



2025 Steering Committee Letter of Intent

Name: Sonja Macys
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Expiration of Current Term: 1/2027
have term limits.

Committee(s): Public Lands Travel Committee

County: Routt

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Are you term limited?: Routt County does not

Position(s): Travel Delegate

I, Sonja Macys, commit to participating in the encouraged training as described in the bylaws.

Thank you for the opportunity to apply to serve on the Public Lands Travel Team. If selected, I will actively advocate for CCI's position on public lands.

Advocating for strong public lands stewardship and effective implementation of the multiple use mandate has been central to my career and service as an elected official. It is what brought me to live in Colorado. In the late 1990s I moved to Fort Collins to attend Colorado State University and serve as the first Administrator of the Center for Protected Area Management at the Warner College of Natural Resources. In addition to studying public lands, their history, administration, and the many land management agencies in the US that have a role to play in their stewardship, I also co-instructed a month-long course on the public lands system for Latin American natural resource professionals, all of which took place in Colorado's public land system.

Approximately half of Routt County's land is in public hands. This includes USFS, BLM and State Lands. The quality of life of our residents and our local economy is intricately tied to these lands. Routt County is a known Colorado favorite for hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and a host of other recreational uses. And, like many other counties, in Colorado, we have a Ski Area that operates under a Special Use Permit issued by the USFS. These activities contribute positively to the economy. However, tensions among uses can run high. Throughout my two-decade tenure in Routt County, I've served on many Boards and Commissions that bring together public lands enthusiasts with vastly different interests, in service of finding common ground. This thorough understanding of user conflicts and public land management challenges has prepared me to effectively contribute to the CCI/NACO dialog on public lands.

Additional challenges public lands present to counties are funding and staffing shortfalls and the unavailability of public lands for property tax generation. These challenges are partially offset by federal revenue streams such as PILT and SRS. However, what we see in Routt County is that these programs are necessary but not sufficient.

If selected as a Travel Delegate, I will continue to advocate for these programs, as I have when I was seated to my first USFS Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) appointment in 2009. Back then, the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests' RAC was responsible for allocating SRS funding across multiple Colorado counties and Wyoming. It has since been merged with the Greater Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Committee which covers nine National Forests across 29 counties including the Rio Grande, San Juan, Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison, Arapaho, Routt, Pike, Roosevelt, San Isabel and White River National Forests in Colorado and the Medicine-Bow, Bighorn and Shoshone National Forests in Wyoming. I was appointed to the Greater Rocky Mountain RAC in 2024.

Current Boards and Commissions

- Greater Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Committee, USFS
- Routt Recreation and Conservation Roundtable
- Parkland Property Acquisitions Committee, Steamboat Springs
- Routt County Purchase of Development Rights Board
- Yampa River System Legacy Committee
- Yampa-White-Green Basin Roundtable
- Colorado State University Extension Advisory Board

Past Boards and Commissions

- Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests, Resource Advisory Committee, 2009-2016
- Yampa River System Legacy Committee, 2012 - 2015
- Steering Committee, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Partners in the Outdoors, 2012-2013