



Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AGENDA – ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, June 30, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

UGRWCD Offices, 210 W. Spencer Ave, Suite A, Gunnison, CO 81230

ZOOM LINK:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9tZvdeqrqzMvGNJZtYdxOBCUfsQDEvnpynWJ>

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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| 5:00 p.m. | <i>Dinner is Served</i> |
| 5:30 p.m. | 1. Call to Order |
| 5:31 p.m. | 2. Agenda Approval |
| 5:33 p.m. | 3. Administration of Oath of Office by Judge Kellie Starritt |
| 5:40 p.m. | 4. Consent Agenda Items: Any of the following items may be removed for discussion from the consent agenda at the request of any Board member or citizen. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of April 28, 2025 Minutes• Monthly Budget Summaries for April and May 2025• Consideration of Expenses for April and May 2025• Bank and Bond Balances |
| 5:45 p.m. | 5. Treasurer's Report |
| 5:50 p.m. | 6. Election of Officers |
| 6:00 p.m. | 7. Consideration of Resolution 2025-02 Appointing Financial Officers |

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| 6:05 p.m. | 8. Re-authorization of Standing Committees |
| 6:10 p.m. | 9. Drought Contingency Planning Presentation by Stacy Beaugh and Carrie Padgett |
| 6:40 p.m. | 10. NEON Presentation by Director Carroll |
| 7:00 p.m. | 11. Basin Water Supply Update |
| 7:15 p.m. | 12. Legal Counsel Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Colorado River Negotiations |
| 7:25 p.m. | 13. General Manager and Committee Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Matters and Administrative Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Office Manager Memo ○ Annual Funding Contribution to Gunnison Conservation District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ACTION ITEM: Re-allocate \$10,000 from 2025 Grant Program Funding to the 2025 Gunnison Conservation District • Employee Home Ownership Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ACTION ITEM: Direct Executive Management to Finalize EHOP • Water Quality Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ACTION ITEM: Direct Staff to Finalize Scope of Work with SGM • Wet Meadows Program Update • Education and Outreach Update • Water Resources Project Manager Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ACTION ITEM: Approve updated Field Safety Guide • Turf Replacement Update • Taylor Local User's Group Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May 8, 2025 Meeting Summary ○ June 6, 2025 Meeting Summary • Gunnison River Festival • Gunnison Basin Roundtable |
| 8:25 p.m. | 14. Miscellaneous Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado Water Congress in Steamboat Springs – August 19-21, 2025 (Must register or cancel by August 8th to avoid penalty) |

- | | | |
|------------------|------------|--|
| 8:30 p.m. | 15. | Citizens' Comments |
| 8:32 p.m. | 16. | Future Meetings |
| 8:35 p.m. | 17. | Summary of Meeting Action Items |
| 8:40 p.m. | 18. | 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.

[RETURN TO AGENDA](#)

AGENDA ITEM 3

Administration of Oath

District Court, Gunnison County, State of Colorado Court Address: 200 E. Virginia Ave., Gunnison, Colorado 81230	
<hr/> In Re: the Matter of Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District	<hr/> ▲ COURT USE ONLY ▲ <hr/> Case Number: C-6518 Division: 2
Order of Appointment	

Pending before the Court are appointments to the District Board for the 5th and 8th Divisions. The term of Julia Nania, Division 5 (Crested Butte) expires on June 23, 2025. The term of Michael Rogers, Division 8 (City of Gunnison) is vacant due to his recent resignation.

After conferring with Judge Amanda Hopkins, the Court appoints Jeff Writer for Division 5 (Crested Butte) and appoints Brian Steven for the remainder of the term for Michael Rogers, Division 8 (City of Gunnison).

Dated this 23rd day of June, 2025.

By the Court:


 Kellie L. Starritt, District Court Judge

Xc: UGRWCD, Richard, Hazard, Fonken, Sabrowski, Carroll, McPhail, Spann, Perusek, Zanetell, Gunnison Country Times, Crested Butte News

STATE OF COLORADO)
) s.s. OATH OF OFFICE
COUNTY OF GUNNISON)

I, Brian Stevens, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Colorado, and laws of the State of Colorado, and will faithfully perform the duties of the office of Director of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District which I am about to enter to the best of my ability.

I do further swear and affirm that I am a citizen of the United States and a qualified elector of the State of Colorado and reside within the confines of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District.

Brian Stevens

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of June, 2025 by

Kellie L Starritt, Judge
Gunnison Combined Courts
7th Judicial District

STATE OF COLORADO)
) s.s. OATH OF OFFICE
COUNTY OF GUNNISON)

I, Jeff Writer, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Colorado, and laws of the State of Colorado, and will faithfully perform the duties of the office of Director of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District which I am about to enter to the best of my ability.

I do further swear and affirm that I am a citizen of the United States and a qualified elector of the State of Colorado and reside within the confines of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District.

Jeff Writer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of June, 2025 by

Kellie L Starritt, Judge
Gunnison Combined Courts
7th Judicial District

To: Honorable Kellie Starritt, District Court Judge

Letter of Interest

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Board of Directors

After a 32-year career in public land management—including 14 years with the U.S. Forest Service and 16 with the Bureau of Land Management—I recently retired. I have lived in Gunnison since May 2000 and spent 23 of those years working in the Gunnison Basin as a wildland firefighter and Fire Management Specialist, leading the Fuels Program for the BLM. While I may be retired from federal service, my passion for land stewardship, restoration, and conservation in the Gunnison Basin remains as strong as ever. I am eager to continue contributing to this community and its landscapes by serving on the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) Board of Directors.

Throughout my career, I developed and managed a Fuels Program that emphasized ecological **resiliency**—not just fuels reduction. I collaborated extensively with other federal and local agencies, academic institutions, and youth groups to implement restoration projects that included native plant seeding, wet meadow restoration, road decommissioning, and invasive weed management. I served on the Gunnison Basin Wildfire Council, the Gunnison Basin Weeds Commission, and the Gunnison Basin Shared Stewardship Council. I also worked closely with Gunnison County's Weed Management Program and currently serve as a mentor to Sarah Elzay, the Cheatgrass Coordinator.

I was honored to receive the **2023 Gunnison Sage-Grouse Stewardship Award**, which recognizes the impact of my career-long contributions to land management in the basin.

One of the defining aspects of my time in Gunnison was the opportunity to participate in a progressive prescribed fire program. This work gave me a hands-on education in fire ecology, forest health, drought response, invasive species management, and fire behavior. I also collaborated with Western Colorado University and the U.S. Geological Survey on applied research projects that deepened our understanding of vegetation dynamics, cheatgrass spread, and sagebrush health in the Basin.

Beyond fieldwork, I led teams in developing projects under the **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**. I managed contracts, budgets, and cooperative agreements, and guided interdisciplinary teams to ensure projects met ecological goals and regulatory requirements. Much of this work took place on the same federal lands that make up a large portion of the UGRWCD's Zones of Concern.

With climate change, increasing drought, invasive species, and insect and disease outbreaks posing serious threats to our ecosystems, the importance of collaborative planning and strategic vegetative treatment has never been greater. My experience navigating federal land management systems, understanding landscape-scale processes, and coordinating multi-stakeholder efforts

directly aligns with the District's focus on **Watershed Management Planning** and landscape resiliency.

I believe my extensive land management background, local knowledge, and commitment to conservation would be a valuable asset to the UGRWCD Board. Serving on the Board would allow me to continue contributing to the stewardship of the Gunnison Basin, a place I care deeply about and have dedicated much of my life to protecting.

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,

Brian Stevens

bwstevens505@msn.com 970.596.3266

Honorable Kellie Starritt
District Court Judge
Gunnison County Courthouse
200 E. Virginia
Gunnison, CO 81230

May 28, 2025

RE: Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Division 5 Board Vacancy

Dear Judge Starritt:

I am writing to express my interest in filling the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Division 5 board position (to be vacated by Julie Nania as her term expires). We have owned our house located along Cement Creek at 22 Lower Allen Road since 2000, when I accepted a science teaching position at the Crested Butte Community School, and we have lived permanently at that address since 2021. Born and raised in Colorado, I have made a career out of protecting our state's water resources, working as an environmental engineer/scientist and consultant on water quality issues and I have held a variety of positions as an environmental engineer, scientist, and educator. I have been an active member of the Gunnison Valley as a science teacher, working with various land preservation organizations, and currently serve on the board of the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition. My research at the USGS and the University of Colorado primarily focused on water quality issues.

I retired from CU in 2021 and returned full-time to the Gunnison Valley in 2021. Former colleagues from the Crested Butte Community School recruited me to come out of "retirement" and teach middle school earth science in 2023-24. I currently work with SGM Inc. to provide water quality support on a variety of projects, including supporting Mesa County on addressing water quality challenges, and working on the Crested Butte Wildfire Ready Action Plan.

I believe my experiences with these diverse organizations provide a broad background on understanding water issues. The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District has been an important leader in protecting water in the Gunnison Valley, and I look forward to the opportunity join a diverse team of individuals safeguarding our essential water resources.

Sincerely,



Jeff Writer
22 Lower Allen Road, Crested Butte, CO 81224; writercb@gmail.com

Honorable Kellie Starrett
District Court Judge, 7th Judicial District
Courthouse, 200 East Virginia
Gunnison, CO 81230

Re: Application of Jeff Writer to the Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District

Dear Judge Starrett:

Jeff Writer asked me to consider writing a letter of recommendation for his application to serve on the Upper Gunnison Board, and I am pleased and excited to do so.

As a former practicing local attorney and Gunnison County Commissioner, I had many opportunities to work with the Board and came to know its mission, challenges and responsibilities. It is an incredibly important Board, especially currently, and I am confident that Jeff would be a valuable asset to the Board.

I first met Jeff around 2005 when I was on the board of the Crested Butte Land Trust. He was teaching high school in Crested Butte and became very involved in our successful effort to reclaim the very polluted Peanut Mine site just north of town. I found him to be very knowledgeable about water issues, a good listener, and one who follows through on his obligations as a leader and team member. In short, it was very enjoyable working with him and he was very helpful in our accomplishment of a difficult three year process.

About four years ago, Jeff joined the board of the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition, of which I am a member. The mission of this local nonprofit corporation is to maintain, restore and enhance the environmental integrity of Crested Butte's local watersheds. It has been a real pleasure to work with him again, and he is always well prepared and actively assists with his broad local experience during our deliberations. He is also very conscientious about timely completing designated tasks between meetings.

Jeff's expertise in matters concerning the Upper Gunnison Basin, both then and now, is exceptional. He has a keen grasp of the ongoing conflicts and increasing stresses between the upper and lower basins in Colorado and of those between the upper and lower Colorado River basin states. His extensive relevant education and years of experience in our local watersheds make him an outstanding candidate for this position. I honestly believe that if he is appointed to the Upper Gunnison Board, he will one day be in a position of leadership for the organization.

Please let me know if you have any questions about Jeff's candidacy. I would be happy to share my thoughts with you.

Sincerely,

Jim Starr
970-209-2910
323 Gothic Ave.
Crested Butte, CO 81224
jim@starrattorneys.com

Honorable Kellie Starritt
District Court Judge, 7th Judicial District
501 Palmer St., Room 338
Delta, Colorado 81416

Re: Appointment of Jeffrey Hawkins Writer to UGWCD Board

Honorable Judge Starritt:

I'm honored to write a letter of support for my friend and colleague, Jeff Writer, to be appointed to serve a term on the Board of the Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District. Jeff is a long-time resident of Gunnison County, who is deeply committed to protecting and advancing the interests of the diverse community of farmers, ranchers and other residents of the County who's lives and livelihoods rely on dependable water quantity and quality. He has a PhD in environmental engineering, with extensive experience in stream and river hydrology, including the various components of water and especially the contaminants encountered in the Upper Gunnison watershed. Jeff was the lead on a national award winning project to cleanup the Peanut Mine tailings to the north of Crested Butte in the Slate River watershed. And for several years he's served as a volunteer Board member of the Coal Creek Watershed Coalition [CCWC], a local non-profit organization which monitors and measures mine runoff from the legacy mines in north Gunnison County.

He is also familiar with the ongoing conflicts and pressures between the Upper and Lower Colorado River basin states, and will be an effective advocate for the Upper Gunnison Basin.

I've known Jeff for many years, both here and in Boulder where I practiced law with the Native American Rights Fund before my retirement last year. I joined the CCWC Board about 18 months ago and enjoy my continuing relationship with Jeff on that Board. He contributes in many technical and strategic ways on that Board, and I am confident he would bring that impressive skill set to the UGWCD.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven Moore

Steven Moore
Crested Butte

Jeffrey Hawkins Writer
22 Lower Allen Road, Crested Butte, CO
720-544-1680 writercb@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Environmental Engineering, University of Colorado: Boulder, 2010

Teacher Certification, University of Colorado: Boulder, 1997

M.S., Environmental Engineering, University of Colorado: Boulder, 1992

B.A., Materials Science Engineering, Brown University, 1987

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Independent Scientist/Consultant, 1996-present

Environmental consulting for various communities, land preservation organizations, and government agencies. Engineering activities included evaluation of environmental liability during land acquisitions around abandoned mined-land. Technical support on a mined-land reclamation project that involved the town of Crested Butte, the Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, and the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (the project was recognized in 2008 as the most successful reclamation project in the country by the U.S. Department of the Interior).

SGM Inc., Senior consultant, 2024-present

Engineering and scientific support on various water quality projects throughout Colorado.

Colorado River Watch, 1998-2007, participating teacher and board member.

Coal Creek Watershed Coalition, 2006-2007, 2021-present Gunnison County, Colorado.

Boulder Creek Watershed Initiative, 1996-2000, co-founder and president of non-profit organization focused on increasing community awareness and participation in local water and environmental issues.

Water For People 1992, 1997, projects included include watershed studies and development of a network of non-government organizations concerned with safeguarding human health and providing safe water supplies in Guatemala and Ecuador.

PTI Environmental Services, 1993-1996

Environmental Engineer

Interpro, 1993

Environmental Engineer

ERM-Rocky Mountain, 1988-1990

Environmental Engineer

Technical Reviewer for federal agencies and scientific research publications including the USGS, Texas Sea Grant Program, State of Minnesota, Environmental Science and Technology (*Excellence in Review Award 2014*), Science of the Total Environment, Water Research, Water Resources Research.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

U.S. Geological Survey, Boulder, Colorado, 1990-1992, 1994, 1999, 2007-2013

Research Hydrologist- research focused on the fate and transport of emerging contaminants, with a particular emphasis on endocrine-disrupting compounds. Evaluated carbon and nutrient export from burned watersheds, effects on aquatic ecosystem, and implications for drinking water utilities. Studies utilized hydrologic tracer experiments, and linked chemical and ecological data with mathematical modeling techniques to better understand the complexities of contaminant transport and impact on aquatic ecosystems. Experienced in multiple environmental monitoring techniques, design and implementation of surface water investigations.

University of Colorado: Boulder, 2007-2013

Graduate Research Assistant- research focused on the role of stream biofilms in controlling fate and transport of endocrine disrupting compounds and impacts on stream ecology.

Post-doctorate Research Associate – research focused on the fate pharmaceuticals in streams and developing methods for assessing in-stream attenuation of trace organic compounds.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Colorado: Boulder, 2007-2021

Director and Master Teacher, CU Teach, training future STEM teachers and supporting local STEM teachers through professional development workshops and curricular support. Courses included Introduction to Inquiry-based STEM teaching, Problem-based Instruction, Teaching and Learning Earth Systems.

Instructor, Department of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering: Fundamentals of Environmental Engineering, Applied Stream Ecology, Applied Ecology.

Crested Butte Community School, 2000-2004, 2006-2007, 2023-24

Instructor, Chemistry, Physics, AP Environmental Science, Geology, Astronomy, Biology, 8th Grade Earth science, 7th Grade Life Science

American Overseas School of Rome, 2004-2006

Instructor, AP Chemistry, IB Chemistry, Chemistry, Discrete Mathematics

Centaurus High School, 1997-2000

Instructor, Chemistry, Geology

TEACHING AWARDS

2008 Boettcher Foundation Teacher Recognition Award

State-wide recognition as an influential and inspirational teacher

2002 Colorado Conservation Teacher of the Year

Recognized for project involving community of Crested Butte, regulatory authorities, and high school students in a mined-land reclamation project.

1997 Colorado Association of Storm water and Floodplain Managers Excellence Award

In recognition of Watershed program developed with City of Boulder to educate students and community on water resource issues.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, Center for Water, Earth Science, and Technology, American Chemical Society, American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, American Geophysical Union, National Science Teachers Association.

PUBLICATIONS

27. Murphy, S.F., McCleskey, R.B., Martin, D.A., Holloway, J.M., and **Writer, J.H.**, 2020, Wildfire-driven changes in hydrology mobilize arsenic and metals from legacy mine waste: *Science of the Total Environment* v. 743, 140635 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.140635> (IP-118726).
26. Murphy, S.F., McCleskey, R.B., D.A., Holloway, J.M., **Writer, J.H.**, Martin, D.A., and Stricker, C.A. Chemistry of water, stream sediment, wildfire ash, soil, dust, and mine waste for Fourmile Creek Watershed, Colorado, 2010-2019: U.S. Geological Survey Data Release <https://doi.org/10.5066/P941BIYS> (IP-118730).

25. Murphy, S.F., McCleskey, R.B., Martin, D.A., **Writer, J.H.**, and Ebel, B.A., 2018, Fire, flood, and drought—Extreme climate events alter flow paths and stream chemistry: *Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences*, <https://doi.org/10.1029/2017JG004349>.
24. Murphy, S.F., McCleskey, R.B., and **Writer, J.H.**, 2018, Water chemistry data for Fourmile Creek Watershed, Colorado, 2010-2015: U.S. Geological Survey data release, <https://doi.org/10.5066/F7Z60N8T>.
23. Ferrer, I., **Writer, J.H.** Keen, O. S., Lester, Y., Padilla-Sánchez, J. A., Fernández-Ramos, C., & Thurman, E. M., 2016. LC-TOF-MS for the Identification of Environmental Metabolites and Degradation Products. *Comprehensive Analytical Chemistry*, 71, 231-261. <http://dx.DOI.org/10.1016/bs.coac.2016.01.005>
22. Murphy, S.F., **Writer, J.H.**, McCleskey, R.B., and Martin, D.A., 2015. The role of precipitation type, intensity, and spatial distribution in source water quality after wildfire: *Environmental Research Letters*, v. 10, no. 8, 084007: 1-13. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/10/8/084007>
21. **Writer JH**, Hohner A, Oropeza J, Schmidt A, Cawley K, Rosario-Ortiz FL. 2014. Water treatment implications after the High Park Wildfire, Colorado. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association*. 106:E189-E199, (<http://dx.doi.org/10.5942/jawwa.2014.106.0055>)
20. Bradley, P.M., and **Writer, J.H.**, 2014. Effect of light on biodegradation of estrone, 17 β -estradiol, and 17 α -ethinylestradiol in stream sediment. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association*. 50(2), p. 334-342, (<http://dx.DOI.org/10.1111/jawr.12157>)
19. Antweiler RC, **Writer JH**, Murphy SF. 2014. Evaluation of wastewater contaminant transport in surface waters using verified Lagrangian sampling: *Science of the Total Environment*. 470–471, p. 551-558, (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2013.09.079>).
18. **Writer JH**, Antweiler RC, Ferrer, I, Thurman ME, Ryan, JN. 2013. In-stream attenuation of neuro-active pharmaceuticals and their metabolites. *Environmental Science and Technology*. ([doi.org/10.1021/es402158t](http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/es402158t)). 47, 17, 9781-9790.
17. **Writer, J.H.**, Ferrer, I., Barber, L.B., Thurman, E.M., 2013, (*Editor's choice as one of the top papers of 2013*) Widespread occurrence of neuro-active pharmaceuticals and metabolites in 24 Minnesota rivers and wastewaters. *Science of the Total Environment* 461-462: 519–527, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2013.04.099>.
16. **Writer JH**, Keefe, SK, Barber LB, Ryan JN. 2012. Fate of 4-nonylphenol and 17 β -estradiol in the Redwood River of Minnesota. *Environmental Science and Technology* ([doi.org/10.1021/es2031664](http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/es2031664))
15. Barber LB, Vajda AM, Douville, C, Norris DO, **Writer JH**. 2012. Fish Endocrine Disruption Responses to Wastewater Treatment Plant Infrastructure Modifications and Long-Term Variability in Contaminant Sources *Environmental Science and Technology* ([doi.org/10.1021/es202880](http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/es202880))
14. **Writer, J.H.**, and Murphy, S.F., 2012, Wildfire effects on source-water quality—Lessons from Fourmile Canyon fire, Colorado, and implications for drinking-water treatment: U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet 2012–3095, 4 p. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/2012/3095/>

13. McCleskey, R.B., **Writer, J.H.**, and Murphy, S.F., 2012, Water Chemistry Data for Surface Waters Impacted by the Fourmile Canyon Wildfire, Colorado, 2010-2011: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2012-1104.
12. Barber, L.B., **Writer, J.H.**, Keefe, S.H., Brown, G.K., Ferrey, M.L., Jahns, N.D., Kiesling, R.L., Lundy, J.R., Poganski, B.H., Rosenberry, D.O., Taylor, H.E., Woodruff, O.P., and Schoenfuss, H. L., 2012, Endocrine disrupting chemicals in Minnesota lakes—Water-quality and hydrological data from 2008 and 2010: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2012-1124, 53 p.
11. **Writer, J.H.**, McCleskey, R.B., and Murphy, S.F., 2012, Effects of wildfire on source-water quality and aquatic ecosystems, Colorado Front Range, in *Wildfire and Water Quality; Processes, Impacts, and Challenges*, International Association of Hydrological Sciences Publication 354:117–122, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, UK.
10. Murphy, S.F., McCleskey, R.B., and **Writer, J.H.**, 2012, Effects of flow regimes on stream turbidity and suspended solids after wildfire, Colorado Front Range, in *Wildfire and Water Quality; Processes, Impacts, and Challenges*, International Association of Hydrological Sciences Publication 354, p. 51–58, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, UK.
9. **Writer JH**, Ryan JN, Barber LB. 2011. Role of biofilms in sorption of steroidal hormones and 4-nonylphenol compounds. *Environmental Science and Technology* 45: 7275-7283. (<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es2008038>)
8. **Writer JH**, Ryan JN, Barber LB, and Bradley PM. 2011. Biodegradation and attenuation of steroidal hormones and alkylphenols by stream biofilms and sediments. *Environmental Science and Technology* 45: 4370-4376. (doi.org/10.1021/es2000134)
7. **Writer JH**, Keefe SK, Ryan, JN, Ferrer I, Thurman ME, Barber LB. 2011. Methods for evaluating in-stream attenuation of trace organic compounds. *Applied Geochemistry* ([doi:10.1016/j.apgeochem.2011.03.071](http://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeochem.2011.03.071))
6. Murphy SF and **JH Writer** 2011 Evaluating the effects of wildfire on stream processes in a Colorado Front Range watershed, USA. *Applied Geochemistry* ([doi:10.1016/j.apgeochem.2011.03.061](http://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeochem.2011.03.061))
5. Lee, KE, Langer, SK, Barber LB, **Writer JH**, and others. 2011, Endocrine active chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and other chemicals of concern in surface water, wastewater-treatment plant effluent, and bed sediment, and biological characteristics in selected streams, Minnesota—design, methods, and data, 2009: U.S. Geological Survey Data Series 575, 54 p., with appendixes.
4. **Writer JH**, Brown GK, Taylor HE, Schoenfuss HL, Jahns ND, Bartell SE, Kiesling RL, Ferrey ML, and Barber LB. 2010. Anthropogenic Tracers, Endocrine Active Chemicals, and Endocrine Disruption in Minnesota Lakes not Impacted by Point-Source Discharges. *Science of the Total Environment* 409:100-111. (doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2010.07.018)
3. Barber LB and **Writer JH**. 1998. Impact of 1993 flood on the distribution of organic contaminants in bed sediments of the Upper Mississippi River. *Environmental Science and Technology* 32: 2077-2083.
2. Trousdale WJ and **JH Writer**. 1997. Interdisciplinary watershed assessment in “buffer zone” communities near Podocarpus National Park, Ecuador. *Environmental Planning Quarterly* 14:1.
1. **Writer JH**, Leenheer JA, Barber LB, Amy GL, and Chapra SC. 1995. Sewage contamination of the Upper Mississippi River as measured by the fecal sterol, coprostanol. *Water Research*. 29:1427-1436.

AGENDA ITEM 4

Consent Agenda Items

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors
April 28, 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, April 28, 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 (via Zoom), Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard, Stacy McPhail, John Perusek, Camille Richard, Don Sabrowski, Andy Spann, and Brooke Zanetell.

Board members absent: Julie Nania

Others present:

Amanda Aulenbach, UGRWCD Wet Meadows Project Director
Curtis Beutler, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories (via Zoom)
Kate Burchenal, Airborne Snow Observatory
Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD General Manager
Bailey Friedman, UGRWCD Water Resource Project Manager
Dave Gochis, Airborne Snow Observatory (via Zoom)
Jesse Kruthaupt, Trout Unlimited (via Zoom)
John McClow, UGRWCD General Counsel
Mollie McGrann, Airborne Snow Observatory
Alana Nichols, UGRWCD Water Fellow
Beverly Richards, UGRWCD Senior Program Manager/Office Manager
Tom Rozman, Colorado Division of Water Resources
Robert Sakata, Colorado Department of Agricultural Water Policy Advisor (via Zoom)
Lynn Sikkink, Citizen
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 Rebie Hazard moved and Director John Perusek seconded approval of the agenda. The motion carried.

3. Consent Agenda Items

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

Director Camille Richard moved and Director Joellen Fonken seconded approval of the Consent Agenda. The motion carried.

4. Presentation by David Gochis and Kate Burchenal, Airborne Snow Observatory ASO)

Mr. Gochis and Ms. Burchenal gave a PowerPoint presentation to update the Board on recent flights over the Upper Gunnison River Basin. They highlighted the limitations of using SNOTEL stations, which are points on the landscape and not representative of the complexity of snowpack in the watershed. There was discussion about the motivation behind using ASO data and the differences in technology, focusing on the importance of monitoring and measuring the largest reservoir in Colorado and overall snowpack in the area.

Two flights will occur in 2025 in the East River Basin and Taylor River Basin. The first flight was flown on April 7, 2025, and a tentative second flight is scheduled for May 15, 2025. The first flight showed less snowpack in the basin in 2025 than in 2024 for both basins. However, in the East River basin, there was more snowpack measured in the middle and lower elevations in 2025 than in 2024.

North Fork of the Gunnison is a new survey area for ASO in 2025, with flights on March 27, 2025 and April 27, 2025.

On average, the relatively warm winter resulted in relatively shallow snowpack. The snowpack didn't develop typically deep pockets at higher elevations. The snowpack is currently primed and starting to melt. Widespread ablation at lower elevations and south facing terrain was noted. Soil saturation has increased in the last few weeks on an elevational gradient as melting picks up with lower elevations drying out, middle elevations close to saturation, and high elevations just starting to melt.

Director Rosemary Carroll asked Mr. Gochis if he would expect runoff to look like the 2020 year in terms of timing and volume. David Gochis said he will need to go back and look at that year's model but said it would not take much more energy for runoff to really increase quickly.

General Manager Chavez reminded the Board that the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) coordinates releases from the Aspinall Unit with water that is flowing in from the North Fork to meet the flow targets at the gage at Whitewater, Colorado as part of the Aspinall Unit Record of Decision for re-operations. She also mentioned that the USBR will no longer be providing official bi-monthly forecasts from the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center (CBRFC) but instead will just send out reports once at the first of each month. Director Fonken asked who gets the monthly forecasts from the USBR and if

those reports can be provided to the Board for the next couple of months. Kate Burchenal mentioned ASO has an email distribution group that anyone may be added to. Director Hazard asked if this was public data; Kate Burchenal replied this is all publicly available now and that if anyone would like to access this data, they only need to create a login. Staff can also work on adding board member email addresses to USBR's email distribution list.

5. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer John Perusek reported we are going to have to reinvest proceeds from a \$200,000 bond that is maturing and are considering another certificate of deposit or other investment recommended by the District's investment representative.

6. General Counsel Update

Legislative Activity Report – General Counsel John McClow reported that he included an update on pending legislation in the Board packet. The general assembly ends its session on May 7th. He noted there is very little if any proposed bills that affect the District. Counselor McClow noted that the Upper Division States sent a letter to the Secretary of the Interior in response to a letter from the Lower Division States to the Secretary. The states are still committed to try to come to a consensus on operating guidelines. The deadline for a consensus plan is the end of May. Principals are still meeting every other week. At the last meeting, there were some proposals made that indicate there is hope the states can reach that consensus. Director Andy Spann asked if the proposals can be shared with the Board, but Counselor McClow replied that this would not be possible until a consensus has been reached. President McPhail asked for clarification that this would be by the end of May. Counselor McClow replied “yes” and if the states do not reach agreement by the end of May, the Bureau of Reclamation will proceed with their own analysis based on the scenarios published in January.

Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBC) 2024 ISF Appropriations - Counselor McClow noted that during the March 2025 meeting the CWCBC declared its intent to appropriate a number of instream flow water rights, many of which are in Water Division 4, including Cabin Creek, Canyon Creek and Red Creek. He provided a link to review the full recommendations: <https://cwcbb.colorado.gov/2025-isf-recommendations>

7. Basin Water Supply Update

Senior Program/Office Manager Beverly Richards reported that after she developed the water supply report the April 28, 2025 TLUG meeting took place. CBRFC reported that soil moisture is in better shape in the upper basin than it was last year. She said it was wetter than average the first two months of the year but now it has declined and the basin is drying out. The Upper Basin is at 64% of the average precipitation for this time of year. The snow water equivalent (SWE) is now ranging from just 0-30% remaining. According to the CBRFC, the streamflows from runoff are forecasted to range from 71-84% in the basin.

Forecasted inflows to Blue Mesa for the spring runoff are predicted to be 70 percent of average. Currently, the basin is moving into a moderately dry year category with a requirement of a one-day flushing flow from Blue Mesa. The designation will be made following the official May 1 forecast from the CBRFC.

8. General Manager, Staff, Committee and Program Updates Reports

Project and Funding: General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that the District did complete the ASO contract and has finished the contract with the Colorado River District for their portion of the funding for the ASO flights in 2025.

Colorado PL-566 Collaborative Update: General Manager Chavez reported that a group of conservancy and conservation district managers are looking to utilize this collaborative effort to help share experiences utilizing PL-566 Watershed Protection & Flood Prevention funding for ag infrastructure projects and to work together to advocate to NRCS on program changes needed.

A new Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Aubrey Bettencourt, was selected and is a prominent leader in agriculture, water, and sustainability, having worked in both the private sector and at USDA. She also served in the United States Department of Interior during the first Trump Administration. There are several ongoing concerns about the loss of NRCS staff at the local levels.

Senator Bennett met with the Colorado Ag Water Alliance and indicated that he does not have much confidence that a new Farm Bill will be passed under the current federal administration.

The current CO PL-566 Collaborative recommendation was that water leaders should reach out to their federal congressmen and women and especially new staffers to educate them about how the program is being utilized in the state and why it is so important. There were also conversations about asking the state to create a funding pool to help with planning and engineering to help project proponents move through the NEPA process faster.

Watershed Management Planning: Water Resource Project Manager Bailey Friedman reported that the Watershed Management Plan will be ready for the public input by the end of May 2025.

Wet Meadows Program: Wet Meadows Program Director Amanda Aulenbach reported that two new technicians will be joining the District starting on May 12th. These technicians will work from May until the end of August, with the opportunity to extend their contracts through the end of October. The Wet Meadows Program has applied for an EPA grant to fill in funding holes.

UGRWCD Safety Manual: Director Rosemary Carroll asked if the field safety manual would address snow safety and safety traversing streams. General Manager Chavez replied that the manual could at this time does not address that field work specifically but that staff would work on including snow and stream safety sections. She asked if Director Carroll has any guidance on preferred language that she can share. Director Carroll will send to Sonja. President Stacy McPhail that the

current field safety guide for the Wet Meadows Program be approved so that staff could utilize as part of their on-boarding process for technicians coming up mid-May. Director Hazard asked if this is something that can be continually updated if new concerns come up, General Manager Chavez replied “yes.”

Director Rebie Hazard moved and Director Camille Richard seconded approval of the Field Safety Manual as presented. The motion carried.

Staff will continue updating the manual to include snow work and stream measurement field safety, and present an updated version at the next Board meeting.

Drought Contingency Planning (DCP) Update: The DCP is nearing the final stages of completion. The Board will be asked to review the plan and approve the draft before it goes out for a 30-day public comment period. There continues to be good participation at meetings and the team is now focusing on action items in the plan. A website is being developed that will contain and communicate all the DCP information.

State Dredge & Fill Report: General Manager Chavez and Water Resource Project Manager Friedman reported the current timeline of the draft process and concerns regarding individual authorizations, “activity as a whole” definition, exempted activities for irrigation ditch construction and maintenances, and concerns regarding the recapture provision and new language used in this section of the report.

When asked for any input from the Board, President McPhail indicated she has concerns about banking and how the climate is changing. She is concerned with changes in currencies and does not want to see regulations or new authorizations required that could be linked to an outside private currency. She noted that it will be interesting to see what banking opportunities will look like in 10 to 15 years.

Spencer Avenue Business Park: UGRWCD Fellow Alana Nichols reported that she has met with a landscape architect to talk about plans to “wildscape” the grounds for the Spencer Business Park as part of the state’s turf replacement grant program. Ms. Nichols has been working with a landscape business in Denver to coordinate the free turf removal set to happen early to mid-June. The “plant in a box” selection will be delivered close to that time as well. The District only got one bid returned from SCJ Alliance for design and implementation support and will move forward contracting with them.

Education Update: The Gunnison Valley Environmental Education Council held their first meeting on March 30, 2025 at the Almont Resort. It was well attended, and a lot of ideas were compiled. A summary of that meeting is provided in the public board packet.

Grant Program: The Vader Irrigation Improvement Project was originally proposed in 2023. Since then, there have been several delays in getting the project moving forward including concerns over the cost of the Griffing No. 2 as designed by NRCS and the recent blowout of McCanne No. 2. A decision has been made to prioritize McCanne No. 2 utilizing the IntelliDitch liner product in the blowout section only and re-evaluate piping the full 1200-foot segment since the cost of pipe has come down. Staff supports the timeline extension request but would like to discuss the use of the \$2,500 in the proposal for the IntelliDitch liner, which may not be a long-term solution for this ditch if the piping goes forward.

Director Andy Spann said he does not have an issue with helping fund this new type of ditch liner, especially if there is an educational and learning component to this project.

Director Andy Spann moved and Director Camille Richard seconded the approval of a no-cost timeline extension of the Vader Irrigation Improvement Project grant to December 15, 2025. The motion carried.

STOR: As noted in the board packet memorandum, the STOR committee is seeking funding from various constituents in the basin to support four summer USFS recreation technicians. The USFS cannot hire summer technicians to maintain the forests through the summer due to a hiring freeze and the Crested Butte Mountain Bike Association stepped up to be that third-party entity to hire techs which would be overseen by the USFS.

There was a lot of discussion among board members acknowledging the importance of maintaining public lands, but feeling hiring recreational employees was outside the mission of the District. Director Zanetell felt that it could be a valuable position for a graduate student seeking work experience. Historical complications working with CBMA on a previous project were also noted. General Council's input was not to support the funding request. Director Richard asked what the District could do this summer to help support impacts to our forests from tourism given the worsening situation with adequate personnel with the USFS. Consensus on seeing more law enforcement throughout the forests/public lands was recommended. Chair McPhail suggested at the next board retreat that a conversation be had about the District's role as it relates to recreation in the basin.

ACTION: No motion came from the board regarding this agenda item.

Taylor Local User's Group (TLUG): TLUG Chairman Don Sabrowski reported outcomes from the April 10 and 22, 2025 meeting which showed the CBRFC forecast putting us in an average year category but all signs pointed to a downward trend to the "Dry" category. The consensus of the TLUG representatives was to continue to be conservative with operational releases and they accepted the USBR's proposed operational plan until after the TLUG representative could review the May 1st forecast.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 8th at 9 a.m. Director Sabrowski fully believes that the next forecast will move Taylor River inflow into the “dry year” category and he expressed concern for irrigators given the lack of runoff flows we are currently seeing.

Direct Spann expressed that this is a concern he’s heard from many irrigators as well. General Manager Chavez asked if the USBR is not providing “official mid-month forecasts” is there any concern under the subordination agreement? General Counsel responded that it might be a matter of collaboration and using the best resources available (e.g., unofficial forecasts from CBRFC and WRF-Hydro weekly forecasts). Direct Sabrowski asked if the forecast changes from an average runoff to a dry runoff, with the peak runoff occurring prior to the first week of June, might this have a direct impact on the flush? Director Spann asked what the stipulation says about the timing of the flush and could it be moved back to catch more of the peak runoff? General Counsel said the idea is to use time the releases with peak runoff as part of any flushing flow.

Scientific Endeavors: Director Rosemary Carroll reported that she will be reporting on the NEON project at the May Board Meeting in Lake City.

Gunnison River Festival: General Manager Chavez said there is not much to update on at this moment. Planning is still ongoing, activities and vendors are being finalized.

9. Miscellaneous Matters

Board Terms Expiring and Process: In the packet were documents showing the two board vacancies: Director Julie Nania’s term (Division 5) is expiring and there is an opening in the City of Gunnison (Division 8), due to the resignation of Mike Rogers. Applications must be received by Judge Kellie Starritt by May 30, 2025 at 5 p.m.

Colorado Water Congress Summer Convention is in Steamboat Springs August 19-21, 2025. Board members were encouraged to express their interest soon so that staff could book rooms, as the convention center tends to sell out early.

Tour of Homestake Mine and Arch Ditch Automation is scheduled for September 22, 2025. Mr. Yamaguchi will provide more details for the day’s agenda after discussion in late August/early September with the Homestake representatives.

NRCS Source Water Protection –General Manager Chavez reported that the District sent a memo to CDPHE and NRCS to submit multiple HUC12 watersheds in the basin that could be included in a future SWP program in the state.

Director Fonken asked Ari Yamaguchi how often they interact with the public when in the field. Ari mentioned it does not happen very often and that it is dependent usually upon how close to a road they are working. Director Fonken suggested having WAG BAGS to hand out to people to mitigate human and pet waste in the field.

10. Citizen Comments

Director Brooke Zanetell invited everyone on Saturday May 17, 2025, to celebrate the turning on the ditches in the town ditch system.

Director Joellen Fonken asked if staff could start planning the board retreat. General Manager Chavez reported the retreat will likely be in the fall and it will be part of strategic planning efforts.

11. Future Meetings

A list of upcoming meetings was included in the packet. The Board was reminded that the May Board Meeting will be in Lake City on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 12:30 p.m. with lunch served at noon.

12. Summary of Meeting Action Items

- Field Safety Manual: Staff will develop language on safety practices in active streams and during winter conditions with input from Director Carroll.
- Time will be set aside for Director Carroll to present on NEON at the May Board Meeting in Lake City.

13. Adjournment

Board President Stacy McPhail adjourned the regular Board meeting on April, 28, 2025 at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Sabrowski, Secretary

Rosemary Carroll, Vice-President

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Monthly Budget Summary 2025

	Apr 25	YTD 2025	2025 Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Asp Water Sales	6,389.10	24,236.96	25,000.00	96.95%
Rent Income	3,275.00	13,100.00	43,500.00	30.12%
Cloud Seeding Income	0.00	0.00	124,500.00	0.0%
Interest Income	10,278.98	42,715.28	50,000.00	85.43%
Property Tax Income	195,724.31	1,021,823.06	2,204,862.00	46.34%
Reimbursed Exp Income	22,428.72	33,813.21	42,000.00	80.51%
Watershed Mgmt Income				
CWCB PEOP 2025-0557	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.0%
70158 · WMP CWCB PO 2023-3317 Income	0.00	0.00	94,401.00	0.0%
70160 · 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%
70167 · BOR DCP 2023-24 \$140,480	0.00	17,935.57	84,049.00	21.34%
Total Watershed Mgmt Income	0.00	17,935.57	291,291.00	6.16%
Wet Meadows Income				
TNC-UTV	25,000.00	25,000.00	25,064.00	99.75%
BLM GNA 140L1724	0.00	0.00	88,746.00	0.0%
US BLM Grant #L254AC00687-00	4,740.03	6,787.17	122,712.00	5.53%
ATBC Grant Income	1,024.68	27,025.55	24,895.00	108.56%
FWS Sage Brush Ecosystem Income	5,455.62	74,404.18	106,060.00	70.15%
USFS PA 2022 Income	0.00	0.00	17,945.00	0.0%
USFS SPA 2018 Grant	0.00	4,358.66		
Wet Meadows Income	36,220.33	137,575.56	385,422.00	35.7%
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%
Total Income	274,316.44	1,326,527.64	3,680,329.00	36.04%
Cost of Goods Sold				
CWCB GBRT-PEPO 2023-2489	-5,326.80	-5,326.80		
Total COGS	-5,326.80	-5,326.80		
Gross Profit	279,643.24	1,331,854.44	3,680,329.00	36.19%
Expense				
1 Op X				
Admin.Travel & Exp.	252.74	2,410.83	35,000.00	6.89%
Audit Expense	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.0%
Accounting & Professional Fees	3,010.00	14,564.18	45,000.00	32.37%
BOD Expenses	0.00	999.72	15,000.00	6.67%
BOD Mileage	200.20	984.90	5,500.00	17.91%
BOD Mtg Fees	900.00	3,200.00	13,360.00	23.95%
Bonding and Insurance	53.00	2,452.00	15,500.00	15.82%
Building Rep/Maint	0.00	1,232.54	10,000.00	12.33%
CAM	78.12	1,455.51	7,500.00	19.41%
Computer Exp	2,012.84	17,304.74	32,200.00	53.74%
Copier Expenses	939.76	1,928.17	7,000.00	27.55%
County Treasurers' Fees	5,782.57	30,512.15	75,000.00	40.68%
Spencer Bldg Reserve Contrib	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	100.0%
Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	1,080.70	6,045.65	17,260.00	35.03%
Legal Publication	371.51	1,382.78	5,000.00	27.66%
Manager's Discretionary	411.62	2,325.12	25,000.00	9.3%
Meeting Expenses	67.47	1,516.34	5,000.00	30.33%
Office Cleaning	675.00	2,722.50	6,200.00	43.91%
Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	4,034.02	7,275.28	10,000.00	72.75%
Payroll Exp	79,177.71	331,034.20	1,005,511.00	32.92%
Postage	0.00	1,117.10	1,500.00	74.47%
Telephone	772.09	3,086.80	9,000.00	34.3%
Utilities	506.77	2,987.57	6,000.00	49.79%
Vehicle Expense	-89.76	953.32	3,500.00	27.24%
Total 1 Op X	110,236.36	447,491.40	1,375,031.00	32.54%

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Monthly Budget Summary 2025

Payroll Exp	86,745.10	417,779.30	1,005,511.00	41.55%
Postage	0.00	1,117.10	1,500.00	74.47%
Telephone	623.52	3,710.32	9,000.00	41.23%
Utilities	726.27	3,842.54	6,000.00	64.04%
Vehicle Expense	245.60	1,198.92	3,500.00	34.26%
Total 1 Op X	126,627.21	574,247.31	1,375,031.00	41.76%
2 Non-Op X				
Aquatic Nuisance Species	0.00	3,595.00	20,000.00	17.98%
Asp Subordination Report	1,419.40	5,604.40	6,000.00	93.41%
Aspinall Contract Costs	0.00	21,509.39	21,000.00	102.43%
Gunnison County Hazardous Waste	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	100.0%
Consulting/Engineering	3,832.50	4,372.50	50,000.00	8.75%
Coal Creek Watershed Coalition	0.00	10,000.00	17,000.00	58.82%
Donation Dust on Snowpack	0.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	100.0%
Drought Contingency Cont	0.00	5,382.15	30,000.00	17.94%
Grant Program	19,491.25	117,007.73	555,000.00	21.08%
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	2,580.99	15,812.57	41,270.00	38.32%
Regional Water Supply Imp. Exp.	5,488.45	151,601.00	488,375.00	31.04%
Strategic Planning	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.0%
Taylor Park Projects Exp	0.00	7,436.00	7,500.00	99.15%
Watershed Mgmt X	76,452.89	134,324.75	312,533.00	42.98%
Wet Meadow X	2,264.12	32,140.28	395,422.00	8.13%
WQ Monitoring	0.00	46,475.00	207,484.00	22.4%
Total 2 Non-Op X	113,529.60	576,510.77	2,226,298.00	25.9%
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	0.00	2,391.14	10,000.00	23.91%
87000 - Capital Outlay Expense - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Capital Outlay Expense	0.00	2,391.14	55,000.00	4.35%
Contingency	0.00	0.00	24,000.00	0.0%
Total Expense	240,156.81	1,153,149.22	3,680,329.00	31.33%
Net Ordinary Income	481,594.49	900,456.52	0.00	100.0%
Net Income	481,594.49	900,456.52	0.00	100.0%

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Monthly Budget Summary 2025

	May 25	YTD 2025	2025 Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Asp Water Sales	1,580.84	25,817.80	25,000.00	103.27%
Rent Income	0.00	13,100.00	43,500.00	30.12%
Cloud Seeding Income	100,750.00	100,750.00	124,500.00	80.92%
Interest Income	41,402.70	84,117.98	50,000.00	168.24%
Property Tax Income	554,845.49	1,576,668.55	2,204,862.00	71.51%
Reimbursed Exp Income	0.00	33,813.21	42,000.00	80.51%
Watershed Mgmt Income				
CWCB PEPO 2025-0557	0.00	5,326.80	25,000.00	21.31%
WMP CWCB PO 2023-3317 Income	20,897.27	20,897.27	94,401.00	22.14%
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%
USBR Drought Contingency Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
BOR DCP 2023-24 \$140,480	0.00	17,935.57	84,049.00	21.34%
Total Watershed Mgmt Income	20,897.27	44,159.64	291,291.00	15.16%
Wet Meadows Income				
TNC-UTV	0.00	25,000.00	25,064.00	99.75%
BLM GNA 140L1724	0.00	0.00	88,746.00	0.0%
US BLM Grant #L254AC00687-00	0.00	6,787.17	122,712.00	5.53%
ATBC Grant Income	0.00	27,025.55	24,895.00	108.56%
FWS Sage Brush Ecosystem Income	0.00	74,404.18	106,060.00	70.15%
USFS PA 2022 Income	0.00	0.00	17,945.00	0.0%
USFS SPA 2018 Grant	0.00	4,358.66		
Wet Meadows Income	0.00	137,575.56	385,422.00	35.7%
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%
Miscellaneous Income	2,275.00	2,275.00		
Total Income	721,751.30	2,053,605.74	3,680,329.00	55.8%
Expense				
1 Op X				
Admin.Travel & Exp.	1,821.66	4,232.49	35,000.00	12.09%
Audit Expense	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.0%
Accounting & Professional Fees	3,005.00	17,569.18	45,000.00	39.04%
BOD Expenses	3,145.12	4,144.84	15,000.00	27.63%
BOD Mileage	0.00	984.90	5,500.00	17.91%
BOD Mtg Fees	0.00	3,200.00	13,360.00	23.95%
Bonding and Insurance	1,727.00	4,179.00	15,500.00	26.96%
Building Rep/Maint	0.00	1,232.54	10,000.00	12.33%
CAM	96.81	1,552.32	7,500.00	20.7%
Computer Exp	1,449.66	18,754.40	32,200.00	58.24%
Copier Expenses	0.00	1,928.17	7,000.00	27.55%
County Treasurers' Fees	16,862.03	47,374.18	75,000.00	63.17%
Spencer Bldg Reserve Contrib	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	100.0%
Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	4,165.68	10,211.33	17,260.00	59.16%
Legal Publication	722.84	2,105.62	5,000.00	42.11%
Manager's Discretionary	2,918.59	5,243.71	25,000.00	20.98%
Meeting Expenses	0.00	1,516.34	5,000.00	30.33%
Office Cleaning	787.50	3,510.00	6,200.00	56.61%
Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	1,584.83	8,860.11	10,000.00	88.6%

3:32 PM
05/13/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
AARP Medicare Rx			
04/01/2025	AARP Medicare Rx	74166 · Medical Insurance	104.70
Total AARP Medicare Rx			104.70
Alan Wartes Media LLC			
04/30/2025	Alan Wartes Media LLC	80548 · Legal Publication	158.78
04/30/2025	Alan Wartes Media LLC	Public Outreach - Misc Expe...	222.09
Total Alan Wartes Media LLC			380.87
Andy Spann BOD			
04/30/2025	Andy Spann BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
04/30/2025	Andy Spann BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage	4.90
Total Andy Spann BOD			104.90
Anthem			
04/01/2025	Anthem	74166 · Medical Insurance	389.14
Total Anthem			389.14
Atmos Energy			
04/30/2025	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A	71.14
Total Atmos Energy			71.14
Beverly Richards			

3:32 PM
05/13/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
04/01/2025	Beverly Richards	74166 · Medical Insurance	185.00
Total Beverly Richards			185.00
Brooke Zanatell BOD			
04/30/2025	Brooke Zanatell BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total Brooke Zanatell BOD			100.00
Business Solutions Leasing			
04/24/2025	Business Solutions Leasing	80541 · Copier Expenses	610.29
04/30/2025	Business Solutions Leasing	80541 · Copier Expenses	242.89
Total Business Solutions Leasing			853.18
Camille Richard BOD			
04/30/2025	Camille Richard BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
04/30/2025	Camille Richard BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage	78.40
Total Camille Richard BOD			178.40
CEBT			
04/01/2025	CEBT	74166 · Medical Insurance	5,221.10
Total CEBT			5,221.10
Chase - United Credit Card			
04/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	85554 · USBR Drought Contin...	45.57
04/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81257 · Vehicle Expenses - T...	75.64

3:32 PM
05/13/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
04/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	74180 · Staff Development	120.00
04/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	82530 · Meeting Expenses	67.47
04/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81258 · Vehicle Expenses - T...	90.80
04/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80554 · Admin.Travel & Exp.	127.74
04/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81558 · Computer Software	401.88
04/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80557 · Office Supplies & Mis...	387.72
04/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80547 · Manager's Discretion...	411.62
04/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	85402 · Wet Meadow X	203.90
04/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	TNC-UTV	282.41
04/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	Public Outreach - Misc Expe...	694.65
04/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80514 · Mini-Grants	249.07
04/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	Other Sponsorships	634.85
04/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	82556 · Dues, Memberships&...	360.00
04/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	GRF Receivable	898.72
Total Chase - United Credit Card			5,052.04
City of Gunnison			
04/30/2025	City of Gunnison	85400 · Grant Program	25,000.00
04/30/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	244.54
04/30/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	32.16
04/30/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	41.68
04/30/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	117.25
Total City of Gunnison			25,435.63
Colorado Water Congress			

3:32 PM
05/13/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
04/30/2025	Colorado Water Congress	80554 · Admin.Travel & Exp.	125.00
Total Colorado Water Congress			125.00
Crested Butte News			
04/30/2025	Crested Butte News	80548 · Legal Publication	195.13
Total Crested Butte News			195.13
Crested Butte Public Policy Forum			
04/30/2025	Crested Butte Public Policy Forum	Other Sponsorships	750.00
Total Crested Butte Public Policy Forum			750.00
D. Jean Miller			
04/30/2025	D. Jean Miller	85400 · Grant Program	9,422.98
Total D. Jean Miller			9,422.98
Deborah Saunders			
04/30/2025	Deborah Saunders	Public Outreach - Misc Expe...	235.01
Total Deborah Saunders			235.01
Don Sabrowski BOD			
04/30/2025	Don Sabrowski BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
04/30/2025	Don Sabrowski BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage	67.20

3:32 PM
05/13/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Total Don Sabrowski BOD			167.20
Dove Graphics			
04/30/2025	Dove Graphics	80557 · Office Supplies & Mis...	562.50
Total Dove Graphics			562.50
Fullmer's Ace Hardware			
04/30/2025	Fullmer's Ace Hardware	80557 · Office Supplies & Mis...	20.97
04/30/2025	Fullmer's Ace Hardware	80513 · Public Outreach	45.94
Total Fullmer's Ace Hardware			66.91
GL Computer Service, Inc.			
04/30/2025	GL Computer Service, Inc.	81543 · Computer Repair/IT ...	1,000.00
04/30/2025	GL Computer Service, Inc.	80557 · Office Supplies & Mis...	2,254.25
Total GL Computer Service, Inc.			3,254.25
Glatfelter Public Entities			
04/30/2025	Glatfelter Public Entities	80522 · Bonding and Insuran...	53.00
Total Glatfelter Public Entities			53.00
Gobins's, Inc.			
04/09/2025	Gobins's, Inc.	80541 · Copier Expenses	86.58
Total Gobins's, Inc.			86.58

3:32 PM
05/13/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Golden Eagle Trash Service			
04/30/2025	Golden Eagle Trash Service	84550 · CAM	78.12
Total Golden Eagle Trash Service			78.12
Gunnison Bank and Trust			
04/01/2025	Gunnison Bank and Trust	80517 · Accounting & Profes...	5.00
04/11/2025	Gunnison Bank and Trust	80517 · Accounting & Profes...	5.00
Total Gunnison Bank and Trust			10.00
Hinsdale County - LSC			
04/30/2025	Hinsdale County - LSC	Aquatice Nuisance Species	3,595.00
Total Hinsdale County - LSC			3,595.00
Humana			
04/01/2025	Humana	74166 · Medical Insurance	91.00
Total Humana			91.00
Jesse Kruthaupt (Ind)			
04/30/2025	Jesse Kruthaupt (Ind)	85400 · Grant Program	15,000.00
Total Jesse Kruthaupt (Ind)			15,000.00
Joellen Fonken BOD			
04/30/2025	Joellen Fonken BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00

3:32 PM
05/13/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
04/30/2025	Joellen Fonken BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage	7.00
Total Joellen Fonken BOD			107.00
04/01/2025	John McClow	74166 · Medical Insurance	185.00
Total John McClow			185.00
04/30/2025	John Perusek BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total John Perusek BOD			100.00
04/30/2025	KEJJ Radio	Advertising Radio & Newspa...	250.00
Total KEJJ Radio			250.00
04/30/2025	KVLE FM	Advertising Radio & Newspa...	250.00
Total KVLE FM			250.00
04/30/2025	LexisNexis	82556 · Dues, Memberships&...	720.70
Total LexisNexis			720.70

3:32 PM
05/13/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Lightspeed Voice			
04/01/2025	Lightspeed Voice	80534 · Telephone	1.66
04/09/2025	Lightspeed Voice	80534 · Telephone	310.10
Total Lightspeed Voice			311.76
Melinda McCawmedia			
04/30/2025	Melinda McCawmedia	CWCB Pepo 2025-0557	229.00
Total Melinda McCawmedia			229.00
Midnight Marketing Solutions LLC			
04/30/2025	Midnight Marketing Solutions LLC	81558 · Computer Software	400.00
Total Midnight Marketing Solutions LLC			400.00
New Morning Improvement, LLC			
04/30/2025	New Morning Improvement, LLC	Office Cleaning	675.00
Total New Morning Improvement, LLC			675.00
North American Weather Consultants, Inc.			
04/30/2025	North American Weather Consultants, ...	85540 · Cloud Seeding	14,385.00
Total North American Weather Consultants, Inc.			14,385.00
One Sea Wellness			
04/30/2025	One Sea Wellness	Public Outreach - Misc Expe...	125.00

3:32 PM
05/13/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Total One Sea Wellness			125.00
Pinnacol Assurance			
04/23/2025	Pinnacol Assurance	74200 · Work Comp Ins	558.00
Total Pinnacol Assurance			558.00
QuickBooks			
04/01/2025	QuickBooks	81558 · Computer Software	84.00
Total QuickBooks			84.00
Rebie Hazard-BOD			
04/30/2025	Rebie Hazard-BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
04/30/2025	Rebie Hazard-BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage	41.30
Total Rebie Hazard-BOD			141.30
RigNet Inc			
04/30/2025	RigNet Inc	85540 · Cloud Seeding	38.45
Total RigNet Inc			38.45
Rosemary Carroll - BOD			
04/30/2025	Rosemary Carroll - BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total Rosemary Carroll - BOD			100.00
Silver World Publishing			

3:32 PM
05/13/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
04/30/2025	Silver World Publishing	80548 · Legal Publication	17.60
04/30/2025	Silver World Publishing	Advertising Radio & Newspa...	80.00
Total Silver World Publishing			97.60
Stacy McPhail BOD			
04/30/2025	Stacy McPhail BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
04/30/2025	Stacy McPhail BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage	1.40
Total Stacy McPhail BOD			101.40
Strategic by Nature			
04/30/2025	Strategic by Nature	85554 · USBR Drought Contin...	4,855.90
04/30/2025	Strategic by Nature	85408 · Drought Contingenc...	5,054.10
Total Strategic by Nature			9,910.00
Sunshine Creatives			
04/30/2025	Sunshine Creatives	CWCB Pepo 2025-0557	1,252.00
Total Sunshine Creatives			1,252.00
The Paper Clip			
04/30/2025	The Paper Clip	80557 · Office Supplies & Mis...	808.58
Total The Paper Clip			808.58

Thomas N Stoeber, CPA

3:32 PM
05/13/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
04/30/2025	Thomas N Stoeber, CPA	80517 · Accounting & Profes...	3,000.00
Total Thomas N Stoeber, CPA			3,000.00
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation			
04/30/2025	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	84557 · Aspinall Contract Co...	1,037.10
Total U.S. Bureau of Reclamation			1,037.10
U.S. Geological Survey			
04/30/2025	U.S. Geological Survey	85560 · WQ Monitoring	46,475.00
04/30/2025	U.S. Geological Survey	H2O Budget & Return Flow St...	67,999.00
Total U.S. Geological Survey			114,474.00
Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Assoc.			
04/30/2025	Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Assoc.	84520 · Taylor Park Projects E...	7,436.00
Total Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Assoc.			7,436.00
Verizon Wireless			
04/30/2025	Verizon Wireless	80534 · Telephone	460.33
Total Verizon Wireless			460.33
Visionary Broadband			
04/30/2025	Visionary Broadband	81556 · Internet	126.96

3:32 PM
05/13/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Total Visionary Broadband			126.96
Wilson Water Group			
04/21/2025	Wilson Water Group	85554 · USBR Drought Contin...	697.50
04/21/2025	Wilson Water Group	CWCB 2023-3317 (WMP Phas...	6,240.00
Total Wilson Water Group			6,937.50
Upper Gunn Riv Water Conservancy District			
04/23/2025	Upper Gunn Riv Water Conservancy Di...	Spencer Bldg Reserve Contrib	10,000.00
Total Upper Gunn Riv Water Conservancy District			10,000.00
TOTAL			246,070.46

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
Monthly Budget Summary 2025

2 Non-Op X				
Aquatic Nuisance Species	3,595.00	3,595.00	20,000.00	17.98%
Asp Subordination Report	0.00	4,185.00	6,000.00	69.75%
Aspinall Contract Costs	1,037.10	21,474.82	21,000.00	102.26%
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	10,000.00	17,000.00	58.82%
Donation Dust on Snowpack	0.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	100.0%
Drought Contingency Cont	5,054.10	5,382.15	30,000.00	17.94%
Grant Program	49,422.98	97,516.48	555,000.00	17.57%
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	3,536.61	13,231.58	41,270.00	32.06%
Regional Water Supply Imp. Exp.	82,422.45	146,112.55	488,375.00	29.92%
Strategic Planning	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	0.0%
Taylor Park Projects Exp	7,436.00	7,436.00	7,500.00	99.15%
Watershed Mgmt X	13,319.97	57,871.86	312,533.00	18.52%
Wet Meadow X	742.51	29,876.16	395,422.00	7.56%
WQ Monitoring	46,475.00	46,475.00	207,484.00	22.4%
Total 2 Non-Op X	213,041.72	462,946.60	2,226,298.00	20.79%
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	0.00	2,391.14	10,000.00	23.91%
Capital Outlay Expense	0.00	2,391.14	55,000.00	4.35%
Contingency	0.00	0.00	24,000.00	0.0%
Total Expense	323,278.08	912,829.14	3,680,329.00	24.8%
Net Ordinary Income	-43,634.84	419,025.30	0.00	
Net Income	-43,634.84	419,025.30	0.00	

2:57 PM
06/12/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
AARP Medicare Rx 05/01/2025	AARP Medicare Rx	74166 · Medical Insurance	104.70
Total AARP Medicare Rx			104.70
Airborne Snow Obervatories, Inc. 05/31/2025	Airborne Snow Obervatories, Inc.	Airborne Snow Obs. Flights	54,956.13
Total Airborne Snow Obervatories, Inc.			54,956.13
Alan Wartes Media LLC 05/31/2025	Alan Wartes Media LLC	80548 · Legal Publication	328.90
05/31/2025	Alan Wartes Media LLC	Advertising Radio & Newspapers	357.50
05/31/2025	Alan Wartes Media LLC	GRF Receivable	357.50
Total Alan Wartes Media LLC			1,043.90
Anthem 05/01/2025	Anthem	74166 · Medical Insurance	389.14
Total Anthem			389.14
Applegate Group, Inc. 05/31/2025	Applegate Group, Inc.	81520 · Consulting/Engineering	3,832.50
05/31/2025	Applegate Group, Inc.	85400 · Grant Program	1,591.25
Total Applegate Group, Inc.			5,423.75
Atmos Energy 05/31/2025	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A	59.00
05/31/2025	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A	91.59
Total Atmos Energy			150.59
Beverly Richards			

2:57 PM
06/12/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
05/01/2025	Beverly Richards	74166 · Medical Insurance	185.00
Total Beverly Richards			185.00
Brian Miller			
05/31/2025	Brian Miller	85400 · Grant Program	6,000.00
Total Brian Miller			6,000.00
Brooke Zanetell			
05/31/2025	Brooke Zanetell	80514 · Mini-Grants	500.00
Total Brooke Zanetell			500.00
Cash			
05/31/2025	Cash	80557 · Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	48.09
Total Cash			48.09
CEBT			
05/01/2025	CEBT	74166 · Medical Insurance	5,221.10
Total CEBT			5,221.10
Chase - United Credit Card			
05/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81258 · Vehicle Expenses - Toyota Highl	65.41
05/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81257 · Vehicle Expenses - Toyota Tacom	180.19
05/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	74163 · Payroll Exp	606.98
05/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	84558 · Asp Subordination Report	159.40
05/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	85554 · USBR Drought Contingency	166.92
05/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80554 · Admin.Travel & Exp.	1,821.66
05/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81558 · Computer Software	238.70
05/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80557 · Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	929.52
05/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80547 · Manager's Discretionary	2,778.59
05/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	Wet Meadows Miscellaneous	242.31

2:57 PM
06/12/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
05/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	General Public Outreach	605.99
05/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81600 · BOD Expenses	3,145.12
05/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	82556 · Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	3,444.98
05/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	GRF Receivable	482.96
Total Chase - United Credit Card			14,868.73
City of Gunnison			
05/31/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	47.48
05/31/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	122.91
05/31/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	187.71
05/31/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	217.58
Total City of Gunnison			575.68
Crested Butte News			
05/31/2025	Crested Butte News	80548 · Legal Publication	393.94
05/31/2025	Crested Butte News	GRF Receivable	292.50
05/31/2025	Crested Butte News	Advertising Radio & Newspapers	292.50
Total Crested Butte News			978.94
Field Land and Cattle, LLC			
05/31/2025	Field Land and Cattle, LLC	85400 · Grant Program	1,900.00
05/31/2025	Field Land and Cattle, LLC	CFP Multi Project	3,050.00
Total Field Land and Cattle, LLC			4,950.00
Fullmer's Ace Hardware			
05/31/2025	Fullmer's Ace Hardware	ATBC Expense	336.77
05/31/2025	Fullmer's Ace Hardware	FWS Sage Brush Ecosystem Exp	14.04
05/31/2025	Fullmer's Ace Hardware	80557 · Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	54.66
Total Fullmer's Ace Hardware			405.47

2:57 PM
06/12/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
05/31/2025	GL Computer Service, Inc. GL Computer Service, Inc.	81543 · Computer Repair/IT Support	1,000.00
	Total GL Computer Service, Inc.		1,000.00
05/31/2025	Glatfelter Specialty Benefits Glatfelter Specialty Benefits	80522 · Bonding and Insurance	1,627.00
	Total Glatfelter Specialty Benefits		1,627.00
05/31/2025	Golden Eagle Trash Service Golden Eagle Trash Service	84550 · CAM	96.81
	Total Golden Eagle Trash Service		96.81
05/01/2025	Gunnison Arts Center Gunnison Arts Center	FWS Sage Brush Ecosystem Exp	1,350.00
	Total Gunnison Arts Center		1,350.00
05/08/2025	Gunnison Bank and Trust Gunnison Bank and Trust	80517 · Accounting & Professional Fees	5.00
	Total Gunnison Bank and Trust		5.00
05/31/2025	Gunnison County Public Works Dept. Gunnison County Public Works Dept.	85406 · Gunnison County Hazardous Waste	2,000.00
	Total Gunnison County Public Works Dept.		2,000.00
05/19/2025	Gunnison County Stockgrowers-Annual Gunnison County Stockgrowers-Annual	80547 · Manager's Discretionary	140.00
	Total Gunnison County Stockgrowers-Annual		140.00

2:57 PM
06/12/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Humana 05/01/2025	Humana	74166 · Medical Insurance	91.00
Total Humana			91.00
John McClow 05/01/2025	John McClow	74166 · Medical Insurance	185.00
Total John McClow			185.00
Jr. Livestock Committee 05/31/2025	Jr. Livestock Committee	General Public Outreach	500.00
Total Jr. Livestock Committee			500.00
KEJJ Radio 05/31/2025	KEJJ Radio	Advertising Radio & Newspapers	125.00
Total KEJJ Radio			125.00
KVLE FM 05/31/2025	KVLE FM	Advertising Radio & Newspapers	125.00
Total KVLE FM			125.00
LexisNexis 05/31/2025	LexisNexis	82556 · Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	720.70
Total LexisNexis			720.70
Lightspeed Voice 05/01/2025	Lightspeed Voice	80534 · Telephone	310.10
05/01/2025	Lightspeed Voice	80534 · Telephone	1.66
05/31/2025	Lightspeed Voice	80534 · Telephone	310.10

2:57 PM
06/12/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
05/31/2025	Lightspeed Voice	80534 · Telephone	1.66
	Total Lightspeed Voice		623.52
	Melinda McCawmedia		
05/31/2025	Melinda McCawmedia	CWCB Pepo 2025-0557	80.00
	Total Melinda McCawmedia		80.00
	Nationwide		
05/31/2025	Nationwide	80522 · Bonding and Insurance	100.00
	Total Nationwide		100.00
	New Morning Improvement, LLC		
05/31/2025	New Morning Improvement, LLC	Office Cleaning	787.50
	Total New Morning Improvement, LLC		787.50
	North American Weather Consultants, Inc.		
05/31/2025	North American Weather Consultants, Inc.	85540 · Cloud Seeding	5,450.00
	Total North American Weather Consultants, Inc.		5,450.00
	OffCenter Designs, LLC		
05/31/2025	OffCenter Designs, LLC	Wet Meadows Miscellaneous	321.00
	Total OffCenter Designs, LLC		321.00
	Palisades Retreat Club		
05/31/2025	Palisades Retreat Club	85400 · Grant Program	10,000.00
	Total Palisades Retreat Club		10,000.00
	Pinnacol Assurance		

2:57 PM
06/12/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
05/27/2025	Pinnacol Assurance	74200 · Work Comp Ins	558.00
Total Pinnacol Assurance			558.00
QuickBooks			
05/01/2025	QuickBooks	81558 · Computer Software	84.00
Total QuickBooks			84.00
RigNet Inc			
05/31/2025	RigNet Inc	85540 · Cloud Seeding	38.45
Total RigNet Inc			38.45
Strategic by Nature			
05/31/2025	Strategic by Nature	85554 · USBR Drought Contingency	5,917.84
Total Strategic by Nature			5,917.84
Sunshine Creatives			
05/31/2025	Sunshine Creatives	CWCB Pepo 2025-0557	1,252.00
Total Sunshine Creatives			1,252.00
The Mindful Toolbox			
05/01/2025	The Mindful Toolbox	Other Sponsorships	75.00
Total The Mindful Toolbox			75.00
The Paper Clip			
05/31/2025	The Paper Clip	80557 · Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	552.56
Total The Paper Clip			552.56
Thomas N Stoeber, CPA			

2:57 PM
06/12/25
Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
05/31/2025	Thomas N Stoeber, CPA	80517 · Accounting & Professional Fees	3,000.00
Total Thomas N Stoeber, CPA			3,000.00
Visionary Broadband			
05/31/2025	Visionary Broadband	81556 · Internet	126.96
Total Visionary Broadband			126.96
Watershed Science and Design			
05/31/2025	Watershed Science and Design	CWCB 2023-3317 (WMP Phase 3)	5,940.00
Total Watershed Science and Design			5,940.00
Wilson Water Group			
05/04/2025	Wilson Water Group	CWCB 2023-3317 (WMP Phase 3)	585.00
05/04/2025	Wilson Water Group	84558 · Asp Subordination Report	1,260.00
05/04/2025	Wilson Water Group	85554 · USBR Drought Contingency	2,805.00
05/31/2025	Wilson Water Group	85554 · USBR Drought Contingency	1,700.00
Total Wilson Water Group			6,350.00
TOTAL			145,023.56

UGRWCD						
Account Name: LPL Bonds	Instrument Type	Balance 5/31/2025	Cost Basis	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Date Callable
LPL Bond 21 (Fed Farm) CUSIP 3133EL3P7	BOND	342,423.88	345,000.00	0.530%	8/12/2025	6/6/2025
LPL Bond 29 (Fedl Farm Credit Bank) CUSIP 3133ERJP7	BOND	280,157.08	280,000.00	5.120%	7/1/2026	7/1/2025
LPL Bond 23 (FEDL) CUSIP 3130ALLD4	BOND	243,379.25	250,000.00	0.900%	3/17/2026	3/17/2025
LPL Bond 24 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130AMDY5	BOND	484,773.50	500,000.00	1.030%	5/20/2026	2/20/2025
LPL Bond 26 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130APBE4	BOND	153,546.08	160,000.00	1.040%	9/30/2026	3/30/2025
LPL Bond 30 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130B4BX8	BOND	354,949.59	355,000.00	4.880%	12/27/2028	6/27/2025
LPL Bond 31 (FHLMC) CUSIP 3134HAV34	BOND	250,132.25	250,000.00	5.000%	12/24/2029	6/24/2025
LPL BOND SUBTOTAL:		\$ 2,109,361.63	\$ 2,140,000.00	2.643%		
Account Name: LPL Certificates of Deposit						
LPL 30 Synchrony Bank CD CUSIP 87165EXB8	CD	244,675.13	245,000.00	3.400%	7/29/2025	
LPL 31 Morgan Stanley Bank CD CUSIP 61690D4C9	CD	220,078.10	220,000.00	4.050%	5/7/2027	
LPL 32 Morgan Stanley PVT Bank CD CUSIP 61776NSJ3	CD	245,269.01	245,000.00	4.150%	5/22/2028	
LPL 33 Toyota Financial Savings Bank CD CUSIP 89235MSK8	CD	244,929.19	245,000.00	4.100%	5/22/2028	
LPL CD SUBTOTAL:		\$ 954,951.43	\$ 955,000.00	3.925%		
Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings						
LPL Money Market Savings Account	M.M. SAVINGS	65,454.71	-	1.000%	N/A	
LPL MM SUBTOTAL:		\$ 65,454.71				

	INSTRUMENT	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	
Account Name	TYPE	5/31/2025	Basis	Rate	Date	Notes
Community Banks of Colo. Lake City CD 7668	CD	109,228.30	105,015.89	4.01%	11/20/2026	*Updated on an Annual Basis
10520 Gunnison Bank & Trust CD 6637	CD	219,894.70	200,000.00	4.00%	2/26/2030	*Updated on an Annual Basis
10540 Gunnison Bank & Trust MM - Spencer Building Acct. 3589	CHKG	34,474.45		0.50%		
Gunnison Bank & Trust 8756	CHKG	150,502.86				
				Average Mo. Yield		
COLOTRUST PLUS 8001	COLO.	2,144,500.29		4.40%	N/A	
COLOTRUST PLUS UGRWCD EHOP 8003	COLO.	108,117.51		4.40%	N/A	
COLOTRUST PLUS SPENCER BUILDING 8005	COLO.	80,929.28		4.40%		
COLOTRUST PRIME 4001	COLO.	6,432.60		4.40%	N/A	
10200 Petty Cash	PETTY	51.91		N/A	N/A	
MISCELLANEOUS BANK & COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:		\$ 2,854,131.90				
TOTAL UGRWCD		\$ 5,983,899.67				

UGRWAE	INSTRUMENT	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	Date
Account Name	TYPE	5/31/2025	Basis	Rate	Date	Callable
LPL Bond CUSIP 3136GAAY5 Fedl Home Loan Mtg Corp	Bond	300,020.40	300,000.00	5.00%	2/21/2030	11/21/2025
Gunnison Bank & Trust 8764	CHKG	31,097.44				
COLOTRUST PLUS 8002	COLO.	451,554.24		4.47%	N/A	
MISCELLANEOUS BANK & COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:		\$ 782,672.08				
Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings						
LPL Money Market Savings Account	M.M. SAVINGS	15,486.46	-	0.250%	N/A	
LPL MM SUBTOTAL:		\$ 15,486.46				
TOTAL UGRWAE		\$ 798,158.54				

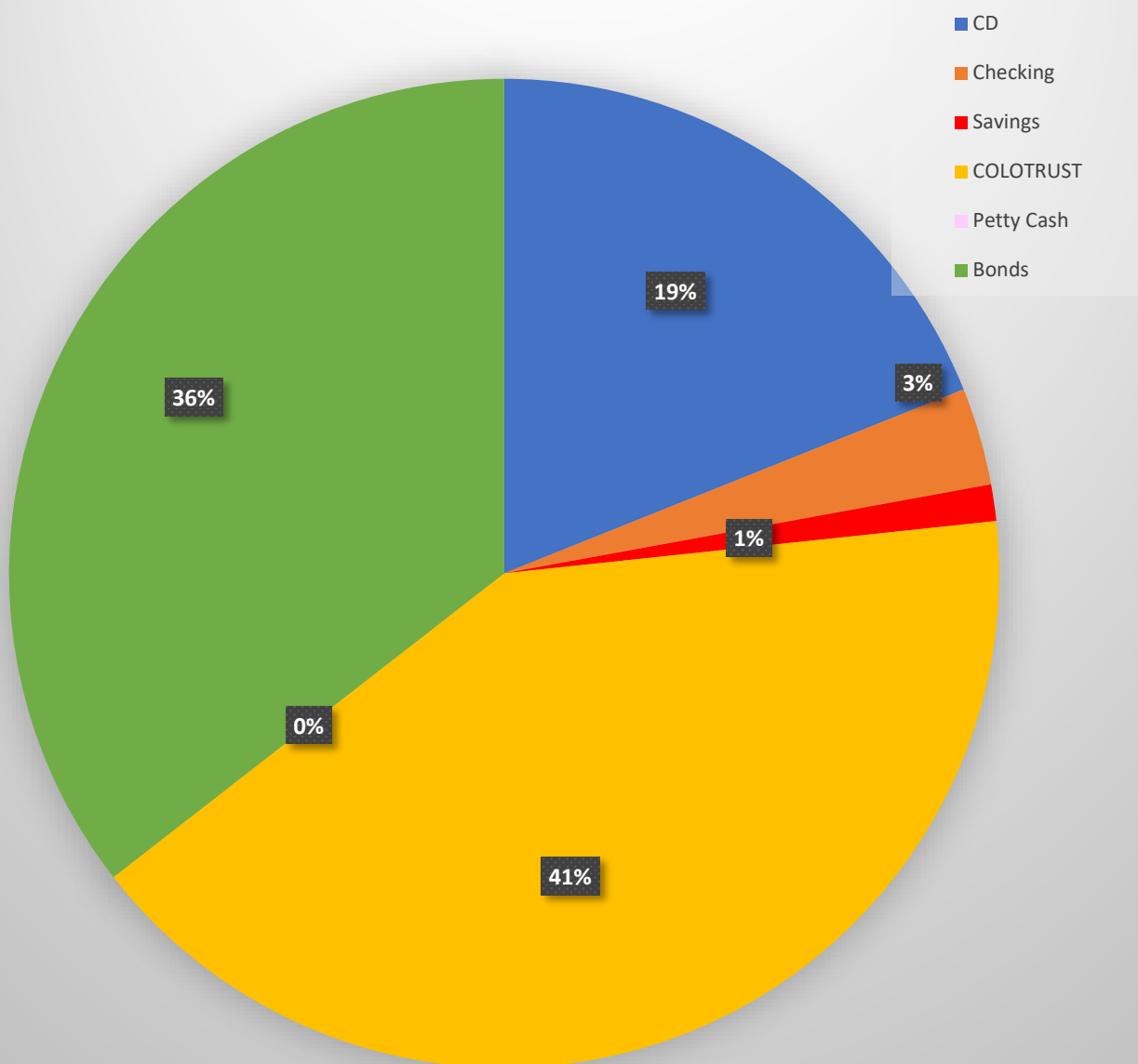
TOTAL UGRWCD + UGRWAE	\$ 6,782,058.21
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Total UGRWCD and UGRWAE by Bank			Total UGRWCD & UGRWAE by Investment Type		
LPL Financial	\$ 3,445,274.63	51%	CD	19%	1,284,074.43
Community Banks of Colo.	109,228.30	2%	Checking	3%	216,074.75
Gunnison Bank & Trust	435,969.45	6%	Savings	1%	80,941.17
COLOTRUST	2,791,533.92	41%	COLOTRUST	41%	2,791,533.92
Petty Cash	51.91	0%	Petty Cash	0%	51.91
			Bonds	36%	\$ 2,409,382.03
TOTAL ALL SOURCES	\$ 6,782,058.21	100%	Total	100%	\$ 6,782,058.21

UGRWCD & UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE

CD	19%	\$	1,284,074.43
Checking	3%	\$	216,074.75
Savings	1%	\$	80,941.17
COLOTRUST	41%	\$	2,791,533.92
Petty Cash	0%	\$	51.91
Bonds	36%	\$	2,409,382.03
Total	100%	\$	6,782,058.21

UGRWCD + UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE



AGENDA ITEM 5

Treasurer's Report

MEMORANDUM



TO: Board of Directors
FROM: John Perusek
DATE: May 13, 2025
SUBJECT: Treasurer's Report (May 2025)

Following is a summary of financial activity within the District during the month of April and a hint at what to expect for the rest of 2025.

I. General Fund Investment Outlook

- A. LPL Bond 28 originally invested at \$200,000 at 3.03% was called in late April and the monies (\$203,016 plus 17,783.23 in the cash sweep account) were reinvested on 05/07/25 into an LPL Morgan Stanley Bank Bond at 4.05% with a maturity date of 05/07/27. This will be reflected in next month's bank and bond balance.
- B. LPL Bond 20 originally invested at \$550,000 at 0.75% will mature on 05/19/25. We will be working to identify opportunities for reinvestment.
- C. LPL CD 30 originally invested at \$245,000 at 3.41% will be maturing 07/29/25. We will be working with LPL or other local banks to identify a reinvestment opportunity.
- D. LPL Bond 21 originally invested at \$345,000 at 0.540% will mature on 08/12/25. We will be working to identify opportunities for reinvestment.

By next month, only five months into the year, UGRWCD is poised to exceed our original estimated income from investment budgeted amount (\$50,000). With the maturity of a few of our lower interest earning investments over the next few months and the ability to reinvest at a higher interest rate, we should see a very strong return in 2025.

We will be focused on re-building our investment ladder which has served the organization well. At this point in time, we have a significant number of investments maturing in 2026 and we will need to focus on building our investments in out years (2027 thru 2029).

MEMORANDUM



TO: Board of Directors
FROM: John Perusek, Treasurer
Beverly Richards, Office Manager
DATE: June 30, 2025
SUBJECT: Treasurer's Report (June 2025)

Following is a summary of financial activity within the District during the month of May and a hint at what to expect for the rest of 2025.

I. General Fund Investment Outlook

- A. LPL Bond 20 originally invested at \$550,000 at 0.75% matured on 05/19/25.

These funds along with \$155,345 from the LPL money market savings account were reinvested in Certificates of Deposit to avoid the volatility in the bond market (i.e., calls on investments) as detailed below:

- B. LPL CD 31 was invested at \$220,000 at 4.05% with a maturity date of 05/07/27.
- C. LPL CD 32 was invested at \$245,000 at 4.15% with a maturity date of 5/22/28.
- D. LPL CD 33 was invested at \$245,000 at 4.10% with a maturity date of 5/22/28.
Following these transactions, there is \$65,454 remaining in the LPL money market savings account earning 1%.
- E. LPL CD 30 originally invested at \$245,000 at 3.41% will be maturing 07/29/25.
We will be working with LPL or other local banks to identify a reinvestment opportunity.
- F. LPL Bond 21 originally invested at \$345,000 at 0.540% will mature on 08/12/25.
We will be working to identify opportunities for reinvestment.

In summary, we have reinvested \$0.75M in General Fund cash reserves to date at an average interest rate of 4.10% and are focusing on rebuilding the investment ladder with maturity dates in 2027 and 2028.

II. ColoTrust Information

Since May 29th we have received a total of \$244,411 in deposits into the ColoTrust Plus and General Fund accounts from grant reimbursements and property tax deposits.

III. Audit Exit Review

The 2024 audit is complete. The audit report will be provided to the board for approval once it has been reviewed and approved by Executive Management and Stoeber CPA.

The deadline for submitting the documents to the State of Colorado is July 31, 2025.

Below are some items discussed as part of the review.

- There have been some changes made to GASB 87 where leases with multiple years should be considered future income and will need to be amortized.
- There were some clean-up tasks and prior period adjustments made which do not affect current operations.
- There was an adjustment to the capital outlays budget item as some equipment expensed under this line item did not meet the \$3,500 depreciation cap threshold. Staff was aware of this change and was sure to incorporate in the development of the 2025 budget (e.g., placing new computers in the “office supplies and expenses” budget line item instead of “capital outlay” line item).
- Establish a rate for charging the Kubota UTV by the hour and base it on local rates as our federal agency cooperative agreements or contracts may require negotiated annual rates.

AGENDA ITEM 6

Election of Officers

AGENDA ITEM 7

Appointment of Financial Officers

Resolution 2025-02

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am the duly elected and qualified Secretary of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District and the keeper of the records and seal of said District and the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of said District held in accordance with the By-Laws of said District on the 30th day of June 2025.

"Whereas, on July 12, 1993, the Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (The Board) designated Community Banks of Colorado – Gunnison and Community Banks of Colorado – Lake City depositories of the District and that funds so deposited may be withdrawn upon a check, draft, note or order of the District; and

"Whereas, on October 23, 2023, The Board designated Gunnison Bank and Trust a depository of the District and that funds so deposited may be withdrawn upon a check, draft, note or order of the District; and

"Whereas, the Board desires to designate the persons authorized to sign and countersign checks, drafts, notes or orders for the payment of money in the name of the District.

"Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that all the checks, drafts, notes or orders drawn against the District's accounts with Gunnison Bank and Trust and Community Banks of Gunnison and Lake City be signed by any two of the following:

NAME	TITLE
Vacant	Board President
Rosemary Carroll	Board Vice President
John Perusek	Board Treasurer
Don Sabrowski	Board Secretary
Sonja Chavez	General Manager

whose signatures shall be duly certified to said Banks, and that no checks, drafts, notes or orders drawn against said Bank shall be valid unless so signed.

"Be It Further Resolved, that said Banks are hereby authorized to honor and pay any checks, drafts, notes or orders so drawn, whether such checks, drafts, notes or orders be payable to the order of any such person signing and/or countersigning said checks, drafts, notes or orders, or any of such persons in their individual capacities or not, and whether such checks, drafts, notes or orders are deposited to the individual credit of the person so signing and/or countersigning said checks, drafts, notes or orders, or to the individual credit of any other officers or not. This resolution shall take effect June 30, 2025, and will continue in force until further written notification to said Banks.

In witness Whereof, the undersigned President and Secretary have caused the seal of said District to be hereto affixed this 30th day of June, 2025.

Rebie Hazard, Secretary

Don Sabrowski, President

AGENDA ITEM 8

Re-authorization of Standing Committees

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

STANDING COMMITTEES 2024-25

Education and Outreach Committee: Chair – TBD, Rosemary Carroll, Joellen Fonken, Brooke Zanetell, Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards, Sue Uerling

Executive Committee: Chair Vacant– President; Rosemary Carroll – Vice President; John Perusek – Treasurer; Don Sabrowski – Secretary

Finance Committee: Chair – John Perusek, Rebie Hazard, Brooke Zanetell, Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards, Accountant

Grant Committee: Chair – Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard, Andy Spann, Rosemary Carroll, Julie Nania, Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards

Legislative Committee: Chair – TBD, Rebie Hazard, Julie Nania, Andy Spann, John McClow, Sonja Chavez

Watershed Management Planning Committee - Chair – TBD, Rosemary Carroll, Julie Nania, Sonja Chavez, Beverly Richards, Bailey Friedman

AGENDA ITEM 9

**Presentation by Stacy Beaugh and
Carrie Padgett,
Drought Contingency Planning
Process Update**

AGENDA ITEM 10

Scientific Endeavors - NEON

Update by Director Carroll

AGENDA ITEM 11
BASIN WATER
SUPPLY UPDATE



MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board Members

FROM: Beverly Richards, Water Supply Planning Manager

DATE: June 20, 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, streamflow, and reservoir storage.

Current Conditions – Drought

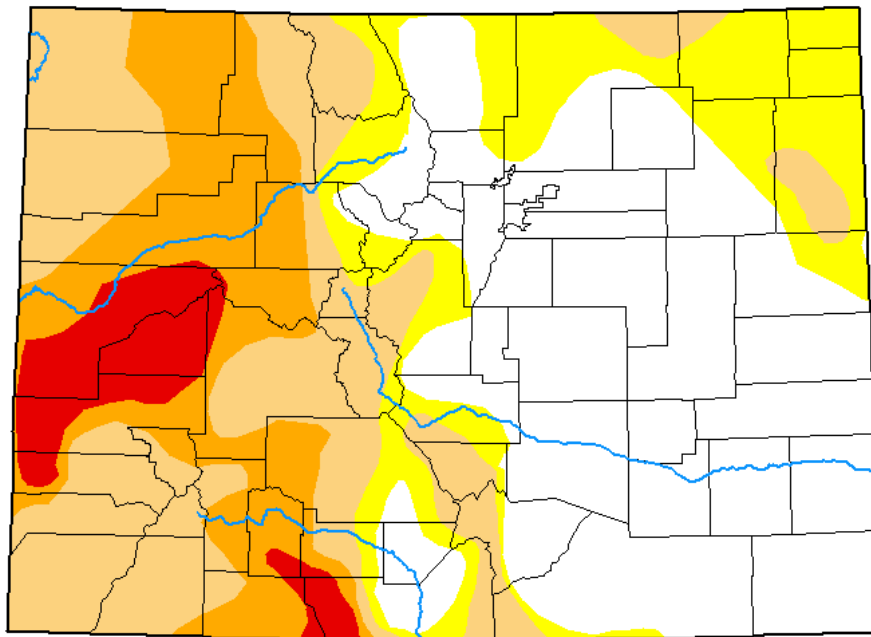
According to the *Drought Monitor* dated June 17, 2025, Gunnison County continues to see degradation in drought conditions over the past month. In May, 54% of the County was experiencing abnormally dry (D0) drought conditions and this month the percentage has increased to 64%. Also, the area experiencing severe (D2) drought conditions has increased from 8% to 32%. To add to the degradation in the county, 4% has now registered extreme (D3) drought conditions. According to the drought monitor, January-May was recorded as the 14th driest year to date in the past 131 year period of record and precipitation amounts are 3.72” below normal. These drought categories are determined by precipitation, temperature, and soil moisture.

Drought conditions in Hinsdale County also continue to see degradation. May conditions showed 99.3% of the county experiencing drought conditions primarily in the moderate (D1) category. In June 40% of the county is in this category and 60% has now moved into the severe (D2) drought category. According to the Drought Monitor, Hinsdale County is experiencing the 7th driest year to date and precipitation amounts are 5.42” below normal for the period of record.







Even with all the precipitation that occurred in the southern part of the state in early June, portions of Saguache County are still seeing some degradation and other areas are seeing some improvement. The county now has a small area (6.5 %) experiencing no drought conditions and the abnormally dry (D0) category decreased from 30% to 26% over the past month. The county also saw a decrease in the moderate (D1) drought category, but as with other counties in the District boundary, there was an increase in the severe (D2) category from 2% to 25% of Saguache County now experiencing these conditions.

U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

June 17, 2025
(Released Thursday, Jun. 19, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

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

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

Author:

Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture

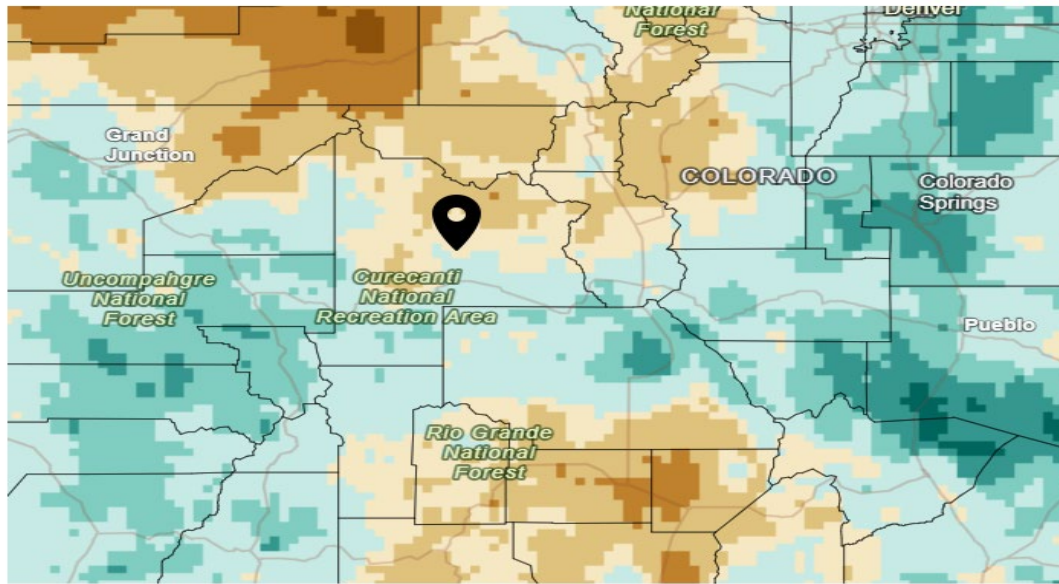


droughtmonitor.unl.edu

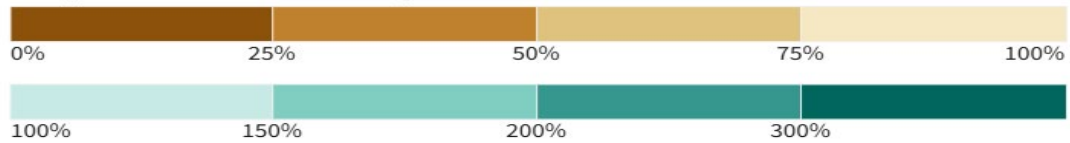
Precipitation

The map below represents the percentage of precipitation, with warmer colors indicating lower percentages of precipitation and cooler colors indicating higher percentages. The precipitation in the basin over the past 30 days (May 18 through June 17) has been in the range of no precipitation in a small northern area in Gunnison County to 300% in a small area of eastern Saguache County (*Drought.gov, June 17, 2025*). Also provided below is a look at precipitation conditions in the western part of the country showing little to no precipitation throughout the area in the past 30 days.

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



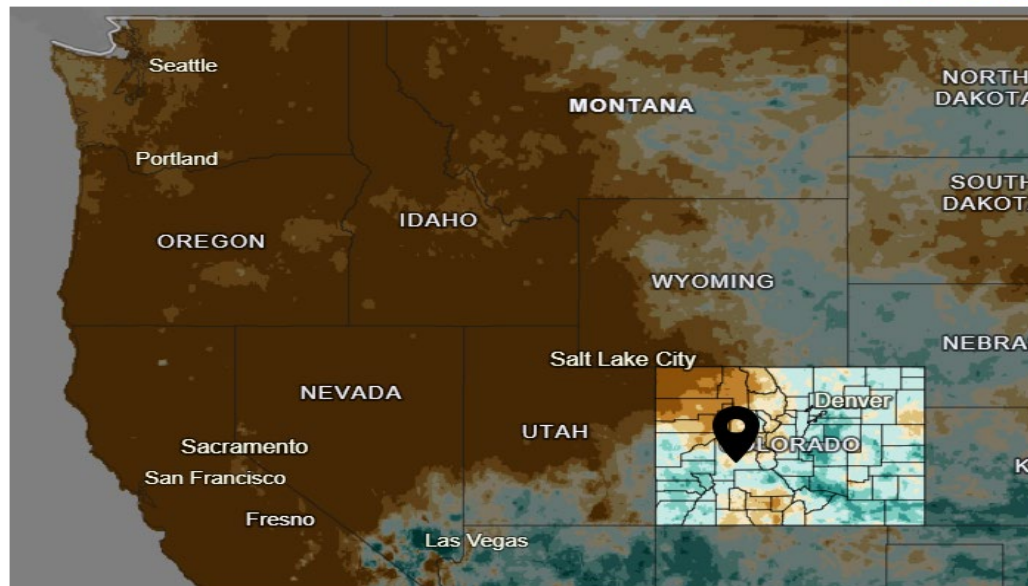
Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



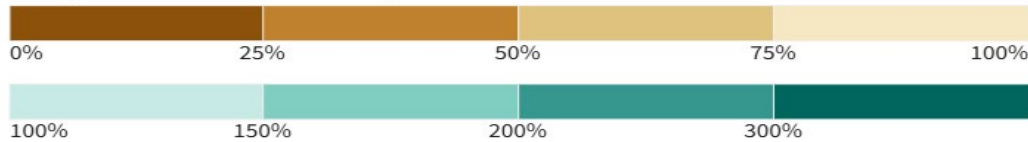
Source(s): UC Merced
Data Valid: 06/17/25

Drought.gov

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

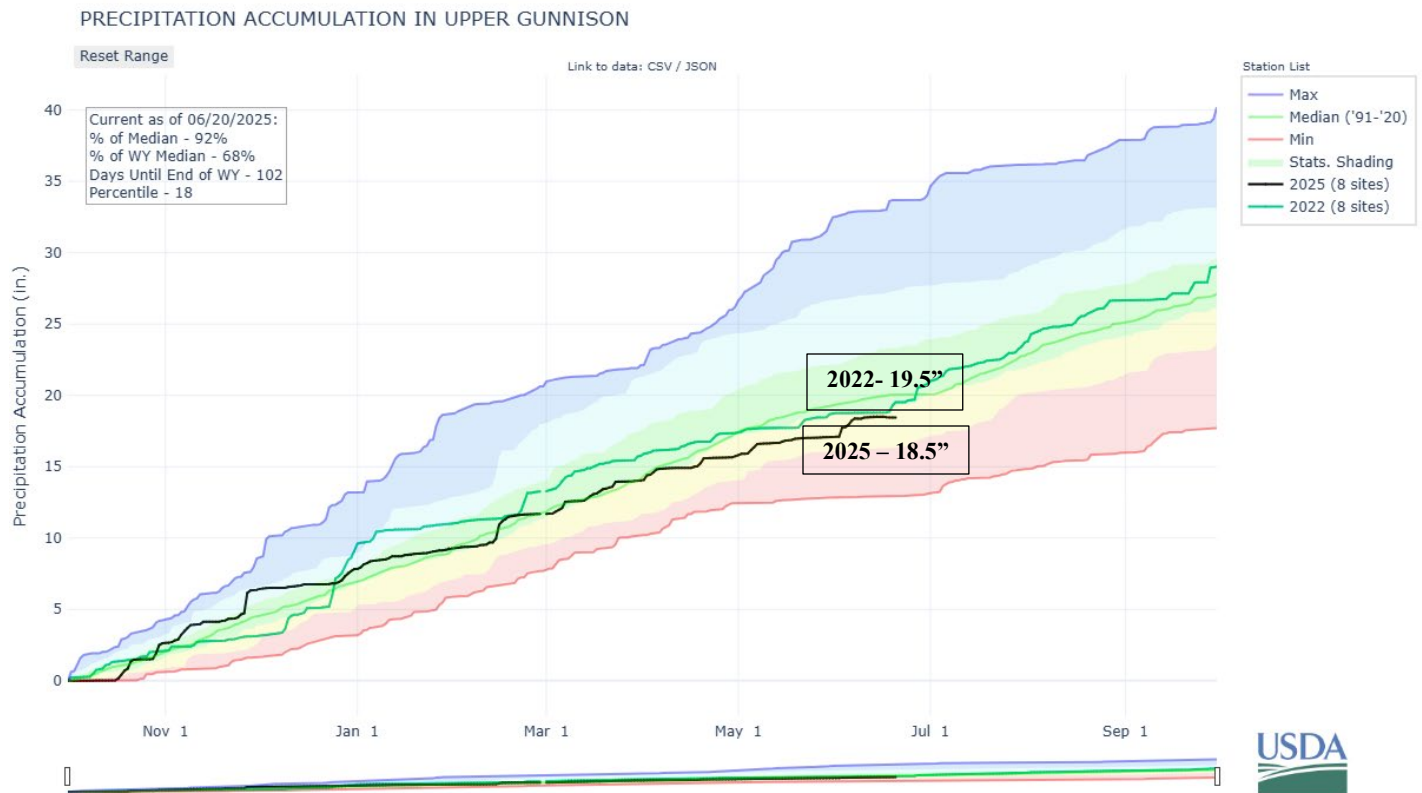


Source(s): UC Merced
Data Valid: 06/17/25

Drought.gov

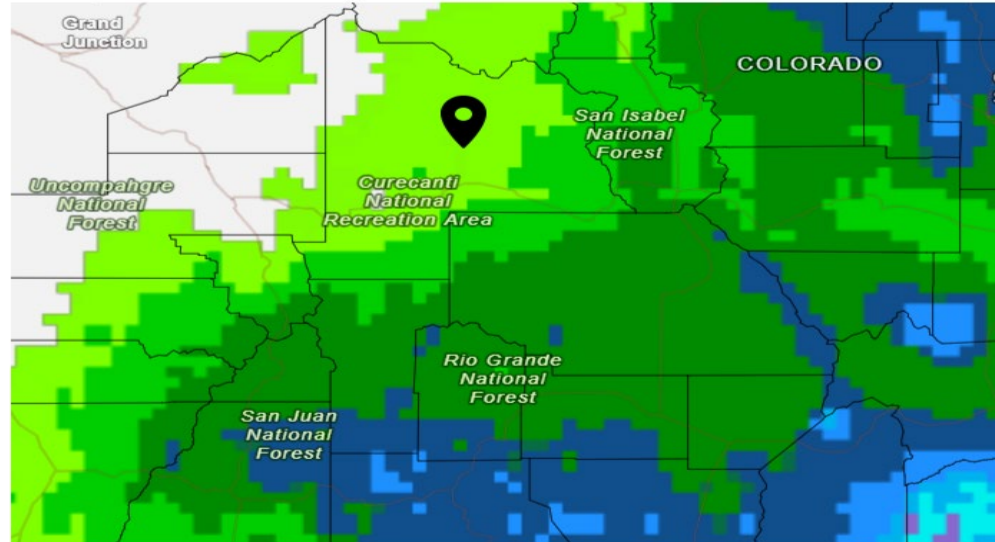
The precipitation trend graph provided below for the entire Upper Gunnison Basin is compiled from data from eight SNOTEL sites located in the basin where precipitation is measured. For the entire water year to date (*NRCS, June 20, 2025*) precipitation has remained unchanged since June 7 and is currently at 92% of average for this date. The total precipitation amount for the Upper Gunnison Basin is 18.5" of accumulation and the median amount is 20".

Also included is comparison information with 2022 since precipitation amounts seem to be trending with that year. The dark green line is 2022 which had 19.5" of precipitation for this date which was 97% of the median amount.

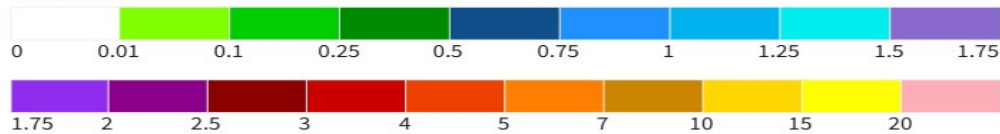


The 7-day quantitative forecast (June 19-26) for the Upper Gunnison Basin (*Drought.gov, June 20, 2025*) indicates that precipitation amounts are forecasted to range from 0.0" in the northwestern part of the basin to 1.0" of precipitation in some areas in both Hinsdale and Saguache counties.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for June 19–26, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



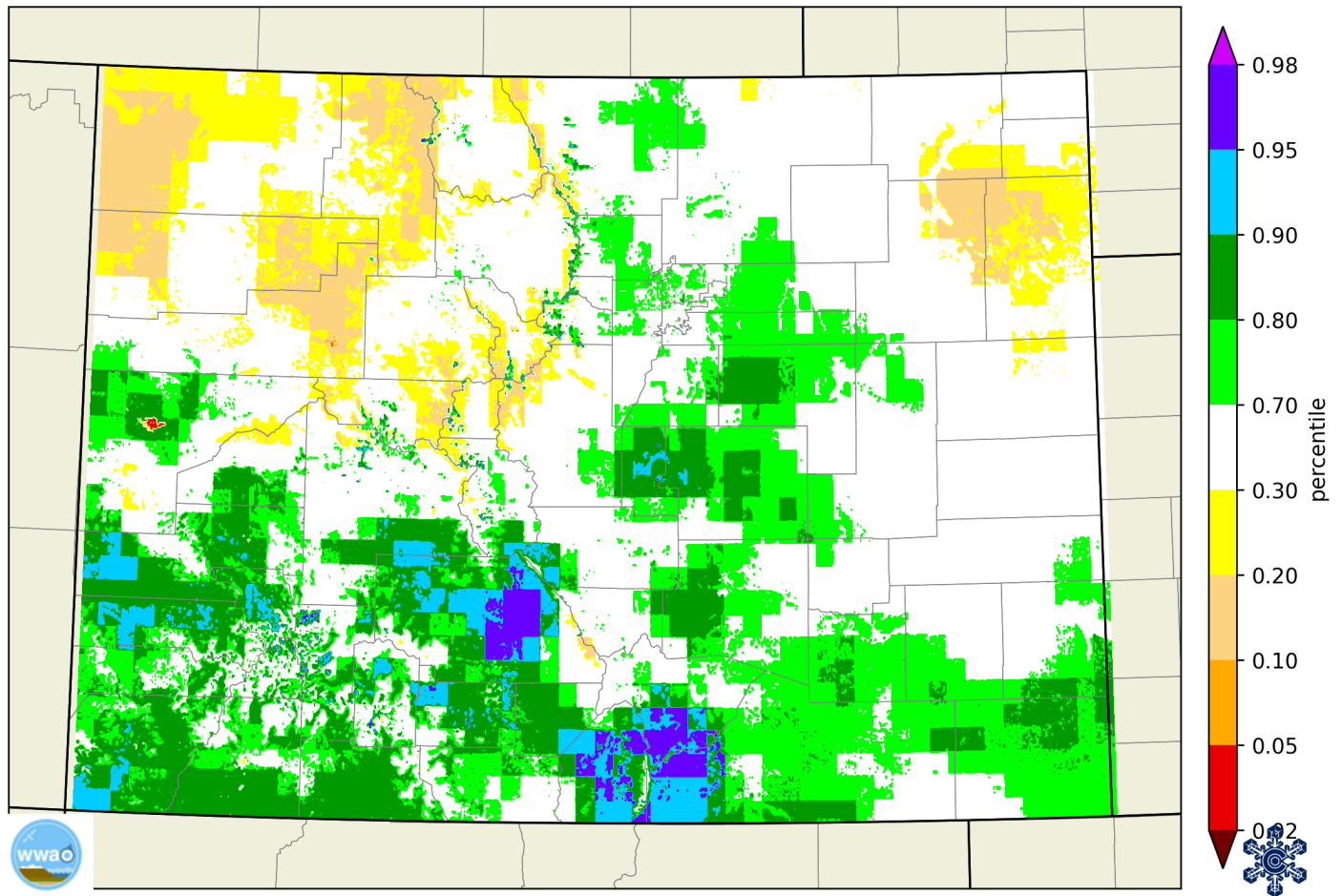
Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center
Last Updated: 06/20/25

Drought.gov

Soil Moisture

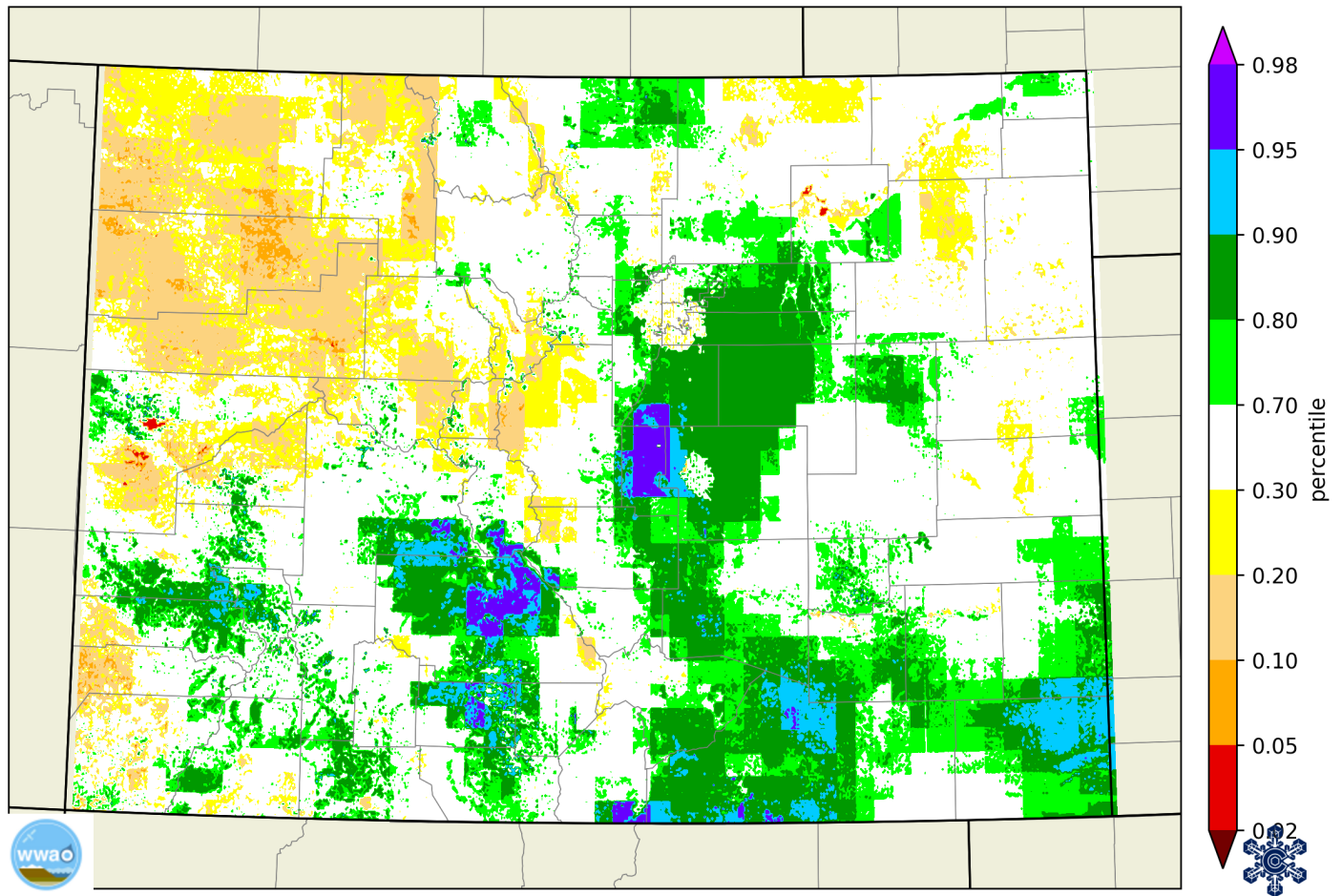
Provided below are soil moisture maps (*Colorado Climate Center, June 13, 2025*). The maps include soil moisture percentiles at 10 centimeters (4”), 1 meter (40”). For example, at the 10 centimeter level in Saguache County, soil moisture ranges from the 20th percentile to the 95th percentile and this could be due to recent rains in that area.

WLDAS 10-cm Soil moisture percentile, 13 Jun 2025



Deeper soil moisture remains poor as shown by the 1-meter graphic. This shows that while many areas to the south of Gunnison County are still retaining some moisture at the 1-meter level, there are also many areas to the north that are at considerably lower percentiles.

WLDAS 1-meter Soil moisture percentile, 13 Jun 2025



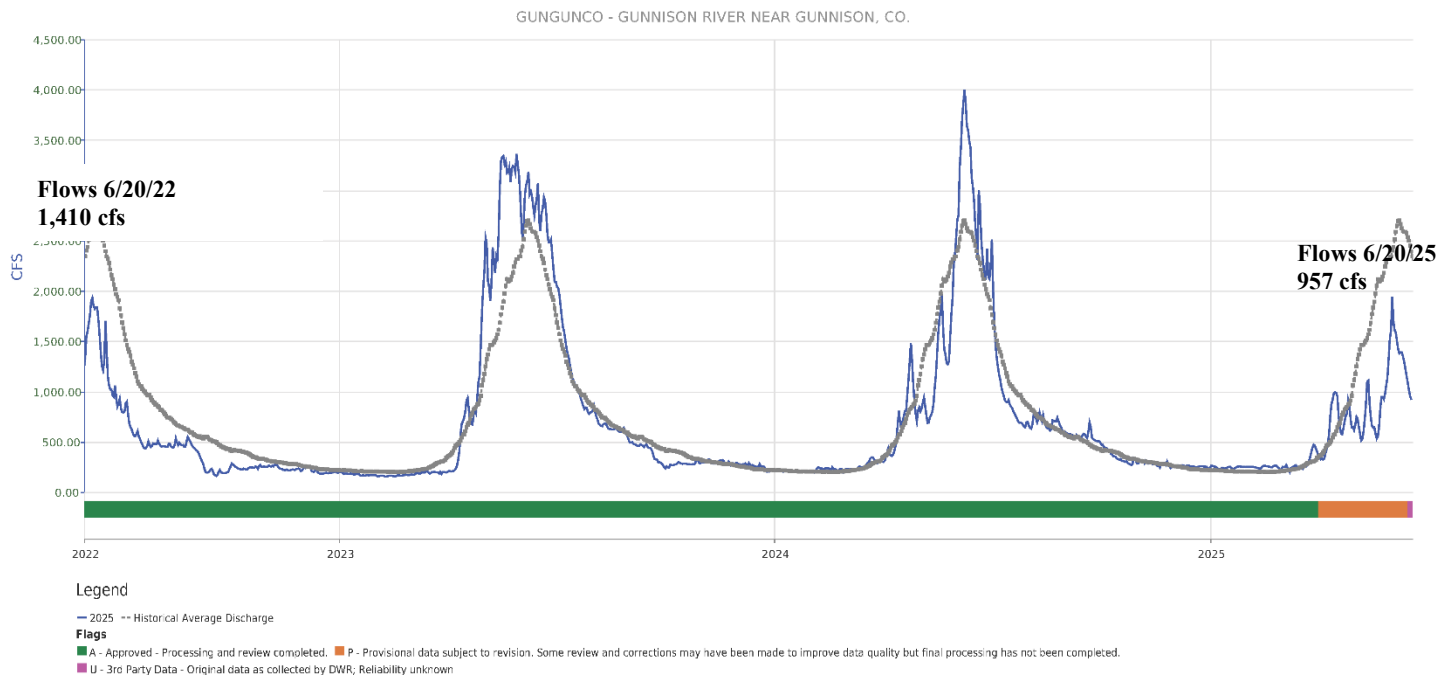
Streamflow

Current streamflow information for the basin is provided in the table below (*CDSS, June 20, 2025*). As you can see, most sites are well below the historical average for June 20 apart from the sites located near Lake San Cristobal. Also included is the *percentage of the historical average* indicating that stream flow continues to decline.

Station Name	June 20 (cfs)	Historical Average June 20(cfs)	Percentage of Historical Average (%)
Gunnison River near Gunnison	957	2,340	41
Tomichi Creek at Sargent's	96	162	59
Tomichi Creek at Gunnison	101	411	24
Taylor River at Taylor Park	190	366	52
Taylor River blw Taylor Park Res.	274	407	67
Taylor River at Almont	427	901	47
Slate River abv Baxter Gulch	221	534	41
Coal Creek abv McCormick Ditch	38	114	33
East River blw Cement Creek	566	1,209	47
East River at Almont	555	1,308	42
Ohio Creek near Baldwin	127	299	42
Lake Fork blw Lake San Cristobal	345*	321	107
Henson Creek at Lake City	371*	358	103
Lake Fork at Gateview	786	458	82

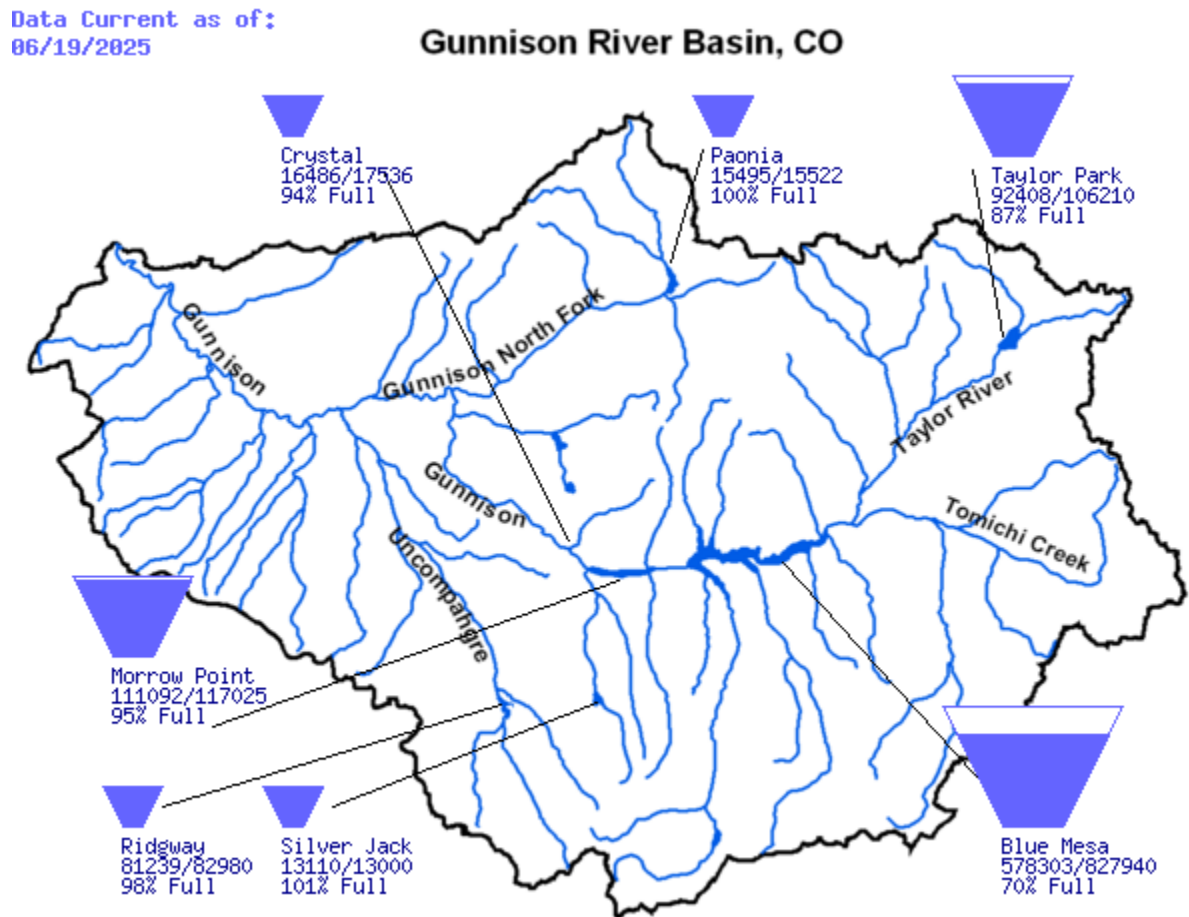
*Above historical average

Below is a hydrograph of the Gunnison River near Gunnison gage since 2022. As stated above, precipitation amounts are trending closely to 2022, and the same is true with streamflows. This graph shows the amount of flows on June 20 for both years, and though the flows were higher at the peak this year (2,190 vs 1,930 cfs), the current flows are lower by about 450 cfs as of this date.



Reservoir Storage and Operations

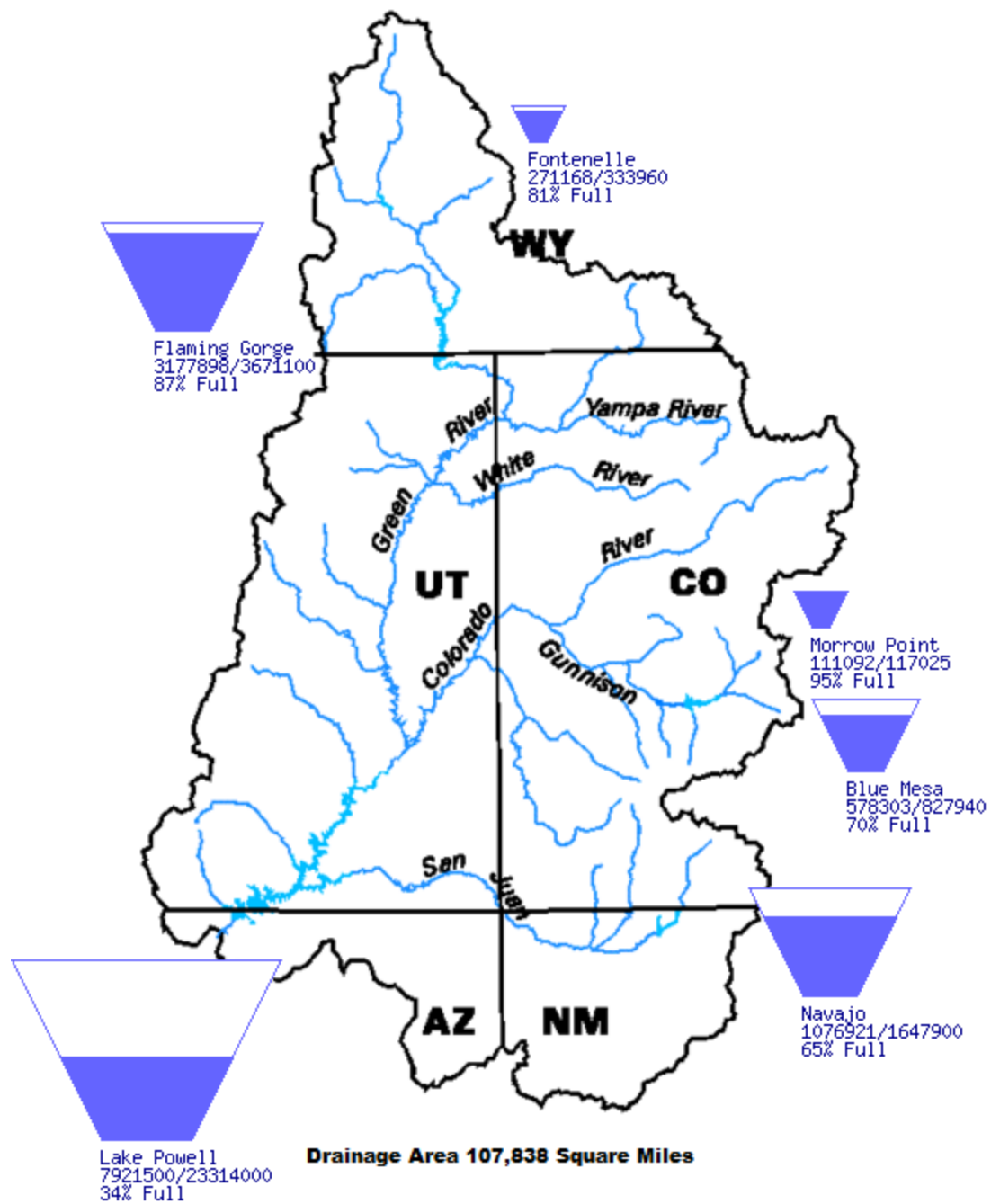
Reservoir storage in the entire Gunnison Basin is at 92% which is an 11% increase from May. As you can see from the teacup diagram provided below this increase is due in part to reservoirs filling due to runoff including Paonia, Ridgeway and Silverjack. Reservoirs in the Upper Gunnison Basin include Taylor Park and Blue Mesa, which are at 87% and 70% full, respectively. The total reservoir storage amount in the Upper Gunnison basin is 78.5% full which is an increase of 11% from May. (USBR, River Basin Tea-cup Diagrams, June 19, 2025).



Reservoir storage in the Upper Colorado River Basin is 72% full, which is an increase of 1% from the April report. This is reflected in the tea-cup diagram below dated June 19, 2025.

Data Current as of:
06/19/2025

Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin



Aspinall Unit Operations

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

The May unregulated inflow volume to Blue Mesa was 120,000 acre-feet, which is 60% of normal. Unregulated inflow volumes forecasted for Blue Mesa for the next three months (June, July, August) are projected to be: 128,000 acre-feet or 51% of average, 52,000 acre-feet or 48% of average, and 43,000 acre-feet or 75% of average, respectively.

The forecasted WY2025 unregulated inflow volume to Blue Mesa is projected to be a total of 645,000 acre-feet which is 70% of average and is a decrease of 78,000 acre-feet from the May report. The water supply period (April-July) for 2025 is currently forecasted to have an unregulated inflow volume of 385,000 acre-feet (59% of average) which is a decrease from the May report of 75,000 acre-feet. Blue Mesa is projected to fill to approximately 30 feet below full pool or 573,000 acre-feet which is 69% full and leaves about 225,000 acre-feet of unfilled storage.

Under the Aspinall Unit Record of Decision, our current Gunnison River forecasted inflow volume places us in the Moderately Dry Year Category (381,000 – 516,000 AF). Under this forecast, operations under the Aspinall Record of Decision (2012) would require a spring peak release to provide a 1-day peak flow in the Gunnison River in the Whitewater reach at or above 8,070 cfs. This forecast would also require Aspinall releases to provide a single day peak flow in the Black Canyon of 2,359 cfs per the Black Canyon Reserved Water Right Decree.

The next Aspinall Unit Operations Group meeting will be held remotely on August 21, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. and District staff will attend.

Taylor Reservoir

The Taylor Local Users Group met on June 6, 2025. Conor Felletter from the US Bureau of Reclamation presented the June 1 forecast report to the group.

The Taylor Park Reservoir June 1 forecast shows 60,000 acre-feet of runoff into the reservoir which is 64% of average. This is a decline of 8,000 acre-feet from the May 1 forecast. The reservoir is expected to reach a maximum fill of 90,700 acre-feet and will likely end the year at approximately 63,000 acre-feet. Based on these forecasts the proposed operations plan was presented to the group. This information is provided below and shows current releases at 200 cfs with a scheduled increase to 300 cfs on June 16 where they will remain until August 1. Releases would then begin to ramp down through September to reach the winter flow target of 75 cfs by the end of October.

Proposed Operation
Taylor Park Reservoir
June forecast = 64% (60,000) af
June 5, 2025

<u>Month</u>	<u>Inflow ac-ft</u>	<u>Average Inflow cfs</u>	<u>Outflow ac-ft</u>	<u>Average Outflow cfs</u>	<u>EOM Content ac-ft</u>	<u>EOM Elevation ft</u>
					70,820	
Nov 1-15	2,820	95	2,630	88	71,014	9310.70
Nov 16-30	2,530	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	2,700	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	2,180	73	2,510	84	68,631	9309.20
Mar 16-31	2,960	93	2,660	84	68,930	9309.39
Apr 1-15	4,680	157	2,770	93	70,837	9310.59
Apr 16-30	5,410	182	2,960	99	73,284	9312.10
May 1-15	7,040	237	3,320	112	77,011	9314.34
May 16-31	10,800	340	5,610	177	82,201	9317.35
Jun 1-15	16,030	539	7,630	256	90,681	9322.03
Jun 16-30	6,950	234	8,930	300	88,629	9320.92
Jul 1-15	5,190	174	8,930	300	84,893	9318.87
Jul 16-31	5,000	158	9,520	300	80,374	9316.31
Aug 1-15	3,790	127	7,790	262	76,378	9313.97
Aug 16-31	3,250	102	7,930	250	71,689	9311.12
Sep 1-15	2,390	80	6,690	225	67,384	9308.40
Sep 16-30	2,600	87	6,690	225	63,290	9305.70
Oct 1-15	2,690	90	4,120	138	61,864	9304.73
Oct 16-31	2,720	86	2,380	75	62,202	9304.96

61,100 = April-July inflow
65% of normal
90,683 = Maximum Content

Dave Gochis with Airborne Snow Observatory provided a weekly update to the group based upon the final ASO survey conducted on May 20 and 21. Dave noted that cooler temperatures, precipitation and even some snowfall at higher elevations resulted in a model forecasted runoff in the amount of approximately 84,000 acre feet. This was 20,000 acre feet higher than the CBRFC forecast. He also said that ASO's ongoing monitoring of snowpack using Sentinel satellite imagery shows that there was still some significant snow coverage at the higher elevations of the Taylor Basin and that peak runoff may have not yet occurred.

The TLUG group discussed the proposed operations plan based on information provided in the forecasts. The group agreed that releases should go to 250 cfs on June 7, to 275 cfs on June 15, and to 300 cfs on July 1. The next monthly meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2025 at 8:30 a.m.

Lake Powell Operations

This information is provided by the *Lake Powell Water Database* webpage (lakepowell.water-data.com) and is dated June 19, 2025.

Lake Powell elevation is currently at 3561.89 feet with a content of 7.92 million acre-feet (maf) or 34% full (23,314,000 acre-feet). Total inflows for WY25 to date are 4.02 maf which is 55% of the historical average for June 19. The total releases out of Glen Canyon Dam for WY25 to date have been 5.2 maf which is 69% of the minimum required 7.5 maf for the water year.

During WY25 to date, storage has fallen by 1.22 maf with total outflows exceeding total inflows by 1.18 maf. The thirty-four tracked reservoirs above Lake Powell are currently at 81% of capacity and the rivers feeding into Lake Powell are running at 25% of the June 19 average. Lake Powell is now 138.11 feet below the full pool, which is a decline of 3.93 feet since the May report.

AGENDA ITEM 12

General Counsel Update

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

UNCOMPAHGRE PROJECT
ASPINALL UNIT, COLORADO RIVER STORAGE PROJECT

EXCHANGE CONTRACT AMONG
THE UNITED STATES
AND
UNCOMPAHGRE VALLEY WATER USERS ASSOCIATION
AND
UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
AND
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

THIS CONTRACT (also referred to herein as this Agreement) is made this _____ day of _____, 2025, under the authority of the Reclamation Act (Act of June 17, 1902, ch 1093, 32 Stat. 388), and acts amendatory thereof and supplementary thereto, and particularly the Colorado River Storage Project (CRSP) Act of April 11, 1956 (43 U.S.C. §§ 620, et seq.), and the Reclamation Project Act of 1939, Section 14; among THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, (United States), represented by the officer executing this Contract, or the duly appointed successor or authorized representative (Contracting Officer), UNCOMPAHGRE VALLEY WATER USERS ASSOCIATION (Association), a water users association organized and existing under the laws of the State of Colorado, with their principal place of business in Montrose, Colorado, UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT (Gunnison District), and COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT (Colorado District), each district is organized and exists under the laws of the State of Colorado, with their principal places of business in Gunnison, Colorado and Glenwood Springs, Colorado, respectively (collectively, Parties).

WITNESSETH, that:

WHEREAS, the United States has heretofore constructed the Uncompahgre Project, including among other facilities the Taylor Park Dam and Reservoir on the Taylor River, a tributary to the Gunnison River, and pursuant to that certain contract dated December 13, 1948, Symbol and Number Ilr-1530, between the United States and the Association, the Association is obligated to operate and maintain said project all in accord with the terms and conditions in said contract, and;

WHEREAS, the United States has constructed, as part of the Colorado River Storage Project (Act of April 11, 1956, 70 Stat. 105), the Aspinall Unit (formerly known as the Curecanti Unit) consisting of a three-reservoir complex on the Gunnison River, the three reservoirs being known as Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, and Crystal, hereinafter collectively referred to as the Aspinall Unit, and storage capacity is presently available therein for exchange with Taylor Park Reservoir for the purposes of this Agreement, and;

WHEREAS, there are times when the parties hereto wish to exchange water stored in the respective reservoirs in furtherance of conservation and better utilization and management of available water supplies under the water rights obtained for Taylor Park Reservoir and the Aspinall Unit, and;

WHEREAS, the operation of Taylor Park Reservoir to provide for coordinated releases of water from the Reservoir and the regulation of such releases at the Aspinall Unit Reservoirs will benefit the Gunnison District, the Association and the Colorado District, and provide supplemental irrigation and incidental benefits to fisheries, recreation, and flood control, and;

WHEREAS, the Parties entered into an agreement known as the 1975 Taylor Park Reservoir Operation and Exchange Agreement (United States of America, Bureau of Reclamation Contract No. 6-07-07-00027, as amended by the agreement of the Parties dated July 9, 1979, and supplemented by the agreement dated April 16, 1990, the "1990 Supplemental Agreement"), and;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual and dependent covenants and conditions herein contained, the parties agree as follows:

1. At all times when the Taylor Park Reservoir and the Aspinall Unit have stored water available for exchange and capacity therefore, the parties agree to exchange water from Taylor Park Reservoir and the Aspinall Unit as follows:

a. Upon the request of the United States, or the Gunnison District with the approval of the United States, the Association will release storage water from Taylor Park Reservoir in such amounts and at such flow rates and for such purposes as are desired by the United States and the United States will store a like amount of water in the Aspinall Unit for the credit to the Association. Such releases shall be made in accordance with the laws of the United States and the State of Colorado.

b. In order to provide fishery benefits in Taylor Park Reservoir and in downstream reaches, the Association, except when unable to so operate due to Acts of God or emergency conditions, will release storage water from Taylor Park Reservoir at rates which will optimize fishery conditions in and below the reservoir area. The operating goal of Taylor Park Reservoir will be to stabilize Taylor River and Gunnison River flows through the year, to provide flood control and irrigation uses, and eliminate as much as possible abrupt changes that would adversely affect the fisheries and recreation uses.

c. All such releases in excess of the water needs of the Association shall be construed as releases made at the request of the United States to be accounted for as an exchange of storage as provided herein.

d. At the request of the Association, the United States will release water stored in the Aspinall Unit for the Association and the Association will hold a like amount of water or credit for water so released in Taylor Park Reservoir until called for by the United States, or by the Gunnison District as provided herein.

2. Calls for storage credits created hereunder shall be made when reservoir outlet works, and conveyance facilities have capacity to deliver the called water.

3. A record of all exchanges and storage credits is maintained by the Division Engineer for Water Division 4 utilizing the Gunnison River System - Official Accounting Spreadsheet using a water year beginning on November 1 and ending on October 31 of the following calendar year and such records will be available at all times for inspection by the United States, the Association and the Districts. Should the Division Engineer cease to record all exchanges and storage credits and maintain said records in a manner acceptable to all parties, the parties shall agree upon an alternative procedure.

4. Whenever Taylor Park Reservoir fills and spills when the United States has a credit therein, the first water spilled shall be charged against the credit of the United States. At no time shall the Association's credit in the Aspinall Unit, when added to the Uncompahgre Project water stored in Taylor Park Reservoir, exceed the active capacity of Taylor Park Reservoir. This will be calculated under the Taylor Park Reservoir first fill water right (106,230 acre-feet), giving full consideration to Taylor Park Reservoir storable inflow, storage releases therefrom for Association uses, plus evaporation, and other reservoir losses attributable to the first fill.

5. Nothing herein shall be deemed to prevent or prohibit the Association from operating Taylor Park Reservoir to meet Uncompahgre Project water requirement whenever the United States is unable to deliver water to the Association from the Aspinall Unit storage as provided for herein.

6. The Association shall continue to pay the operation and maintenance expenses normal to the operation of Taylor Park Reservoir for the purposes stated in the said December 13, 1948, contract, and the United States shall continue to pay for the operation and maintenance of the Aspinall Unit Reservoirs within budgetary limitations. As consideration for this Agreement, for the period 2026 through 2030 the Colorado District and the Gunnison District shall pay to the Association the sum of \$24,000.00 per year in equal shares; \$12,000.00 to be paid by the Colorado District and \$12,000.00 to be paid by the Gunnison District. The annual payment shall be made on or before May 15 of each year. The annual payment shall be adjusted each five years thereafter in accordance with changes, if any, in the Bureau of Reclamation Operations and Maintenance Cost Index (O&M Cost Index) using the formula illustrated by the following example: The annual payment for the period 2031 through 2035 shall be calculated by dividing the O&M Cost Index for 2030 by the O&M Cost Index for 2025 and multiplying that ratio by the payment amount for the previous period, \$24,000.00. If the O&M Cost Index is no longer being published, the ENR, formerly Engineering News Record, published by McGraw Hill, Inc., "Water and Power Construction Costs" (Construction Cost Index) will be used instead. In this case, the most recently published Construction Cost Index (e.g. March 2030) will be divided by the Construction Cost Index from five years prior (e.g. March 2025). The calculation shall be made in April 2031. The same process shall be followed in each fifth year thereafter, beginning in April 2036. The amount paid to the Association shall be used by the Association to defray Operation and Maintenance (O&M) expenses incurred in the operation of Taylor Park Reservoir. The Association shall report the amount of such O&M expenses to the Districts and the United States within sixty days after the end of each fiscal year.

7. The Gunnison District obtained a decree for a second fill of Taylor Park Reservoir in Case No. 86CW203 (Refill Right). The Refill Right was assigned to the United States by the Gunnison District by an Assignment of Water Rights dated March 22, 1993, in accordance with the 1990 Supplemental Agreement. Taylor Park Reservoir will be operated in such a manner to assist the Gunnison District in using such water provided all other purposes herein and the original purposes of said reservoir are accommodated. Taylor Park Reservoir will be operated in such a manner to assist the Gunnison District in using such water provided all other purposes herein and the original purposes of said reservoir are accommodated.

8. The Gunnison District is permitted to acquire Colorado River Storage Project water from the United States at the Aspinall Unit and exchange such water for water stored in Taylor Park Reservoir and the Association agrees to deliver such water to the Gunnison District upon call, provided such exchange is consistent with the provisions of paragraphs 1 through 5, both inclusive, above. The terms and conditions of such water purchase shall be contained in a separate agreement between the United States and the Gunnison District.

9. As a part of the consideration of this Agreement, it is expressly understood and agreed that neither the Association nor the United States shall sell, lease, or exchange water stored in Taylor Park Reservoir if such sale, lease, or exchange would interfere with the administration of water exchanged into, stored or released from Taylor Park Reservoir directed by the Decrees entered in Case Nos. 86CW203 and 96CW224, Amended Decrees dated November 2, 2020, in Case Nos. 2011CW31 and 2015CW3064, Water Division 4.

10. This Agreement shall be effective on the day and year first above written and shall continue for a period of forty years from the date hereof, unless terminated by the mutual written consent of all parties hereto and shall continue thereafter until terminated by ninety days' written notice by one or more of the parties evidencing their intent to terminate.

11. The Parties agree to supersede the 1975 Taylor Park Reservoir Operation and Exchange Agreement upon its expiration with this Agreement which concerns the same or similar subject matters. The Parties agree that Paragraph Nos. 3 and 4 of the 1990 Supplemental Agreement are superseded by Paragraph No. 6 of this Agreement. The remainder of the 1990 Supplemental Agreement remains in effect and is not amended or otherwise altered by this Agreement.

12. Severability - In the event that any one or more of the provisions contained herein is, for any reason, held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability will not affect any other provisions of this Contract, but this Contract is to be construed as if such invalid, illegal or unenforceable provisions had never been contained herein, unless the deletion of such provision or provisions would result in such a material change so as to cause the fundamental benefits afforded the Parties by this Contract to become unavailable or materially altered.

13. Compliance with Legal Requirements - The contractor shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, executive orders, rules and regulations applicable to its performance under this contract.

14. Environmental Compliance - Compliance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, and the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended, is a prerequisite to executing this Contract. Compliance was addressed through Categorical Exclusion Checklist No. _____.

STANDARD ARTICLES

1. CONFIRMATION OF CONTRACT

Promptly after the execution of this Contract, the Parties shall provide evidence to the Contracting Officer that, pursuant to the laws of the State of Colorado, the Parties are legally constituted entities and the Contract is lawful, valid, and binding on the Parties. This Contract shall not be binding on the United States until such evidence has been provided to the Contracting Officer's satisfaction. In addition to other forms of evidence to meet the requirements of this Article, the Parties may provide, or the Contracting Officer may require a certified copy of a final decree of a court of competent jurisdiction in the State of Colorado, confirming the proceedings on the part of the Parties for the authorization of the execution of this contract.

2. CONTINGENT ON APPROPRIATION OR ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS

The expenditure or advance of any money or the performance of any obligation of the United States under this Contract shall be contingent upon appropriation or allotment of funds. Absence of appropriation or allotment of funds shall not relieve the Parties from any obligations under this Contract. No liability shall accrue to the United States in case funds are not appropriated or allotted.

3. OFFICIALS NOT TO BENEFIT

No Member of or Delegate to the Congress, Resident Commissioner, or official of the Parties shall benefit from this Contract other than as a water user or landowner in the same manner as other water users or landowners.

4. CHANGES IN CONTRACTOR'S ORGANIZATION

While this Contract is in effect, no change may be made in the Parties organizations, by inclusion or exclusion of lands or by any other changes which may affect the respective rights, obligations, privileges, and duties of either the United States or the Parties under this Contract including, but not limited to, dissolution, consolidation, or merger, except upon the Contracting Officer's written consent.

5. ASSIGNMENT LIMITED—SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS OBLIGATED

The provisions of this Contract shall apply to and bind the successors and assigns of the parties hereto, but no assignment or transfer of this Contract or any right or interest therein by any party shall be valid until approved in writing by the other parties.

6. BOOKS, RECORDS, AND REPORTS

The Parties shall establish and maintain accounts and other books and records pertaining to administration of the terms and conditions of this Contract, including the Parties financial transactions; water supply data; project operation, maintenance, and replacement logs; project land and rights-of-way use agreements; the water users' land-use (crop census), land-ownership, land-leasing, and water-use data; and other matters that the Contracting Officer may require. Reports shall be furnished to the Contracting Officer in such form and on such date or dates as the Contracting Officer may require. Subject to applicable Federal laws and regulations, each party to this Contract shall have the right during office hours to examine and make copies of the other party's books and records relating to matters covered by this Contract.

7. RULES, REGULATIONS, AND DETERMINATIONS

- (a) The Parties agree that the delivery of water or the use of Federal facilities pursuant to this Contract is subject to Federal reclamation law, as amended and supplemented, and the rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior under Federal reclamation law.
- (b) The Contracting Officer shall have the right to make determinations necessary to administer this Contract that are consistent with its provisions, the laws of the United States and the State of Colorado, and the rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior. Such determinations shall be made in consultation with the Parties.

8. ADMINISTRATION OF FEDERAL PROJECT LANDS

The lands and interests in lands acquired, withdrawn, or reserved and needed by the United States for the purposes of care, operation, and maintenance of Taylor Park Dam and Reservoir, may be used by the Association for such purposes. The Association shall ensure that no unauthorized encroachment occurs on Federal project lands and rights-of-way. The Association do not have the authority to issue any land-use agreement or grant that conveys an interest in Federal real property, nor to lease or dispose of any interest of the United States.

The United States retains responsibility for compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA). The Association will notify the Contracting Officer and, only when on tribal land, also notify the appropriate tribal official, immediately upon the discovery of any potential historic properties or Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony.

9. CONTAMINATION OR POLLUTION OF FEDERAL PROPERTY

- (a) The Association shall not allow contamination or pollution of Federal project lands, project waters, or project works of the United States or administered by the United States and for which the Association has the responsibility for care, operation, and maintenance

by its employees or agents. The Association shall also take reasonable precautions to prevent such contamination or pollution by third parties.

- (b) The Parties shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations and Reclamation policies and instructions existing, or hereafter enacted or promulgated, concerning any hazardous material that will be used, produced, transported, stored, released, or disposed of on or in Federal project lands, project waters, or project works.
- (c) "Hazardous material" means (1) any substance falling within the definition of "hazardous substance," "pollutant or contaminant," or "hazardous waste" under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. § 9601(14), (29), and (33)); (2) oil, as defined by the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1321(a)) and the Oil Pollution Act (33 U.S.C. § 2701(23)); (3) thermal pollution, refuse, garbage, sewage effluent, industrial waste, mine or mill tailings, mineral salts, pesticides, and other solid waste, and (4) any other substance regulated as hazardous or toxic under Federal, State, local, or Tribal law.
- (d) Upon discovery of any event which may or does result in contamination or pollution of Federal project lands, project water, or project works, the Parties shall immediately undertake all measures necessary to protect public health and the environment, including measures necessary to contain or abate any such contamination or pollution, and shall report such discovery with full details of the actions taken to the Contracting Officer. Reporting shall be within a reasonable time period but shall not exceed 24 hours from the time of discovery if it is an emergency and the first working day following discovery in the event of a non-emergency.
- (e) If violation of the provisions of this Article occurs and the Parties do not take immediate corrective action, as determined by the Contracting Officer, the Parties may be subject to remedies imposed by the Contracting Officer, which may include termination of this contract.
- (f) The Parties shall be liable for any response action or corrective measure necessary to protect public health and the environment or to restore Federal project lands, project waters, or project works that are adversely affected as a result of such violation, and for all costs, penalties or other sanctions that are imposed for violation of any Federal, State, local, or Tribal laws and regulations concerning hazardous material. At the discretion of the Contracting Officer, the United States may also terminate this Contract as a result of such violation.
- (g) The Parties shall defend, indemnify, protect and save the United States harmless from and against any costs, expenses, claims, damages, demands, or other liability arising from or relating to Parties violation of this article.
- (h) Reclamation agrees to provide information necessary for the Parties, using reasonable diligence, to comply with the provisions of this Article.

10. PEST MANAGEMENT

- (a) The Association is responsible for complying with applicable Federal, State, and local laws, rules, and regulations related to pest management in performing its responsibilities under this contract.
- (b) The Association is responsible for effectively avoiding the introduction and spread of, and for otherwise controlling, undesirable plants and animals, as defined by the Contracting Officer, on or in Federal project lands, Federal project waters, and Federal project works for which and to the extent that the Association have operation and maintenance responsibility. The Association is responsible for exercising the level of precaution necessary in meeting this responsibility, including inspecting its vehicles, watercraft, and equipment for reproductive and vegetative parts, foreign soil, mud or other debris that may cause the spread of weeds, invasive species and other pests, and removing such materials before moving its vehicles, watercraft, and equipment onto any Federal land, into any Federal project facility waters, or out of any area on Federal project land where work is performed.
- (c) Where decontamination of the Association's vehicles, watercraft, or equipment is required prior to entering Federal project land or waters, the decontamination shall be performed by the Association at the point of prior use, or at an approved offsite facility able to process generated cleaning wastes, pursuant to applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Upon the completion of work, the Association will perform any required decontamination within the work area before moving the vehicles, watercraft, and equipment from Federal project lands and waters.
- (d) Programs for the control of undesirable plants and animals on Federal project lands, and in Federal project waters and Federal project works for which the Association has operation and maintenance responsibility will incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) concepts and practices. IPM refers to a systematic and environmentally compatible program to maintain pest populations within economically and environmentally tolerable levels. In implementing an IPM program, the Association will adhere to applicable Federal and State laws and regulations and Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation policies, directives, guidelines, and manuals, including but not limited to, the Department of the Interior Manual, Part 517 Integrated Pest Management Policy and Part 609 Weed Control Program, the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000 (Pub. L. 106-224), and Executive Order 13112 of February 3, 1999.

11. PROTECTION OF WATER AND AIR QUALITY

- (a) The United States will care for, operate and maintain reserved works in a manner that preserves the quality of the water at the highest feasible level as determined by the Contracting Officer. The United States does not warrant the quality of the water delivered to the Parties and is under no obligation to furnish or construct water treatment facilities to maintain or improve the quality of water delivered to the Parties.
- (b) The Parties will comply with all applicable water and air pollution laws and regulations of the United States and the State of Colorado; and will obtain all required permits or

licenses from the appropriate Federal, State, or local authorities necessary for the delivery of water by the Parties; and will be responsible for compliance with all Federal, State, and local water quality standards applicable to surface and subsurface drainage and/or discharges generated through the use of Federal facilities or project water provided by the Parties within the Project Water Service Areas.

- (c) This article will not affect or alter any legal obligations of the Secretary to provide drainage or other discharge services.

12. WATER CONSERVATION

Prior to the delivery of water provided from or conveyed through federally constructed or federally financed facilities pursuant to this contract, the Association shall develop a water conservation plan, as required by subsection 210(b) of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 and 43 C.F.R. 427.1 (Water Conservation Rules and Regulations).

13. COMPLIANCE WITH CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS AND REGULATIONS

- (a) The Parties shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Pub. L. 88-352; 42 U.S.C. § 2000d), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Pub. L. 93-112, Title V, as amended; 29 U.S.C. § 791, et seq.), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (Pub. L. 94-135, Title III; 42 U.S.C. § 6101, et seq.), [Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-336; 42 U.S.C. § 12131, et seq.),] [Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-336; 42 U.S.C. § 12181, et seq.),] and any other applicable civil rights laws, and with the applicable implementing regulations and any guidelines imposed by the U.S. Department of the Interior and/or Bureau of Reclamation.
- (b) These statutes prohibit any person in the United States from being excluded from participation in, being denied the benefits of, or being otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from the Bureau of Reclamation on the grounds of race, color, national origin, disability, or age. By executing this Contract, the Parties agree to immediately take any measures necessary to implement this obligation, including permitting officials of the United States to inspect premises, programs, and documents.
- (c) The Parties make this Agreement in consideration of and for the purpose of obtaining any and all Federal grants, loans, contracts, property discounts, or other Federal financial assistance extended after the date hereof to the Parties by the Bureau of Reclamation, including installment payments after such date on account of arrangements for Federal financial assistance which were approved before such date. The Parties recognize and agree that such Federal assistance will be extended in reliance on the representations and agreements made in this article and that the United States reserves the right to seek judicial enforcement thereof.
- (d) Complaints of discrimination against the Parties shall be investigated by the Contracting Officer's Office of Civil Rights.

14. CONTRACT DRAFTING CONSIDERATIONS

This Contract has been negotiated and reviewed by the parties hereto, each of whom is sophisticated in the matters to which this Contract pertains. Articles 1 through 14 of this Contract have been drafted, negotiated, and reviewed by the parties, and no one party shall be considered to have drafted the stated articles.

15. CONSTRAINTS ON THE AVAILABILITY OF WATER

- (a) In its operation of the Project, the Contracting Officer will use all reasonable means to guard against a condition of shortage in the quantity of water to be made available to the Parties pursuant to this Contract. In the event the Contracting Officer determines that a condition of shortage appears probable, the Contracting Officer will notify the Parties of said determination as soon as practicable.
- (b) If there is a condition of shortage because of inaccurate runoff forecasting or other similar operational errors affecting the Project; drought and other physical or natural causes beyond the control of the Contracting Officer; or actions taken by the Contracting Officer to meet current and future legal obligations, then no liability shall accrue against the United States or any of its officers, agents, or employees for any damage, direct or indirect, arising therefrom.

16. NOTICES

Any notice, demand, or request authorized or required by this Contract shall be deemed to have been given, on behalf of each of the Parties, when mailed, postage prepaid, or delivered to the:

Area Manager
Western Colorado Area Office
Bureau of Reclamation
445 W. Gunnison Ave., Ste. 221
Grand Junction, CO 81501
(970) 248-0600

General Manager
Colorado River Water Conservation District
201 Centennial Street, Suite 200
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
(970) 945-8522

Manager
Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association
601 North Park Avenue
Montrose, CO 81401
(970) 249-3813

General Manager
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
210 West Spencer, Suite A
Gunnison, CO 81230
(970) 641-6065

The designation of the addressee or the address may be changed by notice given in the same manner as provided in this article for other notices.

The Parties agree, by their signatures below, to be bound to this Contract beginning on the date written above.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Regional Director
Bureau of Reclamation
Interior Region 7 – Upper Colorado Basin

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency:

Office of the Regional Solicitor

Steve Pope, Manager
Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association

Andy Mueller, General Manager
Colorado River Water Conservation District

Sonja Chavez, General Manager
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

AGENDA ITEM 13

General Manager, Committee

and Staff Updates

MEMORANDUM



TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Sonja Chavez, General Manager
DATE: June 4, 2025
SUBJECT: General Manager Report & Staff Updates (May – June 2025)

I. Budget Matters and Administrative Updates (Beverly Richards, Office Manager / Senior Program Manager)

1. Memorandum of budget and administrative updates.
2. Memorandum of request for a budget reallocation in support of a 2025 funding in agreement with the Gunnison Conservation District and authorization for on-going annual contributions subject to UGRWCD budget availability.

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION: Re-allocate \$10,000 from 2025 Grant Program Funding to the 2025 Gunnison Conservation District agreement and authorize an on-going annual contribution subject to UGRWCD annual budget availability.

A. Employee Home Opportunity Program

Background: In 2022, Executive Management was directed by the Board to work on the development of an employee home ownership loan program. The purpose of the program was to facilitate employee recruitment and retention within the District, and to assist full-time employees in finding permanent housing.

Under the Draft 2023 EHOP, the District would loan the employee up to 20% of the purchase price, not to exceed \$100,000, depending upon the ability of the employee and co-borrower, if any, to repay the loan.

Upon the 5th anniversary of the EHOP loan, twenty (20) percent of the principal balance will be forgiven by the District. Upon the 10th anniversary of the EHOP loan, an additional twenty (20) percent of the original principal will be forgiven. Upon the 15th anniversary of the EHOP loan, an additional twenty (20 percent of the original principal will be forgiven). The maximum total forgiveness is sixty (60) percent of the original principal of the EHOP loan. Each EHOP loan forgiveness requires maintaining

all conditions for program eligibility. Any principal balance forgiven by the District will be reported to the IRS as “Other Employee Compensation” in the month in which forgiveness is granted and is subject to payroll taxes and withholding. The balance of the loan remaining would be due and payable back to the District upon termination of employment or at the beginning of the 16th year of employment. The concept regarding the loan interest rate charged by the District is that it would be set at the average of our investment earnings (CD’s and bonds) at the time the loan was requested from the District. For example, our average end of May bank and bond balance shows investments earning an average of 3.25 percent. Current home loan lending rates are sitting at around 6.5 to 7.125 percent.

At the beginning of 2025, staff discussed with the Board the limited housing supply we had been seeing and the cost of housing in the valley and our concern that it appeared that home ownership may be out of reach for new employees.

Current Request: Today, we are seeing the real-estate market open up and management is seeing an interest from our staff in utilizing an Employee Home Opportunity Program (EHOP) loan. Although single-family home ownership will likely remain a challenge for many of our new employees, there are some multi-family home ownership opportunities coming onto the market.

With this new development and at the request of staff, Executive Management is recommending to the Board that we move forward with establishing the UGRWCD EHOP.

It’s been a couple of years since management brought the initial draft UGRWCD EHOP to the board and in that time, there has been one change that management will have to make to the program:

- Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac (first home buyer lenders) are now requiring Impact Development Fund (IDF; non-profit organization that assists with the implementation of the EHOP program and coordination of the loan on behalf of UGRWCD) to require the secondary lender, UGRWCD in this case, to collect at a minimum, monthly interest payments to avoid the situation of a balloon payment in the 15th year of the loan program.

In addition, UGRWCD Executive Management wanted to make the Board aware of current fees associated with the EHOP Program as described by IDF:

- One time fee to set up UGRWCD’s EHOP: \$10,000
- Annual maintenance fee: \$1,000
- Loan origination fee paid by employee: \$450

Finally, should the Board approve Management's request, the May UGRWCD bank and bond balance shows that the District currently has \$108,117 set aside in the ColoTrust Plus account for the EHOP which can cover the program development fee of \$10,000.

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION: Direct the General Manager and General Counsel to update and finalize a draft Employee Home Opportunity Program (EHOP) concurrently with IDF and present it to the Board for consideration for approval at the July 28, 2025, Regular Board Meeting.

II. Water Quality & Quantity Updates

Please see attached memorandum of update provided by Ari Yamaguchi (Water Resources Specialist) and Bailey Friedman (Water Resources Program Manager).

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION: Direct staff to continue to work with SGM to develop a scope of work for the development of an Upper Gunnison Basin Water Quality Data Dashboard tool for the District.

III. Wet Meadows Program Update

Please see the Memorandum of update on Wet Meadows Program activities provided by Amanda Aulenbach (Program Director).

IV. Education and Outreach Update

- Please see attached memorandum of update on education and outreach activities of the UGRWCD provided by Communications Specialist, Sue Uerling.

V. Water Resources Project Manager Update

Please see the memorandum of update from Bailey Friedman (Water Resources Project Manager) related to activities completed in the second quarter 2025 and activities anticipated over the next three months:

- UGRWCD Field Safety Guide

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION: Approve the updated May 2025 UGRWCD Field Safety Manual.

- Watershed Management Planning
- UGRWCD Wetland Model Improvements

- Colorado River District CFP Funding Request – Sargents No.2 Ditch
- Strategic Planning
- GBRT Basin Implementation Plan Update
- NRCS Source Water Protection
- Bird Conservancy of the Rockies Guide
- Education and Outreach
- EC Tower
- NRCS CAP Development Support
- Certifications & Professional Development

VI. Turf Replacement Update

- Please see **memorandum of update** provided by Water Resources Fellow (Alana Nichols).
- Review conceptual xeriscape plan for UGRWCD demonstration garden and obtain board input.

VII. Taylor Local Users Group

Draft minutes from the May 8 and June 6 meetings can be accessed using following ([link](#)) and a verbal update will be provided by TLUG Chair, Don Sabrowski.

VIII. Gunnison River Festival (GRF)

Verbal update provided by General Manager and President of the GRF, Sonja Chavez

IX. Gunnison Basin Roundtable

Verbal update by General Manager and General Counsel

MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors

FROM: Beverly Richards, Office Manager Sonja Chavez, General Manager

DATE: June 30, 2025

SUBJECT: Budget & Administrative Matters Update

The following update is being provided to the UGRWCD Board of Directors to summarize important administrative management activities of the District.

ACTIVITIES:

- Executive management originally discussed direct deposit payment for board members to provide reimbursement for board attendance, mileage, etc. Ultimately, this was not possible with our Quickbooks system which does only payroll. We have now identified an alternative method utilizing “bill pay” through our bank. Please advise staff if you would like to participate in this option.
- Executive management has received information from Colorado Employers Benefit Trust (CEBT), UGRWCD medical benefits provider, that the early projection for medical rate increases in 2026 could be between 13% and 18%. At these rates and with the current number of employees participating, this would mean an potential increase to of \$8,100 - \$11,200. We will continue to monitor this as we enter budget season.
- We were advised this week that our current IT person, Greg Larson, is leaving the Gunnison area. He will continue to work with the District, performing most of the IT issues remotely. As a result, there will be a reduction in the monthly fee (TBD) which is currently \$1,000 per month. This level of service may only continue until he completely retires so we will begin evaluating other potential IT contractors outside the Gunnison Valley as there are no other companies providing this service locally.
- Staff received notification of a recall on the Kubota UTV. This recall involves the ball joint connecting to the front suspension arm which can loosen and separate from the front suspension arm resulting in loss of wheel support to the vehicle. The recall advised that we immediately stop using the UTV until it has been inspected and repaired. We will be working with Wet Meadows crew to get this inspection accomplished.
- An employee pet policy and agreement document has been developed and all employees wishing to bring their dog to work must sign and comply with requirements.

MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors

FROM: Beverly Richards, Office Manager / Senior Program Manager

DATE: June 30, 2025

SUBJECT: Annual Funding Contribution to Gunnison Conservation District

UGRWCD staff worked directly with the Gunnison Conservation District (GCD) to develop a proposal for an annual funding contribution in the amount of \$10,000. The 2025 funding proposal will be aimed primarily at education and outreach in the areas of wildfire and drought mitigation and the development of an Upper Gunnison Basin Targeted Conservation Plan (TCP) (future funding agreements subject to budget availability and General Manager approval). A TCP would allow partners working on conservation priorities in the basin to have access to a non-competitive funding pool from NRCS specifically for our basin. The GCD's scope of work also includes funding for grant writing in support of projects that address drought mitigation, stream restoration, and riparian and wet meadow restoration.

Staff is requesting that the Board approve the reallocation of 2025 Grant Program funding to this agreement and authorize an annual contribution to this budget line item because of the opportunities it presents around collaboration on shared goals among our two District's, the ability to expand our community outreach, and further UGRWCD water resource strategic goals.

Unallocated funds in the Grant Program budget line item are currently \$89,809. Following is the current breakdown of these funds as of June 24.

Unspent Funds Portion - 2025 Grant Budget	\$	255,000.00
Amount Paid Since 1/1/25 (2023-24 Grants)	\$	96,007.00
Balance	\$	158,992.00
 2023 Outstanding Grants	 \$	 36,670.00
2024 Outstanding Grants	\$	94,093.00
Balance Remaining 2023-24 Unspent	\$	28,229.00
 Budget Amount - 2025 Grants	 \$	 300,000.00
Amount Paid Since 1/1/25	\$	21,000.00
2025 Outstanding Grants	\$	217,420.00
Balance Remaining 2025 Funds	\$	61,580.00
 Total Available for Reallocation	 \$	 89,809.00

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION: Re-allocate \$10,000 in 2025 Grant Program Funding to the 2025 Gunnison Conservation District agreement and authorize an on-going annual contribution subject to UGRWCD budget availability.

Gunnison Conservation District – 2025 Funding Proposal

Submitted to: Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

Date: June 23, 2025

Contact: Tonya Carr, District Manager

Overview

The Gunnison Conservation District (GCD) respectfully requests the UGRWCD Boards consideration of an annual funding in the amount of \$10,000 to support strategic outreach, education, and conservation planning that directly contributes to watershed health and water resource protection in the Upper Gunnison Basin.

Use of Funds

In 2025, GCD proposes to implement four coordinated tasks in collaboration with UGRWCD staff with the funding support provided (future annual scopes of work will be developed in partnership with UGRWCD subject to budget availability):

1. Annual Wildfire Mitigation Event

GCD will organize one annual wildfire mitigation event, alternating each year between two formats:

- 1) A hands-on landowner wildfire mitigation workshop, such as a 'Fire Preparedness Bootcamp,' focusing on defensible space, chainsaw safety, and fuel management.
- 2) An educational event focused on public outreach and youth engagement, such as participation in community or school events related to wildfire preparedness education and awareness activities, including those at Gunnison, Lake City, and Crested Butte Schools.

These events will be developed in partnership with:

- UGRWCD
- CSU- Gunnison Extension Office
- Colorado State Forest Service (Live Fire Ready program)
- Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control (DFPC)
- U.S. Forest Service
- Gunnison County Fire Protection District
- Colorado Fire Camp
- West Region Wildfire Council
- Gunnison County Community Wildfire Protection Plan(CWPP)
- BLM

Goal: To provide landowners and community members with the knowledge and tools needed to proactively reduce wildfire risk and to understand how their individual actions contribute to larger fire mitigation efforts. The mitigation workshops will focus on the areas of concern identified in, for example, the UGRWCD Wildfire Assessment & Zones of Concern, UGRWCD Geofluvial Assessments, and Gunnison County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

2. Combined Annual Meeting & Local Work Group Meeting

To optimize engagement, GCD will continue hosting a single annual event that serves as both the District's Annual Meeting and the NRCS Local Work Group Meeting. Funding will support:

- Advertising and outreach
- Door prizes
- Catering to encourage participation

Goal: Gather robust input from landowners on resource concerns and increase awareness of available conservation tools and funding.

3. Targeted Conservation Proposal (TCP) Development (in Partnership with TU and UGRWCD)

Following the Combined Meeting, GCD will work collaboratively with Trout Unlimited and UGRWCD to develop a focused proposal that addresses the community's top conservation priorities identified by local landowners. This may include:

- Drought resilience
- Stream and riparian restoration
- Wet meadow enhancement or protection

Objective: Develop a high-quality, collaborative proposal for submission to funding sources, including NRCS, CWCB, the Colorado River District, and other relevant conservation programs, utilizing input from the local workgroup meeting and additional community engagement efforts.

4. Annual Grant Writing – Water Resource Focus

GCD will allocate a portion of its funding to support the District Manager's time for researching, drafting, and submitting one new grant proposal annually. Focus areas will include:

- Drought mitigation
- Stream restoration
- Riparian and wet meadow restoration or preservation

Goal: Secure additional outside funding to expand local capacity for watershed and water resource improvements.

Budget Summary

Activity	Estimated Annual Cost
Annual Wildfire Mitigation Event	\$2,500
Combined Annual/Local Work Group Meeting	\$500
Targeted Proposal Development (with TU & UGRWCD)	\$4000
Grant Writing – Water Resource Projects	\$3,000
Total Requested	\$10,000

Conclusion

With this funding, the Gunnison Conservation District will strengthen local conservation efforts that also align with UGRWCD’s mission- supporting landowner engagement, building wildfire and drought resilience, and advancing actionable projects in partnership with Trout Unlimited and UGRWCD. We appreciate your consideration of this request for on-going financial support and collaboration!

MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors
FROM: Ari Yamaguchi, Water Resources Specialist
Bailey Friedman, Water Resources Project Manager
DATE: 30 June 2025
SUBJECT: Water Quality & Quantity Update

A. SGM Dashboard Product

Staff received a presentation from SGM, consultants with water quality expertise, regarding a water quality data dashboard product originally developed for the Grand Valley. The dashboard would assist in pulling data from, for example, the Water Quality Exchange Portal (WQX, a public water quality data repository) and provide visual representations of those data including mapping of sampling locations and simple time-series graphs of water quality measurements and current compliance standards.

The dashboard is built for professionals who have a baseline knowledge of attainment thresholds and use designations (e.g., recreation, drinking water, etc.) and would therefore be an internal tool for District use. The dashboard tool will assist the District in being able to visualize where water quality and quantity data exists across the Upper Gunnison watershed as both concentration and flow which are important for future Total Maximum Daily Load development and regulatory compliance.

Benefits of the tool include the ability to add data being collected by the Upper Gunnison, easier and finer-level data querying than the current WQX portal provides, and queried outputs that are more user-friendly than those produced directly from the WQX portal. The dashboard tool also offers a point-and-click interface to produce simple graphs to streamline identification of locations with existing or potential future compliance issues, data gaps, etc.

SGM has provided a draft scope of work and anticipate that the tool development will cost \$41,000. Some minor recurring costs related to SGM hosting the dashboard will be \$20 per month which would support up to 10 custom URLs and password protection. There are additional costs associated with acquiring the URL address for the dashboard, ranging in costs from \$50-\$100 per year and could be similar costs for Mapbox usage. There will likely be minor future costs for refreshing the data within the tool consistent with Division "data call schedules" (e.g., every 3 years). The scope of work and final cost estimate are still being discussed and finalized with staff and SGM.

RECOMMENDATION: Discuss with the Board and gauge interest in the project.

B. Ag Return Flow Study

Surface water sampling was conducted on a monthly basis through the fall and winter and returned to a weekly schedule starting in May. Weekly sampling will continue until the end of irrigation season, when it will return to a monthly schedule.

USGS staff began the second phase of data collection for this project, placing data loggers in wells in the East River Basin. Of the six existing wells selected, five have data loggers deployed, providing high-resolution data for the duration of the season. A seventh well was also installed. These wells will be physically sampled starting in late July.

In other drainages, selection of groundwater sampling sites is still underway, with the USGS Project Chief having visited some options, and currently in communication with landowners.

Also accomplished in May was the installation of flow measurement devices on the East River No. 1 and Slide Ditches, which will provide important context and refinement for the chemistry data to come.

The USGS Project Chief expresses gratitude for the general supportiveness of local landowners and those who have helped facilitate communication with landowners.

C. Water Quality Update

1. Water Quality Control Division (Division) Clean Water Policy 8 (i.e., Water Quality Roadmap)

The Water Quality Roadmap is an effort to provide the public a timeline of when the Division plans on addressing the development or refinement of Table Value Standards (thresholds for contamination). It is largely focused on nutrients (phosphorus & nitrogen), but will also include arsenic, selenium, ammonia, cadmium, and temperature. The Roadmap is intended to work alongside the existing Regulation 85 which details regulations for point- and nonpoint-sources of nutrient loading.

Of particular importance to the District will be arsenic and cadmium, as these have been the most common reasons for 303(d) listings within our basin in the past; temperature has also begun emerging as a parameter of concern for this basin (e.g. Ohio and Tomichi Creeks), so temperature-related rulemaking development will be an area of focus for staff in the future.

Staff attended a presentation from CDPHE on the WQ Roadmap process. Information included a review of the most up-to-date version of the Clean Water Policy 8 draft (available at [HERE](#)) and updates on the Feasibility & Implementation Subgroup's efforts. Currently, the Roadmap working group is gathering concerns and input from

stakeholders regarding the establishment of new standards. Implementation of new technologies may take up to 25 years, depending on local capacity and needs.

Arsenic rulemaking hearing will occur in 2029. This has proven difficult as modern technology does not provide enough resolution to establish and enforce meaningful rules for arsenic (i.e., the method detection limit is above the current Table Value Standard; furthermore, current rules do not consider molecular speciation, which is emerging as an area of concern in the ecotoxicology of arsenic).

The Division established cadmium standard values in 2019 and continues to use them today. “There are not widespread implementation challenges for wastewater treatment plants. In historic mining areas, some industrial permits have reasonable potential (RP) for cadmium that are addressed in the permit and/or specific standards actions. ([Clean Water Policy 8 Draft](#))”

Temperature standards continue to be a challenge, especially as it relates to disagreement in interpretation of the current standards as written, compliance during shoulder seasons, or consequences of minor and short-term exceedances due to climate change.

2. Regulation 87

On June 3, staff (Bailey Friedman and Amanda Aulenbach) and General Manager Sonja Chavez attended the in-person Regulation 87 Stakeholder meeting in Grand Junction. The focus of this meeting was to review feedback on 87.7 General Authorizations (GA) for projects and the proposed Fee Structure for authorizations and consultations. The number of authorizations expected to be issued are based on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permits for similar projects.

Many stakeholders expressed concern for the cost of the fees.

The following fee structure is based upon the expected annual operating program budget of \$438,304, anticipated fee revenue of \$190,000, and an annual deficit of \$134,696.

Proposed Fee Category	Description and Rationale	Proposed Annual or Hourly Fee
Category #1: Coverage under Temporary Authorization or General Authorization (no mitigation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fixed fee, based on estimated processing time.Reflects cost for compliance oversight	\$4,320 (per authorization per year)
Category #2: Coverage under Temporary Authorization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Higher fixed fee due to increased review time due to mitigation requirements	\$9,000 (per authorization per year)

or General Authorization (with mitigation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflects cost for compliance oversight 	
Category #3: Consultation Fee (Authorization Determination Assistance – per request)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hourly fee for assisting project proponents whether an Authorization is necessary. Based on estimated consultation time Consultations under two hours will not be charged this fee. Ensures cost recovery while keeping fees reasonable for applicants 	\$180 (per hour)
Category #4: Individual Authorization (full cost recovery – per Authorization)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hourly fee structured on a full cost recovery model for Authorization development Based on Authorization complexity, processing time, and required resources Ensures fees are proportional to service demand An annual fee of \$9,000 will be charged until the project is complete 	\$180 (per hour until Authorization is finalized)

Except for Category #3, each of the fee structures requires an annual fee payment until the project is complete. A lot of concern from stakeholders was expressed regarding budgeting for these fees, especially concerning projects that will be acquiring preemptive authorizations (i.e., year(s) in advance of an actual construction project) or if there are construction delays.

There is also a question regarding if the “project completion” relates to the project in its entirety or just the section of the project that is located within state waters. Staff believes that Category #3 should not have a fee; or, if consultation does occur, it should be incorporated into the Authorization Fee.

Regarding restoration projects that don’t align under the Voluntary Restoration in Ephemeral Streams exemption (e.g., voluntary linear stream crossing), there was concern expressed over permit fees. Organizations like the Wet Meadows Program that work with our federal partners to voluntarily implement these types of projects to protect streams from erosion and degradation have limited budgets and the permit fees may be a disincentive to undertake them. Staff has presented our concerns to the Division and believe that fees should reflect the size and complexity of the project which will most likely drive level of review and oversight by the Division. The Division appears to be focused upon making up budget deficit.

Staff is considering working with partners to present to the State a different fee structure for its consideration.

MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors
FROM: Amanda Aulenbach, Wet Meadows Program Director
DATE: 30 June 2025
SUBJECT: Wet Meadows Program Update – June 2025

Following is a memorandum of update to the UGRWCD Board of Directors on Wet Meadow & Riparian Restoration Program (Wet Meadows Program) activities over the past quarter and activities anticipated to happen in the next quarter (July 1 through September 30) of 2025.

Staff hosted the “Thinking Like Water” film screening on Friday, April 18th at Western’s University Center Theatre with over 80 people attending.

Two Wet Meadow Restoration Technicians, Julia Iovino and Ryan Outler, were hired for the 2025 field season. Staff completed crew onboarding week May 12-15th. Staff introduced them to project partners, including Fish & Wildlife Service, Colorado Parks & Wildlife, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and Gunnison County Cheatgrass Coordinator. Technicians learned about our cross-boundary collaboration and how different agencies with different management objectives work in tandem towards a common goal. They received training on water law, conducting wetland assessments, defensive driving and vehicle safety, collecting wet meadow data using ESRI Field Maps, and UGRWCD’s Emergency Response Plan & Field Safety Guide.

Technicians will work through August 22nd, with an opportunity to extend through October 31st. Technician wages are paid via our Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Cooperative Agreement L24AC00687 & Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Sagebrush Ecosystem F22AP02885 grants.

Staff hosted 40 homeschool children at the UGRWCD office on Thursday, May 15th to learn about water resources in the basin. The Wet Meadows Program Director had a wet meadows station where they learned to build mini Zeedyk-style restoration structures and beaver dam analogues.

Staff hosted a volunteer event on Saturday, May 17th in conjunction with Backcountry Hunters & Anglers annual “Beer, Bands, and Barb Wire Strands” volunteer weekend. Thirteen volunteers helped build three Zeedyk-style restoration structures on Gunnison Ranchland Conservation Legacy property. Staff are preparing for another volunteer event on Saturday, July 19th with Backcountry Hunters & Anglers at Centennial State Wildlife Area (CPW).

Wet Meadows Program staff conducted structure maintenance assessments and new site assessments at 12 different BLM, CPW, and USFS project sites.

In the next quarter, Wet Meadows Program staff will conduct structure maintenance and build new structures at Pinecrest Ranch (UMU Tribe) and Razor Creek (private), conduct structure maintenance assessments at three BLM project sites, and assist with vegetation monitoring at three

BLM and USFS project sites. Staff are hosting a two-day volunteer event on September 3rd and 4th with High Country Conservation Advocates at Gold Basin (BLM).

UGRWCD and Ute Mountain Ute (UMU) Tribe representatives will provide a tour of wet meadow restoration projects and assess agriculture infrastructure needs at Pinecrest Ranch with Colorado River Water Conservation District (CRWCD) staff on Tuesday, July 22nd.

Staff are hosting Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD) on August 5-6th to provide field training for NCWCD staff to help build capacity for low-tech process-based restoration in their watershed. They will assist with a maintenance assessment at a BLM project site and help to build Zeedyk-style restoration structures at a CPW project site. Wet Meadows Program staff are expected to receive field training from NCWCD in 2026 to learn about their post-wildfire restoration efforts.



MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors
FROM: Sue Uerling, Adm. Asst./Comm. Support Specialist
DATE: June 25, 2025
SUBJECT: Education and Outreach Report

The following is an update on 2025 Education and Outreach action items since the previous report. Please enjoy the PowerPoint at the beginning of the meeting with photos from many of these events:

2025 Action Items:

- **ADVERTISING:**

The District is currently running two 60-second spots and one 30-second spot that run in rotation eight times a day on KEJJ and KVLE radio, which includes a spot advertising the Gunnison River Festival (which ended June 21), a spot about the Taylor Local Users Group and a general spot about the District. New spots on the Drought Contingency Plan public comment period and Watershed Management comment period will be recorded soon.

The District ran several display advertisements in the *Gunnison Country Times* and *Crested Butte News* for UGRWCD Board vacancies, the Drought Contingency Planning stakeholders meeting on June 11th, as well as combined ads for the District and the Gunnison River Festival in the summer magazines.

- **SPONSORSHIPS**

The District sponsored the 33rd Annual Blue Mesa Rotary Fishing Tournament on May 3rd and 4th. Water bottles, fishing lures and rack cards were given to all participants and our banners were displayed at the weigh-in station. There were 48 participants this year. All proceeds from sponsorship go first to prizes for the winners of the various tournament categories and any remaining funds go to the Rotary Scholarship Program for scholarships for the following: (1) a GHS student attending any four-year college or university; (2) two GHS students attending Western; and (3) two GHS students attending a technical college or university.

The District sponsored the Gunnison River Clean-Up Day at the Gunnison Whitewater Park on May 10, 2025. The Gunnison Waves organized the event and 45 volunteers came for the clean-up. New this year, they added a Women's Surf Clinic and Kids' Mindfulness Clinic. The following is feedback we got from the Women's Surf Clinician: "Your partnership is helping us create a safe, welcoming space for women and mothers to connect with themselves, each other, and the river. We've seen firsthand how it brings healing, joy, and resilience to those who need it most."

The District also sponsored the 26th Annual Pike Fishing Derby at Taylor Reservoir on June 14th. The District's banners were displayed and all participants received a fishing lure with the UGRWCD logo and a rack card with general watershed information. There were 110 participants at this tournament.

and mention of our sponsorship was announced during the Weigh-In Ceremony.

The District sponsored one of the summer speakers' series for the Crested Butte Public Policy Forum on June 24, 2025, at the Crested Butte Center for the Arts. Rebecca Mitchell of the Upper Colorado River Commission and Doug Kenney, the director of Western Water Policy at the University of Colorado School of Law, shared comments about the future policy challenges facing the Colorado River. Former Director Julie Nania moderated the discussion. Senior staff and members of the Board attended the reception for Ms. Mitchell and Mr. Kenney the night before the forum.

The District will be a "Ranch Rodeo & Watershed Title Sponsor" for Cattlemen's Days the week of July 7-13, 2025. In addition, the District will also be a sponsor of the 4-H Auction Luncheon on Saturday, July 12, 2025 and will have a 3 X 7 Banner in the Arena.

- **GENERAL OUTREACH**

The District brought the Water Wonder Trailer to Ag Venture Days on April 28 and 29th at the Fred Field Center. Approximately 400 elementary students learned about the watershed by playing at the water trailer. The District also provided cloth frisbees that included the District's logo and the words "Ag Matters" for each student. Special thanks to Sonja Chavez and Bailey Friedman for manning the water trailer for the students.

The District gave copies of the hardcover book *Drop: An Adventure through the Water Cycle* to 90 first-graders at Gunnison Elementary School on May 7, 2025. Special thanks to John and Heidi McClow and Beverly Richards for helping distribute the books.

The District provided a Mini-Grant and staffing at the UGRWCD complex for 37 students and staff from the LEAD Homeschool group on May 15th. The students rotated through three stations at the District where they played in the water trailer, learned about water quality and aquatic nuisance species, and learned about and helped build a structure for the Wet Meadows Restoration Program. The District also provided a picnic lunch for the group. Special thanks to Amanda Aulenbach, Bailey Friedman, and Ari Yamaguchi for staffing the stations and helping develop the curriculum.

The District provided a Mini-Grant to students at Western Colorado University for a "Gunnison Ditch Picnic Celebration & Blessing" on May 17, 2025. In addition to a brief history and speeches by area leaders, including Sonja Chavez, the students offered education stations and family activities. The Mini-Grant helped the students offset their expenses for the free picnic following the presentation.

On May 23, 2025, the District brought the Water Wonder Trailer to Char-Mar Park for the 4th Grade Water Festival. Special thanks to Alana Nichols for manning the trailer for the event.

The Education and Outreach Committee approved Caroline McClean's request for a Mini-Grant for \$500 to Crested Butte Wheels of Intention for supplies to make art flags with a water message. On June 8th, the group held their first Pop-Up Art Tent and several flags were made at the Crested Butte Farmer's Market.

June 10-12th, the District supplied the Water Wander Trailer for the Junior Mountaineers Camp (JMC) program for kids on the Western University campus. This is a state-licensed camp for up to 90 kids ages

5-12. The week of June 9-13, the theme was “Water, Water Everywhere” and the Water Wonder Trailer was the perfect vehicle for the kids to learn more about stream flow and the watershed.

- **NEWSPAPER ARTICLES**

The District staff have been writing and submitting articles on water subjects to the *Gunnison Country Times* for publication. To date, four articles have been published as follows: (1) The District Grant Program by Beverly Richards; (2) “Thinking Like Water” film/Wet Meadows program overview by Amanda Aulenbach; (3) Aquatic Nuisance Species by Ari Yamaguchi; and (4) The Drought Contingency Planning Process by Alana Nichols. Stay tuned for more to come!

- **FIRST GRADE WATER BOOK**

General Manager Chavez and staff met with Chris Dickey who provided a brief presentation on the progress of the first-grade water book with a locally-relevant water theme. The working title is *Wonder, Who is Really Water?* The story will follow “Wonder” as he falls onto Mount Crested Butte in the first pages of the book and eventually ends up in the Sea of Cortez. Along the way, “Wonder” will do many wonderful things, such as irrigate a hay meadow, be used for recreation, support a wetland, go through a hydro power plant and support the city ditches, for just a few examples. The book will include a Spanish translation and some “talking points” at the end for teachers and parents to further discuss the concepts. It is scheduled to be printed and be ready for distribution to all first graders in the District in December.

MEMORANDUM**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors**FROM:** Bailey Friedman, Water Resources Project Manager**DATE:** May 29, 2025**SUBJECT:** 2nd Quarter Update

The following is a summary on the status of activities completed during the second quarter of 2025 as well as activities anticipated in the third quarter (July - August).

A. Field Safety Guide

- i. As directed by the board at the April 2025 regular meeting, staff updated the **UGRWCD Field Safety Guide** to include guidance and procedures on working in snow and water bodies.
- ii. **Recommendation for Board ACTION:** Approval of the updated May 2025 version of the Field Safety Guide.

B. Watershed Management Plan (WMP)

- i. Since March
 - a. Staff completed a Final Draft WMP document which is currently under review by the General Manager. Final Draft will be presented to the Board for approval before sharing with the public and seeking stakeholder input.
 - b. Finalized two Google Forms; one for public comment on the WMP and a second for public comment on any water resource issues that should be brought to the District's attention.
- ii. Next Quarter
 - a. Finalize Draft WMP document for public input and place on District's website.
 - b. Advertised WMP via local meetings, social media posts, emails, radio spot, and newspaper article.

C. UGRWCD Wetland Assessment

- i. Staff prepared a public report / summary of key findings of the Upper Gunnison Basin Wetland Assessment results. GEI has received the summary and will provide comments and recommendations to complete the report. Final public report will reside on the District's website.
- ii. Bailey and the Wet Meadows team received remote training from GEI on June 4th. Data collection in the field has begun. Bailey and the Wet Meadows team will visit several sites identified in the original assessment plan that were not able to be visited to improve model results for Wetland Categories 2 and 3. Time permitting, they will also identify new sites for data collection.

D. Geo-fluvial, Watershed Science and Design (WSD)

- i. WSD provided a Final Report Draft to staff in May. This report is currently being reviewed by staff and will be available on the Districts website following General Manager approval.
- ii. The contract with WSD was finalized and closed out.
- iii. Staff will explore a way to host the associated Story Map to this assessment on the District's website for the public to review the findings of the assessment in an interactive manner.

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

- i. Staff Finalized grant applications for one project (Sargents No. 2 Ditch Improvement and Bank Restoration) to submit to the CRD CFP program. This project is in the Tomichi Creek Watershed.
- ii. This project falls under the \$50,000 limit for CRD General Manager approval.

F. Strategic Planning

- i. Assisted Executive Management with preparation of a Request for Proposal to hire a consultant to assist the District with Strategic Planning.
- ii. Will continue to assist Executive Staff in planning a Board Retreat.

G. Basin Implementation Plan (BIP)

- i. Working with staff, TU, the Drought Contingency Plan and the public, updated the Gunnison Basin Roundtable's Basin Implementation Plan project list for those projects within the District's boundaries. This included removing obsolete, completed, or projects no longer being pursued and then adding new projects to the list.

H. Source Water Protection (SWP) Program

- i. Worked with local stakeholders, staff, Robert Murphy (CDPHE), and Liz With (NRCS) to identify several HUC12 watersheds in the Basin to submit to the NRCS SWP Program.
- ii. This program is limited to 20% of the state and NRCS is directed to spend no less than 10% of funds to this program.
- iii. NRCS is currently accepting recommendations from stakeholders in Colorado to revise their map of watersheds available for this program.

I. Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (BCR)

- i. Provided BCR with technical input into a new guide they want to develop for Colorado. This guide will have a section focused on the benefits of flood irrigation for the environment.

J. Water Trailer Education Events

- i. Ag Venture Days
 - a. April 28 and 29 attended Ag Venture Days with General Manager, Sonja Chavez, to assist in educating local elementary school children on water, hydrology, habitat, and wildlife in the Basin.

- ii. Homeschool Group
 - a. On May 15, assisted staff in implementing educational instruction on water quality, hydrology, habitat, and wildlife in the basin.

K. Buckle Winery Event

- i. In the process of working with Buckle Winery to implement a public water educational evening event on August 7, 2025.
- ii. Event will be co-hosted by the District, Buckle Winery, and a local realtor.
- iii. This event aligns with actions identified in the Drought Contingency Plan to educate new residents to the basin on water management in the area. Topics to be presented on to new residents will include: the basics of water law, water rights, augmentation plans, irrigation water management, drought mitigation actions, and agricultural practices in the basin.

L. Eddy Covariance (EC) Tower

- i. Working in partnership with researchers from the University of Nebraska to collect data at an EC Tower on a private property near Parlin. Data will be collected and sent to researchers once a month with the purpose of improving consumptive water use data in the basin.

M. Trout Unlimited RCPP

- i. Working in partnership with Jesse Kruthaupt from TU to develop NRCS and RCPP Conservation Action Plans (CAPs).

N. Technical Service Provider (TSP) and Certified Conservation Planner (CCP)

- i. Identified NRCS practices to pursue TSP status. Will meet with NRCS staff to pursue approval of TSP Status and identify steps to be taken this fall to become a CCP.
- ii. Goal: Create UGRWCD technical expertise in order to streamline NRCS project proposals for funding assistance in the Upper Gunnison basin.

O. Staff Training

- i. Water Law in a Nutshell
 - a. In April, attended the course “Water Law in a Nutshell” presented by Aaron Clay in Montrose.
- ii. Water Fluency
 - a. In May, began the “Water Fluency” course presented by Water Education Colorado. This course will continue to meet once a month until September.
 - b. Will attend a two-day in person training in Steamboat Springs in July.
- iii. Standard First Aid, Adult & Child CPR & AED
 - a. Attended first aid training with the Wet Meadows team at RMBL on June 11th. Learned basic first aid, with some expanded knowledge that applies to back country first aid, and became CPR certified.

P. Training

i. ESRI User Conference

Traveling to San Diego for the ESRI User Conference. This conference provides staff an opportunity to further develop their GIS skills, meet other GIS users, and learn how practitioners are using GIS software in their fields. This will allow the District to develop internal mapping and assessment skills that further our mission.

- a. 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 related to District water resources work.

ii. Colorado Water Congress

- a. Staff attend Colorado Water Congress Summer Convention in August in Steamboat Springs.



UGRWCD FIELD SAFETY GUIDE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

This document is to serve as a field safety guide and field reference guide for UGRWCD staff, field technicians, interns, volunteers, and guests. This document will be presented to anyone present in the field and will be kept in each UGRWCD vehicle. This document outlines the specific responsibilities of UGRWCD employees, including supervisors and management regarding field safety protocols and emergency or crisis management.

MAY 20, 2025

UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Responsibilities

Workers, volunteers, and guests in the field are expected to participate in the protocols and procedures presented in this document. Workers, volunteers, and guests must respond immediately to instruction from first aid attendants, supervisors, management, and emergency response personnel.

Field crews may be multi-agency (e.g., Wet Meadows). It is everyone's responsibility to understand the day's chain of command, including who to go to if there is an issue, and to complete all agency- and crew-specific communication and safety procedures. Never keep quiet about an issue and report all issues (interpersonal, safety concerns, and emergencies) to your field supervisor, regardless of severity.

Field Supervisor

The Field Supervisor is either a Project or Program Manager or assigned by the Program Manager or General Manager to be the supervisor of that day's field work. This person is responsible for field supervision, should be knowledgeable of the site-specific emergency response plan, and be prepared to assist others in the field in the event of an emergency. Supervisor(s) will be trained and certified in first aid and CPR and must ensure that all employees new to the project are aware of emergency response procedures.

The Field Supervisor will ensure that at least one person on each crew has an emergency beacon when work sites are out of cell phone range. The Field Supervisor will ensure that first aid supplies and a fire extinguisher are present in the District vehicle(s) prior to leaving the office.

The Field Supervisor is charged with directing work for the day and taking command in response to an emergency. During an emergency, the Field Supervisor will:

- a. Take a course of action that is consistent with the Emergency Response Plan and ensures the safety of all personnel present.
- b. Provide first aid care, or explicitly delegate other individual(s) to do so.
- c. Determine if emergency medical services are necessary; if so, contact emergency medical services, or explicitly delegate another individual to do so.
- d. In case of an evacuation, conduct role call to ensure all workers are accounted for, or explicitly delegate another individual to do so.
- e. Communicate the nature of the emergency, including follow-up actions, to a Manager or the General Manager as soon as practicable.
- f. Following a medical incident, restock first aid kits as necessary.
 - a. In cases of injury or near-misses, complete the Incident Report Form.

Technicians & Other Personnel

Field personnel, including technicians, will maintain awareness of volunteer and worker safety, including human and environmental factors, and will assist the Field Supervisor in ensuring all personnel are accounted for. During an emergency, crew members must:

UGRWCD Field Reference Guide & Field Safety Guide

- a. Stop work immediately. Remain clear of the emergency scene so as not to crowd a patient or approach the hazard but stay close enough to receive instruction from the Field Supervisor.
- b. Those trained in first aid should identify themselves to the Field Supervisor.

Program Manager

UGRWCD Project or Program Manager(s) confirms that applicable Emergency Response Plan procedures are part of training for field personnel and part of the onboarding process.

During an emergency, the Program Manager:

- a. Will provide support to the Field Supervisor, as needed.
- b. Assist with patient care, if necessary.
- c. If not on site, ensures they are available for duration of emergency to communicate and provide support to the Field Supervisor.
- d. If the patient can be treated by one person, the Program Manager and/or Field Supervisor will perform treatment until emergency responders arrive. The other will direct crew members, including communications and traffic.

After an emergency, the Program Manager:

- a. Notifies the General Manager of the UGRWCD.
- b. Notifies the appropriate partner agency representative(s), if any.
- c. Investigates the incident using the Incident Report Form and recommends future preventative action(s). Communicates these findings to the partner agency representative(s) and the General Manager of the UGRWCD.

General Manager

The General Manager confirms that applicable Emergency Response Plan procedures are part of the Field Safety Guide & Emergency Response Plan. The General Manager will ensure that Program or Project Managers are up to date on CPR and First Aid Certifications, and that project personnel are aware of, and have knowledge of, proper procedures presented in this document. During an emergency, the General Manager will act as the District's spokesperson.

General Safety Procedures

Crew safety is a top priority for the District. Field work includes dangers associated with the environment and with physical labor. Never hesitate to speak up if you feel that a situation is unsafe. Work with your crew members and supervisors to ensure safety when working. Hold yourself and others accountable to the District's and Partner agencies' safety protocols.

Common sense is key. When in doubt, stop and reassess the situation. When reassessing, consider:

- a. Environmental conditions: Is there a storm approaching? Is it very hot? Are there tripping hazards? Is there fresh sign of wildlife nearby?
- b. Practices & behaviors of others: Are people using tools appropriately? Is anyone exhibiting signs of heat illness or other issues?
- c. Your own bodily needs: Do you need food, water, or a break from the heat?

Ensure that any hazards in the work zone are removed; if not possible to remove, flag and avoid at an appropriate distance. This includes any hazardous trees or overhanging objects.

ALWAYS pay attention to your current location and travel routes.

Strive for at least 8 hours of rest between shifts, rehydration, and proper nutrition. Fatigue can lead to carelessness before you are consciously aware of it; most injuries happen in the afternoon during the later part of a tiring week.

Tools & heavy lifting

When using tools, especially large swinging tools (pick mattock, e.g.), it is the user's responsibility to ensure the 'danger zone' around the body is clear of other people, including behind the user and communicate with people around you when you start using a tool. When working near someone who is using a tool, especially a swinging tool, it is your responsibility to remain clear of the swinging zone and communicate with the tool user when you are working nearby.

When two or more people are moving large rocks or heavy equipment, verbal communication is key. Use cues such as "down on 1, 2, 3," "slipping," etc.

Wading in flowing systems

- a. Always wear appropriate gear when wading in stream systems. This includes chest waders with a mandatory wader belt, appropriate boot with traction, and personal floatation device when wading above the thighs or conducting boat work. If conducting winter sampling, waders with appropriate insulation are critical, as are neoprene gloves.
- b. If the water is too deep or too fast for your comfort level, or the channel bottom is too slippery, do not attempt to cross the waterway.
- c. When water levels are higher than the knee or thigh, use extreme caution when crossing. Consider both the speed and depth of the water.
- d. Walk slowly and ensure stable footing between every step.

- e. When crossing challenging flows, face upstream or downstream and walk sideways so as not to cross your legs.
- f. If necessary, use a large stick as a wading rod (walking stick).
- g. Where appropriate, workers can assist one another in crossing by locking arms to ensure stable footing for at least one in the party. Assisting others in accessing steep stream banks is also highly encouraged. Only attempt this if the supporting wader feels comfortable and secure.
- h. Wading should not be done without at least one field partner present.

Interacting with members of the public

UGRWCD field staff and associated crews will work across public and private lands; it is important that you are aware of property boundaries and respect private property rights.

Field personnel should always wear their agency logos prominently to help the public identify who they are. Not all people are law-abiding citizens, so learn to recognize unsafe situations and take appropriate precautions. If at any time you feel uncomfortable, threatened, or intimidated by a member of the public, leave the situation as quickly and smoothly as possible and inform your supervisor; seek assistance from law enforcement as necessary.

Site Location Map

A map for each project site will be developed by the Field Supervisor, Project Manager, or Program Manager. These site maps are to ensure personnel are familiar with each site prior to being in the field. A site map is *expected* for each site. If you are unfamiliar with a site and would like more information, ask the appropriate supervisor.

The Site Map should include:

- Maps including but not limited to:
 - Access gates
 - Gate codes if necessary
 - Roads, including travel routes to and from the site
 - Site location and coordinates
 - Emergency meeting location(s) and coordinates
- Telephone numbers of the District office, the General Manager, Project Managers, Program Managers, the Landowner or Agency point of contact, and Emergency Response Agencies
- The copy of the site maps kept in the office should include personal contact information for all field personnel.

All personnel will be provided a copy of the site map, and it will be kept in the District field vehicle(s) alongside this document. All those who will be on site and District office staff will be aware of the map and the location of emergency equipment.

The template for the Site Location Map is attached to the end of this document.

Checkout / Check-In Procedures

Procedures are expected to be followed each day employees are in the field with limited to no cell reception. An in-office designee must be selected; this person will reliably be in or near the office for the day and early evening. The designee may be any of the Project Managers; if a Project Manager is unavailable, the Office Manager or General Manager may be designated. The designated person in the office for that day should be reminded in advance of their role.

At minimum, send an email or text to the designee with the following information. This may also be written on the whiteboard at the front of the office. Information should include:

- Estimated time of return.
- Work location. This should correspond with an existing document in the Site Location Map binder.
- Field crew member names.
- Any other pertinent information.

The Field Supervisor should set a personal reminder (e.g., a cell phone alarm) for the estimated time of return. At or before that time, they must contact the designee with an update.

The designee should set a personal reminder (i.e., an alarm) for the estimated time of return. At that time, they must attempt to contact the field personnel for an update. If no contact has been made within a reasonable period of the agreed upon time, the designee will implement the following procedures:

- May wait an additional hour past the agreed-upon check-in time as a grace period, depending on remaining sunlight, weather conditions, or other relevant considerations.
- Make several attempts to contact the field staff by texting and calling the team's emergency beacon and the team members' personal phones.
- Dispatch themselves or another individual to the team's work location or last known location, if practicable.
- If, after a reasonable grace period, the field staff is not located, contact emergency services, and provide all known details regarding the field staff's location and alert the General Manager.
 - Montrose Dispatch (EMS Services) non-emergency: 970-249-9110
 - 911

Environmental Hazards

Severe Lightning Storm

Approaching thunderstorms may be noted by a sudden reverse in wind direction, a noticeable rise in wind speed, or a sharp drop in temperature. Be aware of thunderstorms and your location depending on the time of year and day, and if you hear thunder in the distance. In the Upper Gunnison Basin, storms are most likely to approach from the southwest, but be aware that may not always be the case.

Signs of impending lightning include hair standing on end, tingling skin, or visual observation of approaching lightning.

In the event of imminent lightning:

- Drop tools.
- Take shelter in buildings or vehicles if possible. **Do not** shelter in a cave.
- Get to a lower elevation and away from trees, t-posts, fences, utility lines, construction equipment, and open bodies of water.
- Do not shelter in areas that could be affected by floods or high water.
- If in a wooded area, find an area with shorter trees.
- If near isolated trees, distance yourself by at least a distance twice the height of the tree.
- If in open country, assume the lightning safety position. This should be a last resort; prioritize evacuation. See diagram on proper lightning safety position.
 - Crouch low, heels together, on the balls of feet (minimize ground contact), make yourself small, cup hands over your ears to protect them from thunder.
 - Crouch on an insulator if possible (e.g., nonmetallic solids such as wood, rubber, and plastic).
 - **NEVER** lie down.
 - Spread your group out by at least 100 feet between people.
 - **DO NOT** carry equipment or radios.
- Do not continue work until 30 minutes after the storm has passed.

How to Survive a Lightning Strike

Crouch down low like a baseball catcher. Get as low as you can. The nearer you are to the ground, the less likely you are to be struck by lightning. But never lie down!

If your hair begins to stand on end or your skin starts to tingle, a lightning strike is imminent. Immediately get into the crouching position. Lightning may strike without this warning, however.

Place hands over ears to minimize hearing loss from the loud clap of thunder that will boom very close to you.

Don't touch any possible conductors.

The only thing touching the ground should be the balls of your feet. Lightning can hit the ground first, and then enter your body. The more you minimize your contact with the ground, the less chance of electricity entering your body.

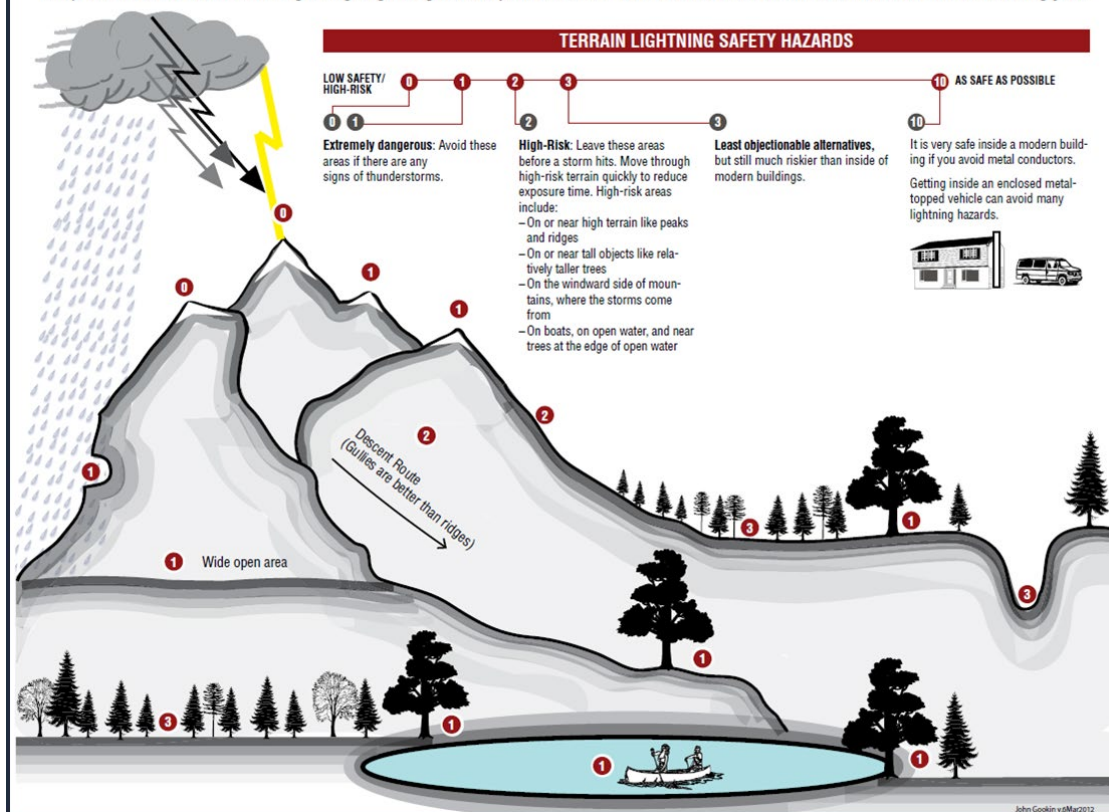
The Art of
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Touch the heels of your feet together. If electricity from a ground strike enters through your feet, this increases the chances of the electricity going in one foot and out the other, rather than into the rest of your body.

BACKCOUNTRY LIGHTNING RISK MANAGEMENT

No place outdoors is safe from lightning. Lightning is an objective hazard. Your behavior can reduce the risk of that hazard harming you.



Blizzard

Find shelter immediately; evacuate if able. Communicate location to someone at the office in case of stranding. Emergency blankets and heat packs are stocked in the vehicles. Find shelter immediately. No action to be taken except to preserve life and prevent injury.

Landslide

Find shelter immediately; evacuate if able. Communicate location to someone at the office in case of stranding.

Fire

If a spark, ember, or fire is observed, take immediate action. The first 30 seconds of a fire are the most critical. Use your shoe or other object to smother any sparks or embers. If you need to use a fire extinguisher, follow the instructions for use located on the equipment. After the fire appears to be extinguished, probe for smoldering hot spots that could reignite. Smoking in vehicles and while in sagebrush steppe is strictly prohibited. Be aware the undercarriage of a vehicle can be hot and may ignite a fire while driving over tall, dry vegetation. If you notice smoke or fire coming from the landscape that cannot be extinguished, call 911 as soon as practicable, and evacuate the area. If vehicle is on fire, exit the vehicle if inside, and move to a safe distance. Follow safety procedures.

Wildlife Encounters

If you encounter wildlife, such as bears, wolves, moose, or mountain lions, stay calm. If you see a wolf, report the sighting to CPW. If you see a bear, moose, or mountain lion that shows aggressive behavior, report the interaction to CPW.

Bear Encounters

Bear attacks are rare; most bears are only interested in protecting food, cubs, or their space. Once a bear has noticed you and is paying attention to you, additional strategies can help prevent the situation from escalating. Here are some general tips.

- When appropriate, carry bear spray. Check with land management agencies to see if bear pepper spray is recommended or allowed for the activities you have planned.
- Stay in a group; they are generally noisier, smellier, and more intimidating than a single person.
- Identify yourself by calmly making noise so the bear knows you are human and not a prey animal.
- **DO NOT PLAY DEAD.** Stand your ground but slowly wave your arms. Make yourself look as large as possible.
- **DO NOT** allow the bear access to your food. Getting to your food will only encourage the bear and make the problem worse for others. "A fed bear is a dead bear."
- **DO NOT** drop your pack as it can provide protection for your back and prevents the bear from accessing food inside.

- If the bear is stationary, move away slowly and sideways. This allows you to keep an eye on the bear and avoid tripping. Moving sideways is also non-threatening to bears.
- Try to escape to a secure place such as a car or building. If escape is not possible, try to fight back using any object available. Concentrate your kicks and blows on the bear's face and muzzle.
- **DO NOT RUN.**
- If a bear follows you, stop and hold your ground. Bears can be as fast as a racehorse (both uphill and down). Predatory instincts will be triggered, and they will think of you as a fleeing animal.
- **DO NOT** climb a tree. Grizzly and black bears can climb trees.
- Leave the area and take a detour if necessary. If this is impossible, wait until the bear moves away.
- Always leave the bear an escape route.

If you see a **female with cubs**, **NEVER** place yourself between them and **NEVER** attempt to approach them. The chances of an attack escalate greatly if she perceives you as a danger to her cubs.

Mountain Lions

If you encounter a lion, remember the goals are to convince it that you are not prey and that you may be dangerous. Follow these safety tips:

- Stay in a group.
- Do not approach a lion. Most mountain lions will try to avoid confrontation. Give them a way to escape.
- **DO NOT** run from a lion. Running may stimulate a lion's instinct to chase. Instead, stand and face the animal. Make eye contact.
- Do not crouch or bend over. A human standing up is just *not* the right shape for a lion's prey. Conversely, a person squatting or bending over resembles a four-legged prey animal. Avoid squatting, crouching, or bending over.
- Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. Open your jacket if you are wearing one. Throw stones, branches, or whatever you can reach without crouching or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly in a loud voice. The idea is to convince them that you are not prey and you might be a danger to it.
- Fight back if attacked.
- If appropriate, carry bear spray.

Mountain lions will typically "cache" their food in a shaded place (such as under a bush). If you happen upon a prey cache that is "hidden," leave the area immediately. This may be a mountain lion cache.

Wolves

Wolves were reintroduced in Colorado and are active in Gunnison County. Most wolves will avoid humans. Follow these safety tips:

- Stay in a group.
- Give them a way to escape.
- Maintain visual contact with the wolf so you can see what it is doing and where it is.
- Talk calmly yet firmly to it and make enough eye contact so that it knows you have seen it.
- If there is shelter or a vehicle nearby, face the wolf and stand upright while backing away slowly toward the shelter. Take a path to put obstacles such as logs, rock piles, or UTV between yourself and the wolf.
- Do not run. Running may stimulate a predatory instinct to chase and attack.
- If you cannot retreat, stand your ground, face the wolf, and try to appear larger by raising your arms, standing on a stump or rock, or opening your jacket. For example, raise your arms, stand on a stump or a rock, or open your jacket.
- If the wolf behaves more aggressively (eyes locked on you, ears forward or backwards):
 - Yell loudly, clap, blow a whistle if nearby, and wave tools in front of you.
 - Be ready to fight back or deploy bear spray at an approaching wolf. In the very unlikely event that a wolf attacks you, fight back.
 - Remain standing and try to get back up if you are knocked down. Target the wolf's underbelly and face, including its eyes, using fingers or sharp objects if you must strike back.
- If appropriate, carry bear spray.

Moose

If in habitat that may contain moose, make noise to make them aware of your presence.

- If a moose reacts to your presence, you are too close. Give them space and a way to escape.
- Cows can be aggressive in the spring and summer when raising young, and bulls can be aggressive in the fall during breeding season. Aggressive behavior includes laid back ears, raised hairs on the neck, lowered head, swaying back and forth, licking of the snout, and cocking of the head.
- If a moose displays aggressive behavior or begins to charge, run as fast as you can and try to put a large object between you, such as a boulder, tree, or car.
- If you encounter a moose, use an alternate route, or allow the moose time to leave the area.
- If appropriate, carry bear spray.

Vehicle Maintenance and Safety

ONLY UGRWCD personnel may drive the UGRWCD vehicles. The only exception is in the case of an emergency when UGRWCD staff is incapacitated. This includes the District UTV and utility trailer.

Safety

- Seatbelts are always required.
 - Do not use phones or tablets while driving.
 - Do not keep loose tools or other objects in the cab that could fly around and cause injury.
 - Secure objects in the cab and in cargo areas.
 - Always carry a roadside safety kit and fire extinguisher.
 - Drive within your comfort zone and level of training when dealing with
 - difficult terrain or inclement weather.
 - When in doubt, stop or turn around.
 - Be aware of changing weather conditions.
 - Know the vehicle's limits.
 - Use backers or spotters whenever warranted.
- Never drive when sleepy. Switch drivers when necessary.

Maintenance

- Keep vehicles clean. Perform weekly cleaning.
- Perform monthly inspections. Use the inspection form in the mileage folder.
- If there is an issue with a vehicle, inform the proper supervisor and/or District Office Manager as soon as possible.
- Try to keep at least ½ of a tank of gas in the vehicle at the end of the day.
- Fill out mileage sheets in vehicle binder each time a vehicle is used.
- Try to leave for the field site with a full tank of gas.

Towing

- Follow appropriate safety procedures.
- Do not tow or pull-out privately-owned vehicles that are not owned by a partner agency.
- Do not tow anything that is not owned by the District, except in the case of an emergency while working with Partner agencies.
- Attach tow straps only to sturdy parts of the vehicle's frame; do not attach straps to axles or other moving parts.

Roadside Emergencies

If you come upon a roadside emergency, park your vehicle completely off the road and call 911.

Only pull over for a roadside emergency if you feel safe to do so. Otherwise, call 911 and report the location and nature of the emergency.

Getting Stuck

Getting stuck can happen, don't panic.

- Put the vehicle in 4X4 Low if it is not already engaged and shift to the lowest gear.
- Try digging the wheels and axels out with a shovel. Place branches or bark under the tires for traction.
- Refer to the vehicle owner's manual for guidance.
- Identify when/where you are doing more harm than good and call for help when it is beyond your or the team's personal comfort levels or capabilities.
- If the wheels are spinning with no traction, stop and reevaluate the situation.

Trees Blocking the Roadway

Remove trees in roadway, if able. Always report to the appropriate agency or landowner.

In the event of a vehicle accident or traffic violation

First, do not panic. Accidents happen and your safety and the safety of others in the District vehicle is the priority of the District.

1. Check yourself for injuries.
2. Check others for injuries.
3. Call 911 and notify law enforcement to report the accident and to request assistance. The District requires this of any accident involving other vehicles.
4. Call your supervisor and/or the General Manager to inform them of the situation and that Emergency Services have been notified. Give them your location.
5. Be prepared to give an accident statement.
6. Document the scene as best as possible. Take photos and write a narrative of the incident. Include any information you can remember.
 - a. Written narrative must be submitted to the General Manager (cc human resources) as soon as practicable and should include the following details: date of travel, travel destination & purpose, general location of where the incident occurred, the nature of the incident, statement as to any suspension or revocation of the driver's license, or other legal ramifications resulting from the accident.
7. Remember to be truthful when it comes to the incident (do not alter the scene, be forthcoming with statements, take photographs of the entire scene, etc.).
8. As soon as practicable, complete the accident report form.

Emergency Equipment, First Aid Kits, and Medical Supplies

The Field Supervisor(s) and Program Manager(s) shall ensure that all District vehicles have the appropriate first aid kits and medical assistance supplies prior to leaving the District office. All

supplies and equipment shall be stored inside the vehicle and, if necessary, in waterproof containers.

All supplies will be inventoried each Quarter and again after an emergency occurs. The Field Supervisor will be responsible for communicating when and if new supplies are needed.

Emergency Beacon Usage

All staff, crew, and volunteers must be trained in the operation of the emergency beacon. The Field Supervisor will ensure the beacon is charged, turned on, and operational before leaving the office.

Emergency Response

The General Manager, Project Manager, Program Manager, and Field Supervisor must be able to respond to and participate in the types of emergencies that are most likely to occur. These District staff shall be trained and certified in First Aid and CPR. It is the responsibility of individual staff to communicate with the General Manager or Project Manager when recertification needs to occur. All field personnel will be made aware of who has First Aid and CPR certification.

During an emergency, no communication will occur on any radios, except that pertaining to the emergency.

In the event of an emergency:

1. Stop work immediately.
2. Notify the Field Supervisor of emergency.
3. The Field Supervisor will determine if evacuation and/or EMS and/or first aid are necessary.
4. If necessary, the Field Supervisor (or someone delegated by the Field Supervisor) will notify EMS with the following information:
 - a. Location of the emergency, most likely by coordinates or road intersections. A responsible employee will be sent to this meeting point to direct traffic if possible. This person will direct the emergency vehicle crew to the scene if necessary.
 - b. The nature of the emergency. Be specific (e.g., number of patients, and if police, fire, or ambulance are needed).
 - c. Your name and agency.
5. The Field Supervisor (or someone delegated by the Field Supervisor) will administer first aid.
6. Ensure that the District General Manager is notified of the situation as soon as practicable.
7. For injuries or near misses, complete the Incident Report Form as soon as practicable.

Emergency notification will be conducted via:

- Word of mouth
- Radio or walkie-talkie contact
- Satellite phone
- Three blasts of a vehicle horn, whistle, or prearranged signal.

Evacuation

The Field Supervisor may issue an evacuation order due to environmental hazards, medical emergency, or another factor.

Upon an evacuation order:

- a. Stop all work.
- b. Lower all loads, if possible.
- c. Shut down equipment and energy sources.
- d. All personnel to congregate at or near the vehicles, or at a designated meeting area.
- e. Employees to report to the Field Supervisor or their designee for a name check-off.
- f. Work may be resumed only at the direction of the Field Supervisor or their designee.

Safety and Emergency Procedures

Personnel should be aware of the day's weather conditions and dress appropriately. Employees working in remote areas will observe the following procedures:

First Aid Procedures

The below procedures cover the most common injuries on District projects. All staff and technicians should have up to date first aid training.

Crushed body parts

Crushing of hands and feet by rock, tools, or machinery is the most common injury in Wet Meadows work. To avoid these injuries:

- When two or more people are moving large rocks or heavy equipment, verbal communication is key. Use cues such as "down on 1, 2, 3;" "slipping;" etc.
- Keep clear of moving parts such as winch cables and hydraulics. When operating such machinery, ensure other personnel are clear. Never reach inside of such components.

First aid for crushing

For mild impacts:

- Where the patient is certain there is no internal damage, rest the affected area; apply a splint if needed.
- The worker may return to work if they and the Field Supervisor agree that the duties are appropriate and manageable.

For severe cases:

- Treat broken skin by cleaning, disinfecting, and bandaging the wound. Use extra bandaging to provide protection from accidental bumps during evacuation.

- Apply a splint.
- Evacuate and seek medical attention

Eye Emergencies

Eye flushing kits are included with the first aid and medical supplies in each vehicle. Wear eye protection for all hazardous activities. **DO NOT** assume that any eye injury is harmless.

Chemical Burns to the Eye

In all cases of eye contact with chemicals:

- Immediately flush the eye with eye wash fluid or cleanest available water. Keep eye open as wide as possible while flushing.
- Continue flushing for at least 15 minutes.

DO NOT use an eye cup. If contact lens is in the eye, begin flushing over the lens immediately. This may wash away the lens. **DO NOT** bandage the eye. Seek immediate medical treatment after flushing.

Specks in the Eye

DO NOT rub the eye. Try to let tears wash the speck out or use an eyewash. Try lifting the upper eyelid outward and down over the lower lid. If the speck does not wash out, keep the eye closed, bandage it lightly, and see a doctor.

Impacts to the Eye

Apply a cold compress without putting pressure on the eye. Crushed ice in a plastic bag can be taped to the forehead to rest gently on the injured eye.

In cases of pain, reduced vision, or discoloration (black eye), seek emergency medical care. Any of these symptoms could mean internal eye damage.

Cuts and Punctures of the Eye or Eyelid

DO NOT wash out the eye with water or any other liquid.

DO NOT try to remove an object that is stuck in the eye.

Cover the eye with a rigid shield without applying pressure.

SEE A DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY.

Heat-Related Illness

If you experience any of the below symptoms or otherwise feel that you are at risk of heat illness, stop and rest immediately; find shade and drink water. Notify the Field Supervisor if necessary.

The first steps in treating any form of heat illness include:

- Moving the person to a cooler location.

- Actively cool down the body using water or cold packs. For rapid cooling, partially submerge the patient's body in cool water. This can be achieved by soaking the patient's clothing with water from a jug or bottle.
- Remove unnecessary clothing to maximize sweat evaporation.
- Provide them with cool water.
- Give them electrolytes.

For heat stroke:

- Treat for shock if necessary.
- Provide oxygen if it is available.
- Evacuate and seek medical attention immediately.

Heat cramps

Painful muscle spasms. The least serious form of heat illness. They are a sign that the body is having difficulty with increased temperature. They are also a sign that a more serious problem may soon develop.

Heat exhaustion

Symptoms include:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Weakness | • Headaches |
| • Extreme fatigue | • Wet, clammy skin |
| • Nausea | • Dark yellow or orange urine |

Heat exhaustion is more serious than heat cramps and occurs when the body produces more heat than it can dissipate. Inadequate fluid intake is a major contributing factor. Treat heat exhaustion using the steps above. Prompt treatment of heat cramps and heat exhaustion is usually successful. Patients recover in a matter of hours or, at most, a day or two. Heat stroke poses more serious problems.

Heat Stroke

Heat stroke is characterized by:

- Altered mental status (confusion, loss of consciousness, convulsions). This is the primary identifier. If any of these symptoms occur, immediately follow the procedures for heat stroke. Do not wait for other symptoms to appear.
- Hot, often dry skin, though patients may still be sweating heavily before other symptoms occur.
- Body temperature above 105.8 degrees Fahrenheit.

Heat stroke is a *medical emergency*. Heat stroke is caused by a failure of the body's heat controls – when sweating stops and the body temperature rises. Brain damage and death may result if treatment is delayed. Begin rapid cooling with ice or cold water and fan the patient to promote evaporation. Whereas heat cramps and heat exhaustion may be treated on site, heat

stroke patients *must* be evacuated out of the field, medivac if possible (by air) as their condition may worsen suddenly.

Although classic teaching describes a heat stroke patient as hot and dry, recent studies have shown that over 50% of heat stroke patients are sweating heavily. Typically, we do not have thermometers in the field; therefore, the hallmark of heat stroke is altered mental status. You should suspect heat stroke if the person is hot, fatigued, and shows some altered mental status (such as the inability to remember the day or current situation). They may ask, “Where am I?”

Individual Risk Factors for heat illness

The more factors you have, the higher the risk:

- Internal heat generated by physical labor.
- Environmental conditions; high-heat environments can restrict the body’s ability to evaporate sweating to cool itself.
 - Direct sunshine can increase heat index values up to 15 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - Working near generators or other large equipment.
 - PPE that limits evaporation (e.g., chainsaw chaps, helmets).
- Not acclimatized to conditions.
 - Heat illness is a higher risk during the initial exposure (<4-5 days) of any of the following:
 - Increased heat exposure
 - Initial exertion levels of work/training
 - Lack of quality sleep
 - Lower fitness levels require more acclimatization time.
- Lack of quality sleep.
- Overweight / Minor Illness / Taking Medications
 - Either prescribed or over the counter and/or dietary aids (e.g., allergy or cold remedies, certain antibiotics, statins, ephedra, and creatine).
- Dehydration
 - Occurs during prolonged exertion when fluid loss is greater than fluid intake.
- Excessive caffeine intake.
 - These are not regulated and have the potential to impact a person.
- Prior history of heat illness
 - A heat stroke event at any point, or an episode of lesser heat illness in the previous 24-48 hours.
- Skin disorders, such as heat rash and sunburn that prevents effective sweating.

You can prevent the serious consequences of heat illness by improving your level of fitness and becoming acclimated to the heat. Maintaining a high level of aerobic fitness is one of the best ways to protect against heat stress. The fit worker has a well-developed circulatory system and increased blood volume. Both are important to regulate body temperature. Fit workers start to sweat sooner, mitigating heat accumulation; they work with a lower heart rate and body

temperature. Know and prepare your body for the work/environment that you and field employees could encounter.

Winter Field Work

Some staff may be required to perform winter field work, including water sampling and snow sampling.

Working on Snow & Ice

Slipping is the main concern when working in winter conditions. To mitigate slipping:

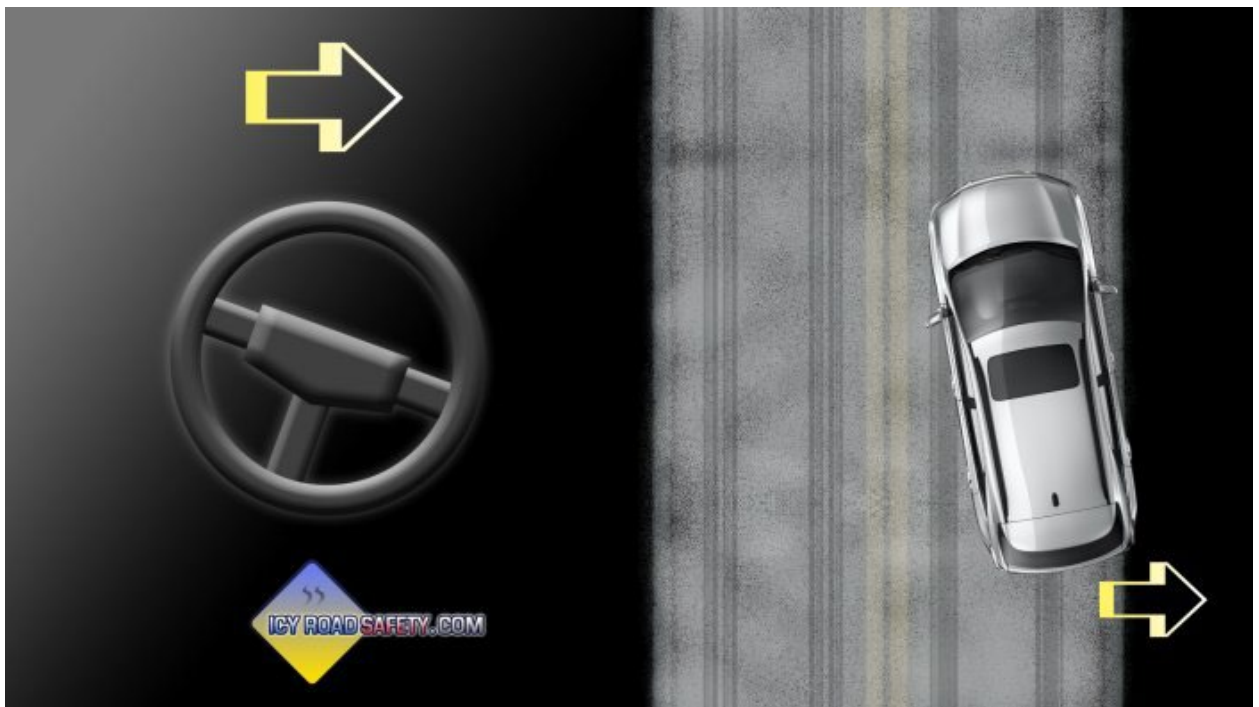
- a. Wear appropriate footwear, with special attention to the grip of the soles.
- b. Some sites require snowshoes or backcountry skis to access and/or work on. The Field Supervisor will inform workers when this is the case.
- c. Walk slowly. Keep your weight distributed as close to vertically above your feet as possible.
- d. When traversing a slope covered in snow, kick your feet into the snow to make “steps” for yourself (maximize horizontal surface area under your shoes).



Driving on Snow & Ice

Wintry conditions present hazards and demands that are unique from other types of difficult driving conditions. District vehicles are mounted on all-season tires from March to November; winter tires are mounted from November to March.

- a) Drive slower than typical speeds for the same roadway to mitigate slipping.
- b) Test brakes frequently at low speeds to feel the ABS system's reaction to present conditions.
- c) Be aware of other drivers and their risks of sliding.
- d) Watch for ice, black ice, and snow drifts. Avoid if possible; cross carefully if not able to avoid.
- e) On highways, it is often easy to see exposed asphalt where other cars have driven, and the ice is clear. Keep at least one set of tires in this track as much as possible.
- f) **Sliding/skidding:** Most people's instincts are to brake as hard as possible. DO NOT brake. Instead, steer into the skid. TURN THE FRONT WHEELS IN THE SAME DIRECTION THAT THE REAR OF THE VEHICLE IS SLIDING.



Avalanche

Before conducting winter field work in areas where avalanche risk exists, consult avalanche.state.co.us. Do not drive or conduct field work where there is a risk classification of 3 or higher.

For avalanche risk classes 1 and 2, the avalanche forecast will be interpreted in addition to the personal evaluation of the snow, terrain, and weather conditions. If needed, a person with professional expertise should be contacted. Personal evaluation of snow and terrain may be performed at any time of the day.

Driving in avalanche conditions

While rare, it is possible to get caught in an avalanche when driving, especially over mountain passes and other areas prone to such hazards.

If you believe there might be a risk of avalanches along your planned driving route, look up avalanche conditions online (avalanche.state.co.us). This should also include noting which roads are closed for avalanche control. Change your driving route if necessary to account for risks and closures.

If it is necessary to drive through avalanche conditions, follow the Check-In/Check-Out Procedure detailed in the General Safety section.

If caught in an avalanche:

- a. Stay in the vehicle and keep the windows rolled up.
- b. Turn off the vehicle to prevent carbon monoxide filling the car.
- c. Call for help on a cell phone.
- d. Plan ahead during the winter season and keep additional food, water, warm clothes, and blankets in the vehicle.

Getting Stuck in Snowbanks

It can be easier to get stuck in snowbanks than people often think. Do not attempt to drive the field vehicle in unplowed snow greater than ~8" deep. If stuck:

- a. Engage 4WD-Low. Ease on the pedal slowly; do not punch it.
- b. If wheels are spinning, do not continue spinning; this will only dig you deeper.
- c. Dig out the tires, including the route you intend to take out of the snowbank back to the safe road.
 - i. Dig out the tailpipe.
- d. Use a spotter.
- e. The best way out is typically the same way you came in; use the tracks you already made, rather than driving through more unplowed snow.
 - i. This is not always necessarily true. Use best judgement.
- f. It may be necessary to have others push the vehicle while attempting to get unstuck. The pusher should stand with secure footing such that they are not at risk of falling in front of the tires while in motion.

- g. Rocking technique: alternate between moving forward and reversing to get out of a rut. This is especially helpful in a situation where you have traction going forward, but ultimately need to back out to get back to the road (or vice-versa). Drive forward so that the tire(s) are up out of the spot where they have no traction; reverse powerfully to get enough momentum to carry you through the traction-less spot.
- h. If available, lay down sand, cat litter, cardboard, foot mats, or other materials under the tires to increase traction.
- i. Towing out: If another vehicle is willing and able to pull you out of a snowbank, attach the tow strap to a STURDY, SECURE part of the vehicle's frame; do not attach to a moving part.

Cold-Related Illness

Do not ignore shivering, it is an important first sign that the body is losing heat. Persistent shivering is a signal to leave and return to an indoor area and/or find ways to reduce cold exposure. To mitigate cold illness, wear appropriate clothing. Excessive sweating will increase heat loss, so remove extra layers of clothing whenever necessary if you feel too warm.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is caused by exposure to cold and it is aggravated by wetness, wind, and exhaustion. Most hypothermia cases develop in air temperatures between 30- and 50-degrees Fahrenheit.

Cold can cause harm in two steps:

- 2. Exposure and exhaustion. The moment you begin to lose heat faster than your body produces it, you are undergoing exposure. Two things happen: You voluntarily exercise to stay warm, and your body makes involuntary adjustments to preserve normal temperature in the vital organs. Both responses drain your energy reserves. The only way to stop the drain is to reduce the degree of exposure. The time to prevent hypothermia is during this period of exposure and gradual exhaustion.
- 3. Hypothermia. If exposure continues until your energy reserves are exhausted, cold reaches the brain, depriving you of judgment and reasoning power. You will not be aware that this is happening. This is hypothermia. Your internal temperature is sliding downward. Without treatment, this slide leads to stupor, collapse, and death.

Symptoms of hypothermia include:

- 1. Shivering
- 2. Slurred speech or mumbling; clumsiness or lack of coordination
- 3. Drowsiness or confusion; loss of consciousness
- 4. Patient feels warm despite the conditions. May engage in "paradoxical undressing:" removing layers beyond what's reasonable for the physical activity and air temperature.

Treating hypothermia

- Get the patient to a warm area. Insulate exposed parts (typically head and neck)
- Remove wet clothing; replace with dry layers if available. Focus insulation on the center of the body (main organs).
- Rewarming must occur **gradually**. Apply heat packs (stocked in truck) to neck, chest, and groin.
- Evacuate and seek medical attention.

Frostbite

Frostbite is the freezing of skin and underlying tissue. Most often, frostbite affects exposed extremities such as fingers, toes, nose, chin, and earlobes. Frostbite is most likely to occur when temperatures drop below freezing and there is prolonged exposure to these temperatures.

Signs and symptoms:

- Loss of feeling in the affected area, followed by the skin feeling warm despite the temperature conditions.
- Pale, bluish-white, or grayish-yellow appearance of the affected extremity. Hard or waxy-looking skin.

Treatment:

- Evacuate immediately and seek medical attention.
- **Slowly** rewarm the affected areas.

Preparing for the Day

Food and Water

Pack enough food for lunch and snacks every day. Store and restaurant stops are not always available. Carry at least 3 liters (96 oz) of water with you if hiking away from the vehicle.

Fuel

Head for the field with a full tank of gas in the vehicle. Gas cans for equipment (chainsaw, UTV, post pounder, etc.) should be sufficiently filled for the work planned that day.

Tools

Ensure all tools needed for the day are in the vehicle. This will include radios (with extra batteries), an emergency beacon (inReach), 5-liter water jug, electrolytes, and first aid supplies.

Maps

Ensure that the Site Location Map is ready for each day. Field staff using tablets will have Field Maps, Avenza, and Google Maps available to them. Other field staff should have at least one of these products or similar on their personal phones. **Ensure accounts are logged in and offline areas are downloaded before leaving the office.**

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Wear and utilize appropriate PPE, including but not limited to the following:

- Gloves, safety glasses, sunglasses, sun protection, ear protection, and head protection
- Long pants, boots, long sleeves

Backcountry Travel

Required Equipment

- First aid kit
- Map, compass, and/or GPS
- Water (3 liters per person at minimum)
- Food for one day at minimum
- Flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries
- Two-way radio, SPOT device, or similar communications tool
- Whistle, signal mirror, or other short-to medium- range emergency device.
- Sunscreen
- Extra clothing layers and rain gear

Recommended Equipment:

- Multi-purpose tool
- Water purifier
- Sun hat
- Insect repellant

Hazardous Material

Hazardous material may include fuel, herbicides, or materials you happen upon. If you spill or happen upon hazardous material, inform the Field Supervisor, who will inform the correct Partner Agency. Do not handle any hazardous material unless trained and instructed to do so.

Tablet Use

Take care of the tablets; keep them dry and secure. Make sure they are clean and functioning. Before leaving the office, ensure the tablet is signed in to the appropriate account. At the end of each day, sync map data and charge the tablet.

Supplies for First Aid Checklist

By completing this checklist, you are ensuring all supplies are present and accounted for. If supplies need to be ordered, you will revisit this checklist to initial and date when missing supplies are added to the First Aid supplied. There are backup supplies in the District kitchen in blue tote containers. Notify the Field Supervisor or Project Manager if items need to be purchased.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wound Care / Burn / Blister:	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Dressing, Gauze, Sterile, 4"X4", Pkg. 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Butterfly Closure
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Dressing, Gauze, Sterile, 3"X3", Pkg. 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 EAB Bandage Single Fabric, 1"X3"
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Dressing, Gauze, Sterile, 2"X2", Pkg. 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 EAB Bandage Single Fabric Knuc Adhesive Fabric, 2"X4.5", Pkg. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Dressing, Non-Adherent, Sterile, 2"X3"	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Tape, Cloth, ½ X 10 yds
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Tripple Antibiotic, Single use, Pkg. 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Cotton Tip Applicator, Pkg. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 AB Wipe	<input type="checkbox"/> Trauma Pad 5"X9"
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 BZK Wipe	<input type="checkbox"/> Moleskin, Die-Cut, 1 sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Conforming Gauze 3, Non-Sterile	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Nitrile Glv Mod EzCare Can
<input type="checkbox"/> NOLS WMI Soap Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Eye wash kit, Pkg. 2
Sprain / Strain:	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Bandage, Elastic with Velcro Closure, 2"	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cold Pack
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Cravat (Triangle Bandage)	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Safety Pins
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 SAM Splint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medications	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ibuprofen (200 mg), Pkg. 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Acetaminophen (500 mg), Pkg. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Antihistamine (Diphenhydramine 25 mg), Pkg. 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Aspirin (325 mg), Pkg. 2
<input type="checkbox"/> After Bite Sting and Itch Relief Wipe, Pkg. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Instruments	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Scissors, Bandage with Blunt Tip, Small	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Splinter Picker / Tick Remover Forceps
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Baggie, 4"X6" 2mL	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Baggie, 6"X8" 4 mL
<input type="checkbox"/> Tourniquet	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Blanket
<input type="checkbox"/> CPR Pocket Mask	<input type="checkbox"/> Record Forms
<input type="checkbox"/> NOLS Wilderness Medicine Field Guide	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other Supplies to be Kept in Vehicles

By completing this checklist, you are ensuring all supplies are present and accounted for. If supplies need to be ordered, you will revisit this checklist to initial and date when missing supplies are resupplied. Notify the Field Supervisor or Project Manager if items need to be purchased.

Name: _____

Date: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Radio (2) (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra batteries
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire Extinguisher	<input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight or headlamp and extra batteries
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency beacon / Location Device	<input type="checkbox"/> Full First Aid List
<input type="checkbox"/> Bear Spray	<input type="checkbox"/> Insect Repellent
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen	<input type="checkbox"/> Extra Water
<input type="checkbox"/> Electrolytes	<input type="checkbox"/> Tow Cable

MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors

FROM: Alana Nichols, Water Resources Fellow

DATE: June 20, 2025

SUBJECT: Turf Replacement Project

Significant progress has been made on the Turf Replacement and Demonstration Garden project at the District office.

On Wednesday, June 11 and Thursday, June 12, Resource Central visited our office to complete the removal of approximately 2,000 square feet of nonfunctional turf. This work aligns with the awarded agreement amount we received in June of last year.

In addition to the turf removal, we also received our plant kits on June 12. These kits included a total of 615 drought-tolerant native plants, delivered in 41 boxes with 15 plants per box. A detailed plant list is included below for your reference. These plant species have been selected by Resource Central to support biodiversity while requiring minimal water, in line with our water conservation goals.

We are currently collaborating with SCJ Studio Landscape Architecture to finalize a comprehensive concept plan for the new landscape. A draft of the concept plan is attached for review. The design incorporates a range of garden types, including:

- **Pollinator Garden**
- **Riparian Edge/Rain Garden**
- **Fire-Wise Garden**
- **Aspen Understory Garden**
- **Crevice Garden**
- **Slope Garden**

Each of these styles have been chosen to highlight different approaches to sustainable landscaping. The intent is to transform our office landscape into a demonstration garden, a living showcase of environmentally responsible landscape practices that the community members can visit for inspiration and education.

This project supports the District's broader goals of promoting native plant use, reducing water consumption, and enhancing local biodiversity. We look forward to completing the final design and beginning installation, creating a valuable resource for the community.

Sunlit Fiesta

Plant List

	Sunlit Fiesta		Qty.	Mature Height	Mature Spread	Elevation Hardiness	Water Needs	Sun Requirement	Bloom Season	Bloom Color	Resists*	Attracts	Native†
1	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Blue Grama Grass	5	2-3'	1-2'	8,500'	Very Low	Sun	Summer to Fall	Bronze	-	Birds	CO Native
2	<i>Agastache</i> X Blue Fortune	Blue Fortune Hyssop	3	2-4'	18-24"	8,000'	Low	Sun	Summer to Fall	Blue	Deer, Rabbits	Bees, Butterflies	CO Native
3	<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i> 'Butterfly Blue'	Butterfly Blue Pincushion	3	18-24"	18-24"	6,500'	Low	Sun	Summer	Light Purple	Deer	Butterflies	-
4	<i>Delopserma</i> 'Fire Spinner'	Fire Spinner Ice Plant	5	1-2"	10-12"	7,000'	Low	Sun	Summer to Fall	Orange & Fuchsia	Deer	Bees, Hummingbirds	-
5	<i>Salvia greggii</i> 'Furman's Red'	Furman's Red Salvia	3	18-36"	1-2'	6,000'	Low	Sun	Summer	Red	Deer, Rabbits	Bees, Birds, Hummingbirds	Regional Native
6	<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i> 'Moonbeam'	Moonbeam Coreopsis	4	18-24"	18-24"	8,000'	Low	Sun	Mid-Summer to Fall	Pale Yellow	Deer, Rabbits	Bees, Butterflies	Regional Native
7	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Magnus'	Purple Coneflower	3	2-3'	18-24"	8,500'	Low	Sun	Summer	Purple	-	Bees, Birds, Butterflies	Regional Native
8	<i>Salvia nemerosa</i> 'Rose Marvel'	Rose Marvel Salvia	3	10-12"	10-12"	8,500'	Low	Sun	Summer to Fall	Magenta	Deer, Rabbits	Bees, Birds, Butterflies	-

*We cannot guarantee deer or rabbit resistance. [Learn more.](#)

†Indicates plants that are native to our region. [Learn more about our 'native' designation.](#)

Color Pop

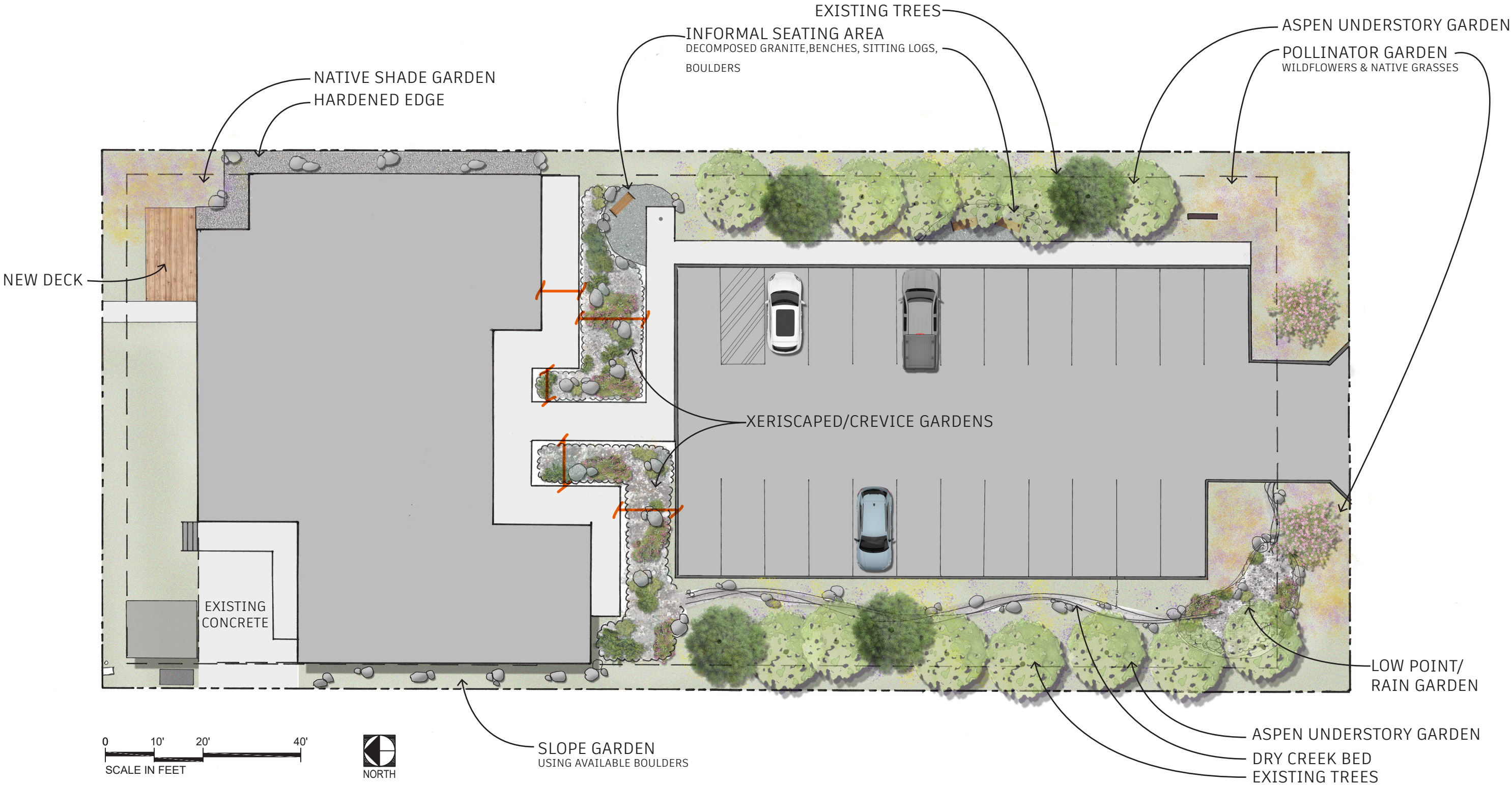
Plant List

	Color Pop		Qty.	Mature Height	Mature Spread	Elevation Hardiness	Water Needs	Sun Requirement	Bloom Season	Bloom Color	Resists*	Attracts	Native†
1	<i>Alyssum saxatilis</i>	Basket of Gold	2	8-12"	12-18"	10,000'	Low	Sun	Early Spring	Yellow	Deer	Bees, Butterflies	-
2	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i> var. <i>sullivantii</i> 'Goldsturm'	Black-Eyed Susan	3	18-24"	18-24"	8,000'	Low	Sun	Mid-Summer to Fall	Yellow	Deer, Rabbits	Birds, Butterflies	CO Native
3	<i>Salvia greggii</i> 'Furman's Red'	Furman's Red Salvia	3	18-36"	1-2'	6,000'	Low	Sun	Mid-Summer to Fall	Red	Deer, Rabbits	Bees, Birds, Hummingbirds	Regional Native
4	<i>Phlox subulata</i> 'Emerald Pink'	Pink Phlox	3	4-6"	12-18"	7,000'	Low	Adaptable	Early Spring	Pink	-	Bees	-
5	<i>Aster novae-angliae</i> 'Purple Dome'	Purple Dome Aster	2	18-24"	18-24"	8,500'	Low	Sun	Late Summer to Fall	Purple	-	Bees, Butterflies	Regional Native
6	<i>Nepeta racemosa</i> 'Walkers Low'	Walker's Low Catmint	2	18-24"	2-3'	8,500'	Low	Sun	Spring to Summer	Lavender	Deer, Rabbits	Bees, Birds, Butterflies	-

*We cannot guarantee deer or rabbit resistance. [Learn more.](#)

†Indicates plants that are native to our region. [Learn more about our 'native' designation.](#)

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PACKAGE -CONCEPT PLAN



UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONCERVANCY DISTRICT
NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF REPLACEMENT PROJECT

DATE: 06/09/2026



CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PACKAGE - GARDEN STYLES & IMAGES



CREVICE GARDEN

A dramatic, sculptural garden that mimics alpine rock outcrops and natural talus slopes. Narrow spaces between upright stone slabs create ideal microclimates for hardy, drought-tolerant native and alpine plants. This style supports deep root penetration, excellent drainage, and year-round interest. Ideal for showy groundcovers, penstemons, and cushion plants.

XERISCAPE GARDEN

A sustainable garden style that prioritizes water conservation through native and regionally adapted plants, mulch, and efficient irrigation. Includes mounded soil contours, gravel paths, and groupings of wildflowers, bunchgrasses, and shrubs. Requires minimal irrigation once established and provides seasonal color and habitat.

SLOPE GARDEN

An erosion-resistant garden designed for sunny hillsides or banks. Uses a mix of native grasses, deep-rooted perennials, and stabilizing shrubs to create a layered, textural landscape. Stone terraces or log terraces can slow runoff and add structure. Perfect for yarrow, blue flax, rabbit-brush, and mountain mahogany.



UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

NON-FUNCTIONAL TURF REPLACEMENT PROJECT

DATE: 06/09/2026





POLLINATOR MEADOW GARDEN

A dynamic, sun-loving garden that mimics native meadows with drifts of flowering perennials and grasses. Designed to support pollinators, it offers continuous blooms from early summer into fall. Best suited for open areas with full sun and minimal irrigation.



RIPARIAN EDGE GARDEN OR RAIN GARDEN

Designed for areas near natural or artificial waterways, this garden includes moisture-tolerant native plants that prevent erosion and support biodiversity. Can serve as a transition zone between formal garden space and natural drainage.



FIRE-WISE GARDEN

A defensible-space landscape designed to reduce wildfire risk around structures. Features fire-resistant native plants, widely spaced and grouped to prevent continuous fuel ladders. Incorporates gravel or stone mulches, hardscape breaks, and low-res-in, high-moisture content plants. Prioritizes maintenance and seasonal cleanup.



ASPEN UNDERSTORY GARDEN

A shady, woodland-inspired garden that thrives beneath quaking aspens or on the north side of structures. Features a mix of moisture-tolerant natives like columbine, wild geranium, fescue, and serviceberry. Designed to mimic natural forest floors with leaf litter mulch and layered planting.



MINUTES
Taylor Local Users Group
May 8, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

TLUG Attendees:

TLUG Representatives Present:

Ryan Birdsey (Flatwater Recreation Interests via Zoom)
Ernest Cockrell (Taylor Placer via Zoom)
David Fisher (Property Owners via Zoom)
Mark Schumacher (Boating Interests)
Andy Spann (Irrigation Interests via Zoom)

TLUG Representatives Absent:

Don Sabrowski, TLUG Chair
Roark Kiklevich (Wade Fishing Interests)

Other Attendees:

Sonja Chavez (UGRWCD)
Beverly Richards (UGRWCD)
Sue Uerling (UGRWCD)
Giulio Del Piccolo (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)
Patrick Plumley (Gunnison River Resident and Fishing Enthusiast)

By Zoom:

Erik Knight (USBR)
Ed Warner (USBR)
Rory Birdsey (Taylor Reservoir Dam Operator)
Dustin Brown (Scenic River Tours)
Racquel Flinker (Colorado River Water Conservancy District)
Doug Forshagen (Crystal Creek Homeowners)
David Gochis (Airborne Snow Observatory)

I. Introductions and Approval of Minutes

In Chairman Don Sabrowski's absence, UGRWCD General Manager Sonja Chavez called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and all attendees were introduced. The minutes from the April 10th and April 21st TLUG meetings were presented for review. Mark Schumacher motioned and Ryan Birdsey seconded approval of the April 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried. After verifying the snowpack level listed in the April 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes, Mark Schumacher motioned and Ernie Cockrell seconded approval of the April 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

II. Upper Gunnison Basin May Water Supply Report - Beverly Richards

Beverly presented the Taylor River year type calculations sheet which determines the volume levels for the year type categories of dry, average, and wet year types based on requirements from the stipulation. This is calculated using the actual inflow data provided by the Division of Water Resources. For 2024 the Dry Year upper limit is now 73,354 acre-feet and the five-year average is 73,642 acre-feet. The Average Year upper limit is 111,117 acre-feet and the five-year average is the same.

Beverly presented a water supply report for the basin. She discussed the decline in snowpack and stream gauge flows, and the need for precipitation to improve conditions. She noted that portions of the southwestern part of the state have moved into “extreme drought” conditions and much of the rest of the western half of the state has shown degradation in drought conditions. She reported that precipitation for most of Gunnison County is at 25-50 percent of average over the past 30 days. The Taylor River basin did receive a slight uptick in precipitation the first week of May. The Snow Water Equivalent has dropped from 14.2 inches in April to 4.4 inches in May, which is 45 percent of the average median for this time of year. All streamflows in the basin are currently lower than the historical average and more dry, warm weather is predicted for the short-term forecast.

III. CBRFC Water Supply Update and USBR Model Forecast – Erik Knight, USBR

Erik Knight, with the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), provided information from the May 1st CBRFC forecast. The April to July runoff into Taylor Park Reservoir is now forecast to be 68,000 AF, which is just 72 percent of average. The May 1, 2025 runoff forecast shows a significant decrease of 16,000 AF compared to the April 1, 2025 forecast. This runoff forecast changes the year type from the Average Year category to the Dry Year category. In the Dry Year category, there is no requirement for a spring peak release. The end-of-October target content is now 68,000 AF. This preliminary operations plan shows the reservoir filling to a maximum seasonal content of 93,900 AF, an elevation of 9323.7 feet, which is 88 percent of full.

Releases from Taylor Park Dam are currently at 100 cfs and are scheduled to increase to 150 cfs on May 12th and then to 200 cfs on May 23rd, 250 cfs on May 29th and then stay at 300 cfs June 3rd through August 1st. On August 2nd releases will ramp down to 275 cfs and then mid-August they will drop to 250 cfs and finally to 225 into September. Releases will continue to ramp down through September to reach the winter flow target of 83 cfs by end of October.

Erik noted that April really underperformed in terms of snowfall and that there is just 25 percent of snowpack remaining in the basin, according to the SNOTEL data. He suspects that the peak for runoff will be a little earlier this year, possibly the last week of May or first week of June, with temperatures expected to be above normal for the next couple of weeks.

Erik announced that he will be leaving the USBR at the end of the month and that Conor Felletter will be taking over his responsibilities. Conor has been training for the Taylor Operations reporting for the past couple of months. Erik said he will be available to help Conor and answer questions for a while following his departure. The TLUG representatives and UGRWCD staff expressed their deep appreciation for Erik's contributions over the years and noted that he will be greatly missed.

Ed Warner also announced his departure from the USBR effective May 30th. Ed, too, was thanked for his long-term service to the USBR and his help with Taylor operations. Both Ed and Erik were wished well by the group.

Ernie Cockrell asked if it would be possible for Erik to overlap data from a couple of previously “dry category” years, like 2022 and 2018, with the current forecast to be able to compare where releases were then and what the outcome was, as this might help the TLUG representatives determine where any additional cuts might be possible under the forecasted dry conditions for this year. Erik replied that he will work on assembling these graphs for the group.

IV. WRF-Hydro Model Forecast Reports (ASO, Inc.)

David Gochis of Airborne Snow Observatories, Inc., presented the current snowpack situation in the Taylor Basin, highlighting the significant drop in snow water equivalent (SWE) totals. He mentioned that the ASO model may be melting snow a bit fast this year and that they have plans to get a plane in the air next week for a survey, which will provide more specific data on snowpack levels and predicted runoff.

The ASO forecasted runoff for April through July is around 85,000 acre feet, which is closer to the CBRFC's April 1st forecast. David also discussed the seasonal totals and the breakout for the three tributaries into Taylor Reservoir (Taylor River, Texas Creek and Willow Creek). Raquel Flinker of the Colorado River District asked for clarification on the differences between the forecasted runoff, since the ASO data is showing 84,600 acre-feet versus the 68,000 acre-feet forecasted by the CBRFC. Dave confirmed that the ASO's data is currently showing totals that more closely match the CBRFC's April first forecast. Dave said right now he suspects that the differences can be explained because the two models are relying on different data sources and the ASO model includes information that there is still some fairly good snowpack above the SNOTEL sites, which will be confirmed or disproved by the next ASO flight.

Dave noted that the ASO SNOTEL model relies on absolute volume of snowpack, while the CBRFC uses snowpack estimations indexed to the SNOTEL sites. David also presented the current snowpack temperatures, which are warmer than average across the basin. Dave did state that the ASO has plans to meet with the CBRFC to discuss the differences in their forecasts and to better understand how they are using the ASO data presented to them.

Dave also discussed the forecast for the East River's peak runoff and the impact this might have on the CBRFC's forecast for their model. He mentioned that the model might be

overestimating the early runoff pulse due to excess precipitation in the forecast. David also noted that the model will be improved next year by blending different ensemble averages to reduce sensitivity to individual weather forecasts. There was discussion about what the SNOTEL sites were showing for existing snowpack. Beverly Richards checked the current SNOTEL measurements, as did Dave, and it was confirmed that while some sites are still showing snowpack, others in the basin have completely melted out and all are down from the previous meeting and below the average median for this time of the year. Both Mark Schumacher and Ryan Birdsey said they have observed that the snow has melted out along the Taylor.

Dave reported that the ASO model is not currently assimilating streamflow data, but they will be monitoring the comparison between the model's predictions and actual streamflow observations after the next ASO flight.

V. Preliminary TLUG Draft Operational Release Recommendations

Sonja Chavez asked the TLUG representatives for their preliminary recommendations for releases, and the responses were as follows:

Ryan Birdsey – He did not feel there was a need for any adjustments to USBR's recommendations right now but that they may want to adjust releases in September to extend the rafting/boating/irrigating season if possible.

Andy Spann – He felt there was not much they could change right now, but that they might want to conserve some water in June by starting flows at 275 cfs, even though this would not be ideal for irrigators.

Mark Schumacher – He suggested that no changes be made at this time, that the group should wait for ASO data and June forecast.

David Fisher – He agreed with the others and said he does not have any further comments at this time.

Ernie Cockrell – He said that he did not have anything to add but did offer that perhaps TLUG should “hold” a date later in May to have another TLUG meeting if the ASO flight results in significant changes to the current forecasts. Sonja offered that the ASO information would be emailed to the group when available.

A “hold” was put on the calendar for another possible meeting in May on Thursday, May 22nd at 9 a.m. The June meeting was also scheduled for Friday, June 6th at 9 a.m.

VI. Miscellaneous Matters

Giulio Del Piccolo of Colorado Parks and Wildlife was asked if he had any update on the status of Spring Creek Reservoir. He replied “no” that they had not been able to get up there to check on the reservoir due to access.

Taylor Dam Operator Rory Birdsey was asked if the gate issue/transducer at Taylor Park Reservoir has been fixed. He reported that they are waiting for a custom part to arrive to fix the vibration issues, which causes the automatic bypass gate to not operate correctly. Rory is still manually adjusting the releases until they can implement the fix.

VII. Citizens Comments

There were no Citizens’ Comments

VIII. Adjournment

The May 8th, 2025 TLUG Meeting was adjourned by Sonja Chavez at 10:15 a.m.

MINUTES
Taylor Local Users Group
June 6, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

TLUG Attendees:

TLUG Representatives Present:

Don Sabrowski, TLUG Chair
Ernest Cockrell (Taylor Placer via Zoom)
David Fisher (Property Owners via Zoom)
Roark Kiklevich (Wade Fishing Interests via Zoom)
Mark Schumacher (Boating Interests)
Andy Spann (Irrigation Interests)

TLUG Representatives Absent:

Ryan Birdsey (Flatwater Recreation Interests)

Other Attendees:

Beverly Richards (UGRWCD)
Sue Uerling (UGRWCD)
Giulio Del Piccolo (Colorado Parks and Wildlife)

Attendees Via Zoom:

Rory Birdsey (Taylor Reservoir Dam Operator)
Dustin Brown (Scenic River Tours)
Dennis Cakebread (Wilder on the Taylor HOA)
Reece Carpenter (US Bureau of Reclamation)
Sonja Chavez (UGRWCD)
Pete Dunda (Taylor River Homeowner)
Conor Felletter (USBR)
Doug Forshagen (Crystal Creek Homeowners)
David Gochis (Airborne Snow Observatory)
Erik Knight (formerly with US Bureau of Reclamation)
Bryan Moore (US Geological Survey)

I. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Don Sabrowski called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. The minutes from the May 8th TLUG meeting were presented for review. Mark Schumacher motioned and Andy Spann seconded approval of the May 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

II. Upper Gunnison Basin May Water Supply Report - Beverly Richards

Beverly presented a water supply report for the basin. She discussed the lack of snowpack at the SNOTEL sites and noted that, according to the Division of Water Resources stream gauge hydrographs, it is possible that peak flows were reached on June 3rd at most sites throughout the basin. She also reported that the peak measurements so far this season are well below the historical averages.

After the previous warm up in late May, temperatures dropped back down and there was some precipitation at the beginning of the month that could help bring streamflows back up some, but it does not look promising that the flows will get back up to peak that occurred on June 3rd of the historical averages. Beverly presented graphs comparing peak dates and amounts for different river gauges, and most are trending close to 2021 levels, which was another dry year.

She also said there continues to be degradation in drought conditions of one to two class levels and that the prediction is that drought conditions will persist throughout the summer. In fact, most of the western half of the state is now showing degraded drought conditions. On the bright side, she said portions of Saguache County in the District are showing 300 percent of normal precipitation for this time of year. The weather forecast predicts some precipitation for the short-term, so hopefully this might help with current dry conditions.

III. CBRFC Water Supply Update and USBR Model Forecast – Conor Felletter, USBR

Conor Felletter introduced himself and noted that he has taken on the responsibilities of Erik Knight and Susan Berry at the US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). His background is primarily in modeling and he grew up in Grand Junction, so he is glad to be back on the Western slope. His office is based out of Durango, and he hopes to come in person to a future TLUG meeting.

Conor presented data from the June 1st CBRFC forecast. The April to July runoff forecast into Taylor Park Reservoir has decreased by 3,000 acre-feet from the mid-May forecast. Based on this forecast, the forecasted runoff for this time period is 60,000 acre-feet, which is 64% of average.

He explained that despite recent rain, hot temperatures in late May likely contributed to the decrease in forecasted inflows. Conor said the projected storage in Taylor Park Reservoir is expected to reach a maximum seasonal content of approximately 90,700 acre-feet by the third week of June. Based upon the current operational release plan, the October 31st content would be 63,000 acre-feet of storage, which would provide a buffer of 3,000 acre-feet above the minimum storage level outlined in the decree for a dry year that water users could work with the remainder of the season.

There was discussion about the statement about winter flow rate calculation during a dry year and Ernie Cockrell confirmed that according to the stipulation, there is a formula to reduce

releases at 2.5 acre-feet per 1,000 acre-feet of storage with a minimum winter release of 50 cfs. Erik Knight noted that this would change the winter release flow noted in the draft plan from 75 cfs to 77 cfs if the end of year content were 63,000 acre-feet.

The current draft operational release plan provided by Conor shows Taylor Park Dam currently releasing 200 cfs with a scheduled increase to 300 cfs on June 16th where it would remain through August 1st. Releases will then continue to ramp down through September to reach the winter flow target of 75 cfs by the end of October.

IV. WRF-Hydro Model Forecast Reports (ASO, Inc.)

David Gochis of Airborne Snow Observatories, Inc., presented the WRF model forecast created after their most recent ASO survey conducted on May 20 and 21, 2025. David noted that cooler temperatures, precipitation and even some significant snowfall at the higher elevations resulted in model forecasted runoff in the amount of 84,000 acre feet which is 20,000 acre feet higher than the CBRFC's forecast. David said that ASO's ongoing monitoring of snowpack using Sentinel satellite imagery shows that there is still significant snow coverage in the higher elevations of the Taylor Basin, which will continue to contribute to runoff once the sun comes out and temperatures rise. He surmised that we may not have yet hit peak runoff.

Roark Kiklevich commented that he has driven up past Taylor Reservoir and up to Crested Butte and he did not observe much snowpack left, even at higher elevations.

David said that ASO will be preparing weekly reports on the snowpack and runoff and will be happy to share those with the TLUG representatives. He also agreed to provide a new shot of satellite snowpack on the mountains in the absence of cloud cover.

V. Preliminary TLUG Draft Operational Release Recommendations

Don Sabrowski asked the TLUG representatives for their preliminary recommendations for releases, and the responses were as follows:

Mark Schumacher – He noted that the rafting companies are struggling a little bit on the Upper Taylor but that the Gunnison River was fine. However, in order to conserve some water for use later, he recommended that releases should go to 250 cfs on June 7th, 275 cfs on June 15th and 300 cfs on July 1st. Dustin Brown of Scenic River Tours agreed.

Andy Spann – He felt the irrigators were in pretty good shape right now and agreed that it would benefit them to go to 300 cfs by July 1st. He was in support of Mark Schumacher's suggestion. Chairman Sabrowski added that at Wilder, they have a full ditch thanks in part to the Spring Creek inflows.

Roark Kiklevich – He felt it is important to be as conservative as possible right now, so he was in favor of Mark Schumacher's suggestion as a good place to start.

Ernie Cockrell – He appreciated that Mark and Andy were willing to cut back some on the releases for now and said he would support Mark’s recommendation.

David Fisher – He agreed with the others and said he thinks it is a good idea to maintain some storage for later in the season.

VI. Miscellaneous Matters

Giulio Del Piccolo of Colorado Parks and Wildlife reported that he did not have the opportunity to find out the status of storage at Spring Creek. He will check with his staff and send an email to Sonja Chavez with their response

Taylor Dam Operator Rory Birdsey was asked if the gate and transducer issues at Taylor Park Reservoir had been fixed. He reported that they have received the part and will be installing it soon. In the meantime, he is still manually adjusting the releases and he said this has been going pretty smoothly. He agreed to notify the group if there will be any significant changes in the flow when they install the new part.

VII. Citizens Comments

There were no Citizens’ Comments

VIII. Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 10th at 8:30 a.m. Chairman Sabrowski adjourned the June 6th, 2025 TLUG Meeting at 10:10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 13

Gunnison River Festival Update

AGENDA ITEM 13

Gunnison Basin Roundtable Update

AGENDA ITEM 14

Miscellaneous Matters

2025 Summer Conference

[Back to Search](#)



8/19/2025 - 8/21/2025



Description

2025 CWC Summer Conference
We are back at the Steamboat Grand!

Join us at the Colorado Water Congress Summer Conference and be part of the conversation driving positive change for our water future!

- How do ag producers conserve?
- How are conservation groups working with our traditional water structure?
- What tools are municipal water users employing to conserve?
- Can storage be a conservation tool?

Of course, we'll have a few other interesting topics sprinkled in, including changes in federal regulation, the benefits of infrastructure investment, and the need now more than ever for stakeholder collaboration.

You can find the program outline [HERE](#).

Registration is now open!

You can register to attend the conference and sign up for sponsorship. Click on the Register link to the right (you may need to enter your email first).

LIFETIME/HONORARY MEMBERS: To register at your discounted pricing, you must use your email when logging in. If you are registering a lifetime/honorary member, you must use their email to register them.

SPONSORS: You can now sign up to sponsor through the **register** link to the right (you may need to enter your email first).

Sponsors and Exhibitors, you can find the Exhibitor/Sponsor packet [HERE](#).

EXHIBITORS: Exhibitor options are only available through the **exhibitor registration** link to the right you may need to enter your email first).

You can also sponsor and register other attendees through the exhibitor link.

[Register >>](#)

[Exhibitor Registration >>](#)

💰 Pricing

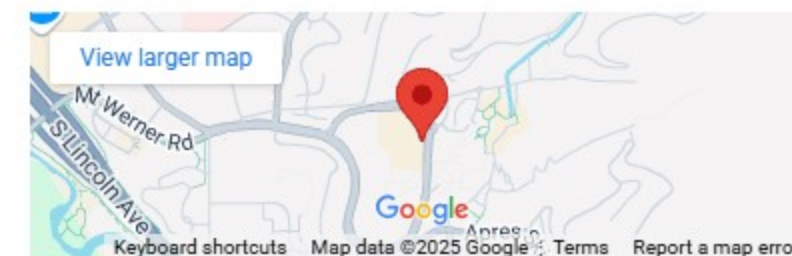
\$475 - Member Conference Registration Only
\$100 - Member Workshop Add On
\$150 - Member Workshop Only

\$275 - Member Virtual Conference
Registration Only

\$375 - Non-Member Virtual Conference
Registration Only

PRESS: Please contact [AnnaLee Taylor](#),
[Member Services Manager](#), to register.

📍 **Steamboat Grand**
2300 Mt Werner Circle
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487 United States



👤 **Event Contact**
AnnaLee Taylor
[Send Email](#)

🕒 8/19/2025 - 8/21/2025

Colorado Water Congress
2024 Annual Convention Program

	Tuesday, August 19		Wednesday, August 20		Thursday, August 21								
	Sessions	Presentations	Sessions	Presentations	Sessions	Presentations							
7:00	Registration & Networking	Registration Opens	Registration, Networking & Breakfast	Water for Breakfast (7:00-8:45) Networking with Exhibitors Tent	Breakfast and Networking with Exhibitors	Grab n Go Breakfast (7:00 - 8:15)	7:00						
7:15		Coffee and Networking with Exhibitors					GENERAL SESSION 3	Morning Welcome & Rich Belt, Belt Water	GENERAL SESSION 5	Former Commissioner of Reclamation Camille Camlimlim Touton	7:15		
7:30											Colorado River: Emerging Rule of the Tribes in the 2026 Negotiations	7:30	
7:45												7:45	
8:00					Concurrent Workshops 9:00 - 11:30	Concurrent Workshop I TBD						GENERAL SESSION 6	CWC Awards Session
8:15		Concurrent Workshop II Sponsored by the Colorado Bar Association Water Law Section					Colorado River: Emerging Rule of the Tribes in the 2026 Negotiations	8:15					
8:30			BREAK	BREAK		8:30							
8:45						GENERAL SESSION 4		Tools and Techniques in Agricultural Water Conservation	8:45				
9:00	Karen Schlatter, Colorado Water Center								9:00				
9:15									GENERAL SESSION 6	Samantha Barncastle Salopek, Incoming ED, Family Farm Alliance	9:15		
9:30											Speaker Invited		9:30
9:45		GENERAL SESSION 6					Samantha Barncastle Salopek, Incoming ED, Family Farm Alliance						9:45
10:00			GENERAL SESSION 6	Samantha Barncastle Salopek, Incoming ED, Family Farm Alliance	10:00								
10:15					GENERAL SESSION 6	Samantha Barncastle Salopek, Incoming ED, Family Farm Alliance		10:15					
10:30	GENERAL SESSION 6							Samantha Barncastle Salopek, Incoming ED, Family Farm Alliance					10:30
10:45									GENERAL SESSION 6	Samantha Barncastle Salopek, Incoming ED, Family Farm Alliance			10:45
11:00											GENERAL SESSION 6	Samantha Barncastle Salopek, Incoming ED, Family Farm Alliance	11:00
11:15		GENERAL SESSION 6					Samantha Barncastle Salopek, Incoming ED, Family Farm Alliance						11:15
11:30			GENERAL SESSION 6	Samantha Barncastle Salopek, Incoming ED, Family Farm Alliance									11:30
11:45					GENERAL SESSION 6	Samantha Barncastle Salopek, Incoming ED, Family Farm Alliance							11:45
12:00	BREAK							Event Conclusion & Hotel Check-Out					12:00
12:15	LUNCH							Tent	BOX LUNCH	Tent			
12:30											12:30		
12:45		12:45											
1:00		OPENING GENERAL SESSION	Welcome to Steamboat!	POND ACTIVITIES 1:00 - 5:00+			1:00						
1:15	Our Washington Leadership's Forecast for Water's Future		1:15										
1:30			1:30										
1:45			1:45										
2:00	State Conservationist NRCS - Clint Evans		WATER RESOURCES & AGRICULTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING 2:00 - 5:00 pm	CWRPDA MEETING 2:00 - 5:00 + pm	2:00								
2:15					2:15								
2:30					2:30								
2:45					2:45								
3:00	BREAK				GENERAL SESSION 2	Conserving Water on the Domestic Side	3:00						
3:15	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership	3:15											
3:30		3:30											
3:45		3:45											
4:00		4:00											
4:15		4:15											
4:30		POND RECEPTION				Tent	Break	4:30					
4:45	4:45												
5:00	POND RECEPTION	Tent			WATER BUFFALO RECEPTION & PRESENTATION 5:30-7:00 +	Cheyenne Courtyard & Cheyenne Ballroom	5:00						
5:15			5:15										
5:30			5:30										
6:00			6:00										
7:00					7:00								
7:30					7:30								

	Ballroom
	Pre-Function or Alt. Session Rooms
	Break
	Reception space

June 10, 2025

Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District
210 W Spencer Ave Suite A
Gunnison, CO 81230

Dear General Manager Chavez-

I am writing to formally resign from my position as Director of Division 6 effective immediately. This was a difficult decision for me as I have deeply valued my time serving on the board and collaborating with staff on many District programs over the years. However, due to personal and professional commitments, I believe it is the best interest of the District for me to step down at this time.

I have full confidence in the leadership of the board and the District's continued success. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve my community and help protect water resources across the Basin.

Sincerely,



Stacy McPhail

From: [Sonja Chavez](#)
To: [Beverly Richards](#); [Sue Uerling](#)
Subject: FW: Division 5 Director Position - Nania letter not seeking reappointment
Date: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 11:02:31 AM

From: Julie Nania <julienania@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2025 6:33 PM
To: Sonja Chavez <schavez@ugrwc.org>; Stacy McPhail <info@gunnisonlegacy.org>
Subject: Division 5 Director Position

Hi Sonja and Stacy,

Please accept this email as formal notice that I will not be seeking reappointment as a representative for Division 5 to the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District at the end of this month. Due to increasing demands on my time and evolving commitments, I will no longer have the availability necessary to continue effectively representing the interests of Division 5 with the dedication this role deserves.

My time serving on the Board has been an incredibly meaningful experience. I have deeply valued the opportunity to contribute to the important work of the District in managing and protecting the vital water resources of the Upper Gunnison River Basin. I have learned a great deal and am proud of the progress we have made together. I am hopeful that the District will continue to value input from all water users in our basin as we continue to face new challenges and grow as a community.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to have served alongside our team. I wish the Board and the District all the best in your continued efforts to safeguard our precious water resources.

Sincerely,

Julie

--

Julie Nania

AGENDA ITEM 15

Citizen Comments

AGENDA ITEM 16

Future Meetings

FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

[RETURN TO AGENDA](#)

- ▶ **Offices closed for Independence Day - Friday, July 4, 2025**
- ▶ **Taylor Local User's Group Meeting - Monday, July 8, 2025, 9:00AM**
- ▶ **Watershed Management Planning - Tuesday, July 9, 2025, 1:30 p.m.**
- ▶ **Jr. Livestock Show and Luncheon (UGRWCD Sponsors)- July 12th, Noon**
- ▶ **Gunnison Basin Roundtable Meeting - Monday, July 21, 2025, 3:00PM**
- ▶ **UGRWCD Board Meeting - Monday, July 28th, 5:30PM**
- ▶ **CO Water Congress Summer Convention, Steamboat- August 19-22, 2025**
- ▶ **UGRWCD Board Meeting - Monday, August 25th, 2025 5:30 PM**
- ▶ **Offices closed for Labor Day - Monday, September 1, 2025**

AGENDA ITEM 17

Summary of Action Items

AGENDA ITEM 18

Adjournment