



DHM DESIGN

DAYTON KNUTSON

Natural Resource Coordinator

Dayton has worked in the conservation and natural resource management field for his entire career. He conducts field investigations, technical resource analysis, and conservation planning for private and public lands. He specializes on invasive species ecology and management, applied soil health practices, and rangeland ecology and restoration. Dayton has planned and implemented large scale irrigation and grazing infrastructure projects, as well as smaller organic certified niche operations – all throughout the western United States. With extensive experience working with a variety of stakeholder including, municipalities, private landowners, federal agencies, and NGO's, he has a depth of knowledge on natural resource management and geospatial applications.

ABOUT

EDUCATION

B.S. in Natural Resources Management & Conservation Biology, Colorado State University, 2015

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Wetland Delineator
Certified Conservation Planner (USDA)
Certified Snow Course Surveyor
Society for Range Management (Member)

AWARDS

West Meadows Residence - CCASLA Honor Award for Design; Telluride, CO

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Biological Resource Investigations
Rangeland Plant Identification
Natural Resource Stewardship Planning
GIS Mapping
GIS Data Collection and Data Organization
GPS Database Structure Organization and Data Collection
Site Planning and Resource Avoidance
Ranch + Agricultural Systems Planning

NOTABLE WORK

Three Rivers Ranch | Tularosa, NM

DHM Design is creating a plan for the owner to best manage the land in a sustainable and productive manner. The goal of the ownership group is to improve hunting experiences on the ranch by restoring the land to a thriving and sustainable ecosystem after decades of Three River's land serving as a cattle operation. The project includes a multi-phased approach for planning and design. Phase I will focus on the south parcel and phase II on the north parcel. The team is currently working on Phase 1 which includes a master plan to restore the riparian system and improvements to three living and operations areas.

Four Suns Ranch | Pitkin County, CO

Four Suns Ranch is located outside of Woody Creek, Colorado and is comprised of 129 acres. DHM's Ecological Services team was tasked to complete a comprehensive Ecological Site Assessment to evaluate current site conditions, natural resources function and condition, and to identify ecological systems opportunities and constraints on the Four Suns Ranch. Mapping was developed as a base for subsequent stewardship planning and prescriptions to be developed to improve the ecological resilience of the property. Further analysis was conducted to develop recommendations with specific resource prescriptions based on findings from field work and site planning. DHM then developed internal work plans and worked with experienced contractors to provide bid packages to implement the stewardship work. In addition to the ongoing stewardship planning work, DHM Ecological Services staff has completed a complex aquatic resource delineation and is leading federal and county permitting for all wetlands and other aquatic resource impacts and is assisting with several components of the stream channel and riparian design.

Stagecoach Reservoir Wetlands Restoration | Oak Creek, CO

In collaboration with the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District (UYWCD), DHM is leading the effort to restore and enhance palustrine scrub shrub (PSS) wetlands, an essential ecosystem that provides vital habitat for native wildlife and contributes to the overall ecological balance. Our approach includes a thorough site analysis, wetland delineation, and comprehensive planning to ensure the success of the project. We are dedicated to promoting biodiversity and long-term ecological resilience, emphasizing the use of native plant materials and sustainable practices. Throughout the project's lifecycle, DHM remains deeply engaged in monitoring and reporting to support UYWCD's objectives for environmental sustainability and habitat preservation.