What is your most significant or important accomplishment as an elected leader?
We’ve had a couple of successful ballot initiatives that we’re very proud of: raising funds for mental health through a tax on marijuana retail and grow operations and renewing our county open space tax through 2040 by an 83 percent majority. Beyond the specifics, I’m proud of an atmosphere of civility, collaboration and innovation that are our themes/bywords at Eagle County.

What has been the biggest challenge?
Transportation and affordable housing are big challenges. Congestion on I-70, getting airlines to fly in to a regional airport, and creating housing to attract and retain our workforce are big issues. We’re having some success with the airport and with creative public/private partnerships to build and operate housing for our families.

What advice would you give someone considering running for office for the first time?
Do it! It’s not as overwhelming as you might think to campaign, and your jurisdiction needs you. Public service is good, important work. It’s possible to make important
changes in the world by listening to the needs of your constituencies, gathering information and best practices from others, and proposing human-oriented policy solutions in concert with community members. Even if you don’t win, you have the chance to raise issues and contribute dialog in areas that are important.

Is there a conservation-related policy, rule or idea you would like to see implemented at the local, state or national level?
I am very concerned about the weakening of regulations for clean air and water and protection of all species, especially endangered species. It takes too long to regain lost ground, and in some cases it isn’t possible when fragile ecosystems are lost. Clean air and water and environmental protections are critical for our economy, not to mention for humans and the earth. I’d love to see all of our land use policies connected to water, environment and climate. It’s the only way we can survive.