

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
Activities Planned for 2009

This document identifies the District's activities for 2009, as adopted by the Board of Directors on November 20, 2008. Part I of the list is organized in accordance with the goals and objectives set forth in the District's Water Management Plan (February 2006). Part II of the list addresses internal administrative priorities and activities. All of the tasks listed are assumed to be of equal priority, unless otherwise stated.

PART I.

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

- A. 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.
- B. Participate actively in the Aspinall Reoperation EIS process, including cooperative efforts to develop a selenium management plan.
- C. Monitor the use of the SWSI findings by state and local entities, Basin Roundtables and the Interbasin Compact Committee.
- D. Actively oppose any application for a water service contract for Aspinall Unit water for uses involving transmountain or transbasin diversion.
- E. Participate in legislative and regulatory activities, including those of the Colorado Water Congress.
- F. 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.
- G. Cooperate with municipalities on climate change resolutions, solutions and programs to limit climate change problems within 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.

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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. Coordinate actively with other entities to provide protection for all users from a Redlands Power Canal call.
- B. Obtain a decree for the District's non-agricultural basinwide augmentation plan using long-term Aspinall Unit water service contract.
- C. Actively pursue perfection of Taylor Park Reservoir second fill conditional water right and change the use of the water right to include augmentation.
- D. 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.
- E. 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.
- F. Prepare and submit Aspinall Basinwide Augmentation Plan annual contract summary.
- G. Seek opportunities to facilitate and/or participate in the development of hydropower projects with local individuals and/or entities.
- H. Prepare and submit Aspinall Subordination Agreement Annual Report.
- I. Continue to identify ways to improve administration spreadsheet reliability.
- J. Participate 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.

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Goal 4 - Improve the water supply that is physically available in individual sub-basins in the District.

- A. Coordinate with the District's Water Activity Enterprise in conducting activities in pursuit of this goal.
- B. Discover and evaluate new water projects according to adopted procedures and guidelines. Establish procedures and funding to allow the purchase of water rights, particularly those senior to the 1922 Colorado River Compact.
- C. 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.
- D. Coordinate and cooperate equally with Hinsdale County and the Town of Lake City in the development of Lake San Cristobal water according to agreement to be negotiated and/or the possible creation of a new water activity enterprise.
- E. Contribute financially to cloud seeding program.
- F. Participate cooperatively with other sponsors in the Dust on Snowpack Study.
- G. Contribute to the SNOTEL site to be located in the Taylor Park Drainage.
- H. Cooperate with others in siting SNOTEL and/or weather sites in the basin.

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

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Goal 6 - Improve instream water supplies for environmental purposes.

- A. Continue to pursue documentation in support of making the RICD water right absolute. File an application to make the RICD water right absolute. Continue to support the Gunnison River Festival as an effort to promote the use of the RICD water right.
- B. Develop and adopt RICD water right policies relating to administration and utilization of the water right itself.
- C. Coordinate with CWCB and others on instream flow water rights within the Upper Gunnison Basin in support of environmental water use needs.
- D. Encourage the Gunnison Basin Roundtable to include instream flow and recreation needs in the Roundtable's water needs assessment.

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. Contribute to water quality monitoring program. Provide program coordination.
- B. Continue to fund streamflow gaging on Slate River, Cochetopa Creek, Tomichi Creek, and Ohio Creek.
- C. Monitor and support local watershed coalition efforts, including current efforts in the Lake Fork headwaters and Coal Creek.
- D. Monitor the cleanup for the Superfund of the Standard Mine and Hinsdale County Superfund action.
- E. Obtain baseline macroinvertebrate data in preparation for state biocriteria scheduled for 2010.

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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 Strategic Plan using elements from the Water Management Plan.
- J. Develop a risk management policy.
- K. Explore options for office space.
- L. Look into options for scanning and digitizing the District's records and provide protection for the electronic version.
- M. Continue to participate in CSU Economic Study.
- N. Develop a lobbying position including salary, expenses, objectives, and a sample contract.
- O. Provide administrative oversight and management for any HB 05-1177/SB 06-179 projects that the District sponsors.