



## *Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District*

210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite B • Gunnison, Colorado 81230  
Telephone (970) 641-6065 • [www.ugrwc.org](http://www.ugrwc.org)

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA**

**Monday, March 28, 2022**

**5:30 PM**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

**To be an active leader in all issues affecting the water resources of the Upper Gunnison River Basin.**

#### **REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

- |             |             |           |  |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|--|
| <b>5:30</b> | <b>p.m.</b> | <b>1.</b> | <b>Call to Order</b>   |
| <b>5:31</b> | <b>p.m.</b> | <b>2.</b> | <b>Agenda Approval</b>   |
| <b>5:32</b> | <b>p.m.</b> | <b>3.</b> | <b>Consent Agenda Items:</b> Any of the following items may be removed for discussion from the consent agenda at the request of any Board member or citizen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of February 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes</li> <li>• Monthly Budget Summary</li> <li>• Consideration of Expenses</li> </ul>  |
| <b>5:35</b> | <b>p.m.</b> | <b>4.</b> | <b>Legal and Legislative Matters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>EXECUTIVE SESSION</b><br/> <i>The Board will discuss a consultant maximum indirect cost recovery rate. The Board is authorized to meet in executive session for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations and instructing negotiators. § 26-402-4(4)(d)(I) Colorado Revised Statutes.</i> </li> <li>• Legislative Activity Report</li> <li>• Memorandum Regarding Lake Powell and Glen Canyon Dam</li> </ul> |
| <b>5:55</b> | <b>p.m.</b> | <b>5.</b> | <b>Meet Steve Pope, General Manager of UVWUA</b>   |
| <b>6:05</b> | <b>p.m.</b> | <b>6.</b> | <b>“Dust on Snow” Report by Jeff Derry, Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies</b>  |
| <b>6:25</b> | <b>p.m.</b> | <b>7.</b> | <b>BREAK</b>   |

- 6:50 p.m. 8. Basin Water Supply Update**
- 6:55 p.m. 9. General Manager, Committee and Staff Updates**
- Treasurer's Update
  - General Manager's Update
  - Executive Committee Meeting Update
  - Taylor Local User's Group Meeting Update and Operations Report
    - March 7 TLUG Meeting Summary and Taylor Report
  - Watershed Management Planning Committee Update
    - March 14 WMP Meeting Summary
  - Grant Committee Update
    - Action on Grant Committee Recommendations for 2022 District Grant Program Funding Awards
  - Wet Meadows Program Update
    - Action on GOCO Grant Resolution
  - Education and Outreach Update
  - Scientific Endeavors Update
  - Gunnison Basin Roundtable Update
  - Gunnison River Festival Update
- 8:00 p.m. 10. Miscellaneous Matters**
- Gunnison Energy Production - Solar Panels
  - Current Gunnison River Spreadsheet
  - Newspapers and Other Water Articles
- 8:02 p.m. 11. Citizens Comments**
- 8:05 p.m. 12. Future Meetings**
- 8:15 p.m. 13. Summary of Meeting Action Items**
- 8:20 p.m. 14. Adjournment**

Note: This agenda is subject to change, including the addition of items or the deletion of items at any time. All times are approximate. Regular meetings, public hearings, and special meetings are recorded, and action can be taken on any item. The board may address individual agenda items at any time or in any order to accommodate the needs of the board and the audience. Persons with special needs due to a disability are requested to call the District at (970)641-6065 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

# **AGENDA ITEM 3**

**Consent Agenda Items**

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District**  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 28, 2022**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) conducted a regular meeting on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. in the District office, 210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite B, Gunnison, CO, 81230 and via Zoom video/teleconferencing.

Board members present: Sara Bergstrom, Rosemary Carroll, Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard, Stacy McPhail, John Perusek, Don Sabrowski and Andy Spann.

Board members absent: Julie Nania, Bill Nesbitt and Michelle Pierce

Others present:

Cheryl Cwelich, UGRWCD Watershed Programs Coordinator

Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD General Manager

Janna Hansen, Town of Crested Butte Director of Parks

John McClow, UGRWCD Legal Counsel

Beverly Richards, UGRWCD Water Resource Specialist

Jill Steele, UGRWCD Accountant

Sue Uerling, UGRWCD Administrative Assistant/Communications Support Specialist

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board Vice President Stacy McPhail called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**Director Rebie Hazard moved and Director John Perusek seconded approval of the agenda as circulated. The motion carried.**

**3. CHANGES TO FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Vice President Stacy McPhail referred to the memo provided by Accountant Jill Steele regarding changes to the financial reports due to the streamlining of the District's QuickBooks records. Stacy asked if any Directors had questions for Jill and none were raised..

**4. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Director Joellen Fonken noted that the minutes had a reference to the Gunnison River “Festival” spreadsheet and that this should have just read “Gunnison River Spreadsheet.”

**Director Sara Bergstrom moved and Director Joellen Fonken seconded approval of the consent agenda, with the correction to the minutes noted. The motion carried.**

## **5. LEGAL MATTERS**

Legal Counsel John McCLOW referred to the summary of legislative bills included in the Board packet. John reported that no new bills of interest to the District have been introduced since the packet was distributed. He asked if there were any questions about the bills. Director McPhail noted that bill SB22-029 on water speculation was very complicated and John noted that the District is opposed to this bill as there is already substantial anti-speculation law in statute and case law. General Manager Sonja Chavez said that if SB22-029 would pass, it would open a whole new can of worms and could actually be beneficial to speculators.

Counselor McCLOW also referred to the Court of Appeals decision included in the packet about a case involving “navigable water” that could go to the state Supreme Court for review. Director Perusek asked how this case might affect the District. John McCLOW said that in the case, the plaintiff is making the argument that “Because the river was navigable at statehood, then the riverbed is public land owned by the state of Colorado” and therefore, he was not trespassing when he was wading on the riverbed. John McCLOW noted that the criterion for navigability at statehood is whether this reach of the river was used for commerce. Director Joellen Fonken asked if an angler who does not have an angling business is considered “commerce” or is he just an angler? John McCLOW answered that he would be “just an angler.” John said that the Colorado Water Congress is supporting the landowner because the fisherman is asserting the public trust doctrine should exist in Colorado. The District opposes the public trust doctrine.

## **6. DINNER BREAK**

## **7. GOTHIC RAW WATER PROJECT PRESENTATION.**

Town of Crested Butte Director of Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Janna Hansen gave a presentation about Crested Butte’s “Gothic Raw Water Project” which was partially funded by the District. Janna reviewed the components of the project and said that the benefits are: (1) Water Savings; (2) Cost Savings; (3) System Reliability; and (4) Meeting Non-consumptive Goals. She said the total cost for Phase I and II of the project were \$216,539.63 and that the District provided grant funding in the amount of \$13,150 for Phase I and \$50,000 for Phase II. Director Rosemary Carroll asked if this will be the first summer raw water will be used to irrigate Gothic Park. Janna said that yes, ditch water will be run through the headgate on Coal

Creek to prime the system. Janna noted that the “irrigation smart clock system” is designed to save water through its monitoring capabilities. Janna showed a photo of the ballfield and Director Joellen Fonken noted that the fence around the ballfield would look good with banners highlighting the logos of the partners who gave financial support for the Gothic Raw Water Project. Janna said she would look into having these banners made for the outfield fence. Janna concluded that the Town of Crested Butte has submitted a grant for improvements to the Slate River Bridge and that she appreciates working collaboratively with the Basin communities on such projects.

## **8. BASIN WATER SUPPLY REPORT**

Water Resource Specialist Beverly Richards referred to the report included in the packet and said that not much has changed in spite of Crested Butte receiving 22 inches of snow last week. Bev said that while Lake City’s snowpack has improved with this last storm, they are still at 81 percent of normal and this is dragging down the average. As of the meeting time, Bev said the Basin’s total snowpack was at 106 percent of normal for this date.

## **9. TREASURER’S REPORT**

In his absence, Treasurer Bill Nesbitt sent an email for the Treasurer’s report. General Manager Sonja Chavez asked if there were any questions about it and none were raised.

## **10 A. DISCUSSION: Coordinated Emergency Response Planning**

General Manager Sonja Chavez noted that the recent wildfires have been very hot, fast-burning fires and that Colorado is suffering from the worst drought in 1200 years. In her memo in the Board packet, Sonja outlined steps the District is taking related to pre-wildfire mitigation planning efforts within the basin. With respect to ponds in the basin that can be used for fire suppression, she noted that only a third of them have water rights associated with them. She said the County Commissioners could require that these ponds not be drained at the end of the season, particularly since there is no definite end to wildfire season any longer.

Sonja noted that Jamie Gomez, executive director of the West Region Wildfire Council, will be making a presentation to Gunnison County on March 9 about efforts in this area. Sonja offered to share the details of this presentation with the Board. Sonja said that historically, the District has not had much interaction with emergency response teams and she would like to see the District become more involved in emergency planning for wildfires. She would like to research what other watersheds have done. Sonja noted that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) have grant funding available that might help the District move forward with next steps. Director Stacy McPhail noted that insurance companies are refusing to

cover some private homeowners due to wildfire risk and that those living in rural areas are paying much higher premiums for coverage. Stacy thinks the District should raise awareness to this fact and wondered how the District can support homeowners in the basin. Director Rebie Hazard reported that Saguache County does not have any emergency response plans in place with respect to wildfires. Sonja offered that with the Board's blessing, she will move forward with contacting emergency response personnel in the Basin and offer to be a resource for municipalities and counties to help develop wildfire mitigation plans.

## **10 B. DISCUSSION: Demand Management Market Concept**

General Manager Sonja Chavez referred to a memo included in the packet from the Colorado River District General Manager, Andy Mueller, regarding the Demand Management Conceptual Market Structure. Sonja noted that the comments in red were the responses they received during their public comment period. Sonja said the report was just informational at this time and she encouraged Board members to share this with their constituents, such as stockgrowers and municipalities. Sonja feels it is important that we stay informed and share it with people who may be affected during an emergency response. Director Stacy McPhail gave kudos to the River District for starting this conversation now so that we can be prepared should action be needed through an emergency response.

## **11. GENERAL MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **A. Homestake Pitch Uranium**

General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that at the last Board meeting, she was charged with writing a letter to the Water Quality Control Commission to express the Board's concerns about removing the drinking water standard from Homestake Mine's mitigation requirements. As it turns out, Homestake's proposal did not include a request to remove drinking water standards from Marshall Creek and instead included a request to have their temporary modification extended, which is better than having no drinking water standard at all. Therefore, staff decided to hold off on submitting a letter to the Saguache County Commissioners.

Sonja was approached by the CDPHE about considering serving on the water quality control board for the Western slope. Sonja did submit her letter of interest and had a follow-up interview but has not yet received word about an appointment. Director Stacy McPhail said that on behalf of the Executive Committee, "of course you have our support, Sonja, and it will be good to have more engagement at that level."

### **B. Gunnison Headwaters Mitigation Bank**

General Manager Sonja Chavez referred to her Memorandum in the packet and noted that it was clear that the Army Corps of Engineers took the District's concerns seriously. The District will continue to monitor the situation.

### **C. Community Banks Lake City CD**

General Manager Sonja Chavez referred to her Memorandum in the packet and said she would follow up with Treasurer Nesbitt when he returns to Gunnison.

### **D. District Phone System Upgrade**

General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that March 8<sup>th</sup> is scheduled for the rollover to the new Lightspeed phone system. She did note that there will be an increase in our expenses for the telephones of approximately \$2200. There was discussion about whether the District should keep a land line in case of emergencies. Sonja explained that if there is a power outage, the Lightspeed system will roll over to her cell phone. Staff Bev Richards noted that the last time service went out, all phones were down, even the landline and cell phones. Director Joellen Fonken noted that Emergency Services have satellite phones for such instances.

### **E. Cheatgrass**

General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that Gunnison County has taken the lead in trying to acquire a full-time coordinator to address the cheatgrass problem in the county. Sonja noted that there are grant funds available through the WaterSMART program to help with the situation. She also recommended that the Board consider adding a line item for \$5,000 to the District's budget for 2023 and the following two years to help support the salary of a full-time cheatgrass coordinator. Sonja said preliminary discussions were considering a salary of approximately \$75,000 per year for this position. After the first three years, the County could then decide if they want to continue to seek funding for the position.

Director Joellen Fonken asked if she could "wear the Board hat" on behalf of the District and gather a group of volunteers to help pull cheatgrass on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March for a Gunnison Trails work day. The Board consensus was in support of Joellen's involvement and also moving forward with supporting the County in hiring a full-time cheatgrass coordinator.

### **E. Staff Reports**

#### **(1.) Wet Meadows Program**

Watershed Program Coordinator Cheryl Cwelich referred to her update included in the packet and said she is excited for the season as the schedule is now all planned out. Cheryl noted that she and Sonja have been in contact with the Colorado Natural Heritage Program and Colorado State University to discuss negotiating their indirect cost rate for vegetation monitoring. Staff feels their rate of 52 percent is too high. Cheryl will have more to report at the next Board meeting.

## **(2.) Grant Program**

Water Resource Specialist Beverly Richards reported that the District received **15** applications for grant funding for a total of \$346,516. The Grant Committee will meet on March 2<sup>nd</sup> to review the applications.

Director Andy Spann disclosed that Spann Ranches has applied for a grant under the program and that he will recuse himself from this application review. He also said that having gone through the process, he has some suggestions for the next grant application process.

Bev also reported that Mountain Roots is requesting a second extension to complete their grant requirements.

**Director Andy Spann moved and Director Rosemary Carroll seconded a motion to approve a second extension for Mountain Roots to complete their grant requirements.**

## **(3.) Education and Outreach**

Communications Support Specialist Sue Uerling referred to her update included in the packet and said any Board members interested in handing out “Drop” books to Gunnison Elementary School first graders on March 21 at 2:50 p.m., to please let her know. She also asked if there were any Board members interested in being on a two-person team to represent the District in the Rotary Club Fishing Tournament on May 7 and 8, to please let her know.

## **F. Miscellaneous Reports**

### **(1.) Gunnison River Festival (GRF) Update**

Director Joellen Fonken said festival plans were coming along and that the schedule was similar to pre-Covid festivals with the addition of more interest in activities at Lake San Cristobal. She reported that the GRF Board is reconsidering the prize monies involved. Joellen said she would have more specific details on the schedule following their March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

### **(2.) Scientific Endeavors Update**

Director Rosemary Carroll presented a Power Point from an ongoing research study by her colleague Nicola Falco. The study is being conducted in the upper portion of the East River and is looking at the link between snow drought and its effects on water quality.

### **(3.) Colorado Water Congress Review**

Director Stacy McPhail said she really enjoyed being at the Colorado Water Congress Conference in person and that it was valuable to sit across the table from people who disagree with you. She said it was a good lesson about the crucial issues revolving around water. She said she especially enjoyed the fireside chat between the attorney generals from Colorado and Wyoming. She also commended Legal Counsel John McClow for his role in serving on the panel discussing the 100 year anniversary of the Colorado River Compact. She encouraged Board members to attend future conferences if they are able.

### **(4.) Standard Monthly Reports – Solar Panels, Gunnison River Spreadsheet, News Articles**

There was some discussion about a few of the news articles included in the packet, including questions about what the county and state are considering in terms of “reservoir storage” to meet emergency needs.

### **Taylor Local Users Group**

Director Don Sabrowski asked whether the group should consider adjusting releases to meet the year-end maximum fill target for Taylor Reservoir, as has been suggested by Ernie Cockrell. Legal Counsel John McClow said that negotiations went on for years in developing the Stipulation which establishes the minimum target and that target controls. Director Sabrowski said that he worries that if TLUG tries to base releases to maintain the maximum year-end level, then they will be choking users downstream. Director Andy Spann said he felt the TLUG representatives did a good job of considering everyone’s preferences for releases this last season during a very dry year. He said this is especially challenging because the forecasts are not always correct. He hopes everyone will be as conservative as possible with their requests this year. There were discussions about how ASO and additional gauges might help with a more accurate forecast. There were also discussions about how the refill of Spring Creek Reservoir could affect the availability of water this summer. Dan Brauch of Colorado Parks and Wildlife has said that he wants to refill the reservoir over the winter. There were also questions about whether or not the District could work in cooperation with CPW in supplementing releases. John McClow said that the refill will occur in priority and that we can again try negotiating with the CPW. In the past, they have not been willing to talk about it.

## **12. DIRECTOR UPDATES**

**Director Stacy McPhail:** Stacy said in her district, there is a lot of concern about grazing on public lands and how the environmental group that filed the lawsuit might affect such grazing. She just hopes the court's decision is good for the sage grouse, but based on safe, sound science. She feels these public grazing issues are going to be raised all over the western states.

**Director Rebie Hazard:** Rebie said at her ranch, it has been warmer at night than in the town of Saguache and this has rarely been the case in the past. She is also concerned about the lack of snow in her area, but was happy to see that the mountain peaks looked good today on her drive in. She also said she has had some questions from constituents about the additional personnel the District has hired. There was discussion that we need to be sure our public outreach is showing that we are taking on many more projects and responsibilities than in the past, and thus, there is a need for additional personnel to meet all of our needs.

**Director Rosemary Carroll:** Rosemary said with the data she is collecting for her work projects; she is concerned to see a significant drop in the amount of water in the snow. She has also noted that there have been fewer, but bigger storms during this season with a lot of water loss due to vapor transport. She said the most recent snows have all been "sugar" with very little water content.

**Director Andy Spann:** Andy said that with his grandfather, Lee, and his father, Ken, serving on the District Board for many years, he feels there has been an increase of ag producers paying attention to what the District is doing with a lot more questions about Demand Management. They are all hoping that Blue Mesa fills this spring.

**Director John Perusek:** John said that as a member of the City Planning and Zoning Commission, there is concern about how to get water to the upper reaches of the new Gunnison Rising project. General Manager Sonja Chavez noted that this is one of the issues that was discussed on a recent meeting with the City, herself and Applegate Engineering. She said Applegate is looking into possible improvements/replacement of city water pipe lines and improvements to the city ditches and how to appropriate all of the needs of the users together into the best solution.

**Director Stacy McPhail:** Stacy noted that she thought it was a very good exercise for her and Sonja to help the Town of CB develop their core values for their Community Compass project.

## **13. CITIZEN UPDATES**

Guest presenter Janna Hansen announced Mt. Emmons Mining Company is holding an Open House at Crested Butte Town Hall on Wednesday, March 2 from 2 to 4 p.m. primarily regarding the exchange of land around Long Lake through the CB Land Trust and the US Forest Service. She said the public is invited to provide input about conservation easements.

#### **14. FUTURE MEETINGS**

A listing of upcoming meetings was included in the Board packet.

During this segment of the meeting, Director Rebie Hazard asked if any of the other Directors had been approached about mining for rare metals on their property. Discussion followed about the need for better infrastructure and practices for recycling lithium batteries and the blades used by wind turbines.

General Manager Sonja Chavez asked if the Board would be in favor of the District coordinating with the area newspapers about providing a monthly or quarterly Q&A segment on issues affecting District water users, such as Demand Management or the public's perception on new District hirings. The overall consensus was in favor of this with Director Joellen Fonken noting that she felt this should be included at no additional cost to the District since we already pay for advertising.

#### **15. SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS**

**General Manager Sonja Chavez will coordinate with Gunnison County to get more information to bring back to the District on their plans to move forward with hiring a full-time Cheatgrass Coordinator.**

**Sonja will draft a letter to Saguache County Commissioners regarding Homestake Mine's recent proposal to the Water Quality Commission with respect to their removal of the drinking water quality standard.**

**Legal Counsel John McClow will reach out again to Dan Brauch/Colorado Parks and Wildlife about the possibility of collaborating on supplemental water from Spring Creek Reservoir.**

**Sonja will develop a plan of how best to work with the area newspapers to have a regular monthly or quarterly article, perhaps in a Q&A format, about issues affecting District water users.**

**Director Joellen Fonken will send Board members details about a cheatgrass pull workday later in March.**

**Water Resource Specialist Beverly Richards will send the Board details about the March 9th Forest Health team meeting.**

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Stacy McPhail adjourned the February 28, 2022 board meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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John Perusek, Secretary

APPROVED:

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Stacy McPhail, Vice President

# Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

## Monthly Budget Summary 2022

	Feb 22	YTD 2022	2022 Budget	% Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
General Income				
Asp Water Sales	0.00	0.00	22,510.00	0.0%
Aspinall Fee Income	20.00	20.00		
Interest Income	43.74	841.53	20,000.00	0.0%
Property Tax Income	65,265.21	75,247.59	1,609,542.00	0.0%
Total General Income	65,328.95	76,109.12	1,652,052.00	0.0%
Grant Income				
BLM L17AC00255	0.00	0.00	134,666.00	0.0%
BLM L19AC00207 Silt	0.00	0.00	46,000.00	0.0%
Cloud Seeding Grant Income CWCi	0.00	0.00	23,750.00	0.0%
CWCB 2019-2891 Grant Inc	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.0%
CWCB 2020-2113 Grant Inc	0.00	0.00	16,000.00	0.0%
NFWF Landscape	0.00	149,637.00	0.00	0.0%
NFWF Phase II Grant Income	0.00	0.00	107,400.00	0.0%
NPS 2021-4821 Grant Inc	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
TU Restore Grant Inc	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.0%
Watershed Restore Program Inc	0.00	0.00	135,500.00	0.0%
WMP CWCB PO TBD Inc	0.00	0.00	150,000.00	0.0%
Total Grant Income	0.00	149,637.00	693,316.00	0.0%
Program Income				
Watershed Mgmt Income	8,000.00	43,430.75	0.00	0.0%
WQ Monitoring Inc	0.00	0.00	35,570.00	0.0%
Total Program Income	8,000.00	43,430.75	35,570.00	0.0%
Reimbursed Exp Income				
Cloud Seeding Reimb/Cost Share	23,750.00	23,750.00	69,000.00	0.0%
GRF Reimbursed Income	-196.87	-196.87		
Misc Income	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
UGRAWE 4.46% OpX Reimbursed Inc	0.00	8,418.00	33,297.00	0.0%
Total Reimbursed Exp Income	23,553.13	31,971.13	103,297.00	0.0%
Unspent Funds from Previous Yr	0.00	0.00	9,379.00	0.0%
Total Income	96,882.08	301,148.00	2,493,614.00	0.0%
Cost of Goods Sold				
COST Grants				
BLM Coop L17AC00255 COST	675.34	675.34	0.00	0.0%
BLM L19AC00207 Silt COST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Cloud Seeding COST	13,137.63	30,428.01	0.00	0.0%
CWCB 2022-2085 (Restore) COST	20,000.00	20,000.00		
CWCB 2019-2891 COST	726.25	726.25	0.00	0.0%
CWCB 2020-2113 COST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
CWCB WtrShed Restore Grant COST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
NFWF Phase II COST	2,432.59	2,432.59	0.00	0.0%
NPS PO 2021-4821 COST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%

# Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

## Monthly Budget Summary 2022

	Feb 22	YTD 2022	2022 Budget	% Budget
NRCS Grant Exp COST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
TU Restore Grant COST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
USFS PA-2 17-PA COST	489.03	489.03	0.00	0.0%
USFS SPA 2018 COST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total COST Grants	37,460.84	54,751.22	0.00	0.0%
Total COGS	37,460.84	54,751.22	0.00	0.0%
Gross Profit	59,421.24	246,396.78	2,493,614.00	0.0%
Expense				
1 Op X				
Audit and Accounting	750.00	2,475.00	7,500.00	0.0%
Board Expenses	2,117.03	3,317.03	15,000.00	0.0%
Board Mtg Fees	800.00	2,800.00	13,360.00	0.0%
BOD Mileage	106.48	206.75	2,200.00	0.0%
Bonding and Insurance	0.00	0.00	12,003.00	0.0%
Building Rep/Maint	-13,586.53	-12,343.57	10,000.00	0.0%
Computer Exp	0.00	1,919.98		
Computer, Internet, Lexis	400.00	992.92		
County Treasurers' Fees	723.51	781.95	46,237.00	0.0%
Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	1,335.50	1,335.50	5,222.00	0.0%
Election Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Legal Publication	14.94	2,651.26	6,000.00	0.0%
Manager's Discretionary	0.00	102.53	3,000.00	0.0%
Meeting Expenses	103.50	525.47	3,500.00	0.0%
Office Equipment Exp	1,341.06	3,463.33	21,500.00	0.0%
Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	6,767.38	12,932.49	21,250.00	0.0%
Payroll Exp				
Admin.Travel & Exp.	2,211.02	6,487.78	19,000.00	0.0%
CRA Retirement Plan	5,443.10	5,443.10	32,659.00	0.0%
Medical Insurance	4,529.86	7,791.39	34,425.00	0.0%
Payroll Taxes	3,650.59	7,178.64	39,092.00	0.0%
Salaries - Admin	28,250.00	56,500.00	339,000.00	0.0%
Salaries - Staff	17,749.28	35,498.56	164,117.00	0.0%
Staff Development	0.00	326.00	9,000.00	0.0%
Work Comp Ins	540.00	540.00	3,700.00	0.0%
Total Payroll Exp	62,373.85	119,765.47	640,993.00	0.0%
Postage	0.00	874.84	1,500.00	0.0%
Public Outreach				
Donation GRF	0.00	10,500.00	10,500.00	0.0%
Mini-Grants	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.0%
Public Ed./Advertising				
Internship	314.00	314.00	800.00	39.25%
Public Ed./Advertising - Other	1,680.00	4,128.75	28,140.00	14.67%
Total Public Ed./Advertising	1,994.00	4,442.75	28,940.00	0.0%
Youth Conservation Corps	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%

# Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

## Monthly Budget Summary 2022

	Feb 22	YTD 2022	2022 Budget	% Budget
Total Public Outreach	1,994.00	14,942.75	41,940.00	0.0%
Software Exp	120.00	241.29		
Telephone	981.18	1,863.28	7,110.00	0.0%
Utilities, Clean, Condo Dues	790.39	2,035.24	15,516.00	0.0%
Vehicle Expenses - Toyota Highl	0.00	151.33	4,525.00	0.0%
Total 1 Op X	67,132.29	161,034.84	878,356.00	0.0%
2 Non-Op X				
Asp Subordination Report	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.0%
Aspinall Contract Costs	-59.17	-59.17	18,550.00	0.0%
Consulting/Engineering	595.00	1,360.00	15,000.00	0.0%
Endanger Fish Recovery Program	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.0%
LSC Expenses	0.00	0.00	13,464.00	0.0%
RMBL (Basinwide Planning X)	0.00	0.00	421,500.00	0.0%
RWSI Expense	26,814.41	26,888.41	729,566.00	0.0%
Spencer Ave Res Exp	-10,000.00	-10,000.00	10,000.00	0.0%
Taylor Park Projects Exp	0.00	0.00	7,436.00	0.0%
Watershed Mgmt X	13,257.50	16,047.50		
WQ Monitoring	0.00	0.00	149,691.00	0.0%
Total 2 Non-Op X	30,607.74	34,236.74	1,373,207.00	0.0%
Total Expense	97,740.03	195,271.58	2,251,563.00	0.0%
Net Ordinary Income	-38,318.79	51,125.20	242,051.00	0.0%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Expense				
Contingency	0.00	0.00	24,000.00	0.0%
Total Other Expense	0.00	0.00	24,000.00	0.0%
Net Other Income	0.00	0.00	-24,000.00	0.0%
Net Income	-38,318.79	51,125.20	218,051.00	0.0%

# BANK AND BOND BALANCES - UGRWCD and UGRWAE

UGRWCD	Instrument	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	Date
Account Name	Type	2/28/2022	Basis	Rate	Date	Callable
LPL Bond 27 CUSIP 91282CDR9 Treasury Note	BOND	\$ 395,250.00	\$ 394,661.19	1.475%	12/31/2023	
LPL Bond 17 (FHLB) CUSIP 91282CDH1 Treasury Note	BOND	203,910.83	204,335.35	1.680%	11/15/2024	10/18/2021
LPL 19 Pac. Western CD thru LPL CUSIP 69506 YR	CD	247,430.89	245,000.00	1.200%	4/17/2023	
LPL Bond 20 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130 AJLA 5	BOND	543,537.50	550,000.00	0.750%	5/19/2025	5/19/2021
LPL Bond 21 (Fed Farm) CUSIP 3133 EL3P7	BOND	337,840.21	345,000.00	0.530%	8/12/2025	8/12/2022
LPL 22 Merrick Bank CD thru LPL CUSIP 59013KLRS	CD	244,891.25	249,000.00	0.350%	12/30/2024	
LPL Bond 23 (FEDL) CUSIP 3130ALLD4	BOND	245,942.25	250,000.00	0.875%	3/17/2026	9/17/2021
LPL Money Market Account	M.M.	14,330.85	-	0.010%	N/A	
LPL Bond 24 CUSIP 3130AMDY5 Fedl Home Loan	BOND	493,273.50	500,000.00	1.000%	5/20/2026	5/20/2022
LPL CD 25 Sallie Mae Bank CUSIP 795451 AA1	CD	243,258.05	245,000.00	0.550%	7/22/2024	
LPL 26 (Fed. Home Loan Banks) CUSIP 3130 APBE	BOND	157,261.12	160,000.00	1.000%	9/30/2026	9/30/2022
Mountain View Bank Money Market	M.M.	106,436.81			3/27/2023	
Bank of the West Checking	CHKG	339,931.17		0.010%	N/A	
Bank of the West CD 046907721	CD	105,411.54		0.350%	12/22/2022	
Community Banks of Colo. CD 0420	CD	51,564.17		0.400%	9/26/2022	
Comm. Banks of Colo. Lake City CD # 97668	CD	104,170.48		0.500%	5/20/2023	
Community Banks of Colo. CD	CD	90,201.45		0.950%	6/20/2022	
10520 Gunnison Bank & Trust CD 26637	CD	200,000.00		1.900%	2/26/2025	
10540 GB&T - Spencer Avenue Reserve 2223589	SAV	50,091.77		0.150%	N/A	
101140 Gunnison Savings & Loan CD 5011	CD	109,845.21		1.750%	8/10/2022	
101149 Gunnison Savings & Loan CD 26637	CD	151,706.08		2.050%	10/18/2024	
10295 COLOTRUST PLUS+	COLOTRUST	282,148.85		0.1140%	N/A	
10290 COLOTRUST PRIME	COLOTRUST	168,146.31		0.0246%	N/A	
10200 Petty Cash	PETTY	100.00		N/A	N/A	
<b>TOTAL UGRWCD</b>		<b>\$ 4,886,680.29</b>				

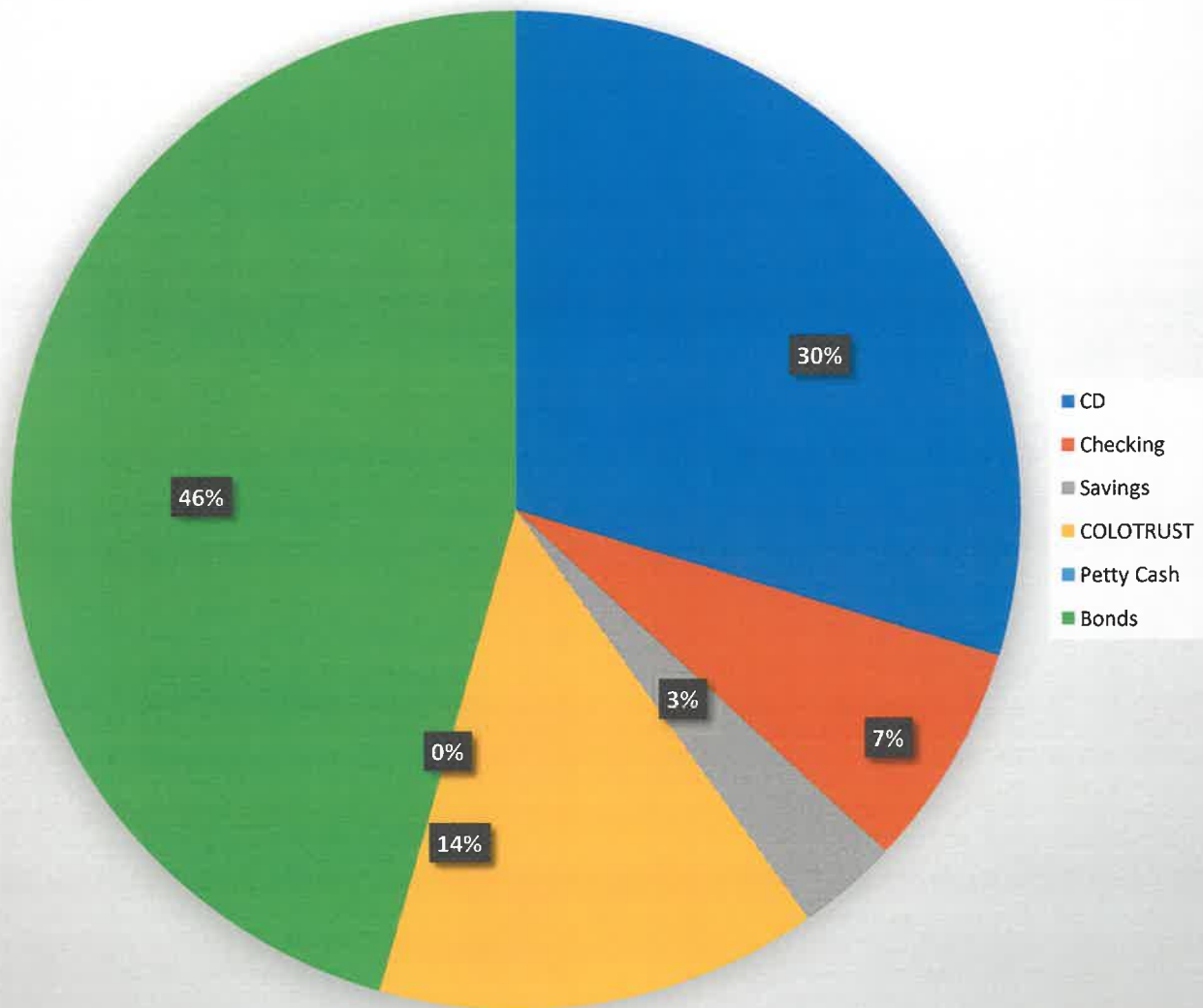
UGRWAE	Balance	Interest	Maturity
Account Name	2/28/2022	Rate	Date
3 Bank of the West Checking	\$ 37,797.32	N/A	N/A
7 COLOTRUST PLUS+	289,676.88	0.1140%	N/A
<b>TOTAL UGRWAE</b>	<b>\$ 327,474.20</b>		
<b>TOTAL UGRWCD + UGRWAE</b>	<b>\$ 5,214,154.49</b>		

Total UGRWCD and UGRWAE by Bank			Total UGRWCD & UGRWAE by Investment Type		
LPL Financial (Was Sigma)	\$ 3,126,926.45	60%	CD	30%	\$ 1,548,479.12
Mountain View Bank	106,436.81	2%	Checking	7%	377,728.49
Bank of the West	483,140.03	9%	Savings	3%	170,859.43
Community Banks of Colo.	245,936.10	5%	COLOTRUST	14%	739,972.04
Gunnison Bank & Trust	250,091.77	5%	Petty Cash	0%	100.00
Gunnison Savings & Loan	261,551.29	5%	Bonds	46%	\$ 2,377,015.41
COLOTRUST	739,972.04	14%	<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 5,214,154.49</b>
Petty Cash	100.00	0%			
<b>TOTAL ALL BANKS</b>	<b>\$ 5,214,154.49</b>	<b>100%</b>			

### UGRWCD & UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE

CD	30%	\$ 1,548,479.12
Checking	7%	377,728.49
Savings	3%	170,859.43
COLOTRUST	14%	739,972.04
Petty Cash	0%	100.00
Bonds	46%	\$ 2,377,015.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$5,214,154.49</b>

### UGRWCD + UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE



1:04 PM  
03/15/22  
Accrual Basis

## Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

Expenses for Approval  
February 25 through March 31, 2022

Date	Memo	Account	Amount
Alan Wartes Media LLC			
03/01/2022	3/1/22 Statement Adv. # 521	Public Ed./Advertising	256.00
03/01/2022	3/1/22 Statement Adv. # 521	Legal Publication	61.36
03/01/2022	TLUG	Legal Publication	422.40
03/01/2022	Grant Program	Legal Publication	264.00
Total Alan Wartes Media LLC			1,003.76
Andy Spann BOD			
02/28/2022		Board Mtg Fees	100.00
02/28/2022		BOD Mileage	4.10
Total Andy Spann BOD			104.10
Anthem			
03/07/2022		Medical Insurance	273.87
Total Anthem			273.87
Atmos Energy			
03/11/2022		Utilities, Clean, Condo Dues	117.29
03/14/2022		Utilities, Clean, Condo Dues	135.49
Total Atmos Energy			252.78
Bank Card Center			
02/28/2022	includes Lightspeed pre-pay	Telephone	799.96
02/28/2022	7948	Building Rep/Maint	367.25
02/28/2022	7948	Office Supplies & Misc Expen...	5,800.09
02/28/2022	7948	Dues, Memberships&Subscrip...	1,237.50
02/28/2022	7948	Vehicle Expenses - Toyota Hi...	
02/28/2022	7948	Meeting Expenses	103.50
02/28/2022	7948	Office Equipment Exp	462.40
02/28/2022	7948	Public Ed./Advertising	
02/28/2022	7948	Admin.Travel & Exp.	2,286.91
02/28/2022	7948	Board Expenses	522.30
02/28/2022	7948	GRF Reimbursed Income	196.87
Total Bank Card Center			11,776.78
BIO-Logic Inc			
02/27/2022		BLM Coop L17AC00255 COST	675.34
02/27/2022		USFS PA-2 17-PA COST	489.03
02/27/2022		NFWF Phase II COST	512.34

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Accrual Basis

## Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

Expenses for Approval  
February 25 through March 31, 2022

Date	Memo	Account	Amount
Total BIO-Logic Inc			1,676.71
Crested Butte News			
02/25/2022	2/25/22 Statement	Public Ed./Advertising	100.00
02/25/2022	2/25/22 Statement	Legal Publication	14.94
Total Crested Butte News			114.94
Don Sabrowski BOD			
02/28/2022	Meeting Fee	Board Mtg Fees	100.00
02/28/2022	Mileage	BOD Mileage	18.72
Total Don Sabrowski BOD			118.72
GL Computer Service, Inc.			
03/01/2022	March	Computer, Internet, Lexis	400.00
Total GL Computer Service, Inc.			400.00
Hartman Brothers, Inc.			
03/01/2022	Cloud Seeding - Irwin Remote	RWSI Expense	26.18
Total Hartman Brothers, Inc.			26.18
Jill Steele			
03/08/2022	Medicare Part, Supplement, R...	Medical Insurance	615.60
03/08/2022	Medicare Part, Supplement, R...	Medical Insurance	126.09
Total Jill Steele			741.69
Joellen Fonken BOD			
02/28/2022		Board Mtg Fees	100.00
02/28/2022		BOD Mileage	5.85
Total Joellen Fonken BOD			105.85
John McClow			
03/08/2022		Medical Insurance	250.50
Total John McClow			250.50
John Murphy			
03/14/2022	19 hrs. x \$12.56/hour	Internship	0.00

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## Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

03/15/22

## Expenses for Approval

Accrual Basis

February 25 through March 31, 2022

Date	Memo	Account	Amount
03/14/2022	Feb. 14 - March 12 2022	Internship	238.64
Total John Murphy			238.64
John Perusek BOD			
02/28/2022		Board Mtg Fees	100.00
Total John Perusek BOD			100.00
Microsoft			
03/09/2022		Software Exp	120.00
Total Microsoft			120.00
Nationwide			
03/04/2022	BD 7900662639	Bonding and Insurance	401.00
Total Nationwide			401.00
QuickBooks Payroll Service			
03/15/2022	Fee for 1 direct deposit(s) at \$...	Payroll Taxes	1.75
Total QuickBooks Payroll Service			1.75
Rebie Hazard-BOD			
02/28/2022		Board Mtg Fees	100.00
02/28/2022		BOD Mileage	34.52
Total Rebie Hazard-BOD			134.52
RigNet Inc			
02/28/2022	Cloud Seeding	RWSI Expense	47.66
Total RigNet Inc			47.66
Rosemary Carroll - BOD			
02/28/2022		Board Mtg Fees	100.00
02/28/2022		BOD Mileage	35.10
Total Rosemary Carroll - BOD			135.10
Sara Bergstrom BOD			
02/28/2022		Board Mtg Fees	100.00

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03/15/22  
Accrual Basis

## Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

Expenses for Approval  
February 25 through March 31, 2022

Date	Memo	Account	Amount
Total Sara Bergstrom BOD			100.00
Silver World Publishing			
03/01/2022 25124		Public Ed./Advertising	80.00
Total Silver World Publishing			80.00
Sonja Chavez			
03/07/2022 2/18 Town CB Community Co...		Admin.Travel & Exp.	30.42
Total Sonja Chavez			30.42
Stacy McPhail BOD			
02/28/2022 Meeting Fee		Board Mtg Fees	100.00
02/28/2022 Mileage		BOD Mileage	8.19
Total Stacy McPhail BOD			108.19
The Paper Clip			
02/28/2022		Office Supplies & Misc Expen...	228.45
Total The Paper Clip			228.45
The Saguache Crescent			
02/25/2022 September 2021 - September ...		Dues, Memberships&Subscrip...	18.00
Total The Saguache Crescent			18.00
Tomichi Creek Eco Systems Services LLC			
03/01/2022 Wet Meadows		RWSI Expense	1,556.64
Total Tomichi Creek Eco Systems Services LLC			1,556.64
Trout Unlimited - WMP			
03/07/2022 Invoice # 10		Watershed Mgmt X	4,725.00
Total Trout Unlimited - WMP			4,725.00
UnitedHealthcare			
03/07/2022		Medical Insurance	103.90
Total UnitedHealthcare			103.90
Verizon Wireless			

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# Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

03/15/22

## Expenses for Approval

Accrual Basis

February 25 through March 31, 2022

Date	Memo	Account	Amount
03/03/2022	Account 071411598-00001	Telephone	300.72
Total Verizon Wireless			300.72
TOTAL			25,275.87



**BANK OF THE WEST**  
BNP PARIBAS

BANKCARD CENTER  
PO BOX 84043  
COLUMBUS GA 31908-4043

1245CHIA - 003719 - 0001 - 0003 -

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS \*\*N0003719  
210 W SPENCER AVE STE B  
GUNNISON CO 81230-2544

Account Number XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948

Payment Due Date MAR 25, 2022

Amount Due \$11,776.78

Current Balance \$11,776.78

**\*\*PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT\*\***  
**DO NOT REMIT PAYMENT**

Amount Enclosed

\$11,776.78

5868 250 13 55693 2000 1527948

000 1 177678

### ACCOUNT MESSAGES

Your Bank of the West Mastercard includes an additional benefit: Mastercard ID Theft Protection with access to complimentary Identity Theft resolution services. The benefit also helps prevent identity theft by monitoring the Internet to identify compromised and potentially damaging use of personal information. To enroll your card, please visit: <https://mastercardus.idprotectiononline.com>.

### CORPORATE ACCOUNT SUMMARY

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948 Company Total	Previous Balance	Purchases + & Other Debits	Cash Advances	Finance Charges	Credits	Payments	New Balance
	\$5,059.68	\$11,776.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,059.68	\$11,776.78

### CARDHOLDER NEW ACTIVITY SUMMARY

CHERYL CWELICH XXXX-XXXX-0182-5532 Credit Limit \$3,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$367.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$367.25
SONJA CHAVEZ XXXX-XXXX-0153-1676 Credit Limit \$12,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$9,259.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,259.81
JOHN MCCLOW XXXX-XXXX-0153-1684 Credit Limit \$12,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$574.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$574.20

For Customer Service, Call:

1-866-432-8161

#### Account Number

XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948

#### Account Summary

Previous Balance \$5,059.68

Purchases &  
Other Charges \$11,776.78

Statement Date

FEB 28, 2022

Payment Due Date

MAR 25, 2022

Cash Advances \$0.00

Cash  
Advance Fees \$0.00

Credit Limit

\$100,000

Available Credit

\$88,223.22

Late Charge \$0.00

Finance Charges \$0.00

Credits \$0.00

Amount Due

\$11,776.78

Disputed Amount

\$0.00

Payments \$5,059.68

New Balance \$11,776.78

**\*\*For Autopay Accounts, a pre-authorized  
payment will be processed by your Bank  
prior to the payment due date\*\***

**All other inquiries can be sent to:**  
BANKCARD CENTER  
PO BOX 84043  
COLUMBUS GA 31908-4043

received  
03/18/22



### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS STATEMENT

**Payments.** You must pay at least the "Amount Due" by the "Payment Due Date." Charges, payments and credits received after the "Closing Date" will be included in your next statement. The letters "CR" following the "New Balance" amount indicate a credit balance - do not pay this amount. Payments must reach our BankCard Center during our regular business day in order to be credited on that date. Payments received after the cutoff times of 6:00 p.m. on a Friday (or Thursday if we are closed on Friday) or 4:00 p.m. on any other business day that we are open, or on a day we are not open, or at a branch open on Saturday, Sunday or bank holiday, are credited as of the following business day. Later cutoff times generally apply at branches with extended hours. Business days shall mean Monday through Friday, except for bank holidays. If you fail to properly make payments, crediting such payments may be delayed.

**Order of Application.** We will apply your payments first to any membership fee or other fees, next to any finance charge or late charge, next to any Cash Advances included in your "Previous Balance," then to Purchases in your "Previous Balances."

**Unauthorized Use.** In the event of possible loss, theft or unauthorized use, Company agrees to notify us immediately. Company may be liable for the unauthorized use of any Card issued under the Corporate Credit Card Agreement. If 10 or more cards are issued pursuant to the Corporate Credit Card Agreement, Company shall be strictly liable for any unauthorized use. If fewer than 10 Cards are issued pursuant to the Corporate Credit Card Agreement, Company will not be liable for unauthorized use of the Card which occurs after it notifies us orally at 1-866-432-8161, or in writing at BANKCARD CENTER, PO BOX 84043, COLUMBUS, GA 31908-4043 of loss, theft, or possible unauthorized use, and Company's liability for unauthorized use of the Card will not exceed \$50.00 per Card for use of a Card by anyone other than an Employee prior to notice to us. However, a Card in the possession and control of an Employee, even after his or her authority to use the Card has been revoked by Company, is not considered lost or stolen, and its use by such Employee is not unauthorized. Company must recover the Card from the Employee. Company agrees to assist us in determining the facts and circumstances relating to any unauthorized use of a Card.

Statement Date	FEB 28, 2022	Payment Due Date	MAR 25, 2022
Credit Limit	\$100,000	Amount Due	\$11,776.78
Cash Advance Balance	\$0.00	New Balance	\$11,776.78
Available Credit	\$88,223.22		
UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS			
XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948			

## CARDHOLDER NEW ACTIVITY SUMMARY

BEVERLY RICHARDS XXXX-XXXX-0153-1692 Credit Limit \$3,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$745.17	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$745.17
JILL STEELE XXXX-XXXX-0153-1700 Credit Limit \$3,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$830.35	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$830.35

## FINANCE CHARGE SUMMARY

	Average Daily Balance	Daily Periodic Rate	Corresponding Annual Percentage Rate	Periodic Finance Charge
PURCHASES	\$0.00	0.0226%	08.24%	\$0.00
CASH ADVANCES	\$0.00	0.0493%	18.00%	\$0.00

## CORPORATE ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948				TOTAL CORPORATE ACTIVITY \$5,059.68 CR
Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
02-22	02-22		PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT	5,059.68 CR

## CORPORATE REWARDS INFORMATION

For Reward Points Balance Including Earned and Redeemed Points, please visit

[www.bankofthewestcorporaterewards.com](http://www.bankofthewestcorporaterewards.com) or call 1-800-921-6407

## CARDHOLDER ACTIVITY

CHERYL CWELICH XXXX-XXXX-0182-5532	PURCHASES \$367.25	CASH ADVANCES \$0.00	CREDITS \$0.00	TOTAL ACTIVITY \$367.25
Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
02-28	02-25	82305092057000002359155 Tax ID: 201622592 Mer Zip: 94025	ONLINE PHOTO ORDER MENLO PARK CA	367.25
SONJA CHAVEZ XXXX-XXXX-0153-1676	PURCHASES \$9,259.81	CASH ADVANCES \$0.00	CREDITS \$0.00	TOTAL ACTIVITY \$9,259.81
Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
01-31	01-27	02305372028200076695738 Tax ID: 274650355 Mer Zip: 80206 Origin Zip: 80206	THE CHERRY CRICKET DENVER CO	184.90
01-31	01-28	05436842028300238160667 Tax ID: 480196590 Mer Zip: 80433 Origin Zip: 80433 Time: 13:57 Srv Type: SELF Qty: 10.851 Unit: GAL Unit Cost: 3.56 Sale Amt: 38.62 Mer ID: 4445027828194 Mer Addr: 7 CONIFER RD	KING SOOPERS # 0687 FU CONIFER CO	38.62

**CARDHOLDER ACTIVITY**

Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
01-31	01-28	55432862029200948313711	PANERA BREAD #202449 P LAKEWOOD CO Tran: 0000000000000000 Tax ID: 824580175 Mer Ref: 005790 Mer Zip: 80401	58.85
01-31	01-28	02305372029100120373614	OFFICE DEPOT # 2799 ARVADA CO Tran: 279920220 Tax ID: 592663954 Mer Ref: 27992022012800100 Mer Zip: 80002 Origin Zip: 80002 Dest Zip: 80002 Dest Ctry: USA Tax: 13.05 Product Code: 8517865 Desc: WP,MOMENTUM,MESH,HB,CHAIR,BLK Qty: 1 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 289.99 Product Code: 8216608 Desc: 2Y CHAIR PROTPLN 149.99-899.99 Qty: 1 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 7.99	311.03
01-31	01-28	55436872029260293286164	HYATT REGENCY AURORA AURORA CO Arrival Date: 01/25/22 Departure Date: 01/28/22 Invoice Number: 0012472096 Tran: 0012472096 Tax ID: 320445050 Mer Zip: 80011-6443	522.30
01-31	01-28	55436872029260293287113	HYATT REGENCY AURORA AURORA CO Arrival Date: 01/25/22 Departure Date: 01/28/22 Invoice Number: 0012446314 Tran: 0012446314 Tax ID: 320445050 Mer Zip: 80011-6443	522.30
02-02	02-01	55500362032206297900233	GUNNISON FIBER-MESH NE 9702096920 CO Tran: 06970000232170002 Tax ID: 830313552 Mer Ref: 3194485707 Mer Zip: 81230 Origin Zip: 81230 Dest Ctry: USA	222.08
02-14	02-10	75140512042042000000942	GOBINS INC PUEBLO CO Tax ID: 900117005 Mer Zip: 81003	151.37
02-14	02-11	75418232042140477007570	EIG*BLUEHOST.COM 888-4014678 UT Tran: 1322852 Tax ID: 201303988 Mer Zip: 84606 Product Code: BHHOSTING Desc: BlueHost Qty: 1 Unit: EAC Unit Cost: 186.87 Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 186.87	186.87
02-16	02-15	55432862046200055183518	IN *SPECIAL DISTRICT A 303-8631733 CO Tax ID: 770034661 Mer Ref: AQ811MRF Mer Zip: 80203-1614	1,237.50
02-17	02-15	55458852047083765355470	DENVER POST CIRCULATIO 3038323232 CO Tran: 12392022021507352 Tax ID: 760425553 Mer Ref: 202009971 Mer Zip: 80202 Origin Zip: 80202 Dest Zip: 812302544 Dest Ctry: USA Product Code: SUBSCRIPTION Desc: DENVER POST Qty: 1 Unit: ITM Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 11.99	11.99
02-21	02-18	55421352049627155991436	ESRI REDLANDS CA Tax ID: 952775732 Mer Zip: 92373	5,500.00
02-21	02-21	05227022052500223537966	CLUB 20 970-242-3264 CO Tax ID: 840577512 Mer Zip: 81501	150.00
02-23	02-23	05227022054500202306738	CLUB 20 970-242-3264 CO Tax ID: 840577512 Mer Zip: 81501	150.00
02-24	02-24	55432862055200541641788	INTUIT *PayrollEE usag CL.INTUIT.COMCA Tax ID: 770034661 Mer Ref: T1-3669b0-7f Mer Zip: 92129	12.00

JOHN MCCLOW  
XXXX-XXXX-0153-1684

PURCHASES  
\$574.20

CASH ADVANCES  
\$0.00

CREDITS  
\$0.00

TOTAL ACTIVITY  
\$574.20

Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
01-31	01-28	55436872029260293286487	HYATT REGENCY AURORA AURORA CO Arrival Date: 01/25/22 Departure Date: 01/28/22 Invoice Number: 0012434952 Tran: 0012434952 Tax ID: 320445050 Mer Zip: 80011-6443	574.20

BEVERLY RICHARDS  
XXXX-XXXX-0153-1692

PURCHASES  
\$745.17

CASH ADVANCES  
\$0.00

CREDITS  
\$0.00

TOTAL ACTIVITY  
\$745.17

Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
01-31	01-28	55436872029260293286073	HYATT REGENCY AURORA AURORA CO Arrival Date: 01/25/22 Departure Date: 01/28/22 Invoice Number: 0012446515 Tran: 0012446515 Tax ID: 320445050 Mer Zip: 80011-6443	528.30
02-03	02-02	05227022034500133195742	BROWNPAPERTICKETS COM 800-838-3006 WA Tran: 00000000000027888 Tax ID: 201813497 Mer Zip: 98109 Origin Zip: 98109	79.74
02-07	02-04	85179392035980003669636	FIREBRAND DELI GUNNISON CO Tax ID: 841300037 Mer Zip: 81230	103.50
02-08	02-08	15270212039000000717626	MSFT *E0200HEQBY MSBILL.INFO WA Tax ID: 911144442 Mer Zip: 98052	20.00
02-25	02-24	55432862055200630968886	Amazon Prime*1I4HI0EKO Amzn.com/billWA Tran: D01-5524276-66754 Tax ID: 710938319 Mer Ref: 3kqhynQDHNSebD8zU Mer Zip: 98109 Tax: 0.64 Product Code: B073XBG38V Desc: NOT USED Qty: 1 Unit: PCE Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 13.63	13.63

JILL STEELE  
XXXX-XXXX-0153-1700

PURCHASES  
\$830.35

CASH ADVANCES  
\$0.00

CREDITS  
\$0.00

TOTAL ACTIVITY  
\$830.35

Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
01-31	01-29	55432862029200012976179	AMZN Mktp US*UA6JV4VZ3 Amzn.com/billWA Tran: 113-5340142-62338 Tax ID: 202936185 Mer Ref: qrDMtJ4rPcuLNicUs Mer Zip: 98109 Tax: 2.64 Product Code: B000Z93IUA Desc: Air Scense Essential Oil Air Freshe Qty: 3.00 Unit: PCE Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 32.40	32.40

1245CHAA - 003719 - 0003 - 0003 -

Statement Date	FEB 28, 2022	Payment Due Date	MAR 25, 2022
Credit Limit	\$100,000	Amount Due	\$11,776.78
Cash Advance Balance	\$0.00	New Balance	\$11,776.78
Available Credit	\$88,223.22		
UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS			
XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948			

### CARDHOLDER ACTIVITY

Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
02-04	02-04	55480772035026931752548	SOS REGISTRATION FEE 3038606962 CO Tax ID: 840644739 Mer Ref: 93175254 Mer Zip: 80209 Origin Zip: 80209 Dest Ctry: USA	10.00
02-14	02-10	75500382042015732062358	LIGHTSPEED VOICE 877-978642 FL Tran: Verbal Tax ID: 264385780 Mer Zip: 342750000 Product Code: sku-PREPAYME Desc: Customer Prepayments Qty: 1.0000 Unit: Eac Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 720.00	720.00
02-14	02-12	55432862043200944649656	POSTER COMPLIANCE CENT 800-322-3636 MA Tran: 00000000000000000000 Tax ID: 833398540 Mer Ref: 635337620 Mer Zip: 01581	67.95



125 Colorado Ave., Suite B  
Montrose, CO 81401  
(970) 240-4374

# Invoice

Date	Invoice #
2/25/2022	4071

**UGRWCD**  
**Attn: Sonja Chavez**  
**210 West Spencer, Suite B**  
**Gunnison, CO 81230**

		Terms	Due Date
		Net 30	3/27/2022
Quantity	Description	Rate	Amount
	Project: Wet Meadows Restoration Resiliency Project		
	Period Covered: 12-9-21 Thru 2-27-2022		
	Task 1: Identify Potential Sites Subtotal: \$46.58		
0.5	Hours, Shawn Conner, Senior Scientist	90.00	45.00
	Subtotal Labor		45.00
	Overhead (3.5% of staff labor)	3.50%	1.58
	Task 2: Develop Plans, Design and Permit Projects Subtotal: \$232.88		
2.5	Hours, Shawn Conner, Senior Scientist	90.00	225.00
	Subtotal Labor		225.00
	Overhead (3.5% of staff labor)	3.50%	7.88
	Task 4: Participate in Team Meetings Subtotal: \$1397.25		
15	Hours, Shawn Conner, Senior Scientist	90.00	1,350.00
	Subtotal Labor		1,350.00
	Overhead (3.5% of staff labor)	3.50%	47.25
Thank you for your business.		Total	\$1,676.71
		Payments/Credits	\$0.00
		<b>Total Due</b>	<b>\$1,676.71</b>

# Upper Gunnison District: Wet Meadows

## Consultant Monthly Project Progress Report

**Report Date:** 2-27-22

**Consultant/Contract Number:** UG2021-027

**Invoice Number:** 4071

**Invoice Amount:** \$ 1,676.71

**Project Performance Period:** 12-09-21 thru 02-27-22

**Report Prepared by:** Shawn Conner, BIO-Logic, Inc.

**Contract #:** UG2021-027

Budget Line Item 46: Regional Water Supply Improvement Program (Wet Meadows Program)

**Grant Sources:**

BLM L17: 7.25 hrs x \$93.15 = \$675.34

USFS: 5.25 hrs x \$93.15 = \$489.03

NFWF Phase II: 5.5 hrs x \$93.15 = \$512.34

**PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS (THIS REPORTING PERIOD):**

- Task 1 – Assisted with GIS and map production for grants and volunteer outreach for September events HCCA
- Task 2 – Provided input and design recommendations for BLM; input on Field Maps; and provided plans for Cerro de Orme project in Cerro-Simms subpopulation and Dry Creek Basin in San Miguel sub population.
- Task 3 – None this reporting period
- Task 4 – Participated in various planning meetings with UGRWCD; USFS, CPW, BLM and project partners. Included final meetings in 2021, as well as kickoff meeting with new coordinator and training discussions.

**Difficulties Encountered / Corrective Action / Etc.:**

**Problem(s) / Changes:**

- None

**Resolution / Corrective Action Plan & Schedule:**

- None

Date Rec. \_\_\_\_\_ Adm. Chd. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mgr. Appr. SCC Amt. Appr. \$1,676.71  
 Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ckt# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**ACTIVITY ANTICIPATED (NEXT REPORTING PERIOD):** (March 2022)

- Task 1- None
- Task 2 – None
- Task 3 –None
- Task 4 – Scheduled planning meetings with partners to discuss data collection standards as well as visions and objectives.

**BUDGET SUMMARY (Example only, please incorporate project specific tasks):**

Task	Description	Budget	Current Expenditures	Previous Expenditures	Contract Balance	Projected Completion Date
1	Field review to identify sites	\$ 32,609	\$ 46.58	\$ 2287.26	\$30,275.16	
2	Develop Plans and Designs	\$ 53,120	\$ 232.88	\$ 6,454.35	\$ 46,432.77	
3	Supervise work crews, volunteers, and contractors	\$ 59,357	\$ 0	\$ 15,314.23	\$ 44,042.77	
4	Overall planning meetings	\$ 8,718	\$1397.25	\$931.50	\$ 6,389.25	
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>153,804</b>	<b>\$ 1,676.71</b>	<b>\$ 24,987.34</b>	<b>\$ 127,139.95</b>	

Requested Budget Amendments & Rationale: None

Requested Contract Amendment & Rationale: None



Wet Meadows Supervising Coordinator, Signature of Approval & Date:



02/28/2022

**Hartman Brothers, Inc.**

524 North First Street  
Montrose, CO 81401  
Tel.: (970) 240-8535  
Fax: (970) 249-6675

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT**

Customer : M05447

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CON  
210 WEST SPENCER AVE., SUITE B  
GUNNISON, CO 81230

Statement Date

Feb 28, 2022

Payment Terms

NET 30 DAYS

Date			T	Invoice	Delivery Note	Customer P.O. No.	Inv./Credit Amt.	Payment Amt.	Balance
Y	M	D							
2022	02	28	D	366543			26.18		26.18
							<div>Date Rec. <u>3-4-22</u> Adm. Ckd. <u>M</u> Mgr. Appr. <u>SRG</u> Amt. Appr. <u>\$26.18</u> Bd. Appr. Date _____ Bd. Initials <u>WPA</u> Pd. Date _____ Ck# _____ Account(s) <u>land seeding.</u></div>		
TOTAL ----->							26.18	0.00	26.18
<div>CODES (T) :<div>I - INVOICED - CYLINDER RENTAL C - CREDIT NOTEL - CYLINDER LEASE U - UNAPPLIED CREDITF - MONTHLY FACILITY S - FINANCE CHARGER - MACHINE RENTAL</div></div>									

CURRENT

31 - 60 DAYS

61 - 90 DAYS

90+ DAYS

26.18

0.00

0.00

0.00



A Viasat™ company

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy  
District  
210 W. Spencer Ave  
Suite B  
Gunnison, CO 81230  
United States

**Invoice**                    **202202\_472**  
**Date**                        **28 February, 2022**  
**Account**                   **C201008**

Remittance should be mailed to:  
RigNet, Inc.  
P. O. BOX 941629  
Houston, TX 77094  
Phone: +1 281 674 0683  
Email: ar@rig.net

**Airtime Period**        **1 Feb - 28 Feb 2022**

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## Summary

Total Airtime and Fees this Period	USD	47.66
<b>Total Amount This Invoice</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>47.66</b>

Terms:      Net 30

Please include Invoice Number and Account Number with your payment

For Wire Transfers, please remit to:

Bank Name: Bank of America  
Acct Name: RigNet, Inc.  
Account No: 488025116355  
SWIFT # BOFAUS3NABA  
Routing # 026009593ABA  
ACH# 111000025

Pay Online:

<https://www.rig.net/payment-center>

Date Rec. 3-3-22 Adm. Ckd. h  
Mgr. Appr. SRC Amt. Appr. \$ 47.66  
Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials WPH  
Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_  
Account(s) Client Seating

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## Summary per Product

Product	Charge Type	Amount (USD)
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OrbCommIDP	Subscription Fee	33.00
OrbCommIDP	Airtime	12.71
OrbCommIDP	Other	1.95
<b>Total for OrbCommIDP</b>		<b>47.66</b>
<b>Total charges (excl tax) for this invoice</b>		<b>47.66</b>

**Charges per Device / SIM Card**

<b>Device / SIM</b>	<b>Description</b>		<b>Service</b>	<b>Airtime</b>	<b>Total</b>
01181782SKY6FEB	Monthly fee for New IDP 25K Plan	USD	33.00		33.00
01181782SKY6FEB	Monthly fee for Backoffice Subscription Fee - IP SCADA	USD	1.95		1.95
01181782SKY6FEB	Airtime in excess of bundle - IDP Msg	USD		12.71	12.71
	<b>Total Airtime and Fees this Period</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>34.95</b>	<b>12.71</b>	<b>47.66</b>
<b>Total Invoice Amount (see front page for specification)</b>			<b>USD</b>		<b>47.66</b>

**Call Details****Airtime Usage Period 01 Feb 2022 - 28 Feb 2022****Call Details per Device / SIM Card for this period**

Date / Time	Service	Network	Destination Number	Volume	Price (USD)
<b>01181782SKY6FEB ( )</b>					
01 Feb 2022 00:00:31	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
01 Feb 2022 00:01:01	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
02 Feb 2022 00:00:33	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
02 Feb 2022 00:01:38	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
03 Feb 2022 00:00:31	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	210 Bytes	0.00
03 Feb 2022 00:01:00	IDP Msg			910 Bytes	0.00
04 Feb 2022 00:00:36	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
04 Feb 2022 00:01:05	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
05 Feb 2022 00:00:41	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
05 Feb 2022 00:01:10	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
06 Feb 2022 00:00:17	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
06 Feb 2022 00:00:45	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
07 Feb 2022 00:00:21	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
07 Feb 2022 00:00:47	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
08 Feb 2022 00:00:27	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
08 Feb 2022 00:00:52	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
09 Feb 2022 00:00:26	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
09 Feb 2022 00:01:12	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
10 Feb 2022 00:00:41	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
10 Feb 2022 00:01:10	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
11 Feb 2022 00:00:41	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
11 Feb 2022 00:01:10	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
12 Feb 2022 00:00:36	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
12 Feb 2022 00:01:05	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
13 Feb 2022 00:00:17	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
13 Feb 2022 00:01:21	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
14 Feb 2022 00:00:16	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
14 Feb 2022 00:00:42	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
15 Feb 2022 00:00:36	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00

Date / Time	Service	Network	Destination Number	Volume	Price (USD)
15 Feb 2022 00:00:57	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
16 Feb 2022 00:00:26	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	300 Bytes	0.00
16 Feb 2022 00:00:55	IDP Msg			1520 Bytes	0.00
17 Feb 2022 00:00:52	IDP Msg			5.06 KiB	0.00
17 Feb 2022 02:44:21	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
18 Feb 2022 00:00:41	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
18 Feb 2022 00:01:43	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
19 Feb 2022 00:19:41	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
19 Feb 2022 00:20:07	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
20 Feb 2022 00:00:26	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.12
20 Feb 2022 00:00:55	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.66
21 Feb 2022 00:00:21	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.15
21 Feb 2022 00:01:02	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.66
22 Feb 2022 00:00:26	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	225 Bytes	0.18
22 Feb 2022 00:00:55	IDP Msg			3.77 KiB	3.02
23 Feb 2022 00:00:26	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	270 Bytes	0.21
23 Feb 2022 00:00:55	IDP Msg			3.19 KiB	2.56
24 Feb 2022 00:00:36	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.15
24 Feb 2022 00:01:06	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.66
25 Feb 2022 00:00:31	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.15
25 Feb 2022 00:01:21	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.66
26 Feb 2022 00:00:41	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.15
26 Feb 2022 00:01:22	IDP Msg			2252 Bytes	1.76
27 Feb 2022 00:00:16	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.15
27 Feb 2022 00:00:46	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.66
28 Feb 2022 00:00:16	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6FEB	195 Bytes	0.15
28 Feb 2022 00:00:58	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.66
<b>Total for 01181782SKY6FEB ( )</b>		<b>40.31 KiB</b>	<b>0:00 Min</b>	<b>0 Msg</b>	<b>USD 12.71</b>

# Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Reimbursement Request

**Date:** 3/1/2022

**Project Name:** UGRWCD Tomichi Creek Ecosystem Services, LLC Transition Agreement

**UGRWCD Contract Number:**

**Contract #:** UG2022-002

**Reimbursement Request Amount:** \$1,556.64

**Budget Line Item 46:** Regional Water  
Supply Improvement Program (Wet  
Meadows Program)

**Match Provided:** \$

**Project Performance Period:** 1/1/2022-6/30/2022

**Applicant/Payee Name:** Tomichi Creek  
Ecosystem Services, LLC

**Check Payable To:** Tomichi Creek Ecosystem  
Services, LLC

**Applicant Address:** Post Office Box 124, Gunnison, CO 81230

**Applicant Phone:** 970 641-1993

**Applicant Email:** tomck2018@gmail.com

## PROJECT DELIVERABLES:

- Task 1 Complete WMRRBP 2020-2021 Final Report
  - Subtask 1A: Incorporate partner edits 2 hours February 16, 2022
  - Subtask 1B: Attach project maps. 4 hours February 22-25, 2022
- Task 3: Support Watershed Program Coordinator
  - Subtask 3C: Timely email or phone response to questions regarding the WMRRBP. 8.29 hours February 1- February 28, 2022
- Task 4 Attend Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council Workshops
  - Planning meeting 45 minutes, February 10, 2022

## Difficulties Encountered/Corrective Action:

- Problem(s) / Changes:
- Resolution / Corrective Action:

Date Rec. 3-1-22 Adm. Ckd. g  
Mgr. Appr. SRK Amt. Appr. \$1,556.64  
Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials SRK  
Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ckd. \_\_\_\_\_  
Account(s) Wet Meadows

By submittal of this reimbursement request and supporting documentation of expenditures, Applicant attests to the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District that all items listed under *Project Deliverables* have been completed, all amounts due and payable for the Funded Work have been paid or, alternatively will be paid with the funds advanced by the District in response to this Request for Payment, and that all work done on the Funded Work has been completed in a good and workmanlike manner.

Applicant/Payee Signature & Date: \_



Paul Jensen 3/1/2022

Upper Gunnison Project Manager Signature & Date: \_



03/01/2022

**TROUT UNLIMITED**

Jesse Kruthaupt  
604 Elsa CT  
970-209-0976  
jkruthaupt@tu.org

**INVOICE**

INVOICE #: 10

DATE OF INVOICE: FEB 24, 2022

**TO:**

Sonja Chavez  
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
210 West Spencer  
Gunnison, CO 81230

**WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING PHASE II**  
**PERIOD 11/1/2021-2/24/21**

DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	Rate \$45/hr	In-kind	Paid
Task 4 (Ohio): Kenny Moore Applegate CPW, Lone Pine Coordination w/ ERR HRR. Gleason Otis Moore Coordination HRR Ohio Meadows, Grants for Lone Pine and Gleason	26	45	\$0	\$1170
Task 1 (Ohio): Stakeholder call/emails, Lone Pine/Gleason.	6	45	\$0	\$270
Task 1: (Tomichi): Issues ID/Watershed health, Fire Hazard/Geo Fluvial assessment.	10	45	\$0	\$450
Task 2: (Tomichi): Lost Miner/Tomichi Meadows (McCanne No 2 & 3), Hannah Winters Diversion, Brian Miller Quartz Creek bank work, Doug Quartz Creek, Hot Springs Reservoir coordination, Double Heart Restoration Meeting	40	45	\$900	\$900
Task (1) Gunnison – USGS, Stickler, CPW, Marshall	5	45	\$0	\$225
Task (2) Gunnison – Marshal 1, USGS, City of Gunnison, Gunnison River Ranch.	20	45	\$0	\$900
Task (2)- Cebolla – Denning, Deer Lakes, Fish Creek.	8	45	\$0	\$360
Task 7 Admin(Cebolla) – WMP meetings, invoicing	2	45	\$0	\$90
Task 7 Admin: (Gunnison) WMP meetings, invoicing	2	45	\$0	\$90
Task 7 Admin: (Ohio) WMP meetings, invoicing reporting.	2	45	\$0	\$90
Task 7 Admin: (Tomichi) WMP Meeting, reporting	2	45	\$0	\$90
Travel Ohio	0	45	\$0	\$0
Travel Taylor	0	45	\$0	\$0
Travel Tomichi	1	45	\$0	\$45
Travel Gunnison	1	45	\$0	\$45
Travel Cebolla	0	45	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	125 hrs	45	\$900	<b>\$4725</b>

Thank you, please make Checks payable to Trout Unlimited

Approved for Payment – BAR  
Please charge as follows

Date Rec. 3-7-22 Adm. Ckd. [Signature]  
Mgr. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Appr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Bd. Appr. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Bd. Initials \_\_\_\_\_  
Pd. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Ck# \_\_\_\_\_  
Account(s) WMP

Task 1 – Ohio	\$ 270
Task 1 – Tomichi	\$ 450
Task 1 – Gunnison	\$ 225
Task 2 – Tomichi	\$1,800
Task 2 – Gunnison	\$ 900
Task 2 – Cebolla	\$ 360
Task 4 – Ohio	\$1,170
Task 7 – Ohio	\$ 90
Task 7 – Cebolla	\$ 90
Task 7 – Gunnison	\$ 135
Task 7 – Tomichi	<u>\$ 135</u>
Total	\$5,625
In-Kind	\$ 900
Paid Amount	\$4,725 (Charge to Budget Line Item 47 – Basinwide Planning - WMP)

## Upper Gunnison Watershed Management Planning Consultant Monthly Project Progress Report

Date: 2/25/2022

Consultant/Contract Number:  
UG20-002

Invoice Number: 10

Invoice Amount: \$ 900 in-kind, \$4725 paid

Project Performance Period: January 1, 2021 to June 1, 2022

Report Prepared by: Jesse Kruthaupt

Contact Phone: 970-209-0976

Contact Email: jesse.kruthaupt@tu.org

### **PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS (THIS REPORTING PERIOD):**

- Hot Springs Reservoir improvement project
- Gleason/Otis Moore owners consensus, Lone Pine owners consensus
- Kenny Moore improvement options with CPW. Still some momentum
- Fire Hazard/Geo-Fluvial progressing
- Marshal No 1 improvements project development
- McCanne # 2. McDowell VT 1. United Co habitat improvements interest.
- Lower Tomichi SWA and WMtn Ranch restoration planning

### **Difficulties Encountered / Corrective Action / Etc.:**

Problem(s) / Changes:

Resolution / Corrective Action Plan & Schedule:

### **ACTIVITY ANTICIPATED (NEXT REPORTING PERIOD):** (Dec- Jan)

#### **BUDGET SUMMARY: Ohio Creek**

Task	Description	Budget Cash	Budget (in-kind)	Current Expenditures	Current Expenditures in-Kind	Previous Expenditures	Pre In kind	Balance	Balance in-kind	Projected Completion Date
4	Ohio Creek stakeholder outreach	\$1125	\$0	\$270	\$0	\$585		\$270	\$0	6/1/2022
	Ohio Option ID/ SOR	\$3600	\$900	\$1170	\$0	\$2475	\$450	-\$45	\$450	
7	Project Coordination (Ohio)	\$900	\$0	\$90	\$0	\$315	\$0	\$495	\$0	6/1/2022
Travel	Hours	\$0	\$675	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$225	\$0	\$450	6/1/2022
Travel	Miles	\$114	\$114	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$114	\$114	6/1/2022
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$5739</b>	<b>\$1689</b>	<b>\$1530</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3375</b>	<b>\$675</b>	<b>\$834</b>	<b>\$1014</b>	

#### **BUDGET SUMMARY: Taylor**

Task	Description	Budget Cash	Budget (in-kind)	Current Expenditures	Current Expenditures in-Kind	Previous Expenditures	Pre In-Kind	Balance	Balance in-kind	Projected Completion Date
1	Assessment existing uses and Data Mining	\$450	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$450	\$0	6/1/2022
2	Stakeholder outreach	\$450	\$1125	\$0	\$0	\$450	\$135	\$0	\$990	6/1/2022
7	Project Coordination	\$450	\$90	\$0	\$0	\$225	\$0	\$225	\$0	6/1/2022

	(Taylor)									
Travel time	Time	\$450	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$45	\$0	\$405	\$0	6/1/2022
Travel	Miles	\$114	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$114	\$0	6/1/2022
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1914</b>	<b>\$1125</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$720</b>	<b>\$135</b>	<b>\$1194</b>	<b>\$990</b>	

#### BUDGET SUMMARY: Gunnison

Task	Description	Budget Cash	Current Expenditures	Previous Expenditures	Balance	Projected Completion Date
1	Assessment existing uses and Data Mining Gunnison	\$900	\$225	\$0	\$675	6/1/2022
2	Stakeholder outreach Gunnison	\$1800	\$900	\$1350	-\$450	6/1/2022
7	Project Coordination	\$900	\$90	\$360	\$450	6/1/2022
Travel	Time	\$225	\$45	\$90	\$90	6/1/2022
Travel	Mileage Reimbursement	\$57	\$0	\$0	\$57	6/1/2022
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$3882</b>	<b>\$1260</b>	<b>\$1800</b>	<b>\$822</b>	

#### BUDGET SUMMARY: Tomichi

Task	Description	Budget Cash	Budget (in-kind)	Current Expenditures	Current Expenditures In Kind	Previous Expenditures	Pre In-Kind	Balance	Balance In-kind	Projected Completion Date
1	Assessment existing uses and Data Mining Gunnison	\$900	\$0	\$450	\$0	\$1305	\$0	-\$855	\$0	6/1/2022
2	Stakeholder outreach Gunnison	\$1125	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$2835	\$0	-\$2610	\$0	6/1/2022
7	Project Coordination (Gunnison)	\$900	\$0	\$90	\$0	\$540	\$0	\$270	\$0	6/1/2022
Travel	Time	\$675	\$0	\$45	\$0	\$270	\$0	\$360	\$0	6/1/2022
Travel	Mileage Reimbursement	\$114	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$114	\$0	6/1/2022
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$3714</b>	<b>\$900</b>	<b>\$1485</b>	<b>\$900</b>	<b>\$4950</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$2721</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

#### Budget Summary: Cebolla

Task	Description	Budget Cash	Current Expenditures Cash	Previous Expenditures	Balance	Projected Completion Date
Task 1	Assessment	\$450	\$0	\$0	\$450	6/1/2022
2	Stakeholder outreach	\$1800	\$360	\$405	\$1,035	6/1/2022
7	Admin	\$675	\$90	\$90	\$495	6/1/2022
Travel	Time	\$675	\$0	\$135	\$540	6/1/2022
Mileage		\$114	\$0	\$0	\$114	6/1/2022
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3714</b>	<b>\$450</b>	<b>\$630</b>	<b>\$2634</b>	<b>6/1/2022</b>

Requested Budget Amendments & Rationale:

I would like to move funding from Taylor to Tomichi and add a Tomichi System Optimization task

Requested Contract Amendment & Rationale:

Consultant Signature & Date:

*Gene Kuthamp*

2/24/2021

Upper Gunnison Project Manager Approval & Date:

*Beverly Richards*

3/4/22

# **AGENDA ITEM 4**

**Legal and Legislative Matters**



**LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY REPORT**  
**COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**2022 REGULAR SESSION**

March 17, 2022

This report summarizes bills of interest to the District introduced in the General Assembly in this session and reviewed by the Legislative Committee. The links connect to the full text of the bills as introduced. **Updates from the February 17 Report are printed in red. When amendments to the bill as introduced are substantial, a link to the amendment is provided.**

**HOUSE BILLS**

**[HB22-1012](#) CONCERNING HEALTHY FORESTS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING THE WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND RECOVERY GRANT PROGRAM.**

*House sponsors: Cutter and Valdez D., Lynch, Snyder Senate sponsors: Ginal and Lee, Story*

**Wildfire Matters Review Committee.** Section 1 of the bill creates the wildfire mitigation and recovery grant program (grant program) in the Colorado state forest service (forest service) to provide grants to help counties with forested areas prevent and recover from wildfire incidents and ensure that such efforts are undertaken in a manner that reduces the amount of carbon that enters the atmosphere. In expending grant money, a county, to the extent practicable, shall ensure that biomass that is removed from forests is recycled or disposed of in a manner that reduces the amount of carbon that enters the atmosphere.

The forest service shall administer the grant program and, subject to available appropriations, award grants out of money annually appropriated to the forest service for the grant program. The forest service shall review grant applications in consultation with the division of fire prevention and control in the department of public safety and with the Colorado forest health council in the department of natural resources.

The grant program is repealed, effective September 1, 2028. Before the repeal, the grant program is scheduled for a sunset review by the department of regulatory agencies.

Section 2 schedules this review.

Status: 01/12/22 Introduced in House, Assigned to Energy & Environment  
**02/17/22 Referred amended to Appropriations**

**UGRWCD Legislative Committee position: MONITOR**

CWC State Affairs Committee position: Monitor

**HB22-1151 CONCERNING MEASURES TO INCENTIVIZE WATER-WISE LANDSCAPES, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING A STATE PROGRAM TO FINANCE THE VOLUNTARY REPLACEMENT OF IRRIGATED TURF.**

*House Sponsors: Catlin and Rogers*

*Senate Sponsors: Bridges and Simpson*

The bill requires the Colorado water conservation board (board) to develop a statewide program to provide financial incentives for the voluntary replacement of irrigated turf with water-wise landscaping (turf replacement program). The bill defines water-wise landscaping as a water- and plant-management practice that emphasizes using plants with lower water needs. Local governments, certain districts, Native American tribes, and nonprofit organizations with their own turf replacement programs may apply to the board for money to help finance their turf replacement programs. The board will contract with one or more third parties to administer one or more turf replacement programs in areas where local turf replacement programs do not exist.

**Amended to include language encouraging defensible space to reduce wildfire risk; modify funding language.**

Status: 02/04/2022 Introduced in House, Assigned to Agriculture, Livestock & Water  
**02/28/2022 Refer amended to Appropriations**

**UGRWCD Legislative Committee position: SUPPORT**

CWC State Affairs Committee position: **Support**

**SENATE BILLS**

**SB22-114 CONCERNING FIRE SUPPRESSION PONDS.**

Section 1 of the bill makes legislative findings and declarations.

Section 2 allows a board of county commissioners (board) to apply to the state engineer for the designation of a pond as a fire suppression pond. The director of the division of fire prevention and control (director) in the department of public safety is required to promulgate rules to establish criteria for boards, in consultation with fire protection districts, to use to identify and evaluate potential fire suppression ponds. For each pond that is identified and under consideration as a potential fire suppression pond, a board must provide notice of such fact to the state engineer and to interested parties included in the substitute water supply plan notification list established for the water division in which the pond is located. Section 2 also prohibits the state engineer from draining any pond: !

- While the pond is under consideration for designation as a fire suppression pond;
- If the state engineer has designated the pond as a fire suppression pond;
- On and after the effective date of the bill, and until the date upon which the director promulgates rules, with exceptions.

Section 2 also states that a fire suppression pond and the water associated with it:

- Are not considered a water right;
- Do not have a priority for the purpose of determining water rights; and

- May not be adjudicated as a water right.

Section 3 requires the state engineer to review applications received from boards and, at the state engineer's discretion, designate ponds as fire suppression ponds. An application is presumed to be approved if the state engineer does not respond to the application within 63 days after the application is received by the state engineer. The state engineer may not designate any pond as a fire suppression pond unless the pond existed as of January 1, 1975. Section 3 also allows the state engineer to impose reasonable requirements on a board as a condition of designating a pond as a fire suppression pond and requires a board and a fire protection district to inspect a fire suppression pond at least annually. The designation of a pond as a fire suppression pond expires 20 years after the date of the designation. Before the expiration, the board and the fire protection district must perform a needs assessment of the pond. If the needs assessment demonstrates that the pond is in compliance with criteria established in the director's rules, the board and fire protection district shall notify the state engineer of such fact, and the state engineer shall redesignate the pond as a fire suppression pond. If the needs assessment demonstrates that the pond is not in compliance with the criteria, the board and fire protection district may either:

- Notify the state engineer that the designation of the pond as a fire suppression pond should be rescinded or allowed to expire; or
- Provide to the state engineer a plan and a timeline for bringing the pond back into compliance with such criteria.

Section 4 states that the designation of fire suppression ponds by the state engineer does not cause material injury to vested water rights.

**Amended to add and redefine criteria.**

[https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/leg.colorado.gov/2022A/amendments/SB114\\_L.003.pdf](https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/leg.colorado.gov/2022A/amendments/SB114_L.003.pdf)

Status: 02/03/2022 Introduced in Senate, Assigned to Agriculture & Natural Resources

**03/03/2022 Refer amended to Appropriations**

**UGRWCD Legislative Committee position: SUPPORT**

CWC State Affairs Committee position: **03/14/2022 Table**

**SB22-115 CONCERNING CLARIFYING CERTAIN TERMS AS THE TERMS RELATE TO A LANDOWNER'S LIABILITY.**

*Senate sponsors: Jaquez Lewis and Gardner      House sponsors: Soper and Tipper*

The bill clarifies the meaning of terms related to landowner liability and declares that the Colorado court of appeals and supreme court decisions in *Rocky Mountain Planned Parenthood, Inc. v. Wagner* should not be relied upon to the extent that those decisions determined:

- The foreseeability of third-party criminal conduct based upon whether the goods or services offered by a landowner are controversial; and
- That a landowner could be held liable as a substantial factor in causing harm without considering whether a third-party criminal act was the predominant cause of that harm.

Status: 02/03/2022 Introduced in Senate, Assigned to Judiciary  
02/16/2022 Refer to Consent Calendar Senate Committee of the Whole  
02/22/2022 Senate Second Reading Passed – No Amendments  
02/23/2022 Senate Third Reading Passed – No Amendments  
02/23/2022 Introduced in House – Assigned to Judiciary  
03/09/2022 Refer Amended to House Committee of the Whole  
03/15/2022 House Second Reading Passed with Amendments  
03/16/2022 House Third Reading Passed – No Amendments

**UGRWCD Legislative Committee position: SUPPORT**

CWC State Affairs Committee position: Support

**SB22-029 CONCERNING WATER SPECULATION IN THE STATE**

*Senate sponsors: Coram and Donovan, Bridges, Jaquez Lewis House sponsor: McCormick*

**Water Resources Review Committee.** Section 1 of the bill prohibits a purchaser of agricultural water rights that are represented by shares in a mutual ditch company from engaging in investment water speculation. Investment water speculation is the purchase of agricultural water rights that are represented by shares in a mutual ditch company in the state with the intent, at the time of purchase, to profit from an increase in the water's value in a subsequent transaction or by receiving payment from another person for nonuse of all or a portion of the water subject to the water right.

On or after January 1, 2023, the state engineer or the state engineer's designee (state engineer) may investigate complaints of investment water speculation. If a purchaser holds, or by virtue of a proposed sale or transfer, will hold at least a minimum percent of the shares in a mutual ditch company, about which minimum percent the mutual ditch company must determine and notify the state engineer on or before December 31, 2022, there is a rebuttable presumption that the purchaser is engaged in investment water speculation. The state engineer may fine a purchaser up to \$10,000 for a violation and require, for a period of up to 2 years after a fine has been imposed, that any sale or transfer of shares in a mutual ditch company to the purchaser be subject to approval by the state engineer.

If the state engineer believes that a complaint is frivolous or was filed for the purpose of harassing a seller or purchaser, the state engineer may refer the matter to the attorney general's office for the attorney general or the attorney general's designee (attorney general) to investigate and, if the attorney general determines that enforcement is warranted, bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging the complaint is frivolous or was filed for the purpose of harassment. If the attorney general prevails in the civil action, the court may fine a complainant up to \$1,000, prohibit the complainant from filing any complaints alleging investment water speculation for up to one year, and grant attorney fees and court costs.

Section 2 requires the board of directors of a mutual ditch company to determine the minimum percent of agricultural water rights held by all of the shareholders in the mutual ditch company that a purchaser holds or, by virtue of the sale or transfer of shares in the mutual ditch company, will hold that creates a rebuttable presumption that the purchaser is engaging in investment water speculation.

Section 3 authorizes the attorney general to bring a civil action against a complainant if the state engineer refers the matter to the attorney general.

Status: 01/12/2022 Introduced in Senate, Assigned to Agriculture & Natural Resources

**UGRWCD Legislative Committee position: OPPOSE**

CWC State Affairs Committee position:

**SB22-126 CONCERNING A REQUIREMENT THAT THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD PRIORITIZE WATER STORAGE IN THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN IN CHOOSING PROJECTS TO FINANCE WITH MONEY FROM THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD CONSTRUCTION FUND.**

*Senate Sponsors: Sonnenberg and Donovan, Kirkmeyer, Lundeen, Scott, Simpson, Woodward.*

*House sponsor: Holtorf*

The Colorado water conservation board (board) finances water projects throughout the state. Current law requires the board to prioritize projects that will increase the beneficial consumptive use of Colorado's undeveloped compact-entitled waters. The bill includes within this priority a specific priority for projects that increase or improve water storage in the South Platte river basin as a means of increasing the beneficial consumptive use of undeveloped water entitled under the South Platte river compact and in a manner that reduces reliance on transmountain diversions.

*Amended to add language to legislative declaration; amends the priority language to direct funding priority to “projects that will increase the beneficial consumptive use of Colorado's undeveloped compact-entitled waters, including the South Platte River.”*

Status: 02/04/2022 Introduced in Senate, Assigned to Agriculture & Natural Resources  
02/24/2022 Refer Amended – Consent Calendar to Senate Committee of the Whole  
03/01/2022 Senate Second Reading Laid over to 03/07/2022 – No Amendments  
03/07/2022 Senate Second Reading Laid over to 03/14/2022 – No Amendments  
03/14/2022 Senate Second Reading Laid over to 03/21/2022 – No Amendments

**UGRWCD Legislative Committee position: OPPOSE**

CWC State Affairs Committee position: **None**



## UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

### MEMORANDUM

FROM: John H. McClow, General Counsel  
TO: Board of Directors  
RE: Lake Powell and Glen Canyon Dam  
DATE: March 17, 2022

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Given the recent press coverage regarding Lake Powell elevations, I will brief you on March 28 on Colorado River System issues, especially Lake Powell.

The materials attached include the forecasts from the Bureau of Reclamation's March 24-month study for Lake Powell and Blue Mesa Reservoir.

The materials also include design specifications for Glen Canyon Dam to help understand the significance of storage elevations.

# OPERATION PLAN FOR COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM RESERVOIRS

## March 2022 24-Month Study

Most Probable Inflow\*

### Lake Powell



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

	Date	Unreg Inflow (1000 Ac-Ft)	Regulated Inflow (1000 Ac-Ft)	Evap Losses (1000 Ac-Ft)	PowerPlant Release (1000 Ac-Ft)	Bypass Release (1000 Ac-Ft)	Total Release (1000 Ac-Ft)	Reservoir Elev End of Month (Ft)	Bank Storage (1000 Ac-Ft)	EOM Storage (1000 Ac-Ft)	Lees Ferry Gage (1000 Ac-Ft)
*	Mar 2021	297	299	11	700	0	700	3566.71	4761	8844	698
H	Apr 2021	289	279	17	628	0	628	3562.37	4734	8504	635
I	May 2021	543	495	20	624	0	624	3560.57	4723	8366	649
S	Jun 2021	809	640	31	651	0	651	3560.06	4720	8328	663
T	Jul 2021	193	305	36	767	0	767	3553.88	4683	7866	763
O	Aug 2021	292	452	35	801	0	801	3548.96	4655	7511	785
R	Sep 2021	159	380	31	622	0	622	3545.36	4634	7258	625
	<b>WY 2021</b>	<b>3502</b>	<b>4064</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>8229</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8229</b>				<b>8279</b>
I	Oct 2021	317	419	21	481	0	481	3544.25	4628	7181	489
C	Nov 2021	346	342	20	500	0	500	3541.84	4615	7016	497
A	Dec 2021	266	290	16	600	0	600	3537.33	4591	6713	612
L	Jan 2022	249	269	4	673	0	673	3531.52	4561	6335	709
*	Feb 2022	215	235	4	540	0	540	3526.97	4538	6048	592
	Mar 2022	300	252	7	575	0	575	3521.97	4513	5742	591
	Apr 2022	500	429	12	501	0	501	3520.68	4507	5665	519
	May 2022	1550	1429	14	599	0	599	3532.85	4567	6420	618
	Jun 2022	1850	1446	25	678	0	678	3543.19	4622	7108	697
	Jul 2022	500	528	31	809	0	809	3538.91	4599	6818	832
	Aug 2022	250	396	30	858	0	858	3531.95	4563	6363	882
	Sep 2022	240	379	27	666	0	666	3527.35	4539	6072	683
	<b>WY 2022</b>	<b>6582</b>	<b>6412</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>7480</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7480</b>				<b>7722</b>
	Oct 2022	353	408	18	480	0	480	3526.00	4533	5988	492
	Nov 2022	411	388	18	500	0	500	3524.05	4523	5869	503
	Dec 2022	352	355	14	600	0	600	3520.08	4504	5629	603
	Jan 2023	347	347	4	723	0	723	3514.07	4476	5278	732
	Feb 2023	396	380	4	639	0	639	3509.77	4456	5035	650
	Mar 2023	613	499	6	675	0	675	3506.71	4443	4865	691
	Apr 2023	935	732	10	601	0	601	3508.74	4452	4977	619
	May 2023	2114	1664	13	599	0	599	3525.40	4530	5951	618
	Jun 2023	2478	2057	25	628	0	628	3545.27	4634	7251	647
	Jul 2023	709	664	32	755	0	755	3543.62	4625	7137	778
	Aug 2023	361	481	32	758	0	758	3539.40	4602	6851	782
	Sep 2023	312	434	29	579	0	579	3536.98	4589	6690	596
	<b>WY 2023</b>	<b>9381</b>	<b>8408</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>7537</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7537</b>				<b>7712</b>
	Oct 2023	417	466	20	480	0	480	3536.51	4586	6659	492
	Nov 2023	446	453	19	500	0	500	3535.58	4582	6598	503
	Dec 2023	352	460	15	600	0	600	3533.37	4570	6454	603
	Jan 2024	347	451	4	723	0	723	3529.37	4550	6198	732
	Feb 2024	396	481	4	639	0	639	3526.96	4538	6048	650

\* Based on the Colorado River Basin Forecast Center's Most Probable Water Supply Forecast

Model Run ID: 3180

Processed On: 3/11/2022 12:41:57PM

# OPERATION PLAN FOR COLORADO RIVER SYSTEM RESERVOIRS

March 2022 24-Month Study

Most Probable Inflow\*

Blue Mesa Reservoir



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

	Date	UnReg Inflow (1000 Ac-Ft)	Regulated Inflow (1000 Ac-Ft)	Evap Losses (1000 Ac-Ft)	Power Release (1000 Ac-Ft)	Bypass Release (1000 Ac-Ft)	Total Release (1000 Ac-Ft)	Reservoir Elev End of Month (Ft)	Live Storage (1000 Ac-Ft)
*	Mar 2021	29	30	0	32	0	32	7465.07	399
H	Apr 2021	47	46	1	79	0	79	7459.68	365
I	May 2021	90	83	1	96	2	98	7457.14	350
S	Jun 2021	127	119	1	77	0	77	7463.84	391
T	Jul 2021	53	58	1	98	0	98	7457.21	350
O	Aug 2021	45	53	1	93	0	93	7450.20	310
R	Sep 2021	19	25	1	94	0	94	7436.58	241
	<b>WY 2021</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>715</b>		
I	Oct 2021	27	26	0	58	0	58	7429.52	209
C	Nov 2021	27	27	0	16	0	16	7431.94	220
A	Dec 2021	22	22	0	11	0	11	7434.40	231
L	Jan 2022	20	20	0	14	0	14	7435.60	236
*	Feb 2022	18	19	0	14	0	14	7436.57	241
	Mar 2022	27	28	0	19	0	19	7438.25	249
	Apr 2022	55	54	0	49	0	49	7439.22	254
	May 2022	195	180	1	185	11	196	7435.75	237
	Jun 2022	225	203	1	54	0	54	7462.89	385
	Jul 2022	85	90	1	81	0	81	7464.02	392
	Aug 2022	50	59	1	76	0	76	7461.21	375
	Sep 2022	34	42	1	32	44	76	7455.43	340
	<b>WY 2022</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>665</b>		
	Oct 2022	35	38	0	0	72	72	7449.34	306
	Nov 2022	30	32	0	0	16	16	7452.19	321
	Dec 2022	26	28	0	16	0	16	7454.34	334
	Jan 2023	25	27	0	16	0	16	7456.16	344
	Feb 2023	23	25	0	14	0	14	7457.97	355
	Mar 2023	38	39	0	18	0	18	7461.44	376
	Apr 2023	78	81	1	29	0	29	7469.39	427
	May 2023	203	195	1	56	0	56	7488.42	565
	Jun 2023	250	234	1	137	0	137	7500.30	661
	Jul 2023	86	99	1	81	0	81	7502.19	676
	Aug 2023	56	71	1	79	0	79	7501.13	668
	Sep 2023	35	46	1	74	0	74	7497.64	639
	<b>WY 2023</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>608</b>		
	Oct 2023	36	38	1	70	0	70	7493.62	606
	Nov 2023	31	32	0	15	0	15	7495.68	623
	Dec 2023	26	28	0	40	0	40	7494.14	610
	Jan 2024	25	27	0	40	0	40	7492.37	596
	Feb 2024	23	25	0	38	0	38	7490.72	583

\* Based on the Colorado River Basin Forecast Center's Most Probable Water Supply Forecast

# February 2022 CRMMS-ESP 5-Year Projections

## Chance of Lake Powell Reaching Critical Reservoir Elevations

	WY 2022*	WY 2023	WY 2024	WY 2025	WY 2026
Lake Powell less than 3,525 feet	90%	77%	50%	50%	37%
Lake Powell less than 3,490 feet (minimum power pool)	N	23%	27%	27%	23%
Lake Powell less than 3,375 feet (dead pool = 3,370 feet)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

All results computed as the chance of falling below the threshold in any month of the water year.  
 \* There is a negligible chance that Lake Powell will fall below 3,490 in WY 2022.



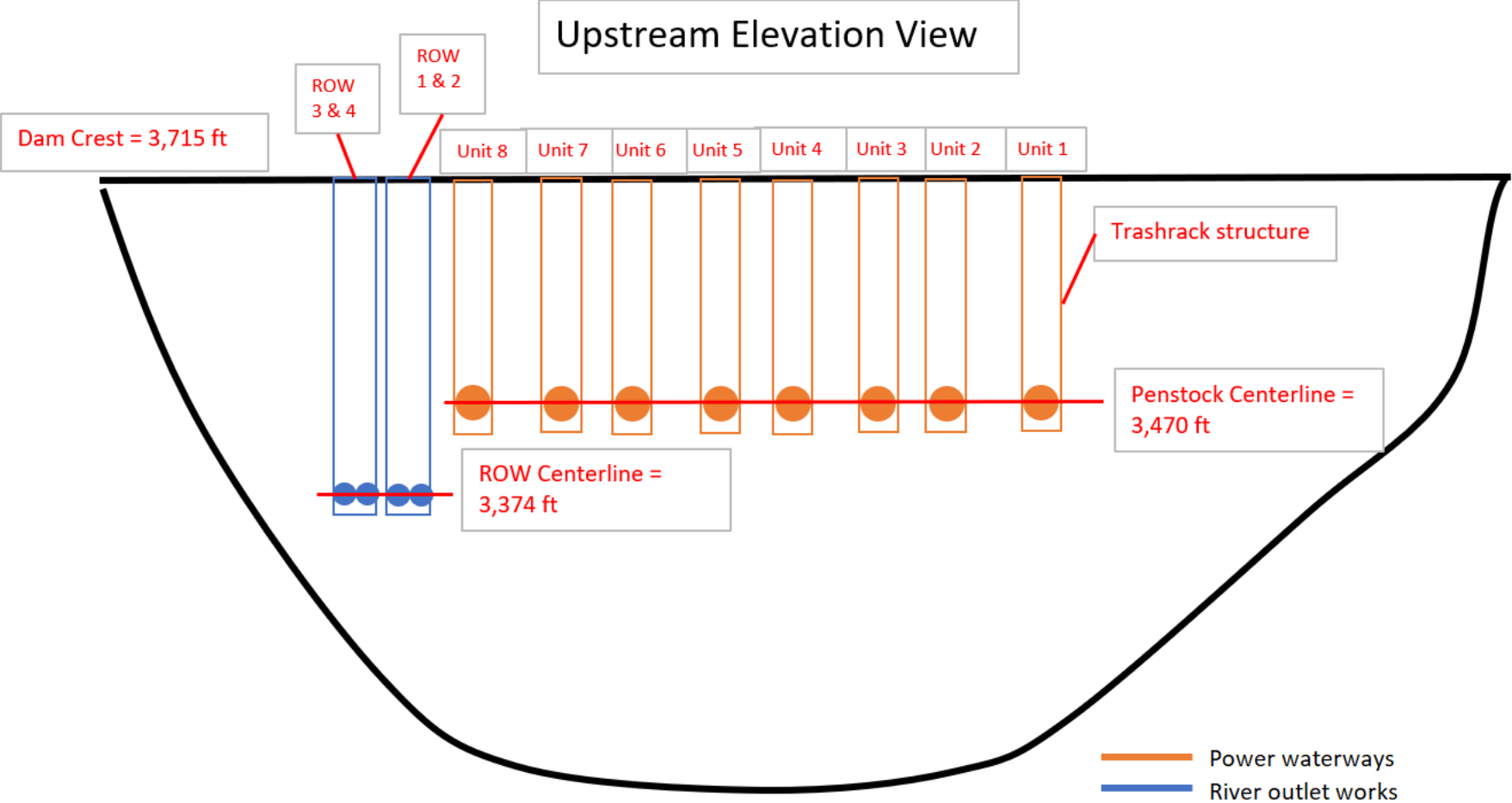
# Releasing water from Glen Canyon Dam



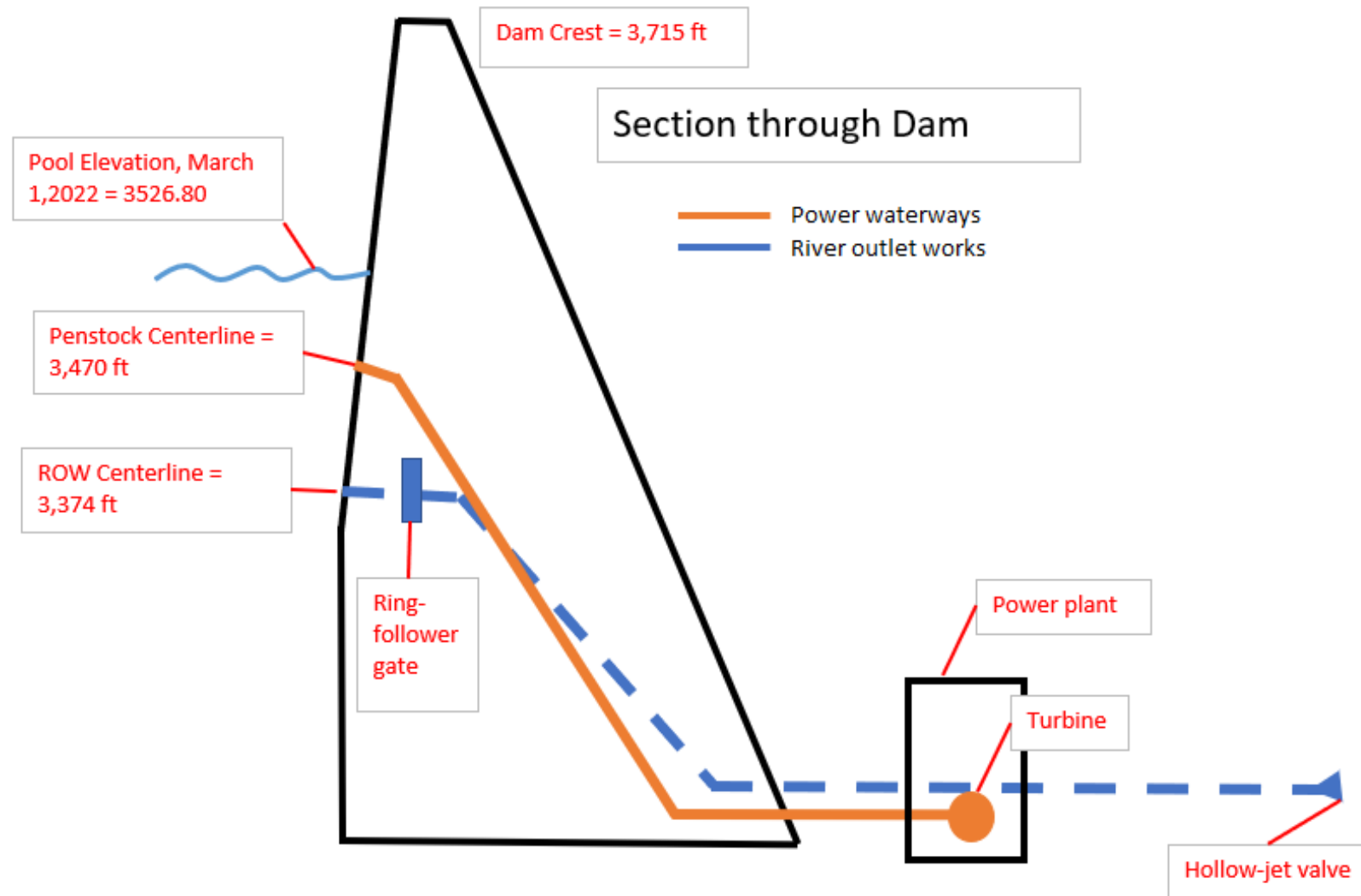
- Power generation
  - 8 penstocks / turbines / generators
  - Center line elevation: 3,470 ft
  - Up to ~33,000 cfs
- River Outlet Works (Bypass Tubes)
  - 4 outlets / valves
  - Center line elevation: 3,374 ft
  - Up to 15,000 cfs
- Spillway
  - 2 spillways
  - Crest elevation: 3,648 ft
  - Up to 276,000 cfs



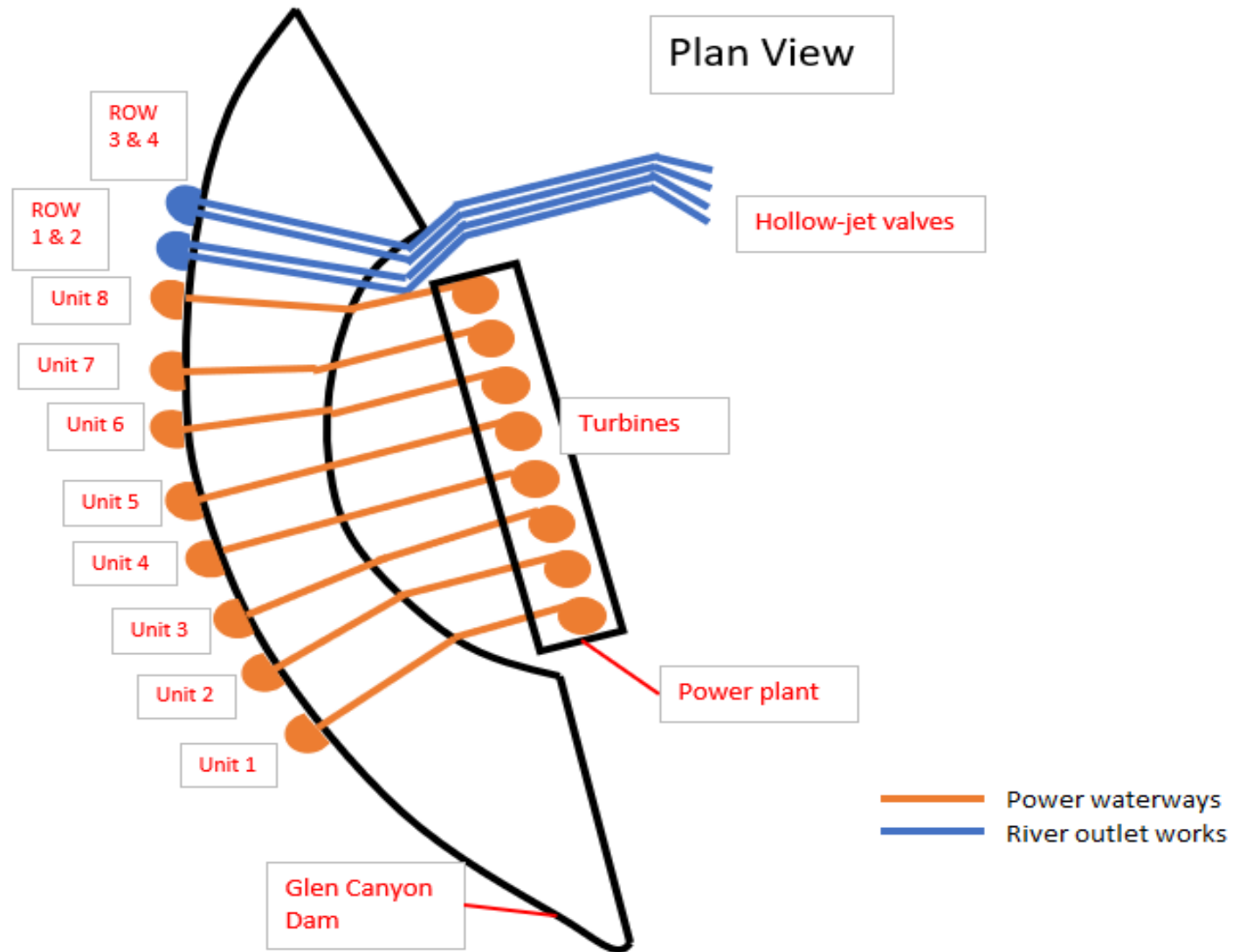
# Glen Canyon Dam – Upstream Elevation View

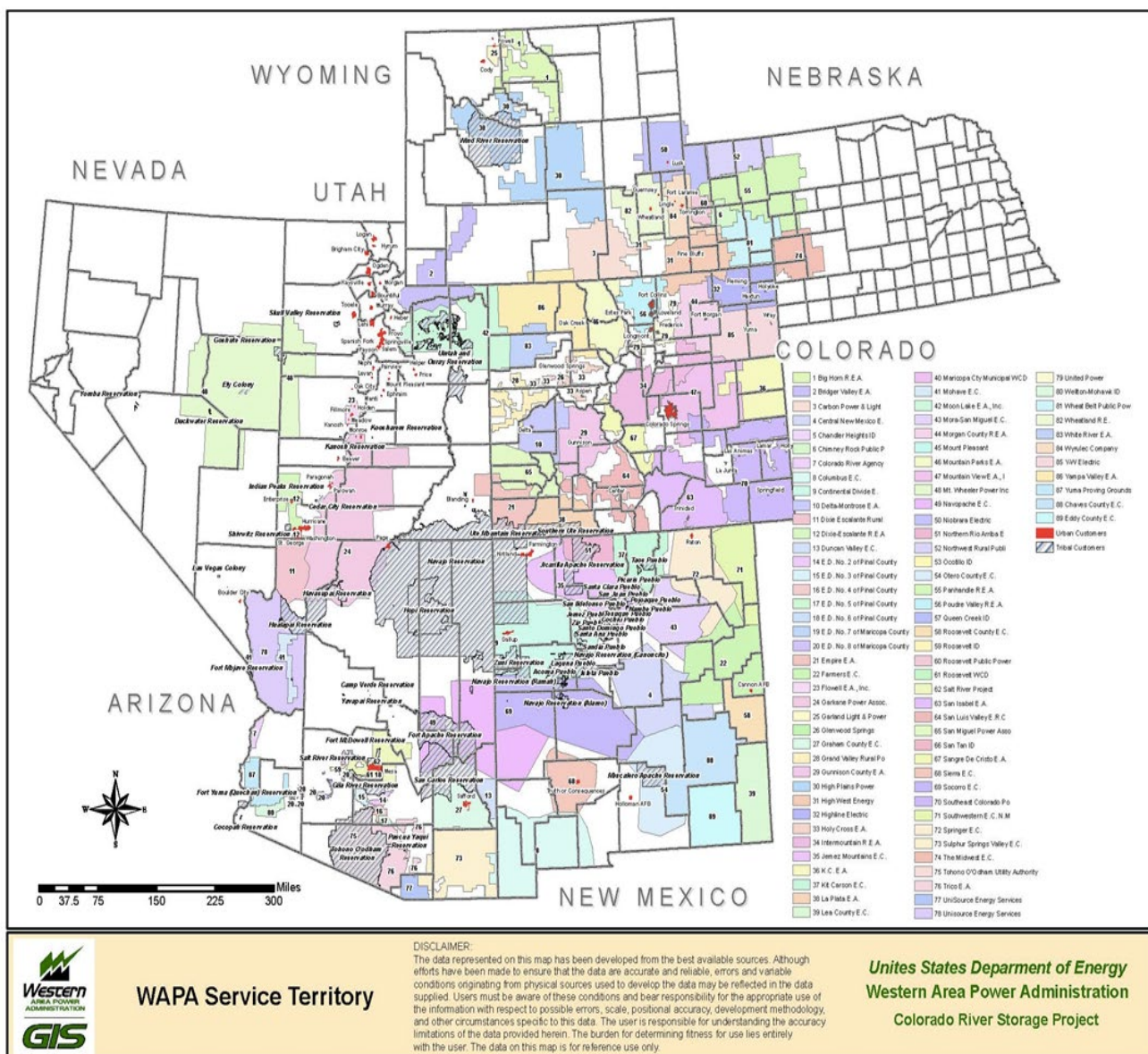


# Glen Canyon Dam – Sectional View



# Glen Canyon Dam – Plan View





# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Steve Pope Introduction**

# **AGENDA ITEM 6**

**Jeff Derry, Dust on Snow Presentation**

# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

## **BREAK**

# **AGENDA ITEM 8**

## **Basin Water Supply Report**

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members

**FROM:** Beverly Richards, Water Resource Specialist

**DATE:** March 18, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Basin Water Supply Information

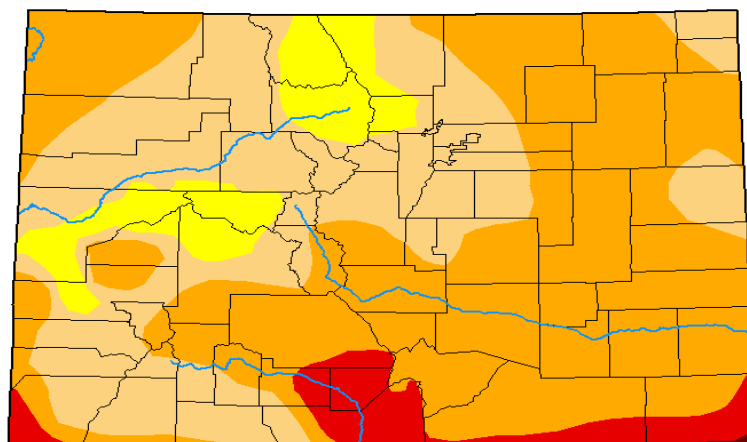
The information supplied as part of this memorandum is a monthly feature and includes information about drought conditions in the basin, reservoir storage, reservoir operations, and the Upper Gunnison Cloudseeding Program.

### **Drought Conditions:**

According to the *Drought Monitor* at [drought.gov](http://drought.gov) as of March 8, 2022, drought conditions have improved slightly from the February numbers with 57% of the state experiencing severe (D2) or extreme (D3) drought conditions, which is down from 62%.

### **U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado**

**March 8, 2022**  
(Released Thursday, Mar. 10, 2022)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



#### Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

#### Author:

Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

## Gunnison County

Drought conditions in Gunnison County have remained the same since February 8, 2022 with the 29% in Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions, 40% in Moderate (D1), and 31% in Severe (D2) drought conditions.

## Hinsdale County

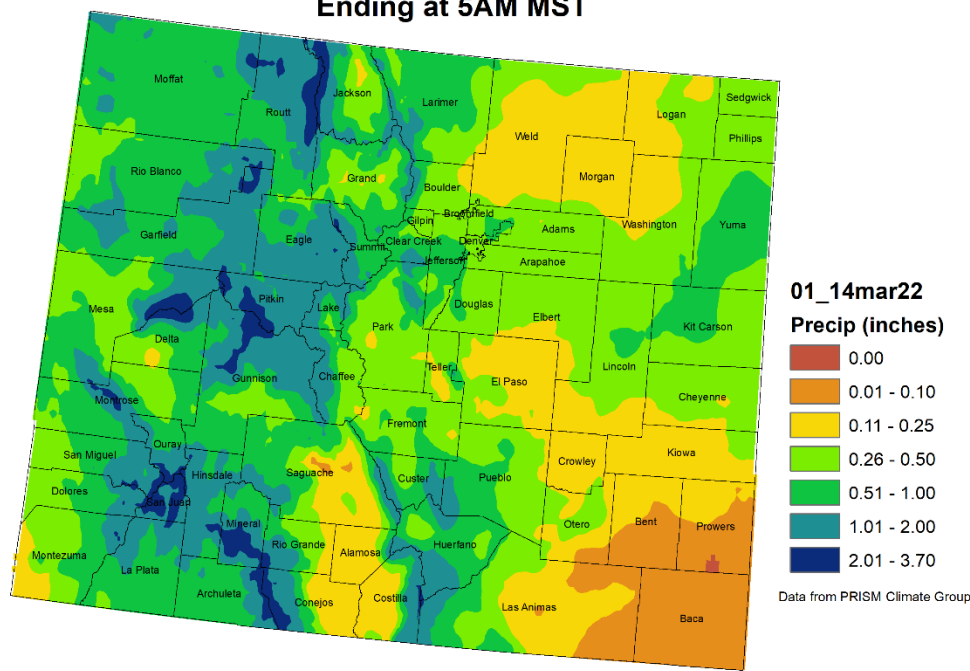
As with Gunnison County, drought conditions in Hinsdale County have remained the same since February 8, 2022. As of March 8, 42% of the county is experiencing Moderate (D1) and 58% is experiencing Severe (D2) drought conditions.

## Saguache County

Of the three counties, Saguache County is the only one that has experienced any change in their drought conditions since February 8. In February 71% of the county was experiencing Severe (D2) conditions and 29% was Extreme (D3). These number have adjusted slightly with 88% now experiencing Severe (D2) condition and only 12% in the Extreme (D3) category.

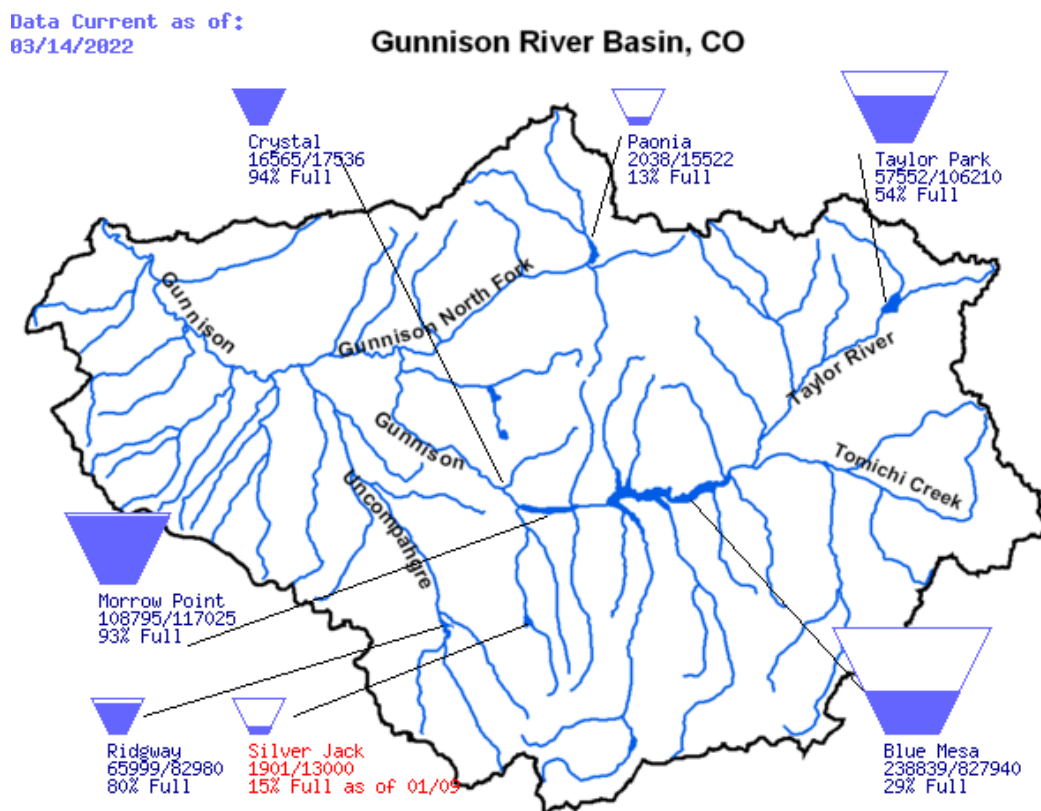
Precipitation on the western slope has seen a slight change from February which is illustrated in the graph below. Gunnison and Hinsdale counties saw precipitation ranging from 2 to 3.7 inches in the first two weeks of the month. Saguache County precipitation ranged anywhere from 2 inches in the southwest to .25 inches in the central and southeastern portions of the county.

**Colorado Month to Date Precipitation  
1 - 14 March 2022  
Ending at 5AM MST**



## Reservoir Storage

As of March 14, reservoir storage in the Gunnison Basin is at 54% of full. The reservoirs in the Upper Gunnison Basin, Taylor and Blue Mesa, are at 54% and 29% respectively. This is reflected in the tea-cup diagram below.



## Aspinall Unit Operations

This update was provided by the Bureau of Reclamation and is dated March 17, 2022.

The current snowpack (as of March 17) is 117% of average for the Upper Gunnison Basin. Based upon this update, the unregulated inflow for April-July is projected to be 92 of average which is slightly higher than the March 1 forecast which was 88%. The current content of Blue Mesa Reservoir is 241,000 acre-feet which is 29% of full with a current inflow of 400 cfs. The projected maximum fill amount for Blue Mesa for 2022 is 366,000 acre-feet which is 44% of full, and the end of year content (December 31<sup>st</sup>) is projected to be 269,000 acre-feet which is 32% of full.

Releases from the Aspinall Unit will be increased from 475 cfs to 775 cfs beginning on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The increase is being made for the start of diversions into the Gunnison Tunnel. The scheduled release change is subject to changes in river flows and weather conditions.

### **Taylor Park Reservoir Operations:**

The Bureau of Reclamation provided an update on Taylor Park Reservoir operations using the March 1 forecast from the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center. This forecast indicated that there will be 96,000 acre-feet of runoff flowing into the reservoir which is 102% of average. This forecast puts the year type in the Average Year category. Based on this year type, there is a requirement for a spring peak release of 445 cfs for 5 days.

The preliminary operations plan indicates that the reservoir could fill to a maximum seasonal content of 95,000 acre-feet which is 89% full. Releases from Taylor Park Reservoir continue at the winter flow rate of 72 cfs and it is planned to continue at that rate through the month of March. Snowpack in the Taylor River watershed is at 97% of normal. February snow accumulation was the same as January at 69% of average.

The next TLUG meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

### **Lake San Cristobal Update:**

The current elevation (March 15) for Lake San Cristobal is 8994.23 feet which is down slightly from the February reading of 8,994.29. The flows out of the reservoir are currently at 12.0 cfs.

### **Lake Powell Update:**

On March 16, 2021, we received this statement from Becky Mitchell regarding Lake Powell elevation.

#### **Commissioner Mitchell Statement on Lake Powell Elevation 3525'**

**March 16, 2021 (Denver, CO)** - As of March 15, Lake Powell, a major reservoir that feeds water to the Lower Colorado River Basin, fell below elevation 3525 feet. This is the target elevation identified within the Drought Contingency Plan that provides a buffer to hydropower.

The decline in Lake Powell was caused by over 20 years of low inflows in the Colorado River System, coupled with depletions that exceeded supplies. The imbalance between depletions and available River flows has historically been compensated by taking water from storage in Lake Powell and Lake Mead to provide for downstream depletions, thus causing declines in reservoir elevations.

Below is a statement from Colorado River Commissioner Becky Mitchell:

*“Lake Powell hit elevation 3525 feet this week, which is a direct result of depletions from our major reservoirs over the last 20 years coupled with low flows into Lake Powell. As Lake Powell and Lake Mead have declined, water users in the Upper Colorado River Basin have been living on the front lines of climate change. The Upper Basin states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming have been taking water cuts for 20 years due to prolonged drought, while continuing to meet our Compact obligations. On top of this, water has been provided from Flaming Gorge and Blue Mesa Reservoirs in an effort to protect Lake Powell. Going forward, all who rely on the Colorado River System must learn to live with what the River provides and adapt to variability of water supply.”*

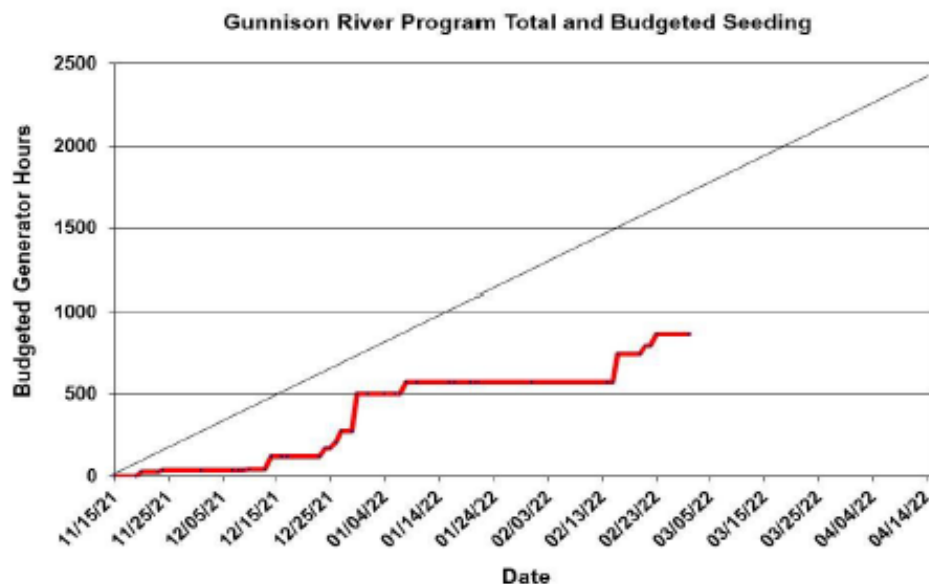
This is the post that was provided on March 16, 2022 via social media from the Colorado River Basin:

*Lake Powell has officially dipped just below 3,525 feet in elevation, reflecting the Colorado River Basin's dry winter season. The dip is temporary and was reflected in last night's end-of-day hydrology report. The reservoir's elevation is expected to climb above 3,525 feet through the course of the spring runoff season.*

*The target elevation of 3,525 feet provides a 35-foot buffer and allows time for response actions to help prevent Lake Powell from dropping below minimum power pool (elevation 3,490 feet), the lowest point at which Glen Canyon Dam can generate hydropower. Reclamation's Upper Colorado Basin Region and the Upper Division States, with the assistance of the Upper Colorado River Commission, are preparing a Drought Response Operations Plan that will propose additional actions to help protect Lake Powell elevations in 2022 if appropriate.*

### **Cloudseeding Report (North American Weather Consultants; NAWC) & SWE in the Snowpack:**

According to the *North American Weather Consultants* report dated March 2, 2022, the month of February was relatively dry with only a few storm events impacting western Colorado during the second half of the month. There were only three storm that were seeded for the month of February, on February 16-17, 21-22 and 23. There were a total of 297.5 generator hours used in February which was significantly higher than January where only 78.5 hours were used. This is reflected in the graph provided below.



The table below shows snow water equivalent for the water year as of March 1, 2022 at the five Blue Mesa SNOTEL sites.

Measurement Site	Snow Water Equivalent (inch)		Water Year Precipitation (inch)	
	3-1-22	Percent of Average	3-1-22	Percent of Average
Butte	11.6	112	12.6	110
Schofield Pass	30.5	126	32.8	136
Park Cone	9.6	117	11.1	125
Porphyry Creek	13.0	107	13.8	124
Slumgullion	8.7	82	8.8	84
<b>Upper Gunnison Basin %</b>		<b>109</b>		<b>116</b>

As of March 1, 2022, snow water equivalent in the Upper Gunnison Basin was above normal, with a basin-wide average of 109%. Water year precipitation was also above normal, at an average of 116%.

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*Think More Snow!*

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# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

**General Manager and Committee Updates**

# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

## **Treasurer's Report**

# MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** March 18, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** General Manager, Committee, and Staff Updates

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## **I. Treasurer's Report (Bill Nesbitt)**

## **II. General Manager's Update**

- A. Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement (CASM):** A new collective of partners including the Upper Gunnison District organized into a group known as CASM to develop an expansive airborne snow flight program for critical mountain regions across the entire state of Colorado. Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO) flight forecasts have been shown to have an accuracy of 98% in predicting Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) which is the amount of water in snowpack and dramatically taking out a lot of the guess work related to forecasting inflow. On March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Colorado Water Conservation Board approved a \$1.9M grant in support of CASM flights in all critical mountain watersheds including the Upper Gunnison Basin. The total for the comprehensive CASM program is estimated to cost \$15M annually. With this infusion of funding from CWCB, the State is hopeful that the multi-million dollar program can be covered by an array of agencies including conservation and conservancy districts, water utilities, Reclamation, state and local governments, ski industry and many others. These flights will greatly facilitate refinement of existing inflow forecast models including the work of the District on use of the WRF Hydro Model being developed for the Taylor Park sub-basin with Dave Gochis of the University of Colorado Atmospheric Research Center. The Taylor and East River sub-basins will be flown this year and perhaps portions of Ohio Creek (TBD).

Related to this, Reclamation just released The Emerging Technologies in Snow Monitoring report. The report identifies several under-utilized emerging technologies for snow measurement and other finding. If you're interested in learning more, go to: [https://www.usbr.gov/research/docs/news/EmergingTechnologiesInSnowMonitoring\\_Report508.pdf](https://www.usbr.gov/research/docs/news/EmergingTechnologiesInSnowMonitoring_Report508.pdf)

- B. Gunnison Valley Water Smart Work Group:** The UGRWCD held its first meeting of 2022 as lead coordinator of the municipal Gunnison Valley Water SMART group after High Country Conservation Advocates (HCCA) passed down the baton. The meeting was well attended, and we received a lot of valuable input from participants on topics or issues

of importance or concern around municipal water use in the Upper Gunnison Valley. Minutes from that meeting have been included in your packet as Exhibit A.

Our next activity is slated for late March or early April and will be a lunch time presentation around planning for growth in the valley and the availability of actual wet water. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

- C. Joint Party Status filed for WQCC Regulation #35 Hearing:** A request for party status was submitted to the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) of the State of Colorado related to the upcoming June Rulemaking Hearing for Regulation #35 (Gunnison and Lower Dolores River Basins). Ashley Bembenek led the effort to submit a request for “joint party status” on several proposed rule making matters including but not limited to issue affecting Coal Creek (COGUUG12) (Keystone Mine and water quality standards for Coal Creek) and Marshall Creek (COGUUG21) (Homestake Pitch Uranium Mine). The joint parties are identified as the “Upper Gunnison Parties” and include the Town of Crested Butte, Gunnison County, Coal Creek Watershed Coalition, High Country Conservation Advocates, Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Water Quality and Quantity Committee and the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District. This filing allows the Upper Gunnison Parties to provide testimony or additional data or information. A copy of the Joint Party Status filing has been included in your packet as Exhibit B.
- D. Taylor Park Hydro Power Development 30% Design:** A preliminary or thirty-percent design report for the Taylor Park Hydro Power Development project was provided to the UGRWCD for review and comment. The UGRWCD made several inquiries around sedimentation rate and reservoir capacity, estimated energy generation around years of hydrology used, and lack of information on Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA). According to the consultant there is no evidence of sedimentation around the intake, estimated energy generation is actually higher using the last 20 years of hydrology due to the fact that the reservoir was operated at a lower level between 1972 – 2002, and SCADA information will be provided at 60 percent design stage and the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) dam tender will be responsible for monitoring alarms and notifications with support from GCEA. Steve Pope, UVWUA General Manager, will be joining the District at our March meeting, so please feel free to ask questions.
- E. 2022 UGRWCD Conference (a.k.a. Upper Gunnison River Basin Water Roundup)**

The UGRWCD is going to be having its first inaugural “Upper Gunnison River Basin Water Roundup” conference or “Roundup”. The Roundup will take place from June 9 to June 10<sup>th</sup> just in front of the Gunnison River Festival. The District is in the process of reserving the IBar Ranch for all activities. At this time, preliminary plans look as follows:

Thursday (June 9<sup>th</sup>)

- 8:30 a.m.: Conference Kick-off (light breakfast and networking)
- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Conference Speakers
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Lunch with Guest Speaker
- 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Conference Speakers
- 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.: Happy Hour
- 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.: Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.: Tomichi Cr. Acoustic Bat Detection Nature Walk
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Fireside Chat w/TBD

Friday (June 10<sup>th</sup>)

- 8:30 a.m.: Coffee and Networking
- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Conference Speakers
- 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Explore Gunnison on Your Own
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.: Guest Speaker and Heavy Appetizers (Almont Resort?)
- 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.: Sunset Float Almont to Shady Island or Enjoy Taylor Downriver Race
- 8:30 p.m.: Wailers Concert at the IBar (Discounted Tickets to Conference Registrants, e.g., \$30/person)

Saturday (June 11) – Gunnison River Festival!!!

**III. Executive Committee Report (Director Pierce or McPhail)**

**IV. Taylor Local Users Group (Director Sabrowski)**

Draft Taylor Local Users Group meeting notes attached as Exhibit C.

**V. Watershed Management Planning (WMP) Committee Update (Sonja Chavez and Director McPhail)**

March 14<sup>th</sup> Watershed Management Planning Committee meeting minutes attached as Exhibit D.

**VI. Grant Committee Update (Beverly Richards and Director Fonken)**

See District Grant Program memorandum from Beverly (Water Resource Specialist).

Presentation by Beverly on 2022 projects submitted and recommended for funding approval.

- Board Action Requested: Approval of Grant Committee recommendations for 2022 District Grant Program funding.

#### **VII. Wet Meadows Update (Cheryl Cwelich)**

See Wet Meadows Program Update memorandum from Cheryl (Watershed Program Coordinator).

- Board Action Requested: Signed GOCO grant application resolution.

#### **VIII. Education and Outreach Update (Sue Uerling)**

See Education and Outreach memorandum from Sue Uerling, Administrative Assistant and Communications Support Specialist.

#### **IX. Scientific Endeavors Update (Director Carroll)**

#### **X. Gunnison River Festival Update (Director Fonken)**



**TO:** Gunnison Water Smart Stakeholder Work Group  
**FROM:** Beverly Richards, UGRWCD Water Resource Specialist  
**DATE:** March 1, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Gunnison Water Smart Group Meeting Summary

A meeting of the group was held on March 1 at 1:00 p.m.

Ashley Bembenek (CCWC), Julie Nania (HCCA), Shea Earley (Town of Crested Butte), Mike Fabbre (MCBW&S), Leah Desposato (Town of Mt. Crested Butte), David Gardner (City of Gunnison), Anton Sinkewich (City of Gunnison), Rachel Sabbato (Gunnison County), Sonja Chavez, Cheryl Cwelich, Beverly Richards, and Sue Uerling (UGRWCD) were in attendance.

Agenda topics included what participants are hoping to gain from these meetings, member updates, , opportunities to collaborate on conservation messaging, an update water related funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure & Investment Jobs Act (a.k.a. IIJA), other available funding opportunities, and State water-related legislative updates.

As a result of these discussions, following is a summary of common themes/topics identified by the group related to topics of interest moving forward:

- Water Security
- Conservation
- Population growth and development and water supply needed at full build-out
- Continued relationship with UGRWCD concerning water rights out of Meridian Lake Reservoir
- Collaborative and cohesive conservation messaging
- Basin wide water quality consciousness (e.g., not buying plastic bottled water, recycling)
- Water supply distribution efficiency (e.g., diversion infrastructure upgrades)
- Support of water loss studies and implementation efforts to address
- Need for water storage
- Source water protection and wildfire risk assessment and mitigation measures
- Regular communication and awareness among entities and working together
- Capacity building and support
- IIJA and other funding available for significant infrastructure improvement needs throughout valley

Meeting participants also provided project updates (in progress and anticipated). This information will be compiled on a spreadsheet and will be included in a Google Drive file so that all participants can add to the list of needs. This information will be used by UGRWCD in our Watershed Management Planning process so that we can prioritize projects as we work to support our constituents in accessing funding at the state and federal level. We will encourage regular updates to this spreadsheet of information so that stakeholders can update information on costs, timelines or urgency as projects move forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

**BEFORE THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL COMMISSION  
STATE OF COLORADO**

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**IN THE MATTER OF CONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION OF REVISED WATER QUALITY CLASSIFICATIONS, STANDARDS, AND DESIGNATIONS FOR MULTIPLE SEGMENTS IN THE SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVER BASINS, REGULATION #34 (5 CCR 1002-34) AND GUNNISON AND LOWER DOLORES RIVER BASINS, REGULATION #35 (5 CCR 1002-35)**

**REQUEST FOR PARTY STATUS FOR THE UPPER GUNNISON PARTIES**

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The Town of Crested Butte (the “Town”), Gunnison County (the “County”), Coal Creek Watershed Coalition (“CCWC”), High Country Conservation Advocates (“HCCA”), Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Water Quality/Quantity Committee (“QQ”), and the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (“UGRWCD”), collectively referred to as the “Upper Gunnison Parties”, by and through the undersigned, respectfully request party status in the above-referenced matter.

The Upper Gunnison Parties are participating in this matter because of their interest and stake in several proposed revisions to Regulation 35, including but not limited to issues affecting Coal Creek (COGUUG12) and Marshall Creek (COGUUG21).

The facts that entitle the Upper Gunnison Parties to be admitted as a party to this rulemaking are as follows:

1. Town interests:
  - a. In February 2016, the Town and the County entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (“2016 MOU”) with Mt. Emmons Mining Company (“MEMC”), the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (“CDPHE”), its Water Quality Control Division (“WQCD”) and Air Pollution Control Division (“APCD”), Colorado Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”), and its Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety (“DRMS”). The 2016 MOU outlines the tasks that the signatories will undertake to address the Keystone Mine site in the Coal Creek Watershed. In accordance with these tasks, the parties have been working collaboratively to develop water quality standards for Coal Creek. The Town and the County entered into a related Memorandum of Understanding with MEMC on July 20, 2021 (“2021 MOU”).
  - b. Coal Creek is the municipal water supply for the Town and within the Town’s Watershed Protection District.
2. County interests:
  - a. The County is also a signatory to the 2016 and 2021 MOUs.
  - b. Gunnison County is the headwaters of the Gunnison River. The County strives to preserve and promote the well-being of the County’s citizens, natural environment, and rural

character. The Gunnison River and its tributaries are the backbone of the County's economy and community. The County is participating in this rulemaking to monitor and provide meaningful input on proposals that may impact water quality in the Upper Gunnison Basin including but not limited to proposals for Marshall Creek.

c. Marshall Creek flows into Tomichi Creek, which is a water supply for ranchers, residents, visitors, wildlife, and other users in Gunnison County.

3. CCWC interests:

a. CCWC, a 501(c)(3) organization, has been actively working to "restore and protect" the Coal Creek Watershed since 2004. CCWC has been involved in watershed planning and remediation projects with local, state, and federal agencies, the public, and nongovernmental organizations. CCWC communicates water quality, and watershed conditions and needs, in an effort to increase public awareness of watershed issues with the goal of fostering an educated and informed community of environmental stewards.

b. CCWC collects a substantial portion of the water quality data included in the Coal Creek proposal and is participating in this rulemaking to understand and meaningfully respond to proposals that may affect Coal Creek.

4. HCCA's interests.

HCCA's mission is to protect the health and natural beauty of the land, rivers, and wildlife in and around Gunnison County now and for future generations. HCCA is a 45-year-old grassroots organization that collaborates with interested and affected parties to protect public lands, endangered species, rangelands, and water resources. HCCA is interested in matters that may impact local drinking water resources and is more broadly interested in the preservation of the quality of water resources of the Upper Gunnison Basin.

5. QQ's interests.

QQ, a committee of Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, is an association of elected and appointed officials from municipalities, counties, and special districts in the headwaters of the Gunnison, Colorado, and Yampa river basins. QQ's purpose is to protect or improve regional water quality conditions and to assist member efforts to do the same. QQ comprises 42 member local governments; membership is provided as Attachment 1.

6. UGRWCD's interests.

UGRWCD's mission is to be an active leader in all issues affecting the water resources of the Upper Gunnison River Basin. UGRWCD conducts water quality monitoring, water management, public education, and various planning efforts and projects in furtherance of its mission, often in partnership with other Upper Gunnison Parties. The UGRWCD is participating in this rulemaking to understand and meaningfully respond to proposals that may affect the Upper Gunnison Basin.

Respectfully submitted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.



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## ATTACHMENT 1

**Northwest Colorado Council of Governments**  
**Water Quality/ Quantity Committee Membership**  
03/15/22

<b>County</b>	
Eagle County	Pitkin County
Grand County	Summit County
Gunnison County	
<b>Municipal</b>	
Aspen	Gypsum
Basalt	Hot Sulphur Springs
Breckenridge	Kremmling
Carbondale	Minturn
Crested Butte	Silverthorne
Dillon	Steamboat Springs
Eagle	Vail
Fraser	Winter Park
Granby	Yampa
Grand Lake	
<b>Water and Sanitation</b>	
Basalt Sanitation District	Grand County Water and Sanitation District
Bellyache Ridge Metro District	Hamilton Creek Metro District
Copper Mountain Metro Consolidated District	Mid-Valley Metro District
Dillon Valley Metro District	Silver Creek Water District
Eagle River Water and Sanitation District	Silverthorne Dillon Joint Sewer Authority
East Dillon Water District	Snowmass Water and Sanitation
Fraser Sanitation District	White Horse Springs Water & Sanitation
Granby Sanitation District	Winter Park West Water & Sanitation
<b>Associate Member</b>	
Colorado River Water Conservation District	
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District	



*Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District*

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Taylor Local Users Group (TLUG)  
**DATE:** March 7, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Taylor Local Users Group Meeting Notes

A TLUG meeting was held on Monday, March 7, 2022 via Zoom video/teleconference. Attending the meeting were the following TLUG members:

Ryan Birdsey, representative for flat water recreation interests  
Ernie Cockrell, representative for Taylor Placer  
Pete Dunda, representative for property owners  
Roark Kiklevich, representative for wade fishing interests  
Don Sabrowski, UGRWCD Board representative and TLUG Chair  
Mark Schumacher, representative for rafting/boating interests  
Andy Spann, representative for irrigation interests

Also present: Rory Birdsey (Taylor Park Marina); John Bocchino (Riffle and Rise LLC); Reece Carpenter (BOR); Ryan Christensen, (BOR); Steve Cook (Crystal Creek HOA), Doug Forshagen (Crystal Creek HOA); David Gochis (National Center for Atmospheric Research-NCAR); Erik Knight (BOR); Dirk Schumacher (Three Rivers Resort); Ed Warner (BOR); Jason White (Crested Butte Anglers) and Sonja Chavez, Cheryl Cwelich; Beverly Richards and Sue Uerling (all UGRWCD staff)

Chair Don Sabrowski called the meeting to order at 1 pm. Don asked if there were any comments or changes to the September 2, 2021 Meeting Summary. Ernie Cockrell noted that in the top paragraph on page 2, at the end of the sentence, it should read, "which is 300 acre-feet below the 60,000 acre-feet 'minimum storage objective for the year'." Also, on page 2 in the third paragraph in the 11<sup>th</sup> line, Ernie stated the sentence should also read "meet or exceed the 60,000 acre-feet 'minimum storage objective'."

Erik Knight of the Bureau of Reclamation provided an update on Taylor River Operations. Erik noted that the Colorado River Basin Forecast Center is now predicting 96,000-acre-feet maximum runoff during April through July 2022. This is up about 3,000 acre-feet from their last forecast and it does not include any consideration for the snowfall in the basin the first week in March, as their report was prepared March 1<sup>st</sup>. Erik noted that they are now using the most recent thirty years of historical inflows to come up with their “average inflow” for the model and thus, the forecast has been reduced to 94,000 acre-feet. Erik noted that this current report puts us in the “average year” category. Per the Stipulation Agreement, a minimum 5 day peak flow release is required and can be scheduled during the period May 1 through June 30<sup>th</sup>. Erik noted that the peak runoff is currently predicted to be in the first half of June 2022. Erik reviewed the tables showing predicted inflows, snowpack and releases and noted that if everything stays the same, Taylor Reservoir would be at 70,500 acre-feet by October 2022. Erik noted that there is still plenty of time for the forecast to change either direction. Erik asked if there were any questions.

Steve Cook (public) said these charts are really helpful for the group. Steve wondered if there was any interest by the group in upping flows sooner than April 1<sup>st</sup> to benefit the fishery. Erik Knight said that this would be a question for the group and could definitely be part of the discussion.

Ernie Cockrell asked why the projections are based on using the year-end minimum storage level of 70,000 acre-feet instead of setting the minimum storage objective to a higher level knowing that every year we start out with a lot of model error. Ernie suggested using a higher end of year storage objective of 73,000 acre-feet or higher early in the season to provide cushion. Ernie noted that we can continue to look at the forecast each month and change this as necessary but that this is the only opportunity to hold back water early in the season so that we aren’t scrambling to meet our year-end storage objective.

David Gochis of the National Center for Atmospheric Research said they have not yet released any forecasting reports but should be generating the first set in about two weeks. David noted that they will be using the readings from the new gauges at Texas Creek and Willow Creek once they are back online sometime around the first of April and once they can validate that the readings are accurate. Since we are only into our second year of using the new additional gages, we do not have much of a history of readings.

David Gochis and Erik Knight confirmed that they will coordinate on forecasting. Mark Schumacher asked if David would have reports for the group for the April meeting and David said he would.

Pete Dunda asked what the status was on the work being done on Spring Creek Reservoir. He had heard that CPW’s crew had had to stop work on it.

Sonja and Don indicated that the work was finished, and they would be filling this year. Pete also agreed with the recommendation to work to save water early by setting a temporary storage target above the minimum objective storage since it seems the TLUG group is always scrambling at the end of the water year.

General Manager Sonja Chavez and Chair Don Sabrowski both agreed that they heard that the work on the outlet pipe has now been completed and that CPW hopes to fill the reservoir yet this winter. Sonja noted that CPW's water rights are junior to downstream users. Sonja offered to contact Dan Brauch at the CPW to see if he could give a report at the April meeting.

Mark Schumacher said he thought it was premature to be changing any releases at this time since it is only March and suggested we wait until the April meeting. He said he would like the TLUG representatives to all take a closer at the Stipulation Agreement so that they can be fully informed before making any changes at the April meeting.

General Manager Sonja Chavez said she was not in favor of changing the "minimum storage objective" but she was in favor of trying to conserve water early in the season.

Ryan Birdsey said he needs to really "dive into the Stipulation Agreement" but that he feels it does give this group the ability to set a higher year-end storage objective, as well as the ability to change it going forward as the group sees fit. Ryan said this is why the group is meeting now and that he would like to see the group be more conservative up front so that there is not so much scrambling at the end of the season to try to meet the minimum. He said as a lifelong user of the canyon, he feels having more room to play with the releases at the end of the year will benefit a lot of users.

Andy Spann said he doesn't see the harm in setting the minimum storage objective at 73,000 acre-feet and trying to hit that target. He said the group can look at it again based on the April forecasts. He did note that in his observations soil moisture content is "horrible" and what he's seen is not normal for this time of year. Andy also noted that ever since he has been on TLUG, the forecasts have always shown higher runoff than what has actually occurred and has been off as much as 20 to 30 percent. Andy said the group can certainly try to be more conservative this early and that it is early enough that there is time to shift some of the releases if necessary. His goal is to have good water in July for crops and to use the earlier runoffs to fill the ditches.

Sonja agreed that the period during peak runoff is the best time to conserve releases and she suggested that the group could perhaps meet more frequently during the runoff period to determine recommendations at that time. Sonja said that if TLUG wants to set an early season storage planning number of

73,000 acre feet until the forecast stabilizes she is not opposed but if conditions require releases that take us below 73,000, she does not want members opposing releases as our minimum storage objective remains 70,000 acre feet.

Mark Schumacher noted that, in the past during higher water years, when the snowpack was 120 percent or higher, the group conserved water above the minimum storage objective based on actual conditions and then kept the winter releases at 100 cfs or more.

Andy Spann asked Erik Knight if he can plug in a minimum year-end storage objective of 73,000 acre feet and see what that does to the projected releases. Andy also said that if this level allows, he would rather see releases cut back in April, May and the beginning of June during peak runoff to save some from July, August and September Erik said he can run those calculations.

Erik Knight confirmed that the BOR can certainly set the plan not to make any changes to the current releases until the next meeting in early April.

David Gochis noted in chat that their data shows that soil moisture is at 30-40 percent of normal saturation for this time of year.

After much discussion, Chair Don Sabrowski asked the group if there was consensus to keep the current flows at 73 cfs until the April meeting date. There were no objections. Don asked Erik Knight to keep the current flows and asked if he can send out the new operational forecasts based on an early season minimum year-end storage planning number of 73,000 acre-feet which could be reviewed at our April meeting. Erik replied that he could do this.

General Manager Sonja Chavez announced that the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gunnison River Festival will be June 9-11, 2022, with the festival commencing on the Taylor River on Friday June 9<sup>th</sup>.

The next TLUG meeting was set for Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 2 PM.

Chair Don Sabrowski asked if any of the citizens attending had comments or questions. Steve Cook said he would like to see the group set the year-end target a little higher to allow for more flexibility at the end of the year.

Sonja Chavez noted that the District has received an email from Jason White of which she relayed to the group.

Sonja said she would also email the full Stipulation Agreement to all of the TLUG members.

Sonja asked if it was possible to figure out what the annual forecasting error has been from early March to June? Erik said it is typical to see some fairly

big adjustments in April, May and early June as conditions can either take a big turn for the worse or the better once the actual runoff occurs.

Sonja Chavez asked Erik Knight if he knew when the Four Parties meeting would be scheduled. Erik said it has typically been held the second or third week of May. Sonja noted that this would give the group time to digest the May forecast and meet before the Four Parties meeting to relay their recommendations.

John Bocchino (public) stated that he supports saving more water for the fall and winter flows.

Chair Don Sabrowski asked if it was possible to factor in the low soil water content issues into the forecasts and would this change the predictions? Erik noted that the current forecasts do include a soil moisture factor variable and that inflows have been adjusted down based on this.

General Manager Sonja Chavez noted that Aerial Snow Observatory (ASO) snow flights are being conducted in the East and Taylor River and that this will hopefully improve forecasting. She said that the Colorado Water Conservation Board has been approached with a grant requesting asking for funding support for more ASO flights across critical Colorado mountain basins and she's hoping this could lead into an annual Colorado program.

Chairman Don Sabrowski adjourned the March 7, 2022 TLUG meeting at 1:23 pm.

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members

**FROM:** Watershed Management Planning Committee

**DATE:** March 14, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Watershed Management Planning Committee Meeting Summary

A meeting of the committee was held on March 14, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Stacy McPhail, Jesse Kruthaupt, Nancy Johnston, Erin Wilson, Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards, Cheryl Cwelich and Sue Uerling were in attendance.

Agenda topics included updates on the watershed/wildfire and geo-fluvial assessments, agricultural assessments, Gunnison Water Smart group, creel survey and boatable days tool report status, planned Whitewater Park improvements with the county, municipal needs assessment, and grant opportunities being pursued.

As a result of these discussions the following action and discussion items were identified:

### **Action and Discussion Items**

- Staff will meet with Jesse Kruthaupt and Nancy Johnston to discuss which Water Smart grants to pursue for proposed projects.
- Sonja Chavez will review stakeholder outreach outline for WMP outreach meetings.
- Staff will develop potential dates for stakeholder outreach meetings in April.
- Staff will provide a link to a Google Drive where report sections will be provided. Geological sections from Bruce Bartleson will be included in this file.
- Sonja Chavez and Cheryl Cwelich will continue to work with CSU and the Colorado Natural Heritage Program on contracting issues. Sonja will be asking the board to revise their procurement policy to reflect a maximum indirect cost rate of 18% that consultants such as Universities can ask for as part of our agreements for services.
- Staff will discuss the frequency of the Upper Gunnison Water Smart group meetings.
- Sonja Chavez will work with Russ Forrest with the City of Gunnison to organize a meeting to discuss land use change, growth potential, and available wet water resources.
- Staff will contact Katie Jagt with Watershed Science and Design to discuss development of more refined timeline for the project.
- Staff will contact Brad Piehl with JW Associates to discuss possibly removing climate resiliency from his scope of work (unless it relates specifically to forest vegetation management).
- Climate resiliency as it relates to flora, fauna, wetlands, etc., will be addressed through CNHP contract.
- Jesse Kruthaupt will continue working on identifying projects in the Cebolla watershed that were originally identified in the WMP assessment process.

- Nancy Johnston will continue working with CPW to provide data from the creel survey on the Taylor River. Once this is received a summary report will be provided. The Boatable Days tool summary report will be complete by the end of March.
- Staff will continue to compile report sections for the Phase 2 WMP report. This will focus on sections provided by Wilson Water Group and suggestions for additional information will be provided to Erin Wilson.

### **Next Meeting**

Watershed Management Planning Committee – April 11, 2022 – 1:30 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Forest and Watershed Health Technical Group

**FROM:** Beverly Richards, Water Resource Specialist

**DATE:** March 14, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Forest and Watershed Health Technical Group Meeting Summary

A meeting of the committee was held on March 9, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Stacy McPhail, Julie Nania, Jesse Kruthaupt (TU), Sara Bergstrom, Nancy Johnston (CTU), Bella Biondini, Mike Tarantino (CSFS), Jamie Gomez (WRWC), Dan Olson (NRCS), Ashley Hom (USFS), Brad Phiel (JW Associates), Michael Blazewicz (Round River Design), Molly Guiney (Cedar Geomorphic), Abby McNamara (JW Associates), and UGRWCD staff Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards, Sue Uerling and Cheryl Cwelich were in attendance.

Agenda topics included updates on the watershed/wildfire and geo-fluvial assessments and next steps for the group. As a result of these discussions, following is a summary of common themes/topics identified by the group related to topics of interest moving forward:

### **Watershed/Wildfire Risk Assessment (JW Associates)**

- JW Associates is about a month behind schedule.
- They have adjusted the FlamMap model inputs/behavior to accurately reflect the way fires have burned in recent years. This included using landscape files to determine how vegetation burned. They used this information to include in the model for assessment in Upper Gunnison area, including flame length and crown fire activity. This also included beetle mortality data which is not always available.
- Changes were made to the fuel models based upon the insect mortality data received from this modification.
- Brad provided maps of areas in the Upper Gunnison that showed increased flame lengths and crown fire activity due to insect mortality from the model. This did also show many areas that would fit in this category due to dry conditions throughout the basin.
- Model data is only updated on a two-year plan so does not necessarily represent new insect outbreaks.
- A map indicating the wildfire risk ranking for watersheds in the basin coincided with the modification to the model data, indicating high risk areas in the Tomichi Creek, Cochetopa Creek, Lake Fork, and Elk Mountains/Elk Creek basins.
- The data used for this modification was the Rodman data for beetle activity and was done for the entire state. The original model iteration did not measure what they needed
- Work is still being done on the Zones of Concern portion of the assessment. The final data will include wildfire hazard; debris flow; slope erosion, road hazards, and climate resiliency as it relates to vegetation. The data and the draft report will be provided by April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The final report from JW Associates will also include suggestions for broad-scale approaches for mitigating fire hazards in these zones.

- This information will also be shared with the Technical Committee of the Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council.

### **Geo-fluvial Assessment (Watershed Science and Design/Round River Design)**

- Michael Blazewicz and Molly Guiney provided the update on the geo-fluvial assessment.
- They are making good progress and are gearing up to begin field work on basins identified as part of the assessment. The site visits will begin by the end of April and continue through June.
- They have begun work in the Taylor River basin and their assessments include data from mining history, geo-hazards, avalanche paths, burn scars, and locations of municipal intakes.
- The assessment includes locations on the Taylor River, Texas Creek, Illinois Creek, and Willow Creek.
- Next steps will include designing the final reach study sheets and much of the information provided by JW Associates could be helpful.
- Additional LIDAR data would be helpful with these assessments.
- The end goal for this assessment will be to provide overall current conditions of the study areas and an understanding of the basin in general.
- Ashley Hom said that as part of the Forest Service's 10-year plan for Taylor Park, they are doing some of the same assessments. A meeting with Michael and Ashley and their teams will be scheduled to tie the effort together including the historic extent of the wetlands.
- Final report from this assessment will include information about wetlands, sedimentation, wildfire hazard, and restoration action plans.

### **General Discussion**

- Jamie Gomez with West Region Wildfire Council said the data collection associated with these assessments will help with river restoration and forest management.
- There are several on the ground projects in process in the Taylor River basin including the environmental assessment and SBEADMR which includes active projects and work on private land.
- It is important to work with partners on a watershed scale to focus on land management for CWPP. This will guide decision making.
- The West Region Wildfire Council is working with GMUG on funding to hire a coordinator for the Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council. The group suggested that Jamie may want to provide broad scale information on that group to the Upper Gunnison Board of Directors.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Beverly Richards/Grant Committee

DATE: March 2, 2022

SUBJECT: 2022 Grant Committee and Funding Recommendations

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The Grant Committee met via teleconference on March 2, 2022 to review applications for the 2022 Grant Program. Directors Andy Spann, Julie Nania, Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard, and Rosemary Carroll participated. District staff Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards, Jill Steele and Cheryl Cwelich were also in attendance. Total funds requested in 2022 were \$346,016, which was approximately \$146,000 more than the 2022 District Grant budget amount of \$200,000.

The Grant Committee meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Joellen Fonken, Chair. The Committee discussed each application and as part of the discussion, the funding recommendations are as follows:

### **Grant Committee Funding Recommendations:**

1. City of Gunnison Potable Water Loss	\$25,000
2. Coldharbour Institute Stream and Wetland Project	\$ 7,500
3. East River Number 1 Break Project	\$26,071
4. Green Mesa Ranch Stream Channel Improvement	\$12,000*
5. Hinsdale County Campground Water System Design	\$ 7,500*
6. Hot Springs Reservoir Outlet Project	\$25,000*
7. Investigating Remote Sensing Tools	\$14,580
8. Lone Pine Ditch Improvement Project	\$15,000
9. Marshall No 1 Optimization Project	\$34,000
10. Native Plant Xeriscaping Project	\$ 1,350
11. Ohio Creek Diversion Modernization Project	\$28,500*
12. Rec Path Bridge River Access Project	\$40,000
13. Tomichi Diversion Modernization Project	\$47,500
14. Wet Meadows & Riparian Restoration Project	\$22,000
15. Wild-Rice Wetland Restoration Project	\$ 0

<b>Total recommended for funding</b>	<b>\$306,001</b>
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\* These grant applications include Engineering or WMP Implementation budget line item funds.

There were a number of the applications that will be awarded funding contingent upon receipt of additional information. In addition, there were several good project proposals submitted, but deemed in need of additional engineering or engineering review to ensure a successful outcome and avoid any potential negative downstream effects from the proposed work.

In addition to approval of the award of \$200,000 from 2022 District Grant Funds, the Grant Committee is recommending using:

- \$50,000 of 2022 District Engineering funds set aside by the Board during our budget process from unused District Grant funds from 2015-2020;
- \$22,101 of the *final* available balance from unused District Grant funds from 2015-2020; and
- \$33,900 from the 2022 Non-Operating Budget Line Item 47 for Basinwide Planning – WMP *Implementation*.

This funding proposal leverages District resources with multiple outside matching resources while supporting quality project proposals consistent with our District mission and goals.

### **Recommended Board Action in Support of the 2022 District Grant Process:**

1. Approve the Grant Committee's 2022 recommendations for award of District Grant funds in the amount of \$200,000 contingent upon staff receipt of identified additional information.
2. Approve the transfer of the final \$22,101 available from unused District grant funds (2015-2020).
3. Approve the expenditure of \$50,000 from the Engineering Fund Set-Aside available from unused District Grant funds (2015-2020).
4. Approve the expenditure of \$33,900 from the District Non-Operating Budget Line Item 47, Basinwide Planning – WMP Implementation.

### **Additional Future Action Items for Staff Follow-Up:**

- Staff will follow up with applicants about additional information identified as necessary for funding approval.
- Staff will consider input received from the Grant Committee on the grant application process for 2023 grant cycle. These include:
  - Development of a “completed project” application template

- Possible development of an online fillable application.

The Grant Committee meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Cheryl Cwelich, Watershed Program Coordinator  
**DATE:** March 18, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Wet Meadows Program Update

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**Background:** The UGRWCD Wet Meadows Restoration and Resiliency Building Program (WMRRBP) submitted a grant concept paper to Greater Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) on February 17, 2022. The concept paper was accepted by GOCO and the District will now move forward with a full Planning & Capacity grant request proposal of \$158,100 (Project Narrative and Budget are attached as Exhibit A).

As part of the grant submittal, the District committed \$25,000 of the Watershed Program Coordinator's salary over two years as matching funds. The grant will also commit \$18,602.62 of the existing NFWF Phase II grant as matching funds. This budget proposal has been reviewed and approved by the General Manager.

A signed board resolution is required as part of the grant application submittal packet due March 31, 2022 (Attached as Exhibit B). The resolution has been reviewed by the UGRWCD General Counsel.

Staff is seeking the following action from the Board:

**ACTION ITEM:** UGRWCD signed 2022 GOCO grant application resolution.

## **Exhibit A**

### **Wet Meadow Restoration Resilience Building Project (WMRRBP)**

#### **2022 Planning & Capacity Grant Narrative**

The Wet Meadows Restoration & Resilience Building Project (WMRRBP) is the grassroots result of the Gunnison Climate Working Group in 2012 to reduce the negative impacts of climate change on the landscape, its wildlife, and people in Gunnison County and has impacted work in neighboring San Miguel, Mesa and Eagle Counties. This is the ten-year anniversary of the WMRRBP, a collaborative group of numerous partners, including local and national non-profits, state and federal government agencies, local ranchers and agricultural producers, volunteers, concerned citizens and more. The WMRRBP is managed by the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD), an agency with a long history of innovative conservation efforts and working collaboratively with a broad range of partners on public and private lands.

Using recognized low-tech and process-based restoration techniques to address erosion, slow down and retain water, allow sediment to drop and vegetation growth to re-establish the hydrologic function in these systems, the WMRRBP is improving rangeland health, supporting land-based livelihoods, and restoring, maintaining, and enhancing habitat for the federally threatened Gunnison sage-grouse (GUSG), and other wildlife throughout the Gunnison Basin and beyond. This is a low-risk restoration strategy that uses multiple small-scale natural structures, built in phases, to restore and increase soil moisture holding capacity. In turn, this increases the resiliency of grouse habitat to drought, extreme weather, and climate variability, while providing valuable ecosystem services for the public and private landowners. Due to the sensitive brood-rearing period, field work cannot occur until after July 15<sup>th</sup>, which allows barely three months to complete restoration work before snow flies. The short and long-term goals of this collaborative, landscape scale restoration project is to secure community vitality and agricultural sustainability against the effects of climate change by promoting healthy forested watersheds, sagebrush landscapes including mesic meadows, and improving GUSG populations.

Capacity has become the most significant bottleneck preventing the WMRRBP from further demonstrating success at the landscape scale. In 2017, The Nature Conservancy developed a model to prioritize project areas for the WMRRBP. The model identified 32 HUC 12 watersheds, containing 541 stream reaches, and 764 acres of wetland habitat that can be restored along 271 miles of stream in sagebrush systems in the Gunnison Basin. Within a season, project partners are able to tackle some high-visibility areas but are constrained by inner-agency transitions, planning, work crew and contractor capacity to address entire stream reaches. At the current pace, it will take more than 40 years to treat these reaches. With extreme drought becoming the new normal, this is too long for the Gunnison sage-grouse, other wildlife and a landscape increasingly impacted by aridification. WMRRBP partners are meeting in April to continue refining the TNC prioritization model and bring in other institutions, like the University of Denver (DU) and Western Colorado University (WCU), to assist with additional LiDAR mapping to pinpoint restoration sites, saving time for local agencies that are already at capacity. This effort, combined with funding for onsite planning & design consulting will help to get at least three

## Exhibit A

additional drainages ready for implementation next year and propel our ability to address the landscape as a whole, rather than on a case-by-case basis.

A major component of the WMRRBP is connecting people back to the land. Ecological consultants that plan, design, and train crews on restoration work are key to the success of the WMRRBP. They are also in high-demand and can be costly to procure. In addition, this restoration work would not be possible without conservation crews like Western Colorado Conservation Corp (WCCC) and Rocky Mountain Youth Conservation Corps (RMYCC), and volunteer groups like Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) and High County Conservation Advocates (HCCA). These conservation and volunteer work crews help to move and place materials in areas where it would be impossible or ecologically damaging to bring vehicles or equipment. Participants receive experiential education on erosion control structures from veteran ecological consultants. The WMRRBP program also hosts professional workshops, like one this upcoming August with Colorado Chapter of The Wildlife Society (CCTWS). This project serves as a model for other western communities on the benefits of working with a broad partnership in similar settings to address issues around water resources and climate change. This is training that people take with them to use in their own communities and professional work experiences across Colorado and even to other states like Wyoming and Utah to facilitate similar needed restoration work. While deeply impactful, these works crews and workshops can be costly, which is why the WMRRBP also engages with local middle and high school students for field trips, in addition to hosting workshops for college students at Western Colorado University. Academic institutions are powerful partners to perform restoration work and spread conservation knowledge, but due to timing of field work into the late summer and fall, they are not a regular work force that can be depended upon like the conservation and volunteer work crews or workshop attendees. Without GOCO's help this year, a workshop event planned in September with over forty participants from HCCA and WRV will continue to go unfunded.

The UGRWCD is requesting a Planning & Capacity grant for \$158,100 dollars over a two-year period to increase needed planning, compliance, and work crew capacity for the WMRRBP. This grant will provide critical funding to support regulatory compliance to get projects off the ground, site planning and design needed to scale up the project and provide a seasonal crew and professional workshops to augment volunteer labor this season. As previous funding sources expire this year, GOCO's grant can serve as non-federal match to leverage multiple funding opportunities WMRRBP will be seeking for project implementation including NRCS Conservation Program Partners for Wildlife Programs, RESTORE Colorado, Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART and others. This Planning & Capacity grant will solidify the ability to conduct necessary restoration work this season with nearly booked conservation crews. It will help the WMRRBP expand into new project areas next year with planning and site prioritization that create landscape-scale impacts, while also expanding knowledge and experience through training workshops and volunteer events that are used throughout the West. This project will restore and maintain hydrologic function across our watershed for the benefit of its wildlife, people, and recreational economy while addressing water quality and quantity issues which effect the Gunnison Basin community, and all downstream water users in the west who are struggling with the effects of drought and climate change.

## PROJECT BUDGET & DETAILS

### APPLICATION SCOPE OF WORK

Source of Funds (CASH)	Date Secured	GOCO Funds	Matching Funds
GOCO - Gunnison Wet Meadows Program Stewardship Impact Grant	Pending	\$158,100.00	
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District: Watershed Program Coordinator	1-Dec		\$25,000.00
Enhancing Sagebrush Resiliency by Restoring Mesic Habitat Hydrology (CO) (NFWF)	1-Mar		\$18,602.62
<b>Source of Funds (IN-KIND)</b>			
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District: Consulting & Legal Counsel	1-Dec		\$2,000.00
BLM, CPW, USFS, USFWS, NRCS	Pending		\$1,050.00
CPW/CCTWS	Pending		\$1,000.00
	subtotal	\$158,100.00	\$47,652.62
<b>TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>			<b>\$205,752.62</b>

Use of Funds (CASH)	Description	GOCO Funds	Matching Funds	Total Funding
<b>Project Management/Coordination</b>				
Wet Meadow Coordination	Program coordination, financial tracking, education and outreach, reporting, and additional funding acquisition via future grant proposal development.		\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
				\$0.00
<b>Contractual Services</b>				
Site Planning & Design	Contractors to perform wetland delineations, expand site prioritization and design restoration treatments.	\$87,500.00	\$15,256.75	\$102,756.75
Regulatory Compliance	Funding to assist federal partners with regulatory compliance, such as NEPA, SHPO, 404 permits, CWA, ESA, etc.	\$20,800.00	\$3,345.87	\$24,145.87
<b>Outreach &amp; Education</b>				
Conservation Crews (such as WRV and RMYCC)	Funding to support training of volunteer crews on restoration practices that can be used in other areas of Colorado.	\$49,800.00		\$49,800.00
				\$0.00
	subtotal	\$158,100.00	\$43,602.62	\$201,702.62
<b>Use of Funds (IN-KIND)</b>				
<b>Description</b>				<b>Matching Funds</b>
<b>Project Management &amp; Legal</b>				
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District	Provide project management; legal counsel; administrative @ ~\$30/hr			\$2,000.00
<b>Partner Planning</b>				
BLM, CPW, USFS, USFWS, NRCS	Attend monthly planning meetings; participate in project strategic planning and site prioritization meetings @ ~7 meetings x 5 participants @ ~\$30/hr			\$1,050.00
<b>Partner Workshops</b>				
CPW	Host the CCTWS for a two-day workshop to provide project overview and hands-on training to wildlife professionals			\$1,000.00
	subtotal			\$4,050.00
		<b>GOCO Funds</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>	
		subtotal	\$158,100.00	\$47,652.62
<b>TOTAL USE OF FUNDS*</b>				<b>\$205,752.62</b>

\* The Total Use of Funds must equal the Total Source of Funds in the section above.

### OTHER LEVERAGED RESOURCES (OPTIONAL)

CASH OR IN-KIND	Description	Total Funding
<b>Partner Funding Agreements</b>		
BLM L17AC00255.	Funding for restoration work on BLM Gunnison properties. Grant period between 09/2018 and 09/2022.	\$325,000.00
BLM L19AC00207.	Funding for restoration work on BLM Silt property between 5/2019 and 9/2024. Funding will be spent in 2022.	\$53,000.00
USFS 18-PA-11020407-021.	Funding for restoration work on USFS property. Grant period between 5/2020 and 4/2023.	\$64,787.00
<b>Grant Funding</b>		
NFWF Phase II	Funding for restoration work in Gunnison, Mesa and San Miguel Counties. Grant period between 03/2020 and 12/2022	\$288,561.85
	subtotal	\$731,348.85

**TOTAL PROJECT VALUE** **\$937,101.47**

GOCO % of project cost 77%  
GOCO % of project value 17%

## **Exhibit B**

### **Resolution 2022 – 01**

Whereas, the mission of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (District) is to be an active leader in all issues affecting the water resources of the Upper Gunnison River Basin; and,

Whereas, the District supports and manages the Wet Meadows Restoration & Resilience Building Project; and,

Whereas, the District supports the Great Outdoors Colorado grant application for the Wet Meadows Restoration & Resilience Building Project Planning & Capacity Building project. And if the grant is awarded, the District supports the completion of the project; and,

Whereas, the District has requested \$158,100 from Great Outdoors Colorado for the Wet Meadows Restoration & Resilience Building Project Planning & Capacity Building project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

The Board of Directors strongly support the application for a grant with Great Outdoors Colorado.

If the grant is awarded, the Board of Directors strongly support the fulfillment of the project.

If the grant is awarded, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the General Manager to sign the grant agreement with Great Outdoors Colorado.

If the grant is awarded, the Board of Directors authorizes the expenditure of funds necessary to meet the terms and obligations of the grant agreement.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned President and Secretary have caused the seal of said District to be hereto affixed this 28th day of March, 2022.

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John Perusek, Secretary

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Michelle Pierce, President

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am the duly elected and qualified Secretary of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District and the keeper of the records and seal of said District and that this is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of said District held in accordance with the Bylaws of said District on the 28th day of March, 2022.

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John Perusek, Secretary

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Sue Uerling, Adm. Asst./Comm. Support Specialist  
**DATE:** March 18, 2022  
**SUBJECT:** Education and Outreach Update

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The following Education and Outreach action items are new since the last update at the February 28, 2022 Board Meeting:

- 90 Copies of the children's book *Drop: An Adventure through the Water Cycle* by Emily Kate Moon were delivered to the Gunnison Elementary School first grade students on Monday, March 21, 2022. Thanks so much for the Board and staff members who helped with the distribution.
- The UGRWCD will partner with the City of Gunnison and Western Colorado University to help with the city-wide Community Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 23, 2022. Director Joellen Fonken and Watershed Program Coordinator Cheryl Cwelich will assign volunteers to clean up trash along the banks of the Gunnison River and Tomichi Creek at various locations throughout Gunnison. Volunteers will then bring their filled trash bags back to Jorgensen Park and can join in a free lunch sponsored by the District. The District will also use this opportunity to advertise the Gunnison River Festival and UGRWCD Conference Workshop. All Board members are welcome to participate in the community clean-up and/or join in the lunch. Special thanks to Joellen and Cheryl for their efforts.

# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

**Scientific Endeavors Update**

# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

**Gunnison Basin Roundtable**

# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

**Gunnison River Festival Update**

# **AGENDA ITEM 10**

## **Miscellaneous Matters**

# Reports

## Monthly Energy Production Report

Generated for Beverly Richards  
on 03/15/2022

### UGRWCD

Gunnison, CO

This report provides energy production for March.

Week	Peak Power	Energy Produced
03/01/2022 - 03/07/2022	5.92 kW	199 kWh
03/08/2022 - 03/14/2022	5.92 kW	199 kWh
03/15/2022 - 03/21/2022	4.19 kW	0 Wh
03/22/2022 - 03/28/2022	0 W	0 Wh
03/29/2022 - 03/31/2022	0 W	0 Wh
March 2022 Total:		399 kWh
Previous Month Total:		631 kWh
Year to Date:		1.69 MWh
Lifetime Production:		27.5 MWh

Your **Carbon Offset** for this month: 607.0 lbs

You have offset the equivalent of: **7 Trees**



TO

Daily Summary for Month --> Mar

					Taylor Park Reservoir				Silver Jack Reservoir				Aspinall Unit						GUNNISON TUNNEL ALLOCATION																
River Call					Average Flow		Reservoir		1st Fill	2nd Fill	Other	Aspinall	Reservoir		BP Acct	AU Acct	Reservoir Contents			Total Aspinall Unit Inflow			1st Fill	Contract	Streamflow and Divs		Type of Water Diverted into Tunnel							Tot 1st fill	
Day of Month	Silver Jack Reservoir & Juniors In	TP Releases from 1st Fill (1=Yes, 0=No)	Excess Released and TP Nat Inflow (cfs)	Gun Tunnel (GT) Shortage after AU Inflow (cfs)	3-Day Ave. GT Shortage after AU Inflow (cfs)		TP Res. Content (af)	USGS outflow (cfs)	TP Compute d Inflow (cfs)	1st Fill - in TP (af)	2nd Fill - in TP (af)	Other Storage in TP - (af)	AU Storage e in TP - (af)	SJ Res Content (af)	Reservoir Storage (cfs)	BP - Storage - in SJ (af)	Water - Storage - in SJ (af)	BM Res Content (af)	MP Res Content (af)	CR Res Content (af)	AU Change In Storage (af)	Computed rel from CR (cfs)	AU Inflow & with AU Aug Rel (cfs)	#REF!	UGRWCD Contract water (af)	Gun. River below East Portal (cfs)	Total Gunnison Tunnel Divs (cfs)	GT Divs - AU inflow minus TP released (cfs)	GT Divs - TP Released Inflow (cfs)	GT Divs - SJ Storage Inflow by AU Exch (cfs)	UGRWCD Contract Water Rel (cfs)	GT Divs - Rel from 2nd Fill for Rec/Fish (cfs)	GT Divs - 1st Fill Credit in BM (cfs)	#REF!	Remain. 1st Fill Credits in TP and AU (af)
	Priority (1=Yes, 0=No)	1st Fill (1=Yes, 0=No)	Nat Inflow (cfs)	Inflow (cfs)	Nat Inflow (cfs)	Inflow (cfs)				Storage - in TP (af)	Storage - in TP (af)	Storage - in TP (af)	SJ Inflow to Reservoir Content (af)															AU Storage - in SJ (af)	BM Res Content (af)	MP Res Content (af)	CR Res Content (af)	AU Change In Storage (af)	Computed rel from CR (cfs)		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(11)	(14)	(15)	(19)	(25)	(30)	(34)	(36)	(39)	(43)	(47)	(49)	(77)	(100)	(124)	(125)	(127)	#REF!	#REF!	(128)	(131)	(132)	(133)	(134)	(135)	(136)	(137)	#REF!	(140)
1	1	1	288	0	345	0	57,735	74	67	40,900	16,835	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	242,608	105,164	15,169	-19	352	269			305	47	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
2	1	1	303	0	305	0	57,707	74	60	40,753	16,954	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	242,030	105,194	15,737	21	356	293			306	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
3	1	1	322	0	304	0	57,679	74	60	40,606	17,073	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	241,934	104,802	16,281	56	308	262			308	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
4	1	1	319	0	315	0	57,665	75	68	40,458	17,208	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	241,838	104,878	16,336	34	309	252			309	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
5	1	1	152	0	264	0	57,707	75	96	40,309	17,398	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	241,838	104,501	16,362	-351	308	56			308	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
6	1	1	946	0	472	0	57,707	74	74	40,162	17,545	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	242,271	105,399	16,296	1,265	308	872			308	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
7	1	1	439	0	512	0	57,679	74	60	40,016	17,663	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	242,030	105,945	16,278	288	308	379			308	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
8	1	1	472	0	619	0	57,665	73	66	39,870	17,795	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	242,800	105,497	16,250	294	331	406			331	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
9	1	1	377	0	429	0	57,679	74	81	39,724	17,956	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	242,656	105,619	16,299	26	357	296			357	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
10	1	1	426	0	425	0	57,637	75	54	39,575	18,062	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	242,752	105,710	16,290	179	357	372			357	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
11	1	1	336	0	380	0	57,582	75	47	39,426	18,155	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	241,934	106,562	16,270	14	357	289			357	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
12	1	1	457	0	406	0	57,596	74	81	39,280	18,316	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	241,549	107,051	16,351	185	357	377			357	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
13	1	1	413	0	402	0	57,568	74	59	39,134	18,434	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	240,924	107,703	16,461	137	358	354			358	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
14	1	1	597	0	489	0	57,554	74	67	38,987	18,566	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	240,250	108,770	16,557	489	358	530			358	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
15	1	1	10	0	340	0	57,526	74	60	38,939	18,587	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	235,013	109,430	16,330	-4,803	465	0			415	50	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
16	1	1	2,701	0	1,103	0	57,512	74	67	38,793	18,719	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	238,913	110,117	16,293	4,549	460	2,679			415	45	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
17	1	1						0																		0									
18	1	1						0																		0									
19	1	1						0																		0									
20	1	1						0																		0									
21	1	1						0																		0									
22	1	1						0																		0									
23	1	1						0																		0									
24	1	1						0																		0									
25	1	1						0																		0									
26	1	1						0																		0									
27	1	1						0																		0									
28	1	1						0																		0									
29	1	1						0																		0									
30	1	1						0																		0									
31	1	1						0																		0									
Total	31	31	8,560	0	7,112	0	1,186	1,066						0				2,363	5,650	7,686						5,457	193	143	50	0	0	0	0	0	
Tot (af)			16,978	0	14,106	0	2,352	2,115						0				4,686	11,206	15,244						10,824	382	283	99	0	0	0	0	0	
Min	1	1	10	0	264	0	57,512	0	47	38,793	16,835	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	235,013	104,501	15,169	-4,803	308	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
Max	1	1	2,701	0	1,103	0	57,735	75	96	40,900	18,719	0	0	1,135	0	1,135	0	242,800	110,117	16,557	4,549	465	2,679	0	0	415	50	50	50	0	0	0	0	0	105,924

Annual Summary (all values in ac-ft) Note: Reservoir content is the end of the month content

	(days)	(days)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)		(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)	(af)		
Nov	30	30	33,397	0	31,516	0	58,737	4,470	4,632	54,117	4,620	0	0	1,713	300	1,713	0	220,759	110,430	15,977	11,721	20,025	29,369			19,420	604	604	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924	
Dec	31	31	25,577	0	25,158	0	58,695	4,564	4,521	49,554	9,141	0	0	1,790	166	1,790	0	232,145	105,687	16,102	6,769	20,080	22,285			18,851	1,229	1,229	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924	
Jan	31	31	22,806	0	23,602	0	58,327	4,412	4,043	45,142	13,184	0	0	1,906	116	1,906	0	237,819	104,652	16,186	4,722	19,520	19,830			18,453	1,067	1,067	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924	
Feb	28	28	20,714	0	20,519	0	57,749	4,096	3,518	41,046	16,703	0	0	1,906	0	1,906	0	242,463	105,444	15,052	4,304	17,228	17,436			16,989	239	239	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924	
Mar	31	31	16,978	0	14,106	0		2,352	2,115					0							2,363	11,206	15,244			10,824	382	283	99	0	0	0	0	0		
Apr	30	30	0	0	0	0		0	0					0							0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
May	31	31	0	0	0	0		0	0					0							0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Jun	30	30	0	0	0	0		0	0					0							0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Jul	31	31	0	0	0	0		0	0					0							0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Aug	31	31	0	0	0	0		0	0					0							0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Sep	30	30	0	0	0	0		0	0					0							0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Oct	31	31	0	0	0	0		0	0					0							0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	365	365	119,472	0	114,901	0		19,893	18,830					582							29,877	88,058	104,164			84,537	3,522	3,423	99	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Min	28	28	0	0	0	0	57,749	0	0	41,046	9,141	0	0	1,790	0	1,790	0	232,145	104,652	15,052	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924
Max	31	31	25,577	0	25,158	0	58,695	4,564	4,521	49,554	16,703	0	0	1,906	166	1,906	0	242,463	105,687	16,186	6,769	20,080	22,285	0		18,851	1,229	1,229	99	0	0	0	0	0	0	105,924

# Counting every drop: Colorado approves \$1.9M for high-tech snow, water measuring program

by **Jerd Smith** | Mar 16, 2022 | **Climate and Drought, Environment, Major River Basins, Technology, Water Supply** |



*Colorado and other Western states are hoping to increase the use of Aerial Snowborne Observatories to better measure the water content in mountain snowpacks. Credit: NASA Hydrological Services*

Colorado has approved a \$1.9 million snow measuring initiative based on NASA technology that will help communities across the state better measure and forecast how much water each winter's mountain snowpack is likely to generate, using planes equipped with sophisticated measuring devices.

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has been testing the accuracy of the flight-based data measuring work since 2015, according to Erik Skeie, who oversees the program for the CWCB. The board approved funding for the new \$1.9 million initiative at its March 16 board meeting.

The new collective, known as Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement group, includes utilities, irrigation districts and environmental groups, including Northern Water, Denver Water and the Dolores Water Conservancy District, among others. In all, 37 water-related groups wrote letters in support of the grant and the measuring program, Skeie said.

Northern Water, which supplies more than 1 million residential, commercial and farm customers on the Northern Front Range, is hopeful the grant will help create an annual monitoring and measurement effort.

"I think it's a really good program if we can make it sustainable into the future," said Emily Carbone, water resources specialist at Northern Water.

Airborne Snow Observatory technology uses planes equipped with LiDAR, a pulsing radar, to develop a grid that contains a deeply detailed picture of the ground when it isn't covered by snow. Then, during the winter months, those planes fly the same terrain once or more each month when it is covered with snow. In this way, the instruments are able to measure snow depth and snow reflectivity. These data, combined with computer-based models, allow the ASO to generate precise readings on when the snow will actually melt and how much water the snowpack in different regions actually contains.

Traditional forecasts can be off by as much as 40%, and sometimes more. But ASO forecasts have been shown to have accuracy rates of 98%.

As the megadrought in the Colorado River Basin has intensified, and climate change has altered snowfall and traditional patterns of snowmelt, finding better ways to measure the water content of snow has become critical, said Taylor Winchell, a climate adaptation specialist at Denver Water who is overseeing the utility's flight data program.

Denver Water began using the technology in 2019.

"As the snowpack is changing, the more accurate measurements that we can have help us adapt our operations to a new water future and it helps us make the most of every drop in the system," Winchell said.

Since the early 1930s, snowpacks have been measured manually and via remote ground-sensing by the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service. Colorado and other Western states use a network of dozens of snotel sites to collect on-the-ground data, but forecasts can change dramatically if the weather becomes volatile, as has been the case more often in recent years.

That volatility and the ongoing drought have made water forecasting even more critical for water agencies. If water supplies come in lower than forecasts indicated, cities and irrigation districts can come up short of water, causing disruptions in deliveries, among other problems.

But ASO technology is expensive. Denver Water spends about \$145,000 for two flights, a cost that includes subsequent modeling as well. But the forecasts have proved to be so accurate that the utility is committed to its ongoing use.

California is spending roughly \$7 million annually and that cost could grow to more than \$20 million if the golden state opts to expand the geographic reach of its ASO program, according to Tom Painter, a former NASA scientist who helped develop the ASO technology and who is now the CEO of Airborne Snow Observatories Inc., the NASA spinoff that is commercializing the technology.

A similar program in Colorado, one expansive enough to cover all the critical mountain watersheds, could cost as much as \$15 million annually, Painter said.

The work would include flying some 10 flights per year per river basin during January, February, March and April, with additional flights in late spring as the snow begins to melt. Then flight data would be incorporated into forecast models.

Predicting snowmelt and its water content as warm weather arrives has been a tricky issue for researchers and water utilities because it becomes highly variable.

"That's when traditional models start to fall apart," Painter said. "They can't hold onto the snowpack well enough. So having the data from ASO is nice to keep the forecast accurate. It's like looking at your checking account balance a couple of times a month."

Skeie, of the CWCB, said the new approach to measuring what's known as snow water equivalent, or the amount of water contained in the snow, will take much of the guess work out of annual water forecasts.

And he's hopeful that the multi-million price tag can be covered by an array of agencies, including the water utilities, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and state governments, among others.

"It's going to take all of that to make it sustainable," Skeie said. And with the backing of the Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement group, it's more likely to occur than it has been before.

Using ASO, in combination with snotel data, "is the difference between having someone describe a picture to you, and being able to see it in 4D," he said. "It's incredibly useful."

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## WATER

# Lake Powell outlook “substantially worse” than predictions after water level falls below target elevation

It's not looking to be a good season for boating on Blue Mesa — if there's a season at all

**Chris Outcalt** 6:40 AM MDT on Mar 16, 2022



Water drawn from Blue Mesa Reservoir to fill Lake Powell put an early end to seasonal boating operation at the lake, including Elk Creek Marina, photographed on Oct. 29, 2021. Now that the water level on Lake Powell has dropped into a crucial buffer level, the owner of the marina in Gunnison is worried there will be additional damage and no boating season at all in 2022. (Dean Krutak, Special to The Colorado Sun)



**Credibility:** ⓘ Original Reporting ⓘ Sources Cited

**A** relatively dry February pushed Lake Powell below a key water level for the first time since the lake was considered “full” in 1980, and has led to deeper projected drops over the next two years.

On Tuesday, the lake fell below 3,525 feet above sea level, a key target elevation that water managers have been trying to keep Powell above because it provides a buffer from the minimum level at which Glen Canyon Dam can generate power. Previous forecasts showed this was possible and the Bureau of Reclamation announced on March 4 that a temporary drop below 3,525 feet was on its way.

It comes as the latest monthly report from the Bureau outlines the potential for Powell to hit even lower levels during the next two years. That has water watchers worried, and businesses that depend on water closer to home could be impacted. “We’re trying to figure out what we’re going to do; we might not even be able to open this season,” said Eric Loken, head of operations at Blue Mesa’s Elk Creek Marina, which his family has operated for more than 30 years. “The current forecast is — if we’re lucky we might have a two-and-a-half-month season.”

Each month, the Bureau of Reclamation, which manages Powell, produces a report known as the 24-Month Study. The document projects three scenarios of monthly conditions in the Colorado River Basin two years out — a most probable



outcome as well as a best- and worst-case scenario.

The worst-case scenario version — known as the “probable minimum” scenario — from the Bureau’s March 24-Month Study released Tuesday shows the elevation level at Powell skirting just above 3,490 feet above sea level in March 2023, the lowest elevation at which Glen Canyon Dam can generate power. The probable minimum projections two years out show the elevation at Powell falling below 3,490 feet. More than 3 million customers use Glen Canyon Dam electricity and the federal government generates roughly \$150 million in average annual revenue from selling that hydropower.

Jeff Lukas, an independent water and climate researcher based in Lafayette, said the March data shows that over the next two years projected levels at Powell will dip about 5-feet lower than was predicted in the February data. Lukas referred to the updated outlook as “substantially worse” when compared to the previous month.

“That 5-foot difference may be small relative to the 75 feet that Powell has already dropped since March 2020,” Lukas said. “But when we’re flirting with minimum power pool, a 5-foot difference in expected outcomes is a big deal.”



A 2019 Drought Response Operations Agreement, or DROA, between the Upper Basin states — Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming — set



3,525 number as an important “target elevation” for the reservoir, providing a 35-foot buffer above the minimum power level.

Last year, to protect the level at Powell, water managers made emergency releases from Flaming Gorge Reservoir in Wyoming and Blue Mesa west of Gunnison. The releases dropped the water level at Blue Mesa by 8 feet, which forced an early end to the boating season and significantly impacted the Gunnison County economy.

Loken said he’s been in close contact with the Bureau and the National Park Service about the upcoming season and that things aren’t looking good. He’s concerned about any additional releases from Blue Mesa. Loken said that even the possibility of a shortened season has him wondering whether it would be worth opening at all. With all the focus on Powell, Loken said, “everyone upstream is screwed.”

Normally during this time of year, Loken said he’d be in the process of conducting interviews to hire for a season that starts May 1. Typically, he said, a staff of 30 people work at the marina, which has docks and 180 boat slips. “Normally, I’d be getting my staff ready to go.” Loken said. “There’s no ability to do that. We don’t know if we’re opening.”

Even if they can open for a shortened stretch, Loken said that people who might normally bring their boats down for a full, five-month season could end up going elsewhere if the marina is only going to open for two months. “There’s not much more to say than I had a business that is pretty much gone,” Loken said.

“The whole thing is just a mess,” he said.



The Bureau and the Upper Basin states are working on a Drought Operations Plan that will be released in April and could dictate how the level at Powell will be managed through the spring and summer, if necessary, to further protect the water level in the lake.

“We are awaiting additional information and projections before finalizing a plan for potential releases in 2022,” Colorado River Commissioner Becky Mitchell said in an emailed statement. “The plan, to be finalized in April, will be based on that information and subject to the parameters and requirements outlined in the Drought Response Operations Agreement.”

Dave Kanzer, director of science and interstate matters at the Colorado River District, said next month will really tell the tale, but that the March 24-Month Study indicates that business as usual will not be sufficient. “This is a reinforcement of what we already know: That we’re going to need to come up with some plan and someone’s not going to be happy.”

The Bureau’s 24-Month Studies rely on data from NOAA’s Colorado Basin River Forecast Center. Cody Moser, a senior hydrologist with the Forecast Center, said that southwest Wyoming is having a horrible year in terms of snow conditions. “They’re fairing pretty bad,” Moser said. Flaming Gorge reservoir on the Green River in Wyoming is a big contributor to Lake Powell volume.

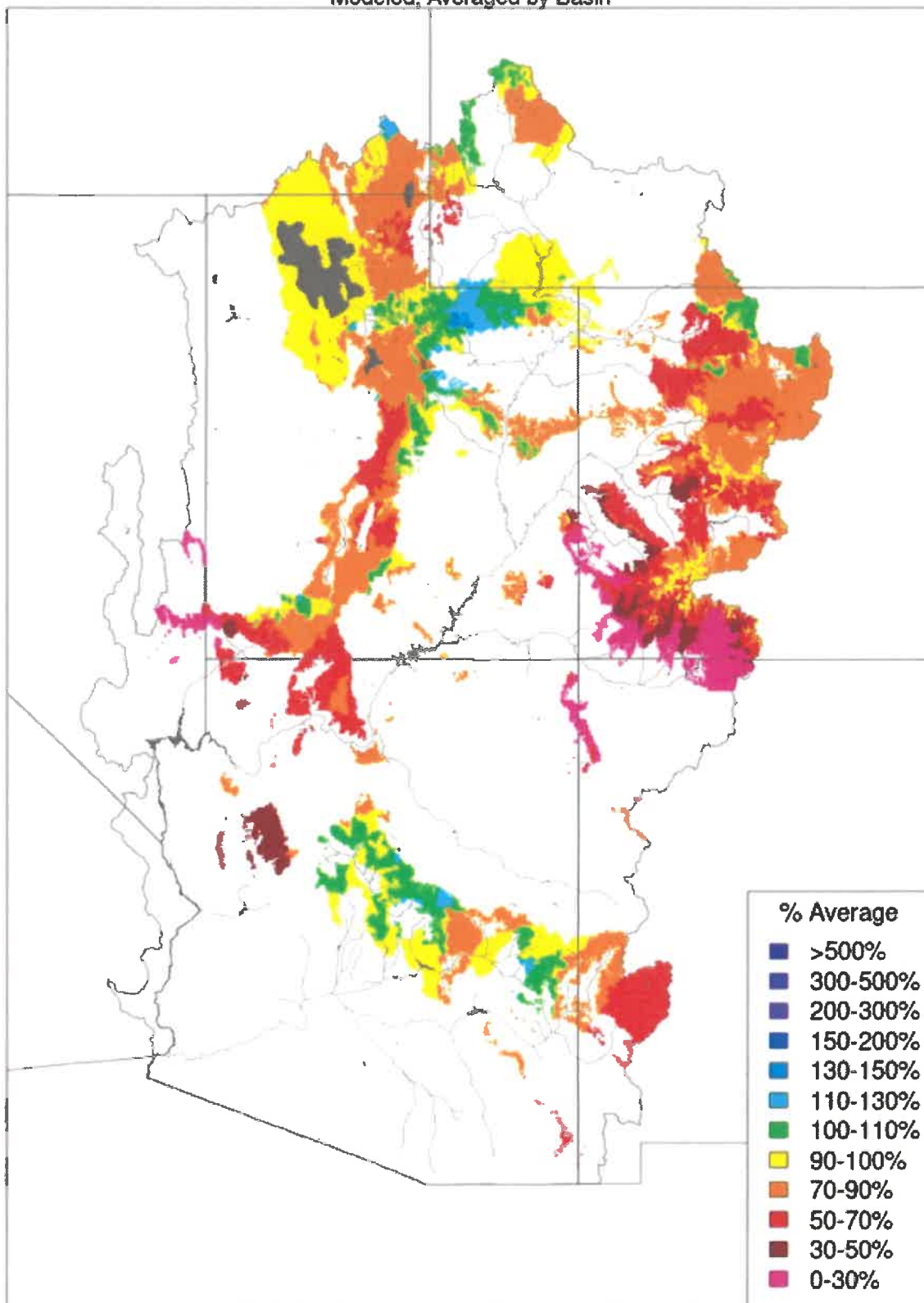


Western Colorado is looking a little better at this point, Moser said, with snowpack hovering somewhere between 90% and 111% of normal compared with data from the past 30 years. However, Moser said, the runoff will still be impacted by dry soil conditions. “The end of 2020, the last eight months were extremely dry,” he said. “Soil moisture conditions are still trying to recover from that.”



## Soil Moisture - Fall - 2021 (November 15)

Modeled, Averaged by Basin



Prepared by NOAA, Colorado Basin River Forecast Center  
Salt Lake City, Utah, [www.cbrfc.noaa.gov](http://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov)

A map produced by NOAA's Colorado Basin River Forecast Center that shows the soil moisture deficit in the Colorado River Basin heading into this 2021-22 winter season. (NOAA)



Lukas, the climate researcher, said that although time is running out to make up any water deficits with snowpack, crazier things have happened. In 2015, he said, record snow accumulation in May saved that year from a worse outcome.


“We’re pretty close to crunch time,” Lukas said. “Every week that goes by that we’re not improving the snowpack relative to the normal trajectory shortens the window available for that Hail Mary.”

## Special Report


### Denver doctor helped patients with severe anorexia obtain aid-in-dying medication, spurring national ethics debate

A recent case study shocked psychiatrists across the country and added fuel to a long debate about whether right-to-die laws would lead to state-sanctioned deaths of people with mental illness and disabilities. >> [READ](#)






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## Lake Powell drops below critical threshold for the first time despite state and federal attempts to avoid it



By Michael Elizabeth Sakas | March 16, 2022

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*Rick Bowmer/AP Photo*



Lake Powell on the Utah-Arizona border has dropped below a critical threshold of 3,525 feet for the first time, shrinking the protective buffer of water the reservoir needs to produce hydroelectric power for millions of people in the West.

The reservoir is the second-largest in the U.S., and it's a key piece of the Colorado River storage and supply system. Powell is fed mostly by snowmelt that collects in Colorado's Rocky Mountains. A [20-year megadrought](#) and a hotter climate, fueled primarily by greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels, has contributed to Powell's levels dropping to all-time lows.

As Powell continues to dry up, there's growing concern that there won't be enough water in the reservoir to keep spinning the turbines that create electricity at Glen Canyon Dam.

Colorado and the other states that share the Colorado River agreed to work together to keep Powell above this critical threshold with the Congressionally approved [2019 Drought Contingency Plan](#). That agreement creates a 35-foot buffer of water before the reservoir hits "dead pool," when reservoir levels are so low, the hydroelectric generators can no longer produce energy.

Water levels in Powell quickly started to drop after years of back-to-back drought. In response, the federal government in 2021 took emergency action and sent water from reservoirs in Colorado and other states to prop up supplies in Powell. [Blue Mesa Reservoir outside of Gunnison lost eight feet of water as a result](#).

Ultimately, those releases did not prevent water levels from dropping below the critical threshold. But U.S. Bureau of Reclamation hydraulic engineer Heather Patno said the additional release did add about six feet of water to Powell, and any extra buffer helps protect Powell's ability to produce energy.

Patno said the drop should be temporary as the snow in the mountains starts to melt and recharge the river and reservoirs. She said 2021 was the second-driest year on record for the Colorado River basin, and a very dry first few months of 2022 eroded the snowpack collecting in the mountains.



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Each month the bureau releases updated projections forecasting water levels in Lake Powell over the next two years. Patno said Powell dropping below 3,525 was first seen as a possibility only in a worst-case scenario. Then, with warmer temperatures and less snow, the projections shifted to show the reservoir could fall below that level in early 2022. Today, that projection came true.

“We have been trying to avoid it, but at the same time we've been living in a drought for the last two decades,” Patno said.

Powell hit its lowest level on record in the summer of 2021 and has continued to drop. Patno said back-to-back dry years have hit the Colorado River before, but reservoirs like Lake Powell were full of water. Now 20 years into a drought, those reservoirs haven't gotten the chance to catch up, and Patino said that means the system is now hitting critically-low levels. Powell is less than 25 percent full.

## New research suggests there might be even less Colorado River water in the future than what's forecasted.

A recent report from the Center for Colorado River Studies found that [the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's projections can be too optimistic](#), partly because it's based on the average water inflow into Powell from 1991-2020, a period that includes an abnormal decade in the 90s that was much wetter than the last 20 years.

Patno said those findings are important, and it and other studies should be considered when federal and state governments decide how to adapt their water operations to drought. She said Powell projections did improve when the bureau recently switched to using the last 30-year average, but that Powell forecasts rely on models that have a level of risk and uncertainty.

Powell's worst-case projections show its level could drop below 3,525 feet again as [early as August of this year](#). Patno said emergency water releases from Blue Mesa and other reservoirs might be needed again as one of the tools to keep Powell propped up, especially as the current snowpack continues to decline. Inflow forecasts into Powell



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up a lot of that water before it reaches rivers and lakes, Patino said.

Colorado Water Conservation Board director Becky Mitchell said the potential of another emergency reservoir release illustrates why Colorado and the other states upstream of the Colorado River are currently working out a way to keep Lake Powell's levels above 3,525 feet. The plan is an attempt to avoid the need for similar federal emergency action in the future.

“When we know that these dips or declines are coming, we’ll have the measures in place to take action in a unified way,” Mitchell said. A draft of that plan is expected in the spring.

States are also looking into the possibility of paying farmers, ranchers and other Colorado River users for their water to help shore up levels in Lake Powell. Mitchell said Colorado is still studying this possibility and noted that all four states upstream of the Colorado River agreed in 2019 to take a unified position on whether or not to move forward with the idea. Mitchell said the Upper Colorado River Commission is currently coordinating with upper-basin states on a potential water demand management plan. It could announce next steps in the fall.

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## Changing snowfall makes it harder to fight fire with fire

By Brittany Peterson and Matthew Brown; The Associated Press  
Mar 9, 2022



A member of the Mile High Youth Corp near Deckers, Colorado. Photo Credit: Brittany Peterson.

DECKERS, Colo. (AP) — Dripping flaming fuel as they go, a line of workers slowly descends a steep, snow-covered hillside above central Colorado's South Platte River, torching piles of woody debris that erupt into flames shooting two stories high.

It's winter in the Rocky Mountains, and fresh snow cover allowed the crew of 11 to safely confine the controlled burn.

Such operations are a central piece of the Biden administration's \$50 billion plan to reduce the density of western forests that have been exploding into firestorms as climate change bakes the region.

But the same **warming trends that worsen wildfires** will also challenge the administration's attempts to guard against them.

Increasingly erratic weather means snow is not always there when needed to **safely burn off** tall debris piles like those on Colorado's Pike-San Isabel National Forest. And that seriously complicates the job of exhausted firefighters, now forced into service year-round.

Their goal is to cut and burn enough vegetation that the next fires won't be as catastrophic as ones that leveled vast forestland and neighborhoods in **Colorado, California, Oregon, Montana** and elsewhere.

Western wildfires have become more volatile as climate change dries forests already thick with vegetation from years of intensive fire suppression. And the window for controlled burns is shrinking.

“It’s been a little bit harder just because of shorter winters,” said David Needham, a U.S. Forest Service ranger who led the Colorado burn operation in late February when the thermometer hovered around zero degrees Fahrenheit (minus 18 Celsius). Surrounding hillsides showed barren scars from past wildfires, including a 2002 blaze that destroyed 133 homes and at the time was the largest in state history.

“On days like this, we capitalize on temperature being in the negatives,” Needham said, “Even small snow storms coming in definitely helps us with that.”

Across the Rockies, piles of slash and trees cleared to reduce fire hazards span some 100,000 acres (40,500 hectares), waiting to be burned once the right amount of snow is on the ground. Sometimes there’s too much, making the piles inaccessible. Other times there’s not enough snow and prescribed burns get canceled so they don’t get out of hand like a previous one that **led to fatalities**.

An overnight snow in central Colorado meant the crew from the forest service and Mile High Youth Corps could burn debris from twice the area they planned. Yet officials said climate change is making it more difficult to find that sweet spot for safe burning.

Spring is arriving earlier and snow-covered ground is disappearing two weeks sooner, according to Rutgers University researcher and New Jersey state Climatologist David Robinson, who has examined more than 50 years of snow cover data collected through satellite imagery.

“One thing we know about climate change is it is increasing the variability and the extremes we are experiencing,” said Robinson. “Out West, once the season shifts, you get very dry, very quickly and it stays dry for months. So you have a real tight window there.”

2020 was the worst wildfire season on record in Colorado, where summers and falls also have been warmer and drier, said Assistant State Climatologist Becky Bolinger. It's "a completely different ball game in terms of wildfires," she said.

For parts of the Rockies, this winter brought too much snow, forcing officials to delay burns. Meanwhile, parts of Wyoming haven't received enough snow to moisten the ground and allow fuel piles to be torched. Even when there is snow, that doesn't mean it will last until the debris stops smoldering, said Brian Keating with the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain region.

When pile burns turn into wildfires, Keating said it's usually because snow around when the burn started disappears. The next wind storm can kick up embers and ignite landscape that days earlier seemed fireproof.

Putting off pile burning carries consequences, too. Until the piles are gone, forest managers won't begin another kind of controlled fire called broadcast burning, which consumes vegetation within stands previously thinned with chainsaws and other equipment.

"If we don't burn the piles, ... that can get kicked down the road another year or two," said Keating. "And every year, we keep building this backlog of piles because we can't get to them all."

Another problem is smoke: Burns can be delayed if the smoke will exacerbate poor air quality.

SUSTAINABILITY (<https://cronkitenews.azpbs.org/category/sustainability/>)

# What's 'average'? Snowpack determines health of Colorado River, and our understanding of it is changing

By Alex Hager/**KUNC** (<https://www.kunc.org/>)

March 9, 2022



Stephen Jaouen measures snow outside Basalt, Colorado. High-mountain snowmelt is the largest source of water for the Colorado River, and change is gradually reducing the amount that falls. This year, a shifted baseline for what counts as "average" paints a somewhat deceptive picture of how much snow is stored high in the mountains. (Photo by Alex Hager/KUNC)

ASPEN, Colo. – High in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado and Wyoming, under thin air and bluebird skies, the Colorado River Basin is slowly replenishing its savings account. Craggy peaks become smooth walls of white, and snow piles up against conifer trunks, covering even the deepest, darkest corners of the forest in a glimmering blanket.

Snow that accumulates on the western slope of the Rockies eventually becomes water in the Colorado River. Some of it will flow as far south as Mexico, running through kitchen faucets in cities and suburbs along the way, or watering crops that keep America fed.

But year by year, the snows are getting slightly smaller and melting earlier – slowly revealing the sting of a warming planet. The way we measure the snow is changing, too, as a shifting baseline for what counts as "average" paints a somewhat deceptive picture of how much snow is stored up in the mountains.

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It's the type of thing that plays out subtly over the course of a human lifetime. On ski mountains across the region, it might be hard to notice anything beyond the normal ebb and flow of good years and bad.

Tony Vagneur, who was born and raised in Aspen, Colorado, is looking out across the slopes of the town's main ski mountain, basking in the warm afternoon sun and the glory of a classic Colorado ski day.

"Blue sky, bluebird day," he said. "The kind everybody talks about. Temperatures probably in the low teens. The snow is hard and fast. I mean, it's perfect."

Aspen Mountain and the town at its base depend on snow to keep the resort running. Vagneur has been skiing it for more than 70 years, and hasn't noticed much change as far as the snow is concerned. But down in the valley, where he lives on a ranch, signs of changing snowpack are manifesting, starting with a dry year in the mid-1970s that left his fields snowless by March.

"I hate to say, but many Marches after that, the hay fields have been bare," he said. "So anecdotally, you could say it is probably a little less snow. Or maybe it's warmer. I don't know, not being a scientist. But it's noticeable."



Water rushes through the Fryingpan River, just downstream of a snow survey site. It's part of the Roaring Fork watershed, which makes up 0.5% of the landmass in the Colorado River Basin but provides about 10% of its water. (Photo by Alex Hager/KUNC)

It's noticeable to the scientists, too, who have data to back up observations that Colorado's snowpack is changing.


"If you look at long-term climate trends, you see a general warming in climate, which doesn't necessarily change the amount of precipitation in headwaters areas, but changes how it falls," said Heather Lewin, science and policy director at the Roaring Fork Conservancy, a not-for-profit that seeks to promote and protect the critical Roaring Fork River.

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The conservancy does river research and education just downstream of Aspen, where snowmelt rushes through the Roaring Fork Valley on its way to the Colorado. The Roaring Fork watershed is 0.5% of the landmass in the Colorado River Basin but provides about 10% of its water.

"We're seeing more precipitation as rain rather than as snow," Lewin said, "so that means instead of having a savings account, we have a spending account that hits the river and moves quickly, versus a savings account that kind of gives us a long-term security."

As snow behavior changes, so does the way we understand snow measurement. In spring 2021, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shifted how it calculates averages (<https://www.npr.org/2021/04/07/983224262/your-weather-forecast-update-warmer-climate-will-be-the-new-normal>) for all its data.

In a way, it's routine. Every 10 years, NOAA moves the three-decade window that it uses for averages. But the rapidly accelerating effects of climate change mean the current window sticks out from previous 30-year periods. The current window runs from 1991 to 2020, which includes the hottest-ever period in America's recorded weather history.

Because of that, snowpack data tells a slightly deceptive story. It's most frequently shared as a percent of average when it appears in newspapers and reports for skiers and river users. For example, if snowpack is at 120%, the number would appear far lower if current totals were compared to normals going back further than 30 years.

"The context right now is that 120% of average might give us an inflated sense of confidence as to how much water we're going to see this summer and how much snow we're really looking at right now," Lewin said.

Other scientists are noting some changes, too, including those who actually gather the snow data.

"When I first started 15 years ago, we'd actually measure some snow in the April-May survey," said Stephen Jaouen, a conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. "And a lot of times now, we just walk in and there's no snow."



A map shows trends in April snowpack in the Western U.S. from 1955-2020. Blue circles represent increased snowpack, red circles represent a decrease. (Map by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service)

Jaouen conducts snow surveys deep in the Roaring Fork watershed, where getting good data requires a bit of trekking.

After a drive downstream from Aspen, the winding mountain road extends past the fringes of cellphone signal, past a sprawling reservoir and up through dense thickets of aspens.

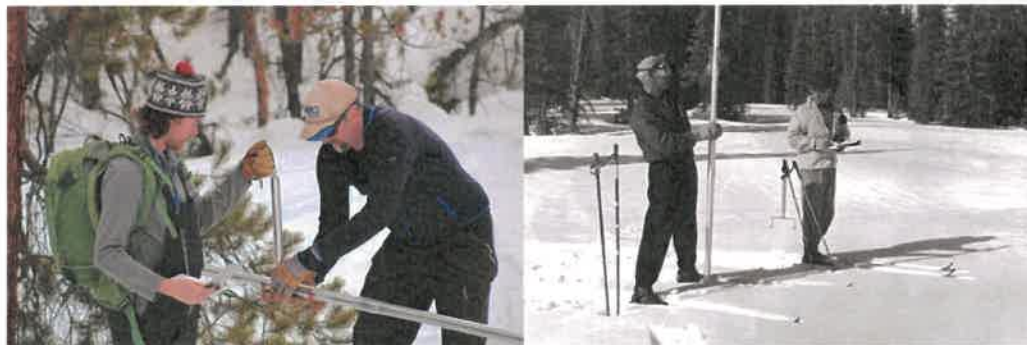
At a trailhead on the side of the road, Jaouen and a technician click into backcountry skis and begin the journey downhill – a stumbly start-and-stop bushwhack through low brush and scattered tree trunks.

Then, aided by traction skins on the bottoms of their skis, the pair hike even further into the woods, following the route from memory until they reach the snow survey site. Here, Jaouen assembles a long aluminum tube and pulls out an analog scale. At nine points, he plunges the tube into the snow underfoot, filling it with a core of the white stuff. Using a ruler on the tube and the handheld scale, Jaouen and the technician take measurements and jot down findings in a little notebook.

The process may sound a bit old-school, and that's because it is. This site has been used for snow measurement – conducted in the same way – for almost a century. The only thing that's changed, Jaouen said, is that heavy steel tubes were swapped for aluminum for easier carrying.

“You just know that the data has been collected the same way for so long that we can see rises and falls in snow water equivalent,” he said. “You know what different years were happening all the way back into the '30s.”

In the 1970s and '80s, the old-fashioned techniques were joined by a high-tech network of SNOTEL measuring sites, adding greater depth to the West's understanding of snowpack. These sites use sensitive measuring equipment and automatically beam data to researchers via satellite.



Snow surveys in Colorado have looked largely the same for decades. On the left, Dayton Knutson and Stephen Jaouen carry out a snow survey in 2022. On the right, Jack Washichek and George Peak do the same on a snow survey in 1955. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has a reliable dataset going back nearly a century. (Photos by Alex Hager/KUNC and the USDA)

Together, the new and old data paint an increasingly important picture of the region's water supply.

“I think as the West got developed and more and more people showed up and are using the river, it becomes that much more important that people understand it and know that this water one day is going to feed California avocados or Mexico cantaloupe,” Jaouen said.

Although drought has dominated headlines during many recent Colorado summers, Lewin and others say the fate of the Colorado River is determined in the winter. Such factors as soil moisture and temperature play an important role in water availability and the likelihood of wildfire, but snow is a key metric for understanding how dry summers will be.

As the two-decade drought pushes water issues more prominently into the public eye, she said it's important that the public fully understands data about snow and rivers.

“You need to look at the context that you're reading or listening to it in because often there's a bigger picture,” Lewin said. “The data all tells a story, and it just depends on the context that we're reading it in.”

*-This story is part of ongoing coverage of water in the West, produced by KUNC in Colorado and supported by the Walton Family Foundation. KUNC is solely responsible for its editorial coverage.*

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## TINY VESSELS, BIG REVOLUTION

ICELab helps launch new company. Raindog Boatworks



A Doryak on the Gunnison River.

Courtesy

Anna Coburn  
Special to the Times

Each morning on 12th Street in Gunnison, Justin Gallen descends from his loft into his garage to continue working on small, wooden boats bound for whitewater.

"Once you paint the LTV on the boat, it starts getting its soul," Gallen said. LTV stands for the linseed oil, turpentine and spar varnish that is painted onto the wood. The scent permeates Gallen's workshop.

Gallen started his company, Raindog Boatworks, not long after he moved to Gunnison in 2020 to be closer to his family during the pandemic. Raindog is one of the four startups accepted into the ICELab's eight-week incubator program that began in February. The incubator's purpose is to help new entrepreneurs in the Gunnison Valley learn the nuts and bolts of establishing their businesses.

"I don't know anything about boats," said ICELab Director David Assad. "They know their product and service, and we know the business side of it all ... We think his project is going to be desirable around the country — at least outside of the county."

Assad said part of what made Raindog a great candidate for the incubator was Gallen's positive attitude.

"He definitely puts his heart and soul into this," said ICELab Manager Tanner Whiteford. "These boats are intended for low-flow streams, so these are wooden dory boats that can be taken down the Gunnison at low water levels. It doesn't just have to be the peak spring runoff."

**The 'tiny boat revolution'**  
According to Gallen, wooden

river boats are attracting attention in whitewater recreation.

"Small boats are just crazy fun," he said. "Small boats are just as close as you can get to being a kayak without learning how to roll."

Gallen builds "Doryaks," which Gallen said started the "tiny boat revolution." A Doryak is a combination of a dory and a kayak. A dory boat is flat bottomed from port to starboard and rocker, or curvature, from bow to stern. Originating in Nova Scotia, dories were launched from fishing boats and engineered for choppy water and hauling a lot of weight — fish. At only nine feet long, the compact Doryak can store plenty of gear along with its single rider and glide over rapids.

The design for the Doryak came from "old-timer and Grand Canyon legend" Brad Dimock. Before his move to Gunnison, Gallen was a Grand Canyon river guide for 12 years, living in Flagstaff, Arizona. Seven years ago, Gallen walked into Dimock's shop, Fretwater Boatworks.

"I saw a boat and just didn't really leave, because they tend to cast a spell on you," Gallen said. Gallen said he bashfully stuck around for about an hour until Dimock handed him a pull saw and told him to get to work.

"People wander in sometimes, and I'll put a tool in their hand," said Dimock. "Sometimes they really take to it, and that was Justin."

Dimock still builds and sells Doryaks in Flagstaff. Dimock said it's really exciting to see one of their own pushing the limits and that the Fretwater Boatworks team is proud. Dimock let Gallen use the Doryak design for Raindog and

still remains a close mentor to Gallen.

Gallen has also created an original, Gunnison-inspired boat of his own: the "Gunnimoon." The Gunnimoon is similar to the Doryak, but made for two riders for a "honeymoon kind of adventure."

"Once you get these things on the water, they are machines. It's really fun trying to explore the upper limits of what they can do," Gallen said.

Gallen looks forward to spring, which allows him to launch his finished products on the river.

"Sitting in the seat finally and getting on the oars just being like, 'Wow, we did it! It's a crazy moment,'" he said. His first spring adventure will be at the end of March steering a Raindog Doryak through the Grand Canyon.

### Rain dogs run the river

The name Raindog comes from a notable Tom Waits song and album released in 1985 called "Rain Dogs." The album made the list of Rolling Stone's "100 Best Albums of the Eighties."

"I literally just had to come up with a name, and Brad listens to like three artists," Gallen said. Tom Waits is one of those artists. He called Dimock's preferences "bourbon-fueled, sailor music."

"The song 'Rain Dogs' is about being a misfit and how that's okay," he said.

What doesn't seem to fit are wooden boats on rapids, but Gallen assured that vessels like these handle the rough and rowdy conditions well. The boats sit high in the water. They are lightweight, so hitting any rocks does little to no damage to the hull. If a Doryak or Gunnimoon flips, a rope is fixed to the bottom to easily pull it rightside up. The weight distribution makes the boats "like a punching doll."

The other cool thing is they're using reclaimed lumber rather than using rare and endangered species from South America," Whiteford said. "When we think about sustainability as a whole, it's not only going to be able to run the

lower river levels that we're seeing persistently now and into the future, but also it's just a product that's more sustainable from reclaimed lumber." On one of the Gunnimoons built in February, Gallen used a 50-year-old piece of Douglas fir that was used as a track for a chainsaw mill.

"I planed it down, relaminated it and gave it a second life," Gallen said.

Gallen is only able to build one boat at a time in his cramped shop by himself, and it takes him a few weeks. His goal is to find a bigger workspace and hire employees.

"After touring his shop, I'll say one thing about Justin for sure. He is an artist and a craftsman to a tee," said Whiteford. "When you think of the great startup stories like Amazon they all started in a garage. He's at the base level, and we're excited to see where he goes once he grows out of the garage startup."

To see the tiny vessels at play on Gallen's new website, visit [raindogboatworks.com](http://raindogboatworks.com).



Justin Gallen.

Anna Coburn



## D'Luna Mexican Store moves to new location

Doors expected to open by April

Bella Biondini  
Times Staff Writer

The crowd gathered outside of the D'Luna Mexican Store clapped as the owner cut a ribbon in front of the business' new location at 1140 N. Main Street on Friday. A community lunch of tamales and horchata followed at the meet and greet to celebrate the business' new



D'Luna Mexican Store owner Dulce Marisol Luna celebrates the business' new address with a ribbon cutting on March 4.

Jacob Spetzler

address. The store expects to officially open its doors to customers in approximately four weeks after licensing is com-

plete.

D'Luna Mexican Store, previously located at 136 W. Tomichi Ave. — the same building that

houses Timbers Sports Bar and Tavern and Barnyard Bar and Grill — was forced to move from its original location after the

City of Gunnison condemned the building in January. With

D'Luna A6

## Commissioners pick planning board members

Appointments made to STOR

Sam Liebl  
Times Editor

After delaying their decision in order to hear from more applicants, Gunnison County Commissioners on Tuesday made appointments to the County Planning Commission, the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (STOR) Committee and the Historic Preservation Commission.

The commissioners voted unanimously in their appointments, and the discussion that preceded their motions showed that they were largely on the same page in their thinking.

The composition of the Planning Commission is set to change, whereas the STOR and Historic Preservation rosters will largely stay the same.

Commissioners appointed Julie Baca — an Almont resident who is Western Colorado University's chief financial officer — to be a regular member of the

planning commission. Baca has been serving as an alternate.

Commissioners selected former Gunnison City Council member Matt Schwartz and Alpha Mechanical co-owner Fred Niederer to serve as regular members.

Current alternate member Beth Appleton, a Crested Butte resident and lawyer, will remain in that position. Heather Zeilman, a Gunnison resident who has a background in municipal planning and capital projects, will also serve as an alternate.

The Planning Commission is among the most impactful appointed boards in county policymaking. The commission makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding land use regulations and building permit applications. County commissioners task the board with helping to implement their strategic plan, and they asked applicants about their familiarity with the county's priorities in interviews.

Current Planning Commission members Scott Cox, Laura Puckett

BOCC A4

## City receives draft sustainability plan

Strategies focus on energy, waste and water

Bella Biondini  
Times Staff Writer

The City of Gunnison has received a new roadmap intended to help leaders plan for climate change and continue moving the city toward cleaner energy use.

On Tuesday, the City of Gunnison's sustainability interns presented council members a draft of the city's first comprehensive sustainability plan, Gunni CARES 2030. The plan will focus on the areas of climate action and resiliency, energy, and environmental sustainability — a section that takes a closer look at energy, water resources and waste management. The plan is tentatively scheduled for adoption in April after public comments are collected and incorporated into the

framework.

In June, the city hired Jenny Nitzky and Shannon Hessler, two graduate students in Western Colorado University's Master of Environmental Management program, to craft the document. The plan is aimed at defining both the present and potential future obstacles the community will encounter in the face of a changing climate, as well as a list of strategies and solutions.

Since the city developed its 2020 comprehensive plan, community surveys have identified climate action and protecting the natural environment as high priorities among citizens, said City Manager Russ Forrest. The city has since added those results and goals to the strategic plan, which it updated in February.

"We recognized that we need some more science and analytical work to further refine those," Forrest said.

Nitzky and Hessler worked with numerous stakeholders from across the valley and from a variety of back-

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ON TWO YEARS OF COVID  
OPINION A11

# GVH, Living Journeys team up

In honor of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, Gunnison Valley Health and Living Journeys are coming together to educate and raise awareness. The goal of the collaborative campaign is to help people understand the recommendations and resources available in the Gunnison Valley.

According to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 151,030 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer and 52,580 deaths will occur in 2022. Living Journeys Executive Director, Julie Reid, said highlighting the importance of screening and prevention can save lives.

"Colorectal cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States and incidence rates among those under the age of 50 are on the rise," Reid said. "I want to ensure that people understand their screening options and everything that is available to them right here in the valley. No one has to face cancer alone; Living Journeys is here to help support you in the process — from prevention to screening to treatment."

It is recommended that all adults aged 45 begin screening for colorectal cancer. Screening can prevent cancer through the detection and removal of pre-

cancerous growths and detect the disease at an early stage, when treatment is usually more successful. The most common screening for colorectal cancer is a colonoscopy which is performed at Gunnison Valley Health by the general surgeons.

Unfortunately, it is estimated that one third of eligible adults are not up to date on recommended screenings. Gunnison Valley Health CEO, Jason Amrich, said that the health system wants to continue to expand screening capability and work with non-profits like Living Journeys to support the community.

## Council

from A1

grounds — water, community development, emergency services, housing — to strengthen the plan. They also collected feedback from the community at a sustainability open house in November, where residents were invited to provide their ideas on the developing draft.

After months of work, Nitzky said the plan would not have been possible without community feedback.

"It's really been a long time coming and a big community effort," she said. "We're really excited to share it with you."

The draft plan includes an inventory of the city's greenhouse gas emissions as well as strategies to convert to cleaner energy use. According to the data presented, Gunnison produced almost 55,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases in 2020, which is the equivalent of 12,000 passenger cars on the road.

The biggest way the city can make an impact on those numbers is through "grid decarbonization" or moving away from an electric grid that's supplied mostly by carbon-emitting sources like fossil fuels, to carbon-free and renewable energy, Nitzky said.

The IPCC recommends at least a 50% reduction of emissions by 2030 to avoid "cata-

strophic warming," Hessler added. "That's where we hope to be."

The plan also focuses on resiliency as a method of bolstering the city's ability to anticipate and respond to climatic events such as wildfires and drought. The action plan states that the solutions are "rooted in reliance on local systems, equity and community values."

"We want people to be able to grow their own food, we want local energy production to be a priority and we want to be prepared for emergencies," Nitzky said. "These actions focus on maintaining a strong sense of community."

In the area of waste management, the plan is heavily focused on improving recycling and composting within the city. Although Gunnison offers recycling of corrugated cardboard, aluminum and tin cans, glass and some plastics, on average only about 2% of all city waste is being diverted from the landfill, according to their report.

"There's a lot of room for growth," Nitzky said.

Food waste alone accounts for nearly 30% of the material entering the landfill. The goal set forth in the plan is to divert at least 50% of the waste coming in annually through compost education, incentivizing backyard composting and searching for grants to help fund a community compost facility.

### Next steps

If the plan is formally adopted in April, the next steps outline establishing a Gunnison Resiliency Task Force to ensure that progress is made, as well as hiring a sustainability/climate action coordinator to assist with the implementation. When trying to locate grant dollars to fund a full-time position, Forrest said it would be something the city would look at within its 2023 budget process.

Council member Mallory Logan asked for more information about what the city's cost savings will be after the strategies and projects outlined in the draft are implemented.

"Will we see a cost benefit enough to be affording that position?" Logan asked.

Gunnison resident Steve Schechter commended the interns, but turned back toward staff, emphasizing the city's need for a permanent employee to help implement the plan.

"We really do need professional staff on hand to move this forward, otherwise, we're going nowhere," Schechter said.

The draft plan is available on the city's website and will be open to public comments until March 18.

(Bella Biondini can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or bella@gunnisontimes.com.)



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The City of Gunnison has been working hard with a diverse group of stakeholders to create a Climate Action, Resiliency, and Environmental Sustainability (CARES) Plan. The draft plan is available on the City's website for a public comment period until March 18th. It includes detailed Results and 2030 Action Plans for each of the following priority areas:

- Resiliency
- Energy
- Water
- Waste

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

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## GUNNISON COUNTRY TIMES

## BRIEFS

### Hwy. 50 work start delayed

Traffic disruptions in the Little Blue Creek Canyon project area on Hwy. 50 will resume on Monday, March 14 with light roadway work and alternating one-way traffic, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. There will be no night time closures.

Work was planned to begin March 7, but winter conditions delayed the start date.

Little Blue Creek Canyon is roughly halfway between Gunnison and Montrose.

Regularly scheduled road closures are targeted to resume in April.

## County COVID cases remain low

Since Gunnison County's last COVID update on Feb. 7, the number of confirmed positive COVID cases has remained low, falling into the single digits during the last two weeks of February.

The CDC's COVID Tracker showed an upward trend during the end of February and the start of March, but the county reports that this was an "artificial increase" in case counts due to a data backlog at the state and local levels.

Given "case rates continuing to decline" and "high levels of modeled immunity statewide," the county announced in a press release this week that it will no longer provide written updates on the pandemic. The county's public health team, however, will continue to track cases and provide contact tracing and case investigation as needed.

For guidelines on mitigation measures like indoor masking, the county is referring the public to the CDC's new county-specific guidelines system. Under the CDC's classifications, Gunnison County is likely to fluctuate between "green" and "yellow" if case counts continue at the current rate, according to county public health.

## Lake Powell to drop below threshold

The water elevation in one of the Colorado River's main reservoirs, Lake Powell, is set to drop below a level that water managers have long sought to avoid.

That elevation is 3,525 feet above sea level. Nick Williams of the Bureau of Reclamation told the Colorado Sun that the reservoir may drop to as low as 3,522 feet and remain below 3,525 feet for several months.

The Bureau of Reclamation made emergency releases from Blue Mesa Reservoir in 2021 in an effort to prevent Powell from dropping below the threshold. Those releases lowered Blue Mesa to a record low of about 25% of capacity and led to early closures of boat ramps and marinas.

The target elevation of 3,525 is intended to provide a 35-foot buffer above the lowest elevation at which Glen Canyon Dam can generate hydropower. The dam supplies electricity to about 3 million customers and generates revenues of around \$150 million annually.

# GOP caucus nominates Evans for commissioner seat

### Delegates selected for the county assembly

**Bella Blondini**  
*Times Staff Writer*

On Saturday, the Gunnison County Republicans gathered at the Fred Field Center to take part in the precinct caucus to elect delegates to the county assembly. The party unanimously nominated Rich Evans of Crested Butte as its candidate for the Board of County Commissioners in the upcoming November election, as well as Debbie Dunbar to run for what will be her third four-year term as county treasurer.

Evans will run against Democrat Laura Puckett Daniels in the primary race for the District 3 seat, which represents Gunnison County north of Round Mountain. Earlier this year, Roland Mason, who is finishing his term as the District 3 commissioner, announced he would not be running for reelection. Evans introduced himself to the party and followed later with a speech.

"We had a good opportunity to hear his platform and we're looking forward to working with him now that he's definitely in the primary for the general election in November," said county party Vice Chair Neil Watko.

About 50 party members attended and moved to elect delegates and alternates to the county assembly. The elected delegates will help decide which candidates make the state-level primary ballot on June 28. Fifteen delegates will vote for candidates vying

to represent Colorado's 3rd Congressional District at an assembly in Colorado Spring on April 8. Six will also vote for candidates for the Colorado House of Representatives District 58, which includes Gunnison County. The state assembly will follow on April 9.

There are two ways candidates can get on the primary ballot in Colorado. Candidates can either petition for signatures or choose to go through the caucus and assembly process. If a candidate receives at least 30% of the vote at the state assembly, they will make the June ballot.

Republican Chair Stu Asay said the party will continue to have candidates come to its monthly meetings through June. The Gunnison County Republicans' next large event will be the Lincoln dinner on June 11 at the Three Rivers Resort in Almont. U.S. Representative Lauren Boebert will attend the dinner. The public is invited to take part in the event.

Although this was Asay's first time running a caucus since he was elected as party chair in July, he said he thought it went "reasonably well." Former chairwoman Jane Chaney relocated to South Carolina with her husband Bill in early August.

"Turnout was a little light, I don't know what to attribute that to — whether it was the weather, I'm not sure — but we got our mission accomplished," Asay said.

Gunnison County Democrats held their caucus on Saturday, too. The *Times* will have a story on that event and its results in the next edition.

(Bella Biondini can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or bella@gunnisontimes.com.)



Jacob Speizler

Rich Evans introduces himself as the Republican candidate for county commissioner.



Sandy McNamara listens, as county vice-chair Neil Watco speaks



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**NEW LISTING** Very nice lot in the town of White Pine, CO. White Pine has rich Colorado history known for Coal and Silver Mines. This is a great location to build your dream cabin or park your RV. 9900 County Road 888; **\$25,000.**




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Luke Mehall lives in Durango, Colorado. He is the publisher of The Climbing Zine, an independent print publication, and host of the Dirtbag State of Mind podcast. His ultimate mission is to inspire people, and he is the author of five books including American Climber and The Desert. You can explore his work at @theclimbingzine on Instagram, or at climbingzine.com

## Man arrested last year after Almont standoff pleads guilty

Brad Fortner agrees to serve four years

Sam Liebl  
Times Editor

Nearly six months after he pointed a gun at a sheriff's deputy and prompted an armed standoff that closed Hwy. 135 for several hours, Brad Owen Fortner of Almont has entered into a plea agreement and awaits sentencing this month.

In entering a guilty plea to a felony first-degree assault charge, Fortner consented to a sentence of four years with the Colorado Department of Corrections. His plea agreement states that he is eligible for Community Corrections, a program offered by the state that allows felons to stay out of prison if they abide by residential monitoring conditions. The agreement states that Fortner may have "no alcohol, no marijuana, no illegal drugs" during



Brad Fortner

those four years.

Fortner's sentence has yet to be determined in court. Though he signed the plea agreement on Jan. 24 and entered his guilty plea Feb. 14, he awaits sentencing hearings set for March 24 and 25 in Gunnison District Court before Judge J. Steven Patrick.

Under the plea agreement, Chief Deputy District Attorney Jessica Waggoner consented to drop the other charges related to the standoff brought against Fortner. He was initially charged with two charges of first-degree assault, two charges of felony menacing, violating six protec-

tion orders and prohibited use of a weapon.

The remaining first-degree assault charge pertains to Fortner pointing a gun that police had described as "a black revolver style handgun" at Gunnison County Sheriff Deputy Michael Schmidt. Schmidt was the first officer to respond to Fortner's house in Almont after law enforcement received a report that Fortner was threatening to "kill all the potheads that drive by his house," which fronts Hwy. 135 just north of the town.

"Brad Owen Fortner, with intent to cause serious bodily injury upon the person of Deputy Michael Schmidt, a peace officer, unlawfully and feloniously threatened the peace officer with a deadly weapon, namely: Firearm, while Deputy Michael Schmidt was engaged in the performance of his duties," the plea agreement reads.

(Sam Liebl can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or editor@gunnisontimes.com.)

## County proposes CB tie-in for Whetstone utilities

Agreement heads to town council for approval

Sam Liebl  
Times Editor

Gunnison County Commissioners signed off on an agreement Tuesday that, if approved by the Town of Crested Butte, could result in the Whetstone workforce housing development tying into the

town's utilities for water and sewer service.

County staff recommended that commissioners sign the memorandum of understanding after they found that connecting with the town was the best of three options for water and sewer service. The other two choices were to tie into the Skyland water and East River sanitary sewer systems, or for the county to build its own on-site well and treatment plant. All three options had a similar estimated cost of around \$10 million. The on-site option, though the cheapest to build, would entail higher operating

costs.

Assuming that 200 housing units will be built at Whetstone, the estimated cost per unit for water and sewer systems will be \$53,577 if Crested Butte connects to the site.

Commissioners unanimously agreed to sign off on the memorandum. Under the agreement, the county will pay for a water and sewer capacity study, and the Town of Crested Butte will provide information on the current conditions of its systems.

The county and the Town of Crested Butte have collaborated on the planning

continued on A5

Site yield:  
180 - 220 units

Unit mix:  
40% one bed  
40% two bed  
20% three bed



Parking:  
260 - 290 off street  
75 - 100 on street

1.8 spaces/unit

A sketch of the Whetstone housing project to be built on a county-owned parcel near Crested Butte.

continued from A4

of the Whetstone project, Gunnison County Community and Economic Development Director Cathie Pagano told commissioners, and the memorandum resulted from those talks.

The document next heads to Crested Butte Town Council, where it will be discussed at the body's March 7 meeting. The agreement requires Mayor Ian Billick's signature.

Water and sewer are two of

the hurdles that the county is navigating as details of the housing project become more finalized. Chair of the Board of County Commissioners Jonathan Houck has said that he would like to see housing built at Whetstone by the end of his term in 2024. The 13-acre parcel is 1.75 miles southeast of Crested Butte and on the west side of Hwy. 135 near the Brush Creek Road intersection. It is expected to have 180-220 deed-restricted units.

According to Danica Powell with the planning firm Trestle Strategy Group, community engagement and talks with CDOT about highway access to the site are ongoing.

The county expects to submit a final sketch plan for the Whetstone project during the first week of April.

(Sam Liebl can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or editor@gunnisontimes.com.)

## Work to resume on Hwy. 50 in Little Blue Creek Canyon

Occasional one-way traffic through March 31.

Construction will resume on Hwy. 50 west of Gunnison in Little Blue Creek Canyon on Monday, March 7, the U.S. Department of Transportation has announced.

The project — which entails widening the road in the narrow

rocky canyon — will restart with light roadway work and occasional alternating one-way traffic through March 31. During that time, there will be no night time closures. This schedule will continue until winter conditions subside.

Regularly scheduled road closures are targeted to resume in April 2022, depending on the weather.

"The timing of the project resuming was made with the spring storm cycles and the end of winter conditions," said

Kathleen Wanatowicz, public information manager for the project. "At this time, the project team is working with the U.S. Department of Transportation and CDOT to determine when the scheduled closures, including nighttime closures, will return."

Prior to the most impactful road closures resuming, the project team will release information about closure dates and the 2022 construction schedule.

## Avalanche kills one near Marble

County first responders called to scene

Sam Liebl  
Times Editor

An avalanche caught a party of snowshoers on Friday, killing a Colorado Springs man and partially burying two others.

The incident occurred in the lower portion of Yule Creek on Marble Quarry Road outside the Town of Marble in the far northern part of Gunnison County.

According to the Colorado Avalanche Information Center, the group of four people were traveling to a backcountry home near Yule Creek on Friday. Three of the people, as well as two dogs, "moved to a road that cut mid-slope along the side of a steep gully."

"They triggered an avalanche and the moving snow pushed them down into the gully. The debris formed a deep pile in the gully bottom. Two people were partially buried, but able to dig themselves out of the snow. The other person and both dogs were completely buried and killed," the avalanche information center stated in its preliminary report.

The slide was approximately 50 feet wide and ran 250 feet vertically, and it took place on a west-facing, below-treeline slope, according to the center.

Gunnison County Sheriff John Gallowich stated in a press release Monday that his office became aware of the avalanche



Colorado Avalanche Information Center

The slide caught three people who were snowshoeing. This photo from the Colorado Avalanche Information Center shows where the avalanche path crossed the snowshoe tracks.

and that one person was missing on Friday at 4:48 p.m.

Sheriff's office personnel responded to the scene, as well as responders from West Elk Mountain Rescue, Mountain Rescue Aspen, Carbondale Fire and Rescue District and the Colorado Avalanche Information Center.

An initial, limited search did not find the missing man, who was later identified as Nathaniel Smith, 27, of Colorado Springs.

"Unforeseen circumstances" led to the search being halted, according to Gallowich, but the search resumed the following morning. At 11:34 a.m. on Saturday, search members found Smith's body, as well as his two dogs, according to Gallowich.

Yule Creek is just north of the Crested Butte Avalanche Center's forecast area, but

Crested Butte forecasters warned over the weekend that a similarly dangerous snow structure was present near Crested Butte. Snowfall in the days before the Yule Creek incident raised the avalanche danger across the state with Crested Butte forecasters comparing the underlying snow to a "sandbox" because two months of mostly dry, cold weather had allowed the old snow to facet and lose cohesion.

So far this winter four people have died in avalanches in Colorado. Three have been snowshoers. On Jan. 8, two snowshoers and a dog were caught, buried and killed in the area of Hoosier Pass, which is near Breckenridge.

(Sam Liebl can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or editor@gunnisontimes.com.)



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## Tribute to Anne Miller

The Gunnison Home Association would like to honor Anne Miller for her years of service to our organization. She was a member of the Board of Directors for over 30 years. We are an organization dedicated to working for Seniors in our community. She was part of the Board managing the Health Care Center before it became a County supported facility. She was a member of the Board of Directors that saw a need and built our 15-bed Assisted Living facility. She was still on the Board and active in the construction and management of the Palisades Senior RV Park.

Grants, in the amount of \$43,000, will be made in honor of Anne Miller to local non-profits and agencies providing services and support to Seniors.

We will miss Anne, but we will never forget her dedication to our Association and to the Seniors of the Gunnison Valley.

## Coram

from A1

from Montrose, announced his candidacy to challenge incumbent 3rd Congressional District Representative Lauren Boebert in this year's primary election. Coram joins fellow challenger Marina Zimmerman of Archuleta County.

Coram, who has served 12 years in the Colorado General Assembly, will find himself without a job this fall — thanks to redrawn district boundaries that put him in the same jurisdiction as State Sen. Bob Rankin of Carbondale. Since Rankin was last elected in 2020, he gets to keep the seat.

Coram was in Gunnison recently, and I invited him for a conversation about his candidacy — and what he would hope to accomplish if elected to Congress.

### Why did you decide to run?

I don't like the way national politics is going. I feel that the extreme left and the extreme right are getting all the notoriety and basically sucking up all the oxygen in the room. It's a situation that I feel that the 80% in the middle are being ignored. What I've been able to do in my, going into my 12th year now in the General Assembly, I've been able to work across the aisle to make relationships and get things done. I think that's a message that can go national, that if we can actually work together, then you and I can have a very heavy disagreement, we just don't have the opportunity to be disagreeable with each other.

### Are you seeing evidence that more people are starting to think like this?

Absolutely, I think we're seeing it at the state level. There's an undertone right now in Washington that says, "What we're doing is not working." Even the Republicans need to realize that common ground is not a bad thing.

I was talking to a gentleman recently who told me we should never compromise. Hold your position. My comment back to him was that do you think the signers of the Declaration of Independence within 24 to 36 hours came to a conclusion? No, it took 56 days. There had to be a lot of negotiation going back and forth. There's a moderate side out there in Congress that's frankly afraid to speak up. And I'm not afraid.

### What makes you different? Why aren't you afraid?

I'm too damn old to change now. I've taken on the Republicans, I've taken on the Democrats, and you can do it by being respectful.

And yet you're up against a candidate who represents some of what you're talking about, on the edges of being disagreeable. She immediately attacked you.

That's true, but my intention is to keep doing what I have done and what I can do. You can play the mean girl thing all you want, but that's not going to get you across the finish line.

### What makes you say that? Are you hearing from constituents that they are kind of tired of that?

The reason I am in this race is because I heard from constituents throughout the state, especially in the 3rd Congressional District, this is not who we are.

### What priorities would you take to Congress to address problems facing the state in general, but the 3rd district in particular?

Well, I think it's jobs and the economy. We still have basically three economies in Colorado. We have west of the divide, we have the I-25 corridor from Colorado Springs to Ft. Collins, and we have the eastern plains. They are not all created equal.

One of the things I've done over the years is to work on broadband issues. Broadband is the one thing that can level the playing field for all of Colorado. When you can live in Gunnison and communicate with the world because you've got access to transportation and the internet, that's a real positive.

The highway system. Everything we produce in rural Colorado is trucked out and everything we purchase is trucked in. We need to do a better job of promoting Hwy. 50, for example, as a major thoroughfare, rather than an alternate to I-70.

### On the subject of housing, is there anything that can be done at the federal level to help solve this problem?

I think there should be. We need to bring the funding in. And just throwing money at it is not going to solve the problem.



State Sen. Don Coram, R-Montrose

We've tried that. We've done all the stimulus, but how do we pay for it in the future? The private sector can do a great deal if government would just get out of the way.

What other issues are you hearing from voters that would be an important part of your legislative agenda?

I've served on the wildfire committee for many years, and our forests, basically through mismanagement by the federal government, have been decimated. We've got millions of acres of dead trees, and they are at the end of life, at the end of their life as marketable timber, so biomass and biochar is an

continued on A7

## School board

from A1

Monday to discussing the early release, and they reviewed survey data collected from students, parents and teachers about how the change has been received. Superintendent Leslie Nichols said she was still compiling some of the data and that she would share a document with all survey results soon.

Nichols characterized the survey results as "mixed," but argued that the school board should not give up on Wednesday early release as it drafts the 2022-2023 school year calendar.

"I do believe there are kids that need to be worked out. An initiative of this scope and scale implemented during a pandemic — and I will own that it was implemented across the district perhaps without as much preparation as would have been wise — it was somewhat abrupt, and in hindsight maybe we could have done that differently, we meaning I," Nichols told the board.

But some degree of dissatisfaction was to be expected, Nichols explained, because "anytime you tinker with the calendar, it's the most controversial piece of any school district."

"Anytime you mess with peo-

ple's routines and they have kids, it's tough. It's hard for parents. It's hard for kids. It's hard for teachers. We are creatures of habit," Nichols said.

Despite the difficulties, Nichols has argued that the intention of Wednesday early release — to give teachers time in their work week for planning and professional development — is a worthy goal. And by applying the schedule across the entire district it solved an issue of equity, according to Nichols.

School board member Dave Taylor commented that there was a "possible lack of attention" on Wednesdays because they have felt like Fridays to students. He said he was also concerned that the goal of planning was being "diluted" because of the other tasks teachers shoulder.

All of the feedback School Board Member Anne Brookhart has received, she said, has been from elementary schools and has "all fallen into either the category of 'as a teacher, I'm not actually getting more planning time' or 'this isn't working for students, they are not having the activities after school that they need.'"

LeeAnn Mick, a school board member and former teacher, commented that Wednesdays were crucial instruction days during her career.

Nichols said the district needed to do more in Gunnison to partner with entities like the Rec Center to provide activities on Wednesday afternoons when school is not in session. Nichols committed the district to providing Wednesday after school activities for all students when she rolled out the district-wide schedule plan in 2021.

School board members had received a message from the Rec Center that underage students at the facility on Wednesday are "problematic," Nichols said.

The message, which was an email sent on Feb. 14 to all users in the Rec Center's database, stated, "We do not have the staffing to provide childcare for children under 12 years of age. This has been especially problematic for our staff on Wednesdays, where we have a lot of kids riding the early bus that are too young to be alone in the facility, but their programs do not start until 4:00."

"That is alarming to me," Nichols said in reference to the Rec Center email. "I feel that is a challenge, a partnership, a problem that has solutions that we can navigate with the Rec Center. I'm upset about that and surprised that we haven't tended that better."

The school district is also leaning on the Gunnison Arts Center, Mountain Roots Food



Sam Liebl

Buses drop off students at Crested Butte Community School. CBCS has had Wednesday early release for years, but the schedule is new to Gunnison schools.


Project, Gunnison Valley Mentors and Western Colorado University, among others, to provide Wednesday afternoon activities.

The two main "points of improvement" from the survey results, Nichols said, were that "the after school options for kids have got to improve and expand, whether that's at the school itself or with partners in the community actually being partners in that time of the week, one, and two the structure and the design of the school time on Wednesdays and the time after school for

students and non-instructional time for staff has got to be better designed and implemented so it feels beneficial and not chaotic."

The school board will next discuss the calendar and early release at its March 7 meeting. Board President Tyler Martineau said there will be time allotted for public comments on the topics.

(Sam Liebl can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or editor@gunnisontimes.com.)



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continued from A6

option. We need to do a better job with our forests.

Our national forest is our largest resource. I look at SNOTEL every other day to see what the water reports are, because that is the lifeblood of us. And we're a target. The Front Range wants more diversions, the Lower Basin states want to take over their allocation from the Colorado Compact. We're looking at some things down the road that I think make having someone (in office) who knows which end of the shovel does the work a positive.

A lot of people think that conservation and efficiency are the same thing, and they're not. I don't think there's a better example of that than Gunnison County. Some of my friends from the Front Range come over in the spring and they see the Tomichi that looks like a little river and they think, 'oh they have way too much water.' What they don't understand is the only reason we have water is the timing of that water going into the river and then recharging the aquifer so that we have a live river in August.

**Given projections about long-term drought in the west, what changes do you think are coming for Colorado water users?**

We have a lot of small reservoirs throughout the state, but Forest Service regulations have

prevented us from going in and making the repairs on the dams, so we're unable to store that water, keep that water in that bucket so we can use it downstream later. The Grand Mesa is an example where we have a lot of little reservoirs, but because of dam safety they say 'we are not going to let you fill those reservoirs to capacity.' Those are the kinds of things we can do.

**What do you think is the likelihood of a compact call on the Colorado River?**

In a hundred years we've never been close to a compact call. It's based on a 10-year running average. Colorado is required to put about 52% of the water (in the Colorado River) to Lake Powell. We've put well over that, close to million acre feet a year. I don't think a call is imminent. It would have been had the Lower Basin states not said, 'Yeah, you're right, we've taken more than our allocation, and it's time to deal with that.' To actually have a member of Congress who understands (these issues) I think is important.

(Alan Wartes can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or publisher@gunnisontimes.com.)

## Murdie

from A1

leave the shadow of his father, he said, he went to police academy and started work for the Montrose County Sheriff's Office in 1997.

Murdie spent 22 years with Montrose County. He said his election loss in 2018 propelled him to leave that department. Sheriff John Gallowich asked Murdie to join the Gunnison County Sheriff's Office after Gallowich, a Democrat, won the 2018 election over Republican Mark Mykol.

Murdie joined Gunnison County as a patrol deputy in early 2019. He was promoted to jail captain. Then, in June 2021, Gallowich selected Murdie to serve as undersheriff, the department's second in command, after Scott Jackson retired from the position.

Working as the undersheriff in two counties has prepared Murdie for the top post, he said, and becoming sheriff is a goal Murdie has had for a large part of his career.

"I've worked my way through all aspects of the sheriff's office. I've worked in narcotics and undercover, I've worked in internal standards and investigations, I've worked as undersheriff and on patrol and as a patrol supervisor," he said. "The way I've done that and some of the training and courses I've taken has been to become the best at that position (of sheriff)."

Should he become the county's top law enforcement official, Murdie said he would take on many of the same chal-

lenges the department currently faces: the law enforcement workforce shortage that's occurring both locally and nationally, compliance with new state laws around body cameras and records, and the question of who will provide enforcement in the North Valley when the sheriff office's contract with the Town of Mt. Crested Butte ends in 2023.

Murdie said it's not a question of whether the sheriff's office will add more deputies, but when. By his count, the department is short by six employees. Adding deputies to the roster is necessary given the growth across the county, he said. And Murdie said growth in the North Valley in particular necessitates that the sheriff's office will resume enforcement there when the Mt. Crested Butte contract ends. Under that agreement, the sheriff's office deputizes Mt. Crested Butte Police Department Officers to cover all of the North Valley except the Town of Crested Butte, which has its own marshal's department.

"We need five (more officers) at a minimum over a period of time, and there's no way we can do it all at once, I understand that," Murdie said.

Speaking with the *Times* on Monday, Murdie said he is the only candidate for the office that he is aware of. But he is certain that someone else will step up and that it will be a competitive election.

(Sam Liehl can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or editor@gunnisontimes.com.)

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# New BLM campus expected to be complete by late summer

Building will consolidate agency's facilities into one location

Bella Biondini  
Times Staff Writer

On the east side of the city, the Gunnison Rising development's first building is slowly taking shape and will serve as a new location for the Bureau of Land Management Gunnison Field Office. According to general contractor AJ Cattles, construction is expected to be complete by late summer 2022.

Since a fire burned the former BLM facility in 2013, the agency has been working out of a small space on West Spencer Avenue. Its headquarters are scattered across the city, with different locations for its office, warehouse and outside storage. The new BLM building, visible from Hwy. 50, will move everything to one centralized location and give staff more room to work.

"It's quite exciting," said BLM forester Brian Brown, who has assisted with the design process. "We've been working in a temporary space, since our previous facility had an arson fire over by the airport. We've been kind of squished into a pretty small facility."

The three-acre parcel for the BLM campus sold for \$500,000 in June. The construction plans include 7,300 square feet of office space and 3,500 square feet of warehouse, with another acre for an equipment yard. Once complete, the new facility will have room for 20-25 permanent personnel and an open floor plan with cubicles in addition to space for a few private offices and a conference room.



The BLM will be the first tenant in the government campus area of Gunnison Rising.

The agency will be the first major tenant to locate to the "government campus" area on the far eastern edge of the subdivision. The building's walls and roofs are in place, and the construction team is working on adding windows and doors to the structure.

Ron Welborn, general manager of Gunnison Rising, said that the construction crew was unexpectedly able to work through the winter.

"We're excited that it's coming out of the ground," Welborn said.

"Usually if you don't have it dried-in when winter sets in, then it's difficult to work through the winter depending on how much snow is on the ground and how cold it is," he said. "But they've been able to progress better than everybody expected."

In addition to having a central location and the increased visibility from the highway, Jim Lovelace, the BLM's outdoor recreation planner, said he is most looking forward to an end to "our little journey."

Since he started working at the field office in 2005, the Gunnison agency's headquarters has moved three times. The BLM used to share a space with the U.S. Forest Service on Colorado Street, then moving

to South 10th Street near the airport and finally to its present location on West Spencer Avenue, where it is split between two floors.

"I think that this new space is going to be a little bit more accessible, particularly for folks with mobility impairments," Lovelace said.

At Gunnison Rising, construction is also underway on the 38,000 square-foot FedEx distribution center. Next month, the crew will begin laying utility lines under Hwy. 50 to connect the north and south sides of Gunnison Rising, so they are prepared to start construction on residential lots this spring, Welborn said.

According to Welborn, the subdivision will be prepared to have lots available this fall for the opening of both the BLM and FedEx buildings for a full range of workforce housing opportunities for employees within bicycle and walking distance.

"We're trying to work as quickly as we possibly can so we can get some residential units up and ready for new homeowners in Gunnison," Welborn said.

(Bella Biondini can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or bella@gunnisontimes.com.)

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# Johnston joins Forever Our Rivers

Former land trust leader transitions to river conservation

Bella Biondini  
Times Staff Writer



Ann Johnston

Ann Johnston, who spent over a decade working with and growing programs at the Crested Butte Land Trust (CBLT), is moving on to serve as executive director at Forever Our Rivers Foundation.

Forever Our Rivers, founded in 2016, brings outdoor businesses and environmentally conscious customers together so communities have the funds they need to care for and access the rivers that sustain them. At the beginning of 2022, Johnston stepped into her new role with 15 years of experience in land conservation and restoration, a passion she has continued to pursue throughout her career in the Gunnison Valley.

Johnston left the valley a couple of times to pursue other adventures, but she always returned. Although she didn't have a strong background in conservation, Johnston's interest grew as she began working with the Crested Butte Land Trust. During her tenure, she worked with partners to protect wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities and open lands within the Gunnison Valley.

After moving up the ranks in a variety of roles, Johnston became the organization's executive director and first full-time staff member. Under her leadership, the organization tripled its operating capacity and gained national accreditation.

"It turned out to be a perfect fit for me and something I'm really, really passionate about," Johnston said. "But I didn't know it at the time. I just knew that I loved to enjoy the land that the land trust had conserved."

After spending 11 years with CBLT, Johnston was presented with an opportunity to work for Sonoma Land Trust in northern California in 2016. She lived on the West Coast for a couple of years, but said that her attachment to the Gunnison Valley drew her back to the mountains where she accepted a position as the director of alumni relations at Western Colorado University.

"It's an incredible university," she said. "I think it's great that we have higher education in our small community," she said. "But the opportunity to go back into conservation is what moved me away, because that really is my true passion."

Johnston began her new position at Forever Our Rivers on Jan. 1. Although the foundation focuses its work in Colorado and throughout the southwest, she said they have goals to expand.

"We know there are a lot of nonprofits out there that need more funding," she said. "We'd like to grow our finances so that we can provide grants to more

organizations and also bigger grants to the organizations."

The foundation uses traditional fundraising and "cause marketing" to bring in funding for river restoration, stewardship and research. In return for donations or royalties, partners can use a trademark seal that says "Forever Our Rivers," showing customers that they are part of a movement to support river health and access.

"It's based off the reality that consumers are more and more concerned about their impact," Johnston said. "They want businesses to be socially or environmentally responsible," Johnston said.

Forever Our Rivers has funded a broad scope of projects from habitat protection and invasive weed removal to making watershed education more accessible for children in the Gunnison River Basin, "but it always comes back to the river," she said.

"River conservation takes a real dedicated focus. If we can keep our rivers healthy, instead of letting them fall into neglect, it's going to be a much better investment of our time and efforts. It is much harder to try to repair something than to try to keep it in good shape. And we all depend on rivers. We all have different ways that we love rivers so I think it's something that everyone can embrace."

Former CBLT Board president Jeff Hermanson said he's excited about Johnston's new position.

"I'm thrilled for her," Hermanson said. "I think that she's made some great contributions in the valley, and I think this new role will continue her contribution."

(Bella Biondini can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or bella@gunnisontimes.com.)

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## PEOPLE &amp; HAPPENINGS

## Gunnison Sage-grouse summit

The fifth Gunnison Sage-grouse summit will be held at Western Colorado University (with some distance participation options) April 4 and 5, 2022. This year's summit includes a presentation from the USFWS on the species' progress toward recovery; population trends, targets and translocation information from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and a series of workshops associated with success, roadblocks, and future ideas for recovery strategy implementation across the species' range. We will also hear research updates from a broad range of presenters on topics including genetics, fire ecology, livestock grazing, seasonal use models, survival rates of translocated birds, conifer treatments, cheatgrass, wetland restoration and more. Management practices and perspectives from the ranching community are also a focus of sessions as well as community partnerships reaching across traditional boundaries to accelerate the species recovery.

Information on how to register will be posted on the website soon. The summit is only held twice a decade so be sure to register. This is presented by the Center for Public Lands and Summit Planning Team.

## Spayghetti GVAWL fundraiser

Spayghetti, a fundraiser for the GVAWL animal shelter, will take place March 28, at Palsades restaurant from 5-7 p.m. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids 12 and over. Ticket locations to come soon.

## Pet Expo

The community Pet Expo is April 9 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Fred Field center. To register for a free booth where you can sell products, provide a service or information, please call/text Cheryl at 970.275.9235 or Tamara at 970.901.2252.

## The Gunnison County Republican Party scholarship

The Gunnison County Republican Party will award two scholarships to students of the graduating class of 2022. Essay and application submissions are due on March 31. Go to [gunnisoncountyrepublicans.org](http://gunnisoncountyrepublicans.org) and click on the Liberty Bell to download the instructions and application. Scholarships are intended to assist with continuing education expenses. Senior students interested in all types of career preparation are encouraged to apply, regardless of political affiliation. For more information contact Rebecca at [GunnisonLibertyScholarship@gmail.com](mailto:GunnisonLibertyScholarship@gmail.com).

## go ski with a legend

On March 6, go Ski With a Legend kicks off with breakfast at 8:30 a.m. followed by a three hour clinic with a legend in freeskiing history. Up to six participants per group will be paired with a legend, an instructor and grouped by ability level. Tickets for the breakfast and clinic are \$50 per person for CBSF members (or employees of business members) or \$100 for non-members. Clinics will be grouped by ability - lock in your spot now.

## Wellness Fest gratitude

Residence Life at Western Colorado University would like to extend its gratitude to the Gunnison and Crested Butte community members who helped make the Second Annual Wellness Fest a huge success. There were close to 150 students who attended and participated in 40 different wellness focused activities put on by campus and community partners. Activities included: Reiki, testing neurological feedback, STD/STI testing, art therapy, schedule building, tarot cards, financial planning, creating sustainable shopping bags and many more. Over \$1,000 in prizes were raffled off to students.

## Mental Health Matters

On March 23, Gunnison Valley Health, the Gunnison County Community Health Coalition and CB State of Mind will host Mental Health Matters: A Community Conversation from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Gunnison Arts Center. The discussion will focus on mental health in the community and be an opportunity to share input on availability of services and support.

## 69th Annual Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department Benefit Concert

The Western Colorado University Department of Music is hosting the 69th Western Slope Choral Festival March 3-5. The Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department Benefit Vocal Showcase Concert, directed by Dr. Heather Roberson, starts at 7:30 pm on March 3 and includes Western's Concert Choir, Chamber Singers and duets by senior vocalists. The Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department Benefit Honor Choir Concert starts at 2:00 p.m. on March 5 and showcases the high school choral directors, the Treble Choir, and the Mixed Choir.

## League of Women Voters

League members will be discussing the book *High Conflict: Why We Get Trapped and How*

We Get Out by NY Times best selling author, Amanda Ripley. Following the book discussion there will be a business meeting and a report from the Legislation Action Committee.

The LWV meeting will be held on March 8 at 11:30 a.m. at the Eight Street School, 101 N. 8th Street in Gunnison. A Zoom link can be found at [lwvgv.org](http://lwvgv.org).

## Writing Through the Changes

The Spring Equinox is March 20. Writing Through the Changes is a self-directed, writing-driven experience celebrating the spring and fall equinoxes and winter and summer solstices. Contemplative exercises in seasonally delivered Portfolio Packets include journaling, meditation and free-writing prompts; connecting to nature exercises; and inspiring readings to incite calm, balance, grounding and a sense of belonging to self, community and place.

Materials are formatted in various downloadable modalities: video, audio and pdf document so you can complete them anytime, anywhere and for however long you choose. There are no scheduled Zoom, chat, forum or in-person requirements. Sign up now to access your preparatory activities available immediately upon registration, and recommended to begin by March 7. The Spring Equinox specific packet is delivered around March 14. Individual seasons are \$60 each, or purchase the Spring, Summer, and Fall sessions together for \$150 (normally \$180, a \$30 discount). Sign up for one or all. Information and registration at [mollymurfee.com/writing-through-the-changes](http://mollymurfee.com/writing-through-the-changes)

## Fara Tolno

On March 10 at 7 p.m. in the South Ballroom of the University Center, Fara Tolno, a world renown artist and educator, will be sharing his insights and talents in an informative and interactive campus-wide event.

The presentation will be followed by an interactive drum class for all attendees. Drums will be provided and all abilities are welcomed to attend. The drum class session will be followed by a dance class, where all participants will be encouraged to move together in space, following the joyful instruction of Fara and accompanied by guest musicians. Along with guest artist musicians, the event will be supported by Angela Carroll, ESS HAEP graduate candidate and co-founder of the Kissidugu Foundation, who has been working on curriculum and program initiatives at Western to promote JEDI initiatives and health and wellness.

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# County takes steps to protect sage-grouse

Working with neighboring county and hiring cheatgrass lead

Sam Liebl  
Times Editor

While the Gunnison sage-grouse remains imperiled, its future became a little brighter in recent weeks as Gunnison County took steps that conservation advocates have suggested for years: it brought Saguache County back into the fold for sage-grouse stakeholder meetings, and it is preparing to hire a coordinator to focus on the invasive weed cheatgrass.

These actions have taken place under the leadership of Nathan Seward, a Colorado Parks and Wildlife biologist, and Liz Smith, Gunnison County commissioner. They are the chair and vice-chair, respectively, of the Gunnison Basin Sage-grouse Strategic Committee, a body of county government.

A seat is set aside for Saguache County on the strategic committee. Gunnison County's neighbor to the south, Saguache County contains chunks of critical Gunnison sage-grouse habitat, some of which are on the county line with Gunnison County. A proposal to build homes on the Saguache side of the county

line in 2020 raised worries that a sage-grouse breeding ground, or lek, would be abandoned.

Saguache County's seat, however, has been mostly vacant in recent years. Consequently, Saguache County has not been as engaged as it could have been as the strategic committee discussed issues like a species recovery plan and a lawsuit targeting public lands grazing brought by environmentalists.

"Just having them (Saguache County) at the strategic committee is really important because they hold a good portion of important habitat, so it's good for them to know what is going on in the world of sage-grouse so there can be a cross-boundary, multi-area approach," said Aleshia Rummel, a biologist with the Gunnison Conservation District whose work focuses on sage-grouse.

Asked what it took to bring Saguache County back to the committee, Smith responded in an email, "Put simply, we reached out, and it seemed to be a good moment on their end to re-engage."

Rummel noted that Saguache County is working on a regulatory process similar to Gunnison County's to balance development with grouse habitat.

"That is hugely important for limiting fragmentation, especially in such an important area for grouse reproduction and survival," Rummel said.

At recent Gunnison County commissioner meetings, com-



Courtesy U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Gunnison sage-grouse depend on sagebrush habitat. About 85% of the global population lives in the Gunnison Basin.

missioners and staff have discussed using funds from the county landfill to salary a new position — a cheatgrass coordinator. Cheatgrass is a non-native grass that degrades and destroys sagebrush landscapes by increasing the frequency of fire.

There is "significant buy-in" from agencies to help fund the position, Smith told her fellow commissioners at a Feb. 8 meeting, with \$32,000 already committed from entities other than the county. Smith has proposed that landfill funds — revenues set aside to mitigate the environmental impact of building and operating the landfill — be used to cover part of the coordinator's salary. The fund brings in about \$20,000 annually, according to County Manager Matthew Birnie.

"Collectively, we all see this as a very important initiative that is worth that investment," Smith said.

(Sam Liebl can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or editor@gunnisonontimes.com.)

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Vol. 44, No. 49 Friday, March 11, 2022 Lake City, Hinsdale County, Colorado 81235 U.S.P.S. No. 436-630

## Scant Snow, Swift Downhill...



## Late Winter Snow Advances Slumgullion Snow Readings to 83 Percent of Average

Lake City snowpack is still below long-term average, although snow levels and water content are edging upwards thanks to a succession of late winter snow storms which have buffeted the area in recent weeks.

Through Tuesday this week — and with yet another winter storm advisory at mid-week and extending into the weekend — USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is reporting that snow levels near the top of Slumgullion Pass have gradually climbed, from below-par 29" snow depth on February 7 to a more commanding 42" snow depth as of Monday, March 7.

Even with the Slumgullion snow depth increase, snow water equivalent — the amount of water contained within the snowpack if it was melted — stands at 9.5" water which represents 83 percent of the median average. On average for the years 1991-2020, the Slumgullion Pass snowpack typically contains 11.5" of water this time of year.

NRCS's second upper Lake Fork SnoTel site at 11,100' elevation to Wager Gulch en route to Carson has been in existence less than 10 years and offers no long-term averages for snow depth and water content.

In early February the site recorded 4.3" water content within snow pack 18" deep, and as of this week Wager Gulch snowpack has expanded to 29" depth with 6.6" water.

Both Slumgullion Pass and Wager Gulch SnoTel sites are within the southern range of the Gunnison River Basin which, as a whole is 109 percent of snow/precipitation. While lesser amounts of snow have fallen in the southern regions such as the Lake

Fork, at times prodigious amount of snowfall have occurred in the north Gunnison Basin in and around Crested Butte this past winter.

Examples of north Gunnison Basin snowfall recorded by NRCS include both 10,700' elevation Schofield Pass and Park Cone, 9,600' elevation, which as of Tuesday this week are respectively 136 and 122 percent above the long-term median in terms of snow water content.

Within Schofield's 100" snow depth — up from 71" depth just a month ago — is the equivalent of 33.9" water compared to the long-time average of 25" water for this time of year. Park Cone snow reading site is equally impressive, increasing from 33" snow depth in early February to 44" of snow Tuesday this week with 10.5" water.

Other north Gunnison Basin snow reading sites recording elevated snow water content are Upper Taylor at 10,640' elevation with 119 percent of long term water average, 11.3" water in snowpack typically and 13.5" this winter; Upper Taylor's snow depth increased from 37" depth to 49" over the past month.

Porphyry Creek and Butte snow reading sites in the north Gunnison Basin are both well over average, 112 percent of water content in the snow in 49" snow depth at Butte, and Porphyry 105 percent of snow water content with 13.7" water.

Statewide, snowpack is 95 percent of average this week, with Gunnison Basin drainages at 109 percent of normal the highest of all drainage basins in Colorado.

In northwest Colorado, the Yampa and White River

*continued page 3*

# Snow Readings,

*continued from page 1*

Basins are 85 percent of average; 86 percent of 1991-2020 median on the Arkansas in the southeast part of the state; Denver and the South Platte in northeastern Colorado, 95 percent of average; and 99 percent average for the Upper Colorado in north central Colorado.

Closer to home, across the pass on the Upper Rio Grande, that river basin is 93 percent of average for snow water content and in the southwest region of the state, the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan stands at 101 percent of median.

At Vallecito, 10,880' near the extreme south border of Hinsdale County, snow water content is 12.1", equating to 91 percent of the average 13.3"; also in the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, San Juan River Basins, the summit of Wolf Creek Pass, 11,000', is 126 percent of long-term average with snow water content equal to 31.8" water.

Adding to the Upper Rio Grande snow water readings is NRCS's 11,600' elevation Beartown SnoTel site which recorded 39" snow depth on February 7, increasing to 60" snow depth as of Tuesday this week.

Beartown snow contains 18.0" water which is 103 percent of the 17.4" 1991-2020 median.

Other Upper Rio Grande snow reading sites and their percentages of snow water equivalent are the Upper Rio Grande snow reading at 9,400' elevation in Hinsdale County, 92 percent of normal with 5.5" water in 25" deep snow; Middle Creek near Creede, 115 percent of average water in 54" of snow; and Cochetopa Pass, 10,200' elevation, with 3.2' water which is 76 percent of long-time average.

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## NUMBERS AND RUMORS

🕒 March 16, 2022    👁 370 Views



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20—That will be the minimum wage for employees starting at Vail Resorts next season. The ski company felt a ton of public pressure this winter over its general operations. That bump will mean a \$5/hour raise for the lowest paid CBMR employee so that should start to make a difference. Rumor has it VR is hiring former Buttian Jeremy Rubingh (who initiated a viral petition calling out Vail Resorts) to start a campaign saying how great the company is now.

4— The number of dead Christmas trees I saw lying around in various snowbanks on a morning walk this week. Rumor has it Chad wants to turn it all into an Easter fire celebration that includes not only wayward Christmas trees but the tons of plastic teeth flossers seen in every parking lot around town.

20— The number of years Dan and Brian ran the Brick Oven. That tenure ends this season and on April 1 they will celebrate their two-decade anniversary of slinging pizza and beer. Which is where the rumor comes in – the rumor of course being that the Brick (now owned by the Mark Walter group) will not be open this summer. Again, no one will confirm or deny that because that's the way it is now...I'll continue to make

the public offer to sit down with Mark and offer a forum for him to share his vision but the phone isn't exactly ringing off the hook.

248—The number of cars I counted Monday morning coming into town from the Clark's stop sign, up the hill, past the PAWS building and to the Riverbend turnoff. They weren't stopped but they were in the 10 mph mode. Rumor has it the CB town council wants to simply divert them all to the Brush Creek parcel and teach those pilgrims how to walk to the ski area. No cars in town!

10.7—The number in millions of dollars to extend water and sewer out to the Whetstone affordable housing property from town. Rumor has it that would make the owners of the ranch across from Riverbend extremely happy as they could then tap into the line and sell thousands of sweet lots.

14.4—The number in millions of dollars Mark Walter apparently paid for 10 empty lots in the Kapushion subdivision. That's some expensive dirt that those living in town will notice when the property tax valuations are redone. Rumor has it...well there's a lot of rumors about what he wants and what he plans but I haven't talked to him so who knows? Of course, the offer remains to sit down and chat and let him share his vision with the community members of the community he is buying up at pretty fast clip.

111—The snowpack average in inches we are at with the Gunnison Basin. That's pretty good since it's above average but we need a wet spring to refill the rivers, reservoirs and aquifers. Rumor has it the wildfire danger will continue to be extreme this summer as the forecast is calling for continued drought...but we can always hope.

83—The number in millions of dollars for the new lower end school district bond idea. The priority district need is obviously more classroom space for a bursting at the seams Crested Butte school that will cost somewhere in the \$40-\$50 million range. The next need is safety and energy efficiency improvements. The debate is always whether both ends of the valley can come together to pay for needs without having to bribe the other end of the valley with some wants. Personally, I'd rather pay for real needs and keep my property tax hike as low as possible...but that will be a debate to have for the next several months.

6,000—The peak number of daily spring break visitors projected by the Chamber. This coming weekend it looks to be closer to 5,000 a day and rumor has it the Frangers will be back in force for the last two weekends.

1—The first of the Great Blue Herons has returned to the Slate River Rookery this week. That is a real joy to know and it is incumbent on all of us to treat their home with respect so they aren't pushed out by too

many people making too much noise as they try to start their little heron families here at high altitude. Unlike the spring break tourist numbers, the heron numbers usually peak in May.

Not enough—Restaurants. It's not just a problem this busy period but it's happened all season. The restaurant scene is on an edge as major ownership turnover is having an impact along with a workforce shortage, which is also indicated by the shortage of affordable places to live near people's work—especially in the North Valley. It just feels like our tourist infrastructure is starting to not meet the demand and the local eateries are a major red light that's flashing that message. Long waits don't make anyone, the customers or the businesses, happy. Poor experiences result in poor attitudes...

Too many—Too many people seem too agro at the moment. Maybe it's a COVID hangover combined with a busy week of spring break, but too many tempers are short, too many drivers are speeding in too many places and there just feels like there's too much general entitlement and attitude flowing through the valley right now. It's never too soon to take too many deep breaths!

0—The number of phone calls I've received from Mark Walter. And that's his prerogative but we're here to help.

3—As in April 3, the last day of the ski season for CBMR or 3 weeks left in the lift-served ski season. Monarch just extended its season to April 17 and Aspen is now going until April 24. Rumor has it pretty much everyone in this valley is ready for the end and pretty happy the 3rd is when we move from chairlifts to backcountry skiing and biking.

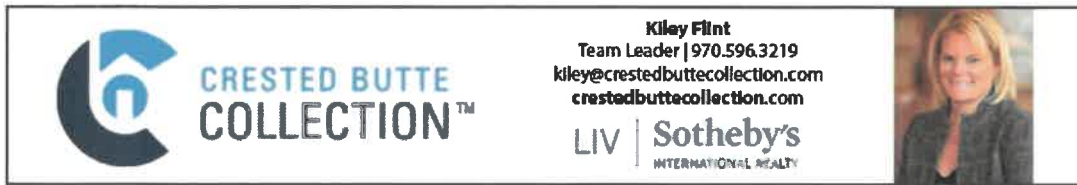
—Mark Reaman





# MT. EMMONS MINING COMPANY ENGAGING IN PUBLIC FEEDBACK PROCESS

🕒 March 9, 2022 👁 236 Views



## CB open house first of many engagement opportunities

[ By Mark Reaman ]

The Mt. Emmons Mining Company (MEMC) held a public open house at the Crested Butte town hall last week to gather some feedback on steps being taken to eventually eliminate the potential for further mining on Mt. Emmons while protecting water quality in Coal Creek. Efforts are underway to facilitate a federal land trade allowing MEMC (a subsidiary of Freeport-McMoRan) to easier control water treatment plant improvements and also implement a mineral withdrawal to eliminate mining on Red Lady.

About 45 people attended the event and seven MEMC representatives were there to answer questions from the public and record feedback.

"We received general questions from attendees about how MEMC will address the community's interest in permanently extinguishing commercial mining from the Keystone Mine and establish permanent recreational access to the top of Mt. Emmons," explained Freeport-McMoRan external communications manager Jim Telle. "This will occur in coordination with the Crested Butte Land Trust for certain of the lands proposed to be acquired as part of the land exchange. A wide variety of questions focused on the land exchange, the proposed conservation easement, the mineral extinguishment agreement, and water needs associated with the site were discussed."

Telle said MEMC received positive input regarding the lands the USFS will receive in the proposed exchange. While much of the traded land is over Ohio Pass by Carbon Mountain and not in the Crested Butte watershed, he said watershed boundaries are but one of many factors utilized in selecting lands for an exchange.

"MEMC worked with the U.S. Forest Service to include lands that meet USFS exchange criteria and administrative priorities," he said. "We received formal acceptance of the project proposal in mid-February and are working within the U.S. Forest Service feasibility analysis process. These are USFS requirements prior to the commencement of any formal exchange processes."

The hope is to complete the land exchange in early 2023. Under the federal land exchange process, the next steps are completion, review and approval of the feasibility analysis, which then would enable the formal 'Agreement to Initiate the Land Exchange' to occur. "We are hopeful that occurs by mid-2022," said Telle. ^  
"MEMC has committed to a robust stakeholder engagement process to include a series of future events in Crested Butte and Gunnison as the process continues. Events will be advertised in the newspaper."



# CB COUNCIL AGREES TO FEASIBILITY STUDY OF UTILITY EXTENSION

🕒 March 9, 2022 👁 269 Views



## Possible sewer service to Whetstone Parcel?

[ By Mark Reaman ]

While making it clear no decision is even close in determining whether Crested Butte would extend water and sewer services to the Whetstone affordable housing project parcel south of town, the council did agree to move ahead with a high-level feasibility study to see if the idea is even possible based on town capacity. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Gunnison County, owner of the property, will be signed to execute an assessment to determine the available capacity of the town's water and sewer system.

According to Crested Butte Public Works director Shea Earley, Carollo Engineering will be hired to perform the assessment meant to be "an initial, high-level investigation" of the town water and sewer system. The county will pay for the assessment.

The county is moving toward a workforce housing project that includes 180-220 units on the site located about two miles south of Crested Butte near the Riverland Industrial Park. The county has stated that one of the major challenges of developing the housing is the installation of water and sewer infrastructure.

Ultimately, if utility extension is considered feasible, the town could extend the service through ordinance or through an annexation of the property if council deems it a good fit. If that were to be considered, council made clear that a robust public conversation would take place over engineering specifications and the potential impacts and benefits to the town and upper valley. A very preliminary estimate of the cost to extend the utilities from Crested Butte to Whetstone is about \$10.7 million.

The county has also considered a similar utility extension request of the East River Sanitation District or on-site facilities as other alternatives, but the county's initial preferred option is to tie in with town.

"We appreciate the conversation that the staffs of the town and the county have been having," noted Gunnison County commissioner Jonathan Houck. "This is an important step at the beginning of this workforce housing project."

^

In response to a question from councilmember Anna Fenerty, town manager Dara MacDonald said before any extension of utilities or annexation of the property, a deep, detailed analysis and conversation would have to be held.

Councilmember Mallika Magner raised concern with a clause in the proposed MOU that stated, "The MOU parties agree that there are community and environmental benefits for connection to the Whetstone Parcel to the Town's water supply and sanitary sewer treatment systems."

"I'm not quite ready to make the assertion that we agree on that yet," she said. "This is a really big discussion and not one to be entered into lightly. It's a big issue and we have to consider everything in terms of benefits to the town. I don't think that representation needs to be in the MOU at this moment. It is premature of the town to state that intention."

Earley said having another wastewater discharge location on the Slate River could eventually have impacts on the town's wastewater operations.

"That sort of deeper discussion is important," said Magner.

"It's a long way out there before this could happen," said Earley. "This MOU just looks at whether we as a town have capacity."

Mayor Ian Billick said that as part of any discussion, the impacts on the upper valley will have to be reviewed. "For me, if we go down this route, there will be lots of implications of what happens to other nearby parcels," he said. "That will be a big question for me."

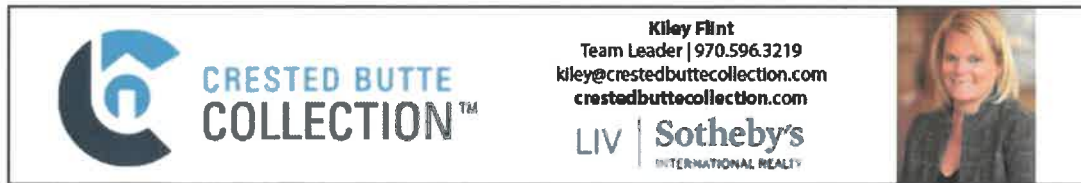
Nearby property owner Todd Colvin agreed that upper valley impacts would have to be considered. "So often with annexations, adjacent properties are forced to be annexed and we are asking for protection to avoid that with our property," he said. "We like the rural feel of being in the county."

Council unanimously agreed to sign the MOU after striking the clause brought up by Magner.



# COUNTY EXPLORES UTILITY OPTIONS FOR WHETSTONE

🕒 March 2, 2022 👁 445 Views



## Approaching sketch plan phase next month

[ By Katherine Nettles ]

A plan for creating a large workforce housing development on the Gunnison County-owned Whetstone parcel continues its progression, with a draft sketch plan released last month, a feedback survey on it available through mid-March and a goal to enter sketch plan phase the first week of April. The county is also exploring three main options for water and sewer lines to the project site that would create 180 to 200 units ranging from one bedroom apartments to three-bedroom homes. County staff has identified a preferred option of hooking up to the town of Crested Butte's utility lines, and Gunnison County commissioners agreed this week to have an engineering firm assess the town's utility capacity and to pay for the costs of the analysis if the town also approves of the agreement.

Commissioners signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Tuesday, March 1 to enter into the assessment, and the town will consider the proposal during its March 7 meeting. If approved by both parties, the county would enter into a contract with the engineering firm for the analysis. The Whetstone project site is located approximately two miles south of the town limits.

Meanwhile, county staff took the opportunity during the county commissioners meeting Tuesday to give an update on the project and expected timeline.

## The early stages

Gunnison County assistant county manager for community and economic development Cathie Pagano says the overall conceptual site plan for the Whetstone development stemmed from the community input that began last summer after the county announced its intent to build on the property it had purchased the year prior. That input has included site walks, a community design workshop/charrette last summer and engaging a selection of students from the Crested Butte Community School (second grade) and Gunnison High School (freshmen). The county released its draft sketch plan for the site in January 2022, using the most current iteration in a series of sketches that Pagano said has remained fairly consistent in layout.

“These iterations have tested balance of unit numbers, open space, parking, snow removal and other conditions, and access to the site,” wrote Pagano in an email to the *Crested Butte News* this week.

The draft sketch plan is available in a video presentation at the county website, and a survey is collecting community feedback for another week or so.

Pagano said that as of February 28, there had been 20 survey responses so far, with a range of feedback. Responses have encouraged the county to make some of the units available for purchase for locally employed professionals “that can’t afford to buy anything in the valley, but want to put down roots here, raise a family, and be homeowners;” to follow energy efficiency and carbon sequestration practices; to include public transit and to find creative and innovative transportation solutions such as car share and e-bike programs.

Following the current survey the county aims to release a formal sketch plan the first week of April. The sketch plan would trigger a planning commission review process and would include a public hearing.

“The sketch plan process will provide a vision for the site and directions on what the site could accommodate, as well as additional opportunities for community feedback. The final details on unit counts, unit types and mix and building configuration will be confirmed after sketch plan, as we bring developers on board and continue with land use approvals,” said Pagano.

The county also plans to initiate the formal land use change permit process for the parcel in the next several weeks. The major impact process would also include public hearings and Pagano said there would be time allowed “for us to react to comment with changes and modifications if necessary.”

### **North Valley involvement**

While the previous attempt to create a large-scale affordable housing development in the Brush Creek area, on a parcel co-owned by the towns of Crested Butte, Mt. Crested Butte, Crested Butte Mountain Resort and Gunnison County, was unsuccessful the county is still inviting input from those other entities for its Whetstone project.

“There has been extensive outreach to North Valley stakeholders,” said Pagano. “Town of Crested Butte staff participated in the design charrette last summer, and have continued to have conversations with our team. We have conducted outreach to the Crested Butte Fire Protection District, RE1J School District, Vail Resorts and Mt. Crested Butte,” she said, which covers the major employers of the North Valley.

Town of Crested Butte staff has been meeting with the Whetstone team regularly, and Pagano said there have been “many, many meetings about water and sanitation.”

Gunnison County sustainability coordinator John Cattles reviewed the other two options for utilities in the event that the town of Crested Butte is unable or unwilling to run utility systems to the project site. One option is to connect to existing Skyland water and East River sanitary sewer systems. The other option would be to use an existing well for the water system and build a wastewater treatment plant onsite at Whetstone. Both alternatives would entail higher operating costs, but “Every one of these options has nuances that are challenging,” said Cattles.

Pagano noted that Crested Butte has expressed its interest in tackling the affordable housing crisis in partnership with the county where possible in a sign of solidarity.

“We will continue to work with North Valley stakeholders throughout the process. We encourage everyone to look at our website and join our newsletter to share your opinions and stay informed about engagement opportunities.”

## Timeline

Pagano reviewed for commissioners that sketch plan phases for major impact projects tend to take between four and nine months on average. If recommended by the planning commission and approved by county commissioners the project would then move to the second, or preliminary plan phase. The third and final phase would be the final plan. The goal is to complete the sketch plan permit process over the upcoming summer and fall if possible, according to Pagano.

“But it may take longer and we will let the process work as it is designed. If and when the sketch plan is approved through the county review process we will solicit proposals from developers and will partner with a developer before beginning the next steps toward formal approval,” she said.

Pagano noted that formal approval would include more public meetings and opportunity for feedback as plans are refined and engineering details are developed.

The draft sketch plan can be viewed at video <https://bit.ly/WhetstoneVideo> and the survey can be found at <https://bit.ly/WhetstoneForm>. The project update website is <https://whetstonehousing.weebly.com/>



# LOCAL LEADERS RALLY IN THE BATTLE AGAINST CHEATGRASS

🕒 February 23, 2022    👁 618 Views



## Big threat for the county but no quick fix

[ By Katherine Nettles ]

As persistent drought conditions and a known major factor in wildfire risk weigh on local ranchers and public land managers, a local committee dedicated to protecting Gunnison sage grouse is calling for all hands on deck to prevent irreversible cheatgrass propagation across the Gunnison Basin. And it appears the call is being answered with both resources and enthusiasm.

During their work session on February 8, Gunnison County commissioners discussed how to introduce a new cheatgrass treatment coordinator to Gunnison County operations, how to fund and scope the position and where to seat it within the county's departmental structure. Ranchers, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) representatives and several other entities showed their support for the beginning of a new regional collaboration.

Gunnison County commissioner Liz Smith introduced the idea of a cheatgrass coordinator position after joining the Gunnison sage grouse strategic committee and realizing how monumental the task of fighting cheatgrass was as it related to protecting the vulnerable sage grouse population. Cheatgrass is a major invasive weed that dries up early in summer and is generally credited as the reason fires in the western U.S. burn more frequently and more disastrously. As it replaces native grasses and degrades sagebrush, it also threatens the cover and food sources for other wildlife species and livestock, according to the coordinator proposal.

Smith opened the discussion with fellow strategic committee members from the BLM, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), Gunnison County Stockgrowers and several letters of support from the other members. She reviewed that the subcommittee for cheatgrass mitigation had already secured more than \$32,000 to fund a new position, and proposed that the county establish the position until it could find a more permanent location and secure federal and/or state funding.

“This is really a full-time job,” said Smith. “2022 is a great time for us to get on top of this, and then once funding hits we are shovel ready.”

### Painting a picture

Nathan Seward, a wildlife biologist with CPW, described the battle with cheatgrass in the Gunnison Basin that threatens pet health, livestock grazing, sage grouse and more. “We are documenting this increase and larger patches becoming established on shallow, south facing aspects. It’s quite noticeable along Highway 114 and U.S. 50, and if you look to the north side of 50 you’ll see large patches within that winter range for big game. It could impact the carrying capacity for big game.” He described how the plentiful seeds attach to animals’ eyes and ears, causing irritation while also spreading across the land.

“Cheatgrass can actually change the soil chemistry over time and it’s just scary the ultimate impacts it can have,” continued Seward. “I think what we really want to do is be more proactive. And we just don’t have the capacity right now to address this on a landscape level.” Seward said he believes the county’s weed program is doing a great job, but they are short-staffed and underfunded.

“The coordinator is just that first step. The BLM, US Forest Service, NRCS (National Resource Conservation Service), maybe even the CSU (Colorado State University) Extension office can help with control efforts. We really want this to be a partnership of bringing all these entities and agencies together to increase our capacity,” summarized Seward.

Jon Kaminski, field manager to the BLM Gunnison field office, said the BLM could commit to \$25,000 annually, “and maybe more.”

“And we have equipment that we currently offer up to the weeds program for Gunnison County that would still be available for use,” added Brian Stevens, a fire management specialist with the BLM.

Jason Peterson, president of the Stockgrower’s Association, said there is a lot of support from the private landowner side as well. “Folks are ready to become involved,” he said. “I hope we can have a large-scale project that crosses landowner boundaries, private, federal and state lands where appropriate,” he said.

Upper Gunnison River Water District (UGRWD) manager Sonja Chavez encouraged the group to apply for a grant through their current cycle. “This is something we support on any level that we can,” she said. Chavez also recommended a grant application through the Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership.

The committee's goal is to begin in the fall of 2022 and "to treat and restore cheatgrass infestations in the sagebrush ecosystem on public and private lands across the Gunnison Basin," according to the proposal document submitted prior to the work session. The coordinator would work to eradicate cheatgrass and restore sagebrush and other native grasses across the Upper Gunnison Basin, mapping out and prioritizing important sites, treating infestations, reducing its expansion through outreach education and bike wash/boot kick stations and coordinating native grass reseeding and long-term monitoring efforts.

Brad Wigginton, weed coordinator for Gunnison County, said that as the program on the ground working on cheatgrass, it was encouraging to see that more backup was on the way. "Our program is there for everybody...and we are excited to see this go forward," he said.

### **Long-term plans**

Smith proposed that the county could help start and stabilize the coordinator position but recognized it would need to be temporary. "We are looking for a long-term solution," she said.

"This is as big if not the biggest threat to habitat and ag and other issues in the Basin," said county manager Matthew Birnie. "We've been lucky here so far...but this is probably a forever effort. It's not a two-year effort."

Birnie said there is a current surplus in the county's sage grouse funds generated by the landfill fees that could also help launch the effort. He said it could initially be a contract position similar to the sage grouse mitigation fund coordinator.

Both commissioner Roland Mason and commissioner chair Jonathan Houck said they supported the concept and committing county resources to it.

"I want us to be really thoughtful as we look at the long-term," said Houck. "Once we get some of that preliminary work done with a coordinator, I just want us all, as partners, to think about where's the best place for this to live over time, and a way to keep it active and working and getting results on the ground."

The county staff will determine the county's potential financial commitment over the next two years, which will come back to commissioners in the form of a resolution.

"I think it's a great thing," commented Eric McPhail with the CSU extension office after the work session. "It's been a problem for more than 20 years, and everyone wants to address it but without someone to coordinate everything, it's just lip service."



## MOUNTAIN SKI CONDITIONS TAKE TOLL WITH INJURIES LAST WEEKEND

🕒 February 16, 2022    👁 697 Views

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**Slide for Life out there... so be careful**

[ By Mark Reaman ]

Since it has been several weeks since the last major snowstorm, snow conditions on the Crested Butte Mountain Resort ski hill are no longer all soft and powdery. As evidenced by warning signs all over the ski mountain so-called “slide for life” conditions are becoming prevalent. That fact resulted in several serious ski related injuries last weekend. At one point all three of the active ambulances from the North Valley were in use so the Gunnison Emergency Medical Service (EMS) was called into action to help transfer patients from the mountain clinic to the Gunnison Valley Hospital.

“The weekend was quite busy for our department,” said Crested Butte Fire Protection District EMS chief Rob Weisbaum. “We had a total of 11 calls from the GVH mountain clinic, and Gunnison EMS assisted with an additional transfer as we were managing all the concurrent calls. In addition, the crews responded to five 9-1-1 calls. It was a busy weekend.”

Gunnison Valley Health communications manager Joelle Ashley agreed with Weisbaum's assessment. "It was a very busy weekend on the mountain with lots of ski accidents. There were people who came off the mountain on sleds and there were multiple transfers via CareFlight and our EMS ambulances to hospitals outside the county," she explained. "On Saturday we saw 22 people at the Mountain Clinic and 21 of them were for trauma. Sunday was a little better, but there were lots of patients with trauma in the afternoon."

Weisbaum said Saturday was the busier of the weekend days for his crews. "Most of the calls occurred on Saturday. There was one patient that was transferred out of the Buckhorn airport via St. Mary's CareFlight due to multisystem trauma and was in critical condition. Many of the calls were trauma related from orthopedic injuries to multisystem trauma."

Multisystem trauma is when multiple parts of the body are injured during an accident. Systems refer to organs, musculoskeletal, etc., explained Weisbaum.

Ashley said from Friday through Sunday of last week 45 patients were seen at the GVH Mountain Clinic. Of that number, 36 were people there because of injuries and not illness.

"During that same time period there were six patients who required transfer out of the valley for a higher level of care, one who was flown directly from the mountain. On Saturday, the busiest day, we had one patient flown out from Crested Butte (Buckhorn), three patients who were transported directly to the hospital emergency room, where one went directly to surgery," she relayed. "What is really important to note about this information is that the number of people we saw was fairly typical for the busy season at the Mountain Clinic, but many of the injuries were much more serious."

CBMR/Vail Resorts spokesperson Lindsay Hogan said the weekend was certainly busy in terms of overall visitors and a similar pop in injuries followed suit.

"We normally see fluctuations in the number of incidents on the mountain each day based on conditions, visitation and other factors," Hogan explained. "We had a slight uptick in the number of incidents on Saturday, February 12, but our visitation was also higher that day, and as you noted, conditions are currently firm. Our Mountain Operations team is working hard to continue to rehab the snow we currently have and to create the best conditions possible in the areas we groom."

"Our team did an awesome job managing all the calls," emphasized Weisbaum. "Big thanks to our volunteers and staff who helped during the busy times and our mutual aid partners."

Hogan said it is a good time for riders on the mountain to stay aware. "As always, we emphasize the importance of skier and rider responsibility, as well as understanding your ability level and being aware of the current conditions," concluded Hogan. "We encourage all guests to be mindful of their individual ability before choosing where to ski and ride, and our on-mountain staff are available to answer guest questions about terrain if they can be of help."

Wednesday brought some snow and more snow is in the forecast which will hopefully soften the terrain conditions but in the meantime, ski with caution and be aware of your abilities.



# **AGENDA ITEM 11**

**Citizens Comments**

# **AGENDA ITEM 12**

## **Future Meetings**

## FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- ▶ Legislative Committee Meeting - April 1; 8 AM (tentative)
- ▶ Taylor Local User's Group Meeting - April 7, 2 PM
- ▶ Legislative Committee Meeting - April 8; 8 AM (tentative)
- ▶ Watershed Mgt. Planning Committee Meeting - April 11; 1:30 PM
- ▶ Legislative Committee Meeting - April 15; 8 AM (tentative)
- ▶ EARTH DAY - April 22
- ▶ Gunnison Community and River Clean-Up Day - April 23
- ▶ UGRWCD Post Clean-Up Lunch at Jorgensen Park - April 23
- ▶ UGRWCD Board Meeting – April 25; 5:30 PM
- ▶ Watershed Mgt. Planning Committee Meeting - May 9; 1:30 PM
- ▶ UGRWCD Board Meeting - May 24th in LAKE CITY

# **AGENDA ITEM 13**

## **Summary of Action Items**

# **AGENDA ITEM 14**

**Adjournment**