-stage signage at key intersections.
- Staff should closely monitor the situation to detect any development of potential hazard issues.
- If during RED FLAG conditions – disperse specific information to tourists of hazardous conditions. Issue a Burn Ban.

### *Mid-event*

- Notify Designated IC of hazardous conditions – activate EEP
- Notify applicable surrounding counties/communities/shelters of conditions – notify them of incoming traffic from evacuation orders.
- Identified staff to work the event should be contacted by the IC (or alternate) and made aware that the EEP and subsequent level has been activated.
  - All staff should tune into radio or check in via cellphone for instructions from IC/EOC
  - All staff should assist with traffic control and evacuation procedures.
- Evaluate and identify need for state resources – contact CDOT, Colorado State Patrol or Colorado Emergency Management Office
- Designated PIO to coordinate messaging.
  - Utilize social media, text alerts, and website for general conditions messaging.
  - Utilize bullhorns, emergency text alerts, fire sirens for immediate alerts.
  - Contact local radio to broadcast messaging regarding conditions and evacuation level.
- Identify locations where the largest congregations of people are located (parade route, fairgrounds, downtown, etc.)
  - Persons and vehicles located closest to areas at risk should be evacuated first. Messaging should be presented for all attendees to return to their vehicles and tune into emergency alerts/local radio for more information.

- Place barriers to entrance lanes/streets identified at risk to prevent people from going into at risk areas.

#### *Post-event*

- Areas that have been evacuated should remain closed off until the emergency event has ended and conditions are safe to return to the area.
- Designated staff including law enforcement and fire rescue teams shall inspect/evaluate areas before vehicles/persons may return to the area
- Debris management activities are to occur – follow guidance from Road and Bridge Depts.
  - In the event of flood conditions – the ground may be too saturated to return with heavy vehicles until drying occurs.
  - In the event of hazardous material incident – remnant contaminants may be present and should be evaluated by qualified HAZMAT team
  - In the event of wildfire – deadfall, ash, and damaged equipment may pose risks and should be removed prior to reentry.
- All staff who assisted with event shall report time, labor, and expenses to EOC and assist with After Action Report.

Example instructions for County Fairgrounds during Evacuation:

*Due to hazardous conditions, Ouray County recommends attendees evacuate from the fairgrounds.*

*All spectators seated in the Ouray County Grandstands should leave their seating in the grandstands and proceed to the nearest exit on either the north or south side of the grandstands. Do not run but leave the grandstands area as quickly as possible.*

*Please proceed to your vehicles quickly and safely. Take shelter in your vehicles or trailers.*

*All vehicles should exit the in-field parking areas towards the east gates which exit the Fairgrounds onto Hwy 550.*

# Evacuation Center and Shelter Information

The American Red Cross, in coordination with the Ouray County Office of Emergency Management, has established priority evacuation/shelter centers. This list should be used as a first measure to determine sites and inform the public. However, it may be necessary to utilize the neighboring county's evacuation shelters.

The American Red Cross has a disaster coordinator and volunteers in Montrose as well as Shelter Trailers in Montrose (50 cots), Delta (50 cots), and Grand Junction (300 cots), which can presumably be mobilized if conditions warrant the establishment of a shelter providing housing and meals.

## Primary Evacuation Sites – Within Ouray County

	Name	Address	Capacity	Contact	Specific Notes
City of Ouray	Ouray School District R-1	400 7 <sup>th</sup> Ave Ouray CO	Evac – 100+ Post Impact – 25	Tod Lokey Superintendent 970-318-6896	Showers are available
	Ouray Elks Lodge #492	421 Main St Ouray CO	Evac – 125 Post Impact – 35+	Julie Wesseling 970-369-2354	Not ADA compliant No showers
	Ouray Community Center	320 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave Ouray CO	Evac – 292 Post Impact – 68	Parks and Recreation Department 970-325-7211	Same location as police dept, fire dept, and town admin building
City of Ridgway	Ouray County 4-H Event Center	22739 Hwy 550 Ridgway CO	Evac – 270 Post impact – 70	Erin Stadelman, Fairgrounds Manager 970-275-6051	Allows Pets and Animals Large Animal Shelter
	Ridgway School District – Secondary School	1200 Green St Ridgway CO	Evac – 150 Post impact – 100	Susan Lacy, Superintendent Russell Randolph, Principal 970-626-5788	
	Ridgway School – Elementary	1115 W Clinton St Ridgway CO	Evac – 400+	Susan Lacy, Superintendent Perri Gipner, Interim Principal 970-626-5468	

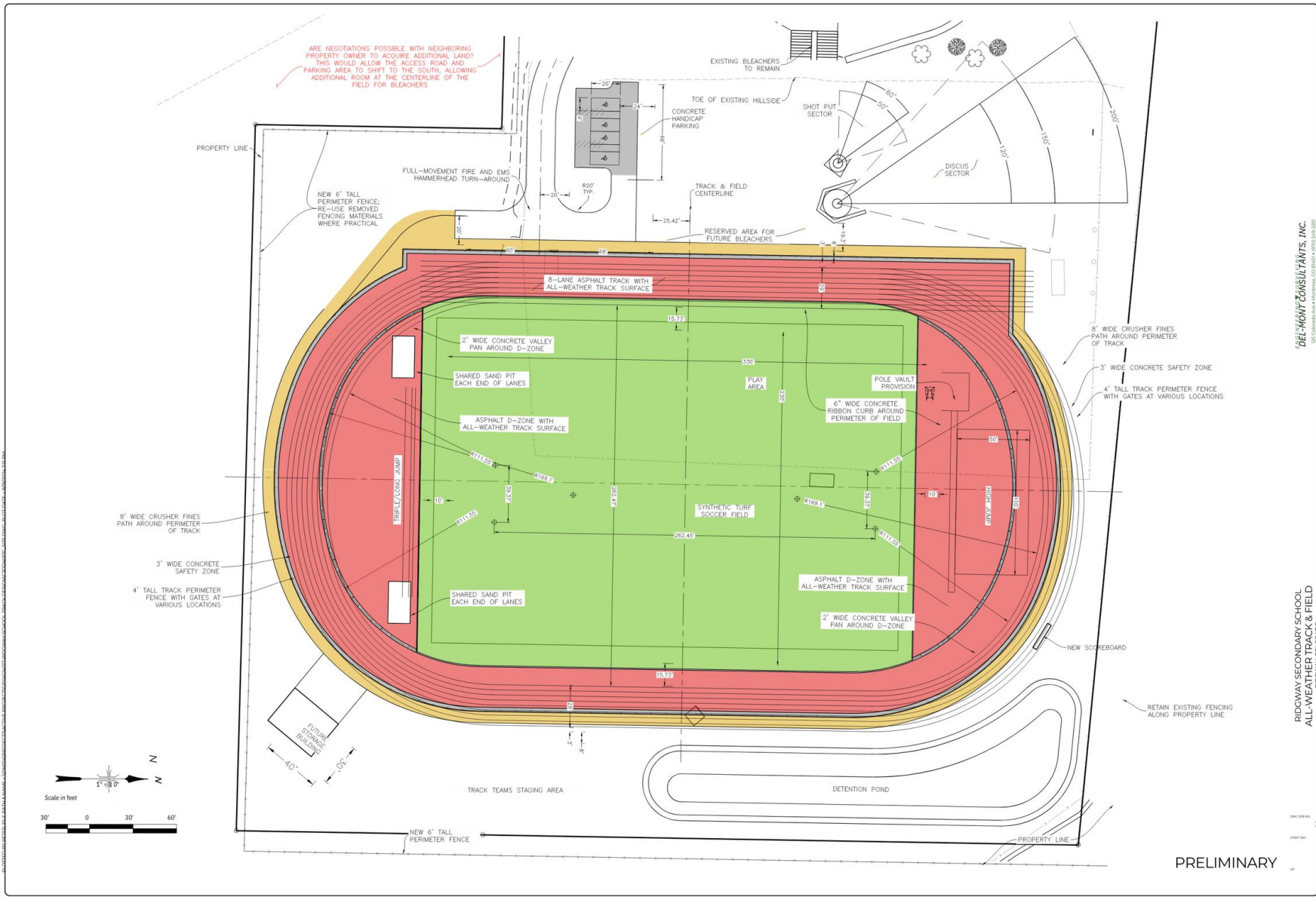
**Secondary Evacuation Sites – Outside Ouray County**

<b>County</b>	<b>Shelter Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Notes/Capacity</b>
San Miguel County	Telluride High School	725 W Colorado Ave, Telluride CO	<b>Cap-200</b>
Montrose County	Friendship Hall	1001 N 2 <sup>nd</sup> St, Montrose CO	Evac – 1,800 Conference Center
Montrose County	Montrose Recreation Center	16350 Woodgate Rd, Montrose CO	
Montrose County	St. Paul’s Episcopal Church	2900 Sunnyside Rd, Montrose CO	
Montrose County	Montrose Christian Church	2351 Sunnyside Rd, Montrose CO	
Montrose County	Victory Baptist Church	2890 North Townsend Ave, Montrose CO	
Montrose County	Hope Lutheran Church	600 North 2nd St, Montrose CO	
Montrose County	Columbine Middle	610 York St, Montrose CO	
Montrose County	Centennial Middle	1100 S 5th St, Montrose CO	
Montrose County	Montrose High School	600 S Selig Ave, Montrose CO	





## AGENDA ITEM #5



PRELIMINARY

DELMONT CONSULTANTS, INC.  
1800 Colorado Ave. • Montrose, CO 81401 • PH: 970.240.2524

PROJECT: RIDGWAY SECONDARY SCHOOL ALL-WEATHER TRACK & FIELD  
DATE: 2024-08-14  
DRAWN BY: PJI  
CHECKED BY: [blank]

NO.	REVISIONS
001	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
002	REVISED PER COMMENTS
003	REVISED PER COMMENTS
004	REVISED PER COMMENTS
005	REVISED PER COMMENTS
006	REVISED PER COMMENTS
007	REVISED PER COMMENTS

RIDGWAY SECONDARY SCHOOL  
ALL-WEATHER TRACK & FIELD  
PROJECT NO. 2024-08-14

DIMENSIONAL SITE PLAN

SHEET NO. 017

DATE: 8/14/24

SCALE: AS SHOWN

NO.	REVISIONS
001	ISSUED FOR PERMIT
002	REVISED PER COMMENTS
003	REVISED PER COMMENTS
004	REVISED PER COMMENTS
005	REVISED PER COMMENTS
006	REVISED PER COMMENTS
007	REVISED PER COMMENTS

## AGENDA ITEM #6



# Homegrown Pathways' Spark Lab

Ridgway Town Council  
March 12, 2025



# Our Team



**Colin Lacy**

*Founder & CEO  
(Chief Innovation Officer &  
Co-founder MakerUSA)*



**Melissa Calhoon**

*Managing  
Director*



**Taylor Poynor**

*Director of  
Operations &  
Communications*

## Our Mission

*Drive economic  
mobility by  
connecting rural  
Colorado youth  
and young adults  
to quality career  
& entrepreneurial  
pathways in their  
home region.*



# Teaming up with Startup Colorado

- Startup Colorado is the state's leading provider of support and financial resources for rural entrepreneurs.
- They have been successfully delivering a pre-accelerator model, the Idea Factory, to entrepreneurs across the state.
- Recognizing an interest in Idea Factory from young people, Homegrown Pathways, Startup Colorado, and curriculum designer Jessica Morrison collaborated to refine the Idea Factory pre-accelerator to a youth-specific audience, creating a new program, Spark Lab.



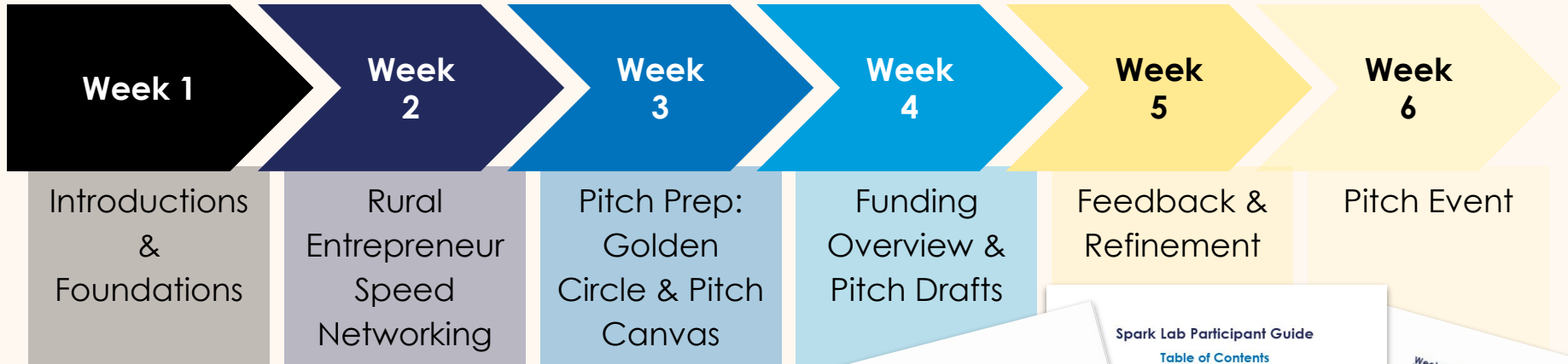
# What is Spark Lab?

- A free pre-accelerator program designed for **young (age 14-24) entrepreneurs** with active businesses and also for those only with an early business concept.
- The model focuses on refining their business concepts, identifying their “asks” and preparing a 3-minute pitch for the culminating “Pitch Event”.
- Implemented over the course of **6 weeks with approximately 15 hours of engagement time**.
- **Connects young entrepreneurs to other regional resources** for further developing their business.
- Homegrown Pathways provides **stipends to participants** – \$200 Visa gift card, mileage reimbursement, and Welcome and “Launch” packages consisting of foundational books on entrepreneurship and leadership





# Spark Lab Program Structure



- Cohorts made up of 10-15 innovators
- One weekly meetup, 1.25 hrs (in-person, with a virtual option)
- One weekly virtual optional office hours
- Accompanying Participant Guide
- Individual mentorship meetings

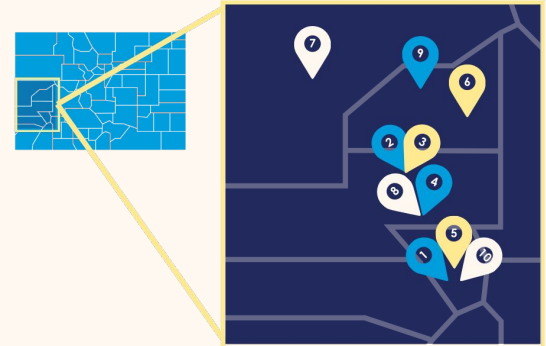


# Spark Lab Pilot Launch: Winter 2024-25

Wide interest and enthusiasm throughout the region:

- 19 applicants in total - ages ranged from 14-23
- 12 participants enrolled - ages ranged from 15-19
  - Mix of out-of-school, public school, home school, and college students
  - 5 already had operating businesses
  - Participants came from 6 different towns, and 4 different counties
    - 3 innovators from Ridgway!
  - We hosted hybrid and in-person “meetups” at *Alt Space: Montrose* where both cohorts were able to interact together

ALT  
SPACE



# Spark Lab Pilot Launch: Pitch Event



- **\$10,000+** in funding raised and awarded at the culminating Pitch Event to support young, Western Slope entrepreneurs.
- Over 60 people in attendance from throughout the community including: educators, superintendents, chamber leaders, bank presidents, mayors, and venture capital representatives.
- Resounding praise and interest in future Spark Labs from audience, teachers and parents alike.



# Pitch Event: Ridgway Innovators

## **Madeleine M. • Writer's Bloc**

*Writer's Bloc is a nonprofit creating a community where young writers can develop their skills, explore storytelling, and connect with peers through interactive workshops. Writer's Bloc was awarded \$650 to launch its pilot program this spring, supporting workshop preparations and student prizes to inspire and uplift young writers.*



## **Sunny W. • Mountain Valley Photography**

*Mountain Valley Photography, based in Ridgway, CO, is dedicated to capturing heartfelt family portraits, making beautiful and meaningful photography accessible to everyone in the community. Homegrown Pathways awarded Mountain Valley Photography with \$650 to support a new website, lighting equipment, marketing, and professional development opportunities.*



## **Neva H. • CareerMe**

*CareerMe from Ridgway, CO is a platform that helps companies efficiently recruit, hire, and train high school students for key internship roles. Homegrown Pathways awarded Neva \$800 to fund UI/UX design courses and cover an all-expenses-paid trip to West Slope Startup Week, where she will expand her network as Startup Colorado's Youth Ambassador.*





# Pilot Launch: Pre and Post Survey Outcomes

Survey results from participants indicate improvement in **communication skills, confidence, community connectedness, and understanding of available resources** to support them in their entrepreneurial endeavors.



**100%**

*Of Innovators shared that they would recommend Spark Lab to a friend.*



**100%**

*Said their Spark Lab experience advanced their business.*



**9**

*Average program rating by participants on a 1-10 scale.*

*“We have learned so much and met so many great people. I can say, without a doubt, I will take everything I have learned here and utilize it in my entrepreneurial life. **This program that you all have created is truly amazing.**”*

*- Luke (17), Spark Lab Participant*

# Pilot Launch: Pre → Post Survey Outcomes

100%

of participants shared that they are more likely to take action on a future business idea as a result of Spark Lab.

I have met with a network of funders.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

I know how to get money to start my business.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

I have built my own network of funders.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

I know what resources are available to me to launch a business.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

I believe I can add value to my community with my business.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

I have peers who can support me with starting a business.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

I know how to communicate my ideas clearly to an audience.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

I know how my business idea can address a need in my community.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Agree Strongly Agree

# Regional Visibility: Spark Lab in the News

Grand Junction  
Business Times

Ouray County  
Plaindealer

Montrose Daily  
Press Front Page

**THE BUSINESS TIMES**

HOME BUSINESS BRIEFS BUSINESS NEWS BUSINESS PEOPLE CONTRIBUTOR  
SUBMIT PRESS RELEASE SUBSCRIBE ADVERTISING COVER SPONSORS TRENDS

## Homegrown Pathways looks to spark rural youth entrepreneurship

By The Business Times Staff on February 20, 2023. Be The First To Comment

Brandon Leuallen, The Business Times

In a bid to foster economic mobility and retain young entrepreneurial talent in rural Colorado, Homegrown Pathways has launched a program called Spark Labs to find and aid Western Slope youth with dreams of building their own businesses right in their home communities.

Colin Lacy, founder and CEO of Homegrown Pathways, grew up on the Western Slope and graduated from Ridgway High School. He shared that he personally has seen many friends and family members who would have liked to stay in the area but left for economic reasons, potentially missing out on opportunities to either work with high-quality, local companies or to start their own business in the area.

"We need to create more intentional pathways," he said.

Lacy said many companies in the region, both startups and larger businesses, are struggling to fill roles. He started Homegrown Pathways to connect workforce needs with local talent to address those gaps and drive economic mobility for young people.

In addition to connecting local talent with existing businesses, Lacy and his team saw an opportunity to reach youth with an entrepreneurial spirit. That's where Spark Lab comes in.

"Spark Lab is the pilot that's focused on those entrepreneurial pathways and ultimately building a local workforce that has an entrepreneurial mindset as well," Lacy said.

Homegrown Pathways secured \$300,000 in federal and private funding, including AmeriCorps planning grants and support from Denver-area donors. This funding supports the program's staff and initiatives, including the Spark Lab pilot program.

Spark Lab partners with Startup Colorado to offer a nontechnical pre-accelerator for young entrepreneurs. The pilot program recently concluded with a pitch event where \$10,000 in seed funding was awarded to 12 rural innovators aged 15 to 19 years old.

**Steel MAGNOLIAS**  
2023! Meet 5 Top Entrepreneurs & 2,000+ people at the event! Mar 31st 6:00pm

## OURAY COUNTY Plaindealer

Since 1881

Don't even time party!

Council pledge to help

### Seed money helps teens sprout businesses

By Brandon Leuallen

Local entrepreneurs are getting a boost from a new program called Spark Labs, which provides seed money to help young entrepreneurs start their own businesses in rural Colorado.

The program, launched by Homegrown Pathways, is designed to help youth with dreams of building their own businesses right in their home communities.

Colin Lacy, founder and CEO of Homegrown Pathways, said the program is a response to the need for more economic mobility in rural areas.

"We need to create more intentional pathways," he said.

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**MONTROSE DAILY PRESS**

montrospress.com | Wednesday, March 8, 2023

## SPARKING ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

### Trump Justice Department says it will 'review' prosecution of Colorado election conspiracy theorist Tina Peters

By Brandon Leuallen

The U.S. Department of Justice, under the leadership of President Donald Trump, said it is considering Monday that will "review" the prosecution of former Montrose County Clerk Tina Peters, who was convicted in a bench trial on charges of election fraud in a case that was carried out in an attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

A San Antonio Express-News reporter wrote in a court filing Monday that the review "is not an indication of the state of Colorado's prosecution of Ms. Peters and, in particular, whether the case was reviewed more broadly following political pressure from several parties than would be warranted under a government contract."

—See B2/B3 page A11

**First Spark Lab pitch event awarded thousands to teen entrepreneurs**

By Brandon Leuallen

A group of 12 young entrepreneurs from across the Western Slope region gathered for a pitch event at the Ouray County Courthouse in Ouray, Colorado, on Tuesday. The event was the first of its kind for the Spark Lab program, which provides seed money to help young entrepreneurs start their own businesses in rural Colorado.

The program, launched by Homegrown Pathways, is designed to help youth with dreams of building their own businesses right in their home communities.

Colin Lacy, founder and CEO of Homegrown Pathways, said the program is a response to the need for more economic mobility in rural areas.

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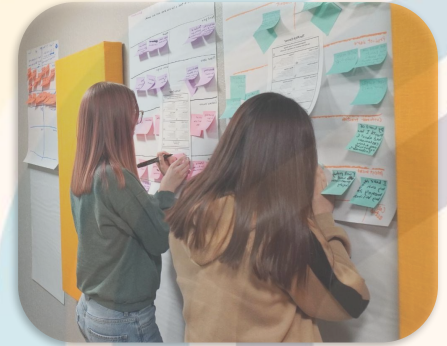
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# Our Vision for Scale

- **Entrepreneurship is an essential pathway to economic mobility, especially in rural Colorado.** “Entrepreneurial pathways” include not only new business creation, but also career pathways into Colorado's existing rural startups and innovation-focused companies.



- **Our goal, with the support of the funding community, is to refine and scale this model across rural Colorado,** in partnership with Startup Colorado, school districts, workforce centers, post-secondary institutions and industry.
- With enthusiasm from community members and educators alike, **we already have a waitlist of eager young innovators and are working toward developing a variation of the model that could be partially embedded within a regular school day course.**







**Colin Lacy**

✉ [colin@homegrownpathways.org](mailto:colin@homegrownpathways.org)

**Taylor Poynor**

✉ [taylor@homegrownpathways.org](mailto:taylor@homegrownpathways.org)

**LinkedIn**



[/company/homegrown  
pathways](https://www.linkedin.com/company/homegrown-pathways)

**Thank you!**

Follow us on LinkedIn and visit our website  
to subscribe to our quarterly newsletter!

**Website**



[www.homegrown  
pathways.org](http://www.homegrown-pathways.org)

## AGENDA ITEM #7

## AGENDA ITEM #8



## **TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO OFFICAL PROCLAMATION**

### **Proclaiming the week of April 21-28, 2025, as “INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK”**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Ridgway was named a DarkSky International “Dark Sky Community” in July 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night sky is a shared heritage of all humankind; and

**WHEREAS**, light pollution has scientifically-established economic and environmental consequences, which result in significant impacts to the ecology and human health of all communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Ridgway has shown exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through the implementation and enforcement of a quality outdoor lighting ordinance, dark sky education, and citizen support of the dark skies; and

**WHEREAS**, the experience of standing beneath a starry night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and encourages a growing interest in science and nature, especially among young people and out-of-area visitors within the local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, DarkSky International recognizes April 21-28, 2025, as International Dark Sky Week; and

**WHEREAS**, DarkSky International is the globally-recognized authority on light pollution, and has created International Dark Sky Week to raise awareness of light pollution, and provide free education, resources, and solutions to the public to encourage the protection and enjoyment of dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the Town Council of the Town of Ridgway, Colorado that:

1. That the Town of Ridgway honors and recognizes April 21-28, 2025, as International Dark Sky Week.
2. The Town Council calls upon the citizens of Ridgway to observe this important week and raise awareness and support for protecting our precious dark sky resources.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Clark, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

## AGENDA ITEM #9



**TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO  
OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION**

**A Proclamation Declaring April 2025 as  
National Donate Life Month**

**WHEREAS**, April 2025 is the 22<sup>nd</sup> National Donate Life Month with a goal to raise awareness about organ, eye, and tissue donation, encourage Americans to register as donors, and honor those that have saved and healed lives through the gift of donation; and

**WHEREAS**, 95% of Americans support organ donation, but only 48% register; yet one donor can save up to 8 lives through organ donation, save and heal more than 75 lives through tissue donation, and help restore sight in up to two people through cornea transplants; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado has led the nation with more than 2/3 of Coloradans selflessly registering to be organ, eye, and tissue donors at the DMV; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2024, a record 311 heroic organ donors provided 947 lifesaving transplant, and 1,860 heroic tissue donors saved and healed nearly 144,000 individuals through tissue grafts; and

**WHEREAS**, registering gives hope back to the more than 1,300 people waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant in Colorado, while compassionately celebrating donors and their families for giving the gift of life; and

**WHEREAS**, organ, eye, and tissue donation would not be possible without our communities and partners coming together for one united purpose. By saying “Yes” to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor, you're not just checking a box—you're saving and healing lives.

**NOW THEREFORE**, we, the Ridgway Town Council, do hereby proclaim April 2025 as National Donate Life Month in the Town of Ridgway, Colorado.

**PROCLAIMED THIS 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.**

TOWN OF RIDGWAY

BY:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
John I. Clark, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

## AGENDA ITEM #10





To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council  
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager  
Date: March 4, 2025  
**Agenda Topic: Interviews of Sustainability Advisory Board applicants and appointment of member**

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**ACTION BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Council is asked to interview candidates and appoint someone to fill the vacant seat on the Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB).

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2022, after expressing interest in advancing and encouraging environmentally sustainable practices and ideas within the Town, Council approved Resolution No. 22-06, formally establishing the SAB. According to the [Town of Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board Authority and Procedures](#), the SAB shall be composed of not less than three members and not more than seven members. One member shall be an Ex-Officio Council member appointed by Council. To be eligible for appointment, candidates must be Ouray County residents.

Current membership is as follows:

- Joyce Huang
- Dana Ivers
- Dave Jones
- Dave Kehmeier
- Sheridan Ribbing
- Terry Schuyler (ex-officio)

**CANDIDATES AND INTERVIEW PROCESS:**

Over the last month, the Town solicited letters of interest for the open seat on the SAB. The Town received one letter of interest from Kristina Lemon. Her letter is attached to this memo.

During Wednesday's meeting, Council will interview Kristina for a maximum of five minutes.

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

"I move to appoint [candidate name] to the Sustainability Advisory Board for a three-year term."

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Kristina Lemon Letter of Interest

**From:** Kristina <flyingartgal@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 4:29 PM  
**To:** Preston Neill <pneill@town.ridgway.co.us>  
**Subject:** Sustainability Advisory Board

Hi Preston,

Per your guidance I am submitting an official letter on interest for the open position on the SAB. I would like to apply to work on the Sustainability Advisory Board for the Town of Ridgway. I have been following the board and have a lot of background in developing sustainable projects, urban planning and writing grants. A good friend, Sheridan, is on the board currently and let me know that there might be an opening. I understand that there will be a Council Meeting on March 12, 2025 to consider applicants. Let me know if you would like more information. I will stay tuned for any updates and attend the meetings as requested to fill the position. Thank you.

Warmly,  
Kristina Lemon

## AGENDA ITEM #11



**To:** Honorable Mayor Clark and The Town of Ridgway Town Council  
**Cc:** Preston Neill, *Ridgway Town Manager*  
TJ Dlubac, AICP, *CPS* & Max Garcia, AICP, *CPS*  
**From:** Angela Kemp, AICP, *Sr. Town Planner*  
**Date:** March 4th, 2025  
**Subject:** Amendments to the Ridgway Municipal Code Section **7-4-6(N) Short-Term Rental Regulations, 8-5 Short-Term Rentals, and 7-9-2 General Definitions** Staff Report for the March 12<sup>th</sup> Town Council Meeting.

## BACKGROUND

The adoption of Ordinance No. 03-2024 revising Ridgway Municipal Code (RMC) Section 7-4-6(A) *Accessory Dwelling Units* prompted a review and recommendation for modification of Code sections that overlap with those updates. Therefore, RMC Section 7-4-6(N) *Short-Term Rental Regulations*, 7-9-2 *General Definitions*, and Section 8-5 regarding licensing Short-Term Rentals have been reviewed for appropriate updates, as discussed below.

At the January 28<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the Planning Commission, a noticed public hearing was held regarding the Text Amendments to 7-4-6 (N) and 8-5 of the RMC. The Commission, with one absent member, voted unanimously to recommend approval of Ordinance 01-2025 regarding Text Amendments to Sections 7-4-6 (N) and 8-5 of the RMC to the Ridgway Town Council finding that the criteria for a Text Amendment had been met.

Following the January 28<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting, staff found that the Ridgway Municipal Code lacked a clear definition of "owner-occupied", a term that is used in the sections with proposed amendments. At the February 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Town Council Meeting, staff brought the Ordinance to the Council and requested that the item get sent back to the Planning Commission for their review. At the February 19<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission, a noticed public hearing was held regarding the Ordinance and Text Amendments and including the addition of the appropriate definition for "owner-occupied". The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the Text Amendments, finding that the criteria for approval were met and recommended approval of Ordinance 01-2025 which has been modified to include the below definition:

### **7-9-2 GENERAL DEFINITIONS.**

**OWNER-OCCUPIED:** At least one owner of a property lives on that property as their primary residence for at least nine months out of any 12-month period.

## UPDATES AND ANALYSIS

Below is a summary of the staff recommended updates to the Code for Short-Term Rental Regulation and STR Licensing.



- a) Reorganized the STR Regulations and Licensing to add clarity between the two portions of the Code discussing the same topic and removed a reference to an old code section that no longer exists and added a cross-reference prompt to connect 8-5 and 7-4-6 (N) so that applicants (and reviewers) look at both sections of the code.
- b) Added the Downtown Services "DS" zone to the Zoning districts (with General Commercial "GC" and Historic Business "HB") where multi-family structures could be used as a Short-term rental if it complies with the other Regulations. In these circumstances, there isn't an owner-occupancy requirement (unchanged from the previous code).
- c) Explained the owner-occupancy requirement for all zones other than DS, GC, HB so that it is clear whether there are separate structures on a property or there are various units in one structure, one unit needs to be owner-occupied in order to be eligible for a STR license for any of the units.
- d) *Performance Standards for Short-Term Rentals*: This section contained standards relating to the maximum number of bedrooms and guests and the owner's agent requirements that were unchanged but moved to better fit under the licensing portion of the Code in Section 8-5.
- e) Added a distinction between "room" and "bedroom" in (8-5-1).
- f) Modified Title of 8-5-3 to "LICENSE ADMINISTRATION" to add distinction between 7-4-6 SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS and "SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS" as previously used in the title of 8-5-3.
- g) Added a warning note that if a license is revoked, it would require a new license, but because of the cap of 50 licenses, one may not be available at that time.
- h) Add a definition to 7-9-2 General Definitions: OWNER-OCCUPIED: At least one owner of a property lives on that property as their primary residence for at least nine months out of any 12-month period.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

This is the First Reading of Ordinance 01-2025. If appropriate, the Ordinance will be brought to The Ridgway Town Council at their Regular Meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup> as a public hearing item for potential adoption. If adopted, the Ordinance goes into effect 30 days from the approval date.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. *Ordinance 01-2025*
2. *STR RMC Section 7-4-6(N) update – redline version*
3. *STR RMC Section 8-5 update – redline version*

**TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO  
ORDINANCE NO. 01-2025**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO  
AMENDING SECTION 7-4 “ZONING REGULATIONS” OF THE RIDGWAY MUNICIPAL  
CODE REGARDING SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGULATION AND AMENDING SECTION 8-  
5 “SHORT-TERM RENTALS” OF THE RIDGWAY MUNICIPAL CODE**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Ridgway, Colorado (“Town”) is a home rule municipality existing pursuant to the laws of the Colorado Constitution, the Colorado Revised Statutes and the Town's Home Rule Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the zoning and land use powers conferred upon the Town by the State of Colorado as a Home Rule Municipality empower the Town to manage land use to ensure the public health, safety, and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town currently regulates land uses within the Town limits in accordance with Chapter 7 “Land Use Regulations” of the Ridgway Municipal Code (“RMC”), adopted pursuant to its Home Rule Constitutional authority and the Local Government Land Use Control Enabling Act of 1974, as amended, §§29-20-101, et seq. C.R.S; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has determined that it is appropriate to amend RMC Subsection 7-4-6(N) “Short-Term Rental Regulations” to provide additional clarity and flexibility in our regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has determined that it is appropriate to amend RMC Section 8-4 “Short-Term Rentals” to provide additional clarity in Short-Term Rental (“STR”) license administration; and

**WHEREAS**, modifications to the Town’s Short-Term Rental Regulations will help advance *POLICY ECO-2.4: Ease of Doing Business* in the Town of Ridgway Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, modifications to the Town’s Short-Term Rental Regulations will help advance *POLICY ECO-3.2: Local Goods, Products, and Services* in the Town of Ridgway Master Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has determined that it is appropriate to amend RMC Section 7-9-2 General Definitions to provide additional clarity about owner occupancy requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, Town staff held a Work Session with the Ridgway Planning Commission on January 7th, 2025 and received recommendations from the Planning Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ridgway Town Council finds that this ordinance furthers and is necessary to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the Ridgway community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO** the following:

**Section 1. Recitals Incorporated.** The above and foregoing recitals are incorporated herein by reference and adopted as findings and determinations of the Town Council.

**Section 2. Amendment of Subsection (N) of Section 7-4-6.** Subsection (N) of Section 7-4-6 of the Ridgway Municipal Code is hereby repealed and reinstated to read as set forth in *Exhibit A*.

**Section 3. Amendment of Section 4 of Chapter 8.** Section 4 of Chapter 8 of the Ridgway Municipal Code is hereby repealed and reinstated to read as set forth in *Exhibit B*.

**Section 4. Amendment of Section 7-9-2 General Definitions:** The definition of “Owner-Occupancy” is added within Section 7-9-2 General Definitions to read as follows:

OWNER-OCCUPIED: At least one owner of a property lives on that property as their primary residence for at least nine months out of any 12-month period.

**Section 5. Codification of Amendments.** The Town Clerk, as the codifier of the Town’s Municipal Code, is hereby authorized to make such numerical and formatting changes as may be necessary to incorporate the provisions of this Ordinance within the Ridgway Municipal Code. The Town Clerk is authorized to correct, or approve the correction by the codifier, of any typographical error in the enacted regulations, provided that such correction shall not substantively change any provision of the regulations adopted in this Ordinance. Such corrections may include spelling, reference, citation, enumeration, and grammatical errors.

**Section 6. Severability.** If any provision of this Ordinance, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is for any reason held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable. The Town Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each provision thereof, even though any one of the provisions might be declared unconstitutional or invalid. As used in this Section, the term “provision” means and includes any part, division, subdivision, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase; the term “application” means and includes an application of an ordinance or any part thereof, whether considered or construed alone or together with another ordinance or ordinances, or part thereof, of the Town.

**Section 7. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after the date of final passage in accordance with Article 3-7 of the Ridgway Charter.

**Section 8. Safety Clause.** The Town Council hereby finds, determines and declares that this Ordinance is promulgated under the general police power of the Town of Ridgway, that it is promulgated for the health, safety and welfare of the public, and that this Ordinance is necessary for the preservation of health and safety and for the protection of public convenience and welfare. The Town Council further determines that the Ordinance bears a rational relation to the proper legislative object sought to be obtained.

**Section 9. No Existing Violation Affected.** Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to release, extinguish, alter, modify, or change in whole or in part any penalty, liability or right or affect any audit, suit, or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing which may have been incurred or obtained under any ordinance or provision hereby repealed or amended by this Ordinance. Any such ordinance or provision thereof so amended, repealed, or superseded by this Ordinance shall be treated and held as remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any and all proper actions, suits, proceedings and prosecutions, for the enforcement of such penalty, liability, or right, and for the purpose of sustaining any judgment, decree or order which can or may be rendered, entered, or made in such actions, suits or proceedings, or prosecutions imposing, inflicting, or declaring such penalty or liability or enforcing such right, and shall be treated and held as remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any and all proceedings, actions, hearings, and appeals pending before any court or administrative tribunal.

**Section 10. Publication.** The Town Clerk is ordered to publish this Ordinance in accordance with Article 3-7 of the Ridgway Charter.

**INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEARING** on February 12, 2025, and setting such public hearing for March 12, 2025, at Ridgway Town Hall, located at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado.

BY:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Clark, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

**ADOPTED** on \_\_\_\_\_, 2025.

BY:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Clark, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bo James Nerlin, Town Attorney



**Exhibit A:**

**Amendment of Subsection (N) of Section 7-4-6 “Short-Term Rental Regulations”.**

**Exhibit B:**

**Amendment of Section 8-5 “Short-Term Rentals”.**

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## 7-4-6 SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS.

### (N) Short-Term Rental Regulations.

- (1) Intent and Purpose: Establish standards and procedures by which residential short-term rentals can be provided in a manner that protects both the quality of experience and the character of the Town. It is the Town's intent to establish short-term rental regulations to promote a mix of lodging options, support the local economy, while also upholding the integrity of the Town.
- (2) Short-term rentals shall comply with the provisions of this Subsection (N) and shall be licensed per Chapter 8, Section 5 of the Municipal Code.
- (3) Permitted Use of Short-Term Rentals:
  - (a) For short-term rentals outside of the "HB" Historic Business, "DS" Downtown Service, or "GC" General Commercial Districts, the structure involved:
    - (i) Shall be a single-family dwelling structure; or
    - (ii) Shall be a single residential unit in structures with mixed uses; or
    - (iii) Shall be a property with multiple dwelling units owned by the same owner, in which one of the dwelling units may be used as a short-term rental as long as at least one of the other dwelling unit(s) is/are owner occupied; and
    - (iv) Shall not be a multiple family dwelling or structure as short-term rentals are prohibited in multiple family structures in districts other than HB, DS, and GC.
  - (b) In the HB, DS, and GC Districts, a maximum of five short-term rentals are allowed per building or structure.
- (4) Performance Standards for Short-Term Rentals:
  - (b) The unit shall have a minimum of two off-street parking spaces available and any additional spaces necessary to accommodate the tenant's vehicles off-street.
  - (d) Adequate animal resistant trash and recycling containers shall be provided, and information on placement for collection shall be provided in the short-term rental as stated in Ridgway Municipal Code Section 9-2.
  - (e) The unit shall be maintained in compliance with applicable Town ordinances and regulations. The rental of residential units as provided herein shall not unreasonably annoy or interfere with the use or enjoyment of public or private property or constitute a health or safety hazard.
  - (f) The owner must have current State and Town sales tax licenses, a Town business license, if at such time the Town has business licensing, and collect and remit sales taxes and lodging taxes.

## SECTION 5 Short-Term Rentals

### Subsections:

(Section enacted by Ord. 3-2017)

### 8-5-1 LICENSES REQUIRED.

- (A) Any property owner who rents out a bedroom or unit on a short-term basis within the Town shall be required to obtain a short-term rental license (hereinafter a "Short-Term Rental License") for each short-term rental unit from the Town. The property owner is responsible for prominently displaying the Short-Term Rental License number in all advertising/listing of the unit. The cost of such licensing and renewals shall be set by resolution of the Town Council. Short-Term Rental Licenses are nontransferable, except where upon death the property is transferred to an immediate family member, the short-term license may be transferred with the property.
- (B) All short-term rental units, except the short-term rental of a single bedroom inside an owner-occupied dwelling unit, are required to have and pass a health, safety, and welfare inspection by the Town Building Inspector. This inspection will be completed with the initial licensing and renewal licensing processes.
- (C) The total number of short-term rental licenses in the Town shall be limited to 50 at any one time. The short-term rental of a single bedroom inside an owner-occupied dwelling unit shall not be counted toward the maximum number of licenses to be issued.
- (D) Short-Term Rental Licenses shall be issued for a period of two years and subject to biannual renewal (every two years). Notwithstanding this two-year term, the Town may determine a more frequent licensing schedule is needed for any particular unit, and the initial term for licensing.

### 8-5-2 LICENSE FEES.

- (A) The local application and license fees for all short-term rental licenses issued, and applications submitted shall be enacted by Town Council resolution.
- (B) In addition to the above fees, the applicant/licensee shall reimburse the Town for all out-of-pocket costs incurred during review of the application, or license, including legal fees, consultant fees, postage, notice and publishing costs. The Town shall bill the applicant/licensee upon completion of the application or review process and completion of any conditions thereof. No application or license shall be finally approved until the bill is paid. Each bill shall be overdue 30 days after its date. Bills not paid by the due date shall accrue interest at the rate of one and one-half percent per month or part thereof. Such fees may be certified to the County Treasurer for collection as delinquent charges or collected in any other lawful manner.
- (C) The Town Council may revise such amounts by resolution based on costs incurred by the Town in the administration and enforcement of the short-term rental licensing and related provisions.

### 8-5-3 LICENSE ADMINISTRATION

- (A) All dwelling units, for Short-Term Rental Licenses issued, shall comply with applicable requirements of Town ordinances, including building and zoning regulations, inclusive of Chapter 7, 7-4-6 Supplemental Regulations, and this Section.

- 
- (B) The Town Council shall be the local licensing authority for the Town for Short-Term Rental Licenses. The Town Manager or their designee shall review and act upon all Short-Term Rental License applications without hearing.
  - (C) The Town Manager or their designee is hereby designated as the entity responsible for processing procedures and reviewing Short-Term Rental Licenses for compliance with Town ordinances and regulations.
  - (D) The Town Manager shall make reasonable rules and regulations in conformity with this Article for the proper administration and enforcement of Short-Term Rental Licenses.
  - (E) There shall be an owner's agent available to be at the unit within 20 minutes, who is on call full-time to manage the property during any period the unit is rented. The name, address and phone number of the agent must be kept current on file with the Town and posted in the short-term rental.
  - (F) The unit being rented shall be a dwelling unit, as defined pursuant to Section 9 shall not have more than five bedrooms, nor be used by any group containing more than ten people over the age of 18.

#### **8-5-4 REVOCATION OF LICENSE.**

- (A) The Town Manager may revoke or suspend a Short-Term Rental License. The following shall be prima facie evidence for revocation or suspension of a Short-Term Rental License:
  - (1) A holder of a Short-Term Rental License is in violation of the Town Municipal Code;
  - (2) A holder of a Short-Term Rental License has violated the rules and regulations for short term rentals, as established by the Town Manager;
  - (3) There have been two or more violations of Chapter 2, Section 1, the General Administrative Provisions of the Town Municipal Code, at the short-term rental;
  - (4) The holder of the Short-Term Rental License has failed to remit sales and/or lodging taxes.
- (B) In the event a licensee wishes to challenge the revocation or a suspension of a license by the Town Manager, they can request, in writing, an administrative hearing before the Town Council within 30 days of the license being revoked or suspended.
- (C) No license shall be issued to any property owner for whom a license has been revoked, until at least one year has elapsed since revocation. This will require application for a new license, which may not be available at the time of application.

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## 7-4-6 SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS.

### (N) Short-Term Rental Regulations.

- (1) Intent and Purpose: Establish standards and procedures by which residential short-term rentals can be provided in a manner that protects both the quality of experience and the character of the Town. It is the Town's intent to establish short-term rental regulations to promote a mix of lodging options, support the local economy, while also upholding the integrity of the Town.
- (2) Short-term rentals shall comply with the provisions of this Subsection ~~(N)(4)~~ and shall be licensed per Chapter 8, Section 5 of the Municipal Code.
- (3) Permitted Use of Short-Term Rentals:
  - (a) For short-term rentals ~~not in~~outside of the "HB" Historic Business, "DS" Downtown Service, or "GC" General Commercial Districts, the structure involved:
    - (i) Shall be a single-family dwelling structure; or
    - (ii) Shall be a single residential unit in structures with mixed uses; or
    - (iii) Shall be a property with ~~two multiple~~ dwelling structures~~units~~ owned by the same owner, in which one of the dwelling ~~structures~~ units may be used as a short-term rental as long as at least one of the second dwelling~~other dwelling~~ unit(s) is/are owner occupied; and
    - (iv) Shall not be a multiple family dwelling or structure as short-term rentals are prohibited in multiple family structures in districts other than HB, DS, and GC.
  - (b) In the HB, DS, and GC Districts, a maximum of five short-term rentals are allowed per building or structure.
- (4) Performance Standards for Short-Term Rentals:
  - ~~(a) The unit being rented shall be a dwelling unit, as defined pursuant to Section 9 shall not have more than five bedrooms, nor be leased or used to any group containing more than ten people over the age of 18.~~
  - (b) The unit shall have a minimum of two off-street parking spaces available and any additional spaces necessary to accommodate the tenant's vehicles off-street.
  - ~~(c) There shall be an owner's agent available to be at the unit within 20 minutes, who is on call full time to manage the property during any period the unit is rented. The name, address and phone number of the agent must be kept current on file with the Town and posted in the short term rental.~~
  - (d) Adequate animal resistant trash and recycling containers shall be provided, and information on placement for collection shall be provided; in the short-term rental as stated in Ridgway Municipal Code Section 9-2.
  - (e) The unit shall be maintained in compliance with applicable Town ordinances and regulations. The rental of residential units as provided herein shall not unreasonably annoy or interfere with the use or enjoyment of public or private property or ~~which~~ constitutes a health or safety hazard.
  - (f) The owner must have current State and Town sales tax licenses, a Town business license, if at such time the Town has business licensing, and collect and remit sales taxes and lodging taxes.

## SECTION 5 Short-Term Rentals

### Subsections:

(Section enacted by Ord. 3-2017)

### 8-5-1 LICENSES REQUIRED.

- (A) Any property owner who rents out a bedroom or unit on a short-term basis within the Town shall be required to obtain a short-term rental license (hereinafter a "Short-Term Rental License") for each short-term rental unit from the Town. ~~Such-The property owner is responsible for Short-Term Rental License and its corresponding number shall be~~ prominently displaying the Short-Term Rental License number in all advertising/listing of the unit. The cost of such licensing and renewals shall be set by resolution of the Town Council. Short-Term Rental Licenses are nontransferable, except where upon death the property is transferred to an immediate family member, the short-term license ~~number~~ may be transferred with the property.
- (B) All short-term rental units, except the short-term rental of a single bedroom inside an owner-occupied dwelling unit, are required to have and pass a health, safety, and welfare inspection by the Town Building Inspector. This inspection will be completed with the initial licensing and renewal licensing processes.
- (C) The total number of short-term rental licenses in the Town shall be limited to 50 at any one time. The short-term rental of a single bedroom inside an owner-occupied dwelling unit shall not be counted toward the maximum number of licenses to be issued.
- (D) Short-Term Rental Licenses shall be issued for a period of two years and subject to biannual renewal (every two years). Notwithstanding this two-year term, the Town may determine a more frequent licensing schedule is needed for any particular unit, and the initial term for licensing.

### 8-5-2 LICENSE FEES.

- (A) The local application and license fees for all short-term rental licenses issued, and applications submitted shall be enacted by Town Council resolution.
- (B) In addition to the above fees, the applicant/licensee shall reimburse the Town for all out-of-pocket costs incurred during review of the application, or license, including legal fees, consultant fees, postage, notice and publishing costs. The Town shall bill the applicant/licensee upon completion of the application or review process and completion of any conditions thereof. No application or license shall be finally approved until the bill is paid. Each bill shall be overdue 30 days after its date. Bills not paid by the due date shall accrue interest at the rate of one and one-half percent per month or part thereof. Such fees may be certified to the County Treasurer for collection as delinquent charges or collected in any other lawful manner.
- (C) The Town Council may revise such amounts by resolution based on costs incurred by the Town in the administration and enforcement of the short-term rental licensing and related provisions.

### 8-5-3 ~~SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS~~ LICENSE ADMINISTRATION

- (A) All dwelling units, for Short-Term Rental Licenses issued, shall comply with applicable requirements of Town ordinances, including building and zoning regulations, inclusive of Chapter 7, ~~subsection 3-13(H), 7-4-6~~ Supplemental Regulations, and this Section.

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- (B) The Town Council shall be the local licensing authority for the Town for Short-Term Rental Licenses. The Town Manager or their designee shall review and act upon all Short-Term Rental License applications without hearing.
  - (C) The Town Manager or their designee is hereby designated as the entity responsible for processing procedures and reviewing Short-Term Rental Licenses for compliance with Town ordinances and regulations.
  - (D) The Town Manager shall make reasonable rules and regulations in conformity with this Article for the proper administration and enforcement of Short-Term Rental Licenses.

(E) There shall be an owner's agent available to be at the unit within 20 minutes, who is on call full-time to manage the property during any period the unit is rented. The name, address and phone number of the agent must be kept current on file with the Town and posted in the short-term rental.

(F) The unit being rented shall be a dwelling unit, as defined pursuant to Section 9 shall not have more than five bedrooms, nor be used by any group containing more than ten people over the age of 18.

#### **8-5-4 REVOCATION OF LICENSE.**

- (A) The Town Manager may revoke or suspend a Short-Term Rental License. The following shall be prima facie evidence for revocation or suspension of a Short-Term Rental License:
  - (1) A holder of a Short-Term Rental License is in violation of the Town Municipal Code;
  - (2) A holder of a Short-Term Rental License has violated the rules and regulations for short term rentals, as established by the Town Manager;
  - (3) There have been two or more violations of Chapter 2, Section 1, the General Administrative Provisions of the Town Municipal Code, at the short-term rental;
  - (4) The holder of the Short-Term Rental License has failed to remit sales and/or lodging taxes.
- (B) In the event a licensee wishes to challenge the revocation or a suspension of a license by the Town Manager, they can request, in writing, an administrative hearing before the Town Council within 30 days of the license being revoked or suspended.
- (C) No license shall be issued to any property owner for whom a license has been revoked, until at least one year has elapsed since revocation. This will require application for a new license, which may not be available at the time of application.-

## AGENDA ITEM #12





To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council  
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager  
Date: March 7, 2025  
Agenda Topic: **First Reading of Ordinance No. 02-2025 Amending Chapter 11 of the Ridgway Municipal Code Concerning the Sale of Dogs and Cats Born or Raised in Inhumane Commercial Breeding Facilities**

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**BACKGROUND:**

At the September 11, 2024 regular meeting of the Town Council, Joyce Cohen presented information on “factory farms” or “puppy mills” that are large scale commercial operations which breed dogs and cats in cages and sell them to pet stores. She explained three states have passed legislation banning these practices, and the sale to pet stores. She asked the Council to consider enacting local regulations to ban the sale of dogs and cats that are raised in inhumane commercial breeding facilities. At the conclusion of the presentation, Council directed staff to prepare an ordinance, for Council consideration, that would prohibit the sale of dogs and cats that are raised in inhumane commercial breeding facilities.

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

“I move to approve, on first reading, Ordinance No. 02-2025, an Ordinance of the Town of Ridgway Colorado Amending Chapter 11 of the Ridgway Municipal Code Concerning the Sale of Dogs and Cats Born or Raised in Inhumane Commercial Breeding Facilities.”

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Ordinance No. 02-2025

**TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO  
ORDINANCE NO. 02-2025**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO,  
AMENDING CHAPTER 11 OF THE RIDGWAY MUNICIPAL CODE  
CONCERNING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS BORN OR  
RAISED IN INHUMANE COMMERCIAL BREEDING FACILITIES**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Ridgway, Colorado (“Town”) is a home rule municipality existing pursuant to the laws of the Colorado Constitution, the Colorado Revised Statutes and the Town’s Home Rule Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 31-15-501, C.R.S., authorizes municipalities to prohibit any offensive or unwholesome business practice; and

**WHEREAS**, the Humane Society of the United States has determined that puppy and kitten mills are inhumane commercial breeding facilities which disregard the animals’ health - both physical and emotional - in order to maximize profits; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Humane Society of the United States, these mills produce animals for sale, oftentimes at retail stores; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council finds and determines that the sale of dogs and cats from these mills is an unwholesome business practice and not in the best interest of the public welfare of the Town;

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council desires to exercise its authority to address the sale of dogs and cats in retail stores that come from these mills, all as more fully provided in this ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council finds that this ordinance furthers and is necessary to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the Ridgway community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO** the following:

**Section 1. Recitals Incorporated.** The above and foregoing recitals are incorporated herein by reference and adopted as findings and determinations of the Town Council.

**Section 2. Amendment of Subsection 11-1-14 - Penalty.** Subsection 11-1-14 - *Penalty* of the Ridgway Municipal Code is hereby changed to Subsection 11-1-15 - *Penalty*.

**Section 3. Addition of Subsection 11-1-14.** Chapter 11 of the Ridgway Municipal Code is hereby amended with the addition of a new Subsection 11-1-14, to read as set forth in *Exhibit A*.

**Section 3. Codification of Amendments.** The Town Clerk, as the codifier of the Town's Municipal Code, is hereby authorized to make such numerical and formatting changes as may be necessary to incorporate the provisions of this Ordinance within the Ridgway Municipal Code. The Town Clerk is authorized to correct, or approve the correction by the codifier, of any typographical error in the enacted regulations, provided that such correction shall not substantively change any provision of the regulations adopted in this Ordinance. Such corrections may include spelling, reference, citation, enumeration, and grammatical errors.

**Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Ordinance, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is for any reason held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are declared to be severable. The Town Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each provision thereof, even though any one of the provisions might be declared unconstitutional or invalid. As used in this Section, the term "provision" means and includes any part, division, subdivision, section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase; the term "application" means and includes an application of an ordinance or any part thereof, whether considered or construed alone or together with another ordinance or ordinances, or part thereof, of the Town.

**Section 5. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after the date of final passage in accordance with Article 3-7 of the Ridgway Charter.

**Section 6. Safety Clause.** The Town Council hereby finds, determines and declares that this Ordinance is promulgated under the general police power of the Town of Ridgway, that it is promulgated for the health, safety and welfare of the public, and that this Ordinance is necessary for the preservation of health and safety and for the protection of public convenience and welfare. The Town Council further determines that the Ordinance bears a rational relation to the proper legislative object sought to be obtained.

**Section 7. No Existing Violation Affected.** Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to release, extinguish, alter, modify, or change in whole or in part any penalty, liability or right or affect any audit, suit, or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired, or liability incurred, or any cause or causes of action acquired or existing which may have been incurred or obtained under any ordinance or provision hereby repealed or amended by this Ordinance. Any such ordinance or provision thereof so amended, repealed, or superseded by this Ordinance shall be treated and held as remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any and all proper actions, suits, proceedings and prosecutions, for the enforcement of such penalty, liability, or right, and for the purpose of sustaining any judgment, decree or order which can or may be rendered, entered, or made in such actions, suits or proceedings, or prosecutions imposing, inflicting, or declaring such penalty or liability or enforcing such right, and shall be treated and held as remaining in force for the purpose of sustaining any and all proceedings, actions, hearings, and appeals pending before any court or administrative tribunal.

**Section 8. Publication.** The Town Clerk is ordered to publish this Ordinance in accordance with Article 3-7 of the Ridgway Charter.

**INTRODUCED AND REFERRED TO PUBLIC HEARING** on March 12, 2025, and set for public hearing on April 9, 2025, at Ridgway Town Hall, located at 201 N. Railroad Street, Ridgway, Colorado.

BY:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
John I. Clark, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

**ADOPTED** on April 9, 2025.

BY:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
John I. Clark, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Kraft, Town Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bo James Nerlin, Town Attorney

## EXHIBIT A

### 11-1-14 – SALE OF ANIMALS FROM INHUMANE COMMERCIAL BREEDING FACILITIES.

(A) As used in this Subsection, the following words shall have the following meanings:

*Animal Care Facility* means an animal control center or animal shelter, maintained by or under contract with any state, county or municipality, whose mission and practice is, in whole, or significant part, the rescue and placement of animals in permanent homes.

*Animal Rescue Organization* means any not-for-profit organization which has tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, whose mission and practice is, in whole or in significant part, the rescue and placement of animals in permanent homes.

*Cat* means any animal of the species *Felis catus* or any hybrid thereof.

*Dog* means any animal of the family *Canidae*, regardless of sex, including, without limitation, those related to the wolf, fox, coyote, or any other domestic canid hybrid thereof.

*Offer for Sale* means to sell, offer for sale or adoption, advertise for sale of, barter, auction, give away, or otherwise dispose of a dog or cat.

*Pet Shop* means a retail establishment where dogs and/or cats are sold, exchanged, bartered, or offered for sale as pet animals to the general public at retail. Such definition does not include an animal care facility or animal rescue organization as defined in this Subsection.

*Person* means any public or private corporation, firm, partnership, limited liability entity of any kind, association, organization, government or any other group acting as a unit, as well as a natural person.

(B) No Pet Shop shall sell, deliver, offer for sale, barter, auction, or otherwise dispose of a dog or a cat.

(C) A Pet Shop may offer space for the adoption of dogs or cats, and shall post, in a conspicuous location on the enclosure of each such animal, a sign listing the name of the Animal Care Facility or Animal Rescue organization from which the Pet Shop acquired each dog or cat.

(D) Each violation of this Subsection shall constitute a separate offense.

(E) It is unlawful and a misdemeanor offense for any person to violate any provision of this Section. Any person convicted of violating any provision of this Section shall be

punished as provided in Subsection 11-1-15 of this Chapter and Chapter 5 of the Ridgway Municipal Code.

- (F) The operation of a pet shop in violation of this Subsection is declared to be a public nuisance and is subject to abatement as provided by law. In any case in which the Town prevails in a nuisance abatement action initiated pursuant to this Subsection, the Town may recover its reasonable attorney fees plus costs of the proceeding.

## AGENDA ITEM #13

**RESOLUTION NO. 25-05**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO  
CANCELING THE APRIL REGULAR ELECTION**

**WHEREAS**, the only matter before the voters at the April 1, 2025 regular election is election of three Councilors; and

**WHEREAS**, as of the legal filing deadline of 5:00 p.m. on February 14, 2025 three nomination petitions were received for Councilor; and

**WHEREAS**, regulations pertaining to cancellation of an election are provided for in CRS 31-10-507 and Subsection 4-1-2(A) of the Ridgway Municipal Code, which states 'if the only matter before the voters at any election is the election of persons to office and if, at the close of business on the 33<sup>rd</sup> day before the election, there are not more candidates than offices to be filed at such election, including candidates filing Affidavits of Intent, the Town Clerk shall cancel the election and by resolution declare the candidates elected'.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF RIDGWAY, COLORADO** that the Council hereby accepts the Town Clerks cancellation of the regular election slated for April 1, 2025 and acknowledges the Clerk has published and posted notice of said cancellation, and deemed the candidates elected.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
John I. Clark, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Kraft, MMC, Town Clerk



# NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Ridgway Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 for three Councilors has been cancelled.

State Statute 31-10-507 and Municipal Code Section 4-1-2(A) allows the Town Clerk to cancel the election and declare the candidates elected, if the election of persons to office is the only matter before the voters, and if, at the close of business on the 33rd day before the election, there are not more candidates than offices to be filled at the election, including write-in candidates filing affidavits of intents.

The following candidates have been declared elected:

Polly Kroger, Councilor	2 year term
Beth Lakin, Councilor	2 year term
Michelle Montague, Councilor	2 year term

Pam Kraft, MMC  
Town Clerk

Dated: March 27, 2025

## AGENDA ITEM #14

## AGENDA ITEM #15