



Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS **AGENDA - REGULAR MEETING**

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 1:00 PM
at the Lake City Fire Station,
131 N Henson St, Lake City, CO 81235

MISSION STATEMENT

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

- 1:00 p.m. 1. Call to Order**
- 1:02 p.m. 2. Agenda Approval**
- 1:05 p.m. 3. Consent Agenda Items:** Any of the following items may be removed for discussion from the consent agenda at the request of any Board member or citizen.
- Approval of April 25, 2022 Minutes
 - Monthly Budget Summary
 - Consideration of Expenses
- 1:10 p.m. 4. Legal and Legislative Matters**
- 1:15 p.m. 5. Colorado Dust on Snow Program (San Juan Basin), Jeff Derry**
- 1:30 p.m. 6. Basin Water Supply Update**
- 1:40 p.m. 7. General Manager, Staff and Committee Updates**
- Treasurer's Report
 - General Manager's Update
 - "Water Roundup" 2022 Conference Planning Update
 - Wet Meadows Program Update

- Taylor Local User’s Group Update
 - May 5, 2022 Meeting Summary
- Education & Outreach Committee
 - May 6, 2022 Meeting Summary
- Scientific Endeavors
- Gunnison Basin Roundtable Update
- Gunnison River Festival Update

2:40 p.m. 8. Miscellaneous Matters

- Gunnison Energy Production - Solar Panels
- Current Gunnison River Spreadsheet
- Newspapers and Other Water Articles

2:45 p.m. 9. Citizens Comments

2:50 p.m. 10. Future Meetings

2:55 p.m. 11. Summary of Meeting Action Items

3:00 p.m. 12. Adjournment

This meeting will be followed immediately by the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise meeting.

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, April 25, 2022**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) conducted a regular meeting on Monday, April 25, 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, Julie Nania, Bill Nesbitt, John Perusek, Michelle Pierce, Don Sabrowski, and Andy Spann.

Others present:

Cheryl Cwelich, UGRWCD Watershed Programs Coordinator

Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD General Manager

John McClow, UGRWCD Legal Counsel

Luke Mecklenburg, Colorado Attorney General's Office

Beverly Richards, UGRWCD Water Resource Specialist

Jill Steele, UGRWCD Accountant

Brian Stevens, Bureau of Land management

1. Call to Order

Board President Michelle Pierce called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Agenda Approval

Michelle said there are three additions to the agenda: 1. USGS request for funding for algal studies. 2. Discussion of draft IGA with Gunnison County for cheat grass coordinator. 3. Request for resolution in support of the District's WaterSMART grant application to Reclamation for development of a Drought Contingency Plan.

Bill Nesbitt moved and Stacy McPhail seconded approval of the agenda as amended. The motion carried.

3. Consent Agenda Items

Stacy McPhail moved and Bill Nesbitt seconded approval of the consent agenda items. The motion carried.

4. Legal and Legislative Matters

John McClow said he provided a copy of the State's Petition for Certiorari in the Hill v. Warsewa case, which the board has previously discussed. He said the petition is self-explanatory and asked if there were any questions.

Bill Nesbitt asked John to talk about public trust doctrine piece that was discussed in the Court of Appeals decision. John said the primary reason the Colorado Water Congress and Attorney General's office are participating in case is that it has significant public trust implications. Although the parties have not specifically raised it, the Court of Appeals ruling implied that the trial court could consider a public trust document. This is not consistent with Colorado law, and at this point, the Attorney General and Colorado Water Congress agree that is not appropriate, and that is why they are pursuing a Petition for Certiorari.

Bill Nesbitt asked about Senate Bill 22-029, the water speculation bill. John said it was killed in committee last Thursday. Ironically, Senator Donovan voted against her own bill.

5. Presentation by Brian Stevens, BLM – Forest and Watershed Health/Potential Treatments (North Powderhorn Project)

Brian Stevens, Bureau of Land Management Environmental Specialist, gave a presentation on the BLM's North Powderhorn Fuels Treatment Project. Brian said he began his firefighting career in the Pacific northwest in 1992 and has worked in many places in the west and has now been in Gunnison almost 22 years.

Project Objectives include mimicking small-scale disturbance on the landscape, improving timber stand resiliency against catastrophic fires, and establishing timber species regeneration.

Brian said that conditions in 2013 in the Papoose fire were similar to what we see in Powderhorn and much of Colorado and the west. Lots of standing, dead timber. In the Papoose fire, the area was heavily impacted by the spruce beetle in 2004, then in 2013, a lightning strike caused the fire to take off. It was a high intensity, high severity fire similar to what we are seeing with recent wildfires across the west. He has been actively sampling larger dead tree fuel moisture. They were at 45% in 2016, and now are at 13%. This makes those vegetative fuels easier to ignite. In high heat, high intensity fires, the material will burn for years or months, cooking the organic matter out of the soil. This causes water quality issues, mudslides, and the soil blows away. In the Papoose fire burn area, where there used to be Lodgepole Pine and Englemann Spruce there is now scrub. The scrub area will burn more frequently than if it were reforested as fire typically returns to these areas every 10 years, versus 100 years in a lodgepole pine forest. It will take hundreds if not thousands of years for intensively burned areas to regenerate.

Brian presented a map of potential fire behavior and a map of drought conditions from 2000-2022 for Colorado. With the extremely heavy fuel loading we have in the wilderness area, if we let a fire burn in the summer, it will probably not achieve the ecological result we want. The organics would be burned out of soil and the seed bank would burn. Recovery is especially tough at high elevation. The answer is more and smaller treatments across the landscape in all different vegetation types and at the appropriate time. The ability to pick a burn window, location, time of year, is very important. Prescribed fires in the wilderness are desirable and very important as we've been suppressing fire for way too long and our forest vegetation has become incredibly dense and composed of one or two age classes. We need to educate our public that this just isn't natural.

Director Fonken asked if there were a prescribed burn in Powderhorn, would that region come back with the same type of trees? Brian said hopefully it will. He would like to see aspen come back because it doesn't burn as hot as other trees. The BLM wants to promote the sub-alpine fir and Englemann Spruce regeneration. If you have a smaller disturbance, a smaller footprint, your seed source is close by and it reseeds more quickly.

Director Nania asked if once the fuel load is reduced by prescribed burns, will it be possible to allow a more natural fire. Brian said yes, it would. Julie asked if they have a good monitoring plan. Brian said they have been collecting vegetative data and wildlife data including lynx and snowshoe hare. They will soon begin collecting pre- and post-prescribed fire soil and water quality data as well.

Director Sabrowski referenced the decrease in moisture in the fuel and asked if the BLM is confident the fire will not get extremely hot? Brian said some of it probably will, but it will be a lot less intense than if it weren't controlled. Some burns will likely be done in the fall after a dusting snow. We have an idea of the conditions we want for conducting prescribed burns. Don asked if there was any movement with regard to legislation because of the severe droughts such that we can get in there and eliminate some of it? Brian said, people are starting to realize there is a problem with this all across the west.

Director Carroll asked Brian how they decide between fire treatment and mechanical removal. If an area is 100% dead in a forest, do you treat the whole hillslope, or treat selectively to keep some structure? Brian said they want to keep some structure.

Brian said that in order to look at fire, insects, or disease, you need an objective and then that objective drives what you do. John Kaminsky said it is the goal to do the minimum amount of intrusion that you can do to achieve your objective, which is field protection. The idea is not to intervene, but to have people standing around ready to intervene if needed.

Director Spann asked if this is an agency philosophy change. Is there buy-in across the BLM agency to move these treatments forward? Jon said the challenge now is to educate the public and get them out of the mindset that wilderness areas should be untouched by man. If we hadn't been suppressing fires in

these wilderness areas, they would be touched by fire naturally. Instead of 70 acres of dead stuff, we will have small patches of dead stuff. The BLM will be doing more public outreach and talking about the benefits and risks of doing nothing, and those of taking a measured and managed approach.

Brian said there is a huge risk associated with doing nothing. When you see before and after photos from some of these large fires, you'd say you wish we'd decided to be more proactive as restoration is next to impossible with high intensity fires.

Director Hazard said she is glad they followed up with downed, dead timber. After years and years, that aspen will burn really hot. She said burning smaller patches will make the fire easier to control, and it will likely be more acceptable to people.

Sonja said that the UGRWCD has been participating in the same Upper Gunnison Shared Stewardship Council that Brian has also been participating in and she thanked him for serving on the technical committee for the Upper Gunnison fire risk assessment. She plans to have presentations and discussion on watershed health and wildfire risk as part of the Upper Gunnison Basin Water Roundup conference on June 9-10.

Director Nania said it would be interesting to try to integrate the vegetation management with some of the watershed sciences and erosional issues. She said that the District has looked at where we can re-wet areas. She would like to discuss two other forms of natural fuel break with BLM as well.

6. Break

7. Basin Water Supply Update

A basin water supply update was included in the board packet. Bev Richards said that our area is in moderate drought and abnormally dry conditions, about the same as it has been recently. Most of streamflow gages are normal to much above normal in Gunnison basin, however there was a spike in streamflows which occurred last week indicating that snow melt has begun. Bev said that luckily the weather conditions over the past weekend slowed things down a bit.

The 30-day-term precipitation forecast indicates that the area of Gunnison, Hinsdale and Saguache counties and much of the southern part of the State will have a 40 to 50% probability of below normal precipitation. Temperatures are forecasted to be above normal for the same period.

As of April 18, reservoir storage in the entire Gunnison Basin was at 58% of full. Taylor Park and Blue Mesa reservoirs are at 54% and 29% respectively. The forecasted inflows from April – July are at 67% of average.

Unregulated inflows to Lake Powell in March were 3.29 thousand acre feet and the released volume from Glen Canyon in March was 5.74 thousand acre feet. End of March elevation and storage in Lake Powell were 3,523.13 acre feet and 24% live storage capacity.

April to June anticipated releases from Lake Powell are 17.87 thousand acre feet.

Lake San Cristobal is at an elevation of 8,994.43 feet. Flows out of the reservoir are at 28.7 cfs and current flows at the gage at the Gateview gage are at 78.8 cfs.

The Gunnison County Cloud Seeding program concluded April 15, 2022. There were 21 storm events from November 21 – April 22. Generator hours were 1,488, which includes the remote generator at Irwin. Total snow water equivalent accumulation from seeded events was 131.7 inches.

There was a severe dust event April 11 from widespread high winds. Snowstorms quickly followed, so that dust is buried along with other layers of dust.

Colorado Airborne Snow Measurement flights began April 19 on the Taylor and Est Rivers and will continue through June

WRF hydro streamflow forecasting provided interim information with each snow-on flight. Additional, snow-free flights and data work will be conducted this summer and fall

Data workshops will take place with the CASM workgroup to explore different ways that ASO data can be used among all water stakeholders.

RMBL came to us with a support letter for the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) Flight project which includes airborne surveying done during peak greenness to help inform water managers on the timing of snowmelt as it applies to certain vegetated areas. Flights are done March thru October.

Gap radar, located near Blue Mesa Reservoir, will be installed beginning in late July and should be fully operational by late September.

Bev Richards attended a Colorado climate and drought webinar the other day and heard that la nina may stick around a third year and as a result, there will be above average risk of fires and low water storage again this year.

Sonja Chavez said that she spoke with Garret Cammans, of North American Weather Consultants, and he indicated there were some issues this year working with a landowner on Black Mesa where there was a manually operated cloud seeding generator installed. Garrett recommended installation of a remote generator like the one at Irwin. Sonja is working with Garrett on potential cost. The Bureau of

Reclamation is beginning to have an interest in cloud seeding, so the hope is that they might help fund some of the generator sites in the future. Joellen Fonken said a few people in the public mentioned to her that we were no longer doing cloud seeding which is incorrect. She would like to have a cloudseeding article or press release, perhaps in the spring or fall. There was support for this idea and Sonja indicated that staff would work on a newspaper article.

John McClow said that Assistant Secretary Trujillo recommended that releases from Glen Canyon Dam to the lower basin states be reduced from 7.48 million acre feet to 7 million acre feet. The seven basin states sent a letter concurring with that recommendation, and he expects to see that this year the release will be reduced to 7 million acre feet.

8. General Manager, Staff and Committee Updates

Treasurer's Report: Board Treasurer Bill Nesbitt said there is lots of talk of the Fed raising interest rates, he has heard .50% to a full 1%. Stay tuned.

General Manager's Update: Sonja Chavez said she was sworn in as new member of the Water Quality Control Commission. She was informed that she should recuse herself if there is board discussion of any of the Regulation #35 hearings included in her memo. There was no discussion.

Sonja said that the District has submitted multiple grant applications since the March 22, 2022 meeting and has also written several letters in support of Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests. Summary of grant applications in support of District activities:

- 1) GOCO Grant Application in support of Wet Meadows (\$158,100)
- 2) CDS request in support of Wet Meadows (\$640,000)
- 3) U.S. FWS Call for Proposals in support of Wet Meadows (\$955,158)
- 4) WaterSMART Drought Contingency Planning (DCP) Grant (\$140,480)*

TOTAL: \$1.9M

Request for Board Action: The WaterSMART DCP grant application requires a board resolution in support of the proposed project. Resolution 2022-02 is presented for the board's approval in support of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Drought Contingency Plan (DCP).

Stacy McPhail moved and Joellen Fonken seconded approval of Resolution 2022-02 in support of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). The motion carried.

Request for Board Action: The USGS is requesting \$30,000 from the Upper Gunnison District as cash match for its High-Frequency Water Quality Sampling Project to Support Harmful Algal Bloom Studies in Blue Mesa Reservoir.

Bill Nesbitt moved to support the High Frequency Water Quality Sampling Project to Support Harmful Algal Bloom Studies in 2022 by making a cash-match contribution of \$30,000 this fiscal year. Rosemary Carroll seconded.

Rosemary said she would like to see a presentation by USGS on the study both before and after the project.

The motion carried.

Wet Meadows Program Update: Cheryl Cwelich asked if there were questions on her memo in the packets. There were none.

Education & Outreach Update: We received notification that the Rotary fishing tournament cancelled. They will return the \$1500 the District provided for the event. Note that Sonja had incorrectly indicated a figure of a \$150,000 instead of \$1,500 in her memo in her memo.

Taylor Local User's Group Update: April 7 Meeting Summary: Director Sabrowski went over the April 7, 2022 memo from the board packet. It is forecast to be an average year, with minimum storage of 70,000 acre feet at the end of October. It was suggested at the March TLUG meeting that since it is an average year, we increase the year-end storage goal to 73,000 acre feet. TLUG initially ran with that but then decided to use 70,000 acre feet in the final June flow recommendations as the minimum storage objective per the stipulation. The group will still operate as conservatively as possible knowing the inflow projections from CBRFC regularly fall throughout the season in drought years.

Suggested releases are as follows:

April 16-30: 125 cfs

May 1-15: 140 cfs

May 16-31: 250 cfs

June 1-15: 375 cfs (plan for five day flushing flow of 445)

June 16-30: 350 cfs

July 1: 350 cfs

August 1: 300 cfs

September 1: 300 cfs till sept 25, then to 250 cfs.

October 1: 125 cfs

The next TLUG meeting will take place May 5, 2022 and will include Eric Knight's May 5 projection. Don said he is worried about soil moisture, even though the prediction is for average flows and that the models take into account the soil moisture. Hopefully the forecasted flows will be more accurate this year. TLUG will strive to be as conservative as possible while still taking needs of all users into consideration.

Director Spann said he hopes we have an average year. He supports being as conservative as possible and temporarily storing/being conservative with releases. Everyone has been taking a hit in late August and September with regard to flows. He said Don did a really good job at the TLUG meeting and he said that everyone is thinking about the best thing to do for all.

Scientific Endeavors: Rosemary Carroll said that ASO flights for April – June have been scheduled. Thursday was the first flight; they were delayed due to weather. All of the Taylor and East Rivers were done in one day. The total amount of snow estimated in the East River is 177,000 acre feet (uncertainty around numbers are 168,000 - 186,000 acre feet). Snow estimated in Taylor River Basin is 119,000 acre feet. They also use a spectrometer to measure dust on snow. Dust anywhere in top 30 cm will accelerate melt.

Rosemary said she serves on the advisory council of Hydrogen. They have used the Taylor River as a proof of concept using complex physical hydrologic models and building machine learning around it, so the models are thousands of times faster. Then they build around this a nice user interface for water managers, irrigators, etc., can go in and input "what ifs." Second phase. Once product finalized she'd like to have come and do a demonstration and show us what the model can do.

Gunnison River Festival Update: Director Fonken said that every time we meet there is a desire from some group to add more activities. The Gunnison Waves wanted to do their Surf Jam, but it would take too much time to put it on Saturday with the other events, so it will be on Sunday June 12 from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. They are trying not to compete with the Lake San Cristobal activities, but she feels these are two very different user groups and they will not compete. The Lake Fork Valley Conservancy will put on some demos for SUPing, etc. The following day, Monday, will be the ribbon cutting for the peninsula.

Sonja said that she received a draft Inter-Governmental Agreement from the County related to the Cheat Grass coordinator position. We are currently providing \$4,200 in funding from the Wet Meadows NFWF grant and she reminded the District Board that she came to them earlier about funding on an annual basis. She was not aware that they would be asking supporters to enter into an IGA, she doesn't wish to direct or control this position in any way, she would recommend that the Board not sign the IGA with current language that indicates possible legal action if the District Board was not able to provide funding in a given year. She feels that this position was County led and that the responsibility should remain with the County and that if they'd like our help informally we should provide. The District's

only possible ask is that the Cheatgrass Coordinator try to participate in the Wet Meadows Program group meetings when possible to keep each other aware or potentially have a Cheatgrass subgroup as it relates to sage grouse, climate change, etc.

9. Miscellaneous Matters

Sonja reminded the board that the deadline to apply to fill upcoming board vacancies is approaching quickly. Andy Spann, Stacy McPhail, Sara Bergstrom, and John Perusek are the directors whose board seats expire this year. They have until May 27, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. to submit letters of interest to Judge Patrick.

10. Citizens Comments

Luke Mecklenburg said that he is new to the Colorado Attorney General's office and is getting informed/caught up.

11. Future Meetings

TLUG meeting – May 5th at 10:00 a.m.
Watershed Management Planning Committee Meeting – May 11 at 1:00 p.m.
Gunnison Basin Roundtable meeting – May 16 at 3:00 p.m.
UGRWCD Board Meeting – May 24th in Lake City
Deadline for letters to Judge for UGRWCD board vacancies – May 27 at 5:00 p.m.
May 30, Memorial Day, office closed
Financial Audit by Paul Miller – May 30 – June 3
UGRWCD Water Roundup at IBar Ranch – June 9 and 10.
Gunnison River Festival 20th Anniversary – June 10 – 12.

Bill Nesbitt requested that the Education and Outreach Committee schedule a meeting.

Sonja said there will be a wildfire discussion and movie on April 27 at the Center for the Arts at 5:00 p.m. The Crested Butte Fire Protection District is sponsoring the event.

12. Summary of Meeting Action Items

- Deepen collaboration with BLM and others on watershed health, vegetation, fire management.
- Bev will write an article about science of cloudseeding and UGRWCD Program.
- Talk to Brian Stevens or Jon Kaminsky about serving on fire panels at conference.
- Ask USGS to present on study on harmful algal blooms in Blue Mesa.
- Invite Jeff Deems to give a presentation to us on ASO.

13. Adjournment

Board President Michelle Pierce adjourned the April 25, 2022 meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Perusek, Secretary

APPROVED:

Michelle Pierce, President

DRAFT

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District - Budget Summary 2022

Income	April 22	Jan - Apr 22	22 Budget	% of Budget
General Income				
Asp Water Sales	4,665.14	17,507.64	22,510.00	77.78%
Interest Income	338.19	2,604.32	20,000.00	13.02%
Property Tax Income	200,495.37	806,961.95	1,609,542.00	50.14%
Total General Income	205,498.70	827,073.91	1,652,052.00	50.06%
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 CWCB	0.00	0.00	23,750.00	0.0%
CRWCD CFP2021-15 Grant Inc	0.00	0.00		
CWCB 2019-2891 Grant Inc	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.0%
CWCB 2020-2113 Grant Inc	0.00	-5,000.00	16,000.00	-31.25%
CWCB 2022-2085 Grant Income	0.00	0.00		
NFWF Landscape	0.00	149,637.00		
NFWF Phase II Grant Income	0.00	0.00	107,400.00	0.0%
NPS 2021-4821 Grant Inc	0.00	0.00		
NRCS Grant Income	0.00	0.00		
Taylor-CWRPDA Hydro Income	0.00	0.00		
TU Restore Grant Inc	0.00	0.00	40,000.00	0.0%
USFS Grant Income	0.00	0.00		
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	144,637.00	693,316.00	20.86%
Program Income				
Cloud Seeding Reimb/Cost Share	0.00	23,750.00	69,000.00	34.42%
Watershed Mgmt Income	60,797.97	104,228.72		
WQ Monitoring Inc	0.00	27,402.00	35,570.00	77.04%
Total Program Income	60,797.97	155,380.72	104,570.00	148.59%
Reimbursed Exp Income				
GRF Reimbursed Income	0.00	0.00		
LSC Reimbursed Income	0.00	0.00		
Misc Income	0.00	77.50	1,000.00	7.75%
UGRAWE 4.46% OpX Reimbursed Inc	0.00	18,134.00	33,297.00	54.46%
Total Reimbursed Exp Income	0.00	18,211.50	34,297.00	53.1%
Unspent Funds from Previous Yr	0.00	0.00	9,379.00	0.0%
Total Income	266,296.67	1,145,303.13	2,493,614.00	45.93%
COST Grants				
BLM Coop L17AC00255 COST	688.25	1,363.59		
BLM L19AC00207 Silt COST	0.00	0.00		
Cloud Seeding COST	22,776.51	68,583.84		
CPW HPP COST	0.00	0.00		
CPW Wetlands Grant COST	0.00	0.00		
CWCB 2022-2085 (Restore) COST	0.00	33,165.75		
CWCB 2019-2891 COST	0.00	6,266.25		
CWCB 2020-2113 COST	0.00	0.00		
CWCB PEPO GBRT	0.00	0.00		
CWCB WtrShed Restore Grant COST	0.00	0.00		
NFWF Phase II COST	6,219.08	17,666.92		
NPS PO 2021-4821 COST	0.00	0.00		
NRCS Grant Exp COST	0.00	0.00		
TU Restore Grant COST	0.00	0.00		
USFS PA-2 17-PA COST	0.00	489.03		
USFS SPA 2018 COST	232.88	232.88		
Total COST Grants	29,916.72	127,768.26		

Expense	April 22	Jan - Apr 22	22 Budget	% of Budget
Operating Expense				
Audit and Accounting	225.00	2,951.50	7,500.00	39.35%
Board Expenses	0.00	3,317.03	15,000.00	22.11%
Board Mtg Fees	1,180.00	4,880.00	13,360.00	36.53%
BOD Mileage	207.10	577.66	2,200.00	26.26%
Bonding and Insurance	0.00	401.00	12,003.00	3.34%
Building Rep/Maint (was Non-Op)	0.00	2,717.98	10,000.00	27.18%
Computer Exp (under Office Equipment)	0.00	1,919.98		
Computer, Internet, Lexis (under Office Expenses)	400.00	2,385.84		
Contribution-Endangered Fish (was Non-Op)	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.0%
Copier Expenses (under Office Expenses)	0.00	226.83		
County Treasurers' Fees	6,032.01	23,029.38	46,237.00	49.81%
Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	0.00	1,347.49	5,222.00	25.8%
Election Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Legal Publication	1,233.75	5,943.76	6,000.00	99.06%
Manager's Discretionary	0.00	677.53	3,000.00	22.58%
Meeting Expenses	0.00	907.55	3,500.00	25.93%
Office Equipment Exp	242.89	4,192.00	21,500.00	19.5%
Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	255.34	13,937.34	21,250.00	65.59%
Payroll Exp				
Admin.Travel & Exp.	469.60	8,180.71	19,000.00	43.06%
CRA Retirement Plan	2,721.55	10,886.20	32,659.00	33.33%
Medical Insurance	4,529.86	20,320.51	34,425.00	59.03%
Payroll Taxes	3,540.90	14,388.28	39,092.00	36.81%
Salaries - Admin	28,250.00	113,000.00	339,000.00	33.33%
Salaries - Staff	17,749.28	71,137.76	164,117.00	43.35%
Staff Development & Training	0.00	326.00	9,000.00	3.62%
Work Comp Ins	1,871.00	2,154.00	3,700.00	58.22%
Total Payroll Exp	59,132.19	240,393.46	640,993.00	37.5%
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Postage	0.00	874.84	1,500.00	58.32%
Public Outreach				
Donation GRF	0.00	10,500.00	10,500.00	100.0%
Mini-Grants	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.0%
Public Ed./Advertising	1,895.00	14,491.33	28,140.00	
Internship	339.12	891.76	800.00	111.47%
Total Public Ed./Advertising	2,234.12	15,383.09	28,940.00	53.16%
Youth Conservation Corps	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Public Outreach	2,234.12	25,883.09	41,940.00	61.72%
Publications	0.00	124.61		
Software Exp	120.00	712.29		
Telephone	640.37	3,276.44	7,110.00	46.08%
Utilities, Clean, Condo Dues	637.41	4,819.75	15,516.00	31.06%
Vehicle Expenses - Toyota Highl	0.00	262.36	4,525.00	5.8%
Total Operating Expense	72,540.18	345,759.71	881,356.00	39.23%

	April 22	Jan - Apr 22	22 Budget	% of Budget
Non-Operating Expense				
Asp Subordination Report	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.0%
Aspinall Contract Costs	18,904.82	18,845.65	18,550.00	101.59%
Consulting/Engineering	0.00	3,413.39	15,000.00	22.76%
Contribution to Reserve Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
LSC Expenses	0.00	0.00	13,464.00	0.0%
Basinwide Planning	0.00	0.00	421,500.00	0.0%
Regional Water Supply Improvement	3,510.89	35,592.55	729,566.00	4.88%
Grant Program (under RWSI)	0.00	53,650.00	0.00	100.0%
Spencer Ave Res Exp	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.0%
Taylor Park Projects Exp	7,436.00	7,436.00	7,436.00	100.0%
Taylor River Modeling Exp (under RWSI)	0.00	13,369.57	0.00	100.0%
Watershed Mgmt Planning (Basinwide Planning)	0.00	17,490.00	0.00	100.0%
Wet Meadows (under RWSI)	0.00	38.08	0.00	100.0%
WQ Monitoring	38,942.00	38,942.00	149,691.00	26.02%
Total Non-Operating Expense	68,793.71	188,777.24	1,370,207.00	13.78%
Contingency	0.00	0.00	24,000.00	0.0%
Total Expense	141,333.89	534,536.95	2,275,563.00	23.49%
Revenue Over/(Under) Expense	124,962.78	610,766.18	218,051.00	

BANK AND BOND BALANCES - UGRWCD and UGRWAE

UGRWCD		Instrument	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	Date
Account Name	Type		4/30/2022	Basis	Rate	Date	Callable
LPL Bond 27 CUSIP 91282CDR9 Treasury Note	BOND		\$ 387,812.40	\$ 394,661.19	1.475%	12/31/2023	
LPL Bond 17 (FHLB) CUSIP 91282CDH1 Treasury Note	BOND		194,493.75	204,335.35	1.680%	11/15/2024	10/18/2021
LPL 19 Pac. Western CD thru LPL CUSIP 69506 YRJ O	CD		244,462.47	245,000.00	1.200%	4/17/2023	
LPL Bond 20 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130 AJLA 5	BOND		514,511.25	550,000.00	0.750%	5/19/2025	5/19/2021
LPL Bond 21 (Fed Farm) CUSIP 3133 EL3P7	BOND		318,569.89	345,000.00	0.530%	8/12/2025	8/12/2022
LPL 22 Merrick Bank CD thru LPL CUSIP 59013KLR5	CD		234,584.64	249,000.00	0.350%	12/30/2024	
LPL Bond 23 (FEDL) CUSIP 3130ALLD4	BOND		230,409.76	250,000.00	0.875%	3/17/2026	9/17/2021
LPL Money Market Account	M.M.		17,762.45		0.010%	N/A	
LPL Bond 24 CUSIP 3130AMDY5 Fedl Home Loan Bank	BOND		461,282.50	500,000.00	1.000%	5/20/2026	5/20/2022
LPL CD 25 Sallie Mae Bank CUSIP 795451 AA1	CD		237,960.66	245,000.00	0.550%	7/22/2024	
LPL 26 (Fed. Home Loan Banks) CUSIP 3130 APBE4	BOND		146,405.60	160,000.00	1.000%	9/30/2026	9/30/2022
LPL 28 Freddie Mac CUSIP 3134 GXQP2	BOND		198,951.20	200,000.00	3.030%	4/28/2025	
Mountain View Bank Money Market	M.M.		106,454.02			3/27/2023	
Bank of the West Checking	CHKG		138,616.01		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	
Community Banks of Colo. Lake City CD # 7668	CD		104,170.48		0.500%	5/20/2023	
Community Banks of Colo. CD 6106	CD		90,201.45		0.950%	6/20/2022	
10520 Gunnison Bank & Trust CD 6637	CD		200,000.00		1.900%	2/26/2025	
10540 Gunnison Bank & Trust - Spencer Ave. Res. 3589	CHKG		50,104.12		0.150%	N/A	
101140 Gunnison Savings & Loan CD 5011	CD		110,320.21		1.750%	8/10/2022	
101149 Gunnison Savings & Loan CD 9413	CD		152,474.84		2.050%	10/18/2024	
10295 COLOTRUST PLUS+	COLOTRUST		649,321.08		0.4989%	N/A	
10290 COLOTRUST PRIME	COLOTRUST		168,188.27		0.2790%	N/A	
10200 Petty Cash	PETTY		100.00		N/A	N/A	
TOTAL UGRWCD			\$ 5,114,132.76				

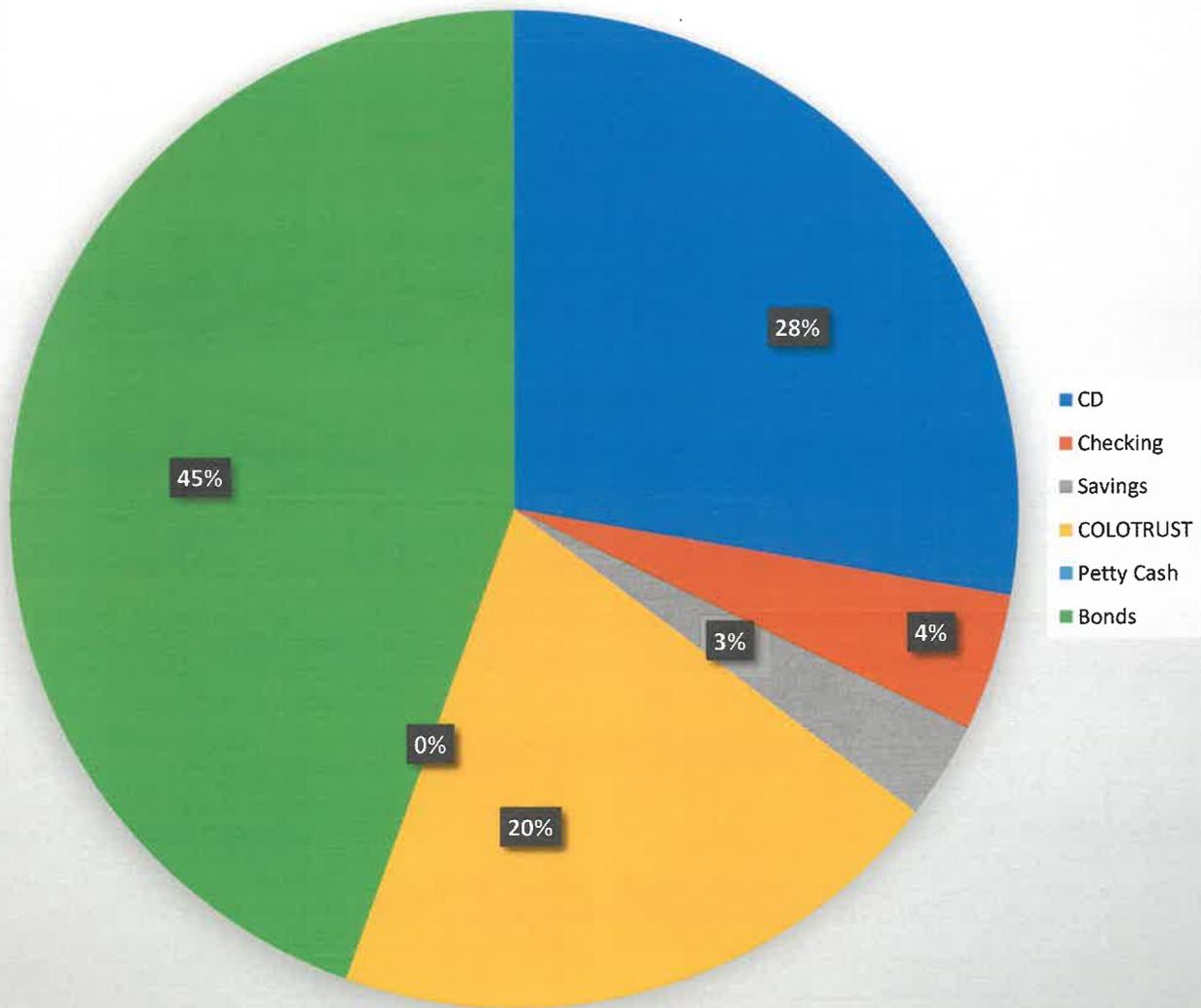
UGRWAE		Balance	Interest	Maturity
Account Name		4/30/2022	Rate	Date
Bank of the West Checking	CHKG	\$ 106,314.69	N/A	N/A
COLOTRUST PLUS+	COLOTRUST	289,845.78	0.4989%	N/A
TOTAL UGRWAE		\$ 396,160.47		
TOTAL UGRWCD + UGRWAE		\$ 5,510,293.23		

Total UGRWCD and UGRWAE by Bank			Total UGRWCD & UGRWAE by Investment Type		
LPL Financial (Was Sigma)	\$ 3,187,206.57	58%	CD	28%	\$ 1,531,150.46
Mountain View Bank	106,454.02	2%	Checking	4%	244,930.70
Bank of the West	350,342.24	6%	Savings	3%	174,320.59
Community Banks of Colo.	245,936.10	4%	COLOTRUST	20%	1,107,355.13
Gunnison Bank & Trust	250,104.12	5%	Petty Cash	0%	100.00
Gunnison Savings & Loan	262,795.05	5%	Bonds	45%	\$ 2,452,436.35
COLOTRUST	1,107,355.13	20%	Total	100%	\$ 5,510,293.23
Petty Cash	100.00	0%			
TOTAL ALL BANKS	\$ 5,510,293.23	100%			

UGRWCD & UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE

CD	28%	\$ 1,531,150.46
Checking	4%	244,930.70
Savings	3%	174,320.59
COLOTRUST	20%	1,107,355.13
Petty Cash	0%	100.00
Bonds	45%	\$ 2,452,436.35
Total	100%	\$5,510,293.23

UGRWCD + UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE



Date	Name	Account	Amount
Apr 25 - May 24, 22			
04/29/2022	Alan Wartes Media LLC	Public Ed./Advertising	790.00
04/29/2022	Alan Wartes Media LLC	Legal Publication	307.52
04/25/2022	Andy Spann BOD	Board Mtg Fees	100.00
04/25/2022	Andy Spann BOD	BOD Mileage	4.10
05/03/2022	Applegate Group, Inc.	Consulting/Engineering	235.00
05/03/2022	Applegate Group, Inc.	Consulting/Engineering	235.00
04/26/2022	Atmos Energy	Utilities, Clean, Condo Dues	87.41
05/05/2022	Atmos Energy	Utilities, Clean, Condo Dues	90.33
05/05/2022	Atmos Energy	Utilities, Clean, Condo Dues	287.27
04/25/2022	Bill Nesbitt - BOD	Board Mtg Fees	100.00
05/03/2022	Bruce Bartleson	Watershed Mgmt X	1,665.00
04/26/2022	Business Solutions Leasing	Office Equipment Exp	242.89
04/27/2022	City of Gunnison	Public Ed./Advertising	750.00
05/04/2022	City of Gunnison Finance Dept.	Utilities, Clean, Condo Dues	76.10
05/04/2022	City of Gunnison Finance Dept.	Utilities, Clean, Condo Dues	150.15
04/29/2022	Crested Butte News	Public Ed./Advertising	125.00
04/29/2022	Crested Butte News	Legal Publication	926.23
04/25/2022	Don Sabrowski BOD	Board Mtg Fees	100.00
04/25/2022	Don Sabrowski BOD	BOD Mileage	18.72
04/30/2022	Fullmer's Ace Hardware	Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	39.99
05/01/2022	GL Computer Service, Inc.	Computer, Internet, Lexis	400.00
05/05/2022	Gunnison River HOA	RWSI Grant Program	10,637.12
04/30/2022	Hartman Brothers, Inc.	RWSI Expense	28.05
05/04/2022	Jill Steele	Medical Insurance	615.90
04/25/2022	Joellen Fonken BOD	Board Mtg Fees	100.00
04/25/2022	Joellen Fonken BOD	BOD Mileage	5.85
05/02/2022	John McClow	Medical Insurance	250.50
04/25/2022	John Perusek BOD	Board Mtg Fees	100.00
04/25/2022	Julie Nania BOD	Board Mtg Fees	100.00
04/25/2022	Julie Nania BOD	BOD Mileage	35.10
04/30/2022	Kim Antonucci	Audit and Accounting	225.00
04/25/2022	Michelle Pierce BOD	Board Mtg Fees	100.00
04/25/2022	Michelle Pierce BOD	BOD Mileage	65.52
04/27/2022	North American Weather Consultants, Inc.	Cloud Seeding COST	22,776.51
05/04/2022	Pinnacol Assurance	Work Comp Ins	791.00
04/26/2022	Pinnacol Assurance	Work Comp Ins	540.00
05/03/2022	QuickBooks Payroll Service	Payroll Taxes	1.75
04/25/2022	Rebie Hazard-BOD	Board Mtg Fees	100.00
04/25/2022	Rebie Hazard-BOD	BOD Mileage	34.52
04/30/2022	RigNet Inc	RWSI Expense	41.46
04/25/2022	Rosemary Carroll - BOD	Board Mtg Fees	100.00
04/25/2022	Rosemary Carroll - BOD	BOD Mileage	35.10
04/25/2022	Sara Bergstrom BOD	Board Mtg Fees	100.00
05/01/2022	Silver World Publishing	Public Ed./Advertising	100.00
05/01/2022	Silver World Publishing	Legal Publication	24.20
05/02/2022	Spencer Avenue Business Park Condo Assoc	Utilities, Clean, Condo Dues	550.00
04/25/2022	Stacy McPhail BOD	Board Mtg Fees	100.00
04/25/2022	Stacy McPhail BOD	BOD Mileage	8.19
05/01/2022	The Paper Clip	Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	87.67

4:24 PM
05/09/22
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)
April 25 through May 24, 2022

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Apr 25 - May 24, 22			<u>44,384.15</u>



BANK OF THE WEST
BNP PARIBAS

BANKCARD CENTER
PO BOX 84043
COLUMBUS GA 31908-4043

Account Number XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948

Payment Due Date MAY 23, 2022

Amount Due \$5,628.83

Current Balance \$5,628.83

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

Amount Enclosed

\$5,628.83

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

⑆5868 250 13⑆55693 2000 15 27948⑈

⑆000056 2883⑆

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
	\$3,974.46	\$5,628.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,974.46	\$5,628.83

CARDHOLDER NEW ACTIVITY SUMMARY

UPPER GUNN RIVER WATER XXXX-XXXX-0177-3377 Credit Limit \$5,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$76.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$76.00
CHERYL CWELICH XXXX-XXXX-0182-5532 Credit Limit \$3,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$417.94	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$417.94
SONJA CHAVEZ XXXX-XXXX-0153-1676 Credit Limit \$12,000	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
	\$2,763.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,763.26

For Customer Service, Call: 1-866-432-8161	Account Number		Account Summary	
		XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948		Previous Balance
			Purchases & Other Charges	\$5,628.83
	Statement Date	Payment Due Date	Cash Advances	\$0.00
	APR 28, 2022	MAY 23, 2022	Cash Advance Fees	\$0.00
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	Credit Limit	Available Credit	Late Charge	\$0.00
	\$100,000	\$94,371.17	Finance Charges	\$0.00
			Credits	\$0.00
	Amount Due	Disputed Amount	Payments	\$3,974.46
	\$5,628.83	\$0.00	New Balance	\$5,628.83

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	APR 28, 2022	Payment Due Date	MAY 23, 2022
Credit Limit	\$100,000	Amount Due	\$5,628.83
Cash Advance Balance	\$0.00	New Balance	\$5,628.83
Available Credit	\$94,371.17		
UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS			
XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948			

CARDHOLDER NEW ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Cardholder Name	Card Number	Credit Limit	Purchases and Other Debits	Cash Advances	Credits	Total Activity
JOHN MCCLOW	XXXX-XXXX-0153-1684	\$12,000	\$209.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$209.88
BEVERLY RICHARDS	XXXX-XXXX-0153-1692	\$3,000	\$1,914.09	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,914.09
JILL STEELE	XXXX-XXXX-0153-1700	\$3,000	\$217.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$217.66

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

Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948				TOTAL CORPORATE ACTIVITY \$3,944.46 CR
03-31	03-31		ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE	30.00
04-22	04-22		PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT	3,974.46 CR

CORPORATE REWARDS INFORMATION

For Reward Points Balance including Earned and Redeemed Points, please visit
www.bankofthewestcorporaterewards.com or call 1-800-921-6407

CARDHOLDER ACTIVITY

UPP GUNN RIVER WATER	PURCHASES	CASH ADVANCES	CREDITS	TOTAL ACTIVITY
XXXX-XXXX-0177-3377	\$76.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$76.00
Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
04-18	04-15	52708242105838005489183	STINKER #330 CONIFER CO	43.47
Tax ID: 203986441 Mer Zip: 80433 Time: 17:16 Srv Type: SELF Qty: 10.87 Unit: GAL Unit Cost: 4.00 Sale Amt: 43.47 Mer ID: 313077456884 Mer Addr: 0 HIGHWAY 73				
04-22	04-21	05436842111300239899964	CITY MARKET #0219 FUEL GUNNISON CO	32.53
Tax ID: 480196590 Mer Zip: 81230 Origin Zip: 81230 Time: 14:57 Srv Type: SELF Qty: 7.657 Unit: GAL Unit Cost: 4.25 Sale Amt: 32.53 Mer ID: 4445001026781 Mer Addr: N MAIN ST				

CARDHOLDER ACTIVITY

CHERYL CWELICH XXXX-XXXX-0182-5532	PURCHASES \$417.94	CASH ADVANCES \$0.00	CREDITS \$0.00	TOTAL ACTIVITY \$417.94
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Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
03-30	03-28	55432862088200701004117	UNITED 01624029773542 800-932-2732 TX Tax ID: 742099724 Mer Ref: 22088015897624029 Mer Zip: 77002 Passenger Name: CWELICH/CHERYL Ticket Number: 01624029773542 Dep Date: 04/14/22 Orig Airport: GUC Serv Class: QA Carrier Code: UA Dest Airport: DEN	233.60
03-30	03-29	55458852088200122800036	DU ADVANCE EVENT 3038712577 CO Tax ID: 840404231 Mer Ref: 12280003 Mer Zip: 80208 Origin Zip: 80208 Dest Ctry: USA	50.00
04-07	04-06	05436842096300237035537	CITY-MARKET #0419 GUNNISON CO Tax ID: 480196590 Mer Zip: 81230 Origin Zip: 81230 Tax: 1.69	30.89
04-08	04-07	05436842097300238692715	CITY-MARKET #0419 GUNNISON CO Tax ID: 480196590 Mer Zip: 81230 Origin Zip: 81230 Tax: 5.91	83.83
04-11	04-08	55432862098200799095108	SQ *TRIBUTARY COFFEE R Gunnison CO Tran: 00011529215112599 Tax ID: 800429876 Mer Ref: 00011529215112599 Mer Zip: 81230 Origin Zip: 81230 Dest Zip: 81230 Dest Ctry: USA Tax: 0.62 Product Code: 099 Desc: Bottled Drinks Qty: 100.00 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 4.08 Product Code: 099 Desc: Scone Qty: 100.00 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 3.54	9.62
04-21	04-20	55429502110852459284207	CAEE 3032739527 CO Tran: 45928420 Tax ID: 770510487 Mer Ref: 45928420 Mer Zip: 80202 Origin Zip: 80202 Dest Zip: 80202 Dest Ctry: USA	10.00

SONJA CHAVEZ XXXX-XXXX-0153-1676	PURCHASES \$2,763.26	CASH ADVANCES \$0.00	CREDITS \$0.00	TOTAL ACTIVITY \$2,763.26
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Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
03-29	03-28	55436872088640880730054	WESTERN STATE COLORADO 970-9432031 CO Tran: 233644 Tax ID: 846000558 Mer Zip: 81231-7002	50.00
03-30	03-29	55458852088200122800028	DU ADVANCE EVENT 3038712577 CO Tax ID: 840404231 Mer Ref: 12280002 Mer Zip: 80208 Origin Zip: 80208 Dest Ctry: USA	50.00
03-31	03-30	55432862089200075982418	IN *J&K SERVICES INC. 970-9016267 CO Tran: 15721 Tax ID: 770034661 Mer Ref: AQD22ZQB Mer Zip: 81230-4054 Product Code: 48 Desc: MARCH 2022JANITORIAL SCOPE OF SERV Qty: 1 Unit: NMB Unit Cost: 580.0000 Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 580.00 Product Code: 69 Desc: ULV FOGGING SCOPE OF WORK (INCLUDED Qty: 1 Unit: NMB Unit Cost: 0.0100 Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 0.01 Product Code: 14 Desc: CP_DESCX Qty: 1 Unit: NMB Unit Cost: 0.0100 Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 0.01	560.00
03-31	03-31		ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE	30.00
04-01	03-31	15449852090128151086593	MOUNTAIN STATE EMPLOYE 3038395177 CO Tran: 380016 Tax ID: 846021302 Mer Zip: 80203 Tax: 4.14 CR	69.00
04-04	04-01	55500362091206297500239	GUNNISON FIBER-MESH NE 9702096920 CO Tran: 07020942746630002 Tax ID: 830313552 Mer Ref: 3301598068 Mer Zip: 81230 Origin Zip: 81230 Dest Ctry: USA	121.23
04-14	04-13	85450932103980035289064	NORTH SHORE INC HOOD RIVER OR Tax ID: 911506589 Mer Zip: 97031	361.91
04-14	04-12	72700692103900012409390	PITAS IN PARADISE GUNN GUNNISON CO Tax ID: 843495984 Mer Zip: 81230	40.66
04-15	04-14	55432862104200624586232	RESIDENCE INN GLENDALE DENVER CO Arrival Date: 04/14/22 Departure Date: 04/14/22 Invoice Number: 104011 Tax ID: 261197373 Mer Ref: 005009 Mer Zip: 80246	175.44
04-15	04-14	55432862104200624586240	RESIDENCE INN GLENDALE DENVER CO Arrival Date: 04/14/22 Departure Date: 04/14/22 Invoice Number: 104012 Tax ID: 261197373 Mer Ref: 068677 Mer Zip: 80246	175.44
04-15	04-14	55432862104200624586257	RESIDENCE INN GLENDALE DENVER CO Arrival Date: 04/14/22 Departure Date: 04/14/22 Invoice Number: 104013 Tax ID: 261197373 Mer Ref: 008938 Mer Zip: 80246	175.44
04-15	04-13	75140512104104000001083	GOBINS INC PUEBLO CO Tax ID: 900117005 Mer Zip: 81003	176.44
04-15	04-14	55480772105091338000086	SUSHI KAI AND MONGOLIA DENVER CO Tax ID: 853943086 Mer Zip: 80246	71.38
04-18	04-14	52653842105706000337529	MAD GREENS MG0107 GREENWOOD VILCO Tax ID: 800099677 Mer Zip: 80111	48.12
04-18	04-16	55432862106200311820736	RESIDENCE INN GLENDALE DENVER CO Arrival Date: 04/16/22 Departure Date: 04/16/22 Invoice Number: 106014 Tax ID: 261197373 Mer Ref: 068255 Mer Zip: 80246	11.99
04-18	04-15	25247802106001009206541	3 MARGARITAS - CONIFER CONIFER CO Tax ID: 863617882 Mer Zip: 80433	62.22
04-20	04-18	55458852109083733110978	DENVER POST CIRCULATIO 3038323232 CO Tran: 12392022041809043 Tax ID: 760425553 Mer Ref: 208952103 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
04-25	04-24	55432862114200664557018	INTUIT *PayrollEE usag CL.INTUIT.COMCA Tax ID: 770034661 Mer Ref: T1-37b41d-98 Mer Zip: 92129	12.00

Statement Date	APR 28, 2022	Payment Due Date	MAY 23, 2022
Credit Limit	\$100,000	Amount Due	\$5,628.83
Cash Advance Balance	\$0.00	New Balance	\$5,628.83
Available Credit	\$94,371.17		
UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONS DIS			
XXXX-XXXX-0152-7948			

CARDHOLDER ACTIVITY

Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
04-28	04-27	55432862117200712301689	IN *J&K SERVICES INC. 970-9016267 CO Tran: 15890 Tax ID: 770034661 Mer Ref: AQGNN3NL Mer Zip: 81230-4054 Product Code: 48 Desc: APRIL 2022JANITORIAL SCOPE OF SERV Qty: 1 Unit: NMB Unit Cost: 580.0000 Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 580.00 Product Code: 69 Desc: ULV FOGGING SCOPE OF WORK (INCLUDED Qty: 1 Unit: NMB Unit Cost: 0.0100 Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 0.01 Product Code: 14 Desc: CP_DESCX Qty: 1 Unit: NMB Unit Cost: 0.0100 Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 0.01	560.00

JOHN MCCLOW XXXX-XXXX-0153-1684	PURCHASES \$209.88	CASH ADVANCES \$0.00	CREDITS \$0.00	TOTAL ACTIVITY \$209.88
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Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
03-31	03-31		ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE	30.00
04-04	04-02	52704872092700751435534	ADOBE ACROPRO SUBS 4085366000 CA Tran: BL2141395143 Tax ID: 770019522 Mer Ref: BL2141395143 Mer Zip: 95110 Origin Zip: 95110 Dest Zip: 81230 Dest Ctry: USA	179.88

BEVERLY RICHARDS XXXX-XXXX-0153-1692	PURCHASES \$1,914.09	CASH ADVANCES \$0.00	CREDITS \$0.00	TOTAL ACTIVITY \$1,914.09
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Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount
03-29	03-28	05436842087300230221523	CITY-MARKET #0419 GUNNISON CO Tax ID: 480196590 Mer Zip: 81230 Origin Zip: 81230 Tax: 5.65	94.35
03-29	03-29	55432862088200613129325	AMZN Mktp US*1682Q3X10 Amzn.com/billWA Tran: 580 Tax ID: 202936165 Mer Ref: 2ch6rUvpEinld1bdJ Mer Zip: 98109 Tax: 2.18 Product Code: B082FPSVCG Desc: Hapinest Ceramic Piggy Bank for Boy Qty: 1 Unit: PCE Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 26.21 Product Code: B089NKLWDF Desc: HOLA Hammering Pounding 1 Year Old Qty: 1 Unit: PCE Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 20.48	46.69
03-30	03-29	55458852088200122800044	DU ADVANCE EVENT 3038712577 CO Tax ID: 840404231 Mer Ref: 12280004 Mer Zip: 80208 Origin Zip: 80208 Dest Ctry: USA	50.00
03-31	03-31		ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE	30.00
04-08	04-08	15270212098000000363627	MSFT * E0200I4Q9Z MSBILL.INFO WA Tax ID: 911144442 Mer Zip: 98052	20.00
04-14	04-13	55432862103200423187738	KEURIG GREEN MOUNTAIN 866-901-2739 VT Tax ID: 030339228 Mer Ref: 1657274251 Mer Zip: 05676	70.16
04-25	04-24	55432862114200764426197	Amazon Prime*1O6SO1M90 Amzn.com/billWA Tran: D01-8898721-00514 Tax ID: 710938319 Mer Ref: 3J8yJ3ld7IME5a2aR Mer Zip: 98109 Tax: 0.73 Product Code: B073XBG38V Desc: NOT USED Qty: 1 Unit: PCE Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 15.72	15.72
04-26	04-25	05436842115300236997023	CITY-MARKET #0419 GUNNISON CO Tax ID: 480196590 Mer Zip: 81230 Origin Zip: 81230 Tax: 11.17	160.01
04-28	04-27	52704872117700828474624	ADOBE ACROPRO SUBS 4085366000 CA Tran: SR0000022433 Tax ID: 770019522 Mer Ref: SR0000022433 Mer Zip: 95110 Origin Zip: 95110 Dest Zip: 81230 Dest Ctry: USA	1,427.16

CARDHOLDER ACTIVITY

JILL STEELE XXXX-XXXX-0153-1700		PURCHASES \$217.66	CASH ADVANCES \$0.00	CREDITS \$0.00	TOTAL ACTIVITY \$217.66
Posting Date	Transaction Date	Reference Number	Transaction Description	Amount	
03-29	03-28	55432862087200502238162	SQ *HIGH ALPINE BREWER Gunnison CO Tran: 00023058430153907 Tax ID: 800429876 Mer Ref: 00023058430153907 Mer Zip: 81230 Origin Zip: 81230 Dest Zip: 81230 Dest Ctry: USA Tax: 3.17 Product Code: 099 Desc: Pizza Qty: 200.00 Unit: NMB Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 35.17	43.96	
03-31	03-31		ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE	30.00	
04-04	04-01	05227022092500324161460	JACKSON KAYAK INC 931-738-2800 TN Tran: 4243 Tax ID: 061712162 Mer Ref: 4243 Mer Zip: 38583 Origin Zip: 81230-2543 Dest Zip: 81230-2543 Dest Ctry: USA Product Code: 00000001 Desc: GENERIC PRODUCT Qty: 1 Unit: CCT Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 51.46 CR	55.06	
04-18	04-15	55432862105200070224626	AMZN Mktp US*1O5F500H1 Amzn.com/billWA Tran: 111-5311486-70834 Tax ID: 202936165 Mer Ref: 1LK2A5XBSXV8 Mer Zip: 98109 Tax: 1.33 Product Code: B097Z8VRCF Desc: iPhone Charger and Wall Plug, φ App Qty: 1 Unit: PCE Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 16.32	16.32	
04-19	04-18	55310202108083385891757	AMZN MKTP US*1A9WZ5SR2 AMZN.COM/BILLWA Tran: 111-9232411-08074 Tax ID: 202936165 Mer Ref: 24X79JM3W63 Mer Zip: 98109 Origin Zip: 98109 Dest Ctry: USA Tax: 0.89 Product Code: B0829X54DQ Desc: APPLE MFI CERTIFIED (2PACK) IPHONE Qty: 1 Unit: PCE Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 10.88	10.88	
04-20	04-20	55432862110200321903617	VCI*VITACOST.COM 800-793-2601 FL Tax ID: 371333024 Mer Ref: 10763225900000000 Mer Zip: 33487	40.76	
04-25	04-22	55432862112200203122029	AMZN Mktp US*1O2PA70W0 Amzn.com/billWA Tran: 111-9933245-19906 Tax ID: 202936165 Mer Ref: 2Nu9dihHVi5NylJhY Mer Zip: 98109 Tax: 1.69 Product Code: B09JSMZF97 Desc: iPhone Fast Car Charger, 38W Dual P Qty: 1 Unit: PCE Disc: N Ext Item Amt: 20.68	20.68	



Approved to pay (BAR): 5/4/22
Contract #UG2020-026
Charge entire amount to General
Fund Line Item 39 - General
Consulting

Invoice Memorandum

Date: May 3, 2022

AG Job No.: 21-106

To: Steve Crittenton
csi@gunnison@gmail.com

From: Craig Ullmann
Applegate Group, Inc.
1490 W. 121st Avenue, Suite 100
Denver, CO 80234

SUBJECT: Invoice for Dry Powderhorn
Inspection

Cc:

Attached please find our invoice for professional consulting services provided for the period of June April 3, 2022, through May 3, 2022, in the amount of **\$235.00**.

A description of services provided during this period is listed below:

- Site visit with Jesse Kruthaupt to inspect installed pipe system
- Preparation of inspection memo as required per UGWCD grant

This invoice can be directly submitted to the Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District for payment once you have reviewed and approved.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding your account or project. We appreciate the opportunity to be of service.

Applegate Group, Inc.

1490 West 121st Ave
Suite 100
Denver, CO 80234
EIN - 84-0995976

Steve Crittenton

PO box 492
Gunnison, CO 81230

INVOICE

No. 52317
05/03/2022

Dry Powderhorn Ditch

21-106.101

For Services Rendered Through 5/3/2022

Professional Services

Contract Amount	Previously Billed	"% Complete"	Invoice Amount
\$1,000.00	\$765.00	100.00	\$235.00
\$1,000.00	\$765.00		\$235.00

Invoice Amount

\$235.00

Invoice Memorandum

Date: May 3, 2022 AG Job No.: 21-106

To: Britta Hubbard
brittahubbard@gmail.com

From: Craig Ullmann
Applegate Group, Inc.
1490 W. 121st Avenue, Suite 100
Denver, CO 80234

SUBJECT: Invoice for Hyzer Ketchum
Inspection

Cc:

Attached please find our invoice for professional consulting services provided for the period of April 3, 2022, through May 3, 2022, in the amount of **\$235.00**.

A description of services provided during this period is listed below:

- Site Visit to inspect the installed project per UGWCD grant.
- Preparation of memo summarizing final inspection

This invoice can be directly submitted to the Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District for payment once you have reviewed and approved.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions regarding your account or project. We appreciate the opportunity to be of service.

Applegate Group, Inc.

1490 West 121st Ave
Suite 100
Denver, CO 80234
EIN - 84-0995976

Gunnison River HOA

114 W. Virginia Avenue
#114
Gunnison, CO 81230

INVOICE

No. 52316
05/03/2022

Hyzer Ketchum Ditch

21-106.100

For Services Rendered Through 5/03/2022

Professional Services

Contract Amount	Previously Billed	"% Complete"	Invoice Amount
\$1,000.00	\$765.00	100.00	\$235.00
\$1,000.00	\$765.00		\$235.00

Invoice Amount

\$235.00

Itemized Statement – Geological Analysis of Gunnison Watershed Stream Systems

Lake Fork of the Gunnison River (continued) – 11 Hours total

1/19/22 – 3 Hours

1/20/22 - 1 Hour

Introduction Revision.

1/27/22 - 2 Hours

1/28/22 - 2 Hours

Edit and Review Various Segments

2/11/22 - 1 Hour

2/12/22 - 4 Hours

2/19/22 - 3 Hours

2/20/22 - 2 Hours

2/22/22 - 3 Hours

2/24/22 - 2 Hours

2/26/22 - 2 Hours

2/28/22 - 3 Hours

3/2/22 - 2 Hours

3/3/22 - 4 Hours

3/10/22 - 3 Hours

**Approved for Payment – BAR 5/3/22. General Budget
Line Item 47 – Basinwide Planning – Sub –line item WMP**

**Payable to:
Bruce Bartleson
216 West Ruby Avenue
Gunnison, CO 81230**

**Payable Amount: \$ 1,665 (37 hours at \$45 per hour, per
contract number UG2021 –031)**

Total for 2022 is 37 Hours

Bruce Bartleson

216 W. RUBY
GUNNISON CO 81230



GREAT BASIN SEED

450 South 50 East
 Ephraim, UT 84627
 435.283.1411

Invoice

Approved for payment - BAR 5/4/22. Contract #UG2020-025.
 Charge to budget line item #44 - Regional Water Supply - Grant
 Program 2020

Bill To:
Upper Gunnison River Conservancy Dist. Sonja Chavez 210 W Spencer, Suite 2B Gunnison, CO 81230

Ship To
9CSU Wxtension Attn: Eric McPhail 275 S Spruce Street Gunnison, CO 81230

Date	Invoice No.	P.O. Number	Terms	Sales Rep
04/25/22	10469			MS

Quantity	Description	Lot Number	Price Each	Amount
38	Irrigated Site Mix		8.10	307.80
18	Dry Site Mix		12.50	225.00
1	FedEx Shipping Charges, Ground Tracking Number: 7767 1587 0596		44.00	44.00
	Sales Tax		6.75%	0.00

<p>Custom seed mixes are a non-returnable item. All delinquent accounts will be charged an interest rate of 2% monthly (24% annually). In the event any balance is not paid as agreed, the undersigned agrees to pay a collection fee equal to 40% of the unpaid balance. In the event of a lawsuit to collect the unpaid balance, the undersigned further agrees to pay court costs and reasonable attorney's fees.</p>	<p>Total \$576.80</p>
--	--

<p>X: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____</p>
--

UGRWCD_Gunnison River Homeowners Association Funding Agreement

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Grant Reimbursement Request**

Date: 2/14/2022

Project Name: 2021 Hyzer Ketchum Diversion & Head Gate Reclamation Project

UGRWCD Contract Number: UG 2021-013

Reimbursement Request Amount: \$ 10,637.52

Match Provided: \$ 10,637.52 match (+ 2,604.49 in additional charges) total \$ 13,242.01

Project Performance Period: June 15, 2021 - June 30, 2022

Applicant/Payee Name: Gunnison River HOA Check Payable To: Gunnison River HOA

Applicant Address: c/o Britta Hubbard
45 Apache Rd

Applicant Phone: 970.445.8079

Gunnison, CO 81230

Applicant Email: brittahubbard@gmail.com

PROJECT DELIVERABLES:

- Project completion report including a description of project, accomplishments, and photographs as applicable (e.g. pre-project, work in progress, and post project; please include brief description of what we are seeing with each photo).

Difficulties Encountered/Corrective Action:

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

See attached

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: B. Hubbard 2/14/2022

Upper Gunnison Project Manager Signature & Date: Beverly Richards 5/4/2022

Approved for payment \$10,637.12 - BAR 5/4/22. Charge to General Fund line item 46 - Regional Water Supply Improvement Program - Grant Program 2021



Hartman Brothers, Inc.

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



Sold To: UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CON 210 WEST SPENCER AVE., SUITE B GUNNISON, CO, 81230	Shipped To:
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CYLINDER RENTAL INVOICE

CUSTOMER No.	CUSTOMER P.O. No.	PERIOD	INVOICE DATE	INVOICE No.	PAGE
M05447		04/01-04/30	2022 04 30	370881	1

DESCRIPTION	DATE		DEL.NOTE #	INVOICE No.	CYLINDER MOVEMENT				CONTRACT	CHARGE	RATE	AMOUNT	TYPE
	M-M	D-D			BAL	DELIVER	RETURN	NEW BAL					
NITROGEN 60CF					3			3	0				
30 days	04	30			3	0	0	3	0	90			
Total										90	0.300	27.00	XD

Date Rec. 5-9-22 Adm. Ckd. ML
 Mgr. Appr. _____ Amt. Appr. _____
 Bd. Appr. Date _____ Bd. Initials _____
 Pd. Date _____ Ck# _____
 Account(s) Cloud Seeding
- Irish Remark

TERMS	TYPE:	SUB-TOTAL	27.00
NET 30 DAYS	S - DEMURRAGE L - MONTH END D - DAILY N - FREE H - HIGHEST	SALES TAX	1.05
VALUE OF CYLINDER INVENTORY ON HAND		TOTAL	28.05

THIS INVOICE IS PAYABLE IN FULL UPON RECEIPT.
 CYLINDERS ARE RENTED AND REMAIN THE PROPERTY
 OF THE SELLER.

North American Weather Consultants, Inc.

8180 S Highland Drive Suite B-2
Sandy, UT 84093
(801) 942-9005

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
4/27/2022	21-2261

Bill To

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy
Attn: Sonja Chavez
210 W Spencer Ave., Ste B
Gunnison, CO 81230

Approved for payment - BAR
5/2/22 - Charge to General Budget Line
Item 48 - Regional Water Supply
Improvement Program - Sub-line item -
Cloudseeding

Proj #	Terms
21-473	Net 30

Qty	Description	Rate	Amount
0.5	Monthly Fixed Cost	10,800.00	5,400.00
0.5	Operation and Maintenance of the Lake Irwin Remote Generator	1,600.00	800.00
459.75	Reimbursable Seeding Generator Hours @ \$10.50/hr - March Hours	10.50	4,827.38
1	Project Take Down; Cloud Seeding Program	6,760.00	6,760.00
1	Project Reporting; Cloud Seeding Program	5,000.00	5,000.00
113.25	Reimbursable Seeding Generator Hours @ \$10.50/hr - April Hours	10.50	1,189.13
1	New Generator Credit	-1,200.00	-1,200.00
Total			\$22,776.51

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DOWN PAYMENT (BILL) REQUEST

Bill #: 90975633
Customer: 6000001042
Date: 04/14/2022
Due Date: 06/13/2022

Make Remittance Payable To: U.S. Geological Survey
Billing Contact: M. Patterson Phone: 303-236-1450

Remit Payment To: United States Geological Survey
P.O. Box 6200-27
Portland, OR 97228-6200

Payer: UPPER GUNNISON RIVER
Attn: Sonja Chavez
210 WEST SPENCER AVE, SUITE B
WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
GUNNISON CO 81230

Additional forms of payment may be accepted. Please email GS-A-HQ_RMS@USGS.GOV or call 703-648-7683 for additional information.

To pay through Pay.gov go to <https://www.pay.gov>.

Checks must be made payable to U.S. Geological Survey. Please detach the top portion or include bill number on all remittances.

Amount of Payment: \$ 28,942.00

Date	Description	Qty	Unit Price		Amount
			Cost	Per	
04/14/2022	For the streamflow and water-quality monitoring program. Billing is every Federal quarter. 22REJFACO106	1	28,942.00	1	28,942.00

Date Rec. 4-15-22 Adm. Ckd. [Signature]
 Mgr. Appr. [Signature] Amt. Appr. [Signature]
 Bd. Appr. Date 4-26-22 Bd. Initials [Signature]
 Pd. Date 4-26-22 Ckt. PayGov e-pay
 Account(s) WQMP
 in QB ✓ PayGov

Amount Due this Bill: 28,942.00

Accounting Classification:
Sales Order: 104525
Sales Office: GCRE
Customer: 6000001042
Accounting #: 11246045

Stream flow gaging = 57% = 16,545.02
w. Q. monitoring = 43% = 12,396.98

TIN: *****5208

\$ 28,942.00

received
04/18/22



Invoice **202204_472**
Date **30 April, 2022**
Account **C201008**

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

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 Apr - 30 Apr 2022**

Summary

Total Airtime and Fees this Period	USD	41.46
Total Amount This Invoice	USD	41.46

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>

Summary per Product

Product	Charge Type	Amount (USD)
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OrbCommIDP	Subscription Fee	33.00
OrbCommIDP	Airtime	6.51
OrbCommIDP	Other	1.95
Total for OrbCommIDP		41.46
Total charges (excl tax) for this invoice		41.46

Charges per Device / SIM Card

Device / SIM	Description		Service	Airtime	Total
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		6.51	6.51
	Total Airtime and Fees this Period	USD	34.95	6.51	41.46
Total Invoice Amount (see front page for specification)			USD		41.46

Call Details

Airtime Usage Period 01 Apr 2022 - 30 Apr 2022

Call Details per Device / SIM Card for this period

Date / Time	Service	Network	Destination Number	Volume	Price (USD)
01181782SKY6FEB ()					
01 Apr 2022 00:00:36	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	270 Bytes	0.00
01 Apr 2022 00:01:04	IDP Msg			3.74 kB	0.00
02 Apr 2022 00:00:46	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
02 Apr 2022 00:01:11	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
03 Apr 2022 00:00:11	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	210 Bytes	0.00
03 Apr 2022 00:00:39	IDP Msg			3.75 kB	0.00
04 Apr 2022 00:00:21	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
04 Apr 2022 00:00:47	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
05 Apr 2022 00:00:26	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
05 Apr 2022 00:00:54	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
06 Apr 2022 00:00:21	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
06 Apr 2022 00:01:02	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
07 Apr 2022 00:00:31	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
07 Apr 2022 00:01:12	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
08 Apr 2022 00:00:31	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
08 Apr 2022 00:01:16	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
09 Apr 2022 00:00:51	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
09 Apr 2022 00:01:16	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
10 Apr 2022 00:00:21	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
10 Apr 2022 00:01:05	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
11 Apr 2022 00:00:21	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.00
11 Apr 2022 00:01:41	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00
12 Apr 2022 00:00:26	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	225 Bytes	0.00
12 Apr 2022 00:01:10	IDP Msg			3.14 kB	0.00
13 Apr 2022 00:00:36	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.00

Date / Time	Service	Network	Destination Number	Volume	Price (USD)	
13 Apr 2022 00:01:04	IDP Msg			1297 Bytes	0.00	
14 Apr 2022 00:00:21	IDP Msg			1495 Bytes	0.00	
14 Apr 2022 00:05:51	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.00	
15 Apr 2022 00:00:41	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.00	
15 Apr 2022 00:01:09	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.00	
16 Apr 2022 00:00:51	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.09	
16 Apr 2022 00:01:19	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.68	
17 Apr 2022 00:00:26	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.16	
17 Apr 2022 00:00:55	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.68	
18 Apr 2022 00:00:26	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.16	
18 Apr 2022 00:00:55	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.68	
19 Apr 2022 00:00:26	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.16	
19 Apr 2022 00:00:54	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.68	
20 Apr 2022 00:00:31	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.16	
20 Apr 2022 00:01:00	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.68	
21 Apr 2022 00:00:31	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.16	
21 Apr 2022 00:00:55	IDP Msg			780 Bytes	0.62	
22 Apr 2022 00:00:36	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	195 Bytes	0.16	
22 Apr 2022 00:01:02	IDP Msg			845 Bytes	0.68	
23 Apr 2022 00:00:51	IDP Msg		01181782SKY6 FEB	180 Bytes	0.14	
23 Apr 2022 00:01:16	IDP Msg			781 Bytes	0.62	
Total for 01181782SKY6FEB ()		33.1 kB	0:00 Min	0 Msg	USD	6.51

AGENDA ITEM 4

Legal and Legislative Matters



FINAL LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY REPORT
COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY
2022 REGULAR SESSION

May 11, 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 April 15 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
04/27/22 House Third Reading Passed – No Amendments
05/06/22 Senate Second Reading Passed with Amendments
05/09/22 Senate Third Reading Passed
05/09/22 House Concurred with Senate Amendments – Passed

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

05/03/2022 Committee on Appropriations Refer Amended to House Committee of the Whole

05/03/2022 House Second Reading Special Order - Passed with Amendments -

05/04/2022 House Third Reading Passed - No Amendments

05/04/2022 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Appropriations

05/06/2022 Senate Committee on Appropriations Refer Amended to Senate Committee of the Whole

05/06/2022 Senate Second Reading - Passed with Amendments

05/09/2022 Senate Third Reading Passed - No Amendments

05/10/2022 House Considered Senate Amendments - Result was to Concur - Repass

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

Status: 02/03/2022 Introduced in Senate, Assigned to Agriculture & Natural Resources
03/03/2022 Refer amended to Appropriations
https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/leg.colorado.gov/2022A/amendments/SB114_L.003.pdf
03/18/2022 Refer amended to Senate Committee of the Whole
03/30/2022 Second reading passed with amendments
https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/leg.colorado.gov/2022A/amendments/SB114_L.009.pdf
04/01/2022 Third reading passed with amendments
04/01/2022 Introduced in House – Assigned to Agriculture, Livestock & Water
04/11/2022 Refer amended to Appropriations
05/02/2022 House Committee on Appropriations Refer Amended to House Committee of the Whole
05/03/2022 House Second Reading Special Order - Passed with Amendments
05/10/2022 House Third Reading Passed - No Amendments
05/10/2022 Senate Considered House Amendments - Result was to Concur – Repass
http://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022A/bills/2022a_114_rer.pdf

UGRWCD Legislative Committee position: SUPPORT

CWC State Affairs Committee position: 04/11/2022 Motion to support fails. No position.

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
03/18/2022 Senate considered House amendments; concur; repass
04/07/2022 Governor signed

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
Senator Donovan has created a "strike below" amendment that rewrites the bill text entirely. Drafts have not been released. It will be heard by Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources on April 21.

04/21/2022 Senate Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources Postponed Indefinitely
UGRWCD Legislative Committee position: OPPOSE

CWC State Affairs Committee position: 04/04/2022 Oppose

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
03/21/2022 Second Reading passed with amendments.
03/22/2022 Third reading passed – No Amendments
03/23/2022 Introduced in House – Assigned to Agriculture, Livestock & Water
03/28/2022 Committee on Agriculture, Livestock & Water – postpone indefinitely.

UGRWCD Legislative Committee position: OPPOSE

CWC State Affairs Committee position: 03/28/2022 Oppose

Policy Regarding Endorsements by Directors

Unless a Director has been appointed by the Board of Directors to represent the District in another organization, a Director may not identify in any way as a representative of the District without prior approval from the Board.

Adopted by the Board of Directors at a regular meeting on May 24, 2022.

DRAFT

AGENDA ITEM 5

Jeff Derry, Dust on Snow in San Juan Basin

AGENDA ITEM 6

Basin Water Supply Report

MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board Members
FROM: Beverly Richards, Water Resource Specialist
DATE: May 13, 2022
SUBJECT: Basin Water Supply Information

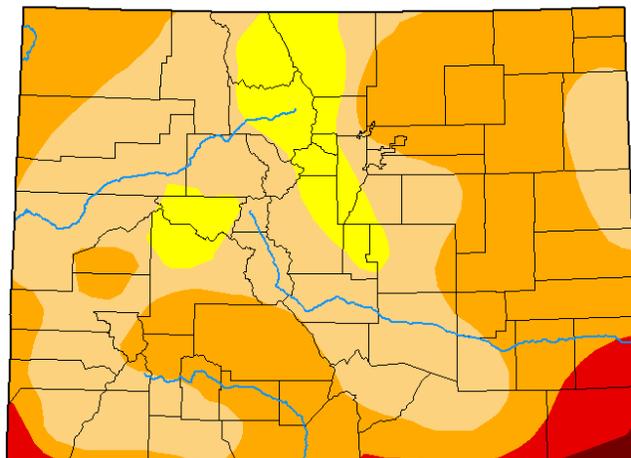
The information supplied as part of this memorandum is a monthly feature and includes information about drought conditions in the basin, reservoir storage, reservoir operations, dust on snow events, and the Upper Gunnison Cloudseeding Program.

Drought Conditions:

According to the *Drought Monitor* at drought.gov as of May 3, 2022, drought conditions have increased in severity slightly with a total of 48% of the state in Severe (D2) to Exceptional (D4) conditions which is an increase from the April report, particularly in the severe category. Based on current forecasts Exceptional drought conditions could increase in severity over the next few months, particularly in the southern part of the State.

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

May 3, 2022
(Released Thursday, May 5, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



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 <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

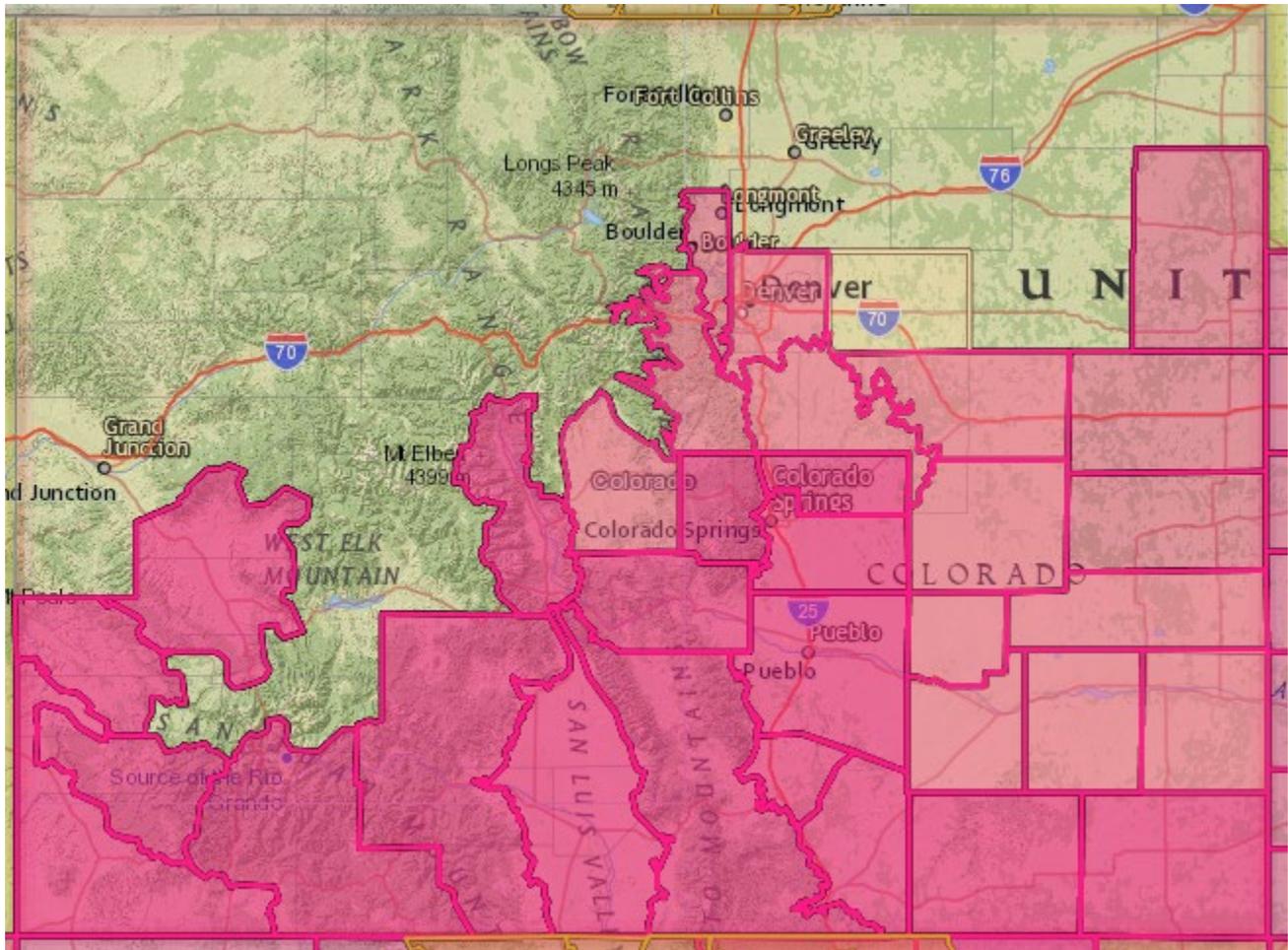
Author:

David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Earlier this week a red flag warning was issued by the *National Weather Service* (May 10, 2022). The warning stated that “extremely critical fire weather was expected for much of this week, especially in the southern part of the state.” The figure below shows the extent of the warning.



National Weather Service - May 10, 2022

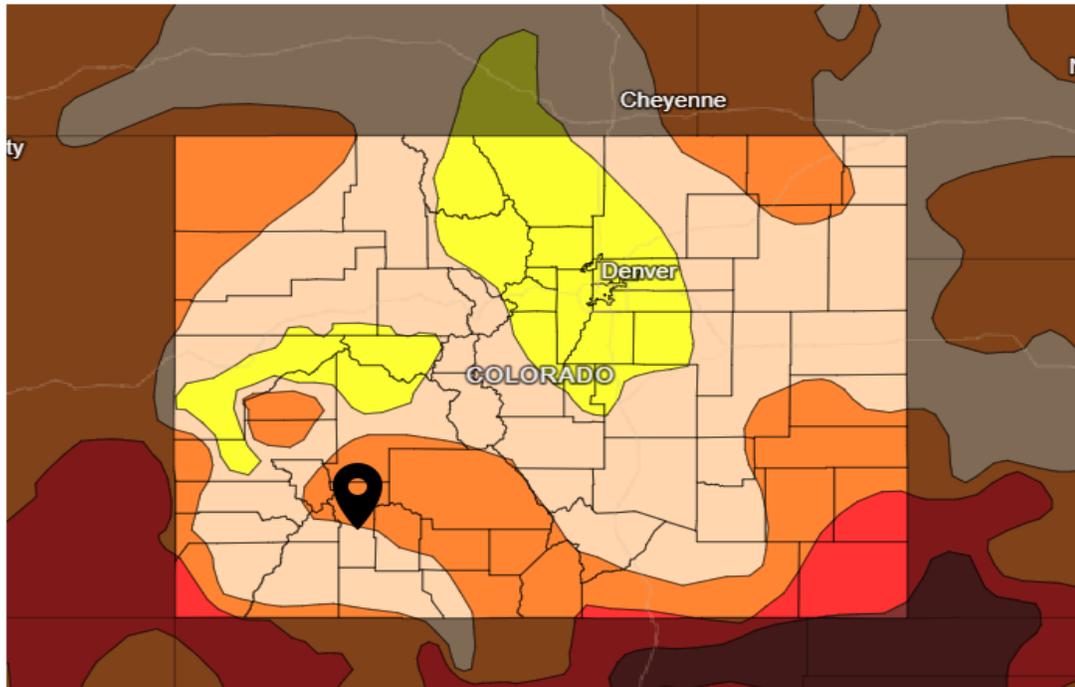
Drought Conditions in Hinsdale County and Surrounding Areas

Drought conditions in Hinsdale County have remained basically the same since March. As of May 3, 2022, 40% of the county is experiencing Moderate (D1) and 60% is experiencing Severe (D2) drought conditions, which is a slight increase in the severe category. The focus this month is on Hinsdale County and the surrounding area. Below is a table and a map from the drought monitor which outlines drought conditions in Hinsdale County and several surrounding counties. These include the Abnormally Dry (D0) to Exceptional (D4) categories.

Drought Conditions - Hinsdale and Surrounding

County	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Hinsdale	0	40.38	59.62	0	0
Ouray	0	54.40	45.60	0	0
San Juan	0	77.53	22.42	0	0
La Plata	0	78.29	21.71	0	0
Archuleta	0	81.20	18.80	0	0
Mineral	0	42.78	57.22	0	0
Saguache	0	.97	99.03	0	0

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor for Hinsdale County



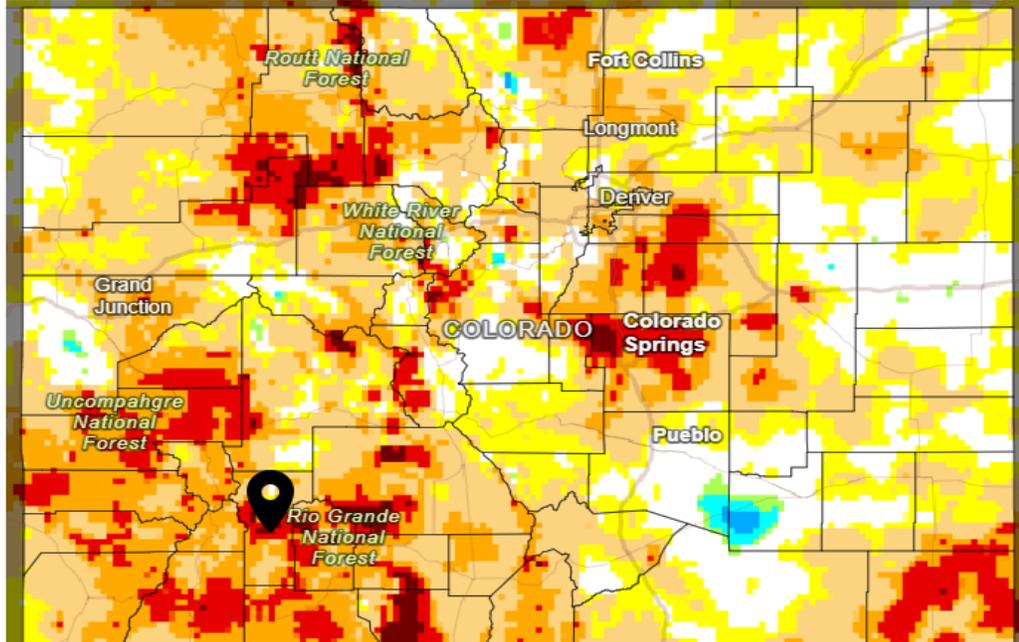
Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA
 Updates Weekly - 05/03/22

Drought.gov

As you can see from the *Drought Monitor* map and the amounts in the table, conditions in Hinsdale County and surrounding counties to the east are faring about the same, with a good portion experiencing moderate to severe conditions. Saguache County and others to the west are experiencing severe conditions throughout the entire county. Predictions are that the extreme and exceptional conditions that currently exist in the southeastern corner of the state will likely increase in area and could move into the southwestern area. This is reflected in the map below which shows what the long-term drought conditions

may look like without precipitation and that many areas may return to extreme and exceptional drought conditions.

Long-Term Drought Indicator Blend



Dry Conditions (Percentile Categories)



Wet Conditions (Percentile Categories)

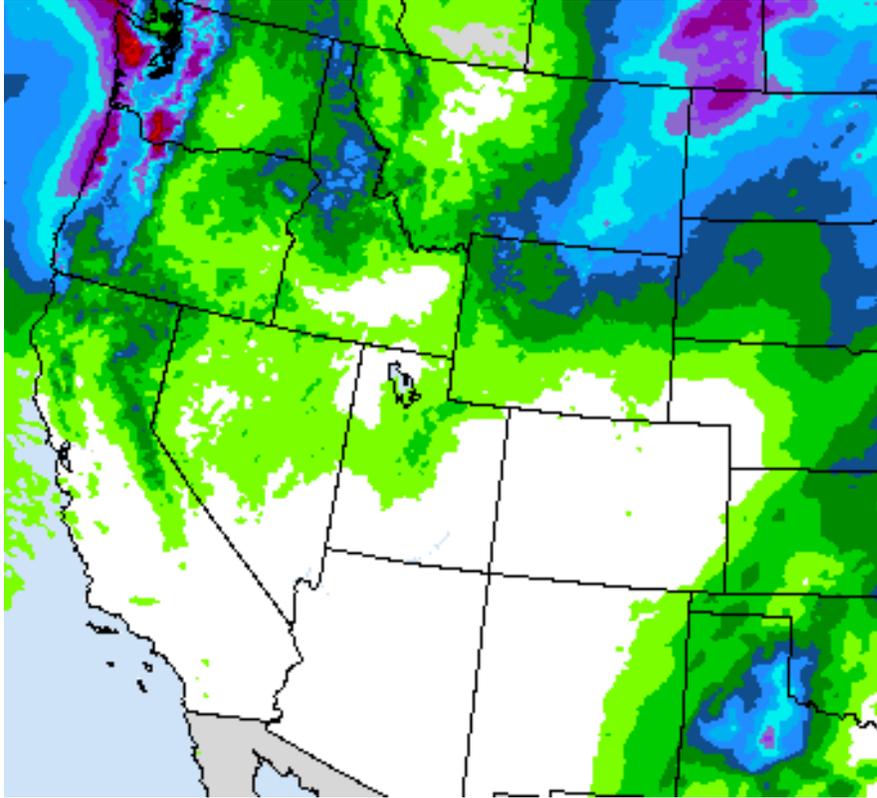


Source(s): UC Merced, Climate Engine
Last Updated - 05/05/22

Drought.gov

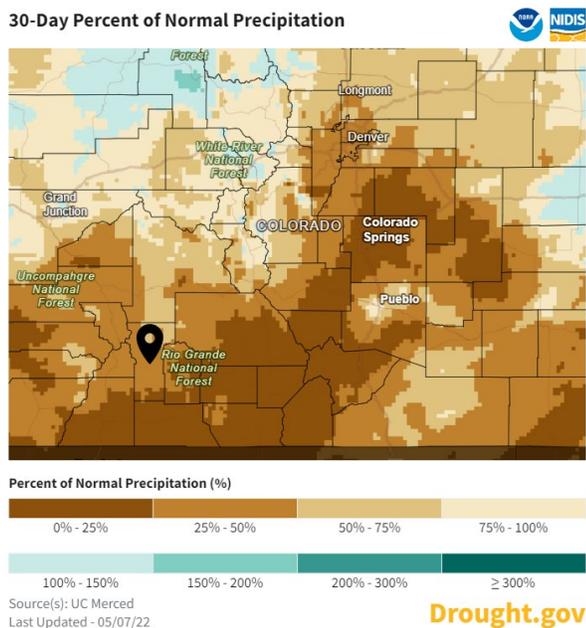
Precipitation

According to the *Colorado Climate Center Drought Update, May 10, 2022*, the 7-day outlook is that there will be no precipitation for the entire state, as shown in the figure below where the white represents no precipitation. The 8-14-day outlook calls for below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures, and there is a 30-40% chance that this will continue through May, June and July. Such a forecast will likely affect drought conditions and soil moisture conditions. Hopefully some relief will come with monsoon rains in July and August.

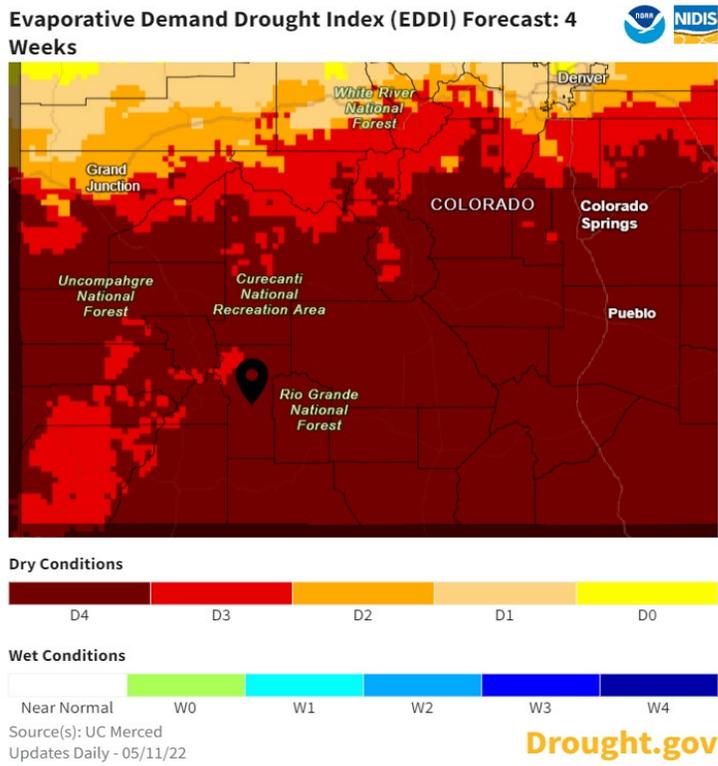
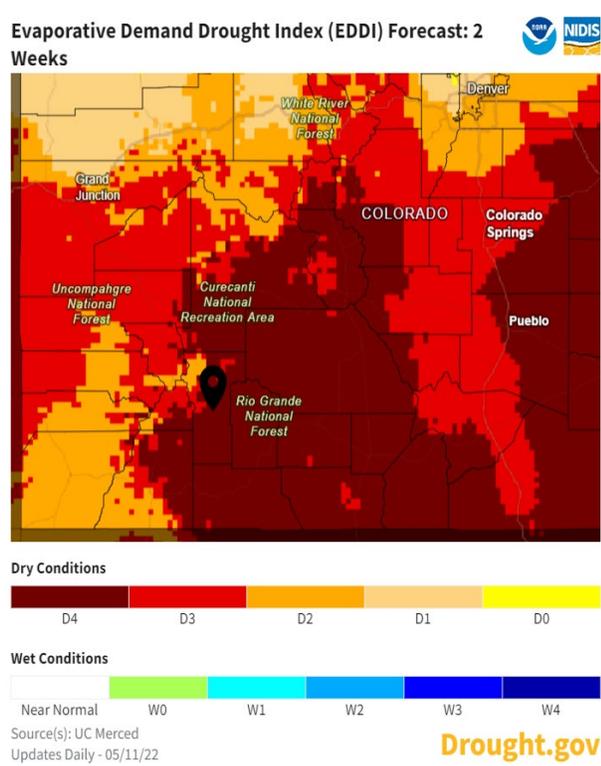


7-Day Precipitation Forecast - Colorado Climate Center

Precipitation in Hinsdale County and the surrounding areas for the last 30 days has ranged from no precipitation to 75% of normal. The is shown in the figure provided below and the conditions are much the same for the surrounding areas particularly to the south. Some southwestern areas of the state received very little precipitation in the past 30 days, as shown in the darker brown areas in the map.



The precipitation forecast is a good indication that evaporative demand will also be high. Below are two images that show what the Evaporative Demand Drought Index will look like for this area through the rest of May and into the first two weeks into June. These forecasts show that much of the area to the east and south of Hinsdale County will experience ED4 conditions in the next two weeks and that this area will expand greatly within the next four weeks. The *Colorado Climate Center* is also predicting these conditions along with no precipitation and warmer temperatures will likely result in faster run-off and in many areas lower run-off due to already existing soil moisture conditions. Snowpack peaked around the second week of April, with percent of normal close to the median for most basins. Melting rates have been much faster than typical. The San Juan basin ended the month at 54% of average due to high melt rates.



Dust on Snow (Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies)

To add to all the other dire forecasts, we were provided an update from the Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies about the Colorado Dust-on-Snow (CODOS) program. As of May 10, conditions are still windy and warm with dust events happening daily. On May 8, a massive dust event occurred not only in southern and central Colorado, but also in Steamboat Springs and on into Nebraska.

The forecast calls for more blowing dust and no precipitation for at least the next seven days. Measurements taken at the Swamp Angel site on May 5 showed 14.3” of snow water equivalent (SWE), and on May 10 the measurement was 8.7” (SWE). This equates to a loss of approximately 1.1” per day. They reported that their higher monitoring site at an elevation of 12,186 feet is losing snow at a fast pace as well.

Streamflow

Predictions from the *Colorado Climate Center Update, May 10, 2022*, also indicated that many streams around Hinsdale County may have already peaked from runoff. In some cases, this is two to three weeks early. Below is a table with various streamflows; includes current, 10-days ago, and historical average.

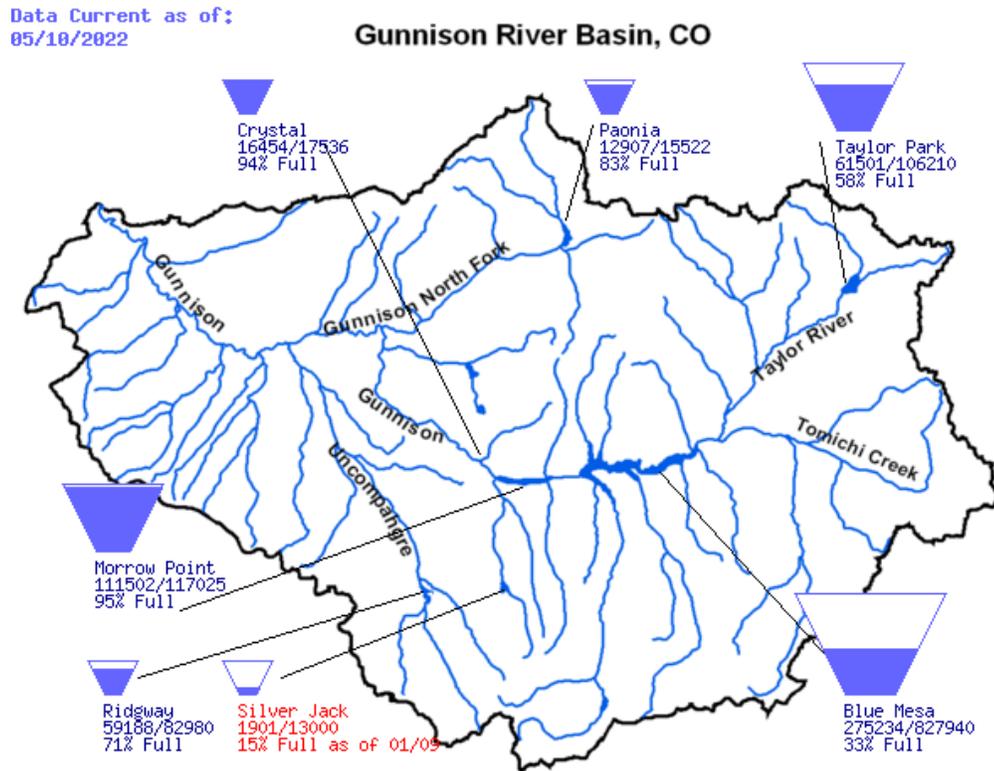
Station Name	May 2 (cfs)	May 12 (cfs)	Historical Average (cfs)	Comments
Lake Fork San Miguel River Abv Trout Lake	14	27	14	May have peaked on 5.10 at 38.7 cfs
Lake Fork blw Lake San Cristobal	166	309	134	May have peaked on 5/8 at 413 cfs
Henson Creek at Lake City	160	312	128	Peaked on 5/7 at 513 cfs
Lake Fork at Gateview	287	632	435	May have peaked on 5/8 at 776 cfs
Animas River blw Silverton	550	764	558	Peaked on 5/7 at 1,140 cfs
Animas River at Silverton	273	357	240	Peaked on 5/7 at 900 cfs
Animas River At Howardsville	254	346	200	Peaked on 5/7 at 635 cfs
Rio Grande at 30-Mile Bridge near Creede	779	656	418	Releases from Rio Grande Dam
Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap	1,770	1,610	1,243	Peaked on 5/9 at 2,470 cfs

Flows farther up in the basin have also increased exponentially since May 2. This information is provided in the following table but does not include observations about peak as measurements are still fluctuating in the hourly average at these sites.

Station Name	May 2 (cfs)	May 12 (cfs)	Historical Average (cfs)
Gunnison River near Gunnison	822	2,080	1,540
Gunnison River at Gunnison Whitewater Park	805	1,970	1,272
Tomichi Creek at Sargent's	107	229	164
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	81	286	325
Taylor River at Taylor Park	95	278	201
Taylor River blw Taylor Park	127	140	189
Slate River abv Baxter Gulch	307	836	402
East River blw Cement Creek	578	1,470	788
East River at Almont	822	1,360	898

Reservoir Storage

As of May 10, current reservoir storage in the entire Gunnison Basin is at 64% of full. The reservoirs in the Upper Gunnison Basin, Taylor and Blue Mesa, are at 58% and 33% 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 May 9, 2022.

The Upper Gunnison snowpack peaked at 92% of average in early April and the current snowpack is 57% of average for this date. The snow accumulation was well below the average for April. The BOR is projecting that unregulated inflow into Blue Mesa for April-July is 490,000 acre-feet which is 77% of average unregulated inflow. The projected maximum fill for Blue Mesa is 447,000 acre-feet which is 53% of average and the end of year (December 31, 2022) content is projected to be 370,000 or 44% of average, which is an increase from previous projections. These numbers are based upon the May 1 forecast from the *Colorado Basin River Forecast Center (CBRFC)*.

This puts the hydrologic year-type category at moderately dry and provides for peak flows at the Gunnison River at Whitewater gage of 5,000 cfs and in the Black Canyon at 2,400 cfs for the duration of one day as per Aspinall operations. Current inflows into Blue Mesa are at 2,600 cfs and releases from Crystal Reservoir are at 1,400 cfs. The Gunnison Tunnel is currently diverting at the rate 1,030 cfs.

Taylor Park Reservoir Operations:

The Bureau of Reclamation provided an update on Taylor Park Reservoir operations using the May 1 forecast from the CBRFC. This forecast indicated that there will be 90,000 acre-feet of runoff flowing into the reservoir which is 96% 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 which will occur in June.

Through discussions with the Taylor Local Users Group, releases from Taylor Park Reservoir went up to 140 cfs beginning May 1 and will increase to 350 cfs beginning in June. Below is the proposed preliminary operations plan following the May 5 TLUG meeting:

- May 1-15: 140
- May 16-31: 250 cfs
- June 1-15: 350 cfs (June 1 go to 350 cfs, June 2-6 at 445 cfs, June 7 drop to 400, June 8 to 350 cfs)
- June 16-30: 350 cfs
- July 1-15: 350 cfs
- July 16-31: 325 cfs (includes change to 300 cfs on July 24)
- August 1- 15: 300 cfs
- August 16-31: 250 cfs
- September 1-15: 250
- September 16-30: 200 cfs
- October 1-15: 100 cfs (Start ramping down by 25 cfs on Oct 1 so that on October 4 we are at 100 cfs)
- October 16-31: 91 cfs

Based on this proposed operations plan, the end of October storage in the reservoir is projected to be 72,600 acre-feet which is above the target for the average year category and is approximately 90% of average live storage.

The next TLUG meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

Lake San Cristobal Update:

The current elevation (May 12) for Lake San Cristobal is 8994.88 feet which is up slightly from the April reading of 8,994.43. The flows out of the reservoir are currently at 309 cfs and the current flows at the Lake Fork at Gateview are 632 cfs.

Lake Powell Update:

The current update was provided on May 3, 2022, on the *Glen Canyon Dam Operations* page provided by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).

The BOR announced two separate urgent drought response actions that may help Lake Powell over the next 12 months (May 2022-April 2023). This could mean up to 1 million acre-feet (maf) of water in Lake Powell due to increased releases into the lake from upstream reservoirs and less releases from the lake to downstream. These are outline below:

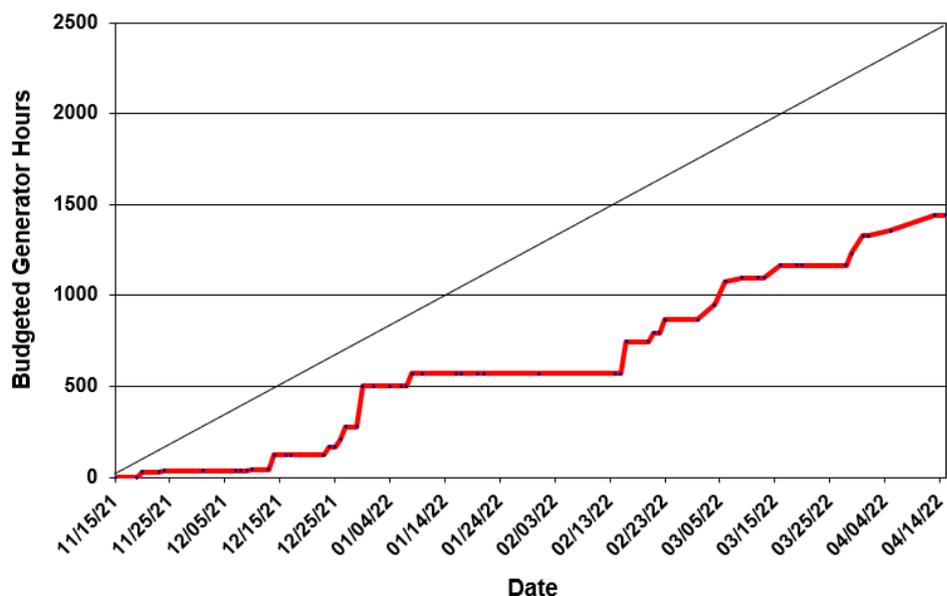
- Under a Drought Contingency Plan adopted in 2019, approximately 500 thousand acre-feet (kaf) of water will come from Flaming Gorge Reservoir, located approximately 455 river miles upstream of Lake Powell.
- Another 480 kaf will be left in Lake Powell by reducing Glen Canyon Dam’s annual release volume from 7.48 maf to 7.0 maf, as outlined in the 2007 Interim Guidelines.

The unregulated inflow volume to Lake Powell during March was 329 kaf which is 55% of average. The release volume for March was 574 kaf. The end of March elevation at Lake Powell was 3523.13 feet which is 177 feet from full pool. The storage amount in the lake at the end of March was 5.81 maf which is 24% of live capacity. Projections are that 6.31 maf (66% of average) of unregulated inflow will flow into the lake and the end water year of 2022 elevation could range from 3,511.71 (minimum) and 3,551.80 (maximum).

At the beginning of water year 2022, the total system storage in the Colorado River basin was 22.8 maf which is 38% of the total system capacity. This is a decrease of approximately 6 maf over the total storage that was in the system at the beginning of water year 2021. Based on the current inflow forecasts, the current projected end of year storage is 20.07 maf which is 34% of the total system capacity.

Cloudseeding Report (North American Weather Consultants; NAWC) & SWE in the Snowpack (final report 2021-2022 season):

According to the *North American Weather Consultants* report dated April 18, 2022, the weather pattern for the first two weeks of the month of April (and the final two weeks of the current program) included a track that largely focused north of the area. Two stronger storms did track south however, bringing the opportunity for two seeding events and is shown in the graph provided below. Values at this time of year are often variable as accounting must include snow melt that has already occurred. The totals for the 2021-2022 program was 21 seeded storm events and 1,488.50 generator hours which included the remote generator at Lake Irwin. The new generator installed at Black Mesa will likely be changed to a remote generator in the future due to access issues.



Graph of Operations to date - 2021-2022

The table below shows snow water equivalent for the water year as of April 18, 2022 at the five Blue Mesa SNOTEL sites.

Measurement Site	Snow Water Equivalent (inch)		Water Year Precipitation (inch)	
	4-18-22	Percent of Average	4-18-22	Percent of Average
Butte	12.3	100	14.9	94
Schofield Pass	37.2	113	38.3	123
Park Cone	11.3	120	13.6	117
Porphyry Creek	15.7	105	18.8	113
Slumgullion	9.7	68	11.6	79
Upper Gunnison Basin %		101		105

As of April 18, 2022, snow water equivalent in the Upper Gunnison Basin was above normal, with a basin-wide average of 101%. Water year precipitation was also above normal, at an average of 105%. The District will receive NAWC’s final report sometime this summer and staff is currently working on an article for the newspaper about this program.

Do your Rain Dance!

AGENDA ITEM 7

Treasurer's Report

AGENDA ITEM 7

General Manager and Committee Updates

MEMORANDUM



TO: UGRWCD Board Members
FROM: Sonja Chavez, General Manager
DATE: May 16, 2022
SUBJECT: General Manager, Committee, and Staff Updates

I. Treasurer's Report (Director Nesbitt)

II. General Manager's Update

Miscellaneous:

A. Prehearing Conference Regulation #35

Background: The Town of Crested Butte (Town), Gunnison County (County), Coal Creek Watershed Coalition (CCWC), High Country Conservation Advocates (HCCA), Northwest Colorado Council of Governments Water Quality/Quantity Committee (QQ) and Upper Gunnison River District submitted a Responsive Prehearing Statement as the "Upper Gunnison Parties" to the Water Quality Control Commission". The following two Regulation #35 Rulemaking water quality issues are being addressed:

- 1) The proposal submitted by Homestake Mining Company (HMC) (as provided in the April Board packet) to extend the temporary modification of the uranium water supply standard applied to Marshall Creek: The District was not in favor of having water supply use standards for surface waters suitable for potable water supply removed as there are existing water supply uses. There remains potential for future water supply use; and the removal of a standard in order to avoid reclamation obligations appears to be inconsistent with the Water Quality Control Act.
- 2) The request of Mt. Emmons Mining Company's (MEMC) to extend the chronic cadmium temporary modification applied to Coal Creek (April, May, and June) until 12/31/27, to delete the seasonal temporary modification for copper, and protect the assimilative capacity in Coal Creek by renewing the Colorado Discharge Permit System (CDPS) for Keystone Mine. Coal Creek is attaining the acute aquatic life standard and the Keystone Mine WTP no longer has predicted compliance issues due to on-site improvements and recent reclamation work.

Recent Activity: Upper Gunnison Parties participated in a Prehearing Conference with the Water Quality Control Division on May 17th, 2022. At the time of preparation of this memorandum, the meeting had not taken place. A verbal update will be given to the Board by Director Nania.

B. Grant Applications Pending & Congressionally Directed Spending Requests

The District has submitted multiple grant applications since the March regular board meeting and has written several letters in support of Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests. Following is a summary of those funding requests and current status:

Summary of **previous** grant applications in support of District activities:

- 1) GOCO Grant Application in support of Wet Meadows (\$158,100) - **TBD**
- 2) CDS request in support of Wet Meadows (\$1M) - **TBD**
- 3) U.S. FWS Sagebrush Ecosystem Grant (~~\$955,158~~ **\$273,350**) – **Awarded**
- 4) WaterSMART Drought Contingency Planning (DCP) Grant (\$140,480)* - **TBD**

TOTAL REQUESTS: \$1.57M

Summary of **current** grant applications in progress:

- 1) Community Funding Partnership Program 2022.1 – *Upper Gunnison Basin 2022 Bundled Grant Application Request*
- 2) Community Funding Partnership Program 2022.2 – *Blue Mesa Reservoir HABs High Frequency Sampling Study*

Potential **future** grant applications:

- 1) Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) – Source Water Protection Planning grant request in support of Upper Gunnison Basin municipalities.

C. Contracting Building Maintenance – Roof Repair

The UGRWCD has released a request for bids for repair of the Spencer Avenue Condo Association roof. In support of that effort, staff is requesting that:

BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED: Authorize the General Manager to enter into contract with the most qualified, reliable and financially reasonable project bidder for the repair or replacement of the condominium roof.

Regular Updates:

D. Watershed Management Planning (WMP) Committee Update (Director McPhail)

The District has completed a draft request for bids for the wetland assessment and mapping update project which we will obtain general counsel review. We anticipate selecting the most qualified, reliable and financially reasonable contractor and presenting to the board at the June meeting.

E. Wet Meadows Update (Cheryl Cwelich, Watershed Program Coordinator)

See Wet Meadows Program update memorandum from Cheryl (Watershed Program Coordinator). **Exhibit A.**

F. Taylor Local Users Group (Director Sabrowski) – Verbal Update will be given by Director Sabrowski. Draft meeting minutes attached as **Exhibit B**.

G. Education and Outreach Update (Director Nesbitt)

A meeting of the Education Committee was held on May 6, 2022. A copy of the meeting minutes is attached as **Exhibit C**.

H. Scientific Endeavors Update (Director Carroll)

I. Gunnison Basin Roundtable (General Manager)

As stated at the March board meeting, Director Nania was offering to step down from her duties as UGRWCD Representative on the Gunnison Basin Roundtable if there were other board members interested in the position due to difficulties in attending GBRT meetings recently as a result of her recent increase in workload at HCCA with high priority projects. Given that no UGRWCD Board members stepped forward, the General Manager and General Counsel are recommending that the Board appoint General Manager Chavez to the GBRT UGRWCD representative seat to ensure that the interests of the Upper Gunnison basin are represented. General Manager Chavez can then step down from her seat as At-Large Representative which can be filled by another Gunnison Basin constituent.

BOARD ACTION RECOMMENDED: Provide a letter of appointment for General Manager Chavez to the GBRT to fill the UGRWCD Representative seat.

J. Gunnison River Festival Update (Director Fonken)



MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors
FROM: Cheryl Cwelich, Watershed Program Coordinator
DATE: May 11, 2022
SUBJECT: Wet Meadows Program Update (May)

During the month of May, the following activities have commenced or been completed in the Gunnison Basin Wet Meadows & Riparian Restoration Collaborative (GBWMRRC):

Notable Activities Completed or in Progress

- Completed initial Wet Meadow site assessments and layout at:
 - Chance Gulch
 - Long Gulch
 - Cottonwood Gulch
 - West Flat Top
 - Horn Gulch
 - Cerro
 - Bohr Flats
 - Mountain Island Ranch
 - Upper Wolf Creek
- Submitted interim reimbursement request for NFWF EasyGrant #66627 of \$174,989.25
- Awarded US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) Sagebrush Ecosystem grant of \$273,350

Exhibit B



Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board Members
FROM: Taylor Local Users Group (TLUG)
DATE: May 5, 2022
SUBJECT: Taylor Local Users Group Meeting Notes

A TLUG meeting was held on Thursday, May 5, 2022 in-person and 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 (via Zoom)
 Don Sabrowski, UGRWCD Board representative and TLUG Chair
 Mark Schumacher, representative for rafting/boating interests

Andy Spann, representative for irrigation interests, was absent.

Also present: Tara Allman (WCU Wilderness Pursuits); Jim Beasley (Wapiti Canyon Ranch); Rory N. Birdsey (Taylor Reservoir); John Bocchino (Riffle and Rise LLC); Dan Brauch (CO Parks and Wildlife); Dustin Brown (Scenic River Rafting); Reece Carpenter ((BOR); Ryan Christensen (BOR); Steve Cook (Crystal Creek HOA), Jeffrey Deems (Airborne Snow Observatories); Matt Feier (Taylor River Hydro LLC); Doug Forshagen (Crystal Creek HOA); Bill Gallenbeck (Taylor Dam Operator for UVWUA); David Gochis (University/National Center for Atmospheric Research-UCAR/NCAR); Erik Knight (BOR); Elliott Manning (Eleven Anglers); Ben Riedel (Wilder); Dirk Schumacher (Three Rivers Resort); Jay Whitacre (Irwin Guides) and Jason White (Crested Butte Anglers)

UGRWCD Staff: Sonja Chavez, Cheryl Cwelich; Beverly Richards, Jill Steele and Sue Uerling

Chair Don Sabrowski called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Don noted that there had been a request to change TLUG process for obtaining “Citizen Comments” at the beginning of the meeting. Chairman Sabrowski denied that request and reminded the public that if they had input on releases or other operations, they should contact their TLUG representative prior to the meetings, or they are welcome to contact him or General Manager Sonja Chavez. Chairman Sabrowski also asked for a roll call of all TLUG members and interested parties present either in person or on the Zoom teleconference. There were 31 people in attendance.

Chair Sabrowski asked if there were any changes or additions to the April 7th Meeting Summary. Ryan Birdsey noted that he wanted to provide further clarification for his family, stating he is the representative for flat water recreation interests and his younger brother, Rory J. Birdsey, is his alternate. He said his father, Rory Birdsey, also serves as the alternate representative for Taylor Placer. Ryan also noted that the April minutes had the incorrect name for Bill Gallenbeck (not Hollenbeck), the Taylor Dam operator for the UVWUA. Dan Brauch noted that CPW had mentioned that 125 cfs would provide much improved conditions for rainbow trout spawn and that this wasn’t captured in the minutes. A request was made to circulate the requested minutes.

David Gochis of the University/National Center for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) presented data from WRF Hydro. Dave detailed the various models and data simulation that they use and noted that when possible, they are using the actual Airborne Snow Observatory data from flights over the basin to make improvements to model. Some of the data also includes snow albedo which takes into account impacts to reflectance from dust on snow. Dave reported the snowpack figures with the ASO flights data for April 20th for the Taylor River Basin are:

- Taylor Park Basin Average Snowpack Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) upscaled to WRF Hydro using ASO: 112 kac-ft
- Taylor River Runoff Prediction WRF Hydro w/ASO: (April-**July**):
 - Taylor River inflow is 39.8 kac-ft
 - Total Taylor Reservoir Inflow: 72.3 kac-ft (This is quite a bit lower than CBRFC by about 20 percent. They are looking into this as this caught them off-guard. A potential reason is their model is showing that the Taylor basin is depleted in soil moisture. In October 2021 it was below 40 percent. Currently, their model shows significant portion of snowpack melt is going into wetting soils).

What can we learn from ASO flights and gap radar? David indicated that it would be the relationship between ASO snow data and correlations with what you can get at a specific Snotel sites. Gap radar will give a better estimate of

total input in a spatially distributed sense across the basin. ASO is not fully replaceable in terms of accuracy of predicting snowpack.

General Manager Chavez asked if there are more ASO flights scheduled for this spring and Jeffrey Deems of Airborne Snow Observatories confirmed that there is at least one more and potentially three more flights planned for this spring, depending on wind and weather. Lawrence Berkley funded 2 flights (tying into SAIL). CWCB funded two flights funded by state Water Plan grant (which came into play late in the season, so they may shift these funds to next season).

Matt Feier of the Gunnison County Electric Association (GCEA) gave a presentation on the Taylor River Hydro LLC Operating agreement and project update. Matt noted that the thirty percent engineering designs have been approved by all parties to the hydropower agreement and they are moving to sixty percent design phase. They are hopeful the project can be 100 percent complete by November 2023. He reported that the GCEA will not have any water rights under the agreement and that the plant will operate solely as a “run of the river” facility, utilizing only the releases made in accordance with the decrees. GCEA will have no claim whatsoever for rates of flow or timing of releases for hydroelectric generation or any other purpose. Construction is set for May-November 2023. Matt reported that they are shooting for an annual production total of 3,812,733 kwh per year, which would provide electricity for 450 homes in the county annually. He said the hydropower plant will cost \$2.97 million to construct and include a 10-year payback with 50% Water SMART Grant Funding or a 20-year payback with no grant funding. Matt said it is likely the Colorado Water Conservation Board will provide low interest rate loan financing for potentially up to 50% of the project cost. For operations, GCEA will purchase the power from Taylor River Hydropower LLC, a separate company developed specifically for the project. Taylor River Hydropower LLC and UVWUA will split profits. Matt was asked if there would be any effects on river temperatures or oxidation levels and if the dam will require any additional lines or outlets. Matt replied that there should be no changes to current temperatures or oxidation levels and that the project will use the existing outlet and lines. Matt noted that the Bureau of Reclamation is a party to the agreement and also involved in doing the 30, 60 and 90 percent reviews of the engineering, so they are aware of all plans. Matt offered that one of the engineers for the project could come to a later meeting to update TLUG on progress and that perhaps there could be a site visit arranged.

Erik Knight from the Bureau of Reclamation presented the May 1 forecast from the Colorado River Basin Forecast Center:

- Inflows into Taylor (April – July): predicting average 89,880-acre-feet (96% of thirty-year average)
- Max reservoir fill content predicted to fill to 9,323.18

Erik said that even if the basin was to get no more snowfall for the rest of the season, we would still finish the year at 91% of average, so it doesn't drop the average much. Erik said that while December 2021 snowfall was great – more than double of average – all of January through May 2022 had below normal snowfall accumulation. He also noted that melt-off has been relatively quick so far this season.

Mark Schumacher asked, per the releases noted on Erik's table, if the flushing release of 445 was planned for the first week in June. Erik replied that, yes, this was the current plan but that the actual timing could be moved if needed as long as it is completed before the end of June. Historical peak has been the 10-12th of June. Mark said that the first week of June should probably work okay as when it is pushed to the second week in June it makes it difficult to get under some of the bridges depending on flows from the East River. Erik asked Mark if he had the data of the maximum heights for flows to still be able to get under the bridges. Mark said he had given a spreadsheet to Sonja that was prepared for the Sheriff's office, as they are the ones who will make the call to shut down the river when flows are too high to go under the bridges safely. He noted that it is different for each of the bridges and the different types of boats. Sonja offered that this spreadsheet will be shared with Erik and the BOR. Erik noted that if everyone was okay with them having some flexibility, they can watch the daily flow forecast for the East River and time the flushing release accordingly to try to prevent having to shut down the rafting/boating during high flows. Sonja also pointed out to Erik that the Gunnison River Festival Taylor Down River Raft Race is tentatively planned for Friday, June 10th, so if they can avoid doing the 445 cfs flushing flow at that time, it would be beneficial for the festival.

Chairman Sabrowski asked Dan Brauch (CPW) if he had any updates on the fishery and Dan reported that the kokanee release had gone well. He said their goal is to get the kokanee downstream to the reservoir as quickly as possible. He really appreciated the cooperation he got from the irrigators in helping facilitate the release. Dan also provided follow-up on the question from the April meeting regarding the specific target they prefer for rainbow trout spawning. He said that the rainbow trout typically begin spawning in mid-April and that their preferred target is 125-250 cfs with a water temperature of 46 degrees. Dan felt this went well in April this year.

Dan was asked about their plans to refill Spring Creek Reservoir and if there would be any effect on downstream flows. Dan said they will attempt to store water as they can in Spring Creek and will coordinate and maintain flows to meet the needs of the senior water rights downstream to avoid any negative impact. He noted that the CPW would be having a meeting later this afternoon to talk more about storage and release plans and that he will provide that info to the TLUG.

Chairman Sabrowski said they would open discussion among the TLUG members for release recommendations and go around the room. He started with Ernie Cockrell. Ernie said he has recommendations but wanted to take a few minutes to look at things from a historical perspective. He said what he and others would like to accomplish within the bounds of the stipulation is to protect the biology and habitat of the river. From Ernie's perspective, when it comes to the biological health of the river, he noted that there is a difference of opinion among some of the TLUG representatives, including the UGRWCD, with respect to where the October 31st storage objective should be. He noted that the stipulation specifies that the storage can be made to meet or exceed the October 31st objective with the understanding that from May through October each year, there may be the need to periodically adjust this storage level based on actual conditions. He noted that in the stipulation, the language was specifically amended to say "meet or exceed" the October 31st storage level and that this is discretionary to the TLUG representatives as they note the ever-changing data affecting the storage. Based on this historical perspective and his interpretation of the Stipulation language, Ernie recommended that the October 31 end of year storage goal should be 72,143 and that this would result in a 91 cfs winter flow rate.

Pete Dunda wants to set current goal to exceed the 70,000 acre feet so that we have some room to adjust flows and not miss target.

Sonja Chavez interjected that the meeting had already run its two-hour scheduled course and that we need to get some recommendations to the BOR. She noted that everyone agrees that we need to be as conservative as possible and that because of the extremely dry soil conditions, it is likely that adjustments to the flow will need to be made down the road, but that at this time she would like to come to a consensus with flow recommendations for Erik.

Ernie supports Erik's recommendation to increase the speed of ramping up to five day peak flow faster as a way to conserve more water.

Ryan Birdsey said that he is most concerned about the elevation level saying that right now, the concrete boat ramp at Taylor Marina is unusable. They need approximately 9,313 feet and he'll study the elevations more this summer. He said they are fortunate that they can shore launch boats from other areas around the reservoir but is concerned with congestion on Taylor due to low Blue Mesa Reservoir's elevations. He'd like to keep the Taylor elevation a little higher. There was some discussion about shaving two percent off of all current flow recommendations for the seven-month period as this would achieve the 72,000 acre feet target. Erik later noted that this approach would not work within the model spreadsheet for flows, which is based on a 15 day average.

Mark Schumacher noted that he has always appreciated and respected Ernie's water right and noted that since he was on the UGRWCD Board during the negotiations for the Amended Stipulation, he was heavily involved in the outcome of the Amended Stipulation and that it became an almost full-time job for him during this period. He noted that he greatly appreciates Ernie's water rights as it helps all in the group. Mark stated that he does disagree, however, with Ernie's assessment that the October 31st storage goal should be 72,000 acre-feet. He noted that this cuts the flows in early August to a minimum he needs to operate his business during the peak of the rafting season. He recommends taking 50 cfs from the last half of the September and move them up to the first two weeks of August which results in flows of 300 cfs, which is what his water users need. Mark also noted that Erik Knight notes that with an end of October storage level of 70,000 acre feet with an average winter, the reservoir will fill for the next water year. Mark said this also results in our using our water right to its fullest extent.

Roark noted that he hasn't seen the flows drop below 75 cfs for the winter flow. He supports shooting for higher end of year target at 72,000 acre-feet with the reality that if hydrology deteriorates it may be a moot point anyway and we are back at minimum of 70,000 acre-feet.

Mark also asked Dan Brauch if last year when TLUG recommended that releases be dropped to 100 cfs at the beginning of October and later to 85 cfs, if that worked out okay for the fishery. Dan said that this worked fine last year. Mark recommended that if conditions worsen through the next few months that perhaps the representatives could look at decreasing some of the October flows accordingly. Ernie said he thinks it is dangerous to start looking at cutting flows in September and October as during these months the river is more prone to algae growth and this is when there is a large influx of fish needing nutrition. He cautioned against getting flow rates too low during this period.

The TLUG members eventually came to the following consensus for their recommendation to the UGRWCD Board (**NOTE:** the final numbers were verified between Sonja and Erik via telephone on 5/11/22):

May 1-15: 140
 May 16-31: 250 cfs
 June 1-15: 350 cfs (June 1 go to 350 cfs. June 2-6 at 445 cfs. June 7 drop to 400, June 8 to 350 cfs)
 June 16-30: 350 cfs
 July 1-15: 350 cfs
 July 16-31: 325 cfs (includes change to 300 cfs on July 24)
 August 1- 15: 300 cfs
 August 16-31: 250 cfs
 September 1-15: 250

September 16-30: 200 cfs

October 1-15: 100 cfs (Start ramping down by 25 cfs on Oct 1 so that on October 4 we are at 100 cfs)

October 16-31: 91 cfs (*End of Oct content 72,600 AF)

*This is an adaptive management program. The TLUG is trying to conserve water early in the season, which is why the end of year target is 72,600 AF. This allows the group a little room to make possible future adjustments (decreases) to releases when hydrology deteriorates in order not to exceed the minimum end of year storage objective of 70,000 AF in an average dry year.

TLUG group was in consensus agreement.

Chairman Sabrowski asked for any Citizen comments and none were brought forth.

The next meeting was set for Thursday, June 7 at 9:30 AM. Chairman Sabrowski adjourned the meeting at 12:46 PM.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Education and Outreach Committee
DATE: May 6, 2022
SUBJECT: Summary of Education and Outreach Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Education and Outreach Committee was held on May 6, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. Bill Nesbitt, Stacy McPhail, Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards, and Cheryl Cwelich were in attendance. Rosemary Carroll attended by Zoom conference. Bill Nesbitt called the meeting to order.

Agenda items included a review of the 2022 Education and Outreach Action Plan and accomplishments and budget expenditures to date. As a result of these discussions the following action and discussion items were identified:

- Staff will continue to work through the 2022 Action Plan and will provide regular updates to the Board of Directors
- Staff will determine if additional books are required for 1st grade giveaway, currently 167 books remaining in our stock. Distribution to all schools will be made in November-December 2022.
- Staff will continue KBUT underwriting but will suspend weekly newspaper items on flows, etc., and see if anyone misses them. Staff opinion was that they didn't think it was a good use of educational funds (e.g., people only see what flow is on a single day of the week, the message is not really educating anyone, etc.).
- Committee members provided numerous suggestions for future outreach activities such as educational tours for certain groups, field trips to Water Center in Grand Junction, and question and answer articles for the newspaper.
- Staff will consider purchasing t-shirts in 2023 with a UGRWCD conservation message. Once messaging is approved, staff will obtain pricing for an inventory of shirts for events happening throughout the basin.
- Staff will continue with a river clean up event in the 2023 action plan.
- Education and Outreach Committee will meet again in September to discuss 2023 budget.

Adjournment

Bill Nesbitt adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 7

Scientific Endeavors Update

AGENDA ITEM 7

Gunnison Basin Roundtable

AGENDA ITEM 7

Gunnison River Festival Update

AGENDA ITEM 8

Miscellaneous Matters

Reports

Monthly Energy Production Report

Generated for Beverly Richards
on 05/10/2022

UGRWCD

Gunnison, CO

This report provides energy production for May.

Week	Peak Power	Energy Produced
05/01/2022 - 05/07/2022	5.92 kW	271 kWh
05/08/2022 - 05/14/2022	5.93 kW	88.3 kWh
05/15/2022 - 05/21/2022	0 W	0 Wh
05/22/2022 - 05/28/2022	0 W	0 Wh
05/29/2022 - 05/31/2022	0 W	0 Wh
May 2022 Total:		359 kWh
Previous Month Total:		1.17 MWh
Year to Date:		3.86 MWh
Lifetime Production:		29.7 MWh

Your **Carbon Offset** for this month: 547.0 lbs

You have offset the equivalent of: **6 Trees**



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Ok, Got It

LATEST HEADLINES

'Wildfire season' now a year-round condition, state's top firefighter says

Local farmers being enlisted to help combat prairie, field fires



Firefighters replenish their water supply from a Bamford Farms tank during the 2017 Logan-Phillips wildfire. Farmer-provided assistance proved crucial to successfully fighting that fire in gale-force winds. (Journal-Advocate file photo)

By **JEFF RICE** | ricej@journal-advocate.com | Sterling Journal-Advocate
May 11, 2022 at 4:36 p.m.

With wildfire season now a year-round condition, state and local officials are advising Coloradans to prepare for what is clearly a “new normal.”



With ongoing drought and warming temperatures across the state continuing to elevate wildfire risk for many Coloradans, state and federal agencies that manage wildfires and forests are urging residents to join in efforts to reduce that risk. That means residents should take steps to mitigate fire dangers around their homes, farms and ranches, be ready to respond quickly should a fire threaten your home.

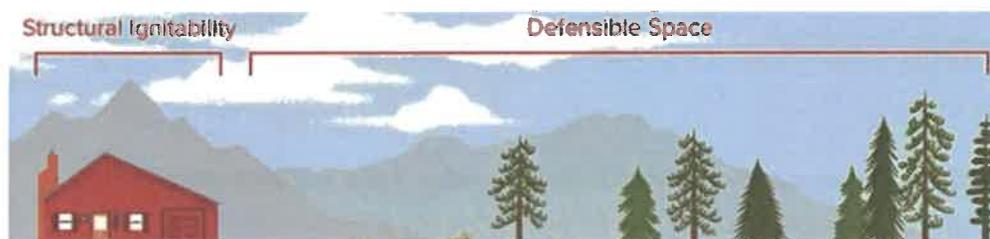
In Logan County, Emergency Management Officer Jerry Casebolt said his office is compiling a data base of ag producers and others with equipment that can be called on to help fight prairie fires.

“We have started that, we’re collecting address and what equipment they have and adding a layer in our (geographical imaging system) mapping that we can print out books with this information to be given to the (fire) departments as well as myself and (sheriff’s) deputies,” Casebolt said.

Equipment that would be useful would be disc arrays and other equipment that can turn under vegetation quickly to build firebreaks. Truck-mounted water or fertilizer tanks that can be staged to resupply brush trucks also are useful. During the disastrous 2017 wildfire that swept across Logan and Phillips counties, discs were used to “pinch off” the leading edge of the fire against a still-green wheat field, and farmer-owned water trucks helped keep pumpers supplied around the clock.

Mike Morgan, Director of the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control, said his agency anticipates above average temperatures and below average precipitation from now into June. That will result in the persistence and expansion of drought conditions across the state and the emergence of above average, significant fire potential over the eastern portions of Colorado this spring.

“Wildfire season is a thing of the past – it is a year-round battle,” Morgan said. “We are calling on those that live, work and play in Colorado to help reduce the impact of wildfires by being vigilant, respecting fire restrictions when they are in place and doing your part to protect your property from wildfire.”



Here on the High Plains, wildfire mitigation basically means keeping things mowed short around the house and outbuildings – about 30 feet is a minimum but 100 feet is optimum. Keep tumbleweeds and trash out of windbreaks, and use best safety practices and common sense when burning ditches.

Other things that can be done:

- Rake and remove pine needles and dry leaves 5 feet from the home, as well as under decks, porches, sheds and play structures.
- Remove leaves and needles from roofs and gutters.
- Sweep porches and decks clear of any burnable plant material.
- Move firewood piles at least 30 feet from the house, preferably uphill.
- Transfer items under decks or porches to a storage area.
- Cover any exposed eave or attic vents with 1/8-inch metal mesh screening.
- Ensure home address signs are clearly visible from the street or road.

Rural families also should pack a “go bag” they can grab and run with when evacuation becomes necessary. The bag should include food and water for several days, toiletries and first-aid kit, important records (shot records, including COVID inoculation records, passports, etc.) a week’s worth of daily medications, phone chargers, flashlight and batteries and cash. Most experts also include either a laptop (with charger) with all of your important files loaded on the hard drive or, at the very least, an external hard drive, with your desktop computer copied to it, that can be dropped into the go bag at the last minute.

Continuation of the warm and dry conditions is expected to result in drought intensification and earlier than average spring snowpack runoff, leading to above normal large fire potential expanding across southern Colorado in May and throughout most of Colorado by June.

Here are useful links to help prepare for the possibility of wildfire:

Colorado State University [Fire Mitigation Plan](#)..

Geico “go bag” [recommendations](#).

Special “go bag” recommendations for [seniors](#).





Environment

The Southwest's Drought and Fires Are a Window to Our Climate Change Future

In a Q&A with ProPublica, experts describe how a new climate reality threatens the Southwest, the fastest-growing region in the U.S.



Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada. Two corpses were discovered in early May in Lake Mead, as water levels fell to their lowest point since the reservoir was filled in the 1930s. Ethan Miller/Getty Images

by Mark Olalde

May 11, 4:20 p.m. EDT

ProPublica is a nonprofit newsroom that investigates abuses of power. [Sign up for Dispatches](#), a newsletter that spotlights wrongdoing around the country, to receive our stories in your inbox every week.

The concentration of carbon dioxide in Earth's atmosphere has reached its highest level in recorded human history. Again.

In April, the level of CO₂ was 27% higher than it was 50 years ago, according to the latest data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. (Methane, a gas with about 85 times the near-term warming effect of CO₂, has risen more than 16% since 1984, the first full year that NOAA collected data.)

Each spring, going back decades, we have surpassed the previous year's CO₂ record, as humans continue burning hydrocarbons at breathtaking rates, releasing greenhouse gasses. That impacts temperatures, precipitation, the intensity of storms and other weather patterns.

Across the American Southwest, this has amplified record droughts and fires.

Climate change is exposing where the bodies are buried, literally. Boaters and paddle boarders discovered two corpses in early May in Lake Mead, as water levels fell to their lowest point since the reservoir was filled in the 1930s. Lake Powell has also dropped to its lowest point since being filled. The ongoing drought appears to be the worst in 1,200 years, according to research recently published in the journal Nature Climate Change. Around the region, there have been hotter temperatures, smaller snowpack and an earlier start to the fire season. Wildfires have already torched more than 300,000 acres near Santa Fe in northern New Mexico this year.

This new reality threatens the Southwest, the fastest-growing region in the U.S., and the 40 million people who rely on the Colorado River, while offering a glimpse at what climate change will bring there and elsewhere.

“This happens to be one of those years when we can look out the window and look at the future as the smoke pall floats overhead,” said David Gutzler, a professor emeritus who researches climatology and meteorology at the University of New Mexico's Earth and Planetary Sciences department.

To better understand how climate change is and will continue to affect the Southwest, ProPublica spoke to three experts: Gutzler; Mikhail Chester, a professor in Arizona State University's engineering school and the director of the Metis Center for Infrastructure and Sustainable Engineering; and Gregg Garfin, a climatologist at the University of Arizona and co-lead

author of the Southwest chapter in the Fourth National Climate Assessment.

The conversations have been edited for length and clarity.

Wildfires are burning near Santa Fe, while the Boulder, Colorado, area is still reeling from a fire that burned a developed area in the dead of winter. What are the connections between a changing climate and wildfires?

Gutzler: We make the extremes worse. That's a bit different than saying a wildfire is caused by climate change. As temperatures rise, hot temperature-related extreme events are likely to become more frequent and more severe, and that's exactly what we're seeing across the West right now.

Garfin: There are also parts of the region where there's a link between fire severity and climate change. The way that plays out is that climate change affects the hydrology, so it leads to a shorter snow-cover season, less snow-covered area, soils that are desiccated, and then temperature also puts stress on trees that dries out the fuels.

Research also suggests the Colorado River's flow is down about 20% this century. How might the region's river systems be shaped by climate change?

Gutzler: We should plan for diminished flows, particularly out of snow-fed rivers. ... What snow there is melts earlier and melts faster. That's exactly what we saw this year. In the Rio Grande Basin, snowpack was pretty close to what most people would consider average right around the time of peak snow, a month and a half ago. But it has just melted really fast in this hot weather, so the effect of that on streamflow is we get less flow in the river for the same amount of snow that fell last winter.

Garfin: We're seeing less snow-covered area, less water content in the snowpack, early runoff in the late winter and early spring at elevations lower than around 7,000 feet, an increased fraction in the precipitation that we get coming as rain rather than snow and reduced soil moisture. All of these things combine to reduce the efficiency of runoff. ...

We're already seeing an increasing water supply coming from treated effluent that's primarily being used to irrigate parks or golf courses. Probably we'll be seeing more of our potable water supply coming from treated effluent. Another thing — we saw this in Arizona in the State of the State address from Gov. (Doug) Ducey — he said let's put billions of dollars into developing desalinated water supplies, and there have been plenty of feasibility studies. It's expensive and it takes a lot of energy, but we could end up with some technological breakthroughs. ... Water managers throughout the Colorado River Basin have been creative in finding ways to keep more water in the reservoirs. Obviously that's not enough, but I think there will be water marketing and trading maneuvers — because some tribes have large amounts of water — to create the legal mechanisms for the cities to buy more water from tribes.

What about the impact of climate change on living things in the region? What do we know about changes to ecosystems and biodiversity?

Gutzler: The change in the climate is happening at the same time as humans affect ecosystems in other ways that aren't connected to climate change, just by habitat destruction and all the other things that people do to change the environment. I view climate change as an added stress to wild ecosystems that are already stressed by large numbers of people moving into the Southwest.

One way for mobile species to adapt to climate change is to move north. ... If people have built fences or, at the U.S.-Mexico border, a wall, then the combined effect of a changing climate and barriers to migration can jeopardize the health of species and ecosystems.

In addition to biodiversity, how does a changing climate interact with the Southwest's rapid population growth?

Garfin: We've got a lot of people who have built their homes or expanded towns into the so-called wildland-urban interface, and that puts infrastructure at risk (to wildfires). Also, if we have severe fire, eventually there's going to be rain — it doesn't even have to be record rainfall — and all that stuff that has burned is going to find its way into watercourses. We end up with debris flows that can take out infrastructure, that can take out

roads or that can end up in reservoirs and increasing the sediment load and decreasing water quality.

Chester: We are figuring out already how to deal with extremes in terms of heat, in terms of monsoons, in terms of drought that are beyond the forecasts of most other places in the United States. The worst of the worst in a particular place in Illinois, let's say, is probably not close to what you get in Phoenix, so we're already living with these extremes. ... For the most part, things aren't breaking right now. ...

Now, you're running into the reality that the conditions that we're designing for are not necessarily what we will live with in the future. So, if we designed for 120 degrees Fahrenheit maximum temperatures, is that what's going to be the max 20 years from now, 30 years from now, or is it going to be greater?

If the Phoenix metro area is doing pretty well overall, are there any examples of infrastructure that's already nearing the breaking point?

Chester: You get a lot more blackouts and brownouts in the power system when you have these heat waves. That's the case anywhere in the U.S., but you certainly have that here. You get inundation of the stormwater system. ... Everything breaks more frequently when you have hotter temperatures. That's the simpler way of looking at it.

The Southwest is a very ethnically diverse region. How does that affect the calculus as society pursues solutions?

Garfin: If we don't deal with equity in climate solutions, then we're going to shoot ourselves in the foot. Through the impacts to vulnerable communities and less economically well-off communities, it'll end up being more costly anyway. ... Previous failures were that housing developments in less affluent parts of our cities have typically lacked the kinds of landscaping that would reduce the heat-island effect and that would absorb more stormwater, so we know that now and we know that we haven't done well by those communities.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change published reports this year that came with a warning — we're likely to miss the Paris Agreement's goal of limiting warming to 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit. What does that mean for the Southwest?

Gutzler: We're living it this year. ... You can take an extreme drought of the sort that we're experiencing now and the way that it has impacted the environment, the water supply across the board, and say that is the direction the Southwest is headed unless we do something about climate change.

Garfin: We already have amplified heat in our cities from the urban heat-island effect, from just changing from natural vegetation to the built environment. Also, as you increase the background temperature, the effects that we see in our large cities — Phoenix, Tucson, Las Vegas — more people are exposed to the public health effects of extreme heat. ... In places like Tucson or Las Cruces, our future might look like Phoenix, and Phoenix's future might look like Middle Eastern cities. ... Then, what's projected is continued decreases in snowpack, perhaps more extreme high flows, but more days with very low flows. That leads to a much less reliable surface water supply.

Are there examples of steps being taken in the region to address climate change through mitigation or adaptation?

Garfin: If we look to some of the more progressive climate change plans like Flagstaff's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan, they're doing a couple things in terms of wildfire. One is insisting through their public policy that there's more defensible space around houses and other structures that are in the wildland-urban interface. Then, they also had a bond in 2012 where city residents overwhelmingly voted to tax themselves to pay for forest treatments on public, federal lands in their watershed to reduce the risk of really severe fires.

Chester: There's got to be a readjustment of how we utilize ecological infrastructure. ... You're going to have a lot of small-scale failures, and at times it might make sense to allow those failures to happen.

I'm not suggesting we allow loss of life. I'm not suggesting we allow major economic damages. So, a great example here of safe-to-fail infrastructure

is Indian Bend Wash in Scottsdale. We've basically said, when the monsoon rains come, we are going to allow a giant river to move through the wash, and it might take out the golf courses, the bike paths, the Frisbee golf, the dog park. ... The cost of replacing it is pretty low, but the benefit we get is enormous. The benefit is social in terms of all this space. The benefit is ecological; there's a lot of green infrastructure in there. There's also the benefit of stormwater attenuation.

With all this in mind, what does the future hold for the Southwest?

Chester: The problem — from my perspective as an engineer who studies infrastructure — is the rigidity of everything we've built out. ... For the past century we've gotten away with these design assumptions that things can be rigid, can be based on a future that is largely predictable. Here we are in the future saying that doesn't seem to be the case. We need a lot of flexibility.

Gutzler: Ultimately, carbon energy will be replaced on purely economic grounds by renewables, so there's hope there. But the Southwest is inevitably going to become a hotter and drier place than it is now with huge stresses on human societies and wild ecosystems. That's what's in store for us, so we better adapt to it as intelligently as we can.

Filed under —
Environment

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WATER

Even less water is now forecast to flow into Lake Powell this year, report says

The final NOAA forecast for the season predicts the amount of water to reach Lake Powell this year to be about 60% of average.

Chris Outcalt 4:00 AM MDT on May 10, 2022





Wind affected on the west and south facing aspects of the Gore Range seen on, April 7, 2022, near Vail. (Hugh Carey, The Colorado Sun)

Credibility:  Original Reporting  Sources Cited

The amount of water predicted to flow into Lake Powell this year is down slightly from the previous month, according to the May report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Colorado Basin River Forecast Center.

“The last couple months have steadied out a little bit,” Cody Moser, a senior hydrologist with NOAA forecast center, said during a recent web briefing to review the most recent report. “But generally below-normal precipitation the last several months after a very wet December.”

The NOAA forecast center begins releasing monthly water supply forecasts for the Colorado River Basin in December. The May report, released last week, is the final runoff prediction for the season. The forecast estimated that the amount of water that will flow into Lake Powell this spring and summer will be about 59% of average, based on 30 years of data from 1991



to 2020. In January, following the wet December Moser noted, the NOAA forecast called for 98% of the 30-year average to reach Powell.

It wasn't just the Powell number that dipped, although the amount of runoff that makes its way to Powell each year is considered a good barometer for conditions basinwide. "Water supply forecast volumes decreased across most of the region," Moser said during the webinar.

Recommended

Bureau of Reclamation announces "extraordinary action" to protect Lake Powell this year

A 59% flow into Powell translates to about 3.8 million acre-feet. That spring runoff is critical to irrigated agriculture, domestic water supplies, and the recreation industry in Colorado and the West. About 40 million people rely on the Colorado River for domestic use and farmers and ranchers use water from the river to irrigate more than 3 million acres of farmland.

"By May 1, the spring-summer runoff outcomes are pretty well locked in, which means there's virtually no escape from a third poor runoff year in a



row,” Jeff Lukas, an independent water and climate researcher based in Lafayette, said in an email. “Across most of the streams and rivers of the Upper Basin, forecasted runoff ranges from very poor (50% of average) to mediocre (80% of average).”



Both Moser and Lukas said that dry soil moisture conditions across the Colorado River Basin, which can sponge off valuable runoff before the water makes it into rivers and streams, won't be quite as bad as last year but will still be a negative factor.

“Soil moisture conditions have improved over the last year across most of Colorado's Western Slope, but that's not necessarily saying much because of how bad soil moisture conditions were heading into last year's snowmelt runoff season,” Moser said.

He said the soil moisture conditions were still well below normal across western Colorado, particularly in the southwest part of the state.

Lukas noted that the dry soil conditions are factored into the NOAA runoff predictions from the get-go so there shouldn't necessarily be any big surprises with that particular variable.



Federal and state water managers have watched the water level in Lake Powell closely this year. Last week, the Bureau of Reclamation announced “extraordinary action” to keep the water level at Powell from dropping too low, which could threaten hydropower production at Powell’s Glen Canyon Dam.

The bureau, in consultation with tribal nations and the seven Colorado River Basin states, decided to keep nearly 500,000 acre-feet of water in Lake Powell that had originally been planned to be released to the Lower Basin states of Nevada, Arizona and California this year. The bureau also announced it would release an additional 500,000 acre-feet of water from Flaming Gorge reservoir in Wyoming to further raise the water level at Powell.





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Making every grouse count



Bella Biondini

Nate Seward squints through a spotting scope as he picks Gunnison sage-grouse out of the landscape. During breeding season, Seward's work days are long — beginning before the sunrise. "It's fun, but it physically gets a little taxing."

Bella Biondini
Times Associate Editor

Gunnison sage-grouse conservation fueled by collaboration

Long before the sun was up, Dan Zadra took a left turn and the road quickly turned to dirt, the sagebrush illuminated by the truck's headlights. The temperature outside read a brisk 10 degrees even though spring had arrived.

He put on his glasses, pulled

out a sheet of paper with a long list of combinations and hopped out of the truck to unlock the gate. By the 10th of May he said he would remember them all. When he finally parked, a group of Gunnison

sage-grouse were already waiting for him, the air filled with a sound he described as a "pop, pop, growl" made as the males expelled the last bit of air from their large yellow air sacs.

Some years he has had to ski

to the site, huddling in the sage as he watched and counted the birds. This year the snow had mostly disappeared by April. As the sun slowly rose over the rolling hills of sage, the horizon turned pink. A golden eagle

dove toward the lek and in a second the grouse were gone in a flash of white feathers, leaving an empty patch of sage behind.

"I never lose sight of the fact that I get paid to do this, when there's people that come across the planet to see them," said Zadra, who works as a wildlife technician for Colorado Parks

Sage-grouse A6

Wildfire season begins on a dry note

Officials see elevated potential for large fires

Paul Wayne Foreman
Times Staff Writer

While the summer monsoon did arrive last year, bringing some relief in

the Gunnison Basin, U.S. Forest Service officials warn that local forests remain in drought conditions that have set the stage for another summer of heightened potential for wildfires in 2022.

In a work session on Tuesday, Gunnison County Commissioners received an update on current conditions and a preview of the coming season from local wildfire managers.

Years of drought across Colorado

Wildfire A8

Council hears county pitch for better behavioral health resources

Report reveals pressing need

Bella Biondini
Times Associate Editor

Leaders from Gunnison County Juvenile Services Department presented the county's first Behavioral Needs

Assessment to city council during a regular meeting on Tuesday — sharing a report they hope will help measure the community's well-being and generate new ways to fill in the gaps.

The final 250-page document, created in partnership with the Gunnison County Community Health Coalition,

Council A8

BRIEFS

Trustees approve Baca's contract

Brad Baca, who was selected by WCU's Board of Trustees on March 25, will assume his new role as Western's president on July 1.

"I'm grateful to the Board for their trust in me to lead Western," Baca said in a press release. "I look forward to diving in on July 1. There is a lot of important work ahead. We will accomplish great things through strong collaboration with faculty, staff and our larger alumni and Gunnison communities, and a focus on student support and success."

HCCA pushes for more stream protections in Gunnison Basin

After two years of coordinated sampling events and data collection, the Southwest Colorado Outstanding Waters Coalition has submitted our proposal to designate 25 creeks in the Gunnison and San Juan basins as "outstanding" waters.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, signed into law in 1968, was written with the explicit goal of preserving rivers and streams with "outstanding" scenic, recreational, geologic, wildlife and cultural values for future generations.

On June 13 and 14, High Country Conservation Advocates will appear in front of the Water Quality Control Commission as they determine whether these creeks will be designated.

In the Gunnison Basin, HCCA has pushed for the protection of the following streams, which provide critical habitat for fish, insects and wildlife, ecosystem services like high quality drinking and irrigation water and exceptional recreational opportunities:

- Upper Taylor River (high-value recreational fishing and paddling; native cutthroat in Italian Creek).
- Soap Creek (high-quality water in a national recreation area).
- Escalante Creek (important native warm-water fishery).
- Big Dominguez and Little Dominguez Creeks (critical streams in the Dominguez Canyon wilderness area that support unique vegetation and native warm-water fisheries).
- Potter and Roubideau Creek (warm water native fisheries, unique riparian vegetation in a potential conservation area).

Correction

In the May 5 edition, the *Times* mistakenly stated that the Gunnison Parks and Rec summer camp was full and on a waitlist. This was incorrect, the camp still has space open and stipends available for families who enroll. Historically the department's camp fills and has a wait list, but it is not yet. The *Times* apologizes for any misunderstanding this created.

New gap radar to improve local weather and water forecasting

Installation set for July

Bella Biondini
Times Associate Editor

The Gunnison Valley will soon house a new Doppler radar system that will help fill weather coverage gaps and improve water forecasts throughout the basin. The installation, made possible through a public-private partnership, is set to begin July 15.

Over the past two years, the Western States Water Partnership (WSWP) — an organization designed to fill the funding gaps that exist within local, county, state and federal agencies that impede their ability to address critical water issues throughout the Western U.S. — has worked closely with the county and the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District to bring what will be the first permanent radar to the Upper Gunnison River Basin. The new gap-filling radar will help improve the accuracy of local weather predictions and snowfall estimates and improve stream flow forecasting — providing data that will help local water resource managers as drought persists across the western states.

The radar will sit at Big Mesa on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land south of Blue Mesa Reservoir. The BLM gave its final approval on the chosen site on May 6, allowing the project to officially proceed.

It is believed that this will be the first privately-owned gap radar in the western U.S. The Colorado Wildlife Heritage Foundation, the nonprofit owner of WSWP, is covering the full cost of the \$1.4 million radar. WSWP

will install, operate and maintain the radar in partnership with Boulder-based Advanced Radar Company. After installation, the radar will provide raw data to the National Weather Service (NWS). Using a number of software forecasting products developed by the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the output will then be delivered to local leaders near real time.

The radar's journey to the Gunnison basin began with a phone call to Upper Gunnison General Manager Sonja Chavez and Gunnison County Emergency Manager Scott Morrill, both of whom have pushed to have the technology present in the valley.

Morrill said that he was glad he took the call and has "high hopes" the radar system will be a valuable tool for the basin.

"I think anybody that's lived in Gunnison or Crested Butte for any amount of time knows that the weather service radars out of Grand Junction don't reach into the valley," Morrill said. "And so there's significant gaps in radar coverage here."

Localized weather data will offer numerous benefits to the Gunnison community, with the potential to improve airport and emergency services, agricultural practices and ski area operations. The radar could become a resource for wildland firefighters, highway patrol and the Colorado Department of Transportation as well, by providing more accurate severe weather forecasts.

The radar will also be a tool for water resource managers as they attempt to monitor and adapt to drier conditions — creating a more complete map of where and how precipitation is falling across the basin. The district relies mostly on SNOTEL sites, limited to measuring snow



A rendering shows how the radar site will look on Big Mesa.

accumulation at single locations, and expensive Airborne Snow Observatory flights for surveying snowpack throughout the basin.

"If on a regular basis, we could better track where precipitation might be falling within the specific basins, then I think that will help our forecasting ability in terms of overall snowpack, and determining which basins might have the most and which we might anticipate might be struggling a bit ... I think if people know what's coming, it'll help them prepare," Chavez said.

Mountain topography and low populations are the reason many more remote areas in Colorado and the Western U.S. don't have access to reliable weather data. Large portions of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona are in the dark with limited or non-existent access to weather radar coverage. WSWP Project Manager Vern Tharp said their gap radars are designed to fill those voids.

"It's very difficult to effectively manage what you cannot accurately forecast," Tharp said.

According to WSWP, 80% of Colorado's snowpack and water comes from mountainous regions that are poorly covered by NWS radars. The closest radar to the Gunnison Valley is over 120 miles away in Grand

Junction, its range obstructed by the mountain peaks across the headwaters of the Colorado River.

"We need local assets to help us with our fires, our floods and our water management," Tharp said. "We need more data."

In Alamosa, the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District fought hard for its own gap radar, which is owned by the state. The radar has allowed water managers to improve their streamflow forecasts, which dictate how much water they send downstream to meet the obligations of the Rio Grande Compact. District Manager Heather Dutton said forecast errors caused economic and agricultural losses in their community.

"The more tools we have, the better off we'll be in being able to manage this resource," Dutton said.

"I'm very excited that Gunnison is getting a radar and the southwest is working on getting a radar," she said. "That will just all of the sudden light up this area in the state that's in the dark."

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

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Nate Seward uses his spotting scope to count grouse. "I'm not really a morning person but I can handle it for the season," he said. "I used to say I'd only get up this early for going turkey hunting, but I've come to appreciate it more and more when you get to see sights like the moon setting some of the Mill Creek rock formations."



Dan Zadra has been counting leks for nearly 30 years, watching the numbers fluctuate over time. "I like to think of the Paleo-Indians and all of the grouse they must've witnessed," he said.



John Scott has also been involved in Gunnison sage-grouse preservation for over 30 years. "The government agencies and the private landowners all have been willing to work together to try to do the right thing for the land."



Tasha Blecha has served as Colorado Parks and Wildlife's field coordinator for five years, organizing the lek counts each year. "I think there's just the curiosity to see how the population is doing," Blecha said.



John Scott hand writes his lek counts each morning.

Sage-grouse

from A1

and Wildlife (CPW).

The Gunnison Basin contains nearly 87% of the world's remaining Gunnison sage-grouse population. The bird has inspired collaborative conservation work across the Western Slope since research concluded it was a distinct species in 2000. Fewer than 3,500 individuals are left, and each year the population becomes more at risk as drought continues to ravage the West and winters are drier and more unpredictable.

Each spring during the bird's breeding season, the community comes together to organize early morning lek counts, using the data collected to create population estimates. The counters — consisting of wildlife biologists, retired volunteers, professors, students, ranchers and numerous others — blur traditional boundaries and form unlikely partnerships with federal, state and municipal agencies.

The conservation story of the Gunnison sage-grouse is one of both disappointment and

success, as the species' chance of survival narrows with the changing climate. Despite the odds, it is a perfect example of collaborative conservation, fueled by counters' dedication to sustaining a population of birds for generations to come.

Zadra has been counting at this particular lek for 30 years. When he first started visiting it, he would count 90 to 100 birds, he said. But last year that number dwindled to as low as 12.

"I love this lek, it's disappointing to me to see the numbers decrease," Zadra said.

Leks — a site where males gather to put on a flashy show to court prospective mates — are counted from April 1 to May 10. Counters record the number of males and females present, visiting active leks once during each 10-day period. The data collected then is used to create a population estimate. Although only about half of the leks are active, over 80 individual leks are counted each year. Some are counted more frequently, owing to volunteers who invest time in collecting good data — driven by their curiosity about the yearly rise and fall of the population.

"It's a large-scale, collaborative effort to get out there and get the number of counts we need across the entire Gunnison Basin," said Nate Seward, a wildlife conservation biologist with CPW. Although the lek-counting window is short, he spends 90% of the year working to preserve habitat for the grouse.

Seward first learned about the Gunnison sage-grouse when he took a job with the U.S. Forest Service in 1999, where he worked on rangeland and habitat improvements. He left the valley to finish his studies, but returned in 2007 to take a position as a conservation biologist, slowly becoming more involved each year.

Despite the sometimes unforgiving conditions of early springtime in the Gunnison Valley, he said the effort is worth it in the long run. Counters can watch a "natural theater" play out in front of them as coyotes and raptors and other wildlife enter the stage. Many lek counters return year after year to count the same leks, some for decades. Seward described a sense of ownership, driven by curiosity.

"Once you're involved in the effort, you're kind of reluctant to give your lek up and let someone else take over the counts," Seward said. "Because you're interested in following it in the longer term. Each lek is a little bit different. The numbers will increase and decrease, and it's hard to understand exactly why."

A front row seat

John Scott pulled out a chair and grabbed his spotting scope, opening the sliding door to his patio where he sits to watch his lek. Laughing, he said he probably has the easier counting around. He pointed to a stand of willows above the patch where the grouse strut each morning. When the birds join at the lek, the sound echoes off the hills behind his ranch.

Scott bought the ranch in 1985 and took a job as a conservation planner for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, where he spent time working to benefit local wildlife, including the Gunnison sage-grouse. He has since retired, but still counts the grouse almost every other day.

"All of these landowners want

to see wildlife on their property as well," Scott said. "Not only deer and elk, but jack rabbits, the smaller stuff and grouse. It's pretty easy to understand and see why they're special and over time ... I learned in wildlife 101 from my professor, he said diversity is the key to everything."

Down the road, local Gunnison rancher Sandy Guerrieri hopped in her Polaris Ranger, driving past piles of stacked hay. When she came to a stop, she gestured out to the open patch where her lek sits, the spring wind roaring through the grass. When she first started counting in 2005, she'd only come out to do official lek counts.

Driven by her lek's high numbers, nine years ago she started counting every day, keeping a journal of her observations — tracking coyote appearances and other predator sightings. Although she and her husband, Burt, a fifth-generation rancher, usually rise between 4 and 5 a.m. each morning, it still takes some dedication when the temperatures drop to 20 below.

"I don't feel obligated, but I feel responsible," she said.



Nate Seward holds a Gunnison sage-grouse egg shell from last year. Unfortunately it was too old to tell if it successfully hatched or was depredated.



A male Gunnison sage-grouse flashes his feathers as he tries to attract a female.

Her ranch and the surrounding rangeland have been placed under conservation easements — protecting the land from future development. Guerrieri said that is one of the most beneficial actions that can be done for the preservation of the sage-grouse.

“In our lifetime, we would never have sold or developed anything,” she said. “It’s not who we are, and so it’s a positive thing for the community and for wildlife and water.”

‘Our namesake bird’

Seward turned his headlamp on, his breath suddenly illuminated in darkness. He put his binoculars around his neck and started up the hill. He spoke a whisper, so as to not disturb the birds as his boots crunched across the frozen ground. The knob, exposed to the elements, overlooked the open rangelands of Ohio Creek Valley where the birds would dance.

Seward counted grouse under his breath, squinting through the eyepiece of the spotting scope. He stayed out in the cold until the breeze started to bite at his toes. Beyond the hills, the road wound past the

ranch, disappearing into the Anthracites.

He’s been counting the lek for at least 10 years, a ritual that depends on the rancher who owns the land, which is also protected from further development by a conservation easement. Each year CPW acknowledges private landowners for giving them access, because without it, there would be big holes in the data.

“I think we’re all in agreement, we want a robust population,” Seward said. “We want to protect the species so that future generations get to enjoy it. It’d be tragic to lose the species.”

“It’s a lot of responsibility for this community, but it’s our namesake bird so it’s very worthy of our efforts,” Seward said.

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

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Wildfires

from A1

have expanded the fire season, with wildfires already having hit the Front Range in April. In 2021, the fire season lasted until 2022, when on December 30, 2021, Boulder's Marshall Fire destroyed nearly 1,000 homes, one of the most destructive fire events in Colorado history. The Marshall Fire was a grass fire, showing that wildfire need not be burning trees to inflict serious damage.

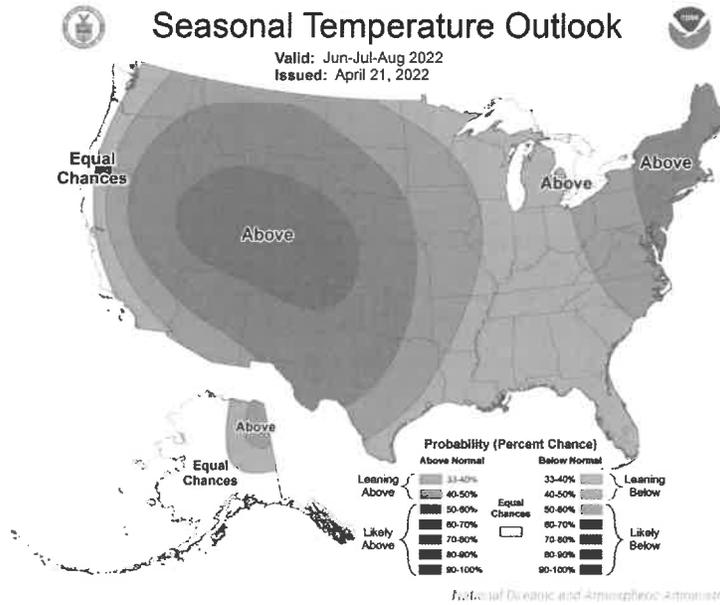
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forest Fire Management Officer Patrick Medina explained that the 2021 fire season, while starting out dry, was "fairly typical for us." The office received 20 calls, eight of which were related to human-caused fires.

Although snowfall throughout the mountains of the GMUG National Forests has been close to normal, long-range forecasts for the Western U.S. predict higher than normal temperatures, and below normal precipitation.

According to the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC), Colorado will see the persistence and expansion of drought conditions across the state and the emergence of above average, significant fire potential over the eastern portions of Colorado this spring. Continuation of the warm and dry conditions is expected to result in drought intensification and earlier than average spring snowpack runoff, leading to above normal large fire potential expanding across southern Colorado in May and throughout most of Colorado by June.

The CSFS recommends immediately taking these wildfire prevention precautions:

- Rake and remove pine needles and dry leaves five feet from the home, as well as under decks, porches, sheds and play



structures.

- Remove leaves and needles from roofs and gutters.
 - Sweep porches and decks clear of any burnable plant material.
 - Move firewood piles at least 30 feet from the house, preferably uphill.
 - Transfer items under decks or porches to a storage area.
 - Cover any exposed eave or attic vents with 1/8-inch metal mesh screening.
 - Ensure home address signs are clearly visible from the street.
 - Contact your local Office of Emergency Management to register for emergency notifications and encourage your friends, family and neighbors to do the same.
 - Confirm at least one alternate path out of your neighborhood other than the one most commonly used and be prepared for potential evacuation requiring the alternative route.
- "These are actions anyone

living adjacent to wildlands should put into practice," said Matt McCombs, state forester and director of the CSFS. "Last December's Marshall Fire was a tragic, eye-opening reminder that the wildland-urban interface includes grasslands, not just forests. Homeowners have a responsibility to themselves and their families, as well as their community, to prepare their home and property for wildfire, and these activities are the perfect place to start."

Prevention when outdoors

Besides taking steps to protect private property, according to the CSFS simple measures while recreating can reduce the fire risk and provide for a much safer outing.

"Know before you go by checking for closures or restrictions during periods of high fire danger," the press release states. "When traveling to and from your public lands, ensure that the chains to your trailer are not

dragging since these can spark wildfires. Your vehicle should also be equipped with a spark arrester. Do not park in tall, dry grass because the heat from your car can start a wildfire. If you smoke, smoke in your vehicle, and dispose of your cigarette properly."

If campfires or grills are allowed, clear vegetation away from the area and use a pre-existing campfire ring when possible. Have the proper tools to extinguish the campfire nearby before you light it, including a bucket, water and shovel. Keep your fire small and never leave it unattended. Flood your fire with plenty of water and be certain that the ashes are cold to the touch before leaving the area.

(Paul Wayne Foreman can be contacted at paul@gunnison-times.com.)

GHS STUDENTS TO HOST A WILDFIRE AWARENESS EXPO

Locally, Gunnison High School students are partnering with the Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department and Gunnison County Emergency Management to raise awareness about local wildfire risk and opportunities for fire mitigation.

"Students learned about the risk wildfire poses to our valley through the HEART Force program," GHS teacher Krystal Brown said. "They want to raise awareness of the resources available to residents on how to protect their families and homes from wildfire and fire safety in general."

"It's not a matter of if, but when we will be impacted by a wildfire and my students recognize that this could impact our most marginalized communities the most. They want everyone to come and get access to basic resources that can make a large difference in the event of a natural disaster," Brown said.

The 'Wildlife for a Wildfire' Awareness Expo will take place on Tuesday, May 17, from 6-8 p.m. at the Gunnison Volunteer Fire Department station, 201 West New York Street. Free dinner will be provided.

During the event, community members will learn about wildfire risk from local fire experts. Participants will also have the opportunity to sign up for the local emergency alert system, learn about City of Gunnison resilience efforts, get information on where to apply for wildfire mitigation grants and talk to insurance agents to make sure they are properly insured in the event that a fire occurs.

For more information about the event, please contact the HEART Force program coordinator at katya.schloesser@colorado.edu.

Council

from A1

was first revealed in March after nearly a year of compiling data and conducting interviews within the community.

The process began during the summer of 2020 when the department began to see signs of mental health challenges from the pandemic. Kari Commerford, one of the lead authors and the director of Gunnison County Juvenile Services, said the department quickly realized it needed to look at not only mental health, but also behavioral health — studying environmental factors including housing, food insecurity, jobs, income, childcare access, home life and social isolation, all of which contribute to an individual's mental and physical health outcomes.

"Behavioral health is very much like an ecosystem, where every tree, every bird and every rock has an important role in the health of the other pieces," said John Powell, the lead inves-

tigator on the report and data and communications coordinator for Juvenile Services.

When examining the connection between living standards and health, the study found that high financial stress can exert a large influence on behavioral health. The median household income in Gunnison County is \$56,000, which is below the state figure by \$15,000. Income for service and tourism sector jobs, prevalent in the valley, also remain low, often below \$40,000 per year.

Powell also defined a "self-sufficiency standard," or the cost that it takes to meet basic needs without the need for governmental assistance, based on a study from the University of Washington. Applying the standard to Gunnison, the local researchers estimated that 30-45% of Gunnison County residents live below the self-sufficiency benchmark, quantifying the presence of chronic poverty and social hardships.

"Many people turn to more than one job to make ends meet, which really forces trade

offs and tough choices in families," he said. "Parents are home less often to overlap with children or spouses, and things are forgotten when you don't have time to take care of your health because you're working more."

The report took a closer look at affordable and available housing, noting that population growth has been almost twice housing unit growth for the past decade — pushing community members to leave the valley, because they are unable to purchase or rent a home. Data revealed that rental rates within the City of Gunnison have increased by about 8% a year since 2012.

"There's not too many household incomes that are keeping up with that rate of growth," said Jeff Moffett of the Crested Butte firm Triple Point Strategic Consulting, another main co-author on the report.

Some of the outcomes resulting from the socioeconomic conditions in the valley were illustrated by increased behavioral health related admissions to the emergency depart-

ment over the last three years. According to the document, from the end of 2020 to the end of 2021, Gunnison Valley Health (GVH) saw an increase of over 200% in behavioral health related visits. Of those, roughly 55% were substance abuse related, while 20% strictly involved mental health.

The contributing factors fueling the increase vary widely, including limited access to higher levels of care within the community, the increasing potency of drugs, a lack of a support system and treatment early on and sometimes limited collaboration among behavior health organizations, Powell said.

He noted a positive shift in the collaborative work already occurring in the community, drawing attention to the introduction of jail-based behavioral health services, GVH's Mobile Crisis Team and school-based social worked within the Gunnison Watershed School District — actions being taken to address behavioral health issues before they "end in cri-

sis."

Council Member Mallory Logan said the city has seen a number of grassroots mental health organizations, like Mental Madness, host events and try to tackle the problem on their own.

"I think reaching out to those groups that are self-started, and not led by governmental agencies, can be really a helpful place to look for feedback and ideas, or really just empowering them to reach their people," she said.

City Manager Russ Forrest told the Times that city staff will continue to push for affordable housing wherever they can because it has such an impact on behavioral health.

"If you don't have affordable, attainable housing, then that creates a lot of stress," Forrest said.

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

Western Water Futures Games to highlight rural water rights

47th annual workshop to be held at Western

Bella Biondini

Times Associate Editor



Bella Biondini

Western Colorado University will host the 47th annual Colorado Water Workshop May 23-25, focused on the transfer of rural water rights to support growing urban populations.

After over 40 years as a traditional water conference, the workshop recently shifted to a new model, rebranding itself as the “Western Water Futures Games.” As opposed to a traditional conference format, with experts speaking to passive audience members, the games encourage participants to collaborate and imagine new solutions to the water issues that many communities across the West face.

Professionals working in water-related fields and undergraduate and graduate students from all backgrounds are encouraged to put together a team to bring to the Games. Individuals may also attend and will be assigned to a team at the workshop.

It is much more interactive and engaged, focusing on the next generation of water leaders for Colorado and the West, said Workshop Director Jeff Sellen.

“The overarching goal is to help create a new generation of water professionals that will face some very serious challenges with declining water supply due to climate change, and increasing populations as more and more people move to the West,” Sellen said.

The workshop will feature three intensive days of research, brainstorming and collaboration on evolving water issues in partnership with current water leaders. It will include presentations from Natasha Léger, interim executive director of Citizens For A Healthy Community and Regina Lopez-Whiteskunk of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, as well as others. On the final day of the workshop, each group will give a presentation on the particular issue it has researched.

The workshop will also feature a showing of the film “Farm to Faucet,” on May 24, which focuses on the controversial proposal to transfer water from the drought stricken San Luis Valley to Douglas County on

the Front Range — an action that could dry up 10,000 acres of farmland and harm ecosystems throughout the valley. Filmmaker Christi Bode will be in attendance for a discussion and Q&A.

In the past, the event has attracted students and faculty from universities across the state. Cheryl Cwelich, watershed program coordinator at the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, attended the workshop in 2019 while she was still a student at Western.

“It’s a great way for students to network with other water professionals and to also learn from them and their experiences,” Cwelich said. “It’s a unique format ... and just a really creative way to get people thinking about the issues that we’re facing.”

Workshop organizers chose to kick off the new model at a difficult time — right before COVID hit — but so far it’s been successful, Sellen said.

“I see real promise in it,” Sellen said. “I think the participants have been real hungry for something different, something where they are more engaged and can dig more deeply into particular water issues.”

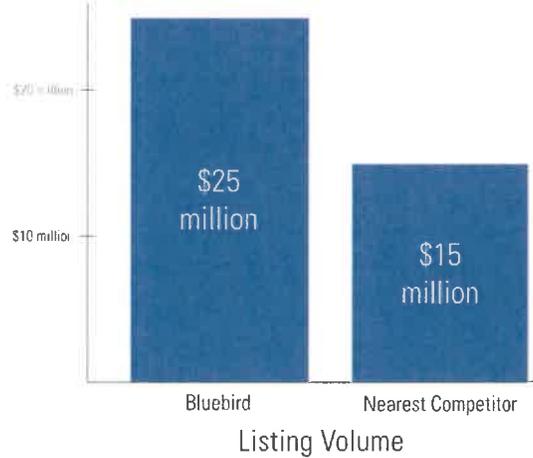
The workshop costs \$75 and includes two breakfasts and two lunches. Scholarships are available to participants in need. To learn more or want to participate, contact Jeff Sellen at jsellen@western.edu.

(Bella Biondini can be contacted at 970.611.1414 or bella@gunnisontimes.com.)

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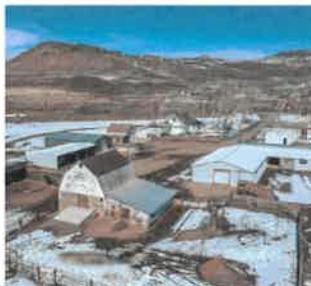
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SPORTS: Track team eyes state, B7



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SAVVY SENIOR: Navigating Alzheimer's costs, B10



ROUNDUP

GUNNISON COUNTRY TIMES • THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022



Jason Lakey walks along the river's edge after being washed downstream.

Jacob Spetzler

Finding the perfect glassy wave

RIVER SURFERS ORGANIZE TO GROW THE SPORT AND MAINTAIN WHAT THEY ALREADY HAVE

Jacob Spetzler

Photo and Sports Editor

The water on Monday afternoon was icy — early season flows are just beginning to rise from snow melt coming down off the mountains. A line of wetsuit-clad river surfers, part of the newly formed Gunnison Waves group, created a loose and jolly line between two bushes slightly upstream of second wave at the Gunnison River Whitewater Park. More surfers came down the path from the parking lot, high fiving and hugging as they joined the line.

One at a time, each surfer pushed out and let the current pull them down into the pocket of the wave. Almost everyone managed to stay in the wave while prone on their boards, but standing was another challenge. Only a few seemed to really have mastered the move. Bo Thomsen, who introduced himself as “Two-thirds of Bob” with a big mischievous grin, was by the far the most accomplished river surfer — so comfortable in the swirl of bubbling water that he curved and played from side to side, exploring every part of the glassy face of the wave.

Thomsen said he came by his love for river surfing mostly by circumstance. As a Gunnison native, he grew up kayaking, but he came from a family of surfers, he said. Family vacations to the warm, salty version of the sport meant he learned it growing up.

“I think 14 years ago now, 2007, I started bringing the kayak and surfboard. And then over time, well, the kayak didn't really show up anymore,” he said, laughing.

Jason Lakey and Andy Sovick officially started Gunnison Waves. Like Thomsen, Lakey got to know the sport

through other parts of the whitewater community.

“I was just on a raft with a couple of friends,” he said. “We got out of the takeout, and I looked down and saw these guys in the water and came down and started watching them. Elaine Boscaro was there and he had a holey wetsuit and a boogie board and said ‘go jump in.’ And I’ve been hooked ever since.”

Lakey and Sovick were working as carpenters together at the time.

“He was just obsessed,” said Sovick.

River Surfers B2



Sean Turner gets a face full of water after an unsuccessful attempt at standing.



Jacob Spetzler

Bo Thomsen laughs while waiting in line to surf.

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THE COLORADO WATER WORKSHOP PRESENTS:
Farm to Faucet

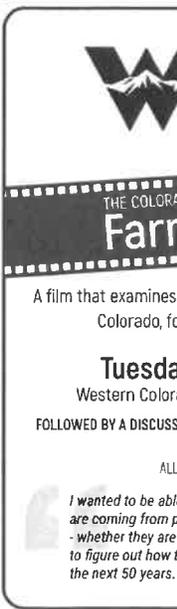
A film that examines the many competing visions for water in Colorado, focusing on rural and urban uses

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FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION LED BY THE FILMMAKER, CHRISTI BODE SKEIE

ALL ARE WELCOME. NO CHARGE!

I wanted to be able to offer some solutions. These ideas are coming from people who live and breathe these issues - whether they are a farmer or a water provider that is trying to figure out how to secure water supply for their town for the next 50 years. - Christi Bode Skeie




Bo Thomsen paddles out to the wave as the current pulls him downstream.

River Surfers

from B1

"He would show up late to work and take long lunch breaks and he's like, you gotta go, man, you gotta come."

In the years since, Sovick has moved on to publishing, and Lakey started his own carpentry business, the name of which, Second Wave Renovations, proudly proclaims his extracurricular passion.

They say the park took a hit during the darker days of the pandemic.

"It was really during COVID, that year, when all of a sudden, things were shut down, and everyone was understaffed, there was actually no one coming down here. This place got pretty overgrown and there was some shady action happening down here," Sovick said.

The two started Gunnison Waves last year to organize not just surfing, but caretaking.

"It's a way to unite all of the river surfers and the river surfing community, kayakers included," Lakey said. "A lot of us had been coming down and cleaning up the park on our own. We just wanted to get everybody together to just say, hey, let's do a spring cleanup, let's do a fall cleanup."

Now the group is on a new mission: advocating for a renovation of the waves. The Gunnison River Whitewater Park was built almost 20 years



Kyle Warren surfs second wave.

ago, in 2003, and some of the underwater concrete structures that create the waves are worn from years of exposure to river flows. The group is worried a big water year could damage or destroy the structures, possibly creating a safety hazard.

During the Gunnison River Festival this summer, on

Sunday, June 12, the group will hold a fundraiser for wave improvements. It will double as a way to grow the sport with a surf jam contest and a women's intro class, among other events.

(Jacob Spetzler can be contacted at 970.641.1414 or jacob@gunnisonontimes.com.)



Sean Turner rides the waves at the Whitewater Park.

Jacob Spetzler



HAPPY CINCO DE MAYO!



GUNNISON COUNTRY TIMES

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Kayne Redden waits in line with his goat Cinnamon.

Bella Biondini

Goats, sheep and swine

On Sunday, the Gunnison County 4-H Club held its small animal weigh-in and tagging at the fairgrounds. Kids brought their goats, sheep and pigs to the livestock scale and will work to achieve target weights over the course of the program. "Part of what they learn in 4-H is how to manage the rate of gain for the animal because that's important if you're going to be an animal producer — to know how big they are getting and how fast and how to modulate their feed," said Perri Pelletier, Gunnison County's 4-H youth development agent.

School district masking lawsuit dismissed

Complaint deemed 'moot' after mandate lifted

Alan Wartes
Times Publisher

Gunnison's 7th Judicial District Chief Judge J. Steven Patrick has dismissed a lawsuit filed last fall against the Gunnison Watershed School District Board and District Superintendent Leslie Nichols. He also dismissed Michael Spritzer and McKenna Basara, two of the remaining three plaintiffs in the case, for lack of standing since their son is no longer enrolled in the district.

The remaining plaintiff, Tomas Gomez, is considering whether to appeal the decision. "I'm a little bit disappointed with the overall dismissal of the case based on mootness," Gomez said. "I think that from my point of view ... the case cannot be moot, because we haven't received any

School lawsuit on A6

Upper Gunnison to develop drought contingency plan for basin

Grant funding would help improve water resiliency in the basin

Bella Biondini
Times Associate Editor

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District applied for a grant that would give it funds to develop a basin-wide drought mitigation plan —



Drought Plan on A6 Blue Mesa Reservoir is not expected to fill more than 50% in 2022.

Bella Biondini

Commissioners vote to increase permitting fees

Move reduces taxpayer subsidy of development review costs

Paul Wayne Foreman
Times Staff Writer

The Board of County Commissioners at their Tuesday regular meeting approved a motion to substantially increase the fees charged for land use change reviews, building permits, and

Building fees on A7

Congratulations Western Colorado University Class of 2022
You are Inspiring!

BRIEFS

Gunnison Ranger District announces spring road closures

The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Gunnison Ranger District has begun spring road closures to protect roads from damage and reduce the need for additional maintenance.

Roads closed for mud season restrictions are not open to the public for motorized travel until road conditions are dry. The district also has implemented the following annual wildlife closures for big game and Gunnison sage-grouse protection:

- Almont Triangle (closed to all public uses Nov. 22-May 15)
- Flat Top Mountain (closed to motorized travel Jan. 1-June 15)
- Steers Gulch/Antelope (closed to motorized travel Jan. 1-June 30)

As a reminder, when trails and roads are muddy or soft, please **STAY OFF**. Anytime visible ruts are being formed resources damage can occur. Ruts create channels where water flows, causing fine sediments to wash off the road, and into aquatic habitat. Rutted out roads can also significantly increase maintenance costs.

Crested Butte hosts Colorado Outdoor Leadership Summit

The annual Colorado Outdoor Industry Leadership Summit (COILS) — a two-day event of networking, idea sharing and expert discussions to build and sustain the outdoor industry in Colorado — will take place on May 19 and 20 in Crested Butte.

Panel topics include outdoor recreation as a means for rural economic diversification and development, entrepreneurship in the outdoor industry and balancing outdoor recreation and conservation values in the Gunnison Valley.

Registration for COILS 2022 is sold out. To get on the waitlist, email Angela Noonan, at angela@co-eventsllc.com.

Aspinall flows update

Releases from the Aspinall Unit will be increased from 500 to 700 cfs on Saturday, April 30. Currently snowpack in the Upper Gunnison Basin is 91% of normal and the forecasted April-July runoff volume for Blue Mesa Reservoir is 80% of average.

Flows in the lower Gunnison River are currently above the baseflow target of 890 cfs. River flows are expected to stay at levels above the baseflow target for the foreseeable future.

Currently, Gunnison Tunnel diversions are 125 cfs and flows in the Gunnison River through the Black Canyon are around 350 cfs. After this release change Gunnison Tunnel diversions will be around 125 cfs and flows in the Gunnison River through the Black Canyon will be near 550 cfs. It is possible that diversions to the Gunnison Tunnel will restart this weekend, in which case river flows will be lower than 550 cfs.

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IT'S OKAY TO NOT BE OKAY

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH –

an opportunity for us to assess the mental health of ourselves and those in our community. It's a time to remind people that it's okay to not be okay. That our individual struggles are real. And that there are people around us who want to help, even when it feels like there aren't.

Teenagers and college-aged young people are often navigating significant obstacles, stressors, and trauma on their own for the first time, with little direction as to where they can turn when life feels overwhelming.

According to Gunnison's State of the Community 2022 Report, recent trends at Western Colorado University (WCU) indicate high levels of stress, substance abuse, and isolation for students, as well as insufficient services to address the symptoms and root causes of behavioral health issues.

Counselors are available on campus, and a telehealth option has been recently added for WCU students and staff. But in the minds of some current and former students, everyone could benefit from a larger culture shift on campus and in the community. Jeremy is a recent graduate who still lives in Gunnison and works full-time at a business in town. Sierra is a current full-time student, who also works full-time in Gunnison.

WCU, like most universities in recent years, has seen too many students' stories end in them taking their own lives. "It [suicide] unfortunately became less surprising. I never really had time to process before the next one happened. You just kind of had to get used to it, which was a really tough feeling to have going through college," Jeremy said.

"I was already comfortable with people dying. And I was focused on my own survival," Sierra added. "It hurts my heart when I think about the people going through it right now."

Jeremy transferred to Western after his freshman year, from a larger state school in the Midwest, close to where he spent much of his childhood. Sierra found Western after growing up in rural northeast Colorado, and received an academic scholarship that she is determined to make the most of. Each arrived in Gunnison having experienced more in life than most people

"THERE IS A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS EVERYWHERE. BUT PEOPLE ARE CHOOSING TO AND FEEL COMFORTABLE TALKING ABOUT IT HERE. THAT'S IMPORTANT."

twice their age, so they were already in a habit of tending to their mental health and building up their coping skills.

Even so, they struggled too. "I have this bad personality trait where I put everybody else before I put myself," Jeremy said. "The more I focused on others, the more I drifted in my own mental health. And the counselor I went to made it more about himself than it was about me."

Both Sierra and Jeremy decided to get involved in life on campus, assuming student-leadership positions that allowed them to care for other students and provide resources to address things like mental health, isolation, loneliness, and anxiety.

"You have to yell that you need help. You have to talk about it, and if you don't, that's how you end up resentful. It's real, it's happening, and you have to process it, even if it's not to a therapist," Sierra said.

Despite each of their own struggles with mental health and suicidal ideations, they were both keenly aware of the battles being fought by their peers all around them. "I was always told, 'you never know who has it worse than you,'" Jeremy said. "If I can help just one person, out of everyone that I've met, to me that's good."

They both recognize the realities of life in Gunnison, and the way that impacts both the symptoms and treatment of mental health disorders. "It's a lack of availability. And it's unaffordable. That's not something you can really solve in a day. People don't get paid enough, and housing is a crisis. If I can't even really afford to be here, how can I afford my mental health? So, it's just on the backburner," Sierra said.

Jeremy and Sierra found each other at Western, and started dating shortly after. They bonded amidst trauma and continue to strengthen their bond as they work through it. "We're both pretty understanding about it. If it wasn't for Sierra, I wouldn't be going to therapy," Jeremy said.

They both plan on relocating to pursue postgraduate degrees once Sierra finishes at Western, but they've found enough of a community in Gunnison to feel positive about their remaining time here. And while there is still room for improvement in the culture on campus, they think that mental health initiatives in the community are improving.

"Mental health isn't talked about in the town I grew up in, and it's a similar-sized rural town in Colorado. There is a mental health crisis everywhere. But people are choosing to and feel comfortable talking about it here. That's important," Sierra said.

Throughout this month of May, let's all make it a priority to recognize how important it is to check in on each other, and keep in mind that we never know what it is that someone may be going through.

If you or someone you know may be considering suicide, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 (En Español: 1-888-628-9454; Deaf and Hard of Hearing: 1-800-799-4889) or the Crisis Text Line by texting HOME to 741741.

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2016 CLAYTON HOME features a large master bedroom suite with soaker tub, 2 additional bedrooms and a second living area. Open kitchen & living area, upgraded counter tops & cabinets. Just over 1,000 sq feet! 301 S. 2nd St. #73; \$125,000.

MOUNTAIN GETAWAY Home on 5 mining claims in Ohio City features an excellent mixture of wildlife, nearby trails, aspen, pines & 300 feet of Gold Creek frontage. 3 bdrm/2 bath house, huge attached garage, large detached barn touched by Forest Service lands. Gold and Silver mine. 5498 County Road 771; \$1,750,000.

NEW LISTING Gorgeous 2 bdrm/2 bath Fairway condo near the Dos Rios Golf Course features fully remodeled kitchen & bathrooms, balcony off the master bedroom, a partially fenced backyard & 1 car attached garage. 105 Shavano Dr. #B-3; \$399,000.

SPORTSMANS RESORT in Ohio City features a 3 bdrm/1 bath, 1808sf main house with year-round access location, mature trees, all positioned on 1.28 acres. Rustic cabins onsite would make great storage. 116 County Road 771; \$499,900.

NEW LISTING Neat and tidy, 2 bdrm/2 bath condo with a one car attached garage. Would make for a great first time home or investment property. 308 S. 11th St. Unit #3; \$325,000.

View listings at: www.clarkeagency.net

Great American Outdoors Act funds Alpine Tunnel repair and trail maintenance



Bella Biondini

The Gunnison Ranger District hosts a beaver dam building day at Trail Creek in September, 2021.

Beaver dam construction to continue at Taylor Park

Bella Biondini
Times Associate Editor

Land managers are applying federal funds to a multitude of projects across the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, including campground redesign, trail restoration and kiosk replacements with the overall goal of taking care of the existing resources and increasing access to public lands.

In 2020, Congress passed the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), establishing the National Park and Public Lands Legacy Restoration Fund. This act provides \$1.9 billion a year for five years solely for deferred maintenance backlog on public lands across the nation. National Forest Foundation GMUG project coordinator Maddie Rehn and GAOA Program Manager Jon Dornan gave the Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Committee an update on the maintenance projects planned for 2022 during its regular meeting on April 28.

Prior to the passage of GAOA, the Department of the Interior — overseeing the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management — identified a total deferred maintenance backlog of \$16.5 billion. The Forest Service recorded over \$5.2 billion on its own lands in 2018, more than 10 times its budget for infrastructure and maintenance, according to officials.

The NFF and the GMUG are collaborating on numerous projects to address deferred maintenance on the forest using funds provided by GAOA. In

addition to coordinating projects, the NFF is also raising private and state dollars to match the federal funding to help the projects go further.

Last year was the first year of non-motorized trail restoration and local organizations worked on five trails across four of the five GMUG districts. In the Gunnison Ranger District, the Crested Butte Mountain Bike Associate improved the tread and drainage on almost seven miles of the popular 401 Trail, while Gunnison Trails did maintenance in the West Elk Wilderness.

NFF Program Manager Joe Lavorini called attention to the increasing amount of pressure on the valley's public lands and GAOA's mission to help relieve it.

"People are always excited about the sweet new thing, but GAOA is all about taking care of what we already have, and addressing deferred maintenance. I think that really is important, we need to take care of existing resources."

In 2022, NFF is looking to maintain an additional seven to eight trails. Lavorini said he expects the amount of funding to grow in future years after over 200 miles of deferred maintenance were identified throughout the area.

"It's almost a never ending task. But with that scope growing and the amount of funding growing, I think the partnerships are going to need to grow as well," he said.

Along with kiosk replacements at 14 sites in the Gunnison District, the NFF also plans to tackle campground and day area redesign at Lake Irvin in Crested Butte and Deer Lakes outside of Lake City. The design phase will start this summer and continue through early fall, with construction starting in 2023.

Alpine Tunnel Road repair

In 2016, an avalanche caused significant damage to the historic Palisade Wall near Pitkin,

making the road impassable. Without maintenance, it has remained closed for nearly six years. In 2022, GAOA funds will be used begin a what will likely be a three-phase project that will extend through 2024.

Rehn, who coordinates projects on the GMUG for the NFF, said the goal is to rebuild that wall in the historic fashion that it was originally built and to repair and reopen the road. The project will likely take three years to complete, with design work beginning this summer.

Dorman said he expects phase one construction, rock sealing the cliff faces above the Palisade Wall, to begin in late May and conclude by the end of June. A small section of National Forest Road 839 will be closed up to the entrance of the Alpine Tunnel due to the risk of rockfall.

Taylor Park wetland restoration

In 2021, the Forest Service, along with numerous local partners, completed wetland restoration work by constructing beaver dams at Trail Creek as part of a pilot project. After a successful phase one, they decided to proceed with the second phase in 2022, with work set to begin in August.

Forest Service Hydrologist and project lead Ashley Hom told the committee that she hopes to return this year with bigger crews, doubling the amount of beaver mimicry dams the team is able to build.

Hom said a large part of the project's success is from the number of volunteers involved, creating "big pulses" in the amount of work the team was able to get done.

"We're just excited to keep getting our feet wet with Trail Creek and keep building momentum," Hom said.

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

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Local Service Since 1994

School lawsuit

from A1

answers on the questions that we raised, and the potential for the school district to continue to violate our rights through a new mandate or some other action, in the same ballpark, is still there.”

School Board President Tyler Martineau wrote in an email, “I will say for myself that I am glad this lawsuit has been dismissed by Judge Patrick. The lawsuit has so far cost the school district over \$52,000 in legal fees. All but \$5,000 of this expense will be initially covered by the school district’s insurance. However, all of the cost will likely be passed along back to schools and to taxpayers through higher insurance premiums in the future. This is money that would have been better spent educating our community’s kids.”

Four plaintiffs, including Gomez and David Justice — filed the lawsuit on Oct. 6, 2021 seeking judicial review and declaratory and injunctive relief on questions arising from a district-wide mask mandate

ordered by Nichols shortly after classes resumed in the fall.

The suit’s complaints alleged, among other things, that Nichols lacked the authority to impose the mandate, that district policy had not been followed in the decision-making process and parental rights regarding the health and welfare of their children had been violated.

“We were arguing that the school board doesn’t have the authority under the police power of the state to exercise police authority over issues of health,” Justice said. “The health department was set up for that. No more than the health department can champion educational issues, can the education department champion health issues.”

Plaintiffs in the case argued that since both the state of Colorado and Gunnison County had ended mandated masking at the time of Nichols’ decision to require masks in district schools, the decision was not founded in public health authority and was therefore, “arbitrary.”

On Jan. 2, 2022, the defendants in the case filed a motion

to dismiss all seven complaints. Then on Feb. 14, 2022, Nichols rescinded the mask mandate for all students, faculty, staff and visitors in Gunnison Watershed schools and facilities. Although not all of Nichols’ “Mask Exit Strategy” metrics had been met, she stated in an email to the community that “because of ... changes in the nature of the virus and our ability to respond effectively to illness, our Mask Exit Strategy metrics are no longer reliable indicators of the need for universal masking.”

On March 10, 2022, Patrick partially granted the defendants’ motion by dismissing four of the seven complaints. He also dismissed Justice from the case entirely for lack of standing. Unlike the other plaintiffs, Justice had no children enrolled in the district, but had claimed standing based on residency within district boundaries.

A key element in determining standing — that is, the legal right to sue someone — is whether the plaintiff stands to suffer harm or injury without court intervention.

In his written ruling dated April 26, Patrick agreed with the defense motion seeking dis-

missal which stated that, since the mask mandate had been rescinded, “Plaintiffs’ lawsuit is moot because any relief granted by the Court would have no practical legal effect and there is no live controversy amongst the parties.” Patrick ruled that the court could offer no remedy for alleged harm from a mandate that no longer existed.

He did acknowledge, however, that the claim of injury could return should the mandate be reinstated, and that core elements of the plaintiffs’ complaints had not been fully adjudicated “on the merits.”

“(The) District rescinded the mask mandate in response to declining COVID case numbers within the community, declining hospitalizations, and increasing rates of vaccination,” Patrick wrote in the ruling. “Even so, the Superintendent’s announcement of this action concedes that the mandate could be reimposed if future variants of the virus ‘require a collective commitment to wearing masks.’ It is certainly possible that the mandate will be reimposed if the community experiences another increase in COVID case numbers or

hospitalizations. The matter is, therefore, capable of repetition despite the District’s recent action. It is also potentially capable of evading review because a mask mandate can be reimposed and rescinded again before Plaintiffs’ claims are ever resolved on the merits.”

“I’m not a huge fan and taking moral victories from things, but (Patrick) seemed to at least indicate that the case had merit, and that it was a close call in terms of whether to finally dismiss it or not,” said Gomez.

Nichols said, “We had a lot of feedback on all sides, all ends of the spectrum about the mask issue in particular, and recognize that that’s a very narrow piece of all the work we did to manage COVID to keep our schools open for the duration without closure. And we do listen ... and then a decision has to be made. I listened hard and ... sometimes that decision isn’t what a lot of people wish it were. It doesn’t mean we haven’t listened.”

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

Drought plan

from A1

a directive that would create water conservation guidelines as dry conditions persist in both the valley and across the Western U.S.

The initiative, called WaterSMART, is part of the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Drought Response program and is designed to provide

improve water supply reliability and increase education and awareness throughout the valley.

BOR Resource Conservationist Gary McRae said the agency’s goal is to help water districts across the Intermountain West and West respond to the drought by mitigating it on a local basis.

“Anytime that we can address and especially plan for drought that benefits everybody — both local and regional communities,” McRae said.

The Upper Gunnison would use the funding to establish a taskforce that would create and implement a local drought response program. Upper Gunnison General Manager Sonja Chavez described an example of what the plan could look like, using progressing stages of drought, each with various mitigation actions that the community could take to reduce their water use in response.

At the first stage, no restrictions would be in place, and the district would do more education and outreach to let residents know drought is present in the valley, Chavez said. The second could involve a voluntary restriction, such as asking community members to cut back on their water use. As drought conditions become more severe, restrictions may be implemented to preserve water across the valley such as lawn watering restrictions. The district anticipates that the plan will need to be reevaluated and updated annually to account for the anticipated growth in the Upper Gunnison watershed.

“The whole idea is to choose what you would do to collec-



Blue Mesa Reservoir on April 22.

Bella Biondini

“One of the key things we’re looking at is how we can be more resilient and prepared for less water in the future.”

Russ Forrest

financial assistance to water managers to update existing drought plans and to develop new ones with the goal of building long-term resiliency.

Although the community is experiencing impacts from the widespread drought firsthand, with Blue Mesa not expected to fill more than 50% this summer, the Upper Gunnison Basin presently has no comprehensive plan of its own. District staff hope to use this funding to collaborate with community leaders to plan for and reduce the risk of water shortages,

tively conserve,” Chavez said. “And then how do you minimize conflict? Even with the recreational community, obviously that’s really important economically to our community. What can we do to try and ensure that we mitigate the economic impact as much as possible?”

The district will pair the development of the drought contingency plan with other on-going drought mitigation efforts in both the north and south valleys including municipal source water protection planning, identifying wildfire zones and critical infrastructure and land use code updates. Chavez said she plans to proceed with the plan even if grant funding is not received.

If the grant is awarded, the federal dollars offered by the

BOR require a 50% match from the applicant. Numerous local organizations and entities offered their support for the project including the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition, the Gunnison County Stockgrowers Association, Western Colorado University, the City of Gunnison, the Town of Crested Butte and American Whitewater.

Kestrel Kunz, a stewardship director at American Whitewater, emphasized the need to be proactive and to have a diverse group of stakeholders working together to develop the plan.

“Having recreation represented on the task force is going to be really important in developing a holistic plan that both supports consumptive water uses and also ensures

healthy rivers for the environment and for recreation,” Kunz said.

The City of Gunnison committed \$33,000 to assist the Upper Gunnison with the development of the drought contingency plan. In April, city staff adopted Gunni CARES, the community’s first comprehensive sustainability plan. City Manager Russ Forrest said one of the large components of the plan is managing water resources within the city. “One of the key things we’re looking at is how we can be more resilient and prepared for less water in the future,” Forrest said.

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



SO MUCH MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER.



GUNNISON COUNTRY TIMES

\$1.00
Vol. 141, No. 17
Thursday,
April 28,
2022



Jacob Spetzler

Caring for the riverbank

Bo Thomsen collects leaves and twigs along the edge of the Gunnison River Whitewater Park. On Saturday, community members came together for a day of trash pick-up. Though the event focused on the river, groups were dispatched all over town and out onto the highway to clean up before summer.

No charges against officers involved in GardenWalk shooting

Investigation finds use of "deadly physical force" justified

Bella Biondini
Times Associate Editor

The District Attorney's Office has decided not to press charges against the Gunnison Police Department officers involved in an incident in which police officers shot and killed a man at the GardenWalk apartments on Nov. 11, 2021. The report concluded that the officers

GardenWalk A9

County chooses Buena Vista builder for fairgrounds housing

14th Street project named 'Sawtooth' by planners

Paul Wayne Foreman
Times Staff Writer

Gunnison County Commissioners have selected Fading West, a Buena Vista modular housing manufacturer, to construct a new affordable housing complex in Gunnison.

Named "Sawtooth" by commissioners and staff, the 34-unit project will be located on South 14th Street just to the west of the Gunnison County Fairgrounds, the site of the Cattlemen's Days carnival. After a review of this county-owned parcel by county planners, using the site to construct affordable housing was determined to be its highest and best use.

Site work in Gunnison is
Fairgrounds A6

Rescuing Dasha



Jacob Spetzler

Wartime ordeal ends in reunion for Western student

Jacob Spetzler
Times and Sports Editor

Mykyta Zavorodko expected to spend 32 hours celebrating a reunion with his Ukrainian wife at the famous beach front Hotel del Coronado in San Diego. Instead, he experienced a day and a half of pure anxiety.

Mykyta, who goes by Nick in the U.S., was waiting to hear an update on the status or location of his wife, Dasha, from the U. S. Border Patrol. She had requested asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border the day before.

Dasha A6

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BRIEFS

East Portal Road open

East Portal Road, located east of Montrose, will open on Friday, April 29 at 8 a.m. The road, beginning at the junction with State Highway 347, provides access to the Gunnison River within the Curecanti National Recreation Area, the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Crystal Dam.

East Portal Road will remain open throughout the summer and fall until snow, ice or rockslides make it unsafe for travel.

2022 drought response plan approved

On April 21, the Upper Colorado River Commission and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation approved the 2022 Drought Response Operations Plan which calls for 500,000 acre-feet of water to be released from Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

The 2022 plan covers the period from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023 and will now travel to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior for final approval.

"Developing the 2022 Drought Response Operations Plan is an unprecedented and significant action by the Upper Colorado River Basin states to protect the Colorado River system for all who rely on it. The 500,000 acre-feet to be released from Flaming Gorge Reservoir in the coming year is in addition to the 161,000 acre-feet of water previously released from Blue Mesa and Flaming Gorge Reservoirs," said Colorado River Commissioner Becky Mitchell. "In total, the Upper Basin has contributed 661,000 acre-feet of water to protect critical elevations at Lake Powell. The Upper Basin states are doing our part to protect the Colorado River system."

Colorado taxpayers can expect \$400 tax rebate this summer

On Monday morning, Colorado Gov. Jared Polis and Democratic lawmakers announced that individual taxpayers will get \$400 and families will get \$800 this summer as part of a voter-approved Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR).

Eligible Colorado residents should receive their rebate in the mail as soon as August, according to officials. The program is available to full-time residents who file their 2021 tax return by May 31.

"The cost of living has hit Coloradans hard during an already stressful time and folks are unsure if they can weather the next emergency," said Senator Kerry Donovan, who represents portions of the Western Slope, including Gunnison County. "Our communities need immediate relief and getting these checks to people sooner rather than later will help buy groceries or fill up the tank."

SHARE YOUR VOICE THROUGH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN YOUR COMMUNITY



Residents often ask how they can get involved in local government and are excited when they hear that there are multiple ways to participate. The City of Gunnison is sharing a variety of options for engagement. They include participating in focus groups on selected topics, attending City Council* meetings, running for City Council (next election is November 2023), or joining a City Board/Commission or Committee. Getting involved in a Council-appointed Board/Commission or a Committee is one of the most effective ways for your voice to be heard, to contribute to Council's decision-making process, and to experience and learn about the inner workings of local government.

One of the neat aspects about serving on a Board/Commission, or Committee is that each group has its own unique purpose, defined goals, and format. Whatever your interest is, the City bets there is a committee for you! And fortunate for you, the City of Gunnison has vacancies on multiple Boards/Commissions and Committees. What is your personal and/or professional interest and could it contribute to City involvement?

Are you interested in working with Community Development on city planning and the long-term design of Gunnison? Apply to join the **Planning & Zoning Commission**. Two vacancies available.

Do you have experience in building, construction, and zoning rules? If so, the **Zoning Board of Adjustments and Appeals** wants you! This Board hears and determines appeals regarding building permits in violation of the zoning ordinances and makes decisions on other important zoning regulations. Two vacancies available.

Are you an engaged 55+ resident of the



Valley? The **Senior Center Advisory Committee (SCAC)** could be the right fit for you. The SCAC acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council on topics relating to Senior Center programs, planning, projects, and budget formulation. It also works collaboratively with PRAC to incorporate Senior Center considerations into overall Parks and Recreation planning. Three vacancies available.

Join the **Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC)** to help keep the community 'active!' PRAC was created in 2019 to act in an advisory capacity to the City Council on topics relating to parks and recreation planning, projects, and budget formulation. Four vacancies available.

The **Gunnison Valley Land Preservation Board** is seeking an alternate member! This Board works to establish designated land for open space, agricultural preservation, wildlife habitat, wetland preservation, access to public lands and trails, and watershed protection in the county. The Board balances land preservation with the economic benefits outdoor recreation brings to the county. One vacancy available.

These City Council appointed Boards/Commissions or Committees require that the citizens-at-large shall have been a resident of the City of Gunnison for at least one (1) year

immediately preceding the time of appointment and shall hold no other office or position in the City administration. The applicant shall be a qualified and registered elector of the City at such time of the appointment and throughout their tenure.

Length of terms typically run for two or three years. Time and commitment levels vary depending on the committee. Terms overlap with other members' terms. For more information on specific boards/commissions or committees, check out gunnisonco.gov/vacancy.

Want to get involved? Interested in contributing to your community? Want to share new ideas with Council? If so, consider applying to join a Committee that is a good fit for you. If you are interested in being involved or continuing, your involvement by serving on a Board/Commission or Committee, submit a letter of interest to City Clerk Erica Boucher by Friday, June 3, at 5:00 p.m. Applicants will be appointed to Boards at the June 14, Regular Session Council meeting.

*City Council is held at 5:30 p.m., the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, in Council Chambers located at 201 W. Virginia Avenue.

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SPORTSMANS RESORT in Ohio City features a 3 bdrm/1 bath, 1800sf main house with year-round access location, mature trees, all positioned on 1.28 acres. Rustic cabins onsite would make great storage. 116 County Road 771: **\$499,900.**

AFFORDABLE 2016 Clayton home features a large master bedroom suite with soaker tub, 2 additional bedrooms and a second full bath. Open kitchen & living area. upgraded counter tops & cabinets. Just over 1,200 square feet! 301 S. 2nd St. #73: **\$125,000.**

NEW LISTING

Gorgeous 2 bdrm/2 bath Fairway condo near the Dos Rios Golf Course features fully remodeled kitchen & bathrooms, balcony off the master bedroom, a partially fenced backyard & 1 car attached garage. 105 Shavano Dr. #B-3; **\$399,000.**

CUSTOM HOME situated on 9 acres with water rights along 500+ feet of the Ohio Creek. Main home is 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath with an attached 2 car garage with a studio above & detached garage for 3 cars or toys with a studio apartment above. 710 Sierra Vista Way; **\$1,300,000.**

WHITEPINE LOT 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.**

MOUNTAIN GETAWAY
Home on 5 mining claims in Ohio City features an excellent mixture of wildlife, nearby trails, aspen, pines & 500 feet of Gold Creek frontage. 3 bdrm/2 bath house, huge attached garage, large detached barn, touched by Forest Service lands. Gold and Silver mine. 5498 County Road 771. **\$1,750,000.**

NEW LISTING
Investment opportunity! 3 homes total, each home is 2 bdrm/1 bath, tenants pay utilities, \$4,950 income per month. In-town location near the airport and fairgrounds. 314 S. 12th St; **\$1,200,000.**

NEW LISTING Neat and tidy, 2 bdrm/1 bath condo with a one car attached garage would make for a great first time home investment property. 308 S. 11th St. Unit #5; **\$325,000.**

View listings at: www.clarkeagency.net

LETTERS

continued from A13

Gunnison County Sheriff's Office and have saved countless lives.

Their training involves such a high level of expertise that is very easy for anyone of these team members to play favorites because their lives and those of the victims depend on their dedication to doing everything right and safely. When you are hanging over a cliff on a rope, you want to choose who has the other end of the rope.

I have worked with so many of these students that I hold in my heart as being the most loved, respected and trusted people I have ever been privileged to know.

If there are those individuals who feel they have to threaten or buy for their favors, they are not the kind of people who I want at the other end of my rope. I would beg those individuals to please get off this team, and let the rest of us pursue our goals in saving lives.

According to Colorado statute, all search and rescue teams operate at the bidding of the county sheriff. Western's team also operates because of the school.

I trusted this team to bring me off the rocks above Harmel's Resort in a litter for training. For the people who do not want to go through this rigorous training, there are other ways to help. If you are making cookies, or sandwiches you are still valuable to the success of this team.

All teams operate by the chain of command. Concerns should be brought to the team (number 1), board members (number 2), the university (number 3) and to the sheriff (number 4). Please do not try this team through the media because most of them do not deserve it.

If you are trying to join a team because of the rewards, you are going to be disappointed, because you are going to hear a lot more complaints than compliments. Your rewards will be those you have helped, and the good feeling when you sleep at night. These students are not paid and in fact spend a lot of their money on equipment and supplies. I am grateful that we have this resource, and I thank you.

Jo Ann Stone
Gunnison

An epic promise

Editor:

From the Gunnison Valley Mentors (GVM) board of directors and staff, I'd like to take a moment to share our deepest appreciation for our many volunteers, donors and stakeholders for caring about our young folks. Because of you, over 170 volunteers and 270 referred youth ages 6-17 receive extra advocacy, encouragement, positive youth development opportunities, academic support and connection to community and trusted adults.

Vail Resorts EpicPromise is a partner with Gunnison Valley Mentors, supporting our mission through in-kind and cash grant funding. DO GOOD

is Vail Resorts' EpicPromise foundational value. It's how they support the health of communities like ours through the EpicPromise Foundation.

The main focus areas for EpicPromise are youth, environmental sustainability, critical need and community vibrancy. The localized support of EpicPromise directly benefits the youth we serve, as well as families and other impactful organizations valleywide. In 2021, EpicPromise donated \$19.4 million to nearly 150 nonprofits. That is absolutely an epic promise.

We are all role models. It doesn't matter where we stand on the ladder of life, we can all extend a hand to those who are looking up to us. We can all give a little more time, a bit more kindness and a smile to improve the lives of young people. Thank you to Vail Resorts EpicPromise and all of our GVM volunteers and donors. The resources you provide are shaping young lives in a positive way, one mentor at a time.

Tina McGuinness
Gunnison Valley Mentors

We need more funding for water and rivers

Editor:

As we face the reality of the worst drought in 1,200 years, the lowest levels ever in Blue Mesa, as well as in lakes Powell and Mead and the effects of climate change on our snowpack, there is one thing those of us working on water know — we need more funding for water and rivers to make them more resilient and protected for the future.

Luckily, there are funds available through the federal infrastructure bill which can help us right here in the Gunnison Valley. Western water is set to receive \$8.3 billion in federal money from the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Restoration projects in the Upper Taylor and Tomichi watersheds are estimated to cost over \$1 million, and are perfect contenders for some of these dollars.

I encourage our local legislators, Representative McLachlan, Representative McCluskie and Senator Donovan to vote yes on any bill that helps Colorado capture as much of this federal funding as possible. We must be ready to spend money on what we care about — and I know the Gunnison Valley cares about our rivers and watersheds.

Molly Mugglestone
Gunnison

SO MUCH MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER.



continued on A20



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GUNNISON WATERSHED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Driven to Be the Difference

LETTERS

continued from A19

Ashamed of dog owners in Gunnison County

Editor:

I am ashamed of the dog owners in Gunnison County. Owing a dog is a huge responsibility and not a temporary emotional crutch. They are a generational responsibility. The cute puppy-phase only lasts a few weeks. Then, you have a dog that requires attention, exercise, health care and training.

Dogs usually live from eight to 18 years depending upon the breed. This means that for the next significant 10-20 years of your life, you are dedicating care and attention to this animal every day. Your dog requires care when it is 20 below zero and a blizzard outside, when you want to go hiking, or take a vacation. They are pack animals, and you are their pack. If you do not act like the alpha dog, your dog will certainly take over this role. It will control your life. It will run out the door ahead of you into traffic, or at other people. It will tear up your home and property. Not everyone likes dogs, and you cannot expect them to just because you do. Dogs need to be groomed, exercised and socialized with other dogs and people.

I see many people around town that are not able to control their dogs. The dogs are left home all day bored and neglected, and some become aggressive. Good dogs do not bark unless given the command. A hand signal works best. I have seen so many dog owners apologize for their bad dog behavior, yell at the dog, grab it aggressively and create a huge commotion because they, the owner, don't know how to take proper care and control of a dog.

Good dog owners clean up after their pets. Why do we have to remind you? We even supply you poop bags in the park. Some of you have two, four and seven dogs. They are left in the backyard to 'play' because you want them out of the way. Some are in stackable cages or pens all day. Some are left in the house, unattended. Regardless of where you keep your dogs, they accumulate huge piles of waste — on average, two pounds of dog poop per dog per day. I have never in my life seen so many irresponsible dog owners as I have in Gunnison County leaving piles of dog do-do along public trails, in their front yards and driveways, and in the grassy areas around town. You should all be ashamed of yourselves. Dog waste is an EPA-certified pollutant. It is toxic to humans and pollutes our waterways. I know it is gross to pick up steamy dog waste. Do it or get rid of the dog. It is part of your responsibility.

Dogs are high-maintenance pets. Let's face it ... dogs are dirty animals. They are an animal. They leave hair on everything from your kitchen floors, to your clothes and bedsheets. Very few dogs, especially in Gunnison are actually certified "service animals" or "working dogs." They do not belong in the grocery stores, roaming free in the back of your pickup or unleashed on the trails.

Last 4th of July, I sat in the park to watch all the pre-fireworks entertainment. There were many dog owners walking their dogs through the mass of people. I watched as one dog went up to a tree and peed on it (as dogs do). Then, another dog walked up and did the same. A few minutes later, a young

woman came over, sat down, and placed her toddler in the grass at the base of the tree right where the two dogs had just urinated. Gross. When did our public places become your dog's toilette? In Salida, there are no dogs allowed in the park, probably for this very reason.

There are some good dog owners in Gunnison County. I applaud you but you are not the majority! I like to be around you and your dogs. Thank you for taking the time and care required to be a responsible pet owner.

I am writing this letter because I used to own a dog. I had a beautiful Malamute/Husky. I know the dedication it takes to have a dog. I took a 16-week dog obedience class so I could become a good pet owner. I went to doggy school. I believe that when anyone applies for a dog license in Gunnison County, they ought to be required to take their dog to dog obedience school. It is easy and very effective in teaching the dog who is boss and teaching the boss how to be a good dog owner. Most of you should not own a dog.

Teresa Golden
Gunnison

Fill up the lake first

Editor:

I was down at the river and saw that it's coming up. We should fill up the lake first before letting the overflow out. That water belongs to Gunnison County because of our winters. That's common law.

Dave Klingsmith

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL
May 4th
is National Bike to School Day!

(Please watch out for more youngsters than normal taking these and other routes to and from school on this day!)

*Times are based off riding a bike please allow more time for walking. MAPS DONATED BY ROSHANBO

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Erin Welfelt
Broker Associate

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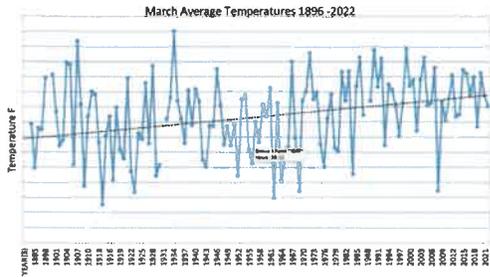
TIMES talk
NEWSPAPER ROUNDUP

A weekly podcast discussion of news in the latest edition of the Gunnison Country Times.

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GUEST COMMENTARY

When the wind blows



As you have probably noticed this has been a very windy “spring,” or more properly, “mud season.” If nothing else, your nose has been affected by all the pollen in the air being blown around. Well, as most Gunnison citizens know, this is nothing new.

Those of you with a good memory — since I’ve written about the subject before — will recall that the reason for this has nothing to do with the melting of the snow in the mountains as popular folklore has it. As you know, in the winter we have a strong inversion with cold air pooling in our valley and warmer air above, strongly stratified — and that, coupled with the topography of the Gunnison Basin and a narrow canyon just downstream which blocks good drainage, makes us one of the coldest (but by no means, *the* coldest) town in the lower 48 states.

“As the Earth continues its orbit around the sun, the tilt of the Earth’s axis changes, and we get more direct radiation from the sun. It begins to melt the snow in the valley first, and there is less reflectivity (albedo) from the snow and ice,” I wrote last year.

“Both of these conditions warm the ground which heats up the air above it, and the warmer air rises because it’s less dense. This sets up a type of heat transfer, called ‘convection’ and in this case, a type of air circulation. Think of it as ‘blobs’ of air rising because it’s been heated by the ground below or what is commonly called a thermal. Birds know about thermals, as do various sports



Bruce ‘Barometer’ Bartleson

enthusiasts. As the blobs of air rise, the stratification we had earlier starts to break up. Since air is now rising up, air from the jet stream will start to replace it (which is starting to weaken in the spring but still moderately strong) and starts flowing down.” This causes our spring winds.”

However, there is another kind of wind caused by storm fronts as they blow in from the Eastern Pacific, and it seems this year we have had more wind of this type than the thermal winds.

Note that some of our ski areas in the central mountains, like Vail, Breckenridge, etc., have had an unusual amount of spring snow. Unfortunately, here in Gunnison, we are still pretty dry and heading for one of our lowest snowfall years. As of now, we have only 24.9” of snowfall for the 2021/2022 season, and not much promise of more.

(Bruce Bartleson is a retired emeritus professor of geology at Western Colorado University. He spends most of his time now watching the weather.)

Public Reception for Gunnison County Assistant to the County Manager for Public Works Finalists

Gunnison County Courthouse

200 E. Virginia Avenue;
Gunnison, Colorado

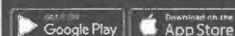
May 5, 2022 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm

The public is invited to come meet the three finalists for the ACM for Public Works position. Refreshments will be served.



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CAMPING TRANSITION COMPLETE IN NORTH VALLEY

🕒 May 11, 2022 👁 314 Views



First come, first served this summer

[*By Katherine Nettles*]

It's a new world for campers in the Gunnison National Forest this summer as all formerly dispersed camping in the six major drainages surrounding Crested Butte have now moved to designated camping only. But it's a more sustainable one, too, as increasing visitation, overuse and resource damage led to the two-year effort through a partnership between the Crested Butte Conservation Corps (CBCC), the Gunnison County Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (STOR) committee, the U.S. Forest Service's Grand Mesa Uncompahgre and Gunnison District (GMUG) and funding by the National Forest Foundation (NFF).

More changes are yet to come as Lake Irwin campground prepares for a renovation next year and some newly designated sites will likely move to reservation systems in the future. But overall, with some advance preparation and willingness to adapt, locals and visitors alike can expect a more straightforward experience and this summer the newly updated campgrounds are available on a first come, first served basis.

Designated camping: the new norm

Beginning in 2020 the CBCC crews have worked on the ground to transition the formerly dispersed camping along the Slate River, Washington Gulch, Gothic Valley, Kebler Pass, Brush Creek and Cement Creek to more sustainable designated campgrounds.

They decommissioned areas damaged by overuse or that were too close to water. In their place they created 228 individual designated campsites complete with sign posts, designated parking spaces and metal fire rings.

STOR Corps, a field crew that the STOR Committee started in 2020, has been responsible for monitoring the new campsites and making contact with visitors to educate and inform them about the new way of camping in local drainages. The STOR Corps made rounds on the weekends for the past two summers, particularly during peak times to talk with people and get their input.

According to Joe Lavorini, who is both stewardship coordinator for Gunnison County and program manager for the NFF, most people appreciate how much more straightforward the new system is.

“Not only are we protecting the resource here, but we’re protecting the experience,” says Lavorini. “People go to the end of the road and they don’t want to be surrounded with trash and degraded resources; they want a wilderness experience.”

Other areas such as Chaffee County are taking a closer look at the future of their dispersed camping, and Pike National Forest's South Platte district has moved to designated camping only as well. The STOR Corps have been hosting officials from neighboring counties and forest districts for site visits to share the success of the STOR model.

"There are so many use types on the GMUG. Forestry projects, habitat projects, grazing, there's just a lot going on. That goes for our little corner here, but as we zoom out, there's never been this much funding and support and attention on what's happening on our public lands," says Lavorini.

The STOR Corps will be back out there again this summer from late May through mid-September. Lavorini summarizes that the corps will focus on trail maintenance, outreach and monitoring campsites, while adding in some wildlife habitat improvement projects, fencing projects, "and a little bit of everything."

Limited reservations available

There is one area with reservations available in the Crested Butte area: Oh Be Joyful Campground (managed by the Bureau of Land Management) has 30 camp sites that can be reserved from May 28 on. Those reservations go fast once they are released on May 13, so check the website for availability at www.recreation.gov.

Designated camping locations

“All campsites are now designated across Slate River, Washington Gulch, Kebler Pass, Brush Creek, Cement Creek and Gothic,” explains Nick Catmur, former operations manager for the Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association and CBCC. “Roadside ‘car’ camping is only allowed in these sites for the entire extent of each drainage until it terminates or transitions to a different Forest Service district. If someone is camping in an area without a site post and a fire ring they are camped illegally and subject to a citation,” he says.

Kimberlee Phillips, GMUG public affairs officer, says busy is the new normal and some areas such as Lake Irwin campgrounds have seen a 300% increase in visitors in recent years.

“We are expecting the 2022 season to be about the same,” says Phillips. “We do not anticipate a quieter season.”

As always, practice Leave No Trace principles, and protect your site and food from attracting bears. If fires are allowed, make sure they are contained within a pre-constructed metal fire ring, attended at all times and extinguished completely with no smoldering or active coals before leaving. Daily fire danger ratings can be found at the entrance to the town of Crested Butte and at <https://www.fs.usda.gov>

To dispose of trash there will be two 96-gallon recycling totes at the Four-way Stop in Crested Butte, sponsored by the Crested Butte Chamber of Commerce. The totes will be located in the wooden enclosure by the Visitor Center’s back door.

“Chamber staff will manage these bins to be sure the recycling is clean and non-recyclables and trash is removed,” says Scott Clarkson, the chamber’s executive director. All the same, be sure to sort your own trash from all recyclables so the service can continue in the future. The town will be providing a dumpster for campers’ use at the southeast corner of the parking lot as well.



BLUE MESA EXPECTED TO REACH ONLY 50% CAPACITY THIS SUMMER

🕒 April 27, 2022 👁 729 Views



“Drought has persisted for four years now”

[By Katherine Nettles]

During an April update from local water managers to Gunnison County commissioners, it was clear that the continual drought conditions persisting throughout the west and the Gunnison Valley are not making for an auspicious snow runoff period. Experts are preparing for a potentially tough wildfire season, and various efforts to gather scientific data regarding snowmelt, soil moisture and river water quality may shed light on how to prepare for future conditions. But while Blue Mesa Reservoir is expected to remain depleted after its releases to Lake Powell last summer and may only fill to 50% this summer, Taylor Reservoir might fare much better.

Colorado River Basin

Colorado River Water Conservation District (CRWCD) board member Kathleen Curry gave a report to commissioners on the river district's current efforts and concerns. She said there are funding requests to collect data on river water quality and sedimentation for the burn areas within the district. "I think that's a really wise move," said Curry, particularly in Grizzly Creek.

Curry relayed hydrology information from Dave Kanzer, CRWCD director of science and interstate matters, highlighting that there is lower than normal snowpack and above normal wildfire potential in the state.

Lake Powell is at a historic low, and total inflows are expected to be about 69% of average. The end of water year elevations at Lake Powell are estimated to be 3,527 feet above sea level, after having dropped below 3,525 which indicate a potential threat to hydropower production.

"At this point it looks like there will be some significant releases out of Flaming Gorge because [the Bureau of Reclamation] ran Blue Mesa down, as we all know, and that isn't going to be a great contributor this year," said Curry. She estimated that Blue Mesa might fill to about 50% this spring with a peak of 400,000 acre feet.

"There are conversations about making sure that those [Flaming Gorge] releases actually have an impact and that Reclamation learn from the experiences last year," said Curry. Evaporation and tourism and recreation losses have been discussed at length since the Blue Mesa release happened at an inopportune height of the summer season in 2021 and with only a two-week notice from Reclamation.

“Taylor Park is a better story,” offered Curry. “It might hit 95% capacity, which is exciting.”

Curry reported that State of Colorado demand management study efforts have been put on hold for now to let other states catch up on how they will contribute to demand management plans as well. Curry said the biggest issue is considering Lower Colorado Basin statistics. She explained that the Upper Colorado River Basin uses 4.39 million acre feet while the Lower Basin uses 10 million acre feet. “That includes the obligation to Mexico,” she said.

Upper Gunnison River Basin

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District general manager Sonja Chavez and water resource specialist Beverly Richards also gave an Upper Gunnison Basin report and discussed snowmelt, drought conditions and possible tools to help predict future runoff seasons. Richards reviewed that 21 winter storm events took place from November through April this winter season, defined by North American Weather Consultants who track it out of Utah. Most of those events occurred in December, and cloud seeding events were run concurrently.

Richards explained that according to a water supply report and drought monitor map there has been one brief instance in the past five years, between 2018 and 2020, when there wasn't any drought. “So drought has persisted for four years now,” she said.

The Gunnison River Basin snow water equivalent (SWE) as of April 10 was 96% of normal for this time of year, and the upper basin SWE was 92% of normal. Precipitation has ranged between 69% to 82% of average for the entire upper basin since December and soil moisture varies from 1-31% of normal in Gunnison County, with most areas at an average of 10%. ^

“The Gunnison River looks like it might be similar to last year, for example the Gunnison River at Gunnison stream gage peaked at 1,720 cfs, but we’re hoping for more as there was more snowpack than last year,” she said. “Storage in the entire Upper Colorado River Basin is 63% of average right now, and Blue Mesa and Lake Powell are the lowest in that system.”

Richards described a few potential tools being considered in the basin, such as Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory’s (RMBL) interest in an airborne remote sensing program to track moisture during peak “greenness” from March through October. She said the program would help inform water managers of snow melt timing in the future. Chavez said the UGRWCD is also hoping to work more closely with USGS to increase monitoring frequency in Blue Mesa to understand Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) using satellite and stream and lake sampling and might apply for a grant to aid in the endeavor.

Field season for the Wet Meadows Program stream restoration kicked off last week, and Upper Gunnison Watershed program coordinator Cheryl Cwelich reported there are 17 locations identified across the Gunnison Basin for restoration work this year. The UGRWCD is discussing the potential to rent out dorm

rooms from Western Colorado University to house seasonal Wet Meadow conservation crews who are struggling with housing options.

Cwelich said the wet meadows collaborative core partners have met twice this year to discuss their vision and long-term planning.

“We are looking at a more robust list for future projects using the Nature Conservancy’s prioritization model,” said Cwelich.

Last, Chavez and Curry discussed how they might potentially work together between the Colorado River District and the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, alongside agricultural users in the future, “to help mitigate climate change and the impacts we are seeing on local production,” as Chavez stated. Chavez was recently appointed by Governor Jared Polis to the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission and was sworn in on April 14.

“Water has always been a focal point of everything we do here in Gunnison County...especially as a headwaters county and for agricultural reasons, recreational reasons and many other uses,” said commissioner chairperson Jonathan Houck.

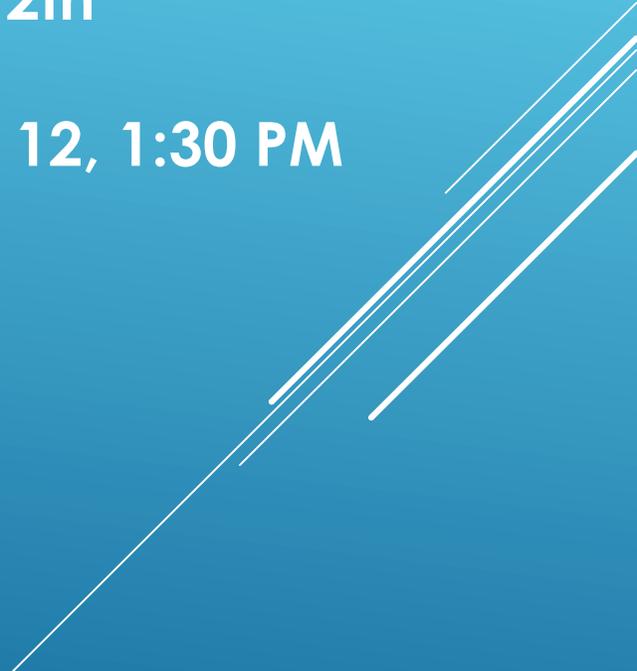
AGENDA ITEM 9

Citizens Comments

AGENDA ITEM 10

Future Meetings

FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- ▶ **Deadline for Letters to Judge for UGRWCD Board Terms - May 27, 5:00 PM**
 - ▶ **Memorial Day, Offices Closed - May 30th**
 - ▶ **Financial Audit by Paul Miller - May 30th - June 3rd**
 - ▶ **TLUG Meeting - June 7, 9:30 AM**
 - ▶ **UGRWCD Water Roundup at IBar Ranch - June 9th and 10th**
 - ▶ **20th Anniversary of the Gunnison River Festival - June 10th - 12th**
 - ▶ **Independence Day, Offices Closed - July 4**
 - ▶ **Watershed Management Planning Committee Meeting - July 12, 1:30 PM**
- 

AGENDA ITEM 11

Summary of Action Items

AGENDA ITEM 12

Adjournment

Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Lake City Fire Station
131 North Henson Street
Lake City, CO 81235

AGENDA
ANNUAL MEETING
May 24, 2022
3:00 P.M.

- | | | | |
|------|------|-----|---|
| 3:00 | p.m. | 1. | Call to Order |
| 3:02 | p.m. | 2. | Agenda Approval |
| 3:05 | p.m. | 3. | Election of Officers |
| 3:15 | p.m. | 4. | Approval of May 25, 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes |
| 3:20 | p.m. | 5. | Approval of April 5, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes |
| 3:25 | p.m. | 6. | Review of Budget Summary and Discussion and Adoption of
2022 Budget (7/3/2022-6/30/2023) |
| 3:35 | p.m. | 7. | Current Operations Status <ul style="list-style-type: none">• County Staff Training on Gate Operation• 2022 Operations Discussion• Potential for CWCB Instream Flow Release in 2022 |
| 4:00 | p.m. | 8. | Miscellaneous Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aquatic Nuisance Species |
| 4:30 | p.m. | 9. | Unscheduled Citizens |
| 4:35 | p.m. | 10. | Future Meetings |
| 4:40 | p.m. | 11. | 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 have documented minutes 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.

LSCWAE AGENDA ITEM 3
Election of Officers

**Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise
Annual Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 25, 2021**

The Board of Directors of the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise conducted its regular, annual meeting on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. in the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District offices at 210 West Spencer, Suite B, Gunnison, Colorado 81230.

Board members present:

Thomas Carl, LSCWAE Board Member

Robert Hurd, Hinsdale County

Bill Nesbitt, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD)

Michelle Pierce, Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

Camille Richard, Lake Fork Conservancy (via Zoom video/teleconferencing)

Henry Woods, Town of Lake City (via Zoom video/teleconferencing)

Others present:

John McClow, General Counsel UGRWCD

Beverly Richards, Administrative Assistant UGRWCD

Jill Steele, Accountant/Office Manager UGRWCD

Sue Uerling, Administrative Assistant UGRWCD

Sonja Chavez, General Manager UGRWCD

1. CALL TO ORDER

LSCWAE Board President Michelle Pierce called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director Robert Hurd seconded approval of the agenda as circulated. The motion carried.

3. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

The current officers of the LSCWAE are: President Michelle Pierce, Vice President Henry Wood and Secretary/Treasurer Bill Nesbitt. All agreed to continue to serve in Their current roles for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Director Camille Richard seconded the approval of the LSCWAE slate of officers for 2021-2022. The motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MAY 26, 2020 LSCWAE MINUTES

Director Camille Richard moved and Director Robert Hurd seconded approval of the May 26, 2020 meeting minutes as circulated. Director Bill Nesbitt abstained. The motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 28, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Director Robert Hurd moved and Camille Richard seconded approval of the August 28, 2020 special meeting minutes. The motion carried.

5. APPROVAL of 2020 AUDIT

UGRWCD Accountant/Office Manager Jill Steele briefly reviewed highlights of the 2020 audit. Jill pointed out that in Paul Miller's Independent Auditor's Report Letter under "Emphasis of Matter," Mr. Miller notes that the Management Discussion and Report is missing. Jill said this is because he has nothing for comparison. Since the LSCWAE audit is required every five years, the auditor will be able to use the 2020 audit for the Management Discussion and Report next time.

Director Nesbitt asked how many LSC augmentation units are still available for sale and Jill answered that there are 7,350 units available.

Director Bill Nesbitt moved and Camille Richard seconded the approval of the 2020 Audit. The motion carried.

6. DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF 2021 BUDGET

UGRWCD General Manager Sonja Chavez briefly highlighted some of the components of the 2021 budget, including a \$6,000 line item expense for Obermeyer to come to LSC for a service call/equipment repair; a \$2,000 line item for general maintenance of the outlet; and \$12,270 for operations of the USGS stream gages. Director Hurd and Sonja both noted how difficult it has been to get Obermeyer to commit to a date as to when they can make the service call. It was agreed that if Obermeyer cannot make it within the next week or so, then the service will need to wait until fall. Sonja noted that there is also a new line item for training costs for Hinsdale County to train two new LSC gate outlet technicians who can eventually take over for Robert Hurd.

Bev also reported that a service call to repair the camera will take place on June 4, 2021. Director Hurd noted that he does not have access to the camera. Director Camille Richard said that \$1,500 for signage at the outlet had been approved for the 2020 budget, but since the sign had not yet been installed, she did not have a bill to submit for payment from the 2020 budget. It was recommended that a line item for LSC signage in the amount of \$1,500 be included in the new budget.

Director Robert Hurd moved and Director Bill Nesbit seconded the motion to adopt the 2021-22 Budget as presented with the addition of a \$1,500 line item for signage at the Lake San Cristobal outlet. The motion carried.

7. CURRENT OPERATIONS STATUS

A. Contract with Robert Hurd

President Michelle Pierce referenced the contract with Director Robert Hurd for maintenance of the LSC outlet and LSCWAE voiced their approval of having Robert Hurd continue in this role until at least two new technicians can be hired and trained. Robert has disclosed and will continue to disclose any conflict of interest that may arise with him now also serving as a Hinsdale County Commissioner.

B. County Staff Training on Gate Operation

Director Hurd said he is hoping to hire and train a couple of new people, possibly from the road and bridge department, to learn the outlet operations. It was noted that Robert did express his desire to bow out of the technician role in a couple of years after the new hires have been fully trained.

C. REVIEW OF GATE OPERATIONS 2020/21

Director Robert Hurd reported that new filters were installed in the outlet this past year and that this has helped some in keeping the readings consistent, as they keep moisture out of the electronic system. Robert's biggest concern now is getting Obermeyer to come out to service the system so that his readings match the USGS readings. Robert said he can adjust the settings to get the system to match the USGS readings but then after 7-10 days, the readings are off again. The system is not holding the revised settings. Obermeyer has not been returning calls to the UGRWCD, so the service call will probably have to be put off until fall due to the need to conserve water.

Director Nesbitt asked if there was someone from the federal or state government that we are required to provide accurate reports to on LSC elevations or storage. General Counsel John McClow answered that the Water Commissioner keeps the records and that our only responsibilities are to not exceed the reservoir storage limit and to execute releases according to the augmentation contracts we manage. John pointed out that this is not Robert's responsibility and that these are two unrelated issues.

There was some discussion about how to encourage more augmentation contract sales. If the dry conditions continue to persist and some water right holders above the outlet get water calls, it may result in more units being sold.

D. DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES DECISION ABOUT GUNNISON TUNNEL CALLS

General Manager Sonja Chavez referenced the newspaper article "No Gunnison Tunnel call this summer" circulated in the meeting packet and explained that in a nutshell, the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UUVWUA) could not take all the water being released from the Aspinall Unit that was available for appropriation (i.e. there is water flowing over the Gunnison Tunnel diversion), therefore the Division of Water Resources cannot honor a UUVWUA Gunnison Tunnel Call. The LSCWAE Board agreed that this was good news during the continuing drought.

E. POTENTIAL FOR CWCBC INSTREAM FLOW RELEASE IN 2021

There was discussion about whether or not a water call will be placed on Lake San Cristobal this summer. It was reported that Peggy Smart would probably be the water commissioner making the call request and that it might not be a bad thing for the LSCWAE if a call is made. General Counsel John McClow said the LSCWAE can also make voluntary releases. The consensus of the group was to wait and see what the summer brings.

9. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

A. USGS TETHER POLES FOR LAKE RELEASE READINGS

There was some discussion about whether or not poles could be erected on either side of the outlet with a tether of loop around the poles to manually

measure releases from Lake San Cristobal, something that was suggested by the USGS. Currently the county owns the property on one bank and the other bank (east side) is privately owned, although John McClow reported that the county has an easement on the east bank too. General Manager Sonja Chavez offered to reach out to Steve Anders of the USGS to see if this tether loop arrangement would have any real value to them or if they are satisfied with the electronic gage system. Director Henry Wood expressed frustration with having to pay the USGS every year for measuring saying, "It seems to me that they could pay for their own measuring." Harry also expressed concerned about whether or not the elevation of the lake is really 8,995 acre feet. He suggested installing another staff for manual measurements. President Michelle Pierce said that if the current gage wears out or is not accurate, the LSCWAE would look into replacing it at a different location. Sonja noted that she does not believe a manual lake elevation measuring device is necessary if we have electronic readings, that it would be expensive to move the staff gage, and that she does not want anyone trying to obtain manual measurements, especially in the winter, as it is way too dangerous and unnecessary. Sonja said she is confident in the electronic lake elevation readings and that the system is operating properly.

B. COUNTY QUESTION: UPSTREAM INFLOW GAGE

Director Robert Hurd said that if a new outlet gage was to be purchased, the best place to install it would be at the upper bridge. There was discussion that since the LSCWAE is already paying the USGS a substantial amount annually for measurements, is there really a need for another gage, which would also be expensive. General Counsel John McClow pointed out that if you know the measurement of your lake elevation and what your releases are, you can do a mathematical calculation for inflows and that adding an upstream inflow gage was entirely unnecessary.

C. AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES: SIGNAGE

There was discussion about whether there should be signage erected at Lake San Cristobal to let boaters know that they can get a hull inspection for aquatic nuisance species at Blue Mesa Reservoir. Director Robert Hurd noted that there is already such a sign at LSC, but it is currently covered up by willows. He offered to oversee getting the willows cut down so that the sign is visible. General Manager Sonja Chavez noted that during a Zoom meeting with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, CPW also said they would have one of their staff

conduct roving inspections at LSC. General Counsel John McClow also noted that the Colorado State Patrol has also been authorized to stop any driver towing a boat on Colorado highways to inspect it for nuisance species. There is also a service dog now trained to detect aquatic nuisance species.

D. Other Miscellaneous Matters

Bill Nesbitt (Secretary/Treasurer) also noted that the LSCWAE is carrying a significant balance of cash in its checking account, and he would like the Board to look at options to earn some interest. President Michelle Pierce asked if Bill, Accountant Jill Steele and General Manager Sonja Chavez could look into options for investing some of the LSCWAE cash in interest earning investments.

10. UNSCHEDULED CITIZENS

11. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise will take place in May of 2022, unless any special meetings are called in the meantime.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Michelle Pierce adjourned the May 25, 2021 meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Nesbitt, Secretary/Treasurer

APPROVED:

Michelle Pierce, President

**LAKE SAN CRISTOBAL WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - SPECIAL MEETING
In Person and via Zoom Teleconference
April 5, 2022
11:30 a.m.**

The Board of Directors of the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise conducted a special meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.

Board members present: Tom Carl, Robert Hurd, Bill Nesbitt, Michelle Pierce, Camille Richard, and Henry Woods.

Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD General Manager
Joellen Fonken, UGRWCD Board Member
Anthony Girodo, United Companies
Grant Huston, Silver World Publishing
Vance Lipsey, Town of Lake City Manager
John McClow, UGRWCD General Counsel
Mark Painter, United Companies
John Perusek, UGRWCD Board Member
Beverly Richards, UGRWCD Water Resource Specialist
Jill Steele, UGRWCD Accountant

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Michelle Pierce called the meeting to order at 11:25 a.m.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Robert Hurd moved and Henry Woods seconded approval of the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

3. UNITED COMPANIES' REQUEST FOR LSCWAE WATER IN SUPPORT OF HIGHWAY 149 PAVING PROJECT

Anthony Girodo of United Companies addressed the board. United Companies is involved in a paving project on Highway 149 and they have requested to use water from Lake San Cristobal in conjunction with the project. It would be for a maximum of 35,000 gallons per day for up to 25 days.

Henry Woods suggested including a bit of flexibility on time in case the water is needed for more than twenty-five days. He noted that it would still be the same total amount of water.

Bill Nesbitt arrived.

Pricing information from augmentation water sales out of Lake San Cristobal was used to arrive at a potential cost for the water:

54 base units @ \$55.00 = \$2,970.00

Administration fee = \$20.00

TOTAL = \$2,990.00

Robert Hurd moved and Bill Nesbitt seconded to request payment of \$2,990 for use of water for up to 45 days. The motion carried.

4. UNSCHEDULED CITIZENS

Mark Painter, of United Companies, said he had no additional information or questions. They will check to see if they already have a form W-9 from the District.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Michelle Pierce adjourned the April 5, 2022 special meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Pierce
President

Bill Nesbitt
Secretary-Treasurer

LAKE SAN CRISTOBAL WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE BUDGET SUMMARY 2021

Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

	2021 YTD	2021 BUDGET	% OF 2021 BUDGET	REVENUES/ EXPENSES OVER/(UNDER) BUDGET
REVENUES				
Water Sales and Annual Assessments on Sold Base Units	\$ 10,965	\$ 9,891	111%	\$ 1,074.50
Water Sale - United Company one-time purchase	2,990	-		\$ 2,990.00
Three Member Entities' Fees on Un-sold Base Units				
UGRWCD	13,464	13,464	100%	-
Hinsdale County	13,464	13,464	100%	-
Town of Lake City	6,152	6,152	100%	-
Interest on Investments	-	-		-
Other Income	-	-		-
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 47,035	\$ 42,970	109%	\$ 4,065
EXPENSES				
Legal Expenses	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
Construction	-	-		-
Outlet Works Repair	1,798	6,000	30%	(4,202)
Equipment Repair	5,867	2,000	293%	3,867
Audit & Accounting	-	-		-
Public Outreach	-	1,500	0%	(1,500)
Operations - USGS Gage (UGRWCD pass-thru)	12,636	12,270	103%	366
Operations - Gate Maintenance Contract Work	448	3,000	15%	(2,552)
Operating Expenses - Hinsdale County	-	4,000	0%	(4,000)
Operating Expenses - Town of lake City	-	-		-
Operating Expenses - UGRWCD	-	5,278	0%	(5,278)
Utilities	2,299	2,500	92%	(201)
Office Expenses	-	450	0%	(450)
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 23,048	\$ 36,998	62%	\$ (13,950)
Revenue Over (Under) Expenses	\$ 23,986	\$ 5,972	402%	\$ 18,014

LAKE SAN CRISTOBAL WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE 2022 BUDGET

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

D R A F T

	2020 ACTUAL 7/1/20 - 6/30/2021	2021 BUDGET 7/1/21 - 6/30/2022	2021 YTD 7/1/21 - 5/5/2022	2022 BUDGET 7/1/22 - 6/30/2023
REVENUE				
Water Sales & Assessments & Admin. Fees on Contracts	\$ 9,891	\$ 9,891	\$ 10,965	\$ 10,965
Water Sale - United Company, one-time purchase	-	-	2,990	-
Three Member Entities' Fees on Un-sold Base Units (see Note)				
UGRWCD	13,464	13,464	13,464	13,463
Hinsdale County	13,464	13,464	13,464	13,377
Town of Lake City	6,152	6,152	6,152	6,150
Interest on Investments	-	-	-	-
Additional Contributions by Member Entities	-	-	-	-
Other Income	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 42,971	\$ 42,970	\$ 47,034	\$ 43,954
EXPENSES				
Legal Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Construction	-	-	-	-
Outlet Works Repair	-	6,000	1,798	6,000
Equipment Repair	1,462	2,000	5,867	2,000
Audit & Accounting (every 5 years)	1,700	-	-	-
Public Outreach		1,500		1,500
Operations - USGS Gage	12,268	12,270	12,636	12,270
Operations - Gate Maintenance Contract Work	1,346	3,000	448	3,000
Operating Expenses - Hinsdale County		4,000	-	4,000
Operating Expenses - Town of Lake City	-	-	-	-
Operating Expenses - UGRWCD	-	5,278	-	5,278
Utilities	2,782	2,500	2,299	2,500
Office Expenses	79	450	-	450
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 19,636	\$ 36,998	\$ 23,048	\$ 36,998
Revenue Over (Under) Expenses	\$ 23,335	\$ 5,972	\$ 23,986	\$ 6,956
Contribution to Capital Reserve	\$ 1,815	\$ 1,815	\$ 1,815	\$ 1,815
Sales price per base unit				\$ 55.00
Annual assessment per base unit				\$ 4.50

NOTE: Break out of fees charged to member entities:

		UGRWCD	Hinsdale County	Town of Lake City
Total base units originally available:	9500			
Base units each entity (9500/3)		3,167	3,167	3,167
Base units sold per entity		175	194	1,800
Base units remaining per entity		2,992	2,973	1,367
Fees on unsold base units per entity @ \$4.50		\$ 13,463	\$ 13,377	\$ 6,150
Total base units remaining for sale	7331			

LAKE SAN CRISTOBAL WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE 2022 BUDGET
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 - Page 2

We, the undersigned officers of the Board of Directors of the Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the 2022 Lake San Cristobal Water Activity Enterprise Budget as adopted by the Board of Directors on May 24, 2022

Michelle Pierce, Chairperson

ATTEST:

William J. Nesbitt, Secretary/Treasurer

LSCWAE AGENDA ITEM 7
Current Operations

LSCWAE AGENDA ITEM 8
Miscellaneous Matters

LSCWAE AGENDA ITEM 9
Citizen Comments

LSCWAE AGENDA ITEM 10
Future Meetings

LSCWAE AGENDA ITEM 11
Adjournment