

Rural Pitkin County

In order to support rural landscape, we need to create a suitable environment that preserves and protects our natural lands. We need to maintain the economic viability of rural Pitkin County by continuing to conserve land, providing leases for farmers and ranchers, and protecting access to parks and wildlife. Rural equates to life supporting resources, valued water sources, open pastures and calving land.

Demonstrable public benefits of conservation

Respect hay cultivation/farming, sheep in meadows, gardens, open space, cattle pairs, carbon sequestering via large undeveloped parcels, trails and access to wilderness and nature. Providing trail easements (horseback, cycling, hiking), and recording and documenting public fishing access expands our communities entry to wilderness. Our largest neighbors are the USFS and BLM and we need to continue providing public access to these incredible lands.

Rural needs include essential ecological services, fosters interconnected economies like farming and ranching, and protects and preserves rural spaces - essential to our mountain lifestyle and economy.

Less dense rural areas balance the dense economies and land use patterns found in the rural resort municipalities.

TDRs

Pitkin's policy of transferring square footage from rural, unserviced areas to protect the scenic beauty of or valley, to more urban developed land is consistent with growth patterns favored by the caucuses and larger community.

Draft:

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