




Grand County Colorado

- Richard Cimino | District 1
- Merrit Linke | District 2
- Randy George | District 3



 Kremmling cliffs at sunset, courtesy Town of Kremmling.

In this issue:

Devil's Thumb Fire Update
Board Business

Page 2:

- Manager's Update
- Plans & Plats
- Public Hearings
- Department Business
- OLRT Ballot Initiative



[Click to view
Commissioners Calendars](#)

WHY DO BEES HAVE STICKY HAIR?



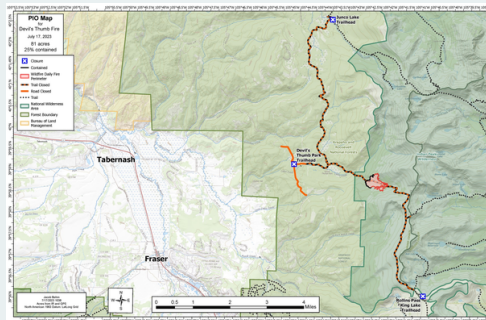
Because they use a
honey comb.

DEVIL'S THUMB FIRE UPDATE

U.S. Forest Service (U.S.F.S.) Sulphur Ranger District **Ranger Eric Freels** and Incident Commander **Nate Hallam** gave an update about the Devil's Thumb Fire. The fire started July 4 in the area of the Devil's Thumb trail in Tabernash. The fire is located within the Indian Peaks Wilderness, and the U.S.F.S. has ordered full suppression efforts.



Hot Shot crews have been battling extreme terrain and blow down.



For the safety of crews and the public, please research and observe current trail and road closures.

In addition to the fire update, Ranger Freels gave an update regarding proposed Big Meadows Project Scoping south of Cotton Wood Pass, and East Troublesome Fire recovery.

U.S.F.S. has been assessing damaged areas west of Idleglen in the East Troublesome Fire burn scar in an effort to open those areas to recreation this winter, and help restore the watershed. Following the spring snowmelt, the U.S.F.S. learned that several segments of Kauffman Road have collapsed on the west side of Stillwater Pass. Cabin and Denver creeks are continuing to experience heavy levels of debris and sediment. Flood after fire activity remains a concern on US Hwy 125.

BOARD BUSINESS

Commissioners approved appointing **Joanna Whitmarsh** to the Tourism Board for a term ending July of 2026.



MANAGER'S UPDATE

County Manager **Ed Moyer** presented the following:

- Regarding the 2024 Budget:
 - Departments are beginning to prepare high-level overviews to present to Commissioners ahead of budget hearings.
 - Staff is reviewing Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) to include with the 2024 budget recommendation.
- Manager gave a brief update regarding a recent Winter Park Advisory Committee meeting.
- Stream and river flows significantly decreased this week. Granby Reservoir is back to a minimum release of 75 CFS per the 1961 principles, as the Adams Tunnel diversions will be increasing to 400 CFS.
 - Staff will be talking with Learning By Doing and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regarding the release of 35 CFS from the 5,412-acre-foot pool beginning in August.
- Manager is advancing discussions on two potential OLRT applications involving a land acquisition and a water right.
- Manager gave an update on the Windy Gap Firing Project 1041 Permit, conditions 21 and 22, as it relates to the Subdistrict of Northern Water's nutrient reduction and nutrient monitoring plans. Staff will be bringing a resolution to the BOCC in order to approve the amended nutrient monitoring plan and terminate the previous associated MOU.

Assistant County Manager **Micah Benson** gave the following updates:

- Commissioners approved appointing **Bailey Palmer** to the Middle Park Fair & Rodeo Board.
- 4 helicopters are currently staged at the Granby Airport, and 2 at the Kremmling Airport, to support the Devil's Thumb Fire.
- Regarding property value appeals to the County Board of Equalization:
 - The total received to date is approximately 350; more are anticipated to arrive via mail today and tomorrow.
 - 257 property value appeals to the Board of Equalization have been submitted online.
 - Sitting as the Board of Equalization, Commissioners authorized staff to provide referee recommendations upon written request to taxpayers via mail, fax or electronic transmission as acceptable to the taxpayer.
 - The CBOE will render decisions August 7, 2023. Public comment will not be heard at that time (per Statute, no additional evidence can be heard following hearings).
 - **To learn more about the CBOE process, please visit GrandCO.us/BOE.**

PLATS & PLANS

Red Hawk Ranch sketch plan | Approved as presented with conditions.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics Special Events Permit | Approved as presented.

Byers Peak Ranch Metropolitan Districts 1-7 , Service Plan | Continued to August 1, 2023 at 1 p.m.

DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

ACCOUNTING

Vouchers and wire payments for payment on Wednesday, July 19 were approved as presented by Finance Director **Curtis Lange**.

PUBLIC HEALTH

A Memorandum of Understanding with Jackson County Public Health to share an employee for the position of Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator with Grand County was approved as presented by Director **Abbie Baker**.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Out-of-state travel requests for **Sheriff Brett Schroetlin** to attend an executive leadership symposium in Florida July 23-26, and for **Sergeant Nate Opsahl** and **Deputy Brian Macchione** to travel to Utah for a kennel visit and K-9 selection for a JAG grant were approved as presented.

OLRT BALLOT INITIATIVE

Commissioners reviewed the final draft of the Resolution describing a proposal for the extension of and expanded uses of the 0.3% countywide sales tax for the operation of the Open Lands, Rivers and Trails Fund; calling an election on November 7, 2023, for the consideration of such proposal; setting the ballot title and ballot question for the election; and authority to spend all of the proceeds of the sales tax.

This is NOT a new tax or a tax increase being put forward to voters. What will be decided by Grand County citizens is whether to expand the uses of the **EXISTING** sales tax to include:

- Operational costs to non-profit funded purposes, wildfire mitigation and prevention;
- Water quality and river restoration projects; and
- Maintaining and creating hiking, biking and multi-use trails.

After discussion and comment from the public and OLRT stakeholders, Commissioners gave direction to the County Attorney to make changes as discussed and submit the draft Resolution and proposed ballot language to the Secretary of State.

OLRT HISTORY

In 2016, Grand County residents passed Ballot Initiative 1A, the Open Lands, Rivers, and Trails (OLRT) Measure, creating the Open Lands, Rivers, and Trails Fund that can be used to (1) Acquire lands that conserve and protect water for agriculture, ranching, outdoor recreation, and that conserve agricultural lands, natural areas, scenic open lands, wildlife habitat, wetlands, and river access, (2) Acquire water rights and water storage rights, and (3) Pay for maintenance costs on hiking and biking trails.

Distribution of funds from the OLRT Fund are made by the BOCC based on recommendations from the OLRT Advisory Committee. In 2022, more than \$400,000 of sales tax dollars was awarded to support 17 trail maintenance projects.