



## *Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District*

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

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

**Monday, March 24, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**Zoom registration link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9118738779>

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

#### **REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

- |      |      |    |  |
|------|------|----|--|
| 5:00 | p.m. |    | Dinner is served   |
| 5:30 | p.m. | 1. | Call to Order  |
| 5:31 | p.m. | 2. | Agenda Approval  |
| 5:32 | p.m. | 3. | <b>Consent Agenda Items:</b> Any of the following items may be removed for discussion from the consent agenda at the request of any Board member or citizen. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Approval of February 24, 2025 Minutes</u></li><li>• <u>Monthly Budget Summary for February 2025</u></li><li>• <u>Consideration of Expenses for February 2025</u></li><li>• <u>Bank and Investment Balances</u></li></ul> |
| 5:35 | p.m. | 4. | <u>Treasurer's Report</u>  |
| 5:40 | p.m. | 5. | General Counsel Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Legislative Update</u></li><li>• <u>Policy Updates – ACTION REQUESTED</u></li></ul>  |
| 6:00 | p.m. | 6. | <u>Basin Water Supply Update</u>   |
| 6:10 | p.m. | 7. | <b><i>Presentation by Katie Lawn, RMBL</i></b><br><b><i>UGRWCD Sponsored Gothic Field Trips</i></b>  |
| 6:30 | p.m. | 8. | <b><i>Mike Fabbre, Manager of Mt. Crested Butte Water and Sanitation District.</i></b><br><b><i>Discussion of Progress on Meridian Lake Reservoir Project</i></b>  |

- 7:10 p.m. General Manager, Committee & Staff Quarterly Reports
- Executive Committee
  - General Manager's Report
    - Projects & Fundraising
    - Wet Meadows Program
    - Water Quality / Quantity
    - State Dredge & Fill: March 7 UGRWCD Stakeholder Comments
    - Drought Planning
  - Committee Reports
    - Grants Committee – ACTION REQUESTED
    - Education and Outreach Committee
    - Watershed Management Planning Committee
  - Taylor Local Users Group
  - Gunnison Basin Roundtable
  - Gunnison River Festival
  - Scientific Endeavors
- 8:10 p.m. 10. Miscellaneous Matters
- 8:20 p.m. 11. Citizen Comments
- 8:22 p.m. 12. Future Meetings
- 8:23 p.m. 13. Summary of Meeting Action Items
- 8:25 p.m. 14. Adjournment

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

**AGENDA ITEM 3**  
**Consent Agenda Items**

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors  
February 24, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) conducted a regular meeting on Monday, February 24, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the District office, 210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite A, Gunnison, CO, 81230 and via Zoom video/teleconferencing.

Board members present: Rosemary Carroll, Joellen Fonken, Stacy McPhail, Julie Nania (via Zoom), John Perusek, Don Sabrowski, Andy Spann and Brooke Zanetell (via Zoom).

Board members absent: Rebie Hazard and Camille Richard

Others present:

Amanda Aulenbach, Wet Meadows Project Director  
Wayne Belcher, USGS (via Zoom)  
Carleton Bern, USGS  
Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD General Manager  
Bailey Friedman, UGRWCD Water Projects Manager  
Rachel Gidley, USGS  
Jesse Kruthaupt, Trout Unlimited  
John McClow, UGRWCD General Counsel  
Luke Mecklenburg, Colorado Attorney General's Office (via Zoom)  
Alana Nichols, UGRWCD Fellow  
Greg Peterson, Peterson Ranch  
Beverly Richards, Senior Program Manager/Office Manager  
Bob Robbins, Robbins Ranch  
Kaden Robbins, Robbins Ranch  
Tom Rozman, Colorado Division of Water Resources  
Sue Uerling, UGRWCD Admin. Asst/Communications Support Specialist  
Cory Williams, USGS (via Zoom)  
Ari Yamaguchi, UGRWCD Water Resources Specialist

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Agenda Approval**

**Director Rosemary Carroll moved and Director Joellen Fonken seconded approval of the agenda. The motion carried.**

**3. Consent Agenda Items**

President McPhail asked if anything needed to be removed for further discussion from the Consent Agenda Items. None were brought forth.

**Director Joellen Fonken moved and Director Andy Spann seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried.**

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer John Perusek reported that one of the District's certificates of deposit (CD) was called and the proceeds were invested into another CD paying a higher rate of interest. He also reported that \$80,000 from the Spencer Building account was moved out of the checking account at Gunnison Bank and Trust Co. (zero interest account) and into the ColoTrust Fund where it will earn some interest.

**5. General Counsel Update**

**Legislative Review** – General Counsel John McClow reported that the Bureau of Reclamation cancelled the negotiating meeting for the renewal of the 1975 Taylor Park Reservoir Operation and Storage Exchange Agreement as all contracts are on hold for now at the federal level.

He also said the Colorado Water Congress Federal Affairs Committee announced this morning that federal funds previously allocated for Colorado water projects that had been frozen by the new administration are to be released for their original purpose, including the Shoshone Water Rights Preservation project. Mr. McClow said he had not seen a listing of all of the grant funds to be restored.

Counselor McClow also said at the state level most proposed legislation related to water issues has ground to a halt due to the state budget deficit.

**6. General Manager and Committee Reports**

**Drought Contingency Planning (DCP)**: General Manager Sonja Chavez said that she and Alana Nichols have been working on comments on the draft DCP Mitigation Action Plan for the District. Ms. Chavez has also contacted the Bureau of Reclamation and is waiting for a response regarding the federal funding freeze and if the DCP grant is frozen.

**Eddy Covariance Tower (Tower)**: Ms. Chavez offered technical support to the Department of Natural Resources for the Tower in Tomichi Creek. The tower will assist in field calculations of consumptive

use as current estimates made by the state are made with assumptions. Because there is currently no cell coverage in the area, data cannot be automatically downloaded, therefore, Water Resources Specialist Ari Yamaguchi will help with data downloads and some minor maintenance as needed.

**Mt. Crested Butte Water and Sanitation District (CBWSD) Update:** Mike Fabbre was on the agenda for this meeting to update the District on their plans for Meridian Lake Reservoir. He called just before the meeting saying he could not make it, so this presentation is tabled for the March 2025 Board meeting.

**Colorado River District Update:** General Manager Chavez reviewed her report included in the packet. There was discussion about CRWCD's contribution to the CMU Water Science Center and the goal of supporting on-going water research of importance to west slope water users and more broadly sharing results of those studies. Director Rosemary Carroll and General Manager Chavez discussed that there could be a need to find a communications specialist who understands the science behind all of the research and data who will be able to present it in a manner that can be comprehended by the general public. There was also discussion that this could open the door for Western Colorado University as well.

**Dredge and Fill Legislation Update:** Ms. Chavez said the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) held a stakeholder meeting on the Dredge and Fill proposed legislation. The WQCC has provided the following link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf04PRDfQ8xp8C6J9qz0Dj0oG7nPrefC8whKuGKfvqsW4OFtw/viewform> where anyone can provide comments. Ms. Chavez said she has been engaging with the Division to organize a stakeholder engagement meeting for in-person input on the western slope. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

**Federal Funding Freeze Impacts:** General Manager Chavez said the District is still trying to get answers from federal partners on the impacts of the new Trump Administration freeze on federal program funding that the District is managing. There was discussion that not only does the freeze have an impact on the District's partners but also has a trickle-down effect on spouses, local resource providers and the state and local economies. Ms. Chavez reported that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has lost 20 percent of its workforce in Colorado. Director Rosemary Carroll had heard that locally, seven of the 11 employees of the US Forest Service had been let go, although this could not be confirmed. Director Joellen Fonken asked if this would have an impact on permitting. Wet Meadows Project Director Amanda Aulenbach replied that the permits required for the Wet Meadows projects have already been cleared so the permits should not be impacted for current projects but could have impacts moving forward. She is still waiting on word from some of the other federal agency partners on funding freezes.

General Manager Chavez said the Gunnison Conservation District has had its funds frozen, including funds earmarked for salaries and funding for the newly awarded U.S. Bureau of Reclamation B2E grant. In addition, since President Trump issued a mandate that all federal workers were to return to their offices and not work remotely, the Gunnison Conservation District is also struggling to find space to work. They

already share office space with the US Forest Service and NRCS, so having everyone back in the office has resulted in them having to adjust their work day so that they have desks and equipment. They had checked with the District to see if there is space here but General Manager Chavez reported that all offices are full right now. She asked Board members to let her know if they know of any available space that might work for the Gunnison Conservation District.

## **7. Upper Gunnison Basin Irrigation Return Flow Study Update by the USGS**

Rachel Gidley and Carleton Bern (USGS) attended in person to give a presentation about their study findings to date. A link to a report on this study can be found [here](#).

Cory Williams and Wayne Belcher also attended via Zoom. Ms. Gidley said the presentation will provide a quick study overview, 2024 accomplishments, published mass balance analysis, and next steps.

To date, their data collection includes sampling for continuous flow, temperature, discrete water quality, tributary/ditch analysis for flow measurements, both continuous and discrete; and the monitoring of five ground water wells for continuous levels and temperatures and discrete water quality. Sampling has continued monthly during non-irrigation season and weekly during irrigation.

Accomplishments for 2024 include the selection of additional sampling sites with permissions in progress; the identification of additional existing groundwater wells for analysis; the use of Open ET which provides daily data of the area that can be useful in the model; submittal of a successful proposal for Directed Cooperative Management Funds in the amount of \$100,000; and the publication of an Open File report about the project with an additional report to be completed in April 2025.

Next steps for the project include the continuation of sampling on the East River and going back to the weekly schedule in the spring. The USGS plans to complete reconnaissance of existing wells in late March or early April (pending landowner permission). They also plan to install surface-water flow sites on East River No. 1 Ditch and Slide Ditch in spring (pending landowner permission). Finally, the USGS is planning a field trip in late July to use thermal infrared and radon scanning along the East River to identify areas of groundwater return back to the river.

President Stacy McPhail said it was very exciting to see the data coming online and to learn what constraints they are working against. She offered that hopefully the District can help secure some of the landowner permissions. She thanked the USGS representatives for updating the Board and said she looks forward to getting the next round of results.

## **8. Miscellaneous Matters**

Director Joellen Fonken asked if the Doppler Radar to be installed at Black Mesa was online yet. General Manager Chavez replied that she believes the Doppler Radar unit that the District was supposed to get

was deployed to a site in eastern Colorado since the site at Black Mesa was not able to be wired for electricity prior to the ground freeze. Ms. Chavez expressed frustration with the lack of communication from Western States Water Weather Intelligence Center and Advance Radar Company. She affirmed that she is committed to getting Doppler Radar deployed in the Upper Gunnison Basin and will be exploring alternatives over the next few months.

Director Don Sabrowski asked if the hydro plant at Taylor Reservoir was up and running as he had heard that Gunnison Electric Company was having trouble with one of the gates. General Manager Chavez replied that it was her understanding that they were able to fix the problem and that the generator is online. She said it is still on the docket for the Board to tour the operations sometime this summer and that staff will begin working on trying to secure a date and time.

Senior Program Manager Beverly Richards reported that the District received 14 grant applications totaling \$470,000 and noted that \$300,000 was budgeted for awards. She said there was one application that came in after the deadline but that the District is working with them outside of the grant program. Staff will be reviewing the grant applications this week and then the Grant Committee will meet on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. to review staff recommendations and make final funding awards.

#### **9. Citizen Comments**

There were no comments. Guests were thanked for attending.

#### **10. Basin Water Supply Report**

Senior Program Manager Beverly Richards reported that the snowpack for the month peaked just over 100 percent following the recent snowstorm but that as of today, the average snowpack and soil moisture content has fallen under 100 percent. The National Weather Service webinar she attended this morning reported that the forecast calls for warmer and drier conditions with much of the western slope moving into drought conditions. Most of the recent snowfalls have gone to the north.

Director Rosemary Carroll noted that it has been a strange year for weather conditions overall and she is hoping for a return to more normal conditions.

Director Don Sabrowski asked if there were any changes to the cloud seeding schedule related to avalanche concerns. Ms. Richards answered that “no” there were two cloud seeding events in January and typically cloud seeding is only called off if the conditions reach “extreme.” As of today, the avalanche danger conditions were listed at “considerable” for Crested Butte.

#### **12. Future Meetings**

A summary of upcoming meetings was listed in the packet. It was noted that the Legislative



Committee meeting for February 28, 2025 was cancelled. Directors were also reminded to mark their calendars for April 17<sup>th</sup> for the Colorado River District’s “State of the River” dinner at the Fred Field Center. General Manager Chavez reported that a Doodle poll will go out soon to select a meeting date for the first TLUG meeting in March.

**13. Summary of Meeting Action Items**

- Staff will remind Mike Fabbre of Mt. Crested Butte Water and Sanitation to attend the March meeting.
- General Manager Chavez will continue to seek information on which of our grants are impacted by the federal funding freeze.
- Staff will work on linking to USGS’ website and coordinating with the USGS on sharing results from the irrigation return flow study.
- A tour of the Pitch Mine and a tour of the Taylor Hydroelectric Plant for Board and staff will be planned for some time after the first of June 2025.

**14. Adjournment of Regular Meeting**

Board President Stacy McPhail adjourned the regular Board meeting on February 24, 2025 at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Don Sabrowski, Secretary

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Stacy McPhail, President

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
 Monthly Budget Summary 2025

RETURN TO AGENDA

	Feb 25	YTD 2025	2025 Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Asp Water Sales	12,378.14	12,378.14	25,000.00	49.51%
Rent Income	3,275.00	6,550.00	43,500.00	15.06%
Cloud Seeding Income	0.00	0.00	124,500.00	0.0%
Interest Income	5,602.05	23,693.48	50,000.00	47.39%
Property Tax Income	92,569.10	101,966.02	2,204,862.00	4.63%
Reimbursed Exp Income	0.00	11,384.49	42,000.00	27.11%
Watershed Mgmt Income				
CWCB PEOP 2025-0557	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.0%
WMP CWCB PO 2023-3317 Income	0.00	0.00	94,401.00	0.0%
CWCB 2022-2085 (Restoration)Inc	0.00	0.00	52,837.00	0.0%
HAB Phase 2 - CFP 2024-82	0.00	0.00	35,004.00	0.0%
BOR DCP 2023-24 \$140,480	17,935.57	17,935.57	84,049.00	21.34%
<b>Total Watershed Mgmt Income</b>	<b>17,935.57</b>	<b>17,935.57</b>	<b>291,291.00</b>	<b>6.16%</b>
Wet Meadows Income				
TNC-UTV	0.00	0.00	25,064.00	0.0%
BLM GNA 140L1724	0.00	0.00	88,746.00	0.0%
US BLM Grant #L254AC00687-00	0.00	2,047.14	122,712.00	1.67%
ATBC Grant Income	0.00	26,000.87	24,895.00	104.44%
FWS Sage Brush Ecosystem Income	0.00	68,948.56	106,060.00	65.01%
USFS PA 2022 Income	0.00	0.00	17,945.00	0.0%
USFS SPA 2018 Grant	0.00	4,358.66		
<b>Total Wet Meadows Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>101,355.23</b>	<b>385,422.00</b>	<b>26.3%</b>
WQ Monitoring Inc	0.00	35,328.00	46,319.00	76.27%
Vehicle Income	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.0%
Additional Contribution Reserve	0.00	0.00	457,435.00	0.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>131,759.86</b>	<b>310,590.93</b>	<b>3,680,329.00</b>	<b>8.44%</b>
Expense				
1 Op X				
Admin.Travel & Exp.	1,455.96	1,666.53	35,000.00	4.76%
Audit Expense	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.0%
Accounting & Professional Fees	3,005.00	8,128.91	45,000.00	18.06%
BOD Expenses	2,449.72	999.72	15,000.00	6.67%
BOD Mileage	119.70	310.80	5,500.00	5.65%
BOD Mtg Fees	700.00	1,600.00	13,360.00	11.98%
Bonding and Insurance	401.00	2,399.00	15,500.00	15.48%
Building Rep/Maint	6.99	705.14	10,000.00	7.05%
CAM	491.15	1,302.30	7,500.00	17.36%
Computer Exp	2,051.28	9,909.23	32,200.00	30.77%
Copier Expenses	329.47	745.52	7,000.00	10.65%
County Treasurers' Fees	2,742.85	2,751.88	75,000.00	3.67%
Spencer Bldg Reserve Contrib	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.0%
Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	787.15	3,978.02	17,260.00	23.05%
Legal Publication	0.00	932.16	5,000.00	18.64%
Manager's Discretionary	296.20	1,359.58	25,000.00	5.44%
Meeting Expenses	681.71	681.71	5,000.00	13.63%
Office Cleaning	630.00	1,260.00	6,200.00	20.32%
Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	935.95	2,177.09	10,000.00	21.77%
Payroll Expenses	78,110.65	172,167.53	1,005,511.00	17.12%
Postage	898.10	1,117.10	1,500.00	74.47%

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Monthly Budget Summary 2025

	Feb 25	YTD 2025	2025 Budget	% of Budget
Telephone	310.76	1,082.90	9,000.00	12.03%
Utilities	842.04	1,282.45	6,000.00	21.37%
Vehicle Expense	104.68	104.68	3,500.00	2.99%
<b>Total 1 Op X</b>	<b>97,350.36</b>	<b>216,662.25</b>	<b>1,375,031.00</b>	<b>15.76%</b>
<b>2 Non-Op X</b>				
Aquatic Nuisance Species	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.0%
Asp Subordination Report	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.0%
Aspinall Contract Costs	20,437.72	20,437.72	21,000.00	97.32%
City of Gunnison Cleanup	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
Consulting/Engineering	0.00	540.00	50,000.00	1.08%
Coal Creek Watershed Coalition	0.00	0.00	17,000.00	0.0%
Donation Dust on Snowpack	0.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	100.0%
Drought Contingency Cont	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.0%
Grant Program	22,500.00	48,093.50	555,000.00	8.67%
Gunnison River Festival	0.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	100.0%
Endanger Fish Recovery Program	0.00	3,750.00	3,750.00	100.0%
Lake Fork Conservancy	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.0%
LSC Expenses	0.00	0.00	13,464.00	0.0%
Public Outreach	2,494.45	7,369.33	41,270.00	17.86%
Regional Water Supply Imp. Exp.	23,087.35	39,756.81	488,375.00	8.14%
Strategic Planning	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.0%
Taylor Park Projects Exp	0.00	0.00	7,500.00	0.0%
Watershed Mgmt X				
CWCB Pepo 2025-0557	1,332.00	3,994.80	25,000.00	15.98%
CWCB 2023-3317 (WMP Phase 3)	0.00	0.00	105,000.00	0.0%
HAB Phase 2 Expense	0.00	0.00	35,000.00	0.0%
CWCB 2022-2085 (Restoration)	0.00	0.00	52,837.00	0.0%
USBR Drought Contingency	4,935.00	24,620.76	94,696.00	26.0%
Watershed Mgmt X - Other	0.00	63.09		
<b>Total Watershed Mgmt X</b>	<b>6,267.00</b>	<b>28,678.65</b>	<b>312,533.00</b>	<b>9.18%</b>
Wet Meadow X				
TNC-UTV	19,314.98	19,314.98	25,064.00	77.06%
BLM L24AC00687	0.00	0.00	122,712.00	0.0%
BLM GNA 140L1724	0.00	0.00	88,746.00	0.0%
ATBC #2024-3842	0.00	0.00	24,895.00	0.0%
FWS Sage Brush Ecosystem Exp	0.00	3,333.33	106,060.00	3.14%
USFS PA 2022 Expense	0.00	0.00	17,945.00	0.0%
Wet Meadows Miscellaneous	500.00	842.95	10,000.00	8.43%
<b>Total Wet Meadow X</b>	<b>19,814.98</b>	<b>23,491.26</b>	<b>395,422.00</b>	<b>5.94%</b>
WQ Monitoring	0.00	0.00	207,484.00	0.0%
<b>Total 2 Non-Op X</b>	<b>94,601.50</b>	<b>187,617.27</b>	<b>2,226,298.00</b>	<b>8.43%</b>
Capital Outlay Expense				
Xeriscaping	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.0%
Spencer Unit A Reno	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.0%
Spencer Unit C Reno	-4,763.67	2,391.14	10,000.00	23.91%
<b>Total Capital Outlay Expense</b>	<b>-4,763.67</b>	<b>2,391.14</b>	<b>55,000.00</b>	<b>4.35%</b>
Contingency	0.00	0.00	24,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>187,188.19</b>	<b>406,670.66</b>	<b>3,680,329.00</b>	<b>11.05%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-55,428.33</b>	<b>-96,079.73</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Other Income/Expense				
Other Income	0.00	0.00		
Other Expense	0.00	0.00		

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Monthly Budget Summary 2025

	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>YTD 2025</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Net Other Income	0.00	0.00		
Net Income	-55,428.33	-96,079.73	0.00	100.0%



11:14 AM  
03/12/25  
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
February 2025

Date	Name	Account	Amount
AARP Medicare Rx			
02/01/2025	AARP Medicare Rx	74166 · Medical Insurance	104.70
Total AARP Medicare Rx			104.70
Andy Spann BOD			
02/28/2025	Andy Spann BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
02/28/2025	Andy Spann BOD	91751 · BOD Mileage	4.90
Total Andy Spann BOD			104.90
Anthem			
02/01/2025	Anthem	74166 · Medical Insurance	389.14
Total Anthem			389.14
Arch Ditch Association			
02/28/2025	Arch Ditch Association	Grant Program	22,500.00
Total Arch Ditch Association			22,500.00
Atmos Energy			
02/26/2025	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A	250.96
02/28/2025	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A	168.47
02/28/2025	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A	106.39
Total Atmos Energy			525.82
Beverly Richards			
02/01/2025	Beverly Richards	74166 · Medical Insurance	185.00

11:14 AM  
03/12/25  
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
February 2025

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Total Beverly Richards			185.00
Brooke Zanatell BOD			
02/28/2025	Brooke Zanatell BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total Brooke Zanatell BOD			100.00
Business Solutions Leasing			
02/28/2025	Business Solutions Leasing	Copier Expenses	242.89
Total Business Solutions Leasing			242.89
CEBT			
02/01/2025	CEBT	74166 · Medical Insurance	5,221.10
Total CEBT			5,221.10
Chase - United Credit Card			
02/28/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	91737 · Postage	898.10
02/28/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	Public Ed./Advertising	989.45
02/28/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	91747 · Meeting Expenses	191.12
02/28/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	Vehicle Expenses - Toyota Highl	104.68
02/28/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	91730 · Admin.Travel & Exp.	2,152.22
02/28/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	Computer Software	924.32
02/28/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	91735 · Office Supplies & Misc ...	686.95
02/28/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	91745 · BOD Expenses	1,667.34
02/28/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	Manager's Discretionary	296.20
02/28/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	GRF Receivable	24.17
02/28/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	Wet Meadow X - <i>did this go to wet Misc or Gen in g165 discreet</i>	500.00
Total Chase - United Credit Card			8,434.55

11:14 AM  
03/12/25  
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
February 2025

Date	Name	Account	Amount
City of Gunnison			
02/20/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	284.06
02/21/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	<u>32.16</u>
Total City of Gunnison			316.22
Don Sabrowski BOD			
02/28/2025	Don Sabrowski BOD	91745 · BOD Expenses	100.00
02/28/2025	Don Sabrowski BOD	91751 · BOD Mileage	<u>22.40</u>
Total Don Sabrowski BOD			122.40
Dove Graphics			
02/28/2025	Dove Graphics	91735 · Office Supplies & Misc ...	<u>249.00</u>
Total Dove Graphics			249.00
Fullmer's Ace Hardware			
02/28/2025	Fullmer's Ace Hardware	Building Rep/Maint - Unit A	<u>6.99</u>
Total Fullmer's Ace Hardware			6.99
GL Computer Service, Inc.			
02/28/2025	GL Computer Service, Inc.	Computer Repair/IT Support	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total GL Computer Service, Inc.			1,000.00
Gobins's, Inc.			
02/28/2025	Gobins's, Inc.	Copier Expenses	<u>86.58</u>
Total Gobins's, Inc.			86.58

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Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
February 2025

Date	Name	Account	Amount
02/28/2025	Golden Eagle Trash Service	84550 · CAM	81.15
	Total Golden Eagle Trash Service		81.15
02/28/2025	Great Escape Landscape	84550 · CAM	410.00
	Total Great Escape Landscape		410.00
02/11/2025	Gunnison Bank and Trust	80517 · Accounting & Professio...	5.00
	Total Gunnison Bank and Trust		5.00
02/28/2025	Hartman Brothers, Inc.	Cloud Seeding	17.46
	Total Hartman Brothers, Inc.		17.46
02/01/2025	Humana	74166 · Medical Insurance	91.00
	Total Humana		91.00
02/28/2025	Joellen Fonken BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
02/28/2025	Joellen Fonken BOD	91751 · BOD Mileage	7.00
	Total Joellen Fonken BOD		107.00
	John McClow		



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Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
February 2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
02/01/2025	John McClow	74166 · Medical Insurance	<u>185.00</u>
Total John McClow			185.00
John Perusek 02/28/2025	John Perusek	91745 · BOD Expenses	<u>335.18</u>
Total John Perusek			335.18
John Perusek BOD 02/28/2025	John Perusek BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	<u>100.00</u>
Total John Perusek BOD			100.00
Julie Nania 02/28/2025	Julie Nania	91745 · BOD Expenses	<u>347.20</u>
Total Julie Nania			347.20
Julie Nania BOD 02/28/2025	Julie Nania BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
02/28/2025	Julie Nania BOD	91751 · BOD Mileage	<u>42.00</u>
Total Julie Nania BOD			142.00
KEJJ Radio 02/28/2025	KEJJ Radio	Advertising Radio & Newspapers	<u>125.00</u>
Total KEJJ Radio			125.00
KVLE FM			

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Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
February 2025

Date	Name	Account	Amount
02/28/2025	KVLE FM	Advertising Radio & Newspapers	125.00
Total KVLE FM			125.00
02/28/2025	Lefave LLC Marios & The Dive	91747 · Meeting Expenses	490.59
Total Lefave LLC Marios & The Dive			490.59
02/28/2025	LexisNexis	Dues, Memberships&Subscripti...	686.38
Total LexisNexis			686.38
02/01/2025	Lightspeed Voice	91275 · Telephone	310.10
02/28/2025	Lightspeed Voice	91275 · Telephone	0.66
Total Lightspeed Voice			310.76
02/28/2025	Melinda McCawmedia	CWCB Pepo 2025-0557	80.00
Total Melinda McCawmedia			80.00
02/28/2025	Nationwide	91270 · Bonding and Insurance	401.00
Total Nationwide			401.00
New Morning Improvement, LLC			

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Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
February 2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
02/28/2025	New Morning Improvement, LLC	Office Cleaning	<u>630.00</u>
	Total New Morning Improvement, LLC		630.00
	North American Weather Consultants, Inc.		
02/28/2025	North American Weather Consultants, Inc.	Cloud Seeding	<u>23,031.44</u>
	Total North American Weather Consultants, Inc.		23,031.44
	OffCenter Designs, LLC		
02/28/2025	OffCenter Designs, LLC	General Public Outreach	<u>175.00</u>
	Total OffCenter Designs, LLC		175.00
	Pinnacol Assurance		
02/25/2025	Pinnacol Assurance	74200 · Work Comp Ins	<u>558.00</u>
	Total Pinnacol Assurance		558.00
	QuickBooks		
02/03/2025	QuickBooks	Dues, Memberships&Subscripti...	<u>84.00</u>
	Total QuickBooks		84.00
	RigNet Inc		
02/28/2025	RigNet Inc	Cloud Seeding	<u>38.45</u>
	Total RigNet Inc		38.45
	Rosemary Carroll - BOD		
02/28/2025	Rosemary Carroll - BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00

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Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
February 2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
02/28/2025	Rosemary Carroll - BOD	91751 · BOD Mileage	<u>42.00</u>
	Total Rosemary Carroll - BOD		142.00
	Rotary Club of Gunnison		
02/28/2025	Rotary Club of Gunnison	Other Sponsorships	<u>1,000.00</u>
	Total Rotary Club of Gunnison		1,000.00
	Silver World Publishing		
02/28/2025	Silver World Publishing	Public Ed./Advertising	<u>80.00</u>
	Total Silver World Publishing		80.00
	Stacy McPhail BOD		
02/28/2025	Stacy McPhail BOD	BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
02/28/2025	Stacy McPhail BOD	91751 · BOD Mileage	<u>1.40</u>
	Total Stacy McPhail BOD		101.40
	Strategic by Nature		
02/28/2025	Strategic by Nature	USBR Drought Contingency	<u>4,935.00</u>
	Total Strategic by Nature		4,935.00
	Sunshine Creatives		
02/28/2025	Sunshine Creatives	CWCB Pepo 2025-0557	<u>1,252.00</u>
	Total Sunshine Creatives		1,252.00
	Thomas N Stoeber, CPA		

11:14 AM  
03/12/25  
Accrual Basis

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
February 2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>
02/28/2025	Thomas N Stoeber, CPA	80517 · Accounting & Professio...	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total Thomas N Stoeber, CPA			3,000.00
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation			
02/28/2025	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Aspinall Contract Costs	34.57
02/28/2025	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Aspinall Contract Costs	<u>20,403.15</u>
Total U.S. Bureau of Reclamation			20,437.72
Visionary Broadband			
02/01/2025	Visionary Broadband	Internet	<u>126.96</u>
Total Visionary Broadband			126.96
Western Implement, Inc.			
02/28/2025	Western Implement, Inc.	TNC-UTV	<u>19,314.98</u>
Total Western Implement, Inc.			19,314.98
Zoom Video Communications, Inc.			
02/26/2025	Zoom Video Communications, Inc.	Dues, Memberships&Subscripti...	<u>16.77</u>
Total Zoom Video Communications, Inc.			16.77
Colotrust			
02/24/2025	Colotrust	11295 · CO Trust 8005	<u>80,000.00</u>
Total Colotrust			<u>80,000.00</u>
TOTAL			<u><u>198,552.73</u></u>

RETURN TO AGENDA

UGRWCD	Instrument	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	Date
Account Name: LPL Bonds	Type	2/28/2025	Basis	Rate	Date	Callable
LPL Bond 28 Freddie Mac CUSIP 3134GXQP2	BOND	199,555.80	200,000.00	3.040%	4/28/2025	11/28/2025
LPL Bond 20 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130AJLA5	BOND	545,811.20	550,000.00	0.760%	5/19/2025	
LPL Bond 21 (Fed Farm) CUSIP 3133EL3P7	BOND	339,222.28	345,000.00	0.540%	8/12/2025	3/7/2025
LPL Bond 29 (Fedl Farm Credit Bank) CUSIP 3133ERJP7	BOND	280,587.44	280,000.00	5.110%	7/1/2026	7/1/2025
LPL Bond 23 (FEDL) CUSIP 3130ALLD4	BOND	241,600.00	250,000.00	0.910%	3/17/2026	3/17/2025
LPL Bond 24 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130AMDY5	BOND	481,219.50	500,000.00	1.040%	5/20/2026	2/20/2025
LPL Bond 26 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130APBE4	BOND	152,466.72	160,000.00	1.050%	9/30/2026	3/30/2025
LPL Bond 30 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130B4BX8	BOND	354,128.12	355,000.00	4.890%	12/27/2028	6/27/2025
LPL Bond 31 (FHLMC) CUSIP 3134HAV34	BOND	250,296.00	250,000.00	4.990%	12/24/2029	6/24/2025
<b>LPL BOND SUBTOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 2,844,887.06</b>	<b>\$ 2,890,000.00</b>	<b>2.481%</b>		
<b>Account Name: LPL Certificates of Deposit</b>						
LPL 30 Synchrony Bank CD CUSIP 87165EXB8	CD	244,160.14	245,000.00	3.410%	7/29/2025	
<b>LPL CD SUBTOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 244,160.14</b>	<b>\$ 245,000.00</b>	<b>3.410%</b>		
<b>Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings</b>						
LPL Money Market Savings Account	M.M. SAVINGS	15,830.64	-	1.000%	N/A	
<b>LPL MM SUBTOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 15,830.64</b>				

Account Name	INSTRUMENT	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	Notes
	TYPE	2/28/2025	Basis	Rate	Date	
Community Banks of Colo. Lake City CD 7668	CD	109,228.30		4.01%	11/20/2026	*Updated on an Annual Basis
10520 Gunnison Bank & Trust CD 6637	CD	219,894.70		4.00%	2/26/2030	*Updated on an Annual Basis
10540 Gunnison Bank & Trust MM - Spencer Building Acct. 3589	CHKG	17,694.10		0.50%		
Gunnison Bank & Trust 8756	CHKG	101,314.97				
				<b>Average Mo. Yield</b>		
COLOTRUST PLUS+ 8001	COLO.	1,220,603.57		4.47%	N/A	
COLOTRUST UGRWCD EHOP 8003	COLO.	106,561.81		4.47%	N/A	
COLOTRUST SPENCER BUILDING 8005	COLO.	80,038.96		4.47%		
COLOTRUST PRIME 4001	COLO.	6,364.21		4.28%	N/A	
10200 Petty Cash	PETTY	239.91		N/A	N/A	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS BANK &amp; COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 1,861,940.53</b>				
<b>TOTAL UGRWCD</b>		<b>\$ 4,966,818.37</b>				

UGRWAE	INSTRUMENT	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	Date
Account Name	TYPE	2/28/2025	Basis	Rate	Date	Callable
LPL Bond CUSIP 3136GAAY5 Fedl Home Loan Mtg Corp	Bond	300,438.00	300,000.00	4.99%	2/21/2030	11/21/2025
Gunnison Bank & Trust 8764	CHKG	57,630.01				
COLOTRUST PLUS+ 8002	COLO.	406,683.11		4.47%	N/A	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS BANK &amp; COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 764,751.12</b>				
<b>Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings</b>						
LPL Money Market Savings Account	M.M. SAVINGS	15,480.33	-	0.250%	N/A	
<b>LPL MM SUBTOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 15,480.33</b>				
<b>TOTAL UGRWAE</b>		<b>\$ 780,231.45</b>				

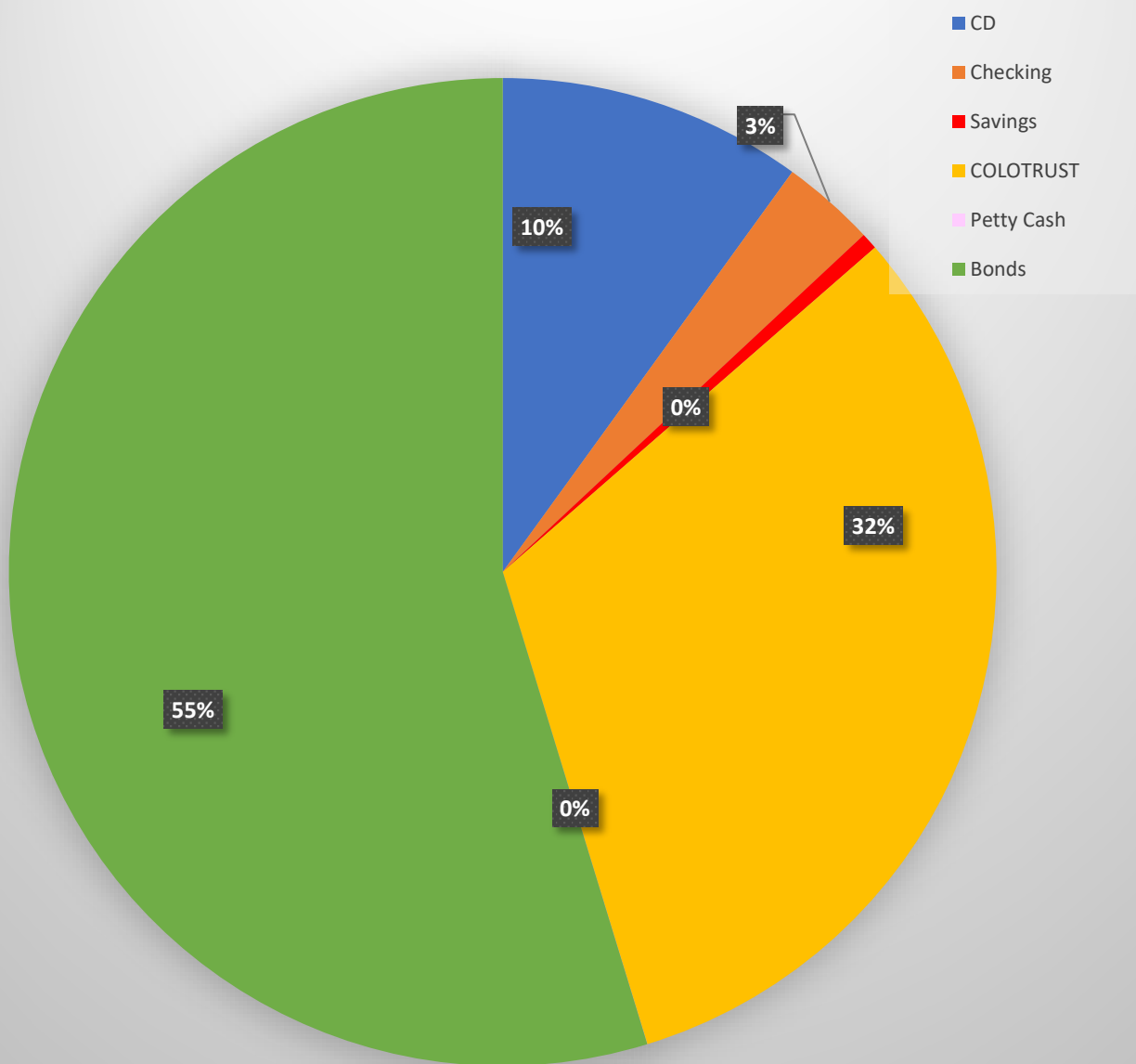
**TOTAL UGRWCD + UGRWAE** **\$ 5,747,049.82**

Total UGRWCD and UGRWAE by Bank			Total UGRWCD & UGRWAE by Investment Type		
LPL Financial	\$ 3,420,796.17	60%	CD	10%	573,283.14
Community Banks of Colo.	109,228.30	2%	Checking	3%	176,639.08
Gunnison Bank & Trust	396,533.78	7%	Savings	1%	31,310.97
COLOTRUST	1,820,251.66	32%	COLOTRUST	32%	1,820,251.66
Petty Cash	239.91	0%	Petty Cash	0%	239.91
<b>TOTAL ALL SOURCES</b>	<b>\$ 5,747,049.82</b>	<b>100%</b>	Bonds	55%	\$ 3,145,325.06
			<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$ 5,747,049.82</b>

### UGRWCD & UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE

CD	10%	\$	573,283.14
Checking	3%	\$	176,639.08
Savings	1%	\$	31,310.97
COLOTRUST	32%	\$	1,820,251.66
Petty Cash	0%	\$	239.91
Bonds	55%	\$	3,145,325.06
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,747,049.82</b>

### UGRWCD + UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE



# **AGENDA ITEM 4**

## **Treasurer's Report**



**MEMORANDUM**



**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** John Perusek, Treasurer  
Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** March 24, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** Treasurer's Report

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**I. Certificate of Deposit – Gunnison Bank and Trust**

The District had a certificate of deposit for \$219,894 at Gunnison Bank and Trust that matured on February 26, 2025. The interest rate for that CD was 2%. This was renewed for a period of five years at a 4% interest rate and the new maturity date is February 26, 2030.

**II. Executive Committee Discussion of Reserve and Cash Fund Policies**

Tom Stoeber (Stoeber CPA) attended the March 11 Executive Committee meeting and will be attending the March 24<sup>th</sup> Regular Board meeting to provide some recommendations to leadership on factors to take into account as we proceed with development of these policies.

**III. Mill Levy Distributions**

The District has received mill levy distributions for March 2025 from all three counties. The amounts are as follows:

- Gunnison County - \$673,133 – Deposited into ColoTrust Plus account
- Saguache County - \$2,811 – Deposited into General Fund checking account
- Hinsdale County - \$26,209 – Deposited into General Fund checking account

**IV. Finance Committee**

We will need to schedule a Finance Committee meeting prior to the start of the 2026 Budget process. We would also like to appoint an additional Board member to this Committee as there are only three members at present.

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

## **General Counsel's Update**



**LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY REPORT**  
**COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**2025 REGULAR SESSION**

March 20, 2025

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. **Entries in red are updates from the February 20 Report.** If a bill is substantially amended, the preamended or reengrossed version is linked.

**SENATE BILLS**

**[SENATE BILL 25-040](#) CONCERNING THE CREATION OF THE FUTURE OF SEVERANCE TAXES AND WATER FUNDING TASK FORCE.**

*Senate Sponsors: **Roberts and Simpson**, Bridges, Marchman, Pelton, B.*

*House Sponsors: **McCormick and Martinez***

**Water Resources and Agriculture Review Committee.** The bill creates the future of severance taxes and water funding task force (task force).

The department of natural resources is required to contract with a third party to conduct a study on severance taxes and water funding and develop recommendations for ways to continue funding water needs in the face of decreasing severance tax revenue (study). The purpose of the task force is to work with the third party to conduct the study and develop recommendations.

No later than January 15, 2026, the third party must submit a draft report, detailing the results of the study and any recommendations, to the department of natural resources and the task force for review. The task force is required to provide input on the draft report. No later than July 15, 2026, the third party must submit a final report, which incorporates the input of the task force, to the water resources and agriculture review committee (committee). The task force must present the final report to the committee during the 2026 legislative interim.

**[Preamended version with Senate Amendments](#)**

**UGRWCD Legislative Committee position:** Support

CWC State Affairs Committee position: Support

01/29/2025 Senate Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources Refer Amended to Appropriations.

01/08/2025 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Agriculture & Natural Resources

## HOUSE BILLS

### **HOUSE BILL 25-1014 CONCERNING MEASURES TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES PROCESSES.**

*House Sponsors: Johnson and Lukens*

*Senate Sponsors: Roberts and Simpson*

The division of water resources in the department of natural resources (division) is responsible for administering water rights and issuing water well permits, among other duties.

Under current law, after having received a permit to appropriate designated groundwater or construct a well outside the boundaries of a designated groundwater basin, a permit holder is required to construct the well within one year after the date of issuance of the permit. If the well is not constructed within one year, the permit expires; except that the ground water commission (commission) in the division or the state engineer, as applicable, may grant a single one-year extension.

The bill extends the time frame for construction of a well to 2 years, eliminating the need for the commission or the state engineer to approve a one-year extension to the initial one-year construction time frame, except for permits issued for federally authorized water projects. The bill also removes the requirement that the commission or state engineer must mail a certified letter to the permit holder before a permit can be formally expired. The bill allows the commission or state engineer to reinstate an expired permit if the applicant for reinstatement of the permit can show that the well was completed in a timely manner and submits a \$30 fee.

Under current law, the division engineer of each water division is required to decennially present to the water court a list of water rights that meet the criteria for abandonment. The bill splits this decennial abandonment process into 2 batches, grouped by water division and spaced 5 years apart, beginning with 2030 and 2035. The bill maintains the requirement that the abandonment process be performed every 10 years in each water division.

The bill extends certain time frames relating to the well permitting process. Lastly, the bill eliminates final permitting requirements for non-Denver Basin bedrock aquifer wells in the designated basins.

**UGRWCD Legislative Committee position:** Support

CWC State Affairs Committee position: Support

03/10/2025 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Agriculture & Natural Resources

03/05/2025 House Third Reading Passed - No Amendments

03/04/2025 House Second Reading Special Order - Passed with Amendments - Committee, Floor

03/03/2025 House Second Reading Special Order - Laid Over Daily - No Amendments

02/28/2025 House Committee on Appropriations Refer Unamended to House Committee of the Whole

01/27/2025 House Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Refer Amended to Appropriations

01/08/2025 Introduced In House - Assigned to Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources.

**HOUSE BILL 25-1099 CONCERNING STANDARDS FOR THE DETERMINATION OF A TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD FOR STATE WATERS.**

*House Sponsors: Mauro and Taggart*

*Senate Sponsor: Hinrichsen*

The bill requires the water quality control commission, on or before January 1, 2027, to issue written guidance specific to the development of the daily maximum amount of a pollutant from all sources that is allowed to enter state waters so that an applicable water quality standard is met (total maximum daily load). The bill also requires the division of administration in the department of public health and environment, on and after January 1, 2028, to determine a total maximum daily load for state waters using credible data.

**UGRWCD Legislative Committee position:** Support

CWC State Affairs Committee position: No position

03/06/2025 House Committee on Energy & Environment ***Postpone Indefinitely***

01/27/2025 Introduced In House - Assigned to Energy & Environment

**HOUSE BILL 25-1106 CONCERNING REMOVING LIMITATIONS ON RESIDENTIAL ROOFTOP PRECIPITATION COLLECTION.**

*House Sponsor: Suckla*

*Senate Sponsor: None*

Current law authorizes the collection of rooftop precipitation from a single-family residence or a multifamily residence with 4 or fewer units (small residence). The bill removes the 100-gallon limitation on the amount of rooftop precipitation that may be collected from a small residence and removes all limitations on how the collected precipitation may be used. The bill allows for collection of any amount of precipitation for any use on the property of a small residence.

**UGRWCD Legislative Committee position:** Oppose

CWC State Affairs Committee position: Oppose

02/13/2025 House Committee on Energy & Environment ***Postpone Indefinitely***

01/27/2025 Introduced In House - Assigned to Energy & Environment

**HOUSE BILL 25-1113 CONCERNING LIMITING THE USE OF CERTAIN LANDSCAPING PRACTICES IN NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT.**

*House Sponsors: **Smith and McCormick***

*Senate Sponsor: **Roberts***

In the 2024 regular legislative session, the general assembly enacted Senate Bill 24-005, which:

- Prohibits a local entity, on and after January 1, 2026, from installing, planting, or placing, or allowing any person to install, plant, or place, any nonfunctional turf, artificial turf, or invasive plant species, as part of a new development project or redevelopment project, on any portion of applicable property within the local entity's jurisdiction; and
- Requires a local entity, on or before January 1, 2026, to enact or amend ordinances, resolutions, regulations, or other laws regulating new development projects and redevelopment projects on applicable property in accordance with the new requirements.

For the purposes of Senate Bill 24-005, the bill expands the definition of "applicable property" to include residential real property that is used for apartment or condominium housing (applicable residential real property).

The bill also requires each local entity to enact or amend, on or before January 1, 2028, ordinances, resolutions, regulations, or other laws regulating new development projects and redevelopment projects within the local entity's jurisdiction to limit the installation of turf for all residential real property that is not applicable residential real property. Local entities must also impose limits on the installation of turf when enacting or amending ordinances, resolutions, regulations, or other laws on and after January 1, 2028.

**REENGROSSED with Amendments**

**UGRWCD Legislative Committee position:** Oppose

CWC State Affairs Committee position: Amend

03/06/2025 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Agriculture & Natural Resources

03/04/2025 House Third Reading Passed - No Amendments

03/03/2025 House Third Reading Laid Over Daily - No Amendments

02/28/2025 House Second Reading Special Order - Passed with Amendments - Committee, Floor

02/24/2025 House Second Reading Laid Over Daily - No Amendments

02/20/2025 House Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Refer Amended to House Committee of the Whole

01/27/2025 Introduced In House - Assigned to Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources.

**HOUSE BILL 25-1115 CONCERNING THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD'S ADMINISTRATION OF A WATER SUPPLY MEASUREMENT PROGRAM.**

*House Sponsors: McCluskie and Soper*

*Senate Sponsors: Roberts and Catlin*

The bill authorizes the Colorado water conservation board (board) to administer a water supply measurement and forecasting program to collect and disseminate data on snowpack levels, investigate technological advances in snowpack measurement and water supply forecasting, and collect other data that the board determines will assist in those efforts.

**UGRWCD Legislative Committee position:** Support

CWC State Affairs Committee position: Support

03/06/2025 Introduced In Senate - Assigned to Agriculture & Natural Resources

03/04/2025 House Third Reading Passed - No Amendments

03/03/2025 House Second Reading Special Order - Passed with Amendments - Committee

02/28/2025 House Committee on Appropriations Refer Amended to House Committee of the Whole

02/20/2025 House Committee on Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Refer Unamended to Appropriations

01/27/2025 Introduced In House - Assigned to Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources.

**HOUSE BILL 25-1120 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF AN ENTERPRISE TO IMPLEMENT A LOAN PROGRAM IN ORDER TO REPLACE FAILING SEPTIC SYSTEMS.**

*House Sponsor: Smith*

*Senate Sponsor: Roberts*

The bill creates the septic-system replacement enterprise (enterprise), which operates as a government-owned business imposing and collecting a fee charged on septic-system permits and using the fee revenue to provide loans to replace failing septic systems (loan program).

The enterprise is governed by a board that consists of 7 members appointed by the governor as follows:

- One member who is a county commissioner in a county that has rural areas; One member who is a member of a county board of health in a county that has rural areas; One member who is a member of a governing body of a municipality that has septic systems;

- One member who represents the department of public health and environment (department);
- One member who represents the department of local affairs;
- One member who represents an association of counties within Colorado and who lives in a rural area; and
- One member who is a rural homeowner with a septic system.
- 

Each member of the board serves at the pleasure of the governor. The term of appointment is 4 years, with some members having staggered terms. Members of the board serve without compensation but are entitled to receive reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the members' duties on the board. The board will meet as necessary.

The enterprise will impose a fee on septic-system permits and administer the collection of the fee, and the enterprise may issue revenue bonds, buy and sell property, enter into contracts, sue or be sued, hire employees, set up an office, place liens on property, adopt rules, and take any action necessary to implement the bill.

Starting January 15, 2027, and by January 15 each year through 2029, the enterprise will submit a written report to the governor, the joint budget committee, the house of representatives transportation, housing, and local government committee, and the senate local government and housing committee. The report must include:

- An accounting of the number of loans made under the loan program, the total amount of the loans, the average amount of a loan, and the number of septic systems replaced as a result of the loan program;
- An evaluation of the loan program; and
- Any legislative recommendations for the loan program.

The enterprise will impose a septic-system enterprise fee on each permit to install or replace a septic system. The fee is:

- \$10 if the fee for the septic-system permit is less than \$500;
- \$50 if the fee for the septic-system permit is \$500 or more but less than \$1,000;
- \$100 if the fee for the septic-system permit is \$1,000 or more but less than \$1,400; and
- \$200 if the fee for the septic-system permit is \$1,400 or more.

The enterprise must consult with and coordinate with the water quality control commission (commission) and local boards of health that issue septic-system permits. The division of administration within the department and the local government that issues the permit may retain up to 5% of the fee to cover administrative costs. When the fee revenue is projected to exceed the amount reasonably necessary to implement the loan program and administer the bill, the enterprise shall adjust the amount of the fee so that the revenue will equal the amount of money needed to reasonably administer the loan program. The commission may adopt rules to implement the division of administration's collection of the fee.

The fee will be used by the enterprise to establish the loan program, which makes interest-free or low-interest loans to low-income or low-credit-score households to replace failing septic systems.

The enterprise will contract with at least 2 community development financial institutions (financial institutions) to administer the loan program. Standards are set for a financial



institution to qualify to administer the loan program. The financial institution must enter into a contract with the enterprise. The bill sets contract standards, including authorization for a financial institution to include an administration fee in an amount reasonably calculated to cover the costs to implement the contract.

A financial institution will use the money collected from the fee to make loans to eligible homeowners in low-income or low-credit-score households for the purpose of replacing septic systems. The financial institution may establish reasonable standards and procedures to make loans in compliance with the bill and the contract.

The enterprise or the department may seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations from private or public sources to fund the bill.

**UGRWCD Legislative Committee position:** Monitor

CWC State Affairs Committee position: No position.

03/03/2025 **House Committee on Finance Refer Unamended to Appropriations**

02/13/2025 House Committee on Energy & Environment Refer Amended to Finance

01/28/2025 Introduced In House - Assigned to Energy & Environment

**POLICY REGARDING ADMINISTRATION OF  
RECREATIONAL IN-CHANNEL DIVERSION WATER RIGHT  
FOR THE GUNNISON WHITEWATER COURSE**

**Adopted March 28, 2016**

The Board of Directors has adopted the following Value Statement:

The Board regards irrigation, flood control, municipal and industrial uses, ecological needs, recreational opportunities, and aesthetic values to be important matters for the District and the public it serves and advocates achieving a balance among competing uses of water within the District to minimize conflict among them.

Consistent with that Value Statement, the Board has invested significant public resources in obtaining adjudication of a Recreational In-Channel Diversion (RICD) water right for the Gunnison Whitewater Course pursuant to the provisions of § 37-92-103(4), Colorado Revised Statutes.

Gunnison County has invested significant public resources in the construction, maintenance and repair of the Gunnison Whitewater Course.

The Board therefore concludes that it has a fiduciary duty to the taxpayers of the District to be prepared to administer the RICD water right decreed in Case No. 2012 CW 4, Water Division 4 if and when it is necessary or appropriate to call out junior upstream water rights to make water available to protect reasonable recreation use of the Gunnison Whitewater Course.

In furtherance of this policy, the Board directs staff to put in place the mechanisms that will make administration of the RICD possible in accordance with the terms and limitations of the decree; specifically:

- Installation of a measuring device in the West Branch to allow accurate measurement of flows into the Whitewater Course in 2017.
- Develop, in collaboration with the Division of Water Resources of additions to the Gunnison River Accounting Spreadsheet to provide the tool enabling administration, including calculation of Taylor Park Reservoir recreation releases.
- Maintain records of flows in the Whitewater Course in order to have an accurate record over time of when the RICD water right is short and could be called.
- Maintain a listing of junior water rights subject to curtailment if the RICD water right is called.

**The Executive Committee recommends the rescission of this policy because the action items were not accomplished, the policy is not required to protect the water right, and administering the water right could injure District constituents.**

## **POLICY REGARDING POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

*Adopted by the Board of Directors November 23, 2020*

***Readopted March 24, 2025***

A member of the Board of Directors who has a personal or private interest, direct or indirect, in any matter proposed or pending before the District shall disclose such interest to the Board of Directors. The disclosure shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting, and the Director making the disclosure shall not vote on that matter and shall refrain from attempting to influence the decisions of the other members of the Board in voting on the matter.

**The Executive Committee recommends continuing this policy in effect.**

## POLICY ON TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT FOR DIRECTORS

Adopted March 24, 2025

When a Director uses his or her personal vehicle for travel outside the District on District business, the Director shall be reimbursed for an amount equal to the current I.R.S. mileage rate. For reimbursed travel, Directors should use the most direct route from their residence to their destination.

Directors will also be reimbursed for meals, lodging, and incidental expenses incurred while traveling on District business. Directors are responsible for controlling expenses at a reasonable level. For guidance on reasonable expenses, Directors should consult the tables provided pursuant to the State of Colorado Fiscal Travel Rules<sup>1</sup>. Directors will not be reimbursed for alcoholic beverages.\*

To be reimbursed for mileage and other travel expenses, a Director must submit a District Expense Report and Request for Reimbursement with receipts to the District within 45 days after incurring the expense.

\*If the District hosts a meal for Directors and staff during participation in an event, the District may provide one alcoholic beverage for those attending the meal.

**The Executive Committee recommends the adoption of this policy.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.codot.gov/programs/planning/assets/financial/rpa/ff2025-meal-and-lodging-per-diem-colorado.pdf>

## **POLICY REGARDING INVESTMENT, MAINTENANCE, AND EXPENDITURE OF CASH RESERVES [SURPLUS?]**

### **1. PURPOSE.**

The Board of Directors declares that the financial security of the District requires the maintenance of a cash reserve [surplus?] for purposes including, but not limited to, short-term cash flow requirements, providing the resources to invest in significant projects, recovery from natural disasters affecting the water resources within the District, and sustaining the District in the event of revenue interruption.

### **2. APPLICABILITY.**

This policy applies to the investment, maintenance, and expenditure of the District's cash reserve [surplus?] (District Funds).

### **3. OBJECTIVES.**

District Funds will be invested in accordance with Title 24, Article 75, Part 6, Colorado Revised Statutes, and Federal Regulations. The District's investments shall be managed to attain a market rate of return, with attention to budgetary and economic cycles, while preserving and protecting capital. The primary objectives for investing District funds are safety, liquidity, and yield.

### **4. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.**

In consultation with the Treasurer, the General Manager shall be responsible for investment decisions and activities. Investments shall be managed consistent with this policy.

### **5. STANDARD OF PRUDENCE.**

The standard of prudence to be applied by the General Manager shall be the prudent investor rule: "Investments shall be made with judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing, which persons of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs, not for speculation, but for investment, considering the probable safety of their capital as well as the probable income to be derived."

The General Manager, acting in accordance with this policy and exercising due diligence, shall not be personally responsible for a specific security's credit risk or market price changes.

## 6. MAINTENANCE OF CASH BALANCE.

In addition to the funds received to meet District expenses for the current year, the minimum total amount of District Funds available shall equal two years' operating expenses, adjusted annually.

If the Board of Directors authorizes an expenditure of District Funds that reduces the total amount of cash available below the minimum required by Section 6 above, the Board shall simultaneously adopt a plan to replenish District Funds to restore the minimum balance expeditiously.

## 7. DIVERSIFICATION.

Investment of District Funds shall be diversified between short-term (one year or less) and long-term (no more than five years) investments. Short-term investments shall comprise not less than 40% of District investments. Investment maturities shall be scheduled to coincide with projected cash flow needs.

Consistent with § 24-75-601, Colorado Revised States, District Funds may be invested in the following instruments:

- U.S. Treasury Obligations (bills, notes, and bonds and STRIPS)
- U.S. Government Agency Securities
- SEC Registered Money Market Mutual Funds
- Certificates of Deposit in FDIC Insured Colorado Commercial Banks and Savings and Loan Associations with 102% collateral under PDPA over the \$250,000 FDIC insurance level
- Negotiable Certificates of deposit

## 8. SAFEKEEPING AND COLLATERALIZATION.

## 9. MONTHLY REPORTING.

Note: Some of this is covered in part in the District's *Financial and Investment Policies*, in Section 1. When this policy is adopted, we will integrate the two documents.

# **AGENDA ITEM 6**

## **Basin Water Supply**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Beverly Richards, Office Manager/Senior Program Manager  
**DATE:** March 24, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** Basin Water Supply Information

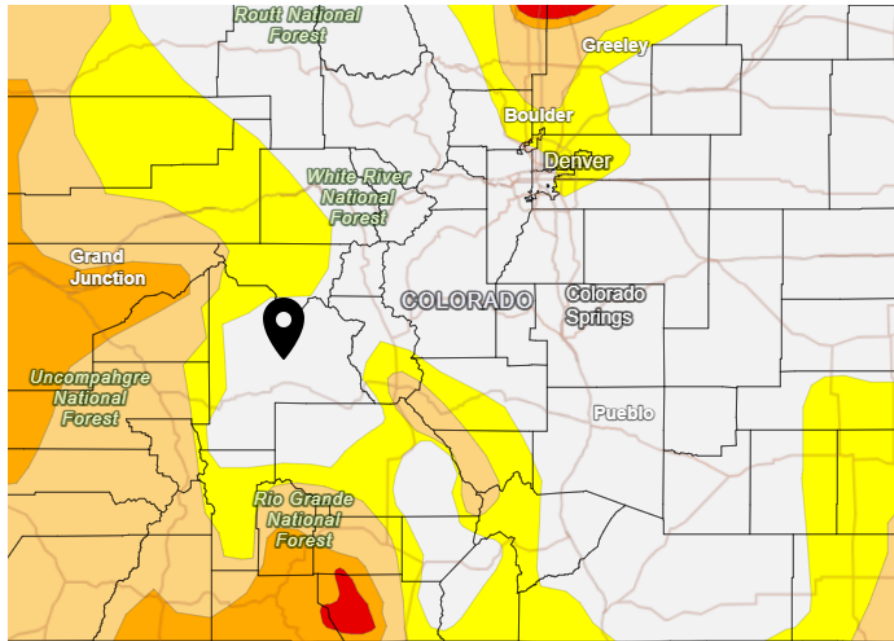
The information supplied as part of this memorandum is a monthly feature and includes information about drought, precipitation, snowpack, and reservoir storage.

**Current Conditions – Drought**







According to the *Drought Monitor* dated March 11, 2025, 53% of the entire state continues to experience no drought conditions, which is the same as the February report. According to the *Drought Monitor*, Gunnison County has seen some improvement in drought conditions as the county is now showing 80% with no drought conditions, which is a 44% improvement from the February report. Drought conditions in Hinsdale County have also seen a slight improvement as 32% of the county area moved from moderate drought (D1) conditions to abnormally dry (D0). Saguache County has continued to see some degradation with a total of 37% of the county moving into abnormally dry conditions and moderate drought (D1) conditions. This information is reflected in the map provided below. The drought monitor uses precipitation, temperature, and soil moisture to make their determinations for drought conditions.



## U.S. Drought Monitor



### Drought & Dryness Categories

	D0 - Abnormally Dry
	D1 - Moderate Drought
	D2 - Severe Drought
	D3 - Extreme Drought
	D4 - Exceptional Drought
	Total Area in Drought (D1-D4)

### % of Gunnison County

18.00%
1.61%
0%
0%
0%
1.61%

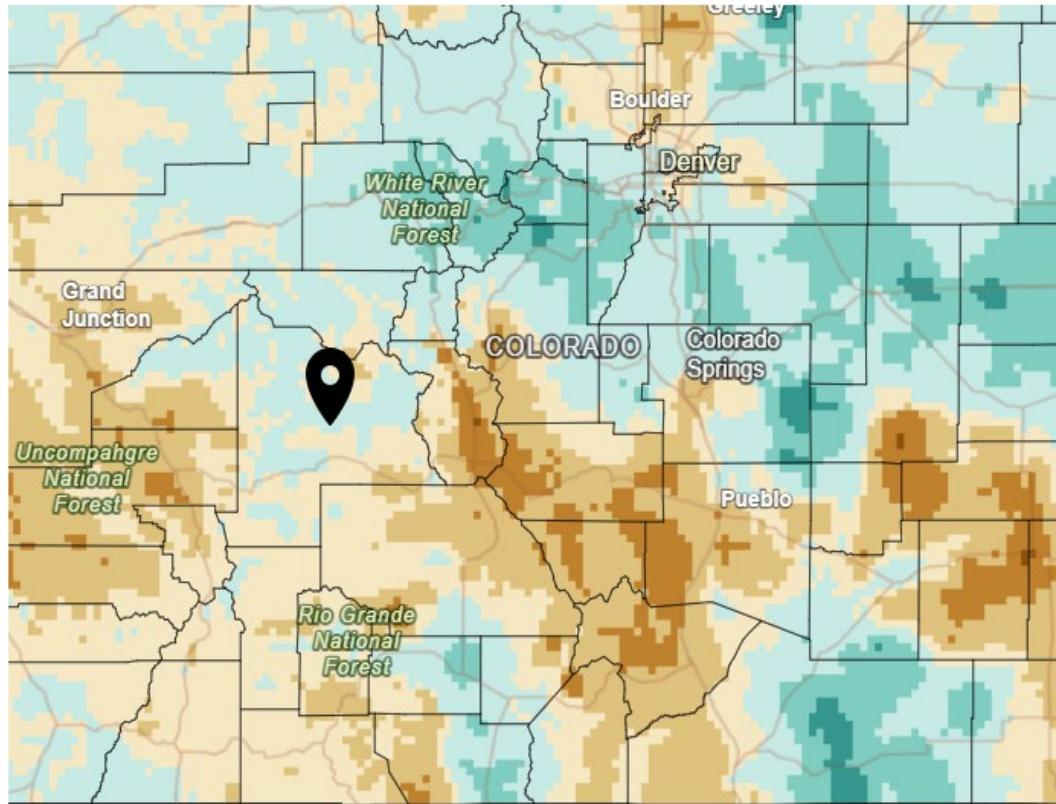
Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA  
Data Valid: 03/11/25

**Drought.gov**

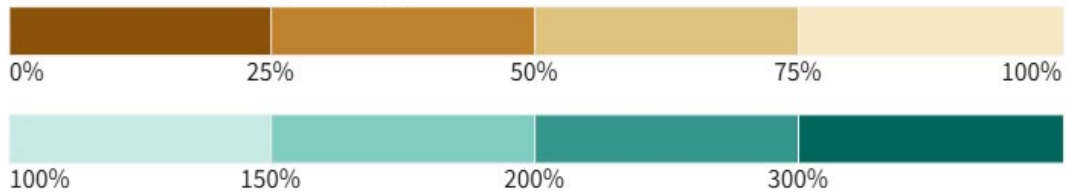
## Precipitation

Precipitation in the basin over the past 30 days (February 11 through March 10) has ranged from 50% of normal in the southern parts of the basin to 150% in the north. As shown in the figure below, much of the northern part of the state has had normal to above normal precipitation over the past 30 days indicated by the cooler colors; however, some areas in the southern part of the state saw below normal precipitation as indicated by the warmer colors. (*Drought.gov, March 10, 2025*)

## 30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

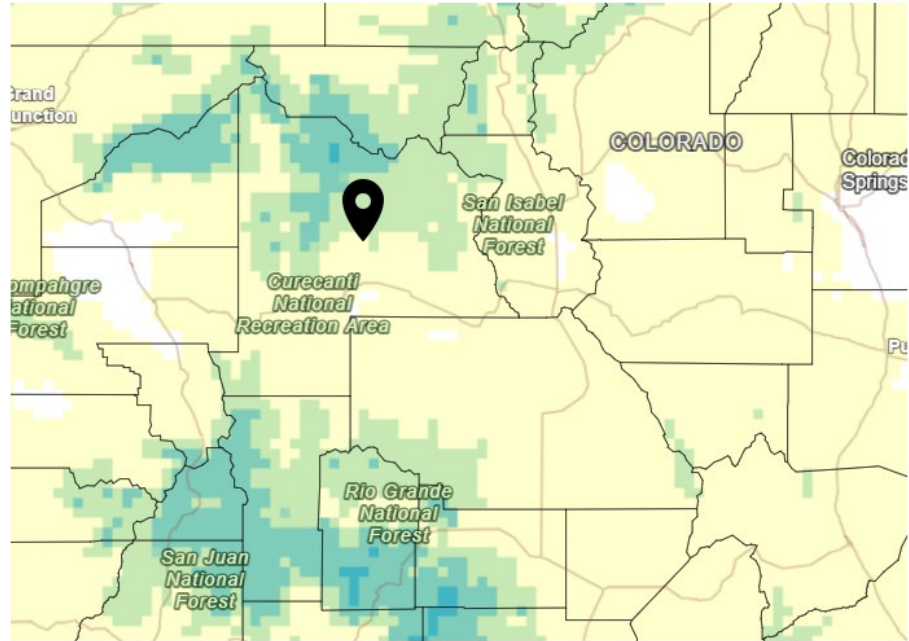


Source(s): UC Merced  
Data Valid: 03/10/25

**Drought.gov**

The figure below breaks down precipitation amounts for the past 7 days (March 4 through March 10) and highlights some areas in Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties where precipitation amounts have ranged from 1 to 6 inches in that timeframe. These are reflected in the cooler colors on the map. (*Drought.gov, February 10, 2025*).

### 7-Day Total Precipitation (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation

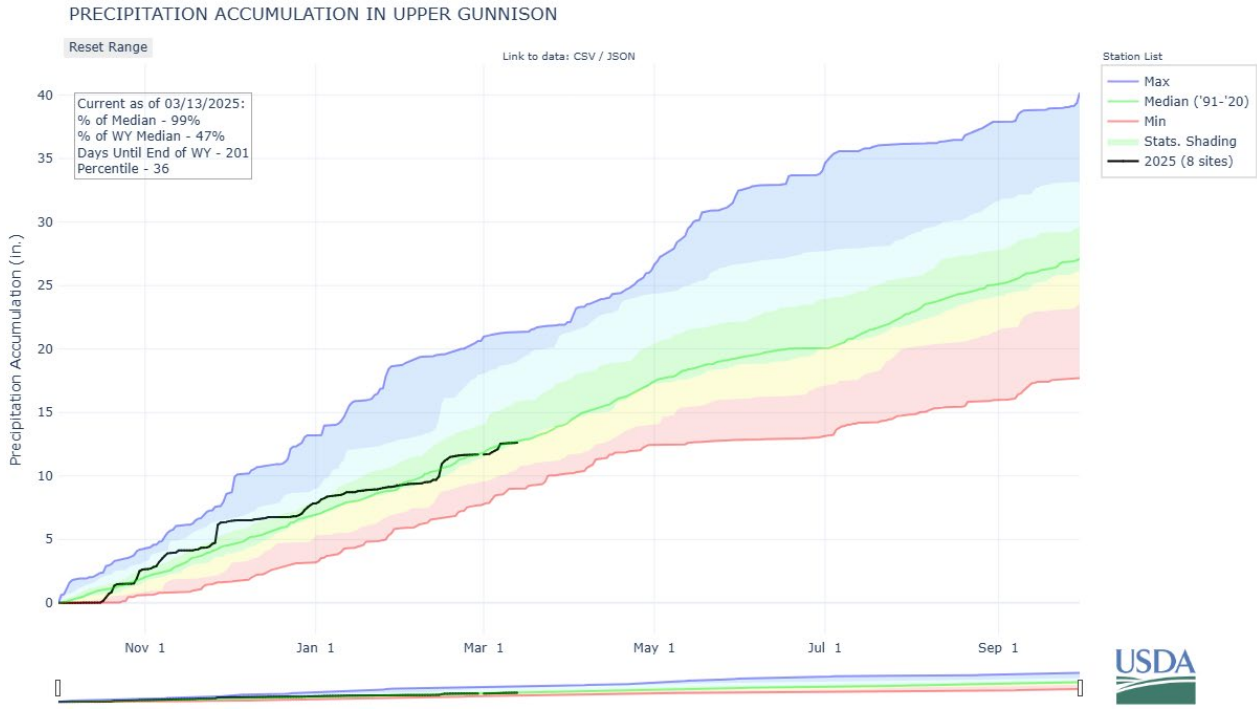


Source(s): UC Merced

Data Valid: 03/10/25

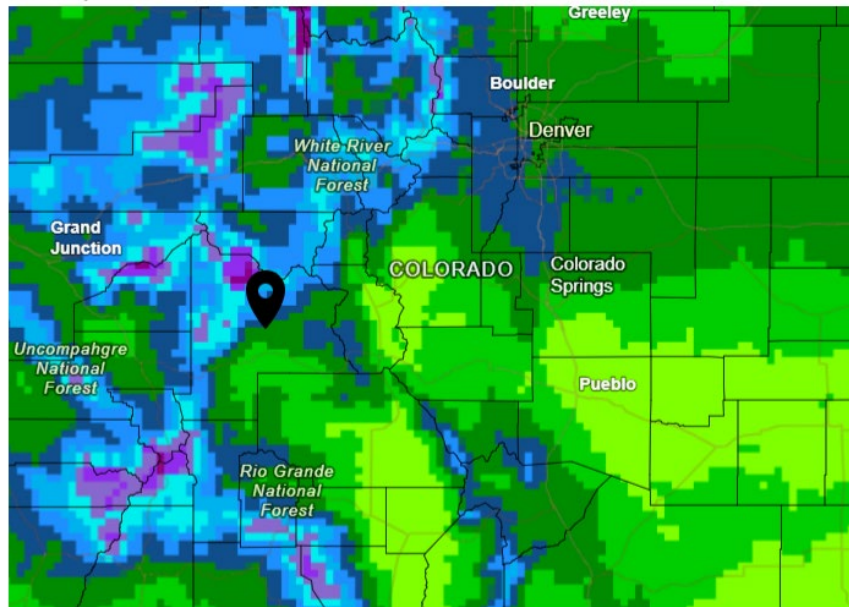
**Drought.gov**

The precipitation-trend graph for the Upper Gunnison Basin for the entire water year to date (*NRCS, March 13, 2025*) shows that precipitation in the basin has remained steady since March 7 and is currently at 99% of average for this date. The total precipitation amount for the water year to date for the Upper Gunnison Basin is 12.6” of accumulation and the median amount is 12.8”. This information is provided from a compilation of data from eight SNOTEL sites located in the basin where precipitation is measured.

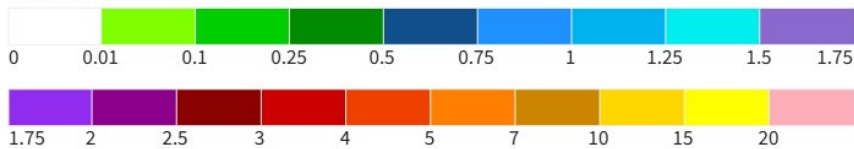


The 7-day quantitative forecast (March 12-19) for the Upper Gunnison Basin (*Drought.gov, March 13, 2025*) indicates that precipitation amounts are forecasted to range from 0.1” all the way up to 2.5” in the northern part of the basin which is shown by the purple and red colors on the map.

**7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for March 12-19, 2025**



**Predicted Inches of Precipitation**



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center  
 Last Updated: 03/13/25

**Drought.gov**

**Soil Moisture**

The NRCS website no longer has a soil moisture plot available. However, the Butte SNOTEL site shows that soil moisture in the top 8” of soil is at 29% saturation which is an increase of 1% from last month’s report. The median amount of saturation is 59.1% according to the record (NRCS, March 13, 2025).

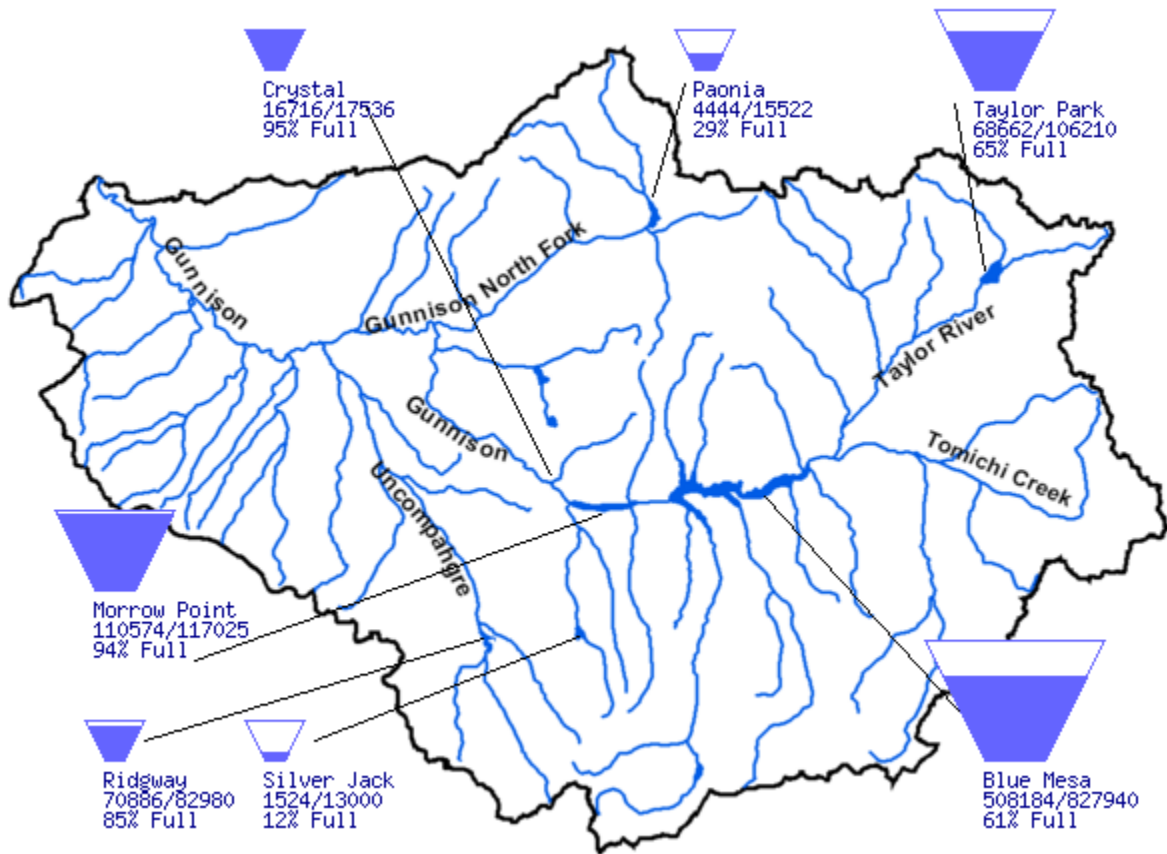
**Reservoir Storage and Operations**

Reservoir storage in the entire Gunnison Basin is at 63% which is a 3% increase from February. Reservoirs in the Upper Gunnison Basin include Taylor Park and Blue Mesa, which are at 65% and 61% full, respectively. The total reservoir storage amount in the Upper Gunnison basin is also 63% of full. These amounts are reflected in the tea-cup diagram below dated March 13, 2025 (USBR, River Basin Tea-cup Diagrams).



Data Current as of:  
03/13/2025

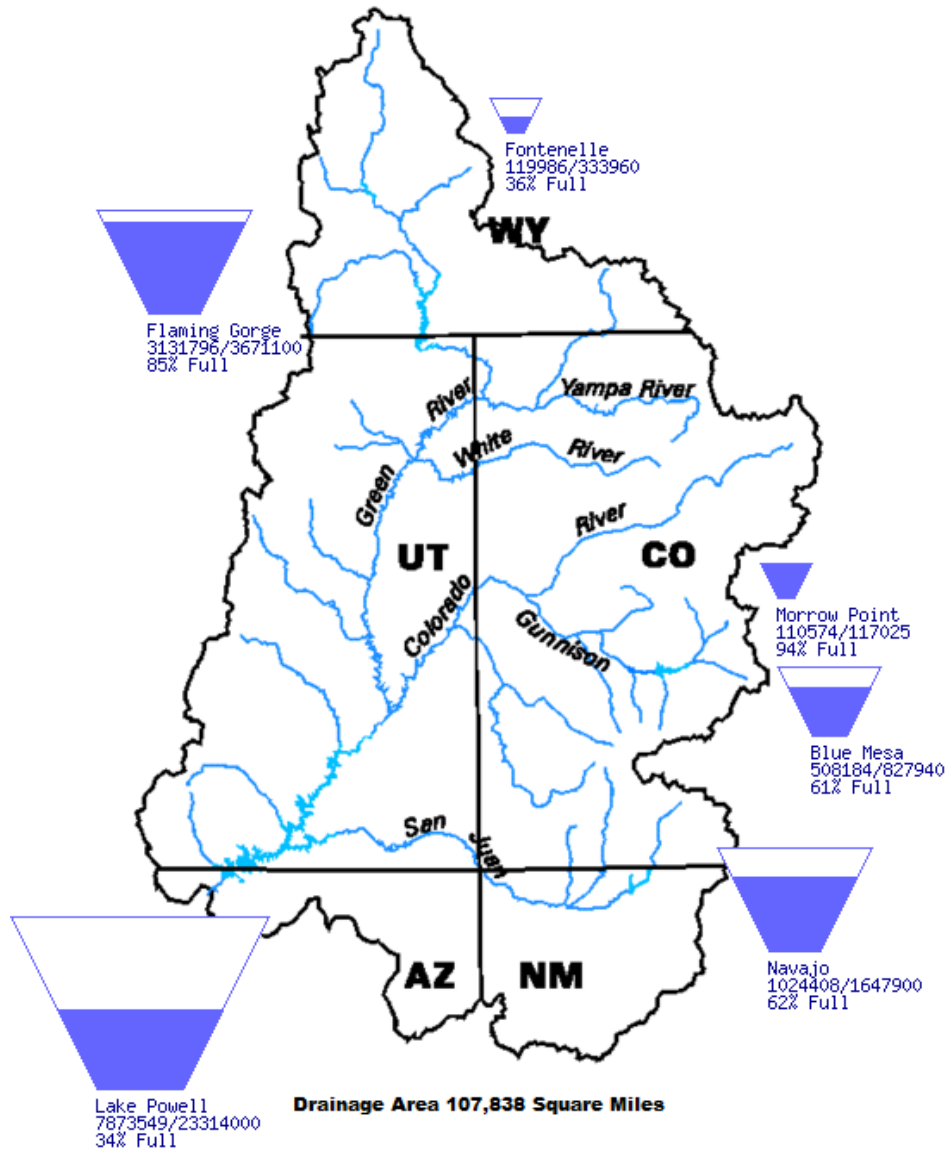
### Gunnison River Basin, CO



Reservoir storage in the Upper Colorado River Basin is 62% full, which is a decrease of 1% from the February report. This is reflected in the tea-cup diagram below dated March 13, 2025.

Data Current as of:  
03/13/2025

## Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin



### Aspinall Unit Operations

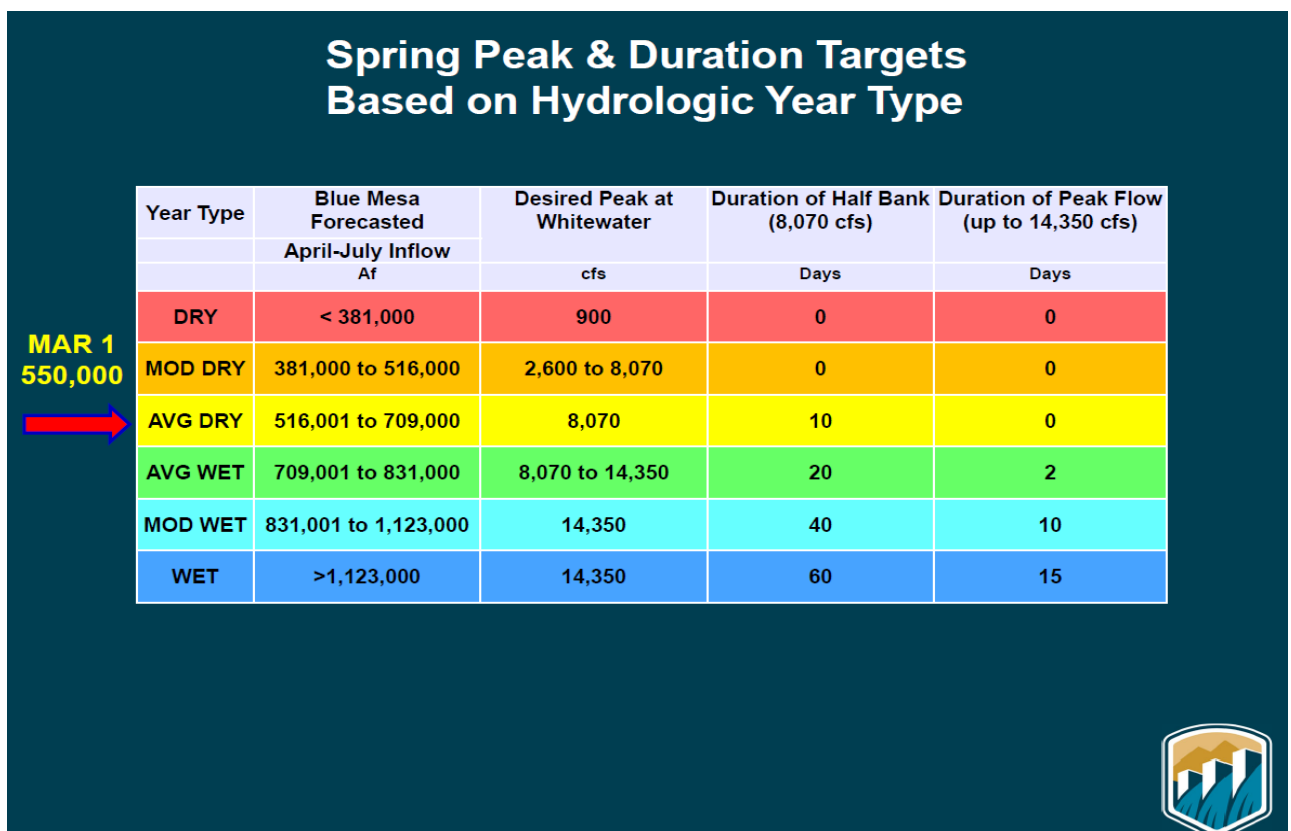
The following information is from the Aspinall Unit Operations webpage (*US Bureau of Reclamation dated March 6, 2025*).

The February unregulated inflow volume to Blue Mesa was 26,000 acre-feet, which is 118% of normal. Unregulated inflow volumes forecasted for Blue Mesa for the next three months (March, April, May) are projected to be: 37,000 acre-feet or 98% of average, 68,000 acre-feet or 87% of average, and 174,000 acre-feet or 87% of average, respectively.

The forecasted WY2025 unregulated inflow volume to Blue Mesa is projected to be a total of 815,000 acre-feet which is 90% of average and an increase of 36,000 acre-feet from the February report. The water supply period (April-July) for 2025 is currently forecasted to have an unregulated inflow volume of 550,000 acre-feet (84% of average) which is an increase from the February report of 30,000 acre-feet.

Under the Aspinall Unit Record of Decision, our current Gunnison River forecasted inflow volume places us in the Average Dry Year Category (516,0001 – 709,000 AF) which requires a Whitewater, Colorado gauge peak flow of 8,070 cfs with a 10-day duration half-bank full. If this forecast comes to fruition, it will have an observable and significant impact on reservoir levels in Blue Mesa.

A forecast of 35,000 AF less, would drop the year type into the Moderately Dry Year Category which would require a peak flow between 2,600 to 8,070 cfs based on a formula which could help to preserve reservoir levels. Thinking “glass half-full”, if the basin received some huge spring snowstorms that would be preferred.



The next Aspinall Unit Operations Group meeting will be held remotely on April 24, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. and District staff will attend.

### Taylor Reservoir

The Taylor Local Users Group held its first meeting for 2025 on March 12, 2025. Erik Knight from the US Bureau of Reclamation presented his March 1 forecast report to the group.

The Taylor Park Reservoir March 1 forecast shows 87,000 acre-feet of runoff into the reservoir which is 93% of average. This is a decline of 3,000 acre-feet from the February 1 forecast. This current forecast puts the



year type in the Average Year category. This category has a requirement for a spring peak release of 445 cfs for 5 days. The Colorado Basin River Forecast Center (CBRFC) is also forecasting an earlier runoff start and peak for 2025.

The operations plan provided in this update shows the reservoir filling to a maximum seasonal content of 103,000 acre-feet which is a full reservoir. Current releases from Taylor Park Dam remain at the winter rate of 85 cfs with a proposed increase to 100 cfs in April. The proposed operation plan, see below, projects the end of season content target to be 73,675 acre-feet (*USBR, March 7, 2025*). The members of the group all agreed that operations of the reservoir should remain on the conservative side at the beginning of the season to possibly save water later in the year. The Taylor Local Users Group will meet again on April 10, 2025 to discuss reservoir operations for the runoff season.

Proposed Operation  
Taylor Park Reservoir  
Mar forecast = 93% (87,000) of  
March 7, 2025

Month	Inflow ac-ft	Average Inflow cfs	Outflow ac-ft	Average Outflow cfs	EOM Content ac-ft	EOM Elevation ft
					70,820	
Nov 1-15	2,820	95	2,630	88	71,014	9310.70
Nov 16-30	2,540	85	2,680	90	70,869	9310.61
Dec 1-15	2,500	84	2,790	94	70,581	9310.43
Dec 16-31	2,560	81	2,740	86	70,405	9310.32
Jan 1-15	2,310	78	2,550	86	70,166	9310.17
Jan 16-31	2,200	69	2,710	85	69,657	9309.85
Feb 1-15	2,130	77	2,400	86	69,388	9309.68
Feb 16-28	2,020	73	2,450	88	68,962	9309.41
Mar 1-15	3,090	104	2,610	88	69,447	9309.72
Mar 16-31	3,990	126	2,770	87	70,662	9310.48
Apr 1-15	3,680	124	2,980	100	71,372	9310.93
Apr 16-30	5,920	199	2,980	100	74,313	9312.73
May 1-15	11,440	385	5,360	180	80,394	9316.32
May 16-31	20,200	637	7,640	241	92,954	9323.23
Jun 1-15	18,890	635	12,000	403	100,068	9326.92
Jun 16-30	13,540	455	10,410	350	102,977	9328.39
Jul 1-15	7,570	254	10,410	350	100,136	9326.96
Jul 16-31	5,760	182	11,110	350	94,786	9324.20
Aug 1-15	4,280	144	10,410	350	88,650	9320.93
Aug 16-31	3,720	117	9,920	313	82,455	9317.50
Sep 1-15	3,290	111	7,440	250	78,304	9315.11
Sep 16-30	3,710	125	7,440	250	74,579	9312.89
Oct 1-15	3,410	115	5,210	175	72,785	9311.80
Oct 16-31	3,590	113	2,700	85	73,675	9312.34

87,000 = April-July inflow  
93% of normal  
103,017 = Maximum Content

preliminary

## Lake Powell Operations

This information is provided by the *Lake Powell Water Database* webpage ([lakepowell.water-data.com](http://lakepowell.water-data.com)) and is dated March 13, 2025.

Lake Powell elevation is currently at 3561.22 feet with a content of 7.87 million acre-feet (maf) or 34% full (23,314,000 acre-feet). Total inflows for WY25 to date are 1.93 maf which is 68% of the historical average for March 13. The total releases out of Glen Canyon Dam for WY25 to date have been 3.22 maf which is 43% of the minimum required 7.5 maf for the water year.

During WY25 to date, storage has fallen by 1,268,145 acre-feet with total outflows exceeding total inflows by 1,286,700 acre-feet. The thirty-four tracked reservoirs above Lake Powell are currently at 73% of capacity and the rivers feeding into Lake Powell are running at 61% of the March 13 average. Lake Powell is now 138.8 feet below the full pool, which is a decline of 3.9 feet since the February report.

## Cloudseeding

This report comes from the February monthly report from *North American Weather Consultants (NAWC)* dated March 3, 2025. As stated in the February report to the Board, the number of seeding events did increase in February.

Seeding operations took place in five storm systems in February and this activity is summarized in the table below. Avalanche conditions were carefully monitored before and during each event in January to ensure that all regulations were honored, and no seeding suspensions occurred.

## Generator Usage for January 2025

The following table shows generator hours for the month of December.

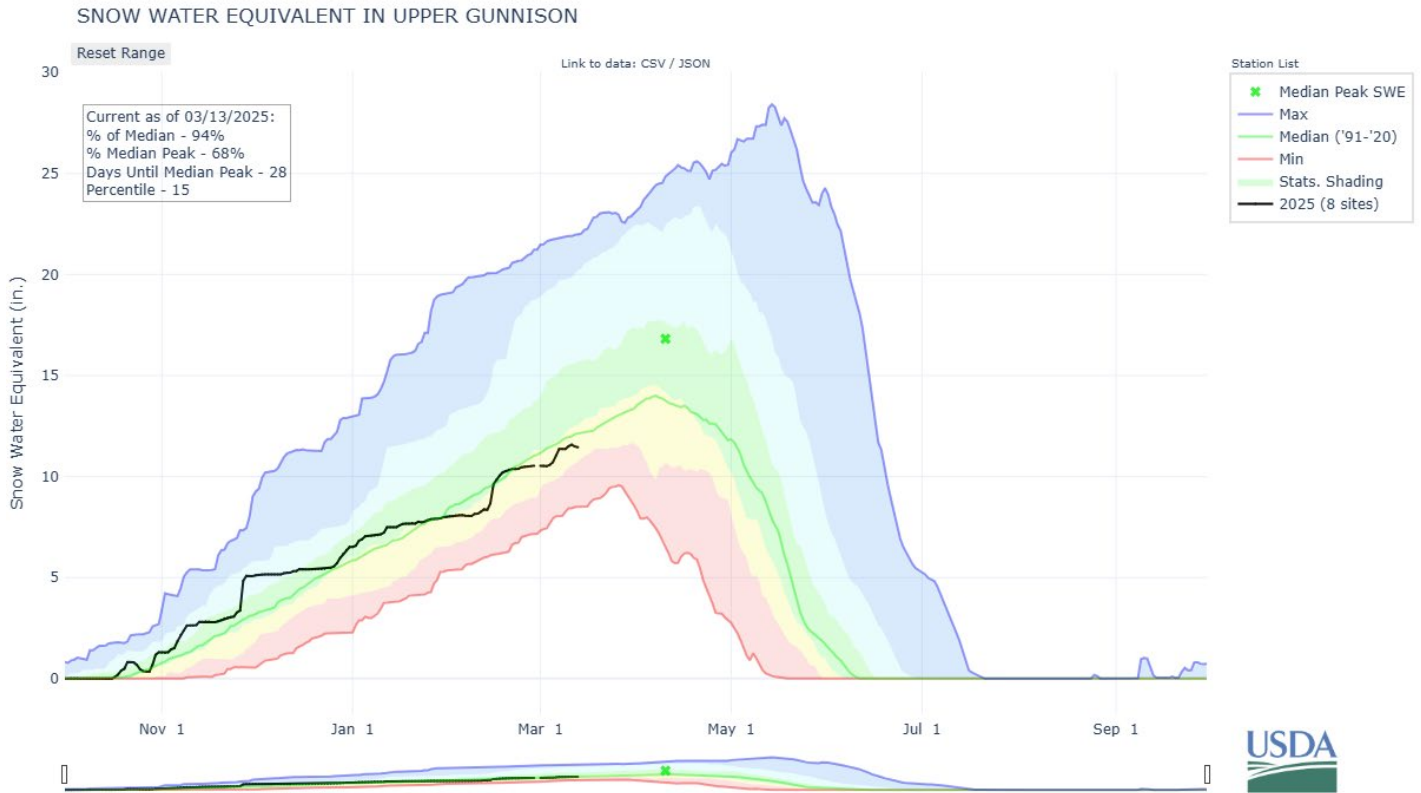
Storm Number	Dates	No. of Manual Generators Used	No. of Manual Hours	Lake Irwin Remote Hours	NAWC Remote (Black Mesa Lodge)
15	February 7-8	2	22	5	0
16	February 11-12	8	87.5	0	0
17	February 13-15	10	177.5	10.5	23.5
18	February 17-18	6	76.25	0	11.75
19	February 20	3	14	0	9
<b>February Total</b>			<b>377.25</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>44.25</b>
<b>Season To Date</b>			<b>881.75</b>	<b>69.25</b>	<b>167.25</b>

The table below shows the amount of snow water equivalent (SWE) accumulated at select SNOTEL sites during these seeding events.

**SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent Accumulation for Seeded Storm Events**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>SNOTEL Site</b>			
	<b>Schofield Pass</b>	<b>Park Cone</b>	<b>Porphyry Creek</b>	<b>Slumgullion</b>
<b>February 7-8</b>	0.6	0	0	0
<b>February 11-12</b>	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1
<b>February 13-15</b>	2.9	1.1	1.1	0.7
<b>February 17-18</b>	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.2
<b>February 20</b>	0.1	0	0.1	0.1

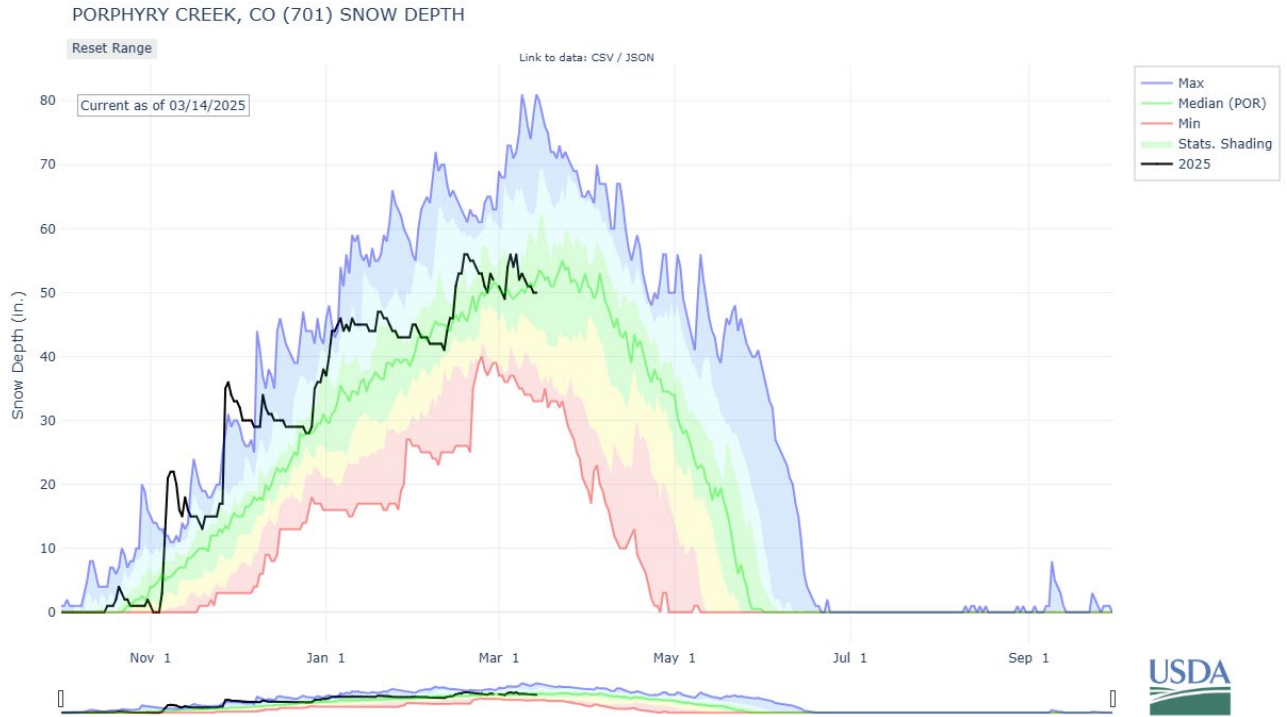
As of March 13, 2025, SWE in the Upper Gunnison basin is below normal, with a basin-wide average of 94% of the median as shown in the SWE plot provided below (*NRCS, March 13, 2025*). This is a 6% increase in SWE from the February report. The total SWE amount for the water year to date for the Upper Gunnison Basin is 11.4” and the median amount is 12.1”.



Also provided below are snow depth plots for specific SNOTEL sites (Porphyry Creek and Slumgullion) which shows the actual snow depth at these sites and provides a better representation of snow conditions in those areas of the basin.

### Porphyry Creek

Snow depth at Porphyry Creek is currently at 50” and the median for this site for March 14 is 52”. Based on these figures, the snow depth is 96% of the median for the period of record though snow depth has run consistently above normal at this site since December. (NRCS, March 14, 2025). This information is shown in the plot provided below.



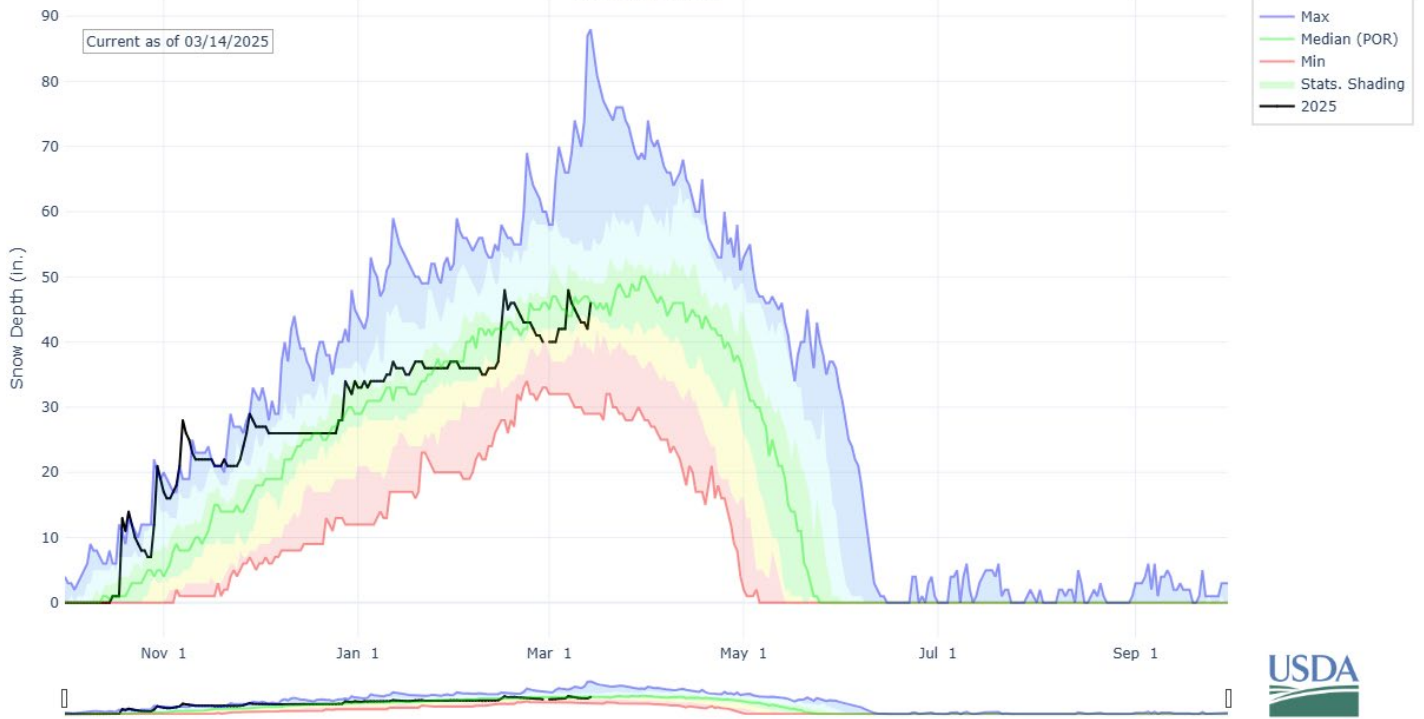
## Slumgullion

Snow depth at the Slumgullion SNOTEL site is currently 46” and the median for the period of record is 46”. Based on these amounts, the snow depth at the Slumgullion site is 100% of the median for March 14 (NRCS, March 14, 2025).

# SLUMGULLION, CO (762) SNOW DEPTH

Reset Range

[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)



# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Presentation - RMBL Field Trips in  
Gothic by Katie Lawn,  
RMBL Education Coordinator**

# **AGENDA ITEM 8**

**Mike Fabbre, Mgr. of Mt. Crested Bitte  
Water and Sanitation District,  
Progress on Meridian Lake Reservoir Project**



# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

**General Manager and Staff**

**Quarterly Reports**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** March 9, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** General Manager & Committee Reports (March)

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**I. Executive Committee**

A meeting of the UGRWCD Executive Committee (EC) was held on March 11, 2025. Following is a summary of agenda topics and outcomes:

1. Strategic Planning: RFP to be developed and shared with Executive Committee for final review before advertising. RFP will seek a consultant team with expertise in organizational strategic planning, facilitation and executive management leadership training.
2. Policy Discussions: General Counsel McClow will provide an update and recommendations for board action during his General Counsel Update.
  - a. Mission & Values Review & Possible Update – To be addressed in Strategic Planning Process.
  - b. **Director Travel Reimbursements** – New policy drafted, and **Board Action Requested**
  - c. Reserve Balance and Cash Balance Policies – Discussion with Tom Stoeber (Stoeber CPA).
  - d. **Administration of RICD** – Recommendation to rescind. **Board Action Requested**
  - e. **Trans-basin Diversion** – Recommendation to keep. No board action required.
  - f. **Conflicts of Interest** – Recommendation for Readoption. **Board Action Requested**
  - g. General Policies – General Counsel McClow discussion for consideration of development of general policy guidelines.
3. Human Resources – Employee Home Opportunity Program

**II. General Manager Report****A. Projects & Fundraising**

1. UGRWCD hosting a water funding workshop on March 25 at the Gunnison County Library (11am-4pm). Please see [attached workshop flyer.](#)
2. Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) staff have recommended to the CWCB Board that UGRWCD be awarded full funding (\$345,347) for our Agricultural Return Flow Study. Final approvals will be made at the March 19<sup>th</sup>-CWCB meeting in Greeley, Colorado.
3. For a summary update of projects being managed by Water Resources Project Manager, Bailey Friedman, please see [attached quarterly memorandum of update.](#)
4. Federal Funding Freeze Update
  - a. Fish & Wildlife Sagebrush Ecosystem – unfrozen.
  - b. BLM Good Neighbor Authority – still waiting to hear on the majority of funds in our contractual agreement.
  - c. General Manager has been in conversation with both CRWCD (Zane Kessler) and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (Alex Funk) to provide information to help prepare letters to Colorado’s Third Congressional District Congressman Jeff Hurd on the current and potential future impacts of the federal funding freeze and massive federal employee layoffs to Upper Gunnison District programs, activities as well as our community, economy, public safety, and the health of our forested watershed.

## **B. Upper Gunnison Basin Wet Meadows Program Update**

Please see attached [quarterly memorandum of update](#) from Wet Meadows Program Director, Amanda Aulenbach.

## **C. UGRWCD Water Quality/Quantity Update**

Please see [attached quarterly memorandum of update](#) from Ari Yamaguchi, Water Resources Specialist.

## **D. State Dredge and Fill Program (UGRWCD Comments)**

The latest stakeholder input process was related to obtaining comments and input to *Section 87.3 Scope and Applicability*. The following comments were submitted by UGRWCD:

- While UGRWCD greatly appreciates the efforts of WQCD staff to exempt new construction piping and lining activities occurring in State Waters, we have consulted with our General Counsel and we do not believe WQCD has the authority / ability to do so due to the Recapture Provision which was included in state statute.

Following is an excerpt of draft 87.3(g) exemption language for construction or maintenance of ditches as proposed by the WQCD:

(g) Construction or maintenance of farm ponds, stock ponds, farm lagoons, springs, recharge facilities located in uplands, and irrigation ditches or acequias, or maintenance of a drainage ditch, roadside ditch, or a ditch or canal conveying wastewater or water. Construction of new work or to extend, expand, or relocate an irrigation ditch or acequia for municipal or industrial purposes is not an exempt activity. As used in this subsection:

(i) "Construction" includes new work and work that results in an extension or expansion of an existing structure, and the construction of irrigation ditches or acequias includes activities such as placement of new control structures, ditch relocation, ditch conversion into pipe, and lining, which means placing impervious material such as concrete, clay, or geotextile within the flow perimeter of an open canal, lateral, or ditch with the intent of reducing seepage losses and improving conveyance efficiency. All new lining of ditches, in instances where the ditch has not previously been lined, is considered construction.

The above exemption language is in direct conflict with the Dredge and Fill statute which states: *Any discharge of dredged or fill material into state waters incidental to any activity that brings an area of the state waters into a use to which it was not previously subject, where the flow or circulation of state waters (UGRWCD emphasis added) may be impaired, or where the reach of such waters may be reduced, is not included in the exempted activities described in subsection 87.3(C) above.*

The above State of Colorado Recapture Provision language was modified to apply to state waters and to be consistent with Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act which says that any new piping or lining projects are a *change in use* and therefore are not exempt from having to obtain a permit.

It is UGRWCD's position that the WQCD cannot develop an exemption in their regulation that is in direct conflict with state statute, and therefore, they will have to either: 1) go back to the legislature to change the language in statute, or 2) issue a General Permit for piping and lining activities in state waters.

- Finally, UGRWCD was able to work with WQCD policy advisor Annette Quill and we have their tentative agreement that a June 3<sup>rd</sup>, western slope in-person stakeholder engagement meeting will be held in the Grand Junction area. This meeting will be focused on discussions around General Authorizations. We hope that this will enable more of our western slope constituents to participate in this public process.

## E. UGRWCD Drought Planning

Please see **attached quarterly memorandum of update** from Alana Nichols, Water Resources Fellow.

## III. Committee Reports

### F. District Grant Committee

1. Please see attached memorandum related to 2025 **grant project proposal summary and funding requests** from Grant Program Manager, Beverly Richards and associated UGRWCD Grant Committee recommendations for funding.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION:** Approve the 2025 funding award recommendations of the Grant Committee in the amount of \$238,420.

2. Follow-up on Director Spann question related to being provided with a historical accounting of the amount of grant funding being rolled into subsequent years. Please see **attached memorandum** from Grant Program Manager, Beverly Richards.

### G. Education & Outreach Committee

Please see **attached quarterly memorandum of update** from Sue Uerling, Administrative Assistant / Communications Specialist.

### H. Watershed Management Planning Committee

Please see **attached quarterly memorandum of update** from Water Resources Project Manager, Bailey Friedman.

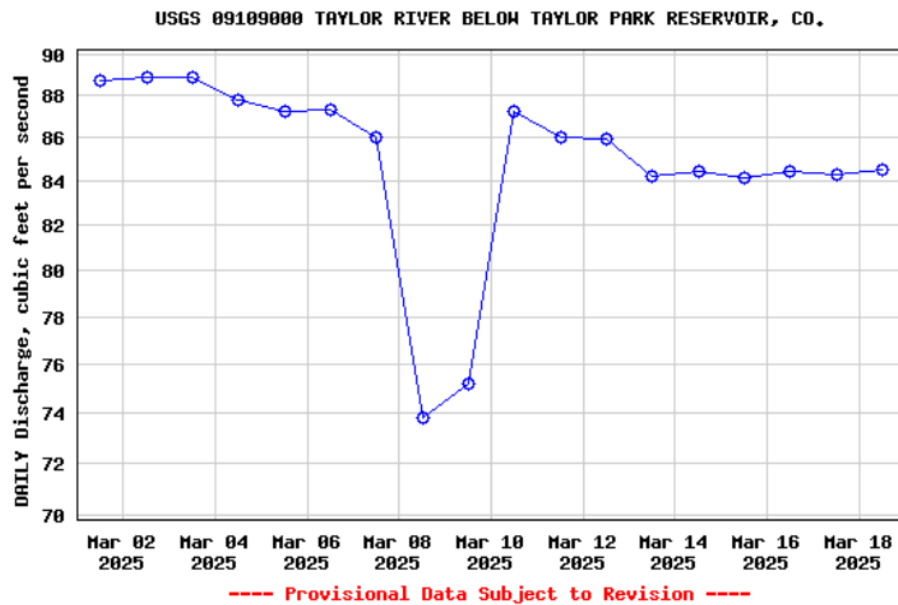
## IV. Taylor Local Users Group (TLUG)

1. The TLUG met on March 12, 2025, to discuss the March 1<sup>st</sup> Colorado Basin River Forecast Center **(CBRFC) Reservoir Inflow Forecast** and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) **March 1 Preliminary Operations Plan**. Also attached are the **draft March 12<sup>th</sup> TLUG minutes**.

The CBRFC forecasts are prepared on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. WRF-Hydro Reservoir Inflow Model forecasts from ASO, Inc., will be available starting April 1, 2025. This year ASO will be providing stream and reservoir inflow forecasts on a weekly basis and airborne snow flight data will also be ingested into the model when once those flights occur.

**Recommendation of the TLUG:** Accept U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) March 1, 2025, operations plan proposal.

2. TLUG also learned that the Taylor hydropower plant has had some recent issues with the bypass valve. There were a couple of events recently (March 8 and 9) in which the bypass valve was reading that it was open when in fact it was not causing releases to drop as low as 40-50 cfs versus the 85 cfs required winter flow rate per our subordination agreement. A new transducer has been ordered and a technician is being flow in to address the problem. In addition, a SCADA warning system isn't yet operational which is requiring the dam tender to do multiple daily checks. There are plans to move forward with the SCADA system as well.



UGRWCD General Manager followed-up by email with UVWUA General Manager Steve Pope (with cc to GCEA) with a request that we be notified immediately when there are infrastructure issues that result or may result in any changes to operational flows. USBR was not aware of the issues either.

## V. Gunnison Basin Roundtable

A. Upper Colorado River Commission Update – Becky Mitchell

B. CWCB Update

- a. Three New Board Members – Greg Johnson (City/County Denver); Taylor Hawes (Colorado Basin); Mike Camlin (Yampa-White Basin)
- b. Climate Action Workshops - April 3 (Pueblo) and 23 (Clifton)

- c. Ag Emergency Drought Program – loans and grants to counties with emergency drought designations (\$1.5M available annually).
  - d. Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Deadlines coming up are April 1.
  - e. Colorado Water Plan (CWP) – July 1.
  - f. Public Education Public Outreach – June 1
- C. Colorado River District Update – working on ISF acquisition for Shoshone and State of the River planned for Upper Gunnison Basin on April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- D. IBCC Report – *The meeting featured in-depth discussions on drought resilience, legislative updates, and the newly released [CWCB Guide](#). Members also engaged in brainstorming sessions to shape future [C9 Summits](#), No & Low Regrets Water Resilience strategies, and ways to strengthen future collaboration. Topics included rethinking the IBCC’s role, forming subcommittees, increasing engagement between meetings and ensuring clear, impactful messaging—especially around the [Colorado Water Plan](#). With a focus on both tradition and innovation, IBCC members are committed to evolving alongside Colorado’s water challenges, fostering meaningful conversations and working together to secure a sustainable water future (CWCB’s The Splash – Feb 2025).*
- E. State Engineer (Jason Ullman) – Starting the process of creating measurement rules in the Gunnison Basin. Stakeholder meetings to be held: April 30<sup>th</sup> (Bill Heddles Center in Delta, CO); May 1 (Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Office in Gunnison, CO); May 7 (Montrose County Events Center in Montrose, CO). UGRWCD will assist with advertising event.
- F. Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA) – Greg Peterson (Director) gave an overview of results from *Edge of Field* water quality studies and potential next phase/step of project.
- G. Future Meeting of the GBRT will be at Montrose Pavillion in Montrose, CO.

## VI. Other Miscellaneous General Manager Updates

- A. Surface Water Accounting Team (Division 4) / A.K.A. SWAT4
- Talked about history of SWAT4 (Established in 2000)
  - North Fork Basin very dry so unless something changes dramatically with snowpack, there will be greater reliance on the Aspinall Unit to meet peak flows at the Whitewater Park streamflow gauge.
  - The first bathymetric survey done on Blue Mesa in 2024 and it shows that since construction, we have only lost about 1500 AF of storage. Total storage at construction was 828,000 AF and current storage is 829,500 AF.
  - Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA) Operations: Starting to take water from the tunnel beginning March 17<sup>th</sup> and they will

be working to flush and charge up the canal systems over the next two weeks. Producers are beginning onion seed planting. Valley is very dry right now, but there is good storage in Ridgeway going into the season. Another concern is that the Plateau has no snow, and it is important because it helps feed the west side of the federal project area.

- UVWUA feeder canal gauges are going real-time now that they have rating curves developed which will help in their management of water.
- Blue Mesa Reservoir Dam hydroelectric production is off right now while annual maintenance is occurring.

VII. **Gunnison River Festival (GRF)**

A verbal update will be given by GRF President Chavez.

VIII. **Scientific Endeavors**

A verbal update will be given by Director Rosemary Carroll.



**MEMORANDUM**



**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Amanda Aulenbach, Wet Meadows Program Director  
**DATE:** 25 March 2025  
**SUBJECT:** Wet Meadows Program Update – March 2025

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Staff started advertising the position description for two Wet Meadow Restoration Technicians for the 2025 field season. The announcement will be advertised in the Crested Butte News and Gunnison Country Times for two weeks starting March 6. The deadline to apply is Friday, March 21. The announcement was shared with local and regional land management personnel and Western Colorado University (WCU) staff members via email, to distribute through their connections. Applications will be reviewed the week of March 24, and candidates selected for interviews by April 4.

Staff purchased the utility trailer for \$5,374 and the UTV for \$19,315, which was reimbursed through the Nature Conservancy Grant #P122048 that was received on March 1.

UGRWCD's Wet Meadows Program in collaboration with WCU's Center for Public Lands will host a community educational film screening of Episode 2: "All About a Bird: 1,000 Acts of Restoration" from the 5-part Docuseries "Thinking Like Water", on Friday, April 18 from 6-8:00pm at WCU's University Center Theatre. The second episode is about the Upper Gunnison Basin Wet Meadows Program. The film screening will be followed by a Q&A with the "water wizard", Bill Zeedyk, producer of the docuseries, Renea Roberts, and local land management professionals involved with restoration efforts in the Upper Gunnison Basin. The event is free and open to the public.

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Ari Yamaguchi, Water Resources Specialist  
**DATE:** 24 March 2025  
**SUBJECT:** Water Quality & Quantity

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**Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS)**

Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) has initiated the process to begin the manufacture and installation of a lockable gate for the Lake San Cristobal (LSC) boat ramp. This improvement will help CPW staff enforce state inspection laws. The total estimated cost of the project is \$7,190, to which the District has committed \$3,595 (Fifty-percent). The remaining cost will be covered by National Park Service funding.

As a reminder, the Board approved a 2025 budget line item of \$20,000 to support ANS efforts throughout the basin, leaving \$16,405 for other projects in the basin or related efforts at LSC (e.g., public education).

Staff participated in a basin-wide ANS meeting on 12 Mar 2025, along with representatives from Colorado Parks & Wildlife, National Park Service, US Forest Service, and Hinsdale County. Below are key takeaways from that meeting.

- Initial contracting with Hinsdale County has been started to support the fabrication and installation of the gate at the boat launch area on Lake San Cristobal.
- As part of the same efforts to strengthen protections on Lake San Cristobal, Hinsdale County is also requesting District assistance to purchase boulders from the quarry. These boulders will be placed at strategic locations on the Lake San Cristobal shoreline, disallowing trailers to launch watercraft at unauthorized locations. Cost of the rock purchase is roughly estimated at \$300. Hinsdale County will be responsible for transporting. More details to come.
- For the rest of the basin, Colorado Parks and Wildlife may be considering initiating ANS monitoring on other potential high-risk water bodies. Locations suggested in the meeting include Lake Irwin, Spring Creek Reservoir, Needle Creek Reservoir, Hot Springs Reservoir, Dome Lakes, and Meridian Lake. Locations already monitored are Lake San Cristobal, Taylor Park Reservoir, and Blue Mesa Reservoir. Board members are invited to propose other locations they feel may be at high risk for ANS introduction.
- CPW-coordinated outreach efforts may include prepackaged social media posts, radio spots, and public outreach at lake and river launch areas. They were also invited to do

public outreach at the Taylor Down River Race and to look into getting a booth at the Gunnison River Festival event.

### **Uranium loading to Marshall Creek via Indian Creek**

The Water Quality Control Commission's (WQCC) Temporary Modification for uranium concentration on Marshall Creek is set to expire in December 2025. Homestake is seeking to establish a Discharger-Specific Variance (DSV) through the Water Quality Control Commission. A DSV *...is a temporary standard that represents the highest feasible degree of protection of a classified use, while temporarily authorizing alternative effluent limits (AELs) for a specific pollutant and specific point source discharge where compliance with the water-quality based effluent limit (WQBEL) is not feasible.* Each DSV authorized in Colorado is set by the WQCC on a case-by-case basis and only for the necessary length of time to achieve the highest attainable condition. DSV's are revisited at a minimum each time the basin is undergoing its triennial review for impaired listed stream segments. If the DSV term is for greater than five years, it is reviewed at least every five years after the EPA provides its approval (WQCD Website, DSVs, 03/04/25).

UGRWCD will have an opportunity to provide testimony on the proposed DSV and the associated alternatives analysis by seeking party status either independently or as a joint party with other entities such as North West Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) Water Quality and Quantity Committee (a.k.a. QQ) if UGRWCD is in agreement with QQ to either support or oppose the DSV proposal by Homestake.

### **Lithium mining on Quartz Creek**

According to staff conversation (4 Mar 2025) with United Lithium's geologist, "United has gone inactive." This doesn't eliminate the possibility of the site being sold to another explorer in the future. Staff did note that, of the three original parcels, the western-most parcel (west-northwest of Co Rd 76) was dropped from the project map on United Lithium's website.

### **Irrigation Return Flow Study**

No new updates since the in-depth presentation from USGS partners at the February 2025 Board Meeting.

### **USGS Data Sources**

The USGS has begun its effort to overhaul its portal for public data access, wherein the former system, NWIS, will be fully replaced by a new system, WDFN (Water Data For our Nation). For current NWIS users, guidance from USGS is to change bookmark URLs as soon as possible to the newly available pages. Staff will stay up to date with developments and adopt necessary changes as they are rolled out to support ongoing access for members of the board and public.

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Alana Nichols, Water Resources Fellow  
**DATE:** March 12, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** Upper Gunnison Drought Planning Update

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As part of the ongoing Drought Contingency Planning (DCP) process, significant progress was made during the February Task Force meeting toward identifying and prioritizing draft drought mitigation actions. Below is an overview of recent developments and next steps:

**1. Review and Input on Draft Drought Mitigation Actions**

During the February meeting, the draft summary of drought mitigation actions was broken down into the following categories:

- **Municipal**
- **Agricultural**
- **Education and Outreach**
- **Environmental**
- **Recreation**

These actions were reviewed, and feedback was gathered. Following the meeting, the actions tables were sent to each Task Force member for further review, providing additional time for in-depth feedback and consideration.

**2. March Meeting Focus**

The March meeting will be held in person in the UGRWCD conference room on **March 26, 2025, from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM** and will focus on reviewing the feedback received from Task Force members, with an emphasis on:

- **Identifying key priorities:** We will ask Task Force members to share their top priorities and the actions they are most willing to support.
- **Evaluating actions based on established criteria:** Task Force members will help identify the best-fit actions for our objectives.
- **Timeline for implementation:** We will discuss when these actions are expected to take place and outline a general timeline.
- **Communications Plan and Website Development:** Savannah Nelson will provide an update on the communications plan and the first steps of website development. She will lead a discussion on the following topics:
  - **Website content:** What features should the website include?
  - **Design and structure:** How can we best structure the website to serve the needs of the public and stakeholders?
  - **Additional input:** What other key elements should be considered in the website's development?



# FREE WORKSHOP: WATER PROJECT FUNDING PROGRAM

**WALK AWAY WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT FOR WATER RESOURCES AND FUNDING SUPPORT**

**Presented by: NRCS & FSA · UGRWCD Grant Program · Watershed Management Entities · RCPP · Targeted Conservation Proposals · Other Federal and State Funding Opportunities · Gunnison Conservation District · Colorado River District · Colorado Wolf Program Updates**

**WHEN: Tuesday, March 25, 2025. 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM, FREE LUNCH**

**WHERE: Gunnison Library Room B. 1 Quartz St Gunnison, CO 81230**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT Bailey Friedman, Water Resources Project Manager, UGRWCD

[bfriedman@ugrwcd.org](mailto:bfriedman@ugrwcd.org)

Cell: 970 - 596 - 1731,

Office: 970 - 641 - 6065

To **REGISTER**, scan this QR code or use this [LINK](#)





Please register for this workshop at: [REGISTER HERE](#)

<b>Presentation</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Organization</b>
<i>Opening Comments</i>	11:00 AM – 11:10 M	Stacy McPhail	UGRWCD
<i>FSA Paperwork Walkthrough</i>	11:10 AM – 11:40 AM	Natalie Parker	FSA
<i>EQIP &amp; CSP</i>	11:40 AM – 12:00 PM	Dan Olson Heather Miller	NRCS
<i>Targeted Conservation Proposals</i>	12:00 PM – 12:15 PM	Jamison Jewkes	NRCS
<i>Local Working Group</i>	12:15 PM – 12:30 PM	Jamison Jewkes	NRCS
<i>Lunch</i>	12:30 PM – 1:15 PM		
<i>UGRWCD Grant Program</i>	1:15 PM – 1:30 PM	Beverly Richards	UGRWCD
<i>Colorado River District</i>	1:30 PM – 1:45 PM	Melissa Wills	CRD
<i>State Programs</i>	2:00 PM – 2:15 PM	Ashley Garrison	CWCB
<i>Partners Program</i>	2:15 PM – 2:30 PM	Brandon Miller	USFWS
<i>Break</i>	2:30 PM – 2:45 PM		
<i>Example Projects</i>	2:45 PM – 3:15 PM	Jesse Kruthaupt	Trout Unlimited
<i>Wet Meadows</i>	3:15 PM – 3:30 PM	Amanda Aulenbach & Ari Yamaguchi	UGRWCD
<i>Wolf Program Update</i>	3:00 PM – 3:15 PM	CPW Staff	CPW
<i>Questions</i>	3:30 PM – 4:00 PM		

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization / Agency</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Contact Information</i>
<i>Sonja Chavez</i>	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District	General Manager	<a href="mailto:schavez@ugrwc.org">schavez@ugrwc.org</a>
<i>Beverly Richards</i>	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District	Office Manager / Senior Program Manager	<a href="mailto:beverly@ugrwc.org">beverly@ugrwc.org</a>
<i>Bailey Friedman</i>	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District	Water Resources Project Manager	<a href="mailto:bfriedman@ugrwc.org">bfriedman@ugrwc.org</a>
<i>Amanda Aulenbach</i>	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District	Wet Meadows Program Coordinator	<a href="mailto:aaulenbach@ugrwc.org">aaulenbach@ugrwc.org</a>
<i>Ari Yamaguchi</i>	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District	Field Supervisor	<a href="mailto:ayamaguchi@ugrwc.org">ayamaguchi@ugrwc.org</a>
<i>Daniel Olson</i>	NRCS	Gunnison Field Office Resource Conservationist	<a href="mailto:daniel.olson@usda.gov">daniel.olson@usda.gov</a>
<i>Jamison Jewkes</i>	NRCS	Gunnison Resource Team Lead	<a href="mailto:jamison.jewkes@usda.gov">jamison.jewkes@usda.gov</a>
<i>Heather Miller</i>	NRCS	Gunnison Field Office Natural Resource Specialist	<a href="mailto:Heather.Miller@usda.gov">Heather.Miller@usda.gov</a>
<i>Tonya Carr</i>	Gunnison Conservation District	GCD Manager	<a href="mailto:tonya.carr@co.nacdnet.net">tonya.carr@co.nacdnet.net</a>
<i>Ben Prior</i>	Gunnison Conservation District	District Technician	<a href="mailto:benjamin.prior@co.nacdnet.net">benjamin.prior@co.nacdnet.net</a>
<i>Natalie Parker</i>	FSA	County Executive Director	<a href="mailto:natalie.parker@usda.gov">natalie.parker@usda.gov</a>
<i>Jesse Kruthaupt</i>	Trout Unlimited	Colorado Restoration Program Manager	<a href="mailto:jesse.kruthaupt@tu.org">jesse.kruthaupt@tu.org</a>
<i>Brandon Miller</i>	USFW	USFWS Partners Program	<a href="mailto:brandon_miller@fws.gov">brandon_miller@fws.gov</a>
<i>CPW Staff</i>	Colorado Parks and Wildlife		303-297-1192
<i>Ashley Garrison</i>	Colorado Water Conservation Board	Water Plan Grant Project Manager	<a href="mailto:ashley.garrison@state.co.us">ashley.garrison@state.co.us</a>
<i>Melissa Wills</i>	Colorado River District	Community Funding Partnership Program Manager	



**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Beverly Richards/Grant Committee

DATE: March 6, 2025

SUBJECT: 2025 Grant Committee and Funding Recommendations

The Grant Committee met on March 6, 2025 to review applications for the 2025 Grant Program. Directors Julie Nania, Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard and Rosemary Carroll participated. Director Andy Spann provided his input prior to the meeting. District staff Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards, Bailey Friedman and Amanda Aulenbach were also in attendance. Total funds requested in 2025 were \$470,420, which was \$170,420 more than the 2025 District Grant budget amount of \$300,000

The Grant Committee meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Committee Chair Joellen Fonken. The Committee discussed each application and as part of the discussion, the funding recommendations are as follows:

**Grant Committee Funding Recommendations- New Projects**

1. Alder Lobdell Ditch Headgate Improvement	\$ 6,000
2. Arch Ditch Diversion Automation Phase 2	\$21,000
3. Bosshard Ranch Stream Restoration	\$50,000
4. Cochetopa Creek Ranch Irrigation Improvement	\$ 0
5. Coldharbour Institute Water Education	\$16,420
6. Home Ditch Diversion Reconstruction	\$50,000
7. Lost Miner Ranch Irrigation Improvement	\$35,000
8. Meridian Ditch Irrigation Piping Project	\$ 0
9. Norman Ditch and Headgate Improvement	\$20,000
10. One-Mile Campground Water System	\$25,000
11. Two Bar T Ranch Wet Meadow Restoration Plan	<u>\$ 0</u>

**Sub-Total – New Project: \$223,420**

**Grant Committee Funding Recommendations- Completed Projects**

1.	Dos Rios Golf Club Sprinkler Replacement – Completed	\$	0
2.	Heatherwood HOA Waterline Replacement - Completed	\$	0
3.	Kruthaupt Ranch Irrigation Infrastructure - Completed	\$	15,000

**Sub-Total – Completed Projects** **\$15,000**

**Total 2025 Program** **\$238,420**

There were several applications that will be awarded funding contingent upon receipt of additional information. In addition, there were several projects that the Committee did not feel fit with the District’s mission and/or the guidelines of the Grant Program.

This 2025 Grant Program award package leverages District resources with outside matching grant program resources or landowner and partner match. 2025 Total Project Costs were \$1,301,455 and Total Match was \$1,063,035. The Upper Gunnison grant dollars leverage matching funds at approximately 1:2.

**Recommended Board Action in Support of the 2025 District Grant Process:**

1. Approve the UGRWCD Grant Committee 2025 recommendations for award in the amount of \$238,420.

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

- Staff will follow up with applicants on additional information required as part of any contingent funding award.

The Grant Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.



## 2025 Grant Applications Summary

### New Projects

#### 1. Alder Lobdell Ditch Headgate Improvement – Quartz Creek

This project is a coordinated effort between Green Mesa Ranch HOA to update the Alder Lobdell Ditch headgate and measuring weir/flume to reduce leakage around the headgate, improve control and measurement of water diverted from Alder Creek. The project will improve irrigation water management for agricultural water rights in the Gunnison Basin. The ditch has rights to 7 cfs with a 1943 adjudication date.

The funding request was submitted by Brian Miller with the HOA and is for \$6,000 with \$6,000 match (\$5,500 cash, \$500 in-kind).

**Recommended funding - \$6,000**

#### 2. Arch Ditch Diversion Automation Phase 2 – Tomichi Creek

This project will involve installation of a new automated sand gate/return gate in the Arch Ditch. The Arch Ditch is located on Tomichi Creek in Saguache County near Doyleville. There are eight water rights owners on the ditch who irrigate approximately 2,200 acres of grass hay and pasture. The ditch has rights to 147.5 cfs, of which 46.75 cfs are pre-compact water rights.

This application was submitted by Greg Peterson for the Arch Ditch Association. The funding request was for \$21,000 with a \$21,500 match (\$21,000 cash and \$500 in-kind).

**Recommended funding - \$21,000**

#### 3. Bosshard Ranch Stream Restoration – Quartz Creek

The Bosshard Ranch Channel Restoration Project is located on Quartz Creek. This project is being implemented in coordination with the Chittenden Ditch rehabilitation project (located downstream) as part of a comprehensive ag infrastructure and stream restoration system optimization improvement project.

The grant application was submitted by the Bosshard Ranch for \$50,000 with a match of \$342,5000 (\$342,500 cash and \$500 in-kind).

**Recommended funding - \$50,000**

#### 4. Cochetopa Creek Ranch Irrigation Improvement – Cochetopa Creek

This project is a cooperative effort between Cochetopa Creek Ranch and Trout Unlimited to update irrigation infrastructure and improve irrigation water management of water diverted from Cochetopa Creek into the Big Rock Ditch. The proposed project will include the installation of 6 structures for water control to manage water from the ditch into the

meadow; and diversion design and construction implementation for Big Rock Ditch. Big Rock Ditch is decreed for 17.5 cfs for irrigation and was adjudicated in 1970.

This application was submitted by True West Ranch. The funding request was for \$34,000 with a match of \$55,000 (\$54,000 cash and \$1,500 in-kind). The Committee felt that this project was not ready to proceed, so they suggested the applicant address some of the issues identified in the grant application and return in a subsequent grant cycle.

**Recommended funding - \$0**

**5. Coldharbour Institute Water Education & Riparian Restoration Initiative - Tomichi Creek**

This application was a proposal to support six related 2025 Coldharbour Institute (CI) educational initiatives that are designed to increase water literacy and engagement in the Upper Gunnison basin. This project is first and foremost an education and outreach project. Secondary benefits of this project include contributing to watershed management planning objectives and water quality improvements through on the ground riparian restoration efforts and monitoring on Tomichi Creek.

The Committee agreed that the proposal was a well designed and comprehensive education initiative that complimented the District's education and outreach goals. The Committee recommended some changes to the budget to avoid a conflict of interest with Director Nania as Coldharbour Executive Director. The amount of the funding requested was \$16,420 with \$24,535 committed to match (\$10,425 cash and \$14,110 in-kind).

**Recommended funding - \$16,420**

**6. Home Ditch Diversion Reconstruction – Gunnison River**

This project is a coordinated effort between four water right owners including two agricultural operations and two subdivisions. The purpose of this project is to replace the existing headgate (currently perched on the river bank above water level the majority of the irrigation season) with an in-stream diversion and headgate structure so it can deliver the full decree at a wide range of flow levels. The project will also improve bank stability and eliminate the need for manipulation of the riverbed to annually construct a gravel channel push-up while maintaining adequate fish and recreational use passage. The ditch has rights to 14.5 cfs, of which 1.82 cfs are pre-compact water rights.

This is the second phase (i.e., construction phase) of a previously funded engineering grant award given to the applicant by the District Grant Program. They have also secured matching funds from the Gunnison Basin Roundtable and the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

This application was submitted by Goddard Ranch. The funding request was for \$50,000 with \$261,720 as match (cash).

**Recommended funding - \$50,000**

**7. Lost Miner Ranch Irrigation & Stream Improvement – Tomichi Creek**

This project is a coordinated effort between Lost Miner Ranch, Raco Land and Cattle, NRCS, and Trout Unlimited to improve irrigation infrastructure and aquatic habitat on

Tomichi Creek. Lost Miner Ranch is located east of Gunnison on Tomichi Creek and is operated for hay production, livestock grazing, and equestrian training. This project will involve updating the McDowell Van Tuyl No 2 headgate and diversion, installation of three irrigation control structures, and restoration of 1/2 mile of Tomichi Creek. The McDowell Van Tuyl No. 2 ditch is decreed for a total of 6 cfs, of which 1.2 cfs are pre-compact.

This project was identified through the District's WMP system optimization improvement assessments and is another in a long line of irrigation diversion improvement projects occurring on Tomichi Creek. The Committee felt that the cash match amount provided by the applicant was not sufficient and the award was adjusted accordingly.

This application was submitted by Double M, LLC. The funding request was for \$45,000 with \$117,500 in matching funds (\$117,000 cash and \$500 in-kind).

**Recommended funding - \$35,000**

#### **8. Meridian Irrigation Ditch in Washington Gulch – Piping Project – Washington Gulch**

This project is a collaborative effort to pipe the upper section of the Meridian Irrigation Ditch. The Meridian Ditch headgate is located below Lake Meridian Dam in Washington Gulch. It is owned by the Saddle Ridge HOA, the Glacier Lily HOA, the CB Land Trust, and Rudy Rozman.

As stated by the applicant, the primary project purpose appears to be mitigation of beaver conflict which the Committee and staff felt was not consistent with District grant program guidelines. Other concerns with the application including: 1) While the applicant's water right table summarizes 14.95 cfs of associated water rights, DWR records show that the maximum flow diverted at the headgate was 3.5 cfs, 2) The applicant's desire to oversize the pipe to match the paper water right rather than the annual actual available historical diversions/flow which significantly adds to project costs, 3) The applicant statement that larger pipe would accommodate "future potential water availability" and Committee not being clear where additional future water would come from; 4) oversizing the pipe for future available water contradicts their stated outcome of the project which was to "reduce needed ditch flow by 25%"; and 5) it was unclear whether other methods like beaver fencing or beaver deceivers had been tried.

This grant application was submitted by Saddle Ridge HOA and Glacier Lily HOA. The funding request was for \$50,000 with a match of \$55,000 (cash).

**Recommended funding - \$0**

#### **9. Norman Ditch and Headgate Improvement – Cochetopa Creek**

This project is a coordinated effort between Cochetopa Hideaway and Trout Unlimited to rehabilitate the Norman Ditch headgate and diversion located on Cochetopa Creek. The proposed project will include design and construction of a rock riffle diversion, new headgate, and flume. The rehabilitated diversion will provide improved aquatic habitat,

reduce erosion, and improve access to and control of water at a range of flow levels. Norman Ditch is decreed for 7.5 cfs of which 1.6 cfs decreed are pre-compact.

This project was originally submitted to the District in the 2021 grant cycle but was not ready to proceed with construction. This grant request, submitted by Mike Fahrlander, is for \$23,000 with \$45,500 in match (\$45,000 cash and \$500 in-kind). The Committee felt that the applicant match was insufficient and recommended the award be reduced.

**Recommended funding - \$20,000**

#### **10. One-Mile Campground Water System Replacement – Taylor River**

The One-Mile Campground Water System Replacement proposes to replace the water system at One-Mile Campground, restoring access to one of the few potable water sources for recreation users and the public along the Taylor River. The current water system has had problems since it was first installed and currently does not comply with safe drinking water standards and is nonfunctional.

The Committee felt that this project would address a public safety concern in a highly used public recreational area. They also said that they would like to encourage connection with the STOR Committee on this project.

The application was submitted by the National Forest Foundation. The funding request was for \$25,000 with matching funds in the amount of \$200,000 (cash) coming from the USFS. The Committee asked staff to verify the availability of federal dollars given the current federal funding freeze prior to the actual award of funds.

**Recommended funding - \$25,000**

#### **11. Two Bar T Ranch Wet Meadow Restoration Plan – Ohio Creek**

The stated purpose of this project is to provide the UGRWCD's Wet Meadow Restoration and Building Project, and their partners at the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife with a complete restoration plan for all wet meadows along 52 miles of stream channel in the three catchments that drain from Flat Top Mountain onto the Two Bar T Ranch.

The primary concern of the Committee is the lack of nexus between the proposed project access to domestic and stock watering purposes on the Two Bar T Ranch (formerly known as the Redden Ranch). General Counsel also indicated that lack of water (including groundwater) on the old Redden Ranch has existed for decades. UGRWCD staff felt that the use of LIDAR may not provide the needed accuracy for Wet Meadows planning. There were also concerns about the proposed use of drones on USFS lands and the fact that the USFS did not confirm if they would use the plan. Identified matching sources of funding also did not have a direct nexus to the project (e.g., avian study).

This project was submitted by the Tomichi Creek Ecosystems Services. The funding request is for \$35,000 with \$55,000 in matching funds (\$47,000 cash and \$8,000 in-kind).

**Recommended funding - \$0**

## Completed Projects

### 1. **Dos Rios Golf Club - High Efficiency Rain Bird Series Sprinkler Heads – Completed – Gunnison River**

This completed project involved the modernization of the golf course's outdated 40-year-old irrigation system to reduce water usage and improve efficiency. To accomplish this, Dos Rios Golf Club purchased high efficiency Rain Bird Series 700 sprinkler heads on the Back 9 of the course. These new heads will work in conjunction with the central computer system that was funded in part by the District's 2024 grant program.

The Committee expressed reluctance to fund this project as they felt that this project had been given significant previous 2024 grant support through purchase of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) computer system (\$50,000) to assist in their irrigation water management and measurement. The General Manager also noted that she participated in a field site visit in late 2023 prior to their 2024 grant request and the SCADA system was discussed with the applicant as the more suitable item to request financial assistance given that the golf course did not have this piece of important technology. General Manager Chavez discouraged them at that time from applying for the replacement of 40-year-old lines or sprinkler heads because any conservation benefit would be the result of deferred maintenance which runs contrary to the board's grant policy.

This application was submitted by the Dos Rios Golf Club and the funding request was for \$50,000 with a \$87,660 match (cash).

**Recommended funding - \$0**

### 2. **Heatherwood Villas HOA Waterline Replacement – Completed – Gunnison River**

This completed project involved engineering, design, and the replacement of an existing 50-year-old galvanized domestic water line for the Homeowners Association. Work included the installation of new main and service lines to each of the units.

It was the decision of the Grant Committee that this project was also a deferred maintenance project, and they could not support a claim of conservation benefit for replacement of a 50-year-old leaking water service line. It is the policy of the Board that the District grant program not fund deferred maintenance projects.

This grant application was submitted by the Heatherwood Homeowners Association. The funding request was for \$50,000 with a \$170,391 match (cash).

**Recommended funding - \$0**

### **3. Kruthaupt Ranch Irrigation Infrastructure Modernization – Completed – Tomichi Creek**

This completed project is located on Kruthaupt Ranch on Tomichi Creek. The applicant coordinated with NRCS in November of 2024. to design and install eight structures for water control to improve irrigation management to approximately 120 acres. Five of the eight structures are steel board-stop checks installed in lateral ditches to check water from the ditch to the irrigated fields. The remaining 3 structures are Agri-drain flashboards risers installed to control water level in oxbows that meander through the meadows. These oxbows are filled during the irrigation season and several “levy’s” check water from the oxbow and direct it to irrigate higher areas throughout the meadow. The three Agri-drains were installed in three key levy locations. Operation of the Agri-drain will allow a surge method of irrigation intended to effectively wet high ground without submerging lower laying areas for the entire season – thereby improving quality of forage and water use efficiency. In addition to the irrigation water management benefits, the committee felt that this project has significant demonstration value in the use of water control structures in oxbows. The ditches involved in this project are decreed for a total of 20.03 cfs of which 7.18 cfs are pre-compact.

This grant application was submitted by Kruthaupt Ranch. The total project cost was \$44,780. The funding request was \$15,000 with \$29,780 in matching funds (\$29,280 cash and \$500 in-kind).

**Recommended funding - \$15,000**

RETURN TO GM REPORT



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Beverly Richards, Grant Program Manager  
**DATE:** March 24, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** Data Relating to Annual Grant Funds Rollover

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This memo is in response to a question asked by Director Spann in the January Board Meeting regarding grant fund rollovers. Below is an approximate accounting of grant funds rolled over from one year to the next since 2021. These amounts include those grant funds that have not been expended in the year awarded.

- 2021 - \$111,430
- 2022 - \$193,445
- 2023 - \$96,343
- 2024 - \$154,220

**MEMORANDUM**



**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Sue Uerling, Adm. Asst./Comm. Support Specialist  
**DATE:** March 11, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** Education and Outreach Report

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The following is an update on 2025 Education and Outreach action items since the previous report:

**2025 Action Items:**

- **ADVERTISING:**

The District continues to run four radio spots that run in rotation eight times a day on KEJJ and KVLE radio, which includes a spot advertising the Water Funding Workshop on March 25th, one on the Watershed Management planning public input coming in May, and a general ad about the District. A new spot will be recorded this week for the Wet Meadows sponsored film, “Thinking Like Water” to be shown on April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Western Colorado University Theatre.

The District will be publishing two different display ads in the *Gunnison Country Times* and *Crested Butte News* advertising the Water Funding Workshop and the “Thinking Like Water” film.

- **SPONSORSHIPS**

The District sponsored the “Ice Masters” Fishing Tournament at Taylor Park Reservoir on February 22, 2025. They had over 100 participants and everyone received a stocking cap with the UGRWCD logo and a water bottle. Rory Birdsey brought some of the extra shirts that were provided by another sponsor with the UGRWCD logo on the back to the District. They will be available for Board members on a first come first served basis at the March Board meeting. Photos from the event will be coming soon.

The District will also be sponsoring the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Blue Mesa Rotary Fishing Tournament on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Water bottles, fishing lures and rack cards will be included in a goodie bag for each participant. UGRWCD banners will also be displayed during the event and mention of our sponsorship will be announced during the Weigh-In Ceremony.

- **FIRST GRADE WATER BOOK**

Chris and Kirsten Dickey have been working on the first-grade water book that will have a locally-relevant water theme and be published in English and Spanish. The Dickeys are developing the concept of the book as follows: It will follow the ‘life cycle’ of a snowflake, either an individual snowflake or a cute little family of snowflakes (mom, dad and kids) who will be the “star(s)” of the story. To begin, the snowflake(s) will fall from the sky to the mountains around here. Crested Butte, the mountain, could be an opening scene. Recreation could be but one theme with people ‘skiing’ on the snow, while also trying to describe, in child-like manner, that the snowpack is our “above ground reservoir” of water for adventures to come.



The snowflake(s) melt into the streams/rivers and supports aquatic life with visuals of cute little fishies under water and happy anglers and rafters above water. Other snowflakes irrigate an Upper Gunnison hay meadow and then the snowflake(s) sink into the water table as droplets that support domestic uses. The droplets begin to make their way downstream into Blue Mesa Reservoir, through the Black Canyon, past turbines that produce electricity, onto more agricultural fields (like Olathe corn fields), on and on downstream ... supporting more fields, more cities, etc. until one day it/they reach the end of the “road,” (Sea of Cortez, as fanciful as that may be in ‘real’ life – per the Dickeys) and then gets transported back up into the clouds/atmosphere, only to fall again right back where the little snowflake started in the wintery mountains of CB/the Upper Gunnison Basin. The Dickeys showed me some sketches and will have more artistic drafts to share later this summer.

- **PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS:** The District is in the process of developing or has already ordered the following promotional items for upcoming events: Fishing lures; plastic water bottles; insulated water bottles for the field crew, more stickers with the District logo and new banners.
- **GENERAL OUTREACH**  
The Water Funding Workshop will be held Tuesday, March 25 beginning at 11 a.m. at the Gunnison Public Library, Room B. This has been publicized through email blasts, on the District’s website, through flyers, print ads, a radio ad and on all of the District’s social media platforms.

The District, in collaboration with the Center for Public Lands, will host a free community screening of the film “Thinking Like Water” on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Wester Colorado University Theatre. Flyers, press materials and website/social media posts are currently being developed. The District is also in discussion with the County Extension Office to see if a 4-H group might be available to man a concession stand for the evening.

**MEMORANDUM**



**TO:** UGRWCD Board or Directors  
**FROM:** Bailey Friedman, Water Resources Project Manager  
**DATE:** March 5, 2025  
**SUBJECT:** WMP Committee and Projects Update

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The following is a summary of activities completed during the first quarter 2025 and planned for in the second quarter, by Water Resources Project Manager, Bailey Friedman.

**A. Watershed Management Plan (WMP)**

- i. Since January
  - a. Completed compilation of information from Phase 1 and 2 reports into a single WMP document.
  - b. Completed graph updates to include most recent time period with Wilson Water Group and incorporated them into the WMP.
- ii. Next Quarter
  - a. Working with the WMP Committee to finalize sub-basin sections, identify projects, and prepare to document public comment starting in May 2025.

**B. Wetland Assessment, GEI**

- i. Signed a new scope of work (SOW) and contract with GEI for final project close-out work to be completed in 2025
  - a. Goal to have final public report available for the WMP Committee to review and publish in the summer.
    - 1. Receiving field data collection training from GEI so that UGRWCD staff can continue data collection each summer. GEI identified 182 sites to visit but only got to 119 of the sites due to issues around permission access or distance to sites. Objective is to increase the accuracy of the wetland assessment model output.

**C. Geo-Fluvial, Watershed Science and Design (WSD)**

- i. Signed a new SOW and contract with WSD for final project close-out work to be completed in 2025
  - a. Prioritizing time in March to work with WSD to finalize a publicly available report to have ready for the WMP committee to review and approve in April.

**D. Upper Gunnison Basin Water Funding Workshop**

- i. Planning for the Water Funding Workshop has been completed. It will be held on March 25, 2025, at the Gunnison Library from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM.
- ii. Please register with this link [HERE](#) if you would like to attend so that we can get an appropriate head-count to order food. This is a Google Form for registration; if you do not have a GMAIL account, please contact Bailey and she will include you.

**E. Colorado River District (CRD) – Community Funding Partnership (CFP)**

- i. Preparing a second agricultural bundled project grant request to the Colorado River District for CFP dollars.
- ii. Application due May 15. The next deadline is August 14, 2025.

**F. Strategic Planning**

- i. Assisting Executive Management with preparation of an RFP to hire a consultant to assist the District with strategic planning.

**G. Field Safety Guide and Emergency Response Plan Creation**

- i. Drafting a handbook on field safety and emergency response for the District.
- ii. District has purchased a satellite phone for staff to take into the field.
- iii. Anticipate Executive Management approval by end of April prior to 2025 field season so that it can be utilized for seasonal District technician onboarding.

**H. Basin Implementation Plan (BIP)**

- i. Working with staff, TU and the public to update the projects list to incorporate into the Gunnison Basin Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) 2025 update. Due on March 19, 2025.

**I. Gunnison Conservation District (GCD)**

- i. Working on potential partnership agreement with the GCD.

**J. ESRI Training**

- i. In July, Bailey and Ari Yamaguchi will be traveling to San Diego for the ESRI User Conference. This is the world's largest GIS conference.
- ii. This conference provides Ari and Bailey an opportunity to further develop their GIS skills, meet other GIS users, and learn how practitioners are using GIS software in their field. This will allow the District to develop internal mapping and assessment skills and refine high priority water resource improvement project identification.
- iii. Applied learning sessions are available at this conference, providing staff a chance to expand their knowledge on how to utilize GIS software, gain hard skills, and learn best management practices across a variety of disciplines that touch the water resources work that UGRWD staff performs.

**MINUTES**  
**Taylor Local Users Group**  
**March 12, 2025, 9:00 a.m.**

**TLUG Attendees:**

TLUG Chair: Don Sabrowski

TLUG Representatives Present:

Roark Kiklevich (Wade Fishing Interests)

Ernest Cockrell (Taylor Placer via Zoom)

Ryan Birdsey (Flatwater Recreation Interests via Zoom)

David Fisher (Property Owners via Zoom)

TLUG Representatives Absent:

Mark Schumacher (Boating Interests)

Andy Spann (Irrigation Interests via Zoom)

Other Attendees:

Sonja Chavez (UGRWCD)

Bailey Friedman (UGRWCD)

Beverly Richards (UGRWCD)

Sue Uerling (UGRWCD)

By Zoom:

Erik Knight (BOR)

Rory Birdsey (Taylor Reservoir Dam Operator)

Giulio Del Piccolo (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)

Peter Dunda (Taylor River Resident)

David Gochis (Airborne Snow Observatory)

Jay Whitacre (Irwin Guides)

Doug Forshagen (Crystal Creek Homeowner)

**I. Introductions and Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Don Sabrowski called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. The minutes from September 9, 2024, TLUG meeting were presented for review. No changes were requested. Ernie Cockrell made a motion and Roark Kiklevich seconded approval of the September 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

## **II. CBRFC Water Supply Update and USBR Model Forecast**

Erik Knight with the US Bureau of Reclamation provided information from the March 1 CBRFC forecast. The forecasted April to July runoff is 87,000 acre-feet, which is 93% of average and is 3,000 less than the February forecast. Eric also discussed the proposed operations plan, which indicates the peak to be just over 103,000 acre-feet of storage, about 1.6 feet below the dam crest during runoff.

At the water year end in October, the reservoir is expected to be just under 74,000 acre-feet. Currently, the plan is to keep releases at about 85 cfs until April and then increase to 100 cfs on April 1. The snow accumulation in the Taylor Park Basin is currently at 99% of normal with the Taylor Park Basin doing better than the rest of the Gunnison Basin. There were no questions or concerns raised about the information presented.

## **III. WRF-Hydro Model Forecast Reports (ASO, Inc.)**

David Gochis provided an update on the snowpack and upcoming forecast. He reported that ASO is waiting for the next batch of storms to pass before conducting the first flight for the Taylor Basin. The District will be funding two flights with the first flight expected to be in late March or early April. David noted that dust accumulation on the snowpack has been minimal so far this year with just one significant event that is about halfway down through the snowpack.

David said they will be curious to see how the impact of recent warm spells has affected current snowpack and soil moisture conditions. David reported that in addition to the two flights planned for the Taylor Basin this year, they have also been contracted for additional flights in the North Fork basin for the first time.

## **IV. Preliminary TLUG Draft Operational Release Recommendations**

Chair Don Sabrowski asked the TLUG representatives for their recommendations for water flow management. Chairman Sabrowski reported that Mark Schumacher had sent him an email, since he could not be at the meeting, suggesting TLUG be conservative with early flows in April and May until they get through the snow months of March and April to see how the runoff goes.

Ryan Birdsey agreed with this approach and mentioned that his brother, Rory Birdsey, has taken over Bill Gallanbeck's job of caretaker of the dam and is responsible for adjusting the flows. Roark Kiklevich was in agreement with proposed flows for now, but he would like to see if they could possibly keep the outflows a little higher in the last half of August.

Ernie Cockrell and David Fisher were also in agreement with the consensus of the group to be conservative with early releases in hopes that they can hold more back from August through October when the temperatures become more challenging for the fishery.

Chair Don Sabrowski asked for a motion to approve the recommended operations as presented by the Bureau of Reclamation. Ernie Cockrell moved, and Roark Kiklevich seconded the motion to approve the proposed operations as presented. The motion passed.

There was discussion about issues with the hydropower plant's bypass valve, which has caused occasional drops in water flow to as low as 40 cfs at times. Rory Birdsey said he thinks they are awaiting a new transducer which should fix the problem, and in the meantime, he is performing daily checks on the flows manually. Rory offered to research the issue more and provide an update to TLUG at the next meeting.

## **V. Miscellaneous Matters**

Giulio Del Piccolo introduced himself as Upper Gunnison Basin Aquatic Biologist replacing Dan Brauch. Giulio, originally from Basalt, completed his bachelor's at Colorado State and his master's at New Mexico State University. He started his position in January and expressed his intent to attend future meetings in person. Giulio agreed with the TLUG representatives' recommendations on flows, saying the levels would be suitable for the fish.

Bailey Friedman was introduced as the new Water Resources Project Manager and announced that the District will be holding a Water Funding Workshop on March 25th at 11 a.m. at the Gunnison Library, focusing on funding and other resources for water projects.

General Manager Sonja Chavez reported the District's decision to change course in getting a Doppler radar system, as the Western Water & Weather Intelligence Center has not followed through in getting the radar system placed in Gunnison as agreed. She said the District instead is looking at possibly owning and operating their own radar system. She also said an Eddy Covariance flux tower is planned for the Tomichi Creek Basin to refine crop consumptive use water estimates. Sonja said Rosemary Carroll, a Board member for the District, is conducting a scientific study on snowpack temperature measurements during snow course data collection.

The group discussed the next TLUG meeting, with Erik Knight proposing a date of April 10th. The meeting time was set at 9:00 AM, which was agreed upon by all attendees. Staff will send a calendar invitation for the meeting.

## **VI. Citizens Comments**

There were no Citizens' Comments

## **VII. Adjournment**

The March 11, 2025 TLUG meeting was adjourned by Chairman Sabrowski at 9:35 a.m.

# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

## **Gunnison Basin Roundtable**

# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

## **Gunnison River Festival**



# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

## **Scientific Endeavors**

# **AGENDA ITEM 10**

## **Miscellaneous Matters**

# **AGENDA ITEM 11**

## **Citizen Comments**

## FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- ▶ Water Funding Workshop at Gunnison Library, March 25, 2025 - 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Legislative Committee Meeting, March 28, 2025 - 8:00 a.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Legislative Committee Meeting, April 4, 2025 - 8:00 a.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Watershed Management Planning Meeting, April 9, 2025 - 1:30 p.m.
- ▶ TLUG Meeting, April 10, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Legislative Committee Meeting, April 11, 2025 - 8:00 a.m.
- ▶ CRWCD's "State of the River" Dinner-Fred Field Center, April 17, 2025 - 6 p.m.
- ▶ "Thinking Like Water" Film at Western CO University, April 18, 2025 - 6 p.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Legislative Committee Meeting, April 18, 2025 - 8:00 a.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Board of Directors Meeting, April 28, 2025- 5:30 p.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Legislative Committee Meeting, April 25, 2025 - 8:00 a.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Board & LSCWAE Meeting, TUESDAY, May 20, 2025 - Noon in Lake City

RETURN TO AGENDA

# **AGENDA ITEM 13**

## **Summary of Meeting Action Items**

# **ADJOURNMENT**