

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
Activities Planned for 2010

This document identifies the District's planned activities for 2010, as adopted by the Board of Directors on November 16, 2009. Part I of the list is classified in accordance with the goals and objectives set forth in the District's Water Management Plan (February 2006), as reorganized consistent with the policies established at the board retreat on April 30, 2009. Part II of the list addresses internal administrative priorities and activities. Ongoing Tasks are those activities that the District performs continuously from year to year. They are assumed to be of equal priority, unless otherwise stated. Tasks designated as Action Items for 2010 are activities for which the Board expects staff and committees to develop action plans with specific milestones to accomplishment during 2010. Action items have been assigned priorities. The Board may review the list during the course of the year and add and remove tasks, or reassign priorities, as circumstances dictate.

PART I.

Goal 1 – Protect Upper Gunnison Basin water resources for in-basin use.

A. ONGOING TASKS.

- (1) Participate in the Water for the 21st Century Act process; in particular the development of the needs assessment and project development activity of the Gunnison Basin and other Western Slope Roundtables.
- (2) Monitor the use of the SWSI findings by state and local entities, Basin Roundtables and the Interbasin Compact Committee.
- (3) Actively oppose any application for a water service contract for Aspinall Unit water for uses involving transmountain or transbasin diversion.
- (4) Participate in legislative and regulatory activities, including those of the Colorado Water Congress.

B. ACTION ITEMS.

- (1) HIGH PRIORITY. Participate actively in the Aspinall Reoperation EIS process, including cooperative efforts to develop a selenium management plan.
- (2) HIGH PRIORITY. Develop a Strategic Plan using elements from the Water Management Plan.

- (3) PRIORITY. Pursue education of constituents within the District on value of basin water resources including development of an outreach program promoting the District and its activities.
- (4) PRIORITY. Cooperate with municipalities on climate change resolutions, solutions and programs to limit climate change problems within the District and the state.

Goal 2 - Protect existing decreed water uses within the Upper Gunnison Basin from calls from senior water rights whose points of diversion are located downstream of Blue Mesa Reservoir.

Goal 3 - Protect future decreed water uses within the Upper Gunnison Basin from calls from senior water rights whose points of diversion are located downstream of Blue Mesa Reservoir.

A. ONGOING TASKS.

- (1) Coordinate actively with other entities to provide protection for all users from a Redlands Power Canal call.
- (2) Prepare and submit Aspinall Basinwide Augmentation Plan annual contract summary.
- (3) Prepare and submit Aspinall Subordination Agreement Annual Report.
- (4) Continue to identify ways to improve administration spreadsheet reliability.
- (5) Participate in and monitor activities relating to the Colorado River Compact of 1922 and the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact of 1948, particularly any State of Colorado proposed actions in response to intrastate shortage allocations and the seven state shortage criteria.

B. ACTION ITEMS.

- (1) HIGH PRIORITY. Obtain a decree for the District's non-agricultural basinwide augmentation plan using long-term Aspinall Unit water service contract.
- (2) HIGH PRIORITY. Actively pursue perfection of Taylor Park Reservoir second fill conditional water right and change the use of the water right to include augmentation.
- (3) HIGH PRIORITY. Coordinate actively with other entities to continue use of Taylor Reservoir second fill storage to offset impacts of a Gunnison Tunnel call on agricultural users.
- (4) HIGH PRIORITY. Seek opportunities to facilitate and/or participate in the development of hydropower projects with local individuals and/or entities.

- (5) PRIORITY. Decide the feasibility of other possible uses of the Taylor River Canal portion of the Upper Gunnison Project or alternatives to perfect that conditional water right.

Goal 4 – Maintain, and where possible, improve the water supply that is physically available in individual sub-basins in the District.

A. ONGOING TASKS.

- (1) Coordinate with the District's Water Activity Enterprise in conducting activities in pursuit of this goal.
- (2) Coordinate Taylor Local Users Group process and work with the other partners to the 1975 Taylor Park Reservoir Operation and Storage Exchange Agreement to manage Taylor Park Reservoir releases.
- (3) Contribute financially to cloud seeding program.
- (4) Participate cooperatively with other sponsors in the Dust on Snowpack Study.

B. ACTION ITEMS.

- (1) HIGH PRIORITY. Coordinate and cooperate equally with Hinsdale County and the Town of Lake City in the development of Lake San Cristobal water t in the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise.
- (2) HIGH PRIORITY. Cooperate with others in siting SNOTEL and/or weather sites in the basin.
- (3) PRIORITY. Discover and evaluate new water projects according to adopted procedures and guidelines.
- (4) PRIORITY. Establish procedures and funding to allow the purchase of water rights, particularly those senior to the 1922 Colorado River Compact.
- (5) PRIORITY. Develop and maintain an information base on emerging research on the potential impacts of climate change on water supply in the District's geographic region, and keep constituents informed on said potential impacts.

Goal 5 - Improve water supplies for in-channel and flatwater recreational purposes.

A. ONGOING TASKS.

- (1) Continue to support the Gunnison River Festival as an effort to promote the use of the RICD water right.

B. ACTION ITEMS.

- (1) PRIORITY. Continue to pursue documentation in support of making the RICD water right absolute. File an application to make the RICD water right absolute.
- (2) PRIORITY. Develop and adopt RICD water right policies relating to administration and utilization of the water right itself.

Goal 6 - Improve instream water supplies for environmental purposes.

A. ONGOING TASKS.

- (1) Coordinate with CWCB and others on instream flow water rights within the Upper Gunnison Basin in support of environmental water use needs.

Goal 7 - Protect Water Quality in a manner that is consistent with the District's other responsibilities including protecting and encouraging the beneficial use of water within the District.

A. ONGOING TASKS.

- (1) Contribute to water quality monitoring program. Provide program coordination.
- (2) Monitor and support local watershed coalition efforts, including current efforts in the Lake Fork headwaters and Coal Creek.
- (3) Monitor the cleanup for the Superfund of the Standard Mine and Hinsdale County Superfund action.
- (4) Continue to assist with funding streamflow gaging on Slate River, Cochetopa Creek, Tomichi Creek, and Ohio Creek.

PART II Administrative Tasks

A. Continue to update and improve Website.

B. Implement Website procedures and schedule for review and updates of content.

- C. Implement written procedures for augmentation contracting and review.
- D. Prepare annual report to constituents.
- E. Continue to improve budget spreadsheets
- F. Continue to utilize technology to its greatest advantage in performing District activities and achieving District goals.
- G. Continue to enhance data availability for both the public and District employees by expanding internet and intranet capabilities.
- H. Continue to encourage employee development opportunities through funding commitments to training.
- I. Develop a risk management policy.
- J. Explore options for office space. – accomplished in 2009
- K. Look into options for scanning and digitizing the District's records and provide protection for the electronic version.
- L. Provide administrative oversight and management for any HB 05- 177/SB 06-179 projects that the District sponsors.