

5:00	p.m.		<i>Dinner is served</i>
5:30	p.m.	1.	Call to Order
5:31	p.m.	2.	Agenda Approval
5:32	p.m.	3.	Approval of the December 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes
5:35	p.m.	4.	Treasurer's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• November and December 2025 Budget Summary</li> <li>• November and December 2025 Expenses for Consideration</li> <li>• Bank and Bond Balances</li> </ul>
5:38	p.m.	5.	<b>Presentation by USGS on Slate River Impacts at Baxter Gulch Streamgauge and Update on Ag Return Flow Study by Bryan Moore, Rachel Gidley and Cory Williams, Western Colorado Area Office</b>
6:05	p.m.	6.	Basin Water Supply Report
6:10	p.m.	7.	General Counsel Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative Update</li> </ul>
6:20	p.m.	8.	General Manager's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Planning Update</li> <li>• Wetland Dredge &amp; Fill Regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Updated Federal Definitions: WOTUS</li> <li>○ UGRWCD Letter of Comment: State Preliminary Draft Rule</li> <li>○ USBR Draft EIS Public Comment/USGS Official Publication - Blue Mesa Harmful Algal Bloom Study</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Aspinall Subordination Report (2024)</li> </ul>

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|------|------|-----|--|
| 7:00 | p.m. | 9.  | Staff & Committee Reports  |
|      |      |     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Taylor Local User's Group - Letters of Interest and Appointments<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Action on 2026 TLUG Representatives' terms</b></li></ul></li><li>• Education and Outreach Report</li><li>• Water Quality and Quantity Report</li><li>• Water Resources Projects Report</li><li>• Wet Meadows Program Report</li><li>• Grant Committee Report<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Action on Policy regarding organizational funding</b></li></ul></li><li>• Gunnison Basin Roundtable</li><li>• Scientific Endeavors</li></ul> |
| 7:45 | p.m. | 10. | Miscellaneous Matters  |
| 7:50 | p.m. | 11. | Citizen Comments   |
| 7:52 | p.m. | 12. | Future Meetings  |
| 7:54 | p.m. | 13. | Summary of Meeting Action Items  |
| 7:56 | p.m. | 14. | Adjournment of Regular Meeting   |

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

(Water Activity Enterprise Meeting - Continued on Page 3)

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# **AGENDA ITEM 2**

## **Agenda Approval**



# **AGENDA ITEM 3**

## **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Special Budget Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 11, 2025**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) conducted a special budget meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. remotely via Zoom video/teleconferencing.

Board members present online: Rosemary Carroll, Joellen Fonken, John Perusek, Don Sabrowski, Camille Richard, Brian Stevens, Jeff Writer, Stuart Asay, and Brooke Zanetell

Board members present in person: Rebie Hazard

Board members absent: Andy Spann

Also Present:

Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD General Manager (Via Zoom)

John McClow, UGRWCD General Counsel

Beverly Richards, UGRWCD Office Manager / Senior Program Manager

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Don Sabrowski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Director Stuart Asay moved and Director John Perusek seconded approval of the agenda as circulated. The motion carried.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 24, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

Director Camille Richard moved and Director Rebie Hazard seconded approval of the November 24, 2025 Board meeting minutes. The motion carried.

**4. ADOPTION OF 2026 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS**

Director Rosemary Carroll moved and Director Asay seconded adoption of Resolution 2025-07 to Adopt the 2026 Budget as presented. The motion carried.

**Director Stuart Asay moved and Director Joellen Fonken seconded adoption of Resolution 2025-08 to Appropriate Sums of Money for the 2026 Budget. The motion carried.**

**Director Camille Richard moved and Director John Perusek seconded adoption of Resolution 2025-09 to Set the Mill Levy for the 2026 Budget. The motion carried.**

**5. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

General Manager Sonja Chavez said she and Bailey Friedman had recently attended a two and a half day hearing on Regulation 87 Dredge and Fill Rulemaking. She also reported that she had picked up the new vehicle approved by the board.

Director Brooke Zanatell informed the board that the City Council had unanimously approved the land use zoning changes and discussed plans for the construction of the water intake structure which no longer includes an infiltration gallery. She also suggested that it might be good to invite City staff to attend a 2026 board meeting to provide an update.

**6. CITIZENS COMMENTS**

There were no citizens' comments.

**7. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Information on future meetings was included in the packet, and it was noted that the May 2026 meeting will be held in Gunnison and not be held in Lake City as attendance has been an issue. The December 2026 meeting was changed to December 10, 2026 to accommodate the December 10<sup>th</sup> deadline for county valuations.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Don Sabrowski adjourned the December 11, 2025 special budget meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Rebie Hazard, Secretary

APPROVED:

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Don Sabrowski, President

# **AGENDA ITEM 4**

## **Treasurer's Report/ Financial Reports**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Director Perusek, Treasurer  
Beverly Richards, Office / Senior Program Manager  
Sonja Chavez, General Manager

**DATE:** January 26, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Treasurer's Report – November and December 2025

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**I. November Financial Information:**

Consideration of Expenses: Below are those expenses that were above \$5,000 for the month of November.

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Budget Line Item</b>
Applegate Engineering	\$10,397.19	General Engineering
Airborne Snow Observatories Inc.	\$25,000	Regional Water Supply – ASO Flights
GEI Consultants	\$8,725	Watershed Management – Wetland Assessment
Snipps Heating and Air	\$8,900	Building Maintenance

Monthly Budget Summary: The items highlighted in the **monthly budget summary** are budget line items of note for November.

**II. December Financial Information:**

Consideration of Expenses: Below are those expenses that were above \$5,000 for the month of December.

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Budget Line Item</b>
Bosshard Ranch	\$60,051.71	Grant Program
GEI Consultants	\$6,741.25	Watershed Management – Wetland Assessment
Renee Rondeau	\$9,275	Wet Meadows – Vegetation Monitoring
Impact Development Fund	\$10,000	Manager's Discretionary – EHOP Program
USGS	\$160,374.38	Regional Water Supply-Ag Return Flow Study

USGS	\$46,477	Water Quality Monitoring- 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter
USGS	\$42,894	Water Quality Monitoring- 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
North American Weather Consultants	\$21,184	Regional Water Supply - Cloudseeding

Monthly Budget Summary: The items highlighted in the **monthly budget summary** are budget line items of note for December. For information, the USGS invoices encompass third and fourth quarter payments for these two programs. Also, \$29,151.71 of the Bosshard Ranch payment will be reimbursed through the Community Funding Partnership.

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District**  
**Monthly Budget Summary**

	Nov 25	Jan - Nov 25	YTD Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Regional Water Supply Income	0.00	100,750.00	124,500.00	80.92%
Asp Water Sales	158.28	28,649.94	25,000.00	114.6%
Rent Income	775.00	33,075.00	43,500.00	76.03%
Interest Income	24,121.77	195,226.57	50,000.00	390.45%
Property Tax Income	17,370.63	2,203,117.97	2,204,862.00	99.92%
Reimbursed Exp Income	0.00	61,636.51	42,000.00	146.75%
Watershed Mgmt Income	6,273.23	137,168.36	291,291.00	47.09%
Wet Meadows Income	0.00	273,982.53	385,422.00	71.09%
WQ Monitoring Inc	0.00	35,328.00	46,319.00	76.27%
Vehicle Income	0.00	1,073.80	10,000.00	10.74%
Additional Contribution Reserve	0.00	0.00	457,435.00	0.0%
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	2,275.00		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>48,698.91</b>	<b>3,072,283.68</b>	<b>3,680,329.00</b>	<b>83.48%</b>
Expense				
1 Op X				
Admin.Travel & Exp.	4,958.94	23,121.13	35,000.00	66.06%
Audit Expense	0.00	7,950.00	10,000.00	79.5%
Accounting & Professional Fees	3,005.00	38,159.18	45,000.00	84.8%
BOD Expenses	1,550.00	7,668.70	15,000.00	51.13%
BOD Mileage	119.00	2,162.30	5,500.00	39.32%
BOD Mtg Fees	-300.00	7,500.00	13,360.00	56.14%
Bonding and Insurance	-104.69	25,798.31	15,500.00	166.44%
Building Rep/Maint	9,554.57	19,724.57	10,000.00	197.25%
CAM	1,629.87	6,314.99	7,500.00	84.2%
Computer Exp	1,215.02	33,350.70	32,200.00	103.57%
Copier Expenses	274.83	3,294.79	7,000.00	47.07%
County Treasurers' Fees	233.52	64,489.92	75,000.00	85.99%
Spencer Bldg Reserve Contrib	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	100.0%
Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	985.68	15,934.39	17,260.00	92.32%
Legal Publication	279.02	3,785.08	5,000.00	75.7%
Manager's Discretionary	2,809.17	15,319.32	25,000.00	61.28%
Meeting Expenses	354.46	3,223.44	5,000.00	64.47%
Office Cleaning	787.50	7,605.00	6,200.00	122.66%
Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	839.18	16,200.79	10,000.00	162.01%
Payroll Exp	82,279.00	937,935.95	1,005,511.00	93.28%
Postage	0.00	1,638.10	1,500.00	109.21%
Telephone	661.71	8,277.02	9,000.00	91.97%
Utilities	704.62	8,602.34	6,000.00	143.37%
Vehicle Expense	173.01	2,952.02	3,500.00	84.34%
<b>Total 1 Op X</b>	<b>112,009.41</b>	<b>1,271,008.04</b>	<b>1,375,031.00</b>	<b>92.44%</b>
2 Non-Op X				
Aquatic Nuisance Species	0.00	3,595.00	20,000.00	17.98%
Asp Subordination Report	0.00	5,604.40	6,000.00	93.41%
Aspinall Contract Costs	0.00	21,578.53	21,000.00	102.76%
Gunnison County Hazardous Waste	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	100.0%
Consulting/Engineering	12,157.19	30,339.30	50,000.00	60.68%
Coal Creek Watershed Coalition	0.00	17,000.00	17,000.00	100.0%
Donation Dust on Snowpack	0.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	100.0%
Drought Contingency Cont	0.00	30,575.41	30,000.00	101.92%
Grant Program	0.00	226,174.88	555,000.00	40.75%

**Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District**  
**Monthly Budget Summary**

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	13,464.00	13,464.00	100.0%
Public Outreach	616.04	32,853.60	41,270.00	79.61%
Regional Water Supply Imp. Exp.	25,076.90	360,411.60	488,375.00	73.8%
Strategic Planning	0.00	141.50	30,000.00	0.47%
Taylor Park Projects Exp	0.00	7,436.00	7,500.00	99.15%
Watershed Mgmt X	12,037.19	147,747.49	312,533.00	47.27%
Wet Meadow X	135.49	87,458.90	395,422.00	22.12%
WQ Monitoring	0.00	92,950.00	207,484.00	44.8%
<b>Total 2 Non-Op X</b>	<b>50,022.81</b>	<b>1,098,580.61</b>	<b>2,226,298.00</b>	<b>49.35%</b>
Capital Outlay Expense				
Xeriscaping	922.50	16,349.86	25,000.00	65.4%
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%
<b>Capital Outlay Expense</b>	<b>922.50</b>	<b>18,741.00</b>	<b>55,000.00</b>	<b>34.08%</b>
Contingency	0.00	0.00	24,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>162,954.72</b>	<b>2,388,329.65</b>	<b>3,680,329.00</b>	<b>64.89%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-114,255.81</b>	<b>683,954.03</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



**Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District**  
**Monthly Budget Summary**

	Dec 25	Jan - Dec 25	YTD Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Regional Water Supply Income	0.00	100,750.00	124,500.00	80.92%
Asp Water Sales	376.83	29,026.77	25,000.00	116.11%
Rent Income	3,275.00	36,350.00	43,500.00	83.56%
Interest Income	6,545.26	201,771.83	50,000.00	403.54%
Property Tax Income	21,427.41	2,224,545.38	2,204,862.00	100.89%
Reimbursed Exp Income	0.00	61,636.51	42,000.00	146.75%
Watershed Mgmt Income	10,141.11	147,309.47	291,291.00	50.57%
Wet Meadows Income	35,136.79	309,119.32	385,422.00	80.2%
WQ Monitoring Inc	0.00	35,328.00	46,319.00	76.27%
Vehicle Income	0.00	1,073.80	10,000.00	10.74%
Additional Contribution Reserve	0.00	0.00	457,435.00	0.0%
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	2,275.00		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>76,902.40</b>	<b>3,149,186.08</b>	<b>3,680,329.00</b>	<b>85.57%</b>
Expense				
1 Op X				
Admin.Travel & Exp.	1,493.62	24,614.75	35,000.00	70.33%
Audit Expense	0.00	7,950.00	10,000.00	79.5%
Accounting & Professional Fees	3,005.00	41,164.18	45,000.00	91.48%
BOD Expenses	0.00	7,668.70	15,000.00	51.13%
BOD Mileage	118.30	2,280.60	5,500.00	41.47%
BOD Mtg Fees	1,000.00	8,500.00	13,360.00	63.62%
Bonding and Insurance	0.00	25,798.31	15,500.00	166.44%
Building Rep/Maint	157.98	19,882.55	10,000.00	198.83%
CAM	81.15	6,396.14	7,500.00	85.28%
Computer Exp	339.90	33,690.60	32,200.00	104.63%
Copier Expenses	274.83	3,569.62	7,000.00	51.0%
County Treasurers' Fees	386.47	64,876.39	75,000.00	86.5%
Spencer Bldg Reserve Contrib	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	100.0%
Dues, Memberships&Subscriptions	2,079.59	18,013.98	17,260.00	104.37%
Legal Publication	625.42	4,410.50	5,000.00	88.21%
Manager's Discretionary	11,973.33	27,292.65	25,000.00	109.17%
Meeting Expenses	98.78	3,322.22	5,000.00	66.44%
Office Cleaning	776.25	8,381.25	6,200.00	135.18%
Office Supplies & Misc Expenses	1,380.63	17,581.42	10,000.00	175.81%
Payroll Exp	80,677.75	1,018,613.70	1,005,511.00	101.3%
Postage	0.00	1,638.10	1,500.00	109.21%
Telephone	8,064.26	16,341.28	9,000.00	181.57%
Utilities	890.34	9,492.68	6,000.00	158.21%
Vehicle Expense	25,068.90	28,020.92	3,500.00	800.6%
<b>Total 1 Op X</b>	<b>138,492.50</b>	<b>1,409,500.54</b>	<b>1,375,031.00</b>	<b>102.51%</b>
2 Non-Op X				
Watershed Impl Outside Grant Ex	30,486.22	30,486.22		
Aquatic Nuisance Species	0.00	3,595.00	20,000.00	17.98%
Asp Subordination Report	0.00	5,604.40	6,000.00	93.41%
Aspinall Contract Costs	0.00	21,578.53	21,000.00	102.76%
Gunnison County Hazardous Waste	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	100.0%
Consulting/Engineering	-2,185.00	28,154.30	50,000.00	56.31%
Coal Creek Watershed Coalition	0.00	17,000.00	17,000.00	100.0%
Donation Dust on Snowpack	0.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	100.0%
Drought Contingency Cont	0.00	30,575.41	30,000.00	101.92%
Grant Program	35,902.35	262,077.23	555,000.00	47.22%
Gunnison Conservation District	0.00	0.00		

**Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District**  
**Monthly Budget Summary**

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	13,464.00	13,464.00	100.0%
Public Outreach	2,067.58	34,921.18	41,270.00	84.62%
Regional Water Supply Imp. Exp.	181,596.83	542,008.43	488,375.00	110.98%
Strategic Planning	0.00	141.50	30,000.00	0.47%
Taylor Park Projects Exp	0.00	7,436.00	7,500.00	99.15%
Watershed Mgmt X	9,396.25	157,143.74	312,533.00	50.28%
Wet Meadow X	10,685.32	98,144.22	395,422.00	24.82%
WQ Monitoring	89,371.00	182,321.00	207,484.00	87.87%
<b>Total 2 Non-Op X</b>	<b>357,320.55</b>	<b>1,455,901.16</b>	<b>2,226,298.00</b>	<b>65.4%</b>
Capital Outlay Expense				
Xeriscaping	2,811.50	19,161.36	25,000.00	76.65%
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	2,811.50	21,552.50	55,000.00	39.19%
Contingency	0.00	0.00	24,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>498,624.55</b>	<b>2,886,954.20</b>	<b>3,680,329.00</b>	<b>78.44%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-421,722.15</b>	<b>262,231.88</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
AARP Medicare Rx 11/01/2025	AARP Medicare Rx	74166 · Medical Insurance	104.70
Total AARP Medicare Rx			104.70
Airborne Snow Observatories, Inc. 11/30/2025	Airborne Snow Observatories, Inc.	84512 · Taylor River Modeling E...	25,000.00
Total Airborne Snow Observatories, Inc.			25,000.00
Andy Spann BOD 11/30/2025	Andy Spann BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total Andy Spann BOD			100.00
Anthem 11/01/2025	Anthem	74166 · Medical Insurance	389.14
Total Anthem			389.14
Applegate Group, Inc. 11/30/2025	Applegate Group, Inc.	81520 · Consulting/Engineering	10,397.19
Total Applegate Group, Inc.			10,397.19
Atmos Energy 11/30/2025	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A	93.07
11/30/2025	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A	161.65
Total Atmos Energy			254.72
Beverly Richards			

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Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
11/01/2025	Beverly Richards	74166 · Medical Insurance	185.00
11/21/2025	Beverly Richards	74180 · Staff Development	200.00
Total Beverly Richards			385.00
Brian Stevens			
11/30/2025	Brian Stevens	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total Brian Stevens			100.00
Capital Business Systems, Inc.			
11/30/2025	Capital Business Systems, Inc.	80541 · Copier Expenses	274.83
Total Capital Business Systems, Inc.			274.83
CEBT			
11/01/2025	CEBT	74166 · Medical Insurance	5,221.10
Total CEBT			5,221.10
Chase - United Credit Card			
11/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81258 · Vehicle Expenses - Toy...	36.52
11/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81257 · Vehicle Expenses - Toy...	136.49
11/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80554 · Admin.Travel & Exp.	4,958.94
11/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81558 · Computer Software	246.06
11/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80557 · Office Supplies & Misc ...	546.73
11/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80547 · Manager's Discretionary	2,809.17
11/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	82530 · Meeting Expenses	354.46
11/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	82556 · Dues, Memberships&Su...	264.98
11/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	Wet Meadows Miscellaneous	135.49
11/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81600 · BOD Expenses	1,550.00

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Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
11/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	General Public Outreach	143.21
11/30/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	74180 · Staff Development	847.73
Total Chase - United Credit Card			12,029.78
City of Gunnison			
11/30/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	121.79
11/30/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	46.97
11/30/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	248.98
11/30/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	32.16
Total City of Gunnison			449.90
Crested Butte News			
11/30/2025	Crested Butte News	80548 · Legal Publication	57.50
Total Crested Butte News			57.50
Delta County School District			
11/30/2025	Delta County School District	CWCB Pepo 2025-0557	907.68
Total Delta County School District			907.68
Don Sabrowski BOD			
11/30/2025	Don Sabrowski BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
11/30/2025	Don Sabrowski BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage	22.40
Total Don Sabrowski BOD			122.40
Fullmer's Ace Hardware			
11/30/2025	Fullmer's Ace Hardware	80557 · Office Supplies & Misc ...	28.76

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Accrual Basis

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
	Total Fullmer's Ace Hardware		28.76
	GEI Consultants		
11/30/2025	GEI Consultants	CWCB 2023-3317 (WMP Phase 3)	8,725.00
	Total GEI Consultants		8,725.00
	GL Computer Service, Inc.		
11/30/2025	GL Computer Service, Inc.	81543 · Computer Repair/IT Su...	750.00
	Total GL Computer Service, Inc.		750.00
	Golden Eagle Trash Service		
11/30/2025	Golden Eagle Trash Service	84550 · CAM	52.37
	Total Golden Eagle Trash Service		52.37
	Gunnison Bank and Trust		
11/07/2025	Gunnison Bank and Trust	80517 · Accounting & Professio...	5.00
	Total Gunnison Bank and Trust		5.00
	Gunnison High School		
11/30/2025	Gunnison High School	CWCB Pepo 2025-0557	1,070.00
	Total Gunnison High School		1,070.00
	Humana		
11/01/2025	Humana	74166 · Medical Insurance	91.00
	Total Humana		91.00

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Jeff Writer BOD			
11/30/2025	Jeff Writer BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
11/30/2025	Jeff Writer BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage	42.00
Total Jeff Writer BOD			142.00
Joellen Fonken BOD			
11/30/2025	Joellen Fonken BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
11/30/2025	Joellen Fonken BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage	7.00
Total Joellen Fonken BOD			107.00
John McClow			
11/01/2025	John McClow	74166 · Medical Insurance	185.00
Total John McClow			185.00
John Perusek BOD			
11/30/2025	John Perusek BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total John Perusek BOD			100.00
KEJJ Radio			
11/30/2025	KEJJ Radio	80512 · Public Ed./Advertising	125.00
Total KEJJ Radio			125.00
KVLE FM			
11/30/2025	KVLE FM	80512 · Public Ed./Advertising	125.00
Total KVLE FM			125.00

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
LexisNexis 11/30/2025	LexisNexis	82556 · Dues, Memberships&Su...	720.70
Total LexisNexis			720.70
Lightspeed Voice 11/30/2025	Lightspeed Voice	80534 · Telephone	310.10
11/30/2025	Lightspeed Voice	80534 · Telephone	1.66
Total Lightspeed Voice			311.76
Melinda McCawmedia 11/30/2025	Melinda McCawmedia	CWCB Pepo 2025-0557	82.51
Total Melinda McCawmedia			82.51
Mountain Crest Construction, LLC 11/30/2025	Mountain Crest Construction, LLC	84552 · Building Rep/Maint	654.57
Total Mountain Crest Construction, LLC			654.57
New Morning Improvement, LLC 11/30/2025	New Morning Improvement, LLC	Office Cleaning	787.50
Total New Morning Improvement, LLC			787.50
O'Rourke Media Group 11/30/2025	O'Rourke Media Group	80548 · Legal Publication	84.28
Total O'Rourke Media Group			84.28
QuickBooks			



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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
11/03/2025	QuickBooks	81558 · Computer Software	92.00
Total QuickBooks			92.00
Rebie Hazard-BOD			
11/30/2025	Rebie Hazard-BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
11/30/2025	Rebie Hazard-BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage	41.30
Total Rebie Hazard-BOD			141.30
RigNet Inc			
11/30/2025	RigNet Inc	85540 · Cloud Seeding	38.45
11/30/2025	RigNet Inc	85540 · Cloud Seeding	38.45
Total RigNet Inc			76.90
Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory			
11/30/2025	Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory	80512 · Public Ed./Advertising	142.83
Total Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory			142.83
SCJ Alliance			
11/30/2025	SCJ Alliance	Xeriscaping	171.00
11/30/2025	SCJ Alliance	Xeriscaping	401.50
Total SCJ Alliance			572.50
Silver World Publishing			
11/30/2025	Silver World Publishing	80548 · Legal Publication	92.40
11/30/2025	Silver World Publishing	80512 · Public Ed./Advertising	80.00

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Total Silver World Publishing			172.40
11/30/2025	Snipps Heat & Air	Building Rep/Maint - Unit A	8,900.00
Total Snipps Heat & Air			8,900.00
11/30/2025	Stuart Asay - BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
11/30/2025	Stuart Asay - BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage	6.30
Total Stuart Asay - BOD			106.30
Summit Landscapes LLC			
11/30/2025	Summit Landscapes LLC	84550 · CAM	415.00
11/30/2025	Summit Landscapes LLC	84550 · CAM	477.50
11/30/2025	Summit Landscapes LLC	84550 · CAM	685.00
11/30/2025	Summit Landscapes LLC	Xeriscaping	350.00
Total Summit Landscapes LLC			1,927.50
Sunshine Creatives			
11/30/2025	Sunshine Creatives	CWCB Pepo 2025-0557	1,252.00
Total Sunshine Creatives			1,252.00
The Paper Clip			
11/30/2025	The Paper Clip	80557 · Office Supplies & Misc ...	263.69
Total The Paper Clip			263.69
The Saguache Crescent			

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
11/30/2025	The Saguache Crescent	80548 · Legal Publication	44.84
Total The Saguache Crescent			44.84
Thomas N Stoeber, CPA			
11/30/2025	Thomas N Stoeber, CPA	80517 · Accounting & Professio...	3,000.00
Total Thomas N Stoeber, CPA			3,000.00
Verizon Wireless			
11/30/2025	Verizon Wireless	80534 · Telephone	349.95
Total Verizon Wireless			349.95
Visionary Broadband			
11/30/2025	Visionary Broadband	81556 · Internet	126.96
Total Visionary Broadband			126.96
Wilson Water Group			
11/30/2025	Wilson Water Group	81520 · Consulting/Engineering	1,760.00
Total Wilson Water Group			1,760.00
TOTAL			88,870.56

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
5B's BBQ			
12/31/2025	5B's BBQ	80512 · Public Ed./Advertising	363.43
Total 5B's BBQ			363.43
AARP Medicare Rx			
12/01/2025	AARP Medicare Rx	74166 · Medical Insurance	104.70
Total AARP Medicare Rx			104.70
Anthem			
12/01/2025	Anthem	74166 · Medical Insurance	389.14
Total Anthem			389.14
Applegate Group, Inc.			
12/31/2025	Applegate Group, Inc.	81520 · Consulting/Engineering	1,570.00
12/31/2025	Applegate Group, Inc.	CWCB 2023-3317 (WMP Phase 3)	1,255.00
Total Applegate Group, Inc.			2,825.00
Atmos Energy			
12/31/2025	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A	249.27
12/31/2025	Atmos Energy	Utilities - Unit A	143.90
Total Atmos Energy			393.17
Autonation Ford			
12/12/2025	Autonation Ford	Vehicle Expenses - Ford	25,605.20
Total Autonation Ford			25,605.20

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Beverly Richards 12/01/2025	Beverly Richards	74166 · Medical Insurance	185.00
Total Beverly Richards			185.00
Bosshard Land and Cattle Co 12/31/2025	Bosshard Land and Cattle Co	2025 Grant Program	30,900.00
12/31/2025	Bosshard Land and Cattle Co	CFP 2024-81 UG Bundled Ag Proj	29,151.71
Total Bosshard Land and Cattle Co			60,051.71
Brian Stevens 12/31/2025	Brian Stevens	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total Brian Stevens			100.00
Brooke Zanatell BOD 12/31/2025	Brooke Zanatell BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total Brooke Zanatell BOD			100.00
Camille Richard BOD 12/31/2025	Camille Richard BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total Camille Richard BOD			100.00
Capital Business Systems, Inc. 12/31/2025	Capital Business Systems, Inc.	80541 · Copier Expenses	274.83
Total Capital Business Systems, Inc.			274.83
CEBT			

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
12/01/2025	CEBT	74166 · Medical Insurance	5,221.10
Total CEBT			5,221.10
Chase - United Credit Card			
12/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81257 · Vehicle Expenses - Toy...	55.32
12/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	Vehicle Expenses - Ford	721.55
12/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81258 · Vehicle Expenses - Toy...	97.15
12/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80554 · Admin.Travel & Exp.	273.23
12/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	81558 · Computer Software	247.90
12/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80557 · Office Supplies & Misc ...	1,008.26
12/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80547 · Manager's Discretionary	2,048.33
12/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	82530 · Meeting Expenses	98.78
12/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	82556 · Dues, Memberships&Su...	1,358.89
12/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	80512 · Public Ed./Advertising	100.00
12/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	74180 · Staff Development	268.68
12/31/2025	Chase - United Credit Card	Building Rep/Maint - Unit A	57.98
Total Chase - United Credit Card			6,336.07
City of Gunnison			
12/31/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	47.35
12/31/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	121.84
12/31/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	295.82
12/31/2025	City of Gunnison	Utilities - Unit A	32.16
Total City of Gunnison			497.17
Crested Butte News			
12/31/2025	Crested Butte News	80548 · Legal Publication	309.08

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
12/31/2025	Crested Butte News	2025 Grant Program	315.15
Total Crested Butte News			624.23
Don Sabrowski BOD			
12/31/2025	Don Sabrowski BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
12/31/2025	Don Sabrowski BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage	22.40
Total Don Sabrowski BOD			122.40
Fullmer's Ace Hardware			
12/31/2025	Fullmer's Ace Hardware	80512 · Public Ed./Advertising	54.15
12/31/2025	Fullmer's Ace Hardware	80557 · Office Supplies & Misc ...	29.97
Total Fullmer's Ace Hardware			84.12
GEI Consultants			
12/31/2025	GEI Consultants	CWCB 2023-3317 (WMP Phase 3)	6,741.25
Total GEI Consultants			6,741.25
Golden Eagle Trash Service			
12/31/2025	Golden Eagle Trash Service	84550 · CAM	81.15
Total Golden Eagle Trash Service			81.15
Gunnison Bank and Trust			
12/09/2025	Gunnison Bank and Trust	80517 · Accounting & Professio...	5.00
Total Gunnison Bank and Trust			5.00
Gunnison Watershed School District			

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
12/31/2025	Gunnison Watershed School District	CWCB Pepo 2025-0557	1,400.00
Total Gunnison Watershed School District			1,400.00
Humana			
12/01/2025	Humana	74166 · Medical Insurance	91.00
Total Humana			91.00
Impact Development Fund			
12/31/2025	Impact Development Fund	80547 · Manager's Discretionary	10,000.00
Total Impact Development Fund			10,000.00
Jeff Writer BOD			
12/31/2025	Jeff Writer BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total Jeff Writer BOD			100.00
Joellen Fonken BOD			
12/31/2025	Joellen Fonken BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
12/31/2025	Joellen Fonken BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage	7.00
Total Joellen Fonken BOD			107.00
John McClow			
12/01/2025	John McClow	74166 · Medical Insurance	185.00
12/31/2025	John McClow	80554 · Admin.Travel & Exp.	1,220.39
Total John McClow			1,405.39
John Perusek BOD			



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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
12/31/2025	John Perusek BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total John Perusek BOD			100.00
KEJJ Radio			
12/31/2025	KEJJ Radio	80512 · Public Ed./Advertising	125.00
Total KEJJ Radio			125.00
KVLE FM			
12/31/2025	KVLE FM	80512 · Public Ed./Advertising	125.00
Total KVLE FM			125.00
LexisNexis			
12/31/2025	LexisNexis	82556 · Dues, Memberships&Su...	720.70
Total LexisNexis			720.70
Lightspeed Voice			
12/31/2025	Lightspeed Voice	80534 · Telephone	1.66
12/31/2025	Lightspeed Voice	80534 · Telephone	310.10
12/31/2025	Lightspeed Voice	80534 · Telephone	7,752.50
Total Lightspeed Voice			8,064.26
Melinda McCawmedia			
12/31/2025	Melinda McCawmedia	CWCB PEPO 2025-2026 Expense	82.51
Total Melinda McCawmedia			82.51
Mountain Crest Construction, LLC			

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Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
Expenses For Approval (Paid & Payable)  
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Date	Name	Account	Amount
12/31/2025	Mountain Crest Construction, LLC	84552 · Building Rep/Maint	100.00
	Total Mountain Crest Construction, LLC		100.00
	New Morning Improvement, LLC		
12/31/2025	New Morning Improvement, LLC	Office Cleaning	776.25
	Total New Morning Improvement, LLC		776.25
	North American Weather Consultants, Inc.		
12/31/2025	North American Weather Consultants, Inc.	85540 · Cloud Seeding	21,184.00
	Total North American Weather Consultants, Inc.		21,184.00
	O'Rourke Media Group		
12/31/2025	O'Rourke Media Group	80548 · Legal Publication	281.14
12/31/2025	O'Rourke Media Group	2025 Grant Program	313.20
	Total O'Rourke Media Group		594.34
	OffCenter Designs, LLC		
12/31/2025	OffCenter Designs, LLC	80512 · Public Ed./Advertising	1,200.00
	Total OffCenter Designs, LLC		1,200.00
	Penn State University		
12/31/2025	Penn State University	74180 · Staff Development	1,435.00
	Total Penn State University		1,435.00
	Pinnacol Assurance		

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
12/31/2025	Pinnacol Assurance	74200 · Work Comp Ins	785.00
Total Pinnacol Assurance			785.00
QuickBooks			
12/03/2025	QuickBooks	81558 · Computer Software	92.00
12/15/2025	QuickBooks	80557 · Office Supplies & Misc ...	289.45
Total QuickBooks			381.45
Rebie Hazard-BOD			
12/31/2025	Rebie Hazard-BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
12/31/2025	Rebie Hazard-BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage	82.60
Total Rebie Hazard-BOD			182.60
Renee Rondeau			
12/31/2025	Renee Rondeau	BLM L24AC00687	5,875.00
12/31/2025	Renee Rondeau	USFS PA 2022 Expense	3,400.00
Total Renee Rondeau			9,275.00
RigNet Inc			
12/31/2025	RigNet Inc	85540 · Cloud Seeding	38.45
Total RigNet Inc			38.45
Rosemary Carroll - BOD			
12/31/2025	Rosemary Carroll - BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
Total Rosemary Carroll - BOD			100.00

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

Date	Name	Account	Amount
SCJ Alliance 12/31/2025	SCJ Alliance	Xeriscaping	2,811.50
Total SCJ Alliance			2,811.50
Silver World Publishing 12/31/2025	Silver World Publishing	80548 · Legal Publication	35.20
12/31/2025	Silver World Publishing	80512 · Public Ed./Advertising	100.00
12/31/2025	Silver World Publishing	2025 Grant Program	204.00
Total Silver World Publishing			339.20
Stuart Asay - BOD 12/31/2025	Stuart Asay - BOD	81602 · BOD Mtg Fees	100.00
12/31/2025	Stuart Asay - BOD	81601 · BOD Mileage	6.30
Total Stuart Asay - BOD			106.30
Sunshine Creatives 12/31/2025	Sunshine Creatives	CWCB PEPO 2025-2026 Expense	1,252.00
Total Sunshine Creatives			1,252.00
The Paper Clip 12/31/2025	The Paper Clip	80557 · Office Supplies & Misc ...	52.95
Total The Paper Clip			52.95
Thomas N Stoeber, CPA 12/31/2025	Thomas N Stoeber, CPA	80517 · Accounting & Professio...	3,000.00

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Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
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December 2025

Date	Name	Account	Amount
Total Thomas N Stoeber, CPA			3,000.00
Trudy Vader			
12/31/2025	Trudy Vader	2025 Grant Program	4,170.00
Total Trudy Vader			4,170.00
U.S. Geological Survey			
12/31/2025	U.S. Geological Survey	H2O Budget & Return Flow Study	160,374.38
12/31/2025	U.S. Geological Survey	85560 · WQ Monitoring	46,477.00
12/31/2025	U.S. Geological Survey	85560 · WQ Monitoring	42,894.00
Total U.S. Geological Survey			249,745.38
TOTAL			430,054.95

UGRWCD	Instrument	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	Date
Account Name: LPL Bonds	Type	11/30/2025	Basis	Rate	Date	Callable
LPL Bond 23 (FEDL) CUSIP 3130ALLD4	BOND	247,859.75	250,000.00	0.875%	3/17/2026	3/17/2025
LPL Bond 24 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130AMDY5	BOND	493,399.50	500,000.00	1.000%	5/20/2026	2/20/2025
LPL Bond 26 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130APBE4	BOND	156,382.88	160,000.00	1.000%	9/30/2026	3/30/2025
LPL Bond 32 (FAMC) CUSIP 31424WH47	BOND	500,153.50	500,000.00	4.280%	7/8/2027	1/8/2026
LPL Bond 33 (FNMA) CUSIP 3136GALS6	BOND	399,658.80	400,000.00	4.250%	8/6/2030	2/6/2026
LPL Bond 34 (FAMC) CUSIP 3142WN99	BOND	400,519.60	400,000.00	4.040%	8/12/2030	8/12/2027
LPL Bond 35 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130B7X90	Bond	299,879.70	300,000.00	4.150%	10/8/2030	10/8/2026
LPL BOND SUBTOTAL:		\$ 2,497,853.73	\$ 2,510,000.00	2.799%		
Account Name: LPL Certificates of Deposit						
LPL 31 Morgan Stanley Bank CD CUSIP 61490D4C9	CD	221,123.98	220,000.00	4.050%	5/7/2027	
LPL 32 Morgan Stanley PVT Bank CD CUSIP 61776NSJ3	CD	247,939.02	245,000.00	4.150%	5/22/2028	
LPL 33 Toyota Financial Savings Bank CD CUSIP 89235MSK8	CD	247,651.39	245,000.00	4.100%	5/22/2028	
LPL CD SUBTOTAL:		\$ 716,714.39	\$ 710,000.00	4.100%		
Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings						
LPL Money Market Savings Account	M.M. SAVINGS	17,244.30	-	1.000%	N/A	
LPL MM SUBTOTAL:		\$ 17,244.30				

Account Name	INSTRUMENT	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	Notes
	TYPE	11/30/2025	Basis	Rate	Date	
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	54,278.23		0.50%		
Gunnison Bank & Trust 8756	CHKG	65,898.83				
				Average Mo. Yield		
COLOTRUST PLUS 8001	COLO.	1,856,997.08		4.24%	N/A	
COLOTRUST PLUS UGRWCD EHOP 8003	COLO.	110,469.65		4.24%	N/A	
COLOTRUST PLUS SPENCER BUILDING 8005	COLO.	82,689.99		4.24%		
COLOTRUST PRIME 4001	COLO.	6,567.21		4.05%	N/A	
10200 Petty Cash	PETTY	80.00		N/A	N/A	
MISCELLANEOUS BANK & COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:		\$ 2,506,103.99				
TOTAL UGRWCD		\$ 5,737,916.41				

UGRWAE	INSTRUMENT	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	Date
Account Name	TYPE	11/30/2025	Basis	Rate	Date	Callable
LPL Bond CUSIP 31424WK43 (FAMC)	Bond	301,657.50	300,000.00	4.26%	7/16/2030	7/16/2027
Gunnison Bank & Trust 8764	CHKG	18,903.54				
COLOTRUST PLUS 8002	COLO.	146,544.50		4.24%	N/A	
MISCELLANEOUS BANK & COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:		\$ 467,105.54				
Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings						
LPL Money Market Savings Account	M.M. SAVINGS	326,767.40	-	0.250%	N/A	
LPL MM SUBTOTAL:		\$ 326,767.40				
TOTAL UGRWAE		\$ 793,872.94				

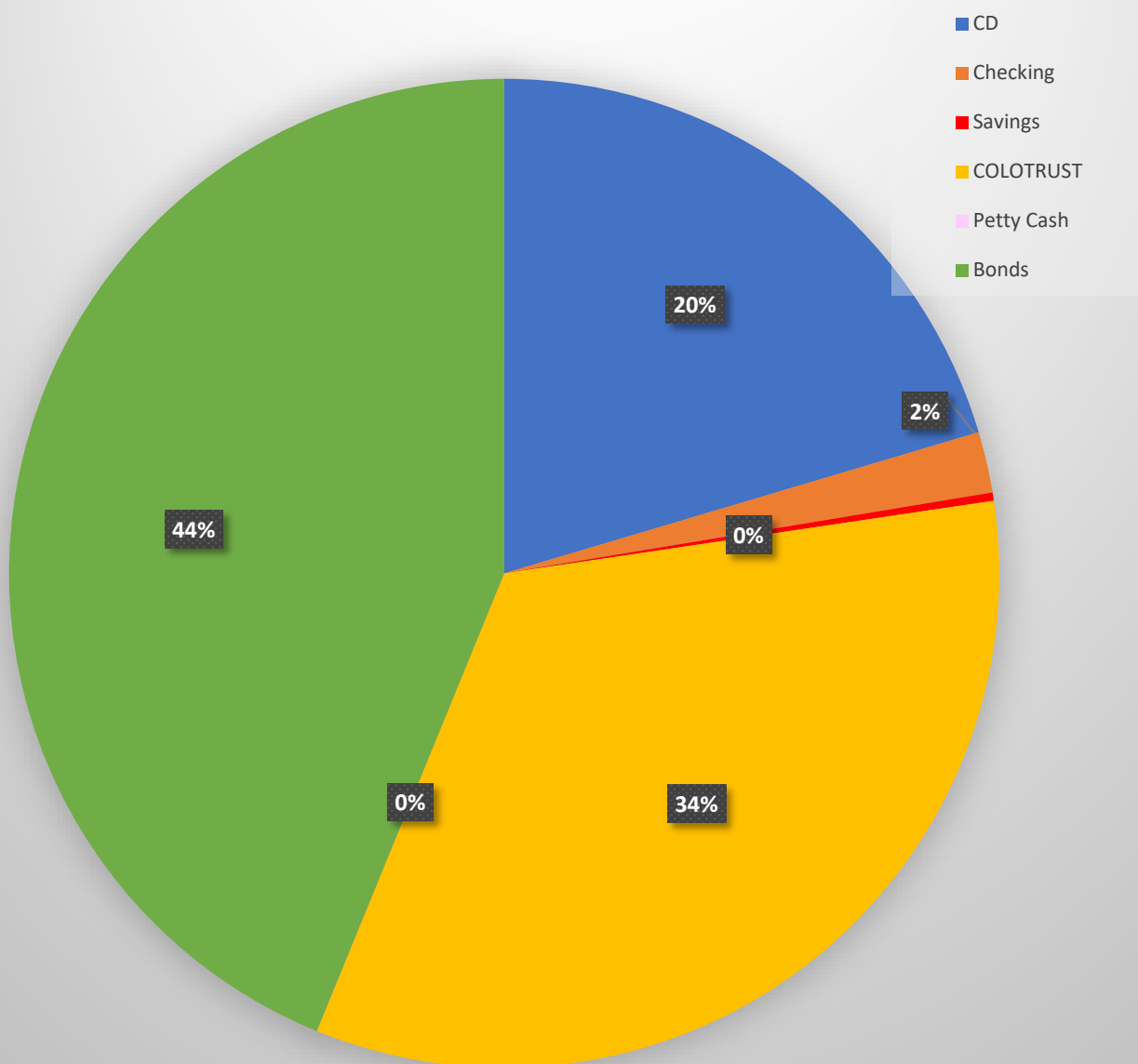
TOTAL UGRWCD + UGRWAE	\$ 6,531,789.35
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Total UGRWCD and UGRWAE by Bank	Total UGRWCD & UGRWAE by Investment Type
LPL Financial \$ 3,860,237.32 59%	CD 16% 1,045,837.39
Community Banks of Colo. 109,228.30 2%	Checking 2% 139,080.60
Gunnison Bank & Trust 358,975.30 5%	Savings 5% 344,011.70
COLOTRUST 2,203,268.43 34%	COLOTRUST 34% 2,203,268.43
Petty Cash 80.00 0%	Petty Cash 0% 80.00
TOTAL ALL SOURCES \$ 6,531,789.35 100%	Bonds 43% \$ 2,799,511.23
	Total 100% \$ 6,531,789.35

### UGRWCD & UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE

CD	20%	\$	1,303,316.67
Checking	2%	\$	127,190.39
Savings	0%	\$	17,260.10
COLOTRUST	34%	\$	2,142,526.44
Petty Cash	0%	\$	75.76
Bonds	44%	\$	2,800,322.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,390,691.76</b>

### UGRWCD + UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE



UGRWCD						
Account Name: LPL Bonds	Instrument Type	Balance 12/31/2025	Cost Basis	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Date Callable
LPL Bond 23 (FEDL) CUSIP 3130ALLD4	BOND	248,526.50	250,000.00	0.875%	3/17/2026	3/17/2025
LPL Bond 24 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130AMDY5	BOND	494,824.00	500,000.00	1.000%	5/20/2026	2/20/2025
LPL Bond 26 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130APBE4	BOND	156,844.00	160,000.00	1.000%	9/30/2026	3/30/2025
LPL Bond 32 (FAMC) CUSIP 31424WH47	BOND	500,045.00	500,000.00	4.280%	7/8/2027	1/8/2026
LPL Bond 33 (FNMA) CUSIP 3136GALS6	BOND	400,080.40	400,000.00	4.250%	8/6/2030	2/6/2026
LPL Bond 34 (FAMC) CUSIP 3142WN99	BOND	399,401.60	400,000.00	4.040%	8/12/2030	8/12/2027
LPL Bond 35 (FHLB) CUSIP 3130B7X90	Bond	299,373.00	300,000.00	4.150%	10/8/2030	10/8/2026
LPL BOND SUBTOTAL:		\$ 2,499,094.50	\$ 2,510,000.00	2.799%		
Account Name: LPL Certificates of Deposit						
LPL 31 Morgan Stanley Bank CD CUSIP 61490D4C9	CD	221,096.70	220,000.00	4.050%	5/7/2027	
LPL 32 Morgan Stanley PVT Bank CD CUSIP 61776NSJ3	CD	247,853.76	245,000.00	4.150%	5/22/2028	
LPL 33 Toyota Financial Savings Bank CD CUSIP 89235MSK8	CD	247,575.93	245,000.00	4.100%	5/22/2028	
LPL CD SUBTOTAL:		\$ 716,526.39	\$ 710,000.00	4.100%		
Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings						
LPL Money Market Savings Account	M.M. SAVINGS	17,257.88	-	0.900%	N/A	
LPL MM SUBTOTAL:		\$ 17,257.88				

Account Name	INSTRUMENT TYPE	Balance 12/31/2025	Cost Basis	Interest Rate	Maturity 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	227,561.98	200,000.00	4.00%	2/26/2030	*Updated on an Annual Basis
10540 Gunnison Bank & Trust MM - Spencer Building Acct. 3589	CHKG	57,531.74		0.50%		
Gunnison Bank & Trust 8756	CHKG	50,750.11				
				Average Mo. Yield		
COLOTRUST PLUS 8001	COLO.	1,718,137.84		4.24%	N/A	
COLOTRUST PLUS UGRWCD EHOP 8003	COLO.	110,839.50		4.24%	N/A	
COLOTRUST PLUS SPENCER BUILDING 8005	COLO.	82,966.82		4.24%		
COLOTRUST PRIME 4001	COLO.	6,587.86		4.05%	N/A	
10200 Petty Cash	PETTY	75.76		N/A	N/A	
MISCELLANEOUS BANK & COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:		\$ 2,363,679.91				
TOTAL UGRWCD						
		\$ 5,596,558.68				

UGRWAE	INSTRUMENT	Balance	Cost	Interest	Maturity	Date
Account Name	TYPE	12/31/2025	Basis	Rate	Date	Callable
LPL Bond CUSIP 31424WK43 (FAMC)	Bond	301,227.90	300,000.00	4.26%	7/16/2030	7/16/2027
Gunnison Bank & Trust 26814	CD	250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	4.00%	12/4/2029	
Gunnison Bank & Trust 8764	CHKG	18,908.54				
COLOTRUST PLUS 8002	COLO.	223,994.42		4.24%	N/A	
MISCELLANEOUS BANK & COLOTRUST SUBTOTAL:		\$ 794,130.86				
Account Name: LPL Money Markets Savings						
LPL Money Market Savings Account	M.M. SAVINGS	2.22	-	0.250%	N/A	
LPL MM SUBTOTAL:		\$ 2.22				
TOTAL UGRWAE		\$ 794,133.08				

TOTAL UGRWCD + UGRWAE	\$ 6,390,691.76
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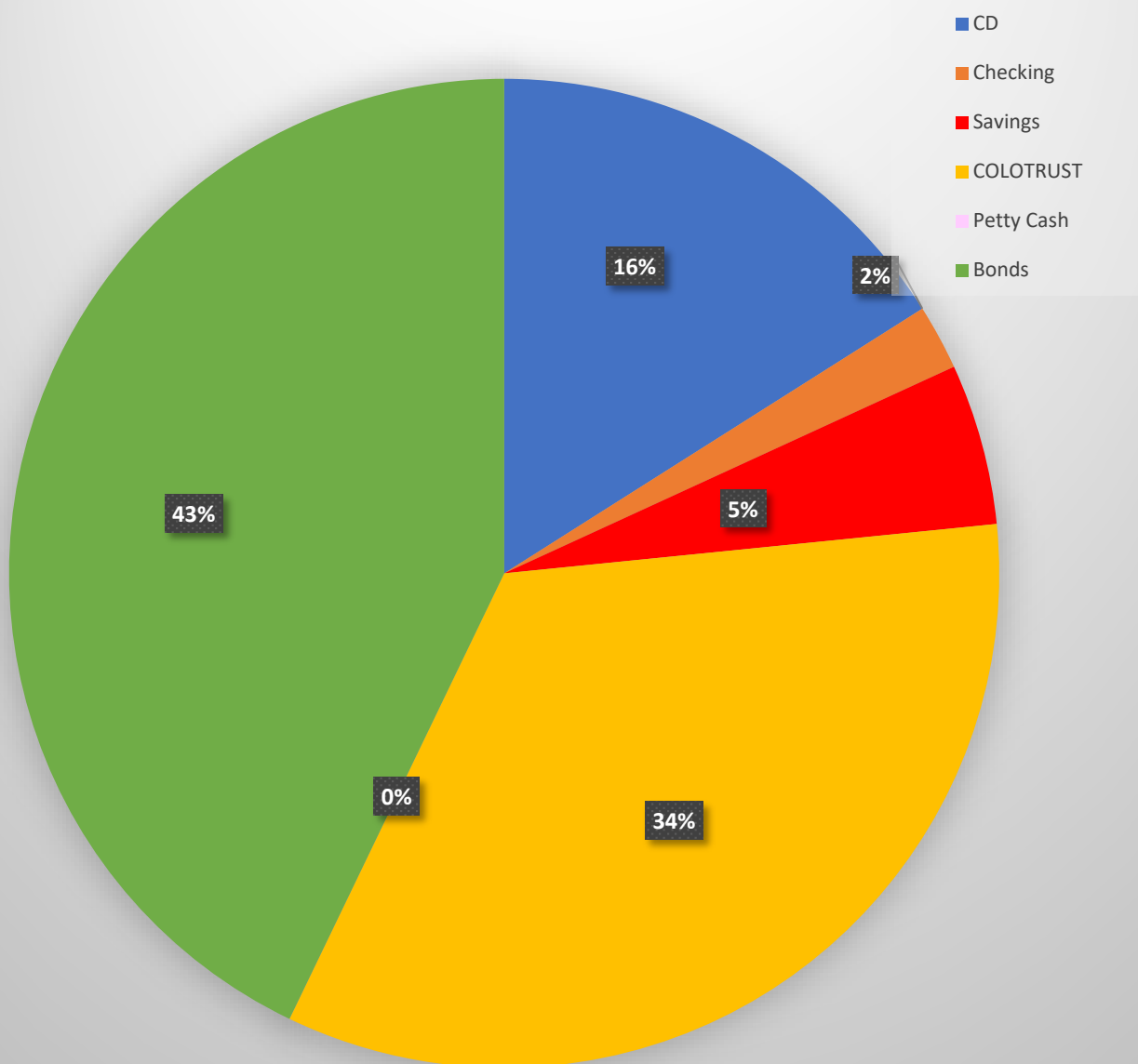
Total UGRWCD and UGRWAE by Bank				Total UGRWCD & UGRWAE by Investment Type		
LPL Financial	\$ 3,534,108.89	55%		CD	20%	1,303,316.67
Community Banks of Colo.	109,228.30	2%		Checking	2%	127,190.39
Gunnison Bank & Trust	604,752.37	9%		Savings	0%	17,260.10
COLOTRUST	2,142,526.44	34%		COLOTRUST	34%	2,142,526.44
Petty Cash	75.76	0%		Petty Cash	0%	75.76
TOTAL ALL SOURCES	\$ 6,390,691.76	100%		Bonds	44%	\$ 2,800,322.40
				Total	100%	\$ 6,390,691.76



### UGRWCD & UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE

CD	16%	\$	1,045,837.39
Checking	2%	\$	139,080.60
Savings	5%	\$	344,011.70
COLOTRUST	34%	\$	2,203,268.43
Petty Cash	0%	\$	80.00
Bonds	43%	\$	2,799,511.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,531,789.35</b>

### UGRWCD + UGRWAE INVESTMENTS BY TYPE



RETURN TO AGENDA

# **AGENDA ITEM 5**

**Presentation by USGS on Slate River Impacts  
at Baxter Gulch Streamgauge and  
Update on Ag Return Flow Study by Bryan  
Moore, Rachel Gidley and Cory Williams,  
Western Colorado Area Office**

# **AGENDA ITEM 6**

## **Basin Water Supply Update**

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members

**FROM:** Beverly Richards, Water Supply Planning Manager

**DATE:** January 16, 2026

**SUBJECT:** January Basin Water Supply Information



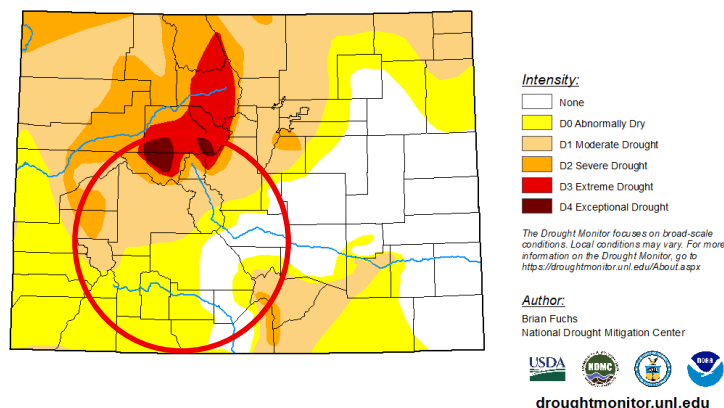
The information supplied as part of this memorandum is a monthly feature and includes information about drought, precipitation, snow water equivalent, soil moisture, reservoir storage, and cloudseeding.

### **Drought Conditions**

Drought categories are determined by precipitation, temperature, and soil moisture and are reflected in the maps provided below. According to the *Drought Monitor* dated January 6, 2026, 2025, the basin did see slight degradation in drought conditions in November and December.

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

**January 6, 2026**  
(Released Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



As a comparison, on November 11, 22% of Gunnison County was experiencing drought conditions ranging from none to abnormally dry (D0) drought conditions and 78% of the county was experiencing moderate (D1) to severe (D2) drought conditions. As of January 6, 92% of the county

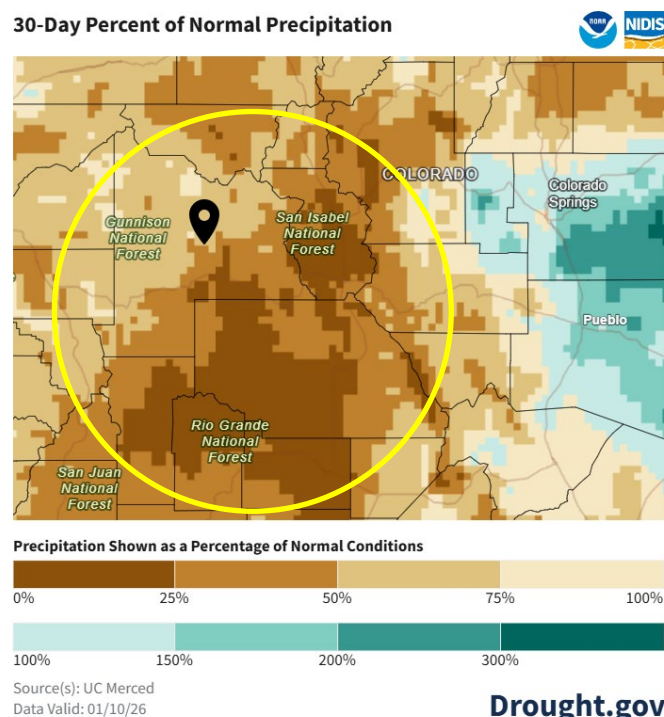
has moved into the moderate (D1) drought category with a small amount in both the abnormally dry (D0) and severe (D2) categories, 5% and 3% respectively.

Saguache County stayed basically the same with 100% of the county experiencing drought conditions in the range of none to moderate (D1) drought conditions. On November 11, 34% of the county was experiencing no drought conditions and on January 6, this increased to 37%. Also, in November, 3% of the county was experiencing moderate (D1) drought conditions and this has increased to 7% in January

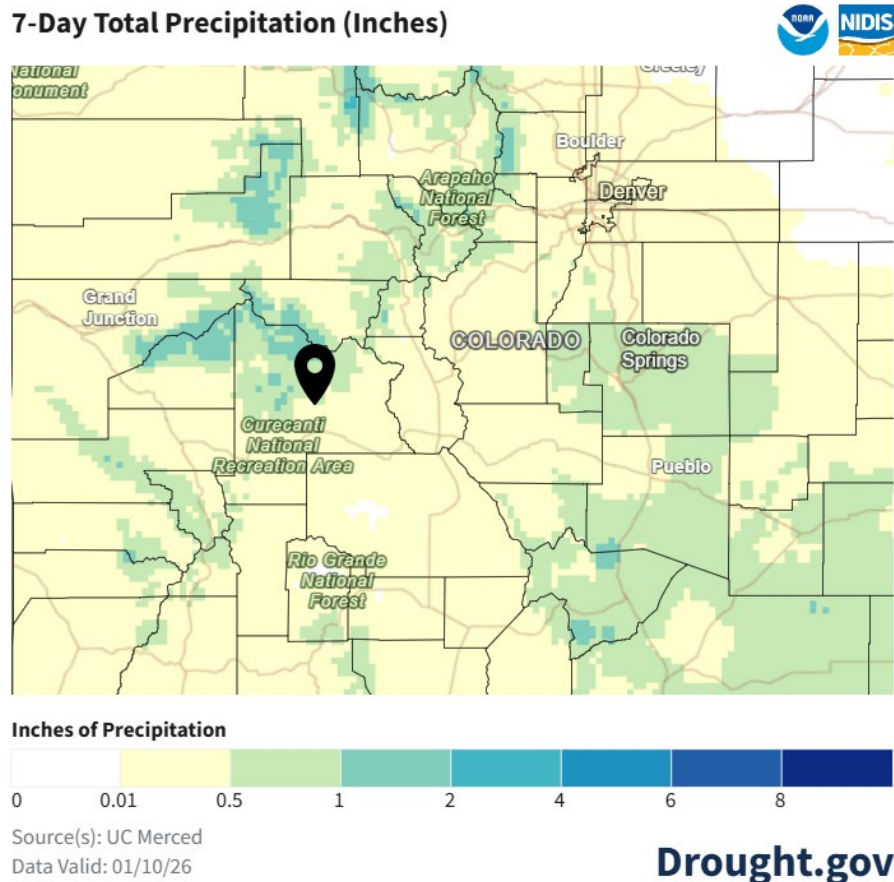
Hinsdale County saw the most degradation from November to January. In November 75% of the county showed no drought at all, which was a result of the precipitation they received in October. However, in January, 100% of the county is now experiencing drought conditions in the range of abnormally dry (D0) to moderate (D1). All three counties may see increased degradation as a result on below normal precipitation, soil moisture decline, and ongoing warmer temperatures.

## Precipitation

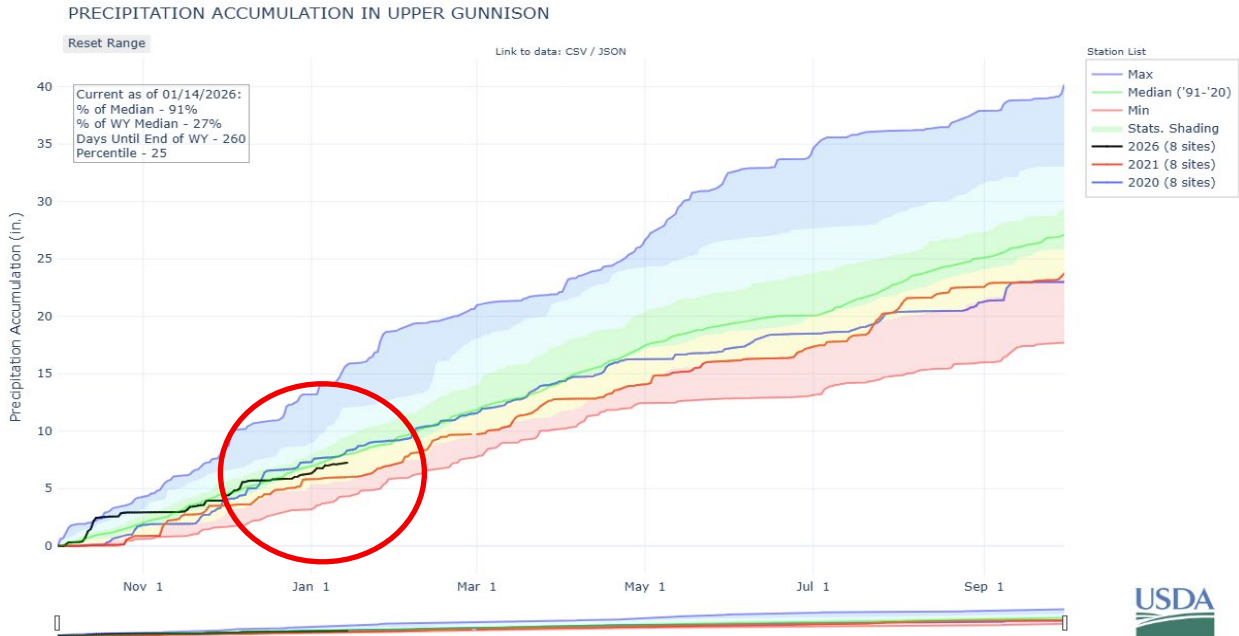
The map below represents the precipitation amounts for the basin over the past 30 days (December 11-January 10), *Drought.gov, January 10, 2026*. The warmer colors represent no precipitation to 100% of normal precipitation amount and the cooler colors represent precipitation amounts from 100 to over 300% of normal. As the map shows, Gunnison County received precipitation amounts ranging from 0% in southern parts of the basin to 100% in the northern parts of the basin. In the same time frame, there were large areas in Hinsdale and Saguache counties where no precipitation occurred as reflected by the dark brown color on the map.



Some relief has occurred over the past seven days (January 3-January 10) as shown in the map provided below (*Drought.gov, January 10, 2026*). This is indicated by the cooler colors shown in the northern part of Gunnison County where precipitation ranged from 0.5” to 2”.

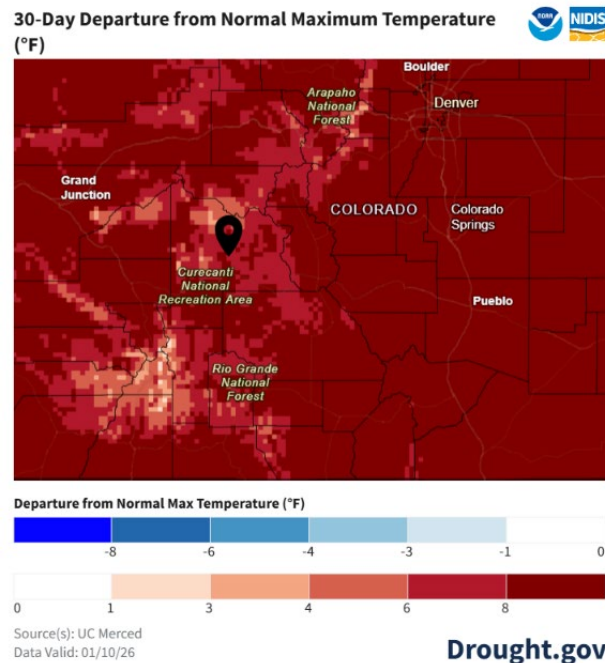


The precipitation trend graph provided below for the entire Upper Gunnison Basin is compiled from data from eight SNOTEL sites located in the basin where precipitation is measured (*NRCS, January 14, 2026*). This graph shows that precipitation in the Upper Gunnison Basin has remained below the median amount at 7.3” which is 91% of the median (8.3”). Included in the graph are examples of other warm, dry years (2020 and 2021). As shown in the graph, 2026 is also below 2020 (purple line) which had 8.3” on this date and is above 2021 (orange line) which had 6.0” of precipitation on this date.



## Temperature

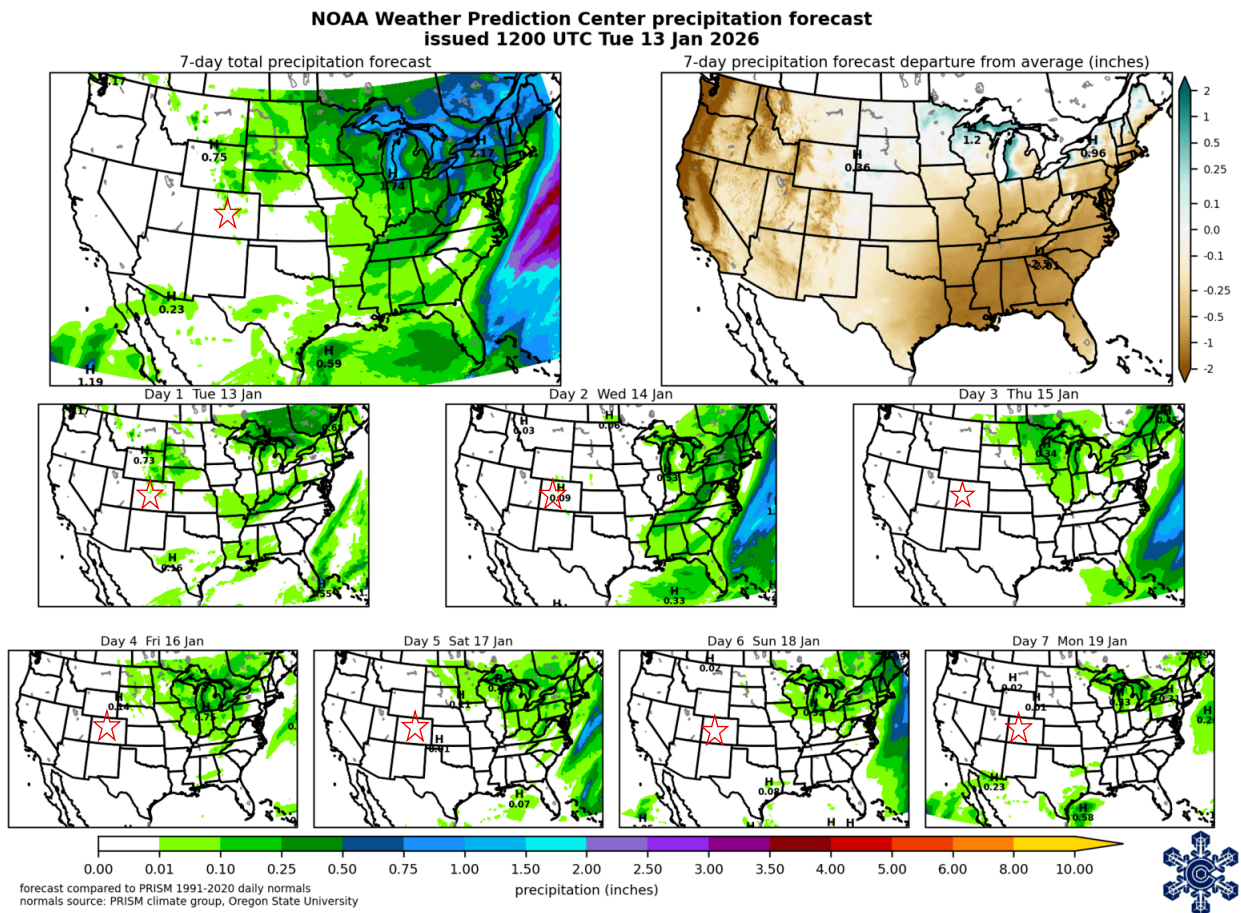
Temperature has also been an issue over the past 30 days (December 11-January 10) as shown in the map provided below (*Drought.gov, January 10, 2026*). According to this map, the entire western slope has seen departures from normal maximum temperatures in the range of 1 to more than 8 degrees above the normal temperatures for this time of year.





According to the *Colorado Monthly Climate Summary* for December 2025, December was exceptionally warm in Colorado and averaged across the state was the warmest on record. October through December were also the record warmest for the period of record which dates back to 1895. Adding to this, precipitation across the state was on the low side throughout the state in that time frame. (*Colorado Climate Center, December 2025*)

The graphic provided below includes predictions from NOAA about possible precipitation through January 20 (*PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University*). This shows that most of the state will not see any precipitation in that time frame as indicated by the white sections of the map.

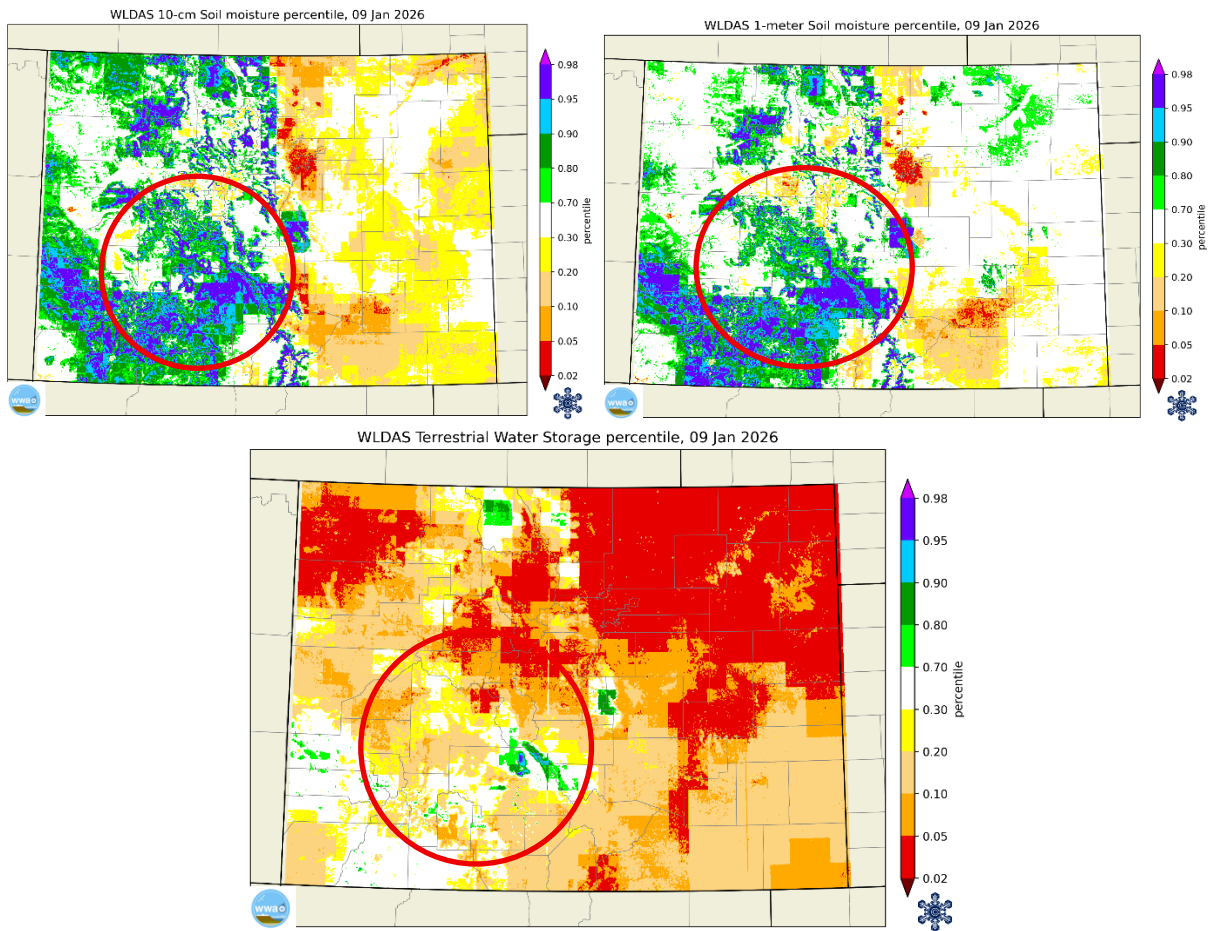


## Soil Moisture

Provided below are current soil moisture maps for the State (*Colorado Climate Center, January 9, 2026*). These maps include soil moisture percentiles at the depths of 10-cm; 1-meter; and terrestrial water storage which includes groundwater, soil moisture and snowpack components. The warmer colors represented on the maps are lower percentiles and the cooler colors are higher percentiles. Soil moisture at 10-cm and 1-m for most of the basin remains in the 70<sup>th</sup> to 98<sup>th</sup> percentile as of this date and this was due to precipitation events that occurred earlier in the water year. The terrestrial water storage represents the basin differentially as it includes snowpack in its



calculations. Based on this, the percentiles are much lower, ranging from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile throughout most of the basin.

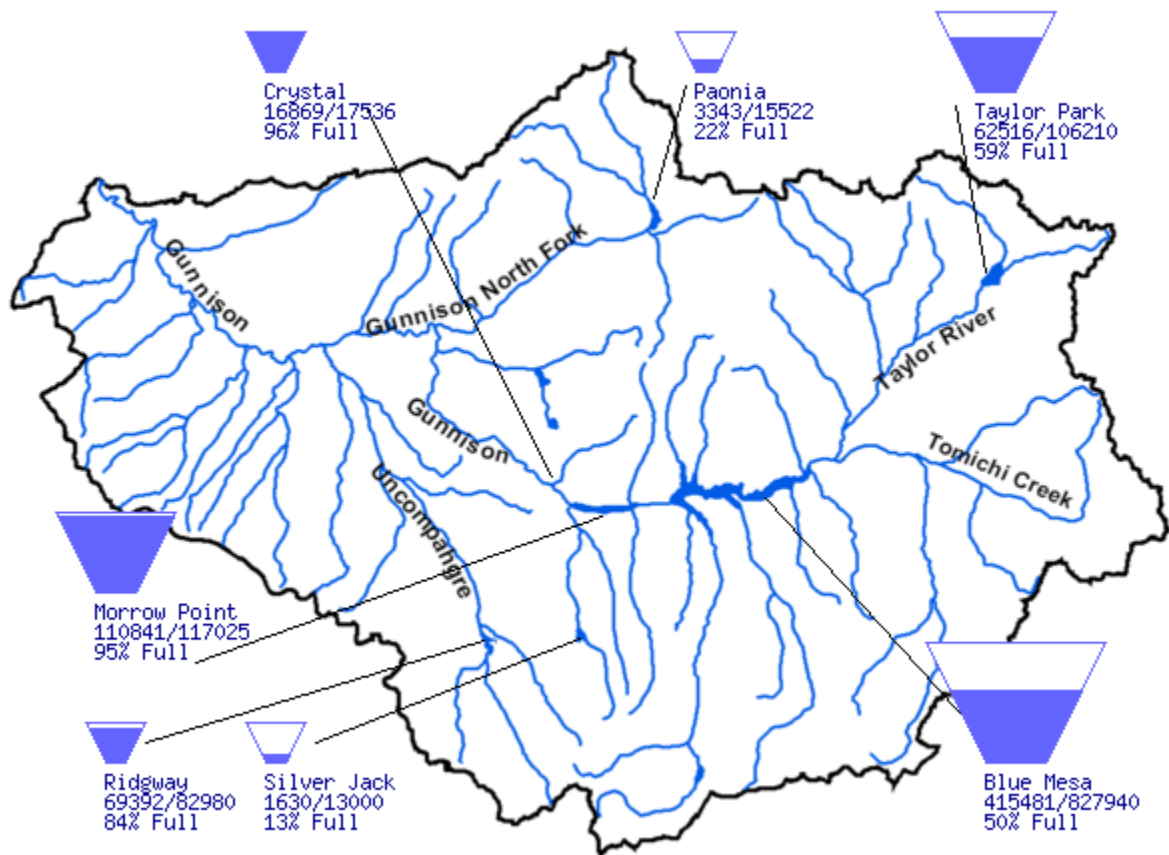


## Reservoir Storage and Operations

Reservoir storage in the entire Gunnison Basin is 59% full, which is an increase of 3% from then November report. Reservoirs in the Upper Gunnison Basin include Taylor Park and Blue Mesa, which are at 59% and 50% full, respectively. The total reservoir storage amount in the Upper Gunnison basin is 54% full, which is the same as the November report. (*USBR, River Basin Teacup Diagrams, January 12, 2026*).

Data Current as of:  
01/12/2026

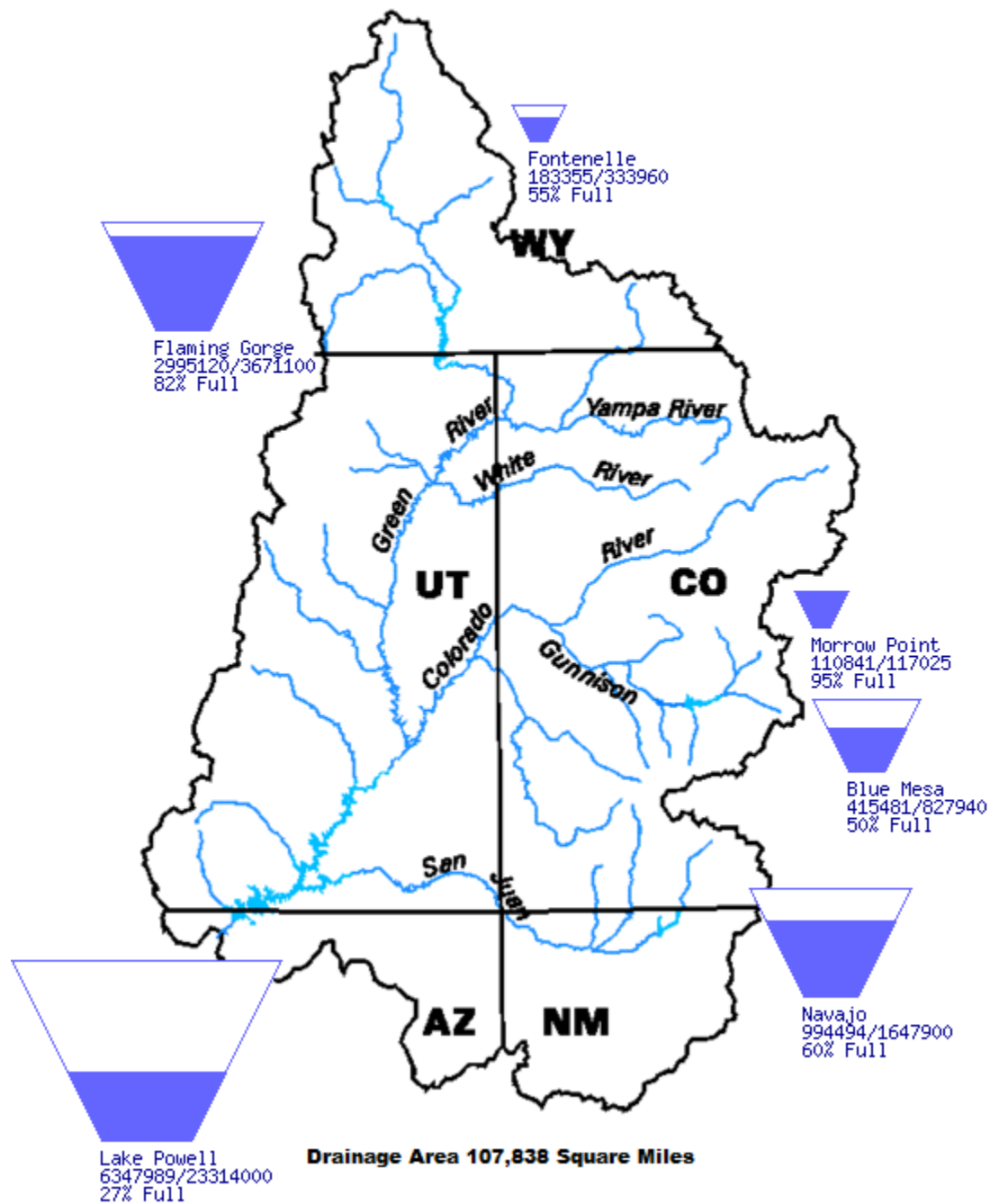
## Gunnison River Basin, CO



Reservoir storage in the Upper Colorado River Basin is 61% full, which is a decrease of 2% from the November report. This is reflected in the tea-cup diagram provided below dated January 12, 2026.

Data Current as of:  
01/12/2026

## Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin



## **Aspinall Unit Operations**

The following information is from the Aspinall Unit Operations webpage (*US Bureau of Reclamation dated January 9, 2026*).

The December unregulated inflow volume to Blue Mesa was approximately 27,000 acre-feet, which is 106% of normal. Unregulated inflow volumes forecasted for Blue Mesa for the next three months (January, February, March) are projected to be: 20,000 acre-feet or 85% of average; 19,000 acre-feet or 85% of average; and 33,000 acre-feet or 88% of average, respectively.

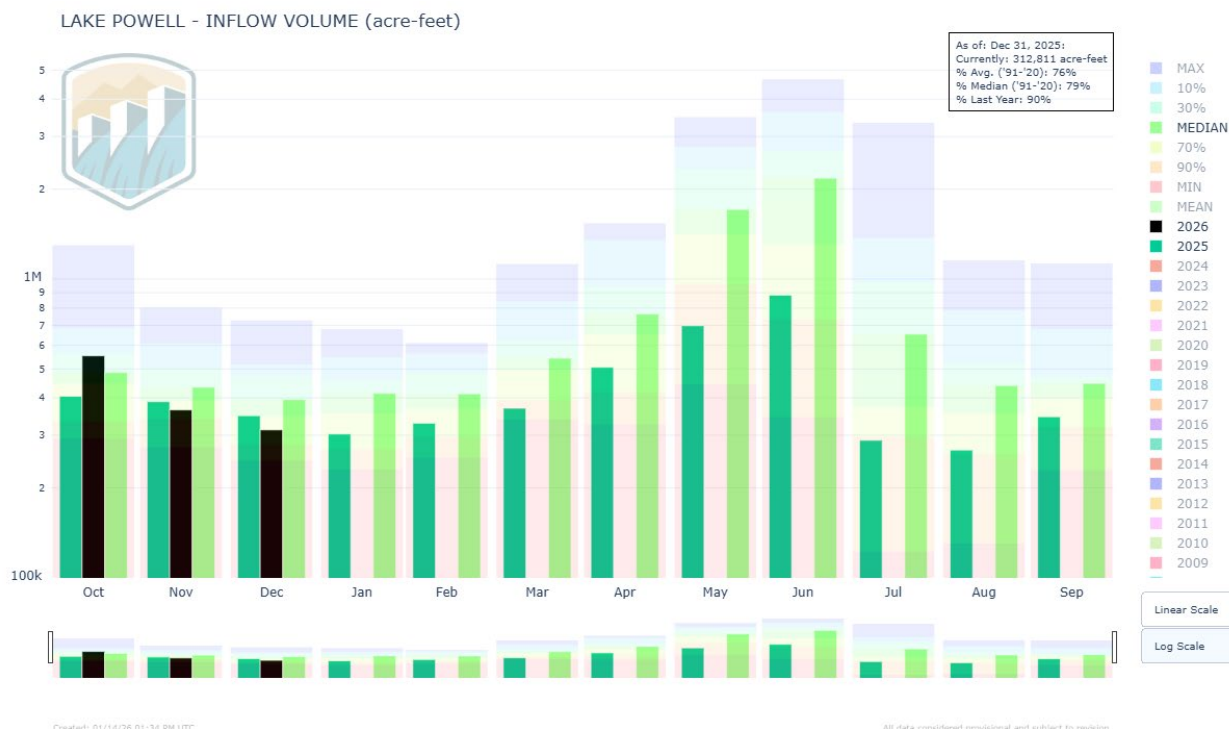
The forecasted WY2026 unregulated inflow volume to Blue Mesa is projected to be a total of 647,000 acre-feet which is 72% of average. The water supply period (April-July) for 2026 is currently forecasted to have an unregulated inflow volume of 400,000 acre-feet (61% of average). Blue Mesa ended WY2025 at an elevation of 7467.96 which is approximately 417,862 acre-feet of storage or 50% of capacity.

The next Aspinall Unit Operations Group meeting will be held on February 11, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at the Western Area Office. District staff will attend and will provide updates from this meeting.

## **Lake Powell Operations**

This information is provided by the *Lake Powell Water Database* webpage (*lakepowell.water-data.com*) and is dated January 13, 2026.

Lake Powell elevation is currently at 3538.29 feet with a content of 6.35 million acre-feet (maf) or 27% full (24,322,000). Total inflows for WY26 as of December 31, 2025 are 1,231,205 acre-feet which is 93% of the historical median as shown in the graph provided below (*USBR, December 31, 2025*). The total releases out of Glen Canyon Dam for WY26 to date have been 1.72 maf which is 23% of the minimum 7.5 maf for the water year.



During WY26 to date, storage has fallen by 400,696 acre-feet with total outflows exceeding total inflows by 378,630 acre-feet. Inflows for WY26 to date are 105% of WY25. The thirty-four tracked reservoirs above Lake Powell are currently at 69% of capacity and the rivers feeding into Lake Powell are running at 63% of the January 13 average. Lake Powell is now 161.6 feet below the full pool. The current elevation of 3538.39 is 13.4 feet above the critical elevation of 3,525 feet.

## Cloudseeding

This report comes from the December monthly report from *North American Weather Consultants (NAWC)* dated January 3, 2026.

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

## Generator Usage for December 2025

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

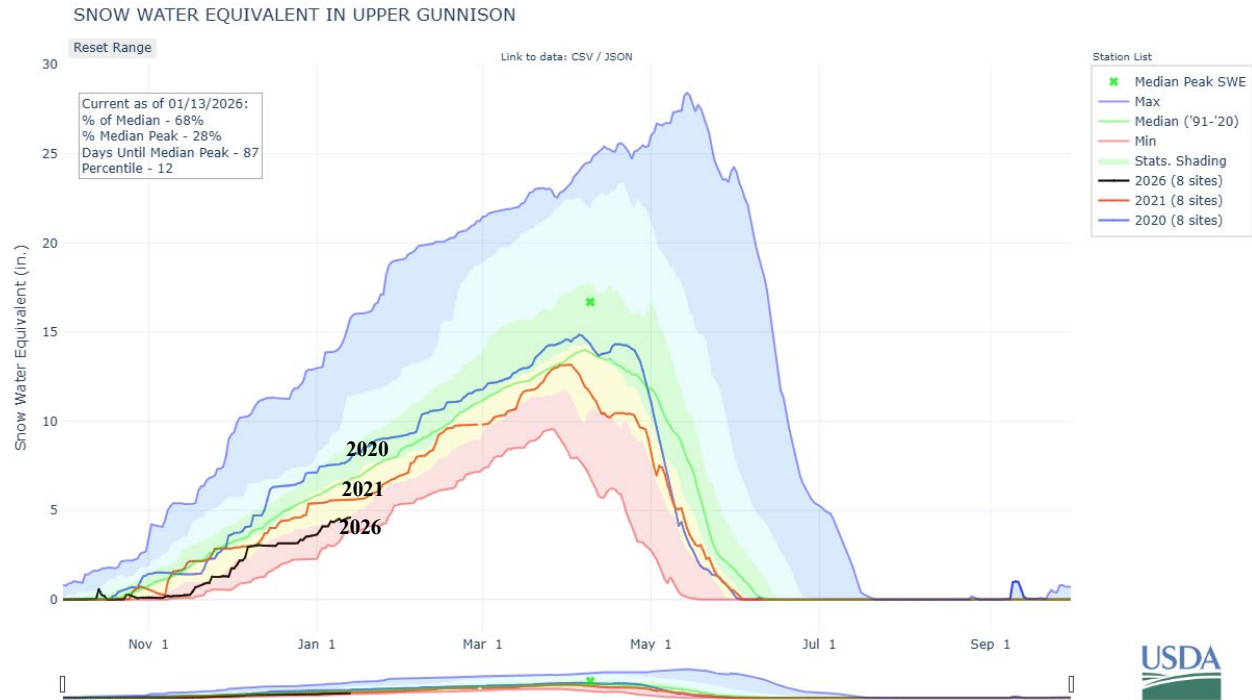
Storm Number	Dates	No. of Manual Generators Used	No. of Manual Hours	No. of Remote Sites Used	Remote Hours
6	December 6	6	49.25	0	0
7	December 17	1	3.75	1	4
8	December 27-28	5	67.75	0	0
<b>December Total</b>	---	---	120.75	1	4
<b>Season To Date</b>	---	---	<b>317.75</b>		<b>50</b>

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

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

<b>Dates</b>	<b>SNOTEL Site</b>			
	<b>Schofield Pass</b>	<b>Park Cone</b>	<b>Porphyry Creek</b>	<b>Slumgullion</b>
<b>December 6</b>	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.6
<b>December 17</b>	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
<b>December 27</b>	0.8	0.0	0.1	0.0
<b>December 28</b>	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0

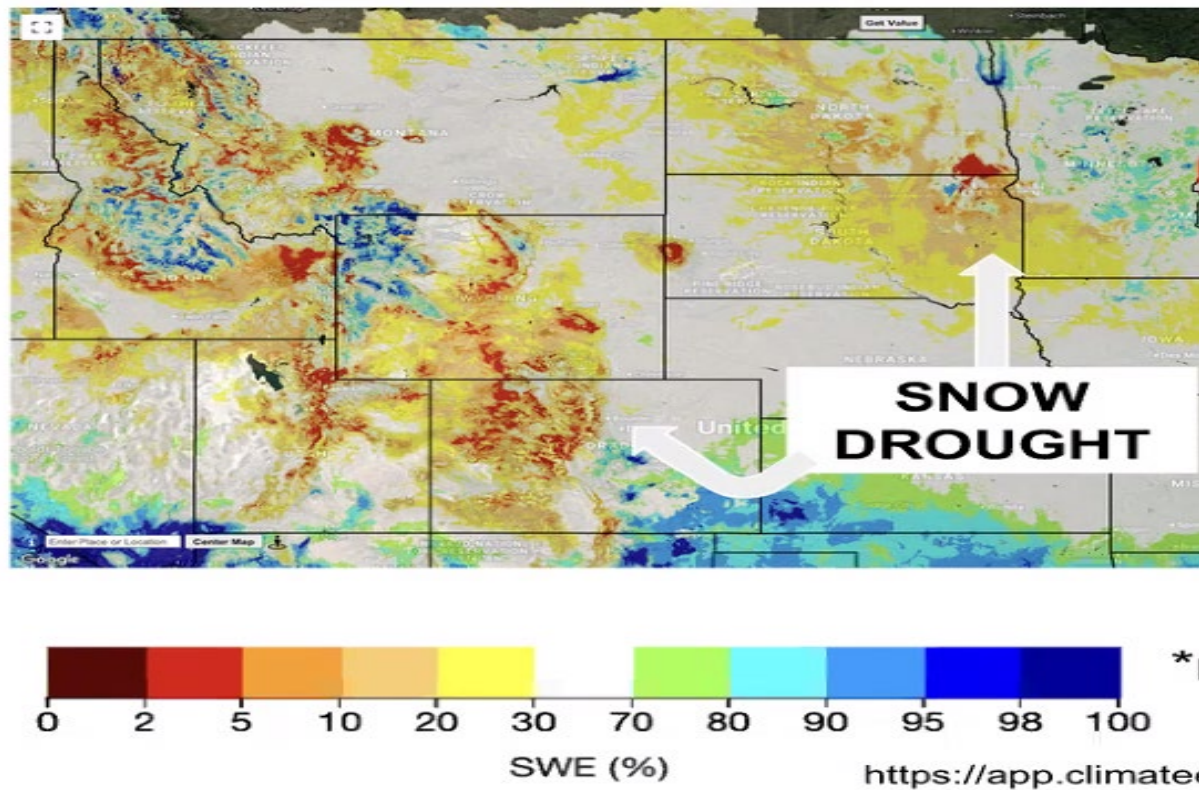
As of January 13, 2026, SWE in the Upper Gunnison basin is below normal, with a basin-wide average of 68% of the median as shown in the SWE plot provided below (*NRCS, January 13, 2026*).



The median amount for this date is 6.8” of snow water equivalent (SWE). The Upper Gunnison basin has a total of 4.6”. This graph shows a comparison of 2020 and 2021, both of which were dry, warm and had below normal SWE accumulation. In 2020 on January 13<sup>th</sup>, the SWE amount was 7.9” as shown by the purple line, and 2021 had 5.6” SWE accumulation which is shown by the orange line. The 2026 year to date SWE has fallen into the zero to 10<sup>th</sup> percentile (black line) for SWE and is less than both of these years.

According to the *North Central US Climate and Drought Outlook* webinar (January 15, 2026), most of the western slope of Colorado is experiencing a pronounced snow drought event with deficits in snow water ranging from 2.2 to 4 inches, see graphic below. This becomes concerning if it persists through January (Dr. Zachary Hoylman, *Montana Climate Office*). The warmer colors indicate SWE amounts ranging from zero to 30% and the cooler colors show SWE amounts ranging from 70 to 100%, see graphic below.





It was also stated that in many areas, the current snowpack is unconventional due to it being at higher elevations where the SNOTEL sites are typically located, making snowpack percentages elevation dependent which can be deceptive and can also increase uncertainty in runoff volume.



# **AGENDA ITEM 7**

## **General Counsel's Update**

## First Report of the 2026 legislative session



### Déjà vu all over again under the dome

The following report is intended to provide a contextual background for bills we are seeing and ongoing discussions that may result in bills before the final adjournment in mid-May. While it includes water issues, it also provides a broad picture of the many issues vying for the attention of 100 lawmakers plus the Governor.

When the gavel fell to convene the 2026 legislative session, more formally known as the second regular session of the 75<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Colorado lawmakers trudged back into the Capitol to face a depressingly familiar pile of tough issues, the biggest of which is the state budget - again.

While many of the session's issues are familiar, lawmakers will be operating in a shifting Capitol landscape. There are new leaders in some positions, lame duck leaders in other slots, and lots of distracted members balancing legislative duties while running for other offices or fighting off primary challengers. Although each session brings promise of renewed civility, intra-party conflicts are expected to once again affect the session's tone.

And, because new legislators need to make their mark and imprint their own "brand" on various issues, we can expect to see measures on health care, consumer protection, criminal justice, energy affordability, criminal justice, and attempts to block or roll back previous measures. As always, there will be under-the-radar issues that surface after the session convenes.

### The Capitol landscape

While the biggest changes in the character of the legislature occur in odd-numbered year sessions, following November General elections, there are many changes between 2025 and 2026. A seemingly unprecedented number of vacancies have been filled as the result of resignations and, regrettably, one death. A significant number have left the Capitol and been replaced by vacancy committees, meeting under the rules of the major parties.

Four key leaders have left: on the Republican side, Senate minority leaders Paul Lundeen and House minority leader Rose Pugliese in the House have resigned. Sen. Cleave Simpson, R-Alamosa, and Rep. Jarvis Caldwell, R-Colorado Springs, have stepped into those roles. A vacancy committee selected Ava Flanell to complete the unexpired HD 14 term of Rep. Pugliese.

Democratic Sen. Faith Winter, D-Broomfield, who recently died in an automobile accident, was replaced by Rep. William Lindstedt of Broomfield, himself a relatively new member of the House. The vacant seat in House district 33 was then filled by Kenny Nguyen, who has worked in the Office of the Lt. Governor.

## First Report of the 2026 legislative session

Rep. Shannon Bird, D-Westminster, once again in line to chair the JBC resigned in early January to focus on her campaign for the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. House District 29 is now represented by Lori Goldstein, who served as president of the Adams 12 Board of Education. Rep. Kyle Brown moves up to the JBC.

House Speaker Julie McCluskie, D-Dillon, and House Majority Leader Monica Duran, D-Lakewood, are completing their final terms, as is Senate Majority Leader Rodriguez Senate President James Coleman, D-Denver, has two years remaining on his term. Their departure will signal a significant loss of leadership experience.

The biggest lame duck under the Golden Dome, of course, is Democratic Gov. Jared Polis, who will be finishing his second and final term, along with Lt. Gov. Dianne Primavera, Attorney General Phil Weiser, Secretary of State Jena Griswold and Treasurer Dave Young.

It's an election year and several lawmakers are running for other offices, meaning their attention may be split between campaigning and legislating. At least a dozen lawmakers face primaries as they try to hold on to their current seats.

- Democratic Sen. Jesse Danielson is running for secretary of state (termed out of legislature)
- Republican Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer is running for governor (not termed)
- Democratic Sen. Jeff Bridges is running for state treasurer (not termed)
- Democratic Rep. Brianna Titone running for state treasurer (termed)
- Republican Sen. Mark Baisley was running for governor, now running for U.S. Senate (not termed)
- Democratic Rep. Manny Rutinel is running for 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District against Bird (not termed)
- Democratic Sen. Julie Gonzales (termed) is mounting a primary challenge against U.S. Sen. John Hickenlooper running for U.S. Senate

## The BIG Picture

### Budget

During the 2025 session lawmakers had to close a 2025-26 budget gap originally estimated at about \$1 billion, although actual reductions in state spending fell far short of that in the end. Instead, a lot of funding in 2025 was accomplished by shifts and other creative accounting to produce a balanced budget.

Despite the hard work, subsequent congressional passage of HR 1, (the so-called Big Beautiful Bill), blew a hole in the 2025-26 budget when federal tax changes triggered losses in state revenue. An August special session, plus cuts made by the Governor under his emergency powers, loosely stitched the current year's budget back together.

As attention turns to building the 2026-27 budget, there is talk once again about the size of the shortfall –again close to a billion dollars. The Governor and Mark Ferrandino, director of the Office of State Planning and Budgeting, would say there isn't a shortfall on paper. Ferrandino says the governor's 2026-27 plan, as unveiled last Oct. 31 and modified by Jan. 2 amendments, is a balanced budget. He's technically right, but the problem is legislators (for now meaning the members of the Joint Budget

## First Report of the 2026 legislative session

Committee) aren't sold on *how* Polis wants to balance. Here are some of the stickier issues facing the JBC as they begin hearings on budget requests.

**Medicaid** – Rapidly rising Medicaid costs have become a fixation for the governor and Ferrandino, who warns those costs could completely obscure spending on other state programs in coming years. The executive proposal would increase Medicaid spending next year but does significantly slow the rate of growth by keeping a lid on provider rates and making selective service cuts. Those details worry JBC members. And, future federal cuts and expensive administrative requirements will place additional pressure on the state Medicaid program. And TABOR restrictions make it hard for Colorado to compensate for federal losses.

**Human services** – Federal changes, including very recent moves, threaten funding for SNAP and other public assistance programs and would force the state to spend more on administrative costs to meet new federal requirements for client work and recertification. As part of its plan, the governor is proposing potentially controversial centralization of some welfare administration functions in the Department of Human Services. The most recent federal cut announcements are so new that their potential impacts have not been publicly analyzed by OSPB or JBC staff. The Polis administration also is proposing a shift of some public assistance and medical program administration from counties to state agencies. It's unclear how this debate will play out. But ranking Republican JBC member Sen. Barbara Kirkmeyer, R-Weld County, has been raising questions.

**Corrections** – Rising prison population has led the administration to request increased spending for the Department of Corrections. That doesn't make most Democrats happy, leading to talk about more emphasis on community corrections, but it's unclear if they can find a way to avoid spending more money on prisons.

**K-12 Education** – Finding dollars for K-12 remains a challenge, despite the legislature getting rid of the BS (Budget Stabilization) factor. This was an annual I.O.U. deferring full payment of money to meet the requirement of Amendment 23. Discussions are currently underway concerning a potential referred measure to raise the TABOR cap and use the additional money primarily for education funding.

**Higher education** – Polis cut some current-year education funding with his emergency budget actions and basically is proposing flat funding for 2026-27. In past sessions college and university presidents have pushed back against Polis funding plans for higher education, with limited success. Institutions are gearing up for a fight again this session, and they will find some sympathetic ears on JBC. A recent letter from college presidents say they need a General Fund increase of \$75.7 million just to cover minimum costs for core functions. But in a tight budget year it will be hard to find extra cash for colleges and universities.

Gov. Jared Polis wants to reshuffle the Department of Higher Education and state workforce programs, and the administration also is proposing significant changes in how the state and counties administer some public assistance programs.

**Pinnacol and other creative ideas** – The centerpiece of Polis' budget-balancing plan isn't cuts but raising cash by selling a state asset – Pinnacol Assurance, the worker compensation insurance company. Estimates vary, but Polis has claimed the move would raise \$400 million to bolster the General Fund. So far JBC members have been highly skeptical of the plan.

## **First Report of the 2026 legislative session**

A ballot initiative (Initiative #218) submitted by a business and labor coalition would allow Pinnacol to privatize and rather than using the proceeds to supplement the budget, the revenue would expand job training through a series of grants. The state would save additional money by pulling Pinnacol employees out of the state pension program, PERA.

### **Affordability – Housing and Energy**

Among the early bill introductions are a repeat bill to encourage housing built on lands owned by government bodies, schools, and churches. HB 26-1001 requires local governments to provide administrative approvals for construction of residential units on non-exempt parcels less than five acres owned by non-profit entities. Exempt parcels include those not served by a domestic water and sewage treatment system, or are served by a well or septic system.

SB 26-016 requires regulated utilities to propose plans to the PUC offering a minimum amount of electricity on a kilowatt per-hour basis at marginal cost to income-qualified residents.

### **Artificial intelligence**

A law passed two years ago, SB 24-205, created regulations and disclosure requirements for companies and agencies that use artificial intelligence tools. Almost nobody was happy with it, but there was an opportunity to amend it because the law wasn't scheduled to go into effect until early 2025. Lawmakers tried and failed to amend the law to the satisfaction of all interest groups, including powerful tech industry interests. Another try by the legislature resulted in passage of a special session bill that delayed the effective date until June 2026. So, the clock is ticking, particularly with both prime sponsors of the 2024 bill, Democratic Rep. Brianna Titone of Arvada and Sen. Robert Rodriguez of Denver, term limited. Rodriguez told a recent Colorado Sun forum that he feels an agreement can be reached this session but that he won't compromise on what he believes are necessary consumer protections.

### **Pushback against the Feds**

The 2025 session passed a stack of bills on subjects as varied as elections, reproductive rights, transgender protections, immigrant civil rights and funding for the attorney general in an effort to resist policy changes imposed by the Trump administration and generally inoculate the state against Republican policies. Attorney General Phil Weiser (who's running for governor) has made good use of the extra funding lawmakers provided, filing suit against the Trump administration challenging the cuts. Now Colorado faces significant reductions in federal Medicaid, public assistance and emergency services funding. Weiser now has filed his 50<sup>th</sup> suit, joining the four other states targeted by the Trump administration in a lawsuit challenging the new reductions. It remains to be seen how lawmakers will respond to recent federal actions.

### **Labor and Employment**

An attempt to amend state law on how many elections are required for unionization of a business was another "fail" in 2025. SB 25-005 proposed to amend Colorado's Labor Peace Act to reduce the number of worker elections required for recognition of a union at a particular business. Gov. Polis and business interests opposed the bill; negotiations on a compromise stalled, and

## **First Report of the 2026 legislative session**

lawmakers passed the bill as-is in the session's closing days. The Governor vetoed it, carrying out a promise made on opening day 2025. The newest effort is HB 26-1005, with sponsors apparently believing that the third time will be charmed, with the Governor indicating “not so much.”

Another labor bill that did not reach the finish line in 2025 was a bill requiring employers to monitor and protect workers from extreme temperatures. That bill will reportedly return, along with HB 26-1054 which authorizes Colorado to adopt its own worker health and safety regulations if federal OSHA or MSHA regulations are weakened or repealed.

### **Government reorganization**

Governor Polis is pushing the idea of creating a new Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development to combine the current higher education department and a variety of workforce training programs. Last year a JBC staff analyst suggested it be merged with the Department of Education. And the higher ed department's role has always been ill-defined, given the high degree of independence afforded the individual systems and institutions in Colorado.

Governor Polis has lined up some key legislative allies. Colorado House Speaker Julie McCluskie, Democratic state Sen. Jeff Bridges and Republican state Rep. Rick Taggart will sponsor the bill. Bridges and Taggart both serve on the Joint Budget Committee.

### **Draft legislation and Concepts**

The weeks leading up to every legislative session are busy with private conversations, bill drafting, testing the waters and stakeholder consultation about possible bills for the upcoming session. Among the drafts and concepts under discussion are:

- Protection for beavers – an issue for wildfire mitigation and wetlands (in addition to the wildlife issues)
- Local taxation of vacant residential buildings to fund affordable housing
- Stream access
- Revegetation standards and practices
- Underground injection control authority (DNR bill)
- Recreation opportunity (DNR bill)
- Energy Planning (multiple approaches)
- Data Center requirements (One bill introduced, another still in drafting)

And of course, there are always the ballot Initiatives to look forward in the 2026 General Election. Among the 225 initiatives that have been filed (not all have moved forward) are 20 calling for a graduated income tax, and Initiative #197 which would designate sales tax from the sale of sporting goods to conservation and wildfire mitigation.

# **AGENDA ITEM 8**

## **General Manager's Update**

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** January 29, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** General Manager & Committee Reports

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### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **I. Strategic Planning Update**

The Strategic Planning Project Kickoff meeting was held on January 7, 2026. Executive staff were in attendance along with Director Sabrowski and Director Carroll. This meeting involved discussion of the project vision, the scope of work for the project, and scheduling for other components of the project such as monthly core group meetings, board retreat, and other items identified in the scope of work. The next planning meeting for the core group will be held on February 4, 2026.

#### **II. Wetland Dredge & Fill Regulations**

A. Updated Federal Definitions: Waters of the United States

Please see attached **memorandum**.

#### **III. U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Draft EIS Public Comment**

A. BMR Harmful Algal Bloom Official Publication (**SIR 20255109**)

#### **IV. Aspinall Subordination Report Submittal (2024)**

Please see attached Aspinall Subordination Report for Irrigation Year 2024.

### **STAFF & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **V. Taylor Local User's Group - Letters of Interest and Appointments**

**Recommendation for Board Action: 2026 Appointments; March Schumacher –Boating/Rafting Interests, Ryan Birdsey – Flatwater Recreation Interests**



**VI. Education and Outreach Staff Report**

Please see **memorandum** from Sue Uerling, Communications Specialist.

**VII. Water Quality and Quantity Staff Report**

Please see **memorandum** from Ari Yamaguchi, Water Resources Specialist.

**VIII. Water resources Projects Report**

Please see **memorandum** from Bailey Friedman, Water Resources Project Manager

**IX. Wet Meadows Program Staff Report**

Please see **memorandum** from Amanda Aulenbach, Wet Meadows Program Director.

**X. Finance Committee Staff Report**

The Finance Committee will meet on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and will provide an update to the Board at the February 2026 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors.

**XI. Grant Committee & Staff Report**

- A. Please see **memorandum** of update from Beverly Richards, Senior Program Manager.
- B. Please see **memorandum** from Executive Management (General Manager Chavez, Senior Program Manager Richards and General Counsel McClow) regarding recommendations to establish an Organizational Funding Pool to support organizations doing work that fills critical gaps in the District's Programming and does not require an in-kind or cash match contribution.

**XII. Gunnison Basin Roundtable**

A verbal update will be given by General Manager Chavez and General Counsel McClow.

**XIII. Gunnison River Festival Update**

General Counsel McClow has been working with Gunnison River Festival leadership to rewrite the organizational bylaws. A draft has been presented to them for review and input. We anticipate refinement in February and adoption at the March 2026 Gunnison River Festival Board Meeting.

#### **XIV. Scientific Endeavors**

A verbal update will be given by Director Carroll.

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** January 26, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Proposed Rule: Updated Definitions of Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS)

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**Background:** In May of 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court decided *Sackett versus Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)* with the majority opinion holding that the Clean Water Act (CWA)...*extends to relatively permanent bodies of water connected to traditional navigable waters and wetlands with a continuous surface connection to those waters “so that there is no clear demarcation between ‘waters’ and wetlands.* (Federal Register, Section IV, pg. 10).

Since the inception of the CWA, the agencies (Corps of Engineers and EPA) have revised definitions of WOTUS five times and brought in new terms that were not clearly defined, leading to additional regulatory uncertainty and differences across the nation in the implementation of the Section 404 of the CWA which regulates dredge and fill activities.

The November 20, 2025, publication of proposed rules in the Federal Register (FR) seeks to obtain public input on *Updated Definition of “Waters of the United States”* (FR, Vol. 90, No. 222). *With the proposed rule, the agencies intend to provide greater regulatory certainty and increase Clean Water Act program predictability and consistency by clarifying the definition of “waters of the United States.” The proposed rule is also intended to implement the overall objective of the Clean Water Act and restore and maintain the quality of the Nation’s waters while respecting State and Tribal authority over their own land and water resources.*

**UGRWCD Board Update:** I am providing the following information which utilizes a recent summary of WOTUS issues as summarized by the Colorado Water Congress Water Quality Committee (CWC WQ) and my personal professional review of the FR publication notice on updated definitions and how they may impact waters within the Upper Gunnison River Basin.

In summary, the publication addresses five major areas as follows:

**I. Elimination of reference to *Interstate Waters***

The agencies (Corps and EPA) are proposing to remove the category of “interstate waters” as an independent basis for jurisdiction so that it is consistent with the language of the CWA and Congress’ authority to regulate WOTUS. The Courts held that ‘waters’ are “a relatively permanent body of water connected to traditional navigable waters” or “wetland[s] [with] a continuous surface connection with that water” and that nothing in the previous *Sackett* or *Rapanos* plurality opinion suggests that Congress intended to separately regulate interstate waters that *do not* meet this

test (Note: Congress did separately allow States to retain and implement interstate water quality standards as described in the 1948 Water Pollution Control Act). In essence, the Court was saying that simply because a body of water is an “interstate water” does not mean that it is a WOTUS (e.g., an isolated wetland that crosses state boundaries). To have federal jurisdiction, it must be an *interstate navigable water*.

I believe this clarification is necessary and consistent with the Courts ruling.

## II. Definition, scope and implementation of *Relatively Permanent Waters and Tributary*

“In the proposal, the agencies define “relatively permanent” to mean ‘standing or continuously flowing bodies of surface water that are standing or continuously flowing year-round or at least during the **wet season** (UGRWCD emphasis added).”

“The agencies also propose to define “tributary” to mean “a body of water with relatively permanent flow, and a bed and bank, that connects to a downstream traditional navigable water or the territorial seas, either directly or through one or more waters or features that convey relatively permanent flow” and it “does not include a body of water that contributes surface water flow to a downstream jurisdictional water through a feature such as a channelized non-jurisdictional surface water feature, subterranean river, culvert, dam, tunnel, or similar artificial features...if such feature does not convey relatively permanent flow.”

UGRWCD agrees with CWC WQ Committee comments (below) that there are major concerns with the concept of “Wet Season” and that there will be a need to quickly become familiar with the usefulness or accuracy of tools such as WebWIMP to determine “wet season” in the State of Colorado, Western Slope and in western states obtaining the majority of their water from snowpack and that these tools weren’t created to be used in refined/small area settings for jurisdictional determinations.

*CWC WQ Committee Understanding & Concern ‘Wet Season’: A tributary is “relatively permanent” if it has standing or flowing water at least during the “wet season.” Similarly, a wetland has a “continuous surface connection” to a jurisdictional water if it abuts that water and has surface water at least during the “wet season.” However, the key term “wet season” is not defined in the rule. The concept of “wet season” may be challenging to apply consistently in Colorado as proposed in the draft rule. A definition of “wet season” is needed for clarity. The draft rule preamble suggests use of tools including WebWIMP.*

*CWC WQ Committee Understanding & Concern ‘Water Transfers’: The draft rule provides that jurisdiction over a tributary is severed by reaches of non-relatively permanent flow. However, it also introduces an exception when the tributary is “part of a water transfer.” Additional clarity is requested about how a determination will be made*

that a tributary is “part of” a water transfer. **The water transfers rule defines water transfer as “an activity that conveys or connects waters of the United States without subjecting the transferred water to intervening industrial, municipal, or commercial use.”** Does the reference in the WOTUS definition refer to the portions of tributaries that are downstream of diversion structures, reservoirs, or dams that are used to convey or connect WOTUS? How will portions of a tributary that are “part of” a water transfer be distinguished from other parts of the same tributary that lack relatively permanent flow for other reasons?

Following are several examples as to why staff see the above as a concern:

1. The Uncompahgre Valley Water Users use what were once dry arroyos to move water throughout their system and because of return flow from artificial flood irrigation practices these arroyos/ditches can carry seepage water almost year-round.
2. There are instances in the Upper Gunnison where ditches have surface water year-round due to return flows from flood irrigation practices where ditches are located beneath land surface benches and act to return shallow groundwater back to the river system.
3. There are instances where ditches carry both municipal and irrigation water (e.g., Gunnison Town Ditch) so it begs the question the question “Would this be an example of a “severed” connection?”

### III. Definition and scope of *Continuous Surface Connection*

“Continuous surface connection” was not defined in the initial regulation following *Sackett*, therefore the agencies defined for the first time in the current draft rule in order to clarify the limits of wetlands that are considered adjacent. *Under the proposed definition of “continuous surface connection,” adjacent wetlands are those that have surface water at least during the wet season and are abutting (i.e., touching) a jurisdictional water.*

The agencies propose to use a number of tools to determine if a wetland has surface water at least during the wet season, if the wetland is abutting or if there are features that potentially sever the continuous surface connection between wetland and a jurisdictional water body (e.g., uplands, berms, dikes, or similar feature). For wetlands that abut jurisdictional waters and are subject to periodic flooding, like many of the valley and river bottoms throughout the District, one such tool proposed is the National Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetland Inventory (NWI) which uses a water regime modifier to inform duration and timing of surface inundation (permanently flooded, intermittently exposed, semi-permanently flooded, seasonally flooded, seasonally-flooded saturated, seasonally saturated, continuously saturated, temporarily flooded, intermittently flooded, and artificially flooded). Any professional who has used NWI to inform location of wetland “boundaries” can attest to how inaccurate it often is, especially in areas that practice flood irrigation.

#### IV. Exclusions from the definition of WOTUS

##### A. Definition of *Ditch* and scope of *Ditch Exclusion*

UGRWCD agrees with the CWC WQ Committee summary of issues with the definition of ditches, actual implementation challenges, and need to further clarify them under the federal rule.

*The draft rule retains the language that a ditch, to be excluded from WOTUS, must be constructed entirely in dry land. However, the preamble asserts that a ditch that connects to a jurisdictional tributary is not itself jurisdictional based on that connection. It is unclear how a ditch can connect to a jurisdictional tributary without being constructed at least partly within jurisdictional waters. In Colorado, most, if not all, irrigation ditches are constructed partly within tributaries, since at least the ditch headgate and diversion structure will be located in the water body.*

*Recognizing this fact, Colorado excludes “all portions of ditches and canals that are excavated on upland” from the state’s dredge and fill discharge program. C.R.S. 25-8-205.1(8)(d)(I). The clarity of the WOTUS rule would be enhanced by adopting a similar approach.*

##### B. Definition of Stormwater features. UGRWCD staff agree with CWC that:

*The draft rule does not include clarification that features that are used to convey, store, infiltrate, or treat stormwater pursuant to NPDES permit are excluded from WOTUS. The final rule should consider this clarification, as it will simplify determinations related to these structures. Stormwater features are regulated under the NPDES program. Maintenance activities within these structures are important for NPDES permit compliance. The preamble notes that “many” of these features will be non-jurisdictional because they do not satisfy the proposed rules definition of WOTUS (fn. 98). Rather than relying on other exclusions from WOTUS, the rule’s clarity would be enhanced through a specific exclusion for these features. As an example, Colorado excludes “storm water control features that are constructed to convey, treat, or store storm water and ... are created in upland” from the state dredge and fill permit requirement. The clarity of the WOTUS rule would be enhanced by adopting a similar approach.*

Because staff agree with Colorado Water Congress Water Quality Committee comments, we are relying on their formal submittal of a letter of input. We will keep the board apprised of any updates when additional information is published.



# Environmental Characterization of Blue Mesa Reservoir and Potential Causes of and Management Strategies for Harmful Algal Blooms, 1970 through 2023, Curecanti National Recreation Area, Colorado



## Project Update: Blue Mesa Harmful Algal Bloom study report published

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2025/5109/sir20255109.pdf>

Scientific Report 2025- 5109

US Geological Survey & Department of Interior

[RETURN TO GM REPORT](#)

[RETURN TO AGENDA](#)



**COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT**  
PROTECTING WESTERN COLORADO WATER SINCE 1937

**Colorado River Water  
Conservation District  
P.O. Box 1120  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601**



**Upper Gunnison River  
Water Conservancy District  
210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite A  
Gunnison, CO 81230**

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January 5, 2026

Bart Deming, Acting Area Manager  
Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office  
445 West Gunnison Ave, Suite 221  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

**Re: Aspinall Unit Subordination Agreement Reporting for Irrigation Year 2024**

Dear Bart:

On behalf of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District and the Colorado River Water Conservation District (the Districts), we respectfully submit the 2024 Annual Report (Report) documenting the beneficiaries of the 2000 Aspinall Unit Subordination Agreement (Agreement) as required in Paragraph 9.

The attached Report, created by Wilson Water Group, documents the beneficial uses of the Agreement by quantifying and summarizing the diversions and depletions associated with water rights equal, or junior to, the November 1957 priority date of the Aspinall Unit.

As in the past, we continue to believe that the subordination agreement exemplifies the excellent working relationship amongst the signatories of the Agreement and we are gratified to know that the Gunnison Basin continues to benefit from the Aspinall Unit, just as it was originally contemplated more than 60 years ago.

We thank you for your cooperation in this matter, and we look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on this, and all aspects of, the critically important Aspinall Unit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Mueller".

Andy Mueller  
General Manager, CRWCD

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sonja Chavez".

Sonja Chavez  
General Manager, UGRWCD

cc: Jason Ullman, CDWR w/ attachment  
Bob Hurford, CDWR w/ attachment  
Steve Pope, UVWUA w/ attachment  
CRWCD Board of Directors w/o attachment  
UGRWCD Board of Directors w/o attachment



# **SUBORDINATION OF THE WAYNE N. ASPINALL UNIT WATER RIGHTS WITHIN THE UPPER GUNNISON BASIN**

**2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Prepared for the  
Colorado River Water Conservation District  
and the  
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District**

**Prepared by  
Wilson Water Group**

**November 17, 2025**

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3.	Water Rights Removed since the 2023 Subordination Report

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## 1.0 Executive Summary

This report details depletions by qualifying junior water rights in the Gunnison River basin under the Aspinall Unit Subordination Agreement. The following summary presents the total calculated depletions that occurred during the 2024 irrigation year (November 1, 2023 through October 31, 2024) from water rights located upstream of the Aspinall Unit and having priorities junior to the Aspinall Unit priority (Appropriation Date: November 13, 1957, Administration No.: 39398.00000). These depletions are reported herein by three Upper Gunnison River sub-basins:

<u>Upper Gunnison River sub-basins</u>	<u>Depletion Allowance (acre-feet)</u>	<u>2024 Depletions (acre-feet)</u>
Above Blue Mesa Dam	40,000	7,709
Blue Mesa Dam to Morrow Point Dam	10,000	152
<u>Morrow Point Dam to Crystal Dam</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>537</u>
Total	60,000	8,398

## 2.0 Introduction

This report was prepared on behalf of the Colorado River Water Conservation District (River District) and the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (Upper Gunnison District). On June 1, 2000, the United States of America, the Colorado State Engineer, the River District, and the Upper Gunnison District entered into an agreement entitled “Aspinall Unit Colorado River Storage Project – Agreement Among the United States of America, The Colorado State Engineer, The Colorado River Water Conservation District, and The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District - For the Administration of Water Pursuant to the Subordination of Wayne N. Aspinall Unit Water Rights Within the Upper Gunnison River Basin”. The above agreement (referred to in this report as the “Subordination Agreement”) states in Paragraph 2 the following:

The United States agrees to subordinate the Aspinall Unit Rights up to 10,000 acre-feet of annual water depletions in the Gunnison River Basin drainage between Crystal Dam and Morrow Point Dam, and 10,000 acre-feet of such depletions in the drainage between Blue Mesa Dam and Morrow Point Dam to the water users represented by the River District, and to subordinate the Aspinall Unit Rights up to 40,000 acre-feet of annual water depletions in the drainage above Blue Mesa Dam to the water users represented by the Upper Gunnison District under conditions described in paragraph 5. By subordinating to the rights of such water users, the United States agrees that such water users may continue to divert when a call is placed on the Gunnison River by the United States under the Aspinall Rights, subject to the limits of the stated subordination in the separate drainages.

The Subordination Agreement describes the type of uses that qualify under the depletion allowance in Paragraph 7 as follows:

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Water consumptively used under water rights benefiting from this Agreement and used within the Gunnison Basin through evapotranspiration, reservoir evaporation, irrigation, industrial, domestic and other beneficial uses shall be appropriate use of the Depletion Allowance. Water which is diverted and ultimately returns to the stream and then is available for use pursuant to the Aspinall Unit Rights shall not be considered a depletion and, therefore, not a use of the Depletion Allowance.

As part of the Subordination Agreement, the River District and the Upper Gunnison District are required to submit a report describing the uses under the agreement. The reporting requirements for this report that covers the period November 1, 2023 to October 31, 2024 (2024 irrigation year) are outlined in Paragraph 9 of the Subordination Agreement as follows:

Following delivery of the initial Report described in paragraph 8, on or before April 1 of each year<sup>1</sup>, the River District and the Upper Gunnison District shall provide to the Bureau of Reclamation in Grand Junction, Colorado, or any other location designated by the United States, and to the Colorado State Engineer and Division 4 Engineer, an Annual Report. The Annual Report shall include an updated listing of the names of the diversion or storage structures and priority or administration numbers of the diversions in the areas represented by the Districts which qualify for subordination of Aspinall Unit Rights under the Depletion Allowance described in this Agreement, which separately identifies the structures and diversions which have been added to or removed from the listing since the initial Report or previous Annual Report. Each Annual Report shall also include an estimate of the total amount of diversions (in acre-feet) and an estimate of the total amount of related depletions (in acre-feet) by the listed structures made during the previous irrigation year (November 1 through October 31). The estimates of diversions and depletions contained in the Annual Report shall be derived by the Districts from information compiled by the Division 4 Engineer in the ordinary course of his duties.

The following information provides the basis for this Annual Report in satisfaction of the requirements of Paragraph 9 of the Subordination Agreement. This report is divided into four sections: Section 2.0 is the Introduction, Section 3.0 describes the water rights and structures that benefit from the Subordination Agreement, Section 4.0 describes the diversions and depletions associated with these water rights, and Section 5.0 summarizes the results of the study.

Three appendices (A, B, and C) are attached to this report that list all pertinent qualifying water rights; this includes A: List of Absolute Water Rights Which Qualify for Subordination of Aspinall Unit Water Rights Under the Subordination Agreement in 2024, B: List of Water Rights Added since the 2023 Subordination Report and C: List of Water Rights Removed since the 2023 Subordination Report.

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<sup>1</sup> By written agreement between the parties of the Subordination agreement, the date of the submittal for the Annual Report was revised to December 31.

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### 3.0 Water Rights and Structures

The purpose of this section is to quantify the water rights that benefited from the Subordination Agreement during the 2024 irrigation year. The priority of the water rights in the area of interest were determined from the water rights tabulation maintained by the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR). The tabulation was taken from the Colorado Decision Support System (CDSS) database developed by the DWR (*HydroBase Version 20250923*). The tabulation report that summarizes the “net amount” associated with each water right was utilized for the purposes of this report. The net amount is the amount of decreed water right at a given structure, after accounting for transfers between structures and any portion of a water right that was abandoned. All water rights senior to the Aspinall Unit water rights were removed from this list (i.e., water rights senior to administration number of 39398.00000, equivalent to a priority date of November 13, 1957).

The list was then reduced to only those water rights physically located within the area covered under the Subordination Agreement (all watershed lands that are tributary to Crystal Reservoir). Next, the Aspinall Unit water rights and any non-consumptive water rights for minimum instream flow, minimum natural lake levels, or recreational in-channel diversions were eliminated from the list. Alternate point of diversion or exchange (APEX) water rights are excluded. Additionally, the conditional water rights that could benefit from the Subordination Agreement, but were not exercised during the 2024 irrigation year, were excluded from the list. Finally, any undecreed diversions and depletions were excluded.

The results of this process are reflected in Table 1 with the total number of qualifying water rights and the changes in the number of water rights since the 2023 Subordination Report. It shows that 8 qualifying water rights were added and no water rights were removed, resulting in a net increase of 8 additional qualifying water rights since the publication of the 2023 report

Appendix A lists the individual water rights which qualified for subordination of Aspinall Unit water rights under the Subordination Agreement during the 2024 irrigation year. If there is more than one water right associated with a given structure, then a separate row is shown for each water right. Figure 1 presents the location of the water rights in Appendix A. Appendix B provides a detailed listing of the water rights that were added, and Appendix C lists the water rights that were removed.

### 4.0 Diversions and Depletions

The diversions and depletions by water rights which qualify for the Aspinall Unit Subordination Agreement are shown in Appendix A under the columns entitled “Diversions” (column 17) and “Depletions” (column 18). The method utilized to determine the diversions and depletions was a function of: 1) structure type, 2) decreed water right uses, and 3) available data. The procedure used to determine the diversions and depletions for each qualifying water right is described and coded in Table 2 and is cross-referenced in the column entitled “Method” (column 19) in Appendix A. In a case where a water right is

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decreed for multiple uses, the water right will have more than one method code. In these cases, the total diversions and depletions for the right are determined by summing the diversions and depletions associated with each applicable method code shown in the method column. The diversions and depletions calculated using the codes shown in the method column are further limited by the decreed water right amounts for those instances where the estimated diversions are greater than the decreed water rights.

The procedures used to determine the diversions and depletions associated with qualifying irrigation water rights was based upon the StateCU consumptive use model developed by the DWR. In the spring of 2025, Wilson Water Group (WWG) was tasked by the River District and the Upper Gunnison District with comparing the standard StateCU approach and the new consumptive use methodology developed by DWR for CDSS. WWG prepared the “Consumptive Use Methodology Comparison for Aspinall Reporting” memorandum dated April 23, 2025, which is attached as Appendix D. As recommended in the memo, the River District and the Upper Gunnison District approved using the updated methodology for this report. By using the new methodology, the Aspinall Subordination Report will be consistent with the more accurate approaches recently adopted by the State of Colorado and Reclamation. Gridded climate data developed by DWR is input to the StateCU ASCEpt Tool to estimate irrigation water requirement (IWR) using the standardized ASCE Penman method. The IWR values and diversion records sourced from HydroBase (*Version 20250923*) are inputs to the StateCU model. Diversions for the junior irrigation water rights were taken from the column in the StateCU detailed water budget output file entitled “Diversion by Priority-Junior” and the depletions from the column entitled “Estimated Crop CU-By Water Rights-Junior”. Diversion records at structures with reported irrigated acreage but no reported daily diversion records were estimated using the procedure outlined in Table 3.

It should be noted that the StateCU model performs multi-year water accounting for soil moisture storage. The result of this modeling technique is that the soil moisture may be carried forward from one year to the next. Thus, consumptive use associated with a given year’s diversions might not be reported until the following year. For example, water could be diverted in one year and not consumed but placed into soil moisture storage. The soil moisture storage would then be carried forward into the following year and only then consumed. In these instances, the diversions would have been reported in the initial year, but the associated consumptive use (i.e., depletions) would not be reported until the following year. This is generally most significant in dryer than average irrigation years that follow wetter than average irrigation years.

## 5.0 Summary of Results

A detailed summary of the water rights, diversions, and depletions that benefit from the Subordination Agreement for Irrigation Year 2024 was performed and reported herein. The primary results are presented in Tables 1 through 5 and depicted in Figures 1 and 2 below. As shown, the number

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of water rights included in the 2024 tabulation have increased by 8 from the 2023 assessment. The 2024 depletions are approximately 590 acre-feet less than the 2023 values.

The change in depletions is within the typical yearly variation. 2024 was an average hydrological year and experienced drier hydrologic conditions relative to 2023. The total irrigation year annual flow in 2023 at the Gunnison River near Gunnison stream gage (USGS Gage Number 09114500) was approximately 591,000 acre-feet. In 2024, approximately 472,700 acre-feet of streamflow passed the gage. The Taylor Park Reservoir second fill account had a maximum physical storage of 101,428 acre-feet on June 27, 2024 and released water from June 24<sup>th</sup> through September 5th. The depletions due to evaporation were 2,109 acre-feet compared to 1,930 acre-feet in 2023. Note that while the maximum physical storage under the second fill right was 101,428 acre-feet, a total of 106,230 acre-feet was stored under the water right over the course of the year.

Total junior diversions estimated for 2024 were 504,600 acre-feet, which is a decrease of 80,300 acre-feet from 2023. The majority of this difference comes from decreased flow (i.e. “in channel diversions”) through the Gunnison River Whitewater Course (WDID 5901327) which are non-consumptive. Because this is a run-of-the-river structure, annual diversions fluctuate with hydrological variability. In other words, “diversions” by this qualifying structure change as streamflow changes.

The historical annual depletions that qualify for the subordination agreement since the agreement was signed in 2000 are shown in Table 5. This information is also shown in Figure 2, which depicts 2024 consumptive use within the range of other reporting years.

**DISCLAIMER:** The estimates of diversions and depletions contained in this report are derived from “information compiled by the Division 4 Engineer in the ordinary courses of his duties” (see paragraph 9 of the Subordination Agreement). The data was processed as described in Table 2. The data and models provided by DWR and used in this report are assumed to be accurate and sufficient and as such the sponsors, the River District and the Upper Gunnison District do not take responsibility for any errors or omissions in the supplied data or models used.

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**TABLE 1**  
**SUMMARY OF CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF WATER RIGHTS FROM**  
**THE PREVIOUS YEAR'S SUBORDINATION REPORT**  
**UNDER THE SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT**

Row	Category	No. of Water Rights
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	Water Rights in previous year's Subordination Report (see Appendix A from previous years report)	3,120
2	(+) Water Rights added since the previous Subordination Report (see Appendix B).	8
3	(-) Water Rights deleted since the previous Subordination Report (see Appendix C).	0
<b>4</b>	<b>Water Rights in this year's Subordination Report (see Appendix A)</b>	<b>3,128</b>



**TABLE 2**  
**PROCEDURE TO ESTIMATE DEPLETIONS AND DIVERSIONS**

Code in Appendix A	Structure Type	No. of Water Rights with this Code in Appendix A	Type of Use	Procedure used to Estimate Diversions and Depletions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Aug	All	105	Augmentation	Diversions and depletions associated with the augmentation component of a water right are set to zero because the water use is accounted for at the augmented structure.
C	Non-Reservoir	162	Commercial	Diversions and depletions are estimated at 0.44 ac-ft which is the value estimated by the Division 4 Engineer to be the annual consumptive use for commercial water rights without any other information.
Do	Well and Springs	1,367	Domestic	No DWR records are available for these water rights. Indoor domestic water use is estimated to be 100 gallons/day/person with an average of 3.5 people per household which results in a diversion rate of $3.5 \times 100 \times 365 / (7.48 \times 43,560) = 0.392$ ac-ft. The associated depletions are estimated to be 10% or $0.10 \times 0.392 = 0.039$ ac-ft. The indoor diversion and depletion rates were specified by the Division 4 Engineer. The outdoor water use is estimated using a lawn area of 2,000 square feet and a crop irrigation requirement for bluegrass of 1.72 feet. Using an irrigation efficiency of 75% results in a diversion amount of $1.72 \times 2,000 / (43,560 \times 0.75) = 0.105$ ac-ft. Using a spray loss of 5% results in a consumptive use of outdoor diversions of $0.105 \times (0.75 + 0.05) = 0.084$ ac-ft. The total indoor and outdoor diversions are $0.392 + 0.105 = 0.50$ ac-ft. The total indoor and outdoor depletions are $0.039 + 0.084 = 0.12$ ac-ft.
Dv1	All	97	All	Water rights belonging to structures with both junior and senior water rights.
Ev	Reservoir with rights in units of ac-ft	516	Reservoir evaporation is primary use	Diversions and depletions equal to reservoir evaporation losses. Reservoir evaporation loss estimated as 5.6% of the reservoir first fill storage right. The factor of 5.6% was determined from an analysis of 24 reservoirs with available reservoir surface area. For these 24 reservoirs, the total reservoir evaporation losses were estimated as the reservoir surface area multiplied by the reservoir evaporation rate. This loss is then pro-rated between water rights using the decreed storage amounts. The reservoir surface area is obtained from the DWR GIS information (CDSS website) that tabulates maximum water surface area. A net evaporation rate of 2.23 feet/yr is estimated from the average of the net

Code in Appendix A	Structure Type	No. of Water Rights with this Code in Appendix A	Type of Use	Procedure used to Estimate Diversions and Depletions
				evaporation rates at Taylor Park Reservoir and Blue Mesa Reservoir (see the Division 4 Engineer Accounting for Taylor Park Reservoir and Blue Mesa Reservoir). To avoid double accounting, evap was not included for reservoirs that have senior water rights and a junior refill right.
GL	Wells and Reservoir	2	All	Diversions sourced from DWR Hydrobase. Depletions assumed to equal 15% of diversions based on previous year's reporting. All water use reported under Glacier Lily Well No. 1 (Structure ID 5905627). Evaporation from Glacier Lily Pond No. 1 is estimated per "Ev" code.
Gt	Well and Springs	5	Geothermal	This code applies to several hot springs. The geothermal use is considered non-consumptive based on the author's engineering judgement and decree 11CW0047.
Hdl	Reservoirs	1	Headlee Reservoir	This code applies to Headlee Reservoir (Structure ID 5903772). Records from the DWR HYDROBASE indicate the dam was breached in 2002. Therefore all decreed uses are set to zero.
Ir1	Non-Reservoirs	984	Irrigation with no irrigated acreage and no DWR diversion records	Irrigation diversions and depletions are zero because these structures were determined to have no irrigated acreage by the DWR as documented in the DWR HYDROBASE. No records of diversions available from the DWR HYDROBASE.
Ir2	Non-Reservoirs	35	Irrigation with no irrigated acreage but DWR diversions records	Diversions records sourced from DWR HYDROBASE. The DWR HYDROBASE shows no irrigated acreage associated with these structures, however these structures are diverted for irrigation according to the Division 4 Engineer. Based on the author's engineering judgment, the depletions are estimated to be 20% of the diversions.
Ir3	Reservoirs	2	Irrigation with DWR records	Records of total diversion from storage to senior irrigation structures were summed from the DWR HYDROBASE. If a structure had more than one water right, the diversions were allocated to each water on a pro-rata basis. Based on the author's engineering judgment the depletions are estimated to be 20% of the diversions.
Ir4	Reservoirs	115	Irrigation with no DWR records	No records of diversion, release, or storage available from the DWR HYDROBASE. Based on the author's engineering judgment, it is estimated that 50% of the water right was diverted into storage and released to irrigation. Of this water it was estimated that 20% consumed for irrigation purposes.

<b>Code in Appendix A</b>	<b>Structure Type</b>	<b>No. of Water Rights with this Code in Appendix A</b>	<b>Type of Use</b>	<b>Procedure used to Estimate Diversions and Depletions</b>
LC	Wells	1	Lake City Ball Field	This code applies to the Lake City Ball Field Well (Structure ID 6205064). The consumptive use rate is estimated to be 25% (75.16 / 295.96) from information contained in Lake City's plan for augmentation in Case No. 89CW103.
Meek	Tunnel	1	Transbasin	Applies only to Meek Diversion Tunnel (Structure ID 4000576). Diverts water out of Crystal Creek into the Smith Fork Basin. All of the diversions are exported out of the Aspinall Unit drainage area; therefore, 100% of the diversions are considered consumed.
MLR	Reservoir	2	Meridian Lake Reservoir	Applies only to Meridian Lake Reservoir (Structure ID 5903663). Diversions set equal to depletions and are based on max potential evaporation per decreed in Case No. 03CW294. Assume 100% attributed to Jr. water right.
Mn	Wells	14	Municipal	Diversion records sourced from DWR HYDROBASE. Depletions are estimated as either 24% or 53% as informed by individual decrees.
N	Non-Reservoir	47	Industrial	Diversions and depletions are estimated at 0.44 ac-ft. These values are estimated by the Division 4 Engineer use for industrial water rights when no additional information is available.
Ot	Non-Reservoir	30	Other	Diversions and depletions are estimated at 0.44 ac-ft which is the value estimated by the Division 4 Engineer to be the annual consumptive use for other water rights when no additional information is available.
RICD	Diversion Structure	1	Recreational Instream Channel Diversion	Applies only to Gunnison River Whitewater Course water right (Structure ID 5901327). Diversion records sourced from the DWR HYDROBASE. Depletions are zero for the instream diversions.
Sn	Pipeline	2	Snowmaking	Applies only to Crested Butte Mountain Resort (CBMR) snowmaking water right (Structure ID 5901362). Diversion records sourced from DWR HYDROBASE. Depletions estimated to be 20% based on other water right transfers involving snowmaking water rights.
St	Well and Springs	1,883	Stock	Diversions and depletions equal 0.40 ac-ft which is the value estimated by the Division 4 office. This is equal to 100 cattle using 8 gallons/head/day for 163 days.
StateCU1	Diversion Structure	102	Irrigation with identified 2020 irrigated acreage	Applies to structures with diversions to irrigation and with assigned acreage in DWR's 2020 acreage assessment. The DWR STATECU model was utilized to estimate the diversions and depletions using the "Calculated" StateCU modeling approach. The diversions and depletions from StateCU were then divided between the water rights decreed for

Code in Appendix A	Structure Type	No. of Water Rights with this Code in Appendix A	Type of Use	Procedure used to Estimate Diversions and Depletions
				irrigation using the decree amounts and daily diversion records.
StateCU2	Diversion Structure	29	Irrigation with identified irrigated acreage and no reported diversions.	Applies to structures with assigned acreage in DWR's 2020 acreage assessment, however current diversion records are missing. The DWR STATECU model was utilized to estimate the diversions and depletions using the "Prorated" StateCU modeling approach, based on water shortages experienced by nearby structures with diversion records. The diversions and depletions from StateCU were then divided between the water rights decreed for irrigation using the decree amounts and daily diversion records.
Tp 2nd	Reservoir	1	Taylor Park 2nd fill	Applies only to Taylor Park Reservoir (Structure ID 5903666). The diversions and reservoir evaporation losses are from the Division 4 accounting sheets for Taylor Park Reservoir. One of the decreed uses for the Taylor Park 2nd fill is irrigation. The Division 4 Engineer has no records of Taylor Park 2nd fill releases being diverted for irrigation. Therefore, for the purposes of this report, no calculations were made for the supplemental irrigation diversion allowed under the refill decree.
Zero	All	1,301	Fire, fishery, power generation, wildlife, and recreation	Depletions and consumptive use associated with these uses are estimated to be zero. No diversions available in DWR Hydrobase. For purpose of this report, diversions are shown as 0 ac-ft.

**General Notes regarding above information:**

- a) Some water rights shown in Appendix A have multiple decreed uses and therefore may be subject to a combination of method codes
- b) The sum of column 3 does not represent the total number of water rights subject to the Subordination Agreement since a single water right may have more than one use code.
- c) The estimated diversions and depletions outlined above are further limited to the decreed amount for all water rights.

**TABLE 3**  
**CONSUMPTIVE USE (STATECU) MODEL**

Row	Description	Number of Structures	Number of Acres	% of Total Acres
(1)	Number of Structures in StateCU with Reported Daily Diversions.	512	57,855	83.1%
(2)	Structures with Diversions Estimated using the Prorated Method in StateCU	89	11,780	16.9%
(3)	Total Number of Structures	601	69,635	100.0%

**General Notes Regarding the Application of the StateCU program for this report:**

- a) The "Prorated" method is used by the StateCU program to estimate diversions if there are missing diversion records at a structure. StateCU estimates these diversions based on the irrigated acres and the amount of water supply available to diversion structures that have diversion records in the same water district. The State of Colorado default modeling option is to assume that all missing diversions amounts are zero.
- b) The DWR HYDROBASE (Version 20250923) database was used to build the input data for the StateCU model.
- c) The 2020 irrigated acreage GIS coverage sourced from the DWR HYDROBASE (Version 20250923)
- d) The StateCU scenario includes all structures assigned irrigated acreage located in the project area (i.e. upstream of Crystal Reservoir). Only a portion of these structures and associated acreage are junior to the Aspinall Unit priority. Refer to StateCU1 and StateCU2 codes.

**TABLE 4****SUMMARY OF WATER RIGHTS WHICH QUALIFY FOR SUBORDINATION OF ASPINALL UNIT WATER RIGHTS UNDER THE SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT**

Category	Type of Water Right	Above Blue Mesa Dam	Blue Mesa Dam to Morrow Point Dam	Morrow Point Dam to Crystal Dam	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Number of Water Rights	Irrigation <sup>a)</sup>	871	56	103	1,030
	Reservoir <sup>b)</sup>	271	33	69	373
	All Other <sup>c)</sup>	1,423	143	159	1,725
	Total	2,565	232	331	3,128
Amount of Water Rights	Irrigation (cfs) <sup>a)</sup>	692	16	85	793
	Reservoir (ac-ft) <sup>b)</sup>	116,915 <sup>d)</sup>	789	449	118,154
	All Other (cfs) <sup>c)</sup>	2,052	39	34	2,125
Diversions by Water Rights (units of ac-ft/yr)	Irrigation <sup>a)</sup>	18,478	39	955	19,471
	Reservoir <sup>b)</sup>	108,666 <sup>e)</sup>	92	154	108,912
	All Other <sup>c)</sup>	375,919 <sup>f)</sup>	89	248	376,256
	Total	503,064	219	1,357	504,639
Depletions by Water Rights (units of ac-ft/yr)	Irrigation <sup>a)</sup>	2,928	26	255	3,209
	Reservoir <sup>b)</sup>	3,142	65	69	3,276
	All Other <sup>c)</sup>	1,639	61	213	1,913
	Total	7,709	152	537	8,398

**Footnotes:**

a) Irrigation includes all water rights with identified irrigated acreage decreed for irrigation. The acreage was identified and mapped by the DWR as part of the Colorado Decision Support System (data included in the StateCU model).

b) All water rights whose amounts are quantified in units of ac-ft. Generally these are reservoirs.

c) All water rights that did not fall into the first two categories.

d) This figure includes 106,230 ac-ft decreed absolute for Taylor Park 2nd fill water right decreed in Case No. 15CW0031.

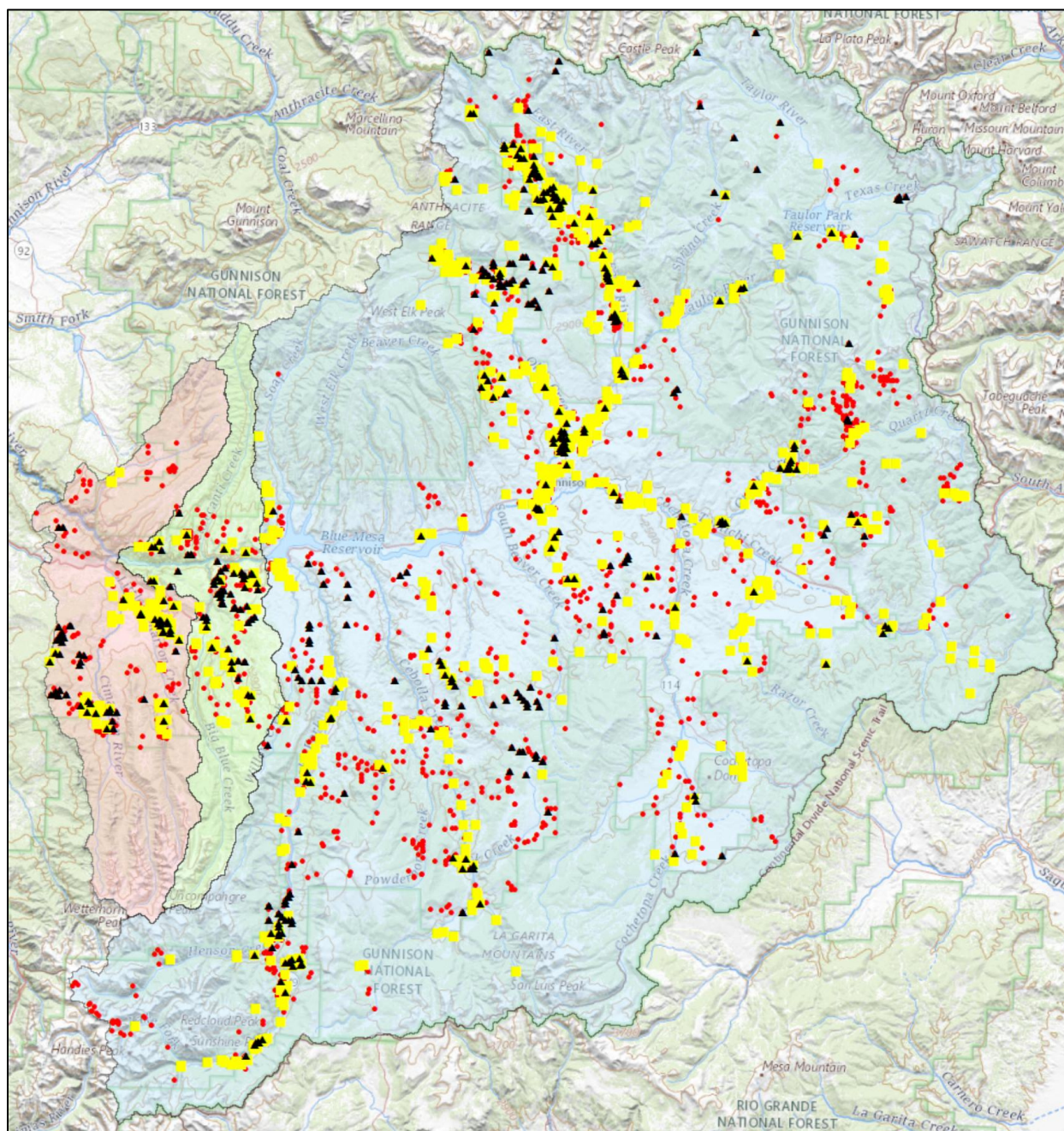
e) This figure includes the diversions associated with the Taylor Park 2nd fill water right as shown in the Division 4 accounting sheets for Taylor Park Reservoir and additional other small reservoirs.

f) All Other includes the non-consumptive diversions by Gunnison River Whitewater Course

**TABLE 5**  
**HISTORICAL DEPLETIONS UNDER THE SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT**  
(values in ac-ft)

Year	Above Blue Mesa Dam	Blue Mesa Dam to Morrow Point Dam	Morrow Point Dam to Crystal Dam	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Depletion Allowance	40,000	10,000	10,000	60,000
2000	7,126	294	952	8,372
2001	7,054	137	1,136	8,327
2002	5,053	67	245	5,365
2003	3,866	118	564	4,548
2004	6,670	140	515	7,325
2005	7,586	140	870	8,596
2006	7,936	138	884	8,958
2007	8,442	138	1,302	9,882
2008	8,032	140	668	8,840
2009	8,686	150	892	9,728
2010	7,988	150	1,083	9,221
2011	8,122	149	1,201	9,472
2012	8,626	148	489	9,263
2013	7,622	151	663	8,436
2014	9,298	155	815	10,268
2015	10,487	149	941	11,577
2016	9,913	146	809	10,868
2017	8,806	146	665	9,617
2018	7,335	144	303	7,782
2019	8,437	144	721	9,302
2020	8,214	144	445	8,803
2021	6,989	151	426	7,565
2022	8,361	151	475	8,988
2023	7,841	151	668	8,660
2024	7,709	152	537	8,398





## Figure 1

Location of Water Rights  
Which Qualify for  
Subordination of Aspinall Unit  
Water Rights Under the  
Subordination Agreement

0 5 10 20 30 40

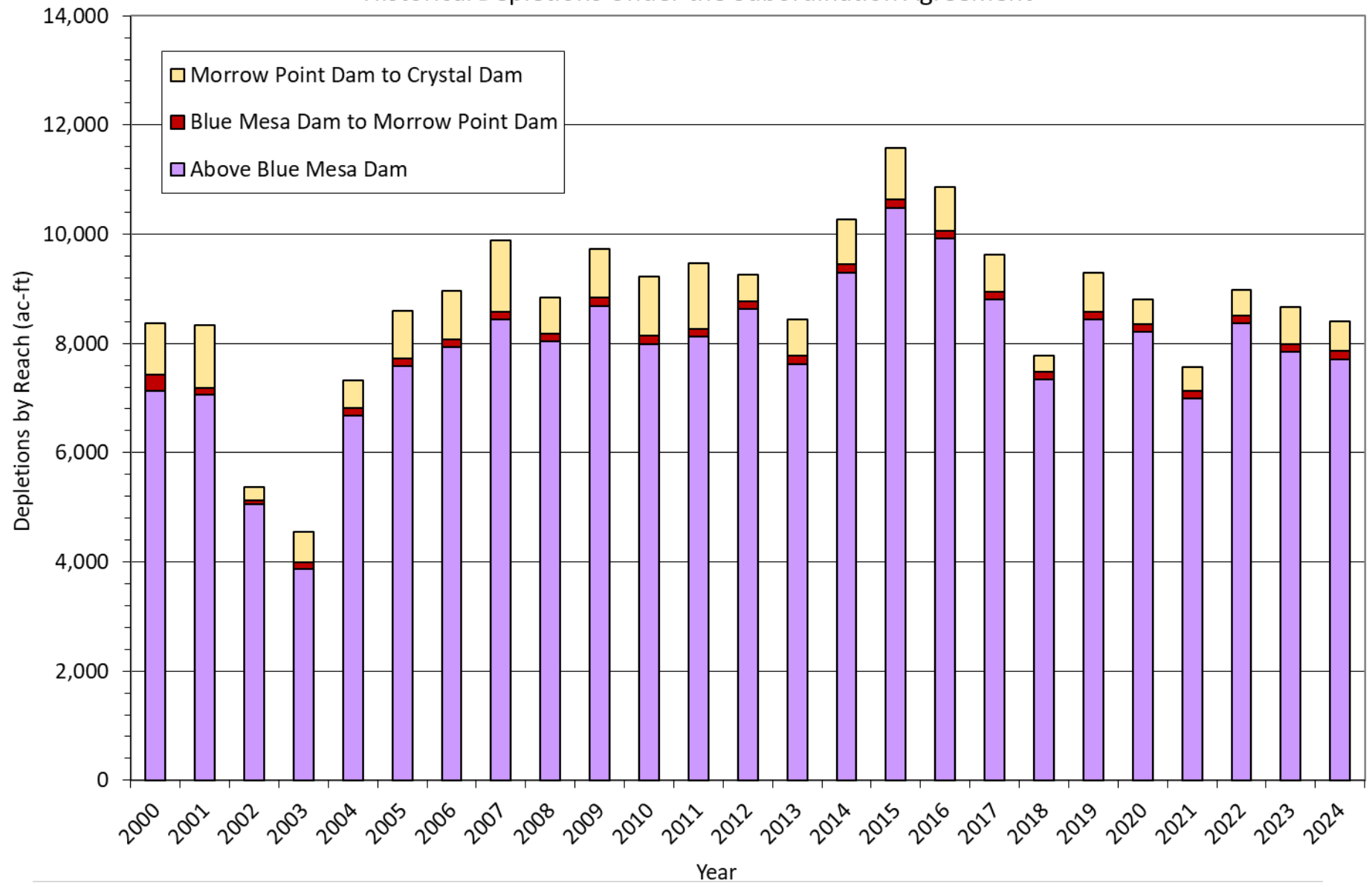
Miles

N

- Irrigation
- Other
- Reservoir
- Morrow Point – Crystal
- Blue Mesa – Morrow Point
- Above Blue Mesa



Figure 2  
Historical Depletions Under the Subordination Agreement



## Memorandum



To: Upper Gunnison River Water  
Conservancy District and Colorado River  
Water Conservation District

From: Brenna Mefford and Lisa Brown

Date: 4/23/2025

Re: Consumptive Use Methodology Comparison for Aspinall Reporting

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### Background

The current Aspinall Subordination Report utilizes the Colorado Decision Support System (CDSS) model StateCU to estimate agricultural consumptive use using the Modified Blaney-Criddle Method with crop coefficients specifically calibrated to actual crop consumptive use measured by lysimeters in the high-elevation areas of western Colorado, including in the Upper Gunnison basin. A crop coefficient is a factor that accounts for a specific crop-type growing characteristics and effects of evaporation from the soil<sup>1</sup>. The crop coefficient is multiplied by evapotranspiration calculated from climate conditions in order to estimate crop evapotranspiration. Calibrated crop coefficients are developed for specific consumptive use methods in order to account for local conditions on crop consumptive use.

Recently, the State of Colorado has developed a companion tool that works in conjunction with StateCU to estimate consumptive use using the American Society of Civil Engineers Standardized Penman-Monteith Evapotranspiration (ET) equation and gridded climate data developed by the State of Colorado based on local Colorado Agricultural Meteorological Network (CoAgMET) and NOAA climate stations. The State of Colorado is using this updated methodology in the on-going updates to CDSS consumptive use and water allocation models (basin models).

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has also adopted a new methodology for estimating crop use for the Consumptive Use and Losses Report for the Upper Colorado River Basin. This methodology also uses the standardized Penman-Monteith ET equation to calculate potential ET, then relies on the remote sensing model eeMETRIC to estimate actual consumptive use and associated shortages.

As other entities are using newer models to estimate consumptive use, it is important for the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) and the Colorado River Water Conservation District (River District) to understand how these different methodologies could affect the total consumptive use estimates in the Aspinall Subordination Report. Under the direction of the UGRWCD and the River District, Wilson Water Group (WWG) wrote this memo

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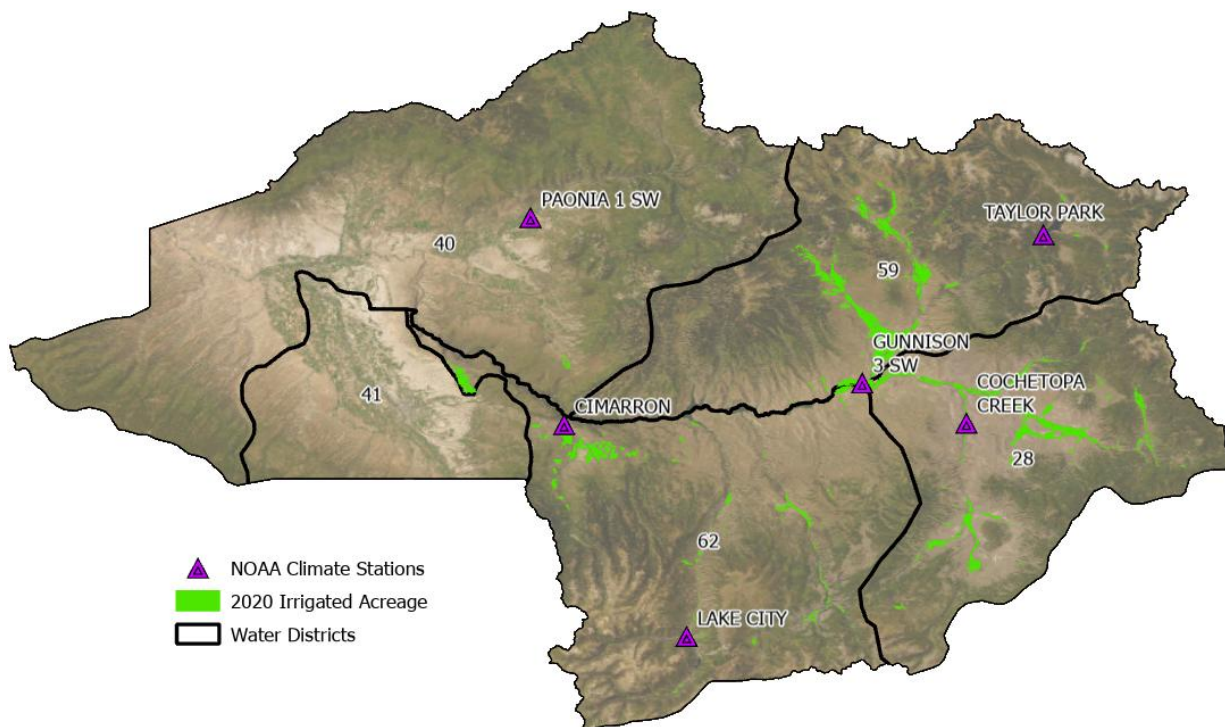
<sup>1</sup> Allen, R.G. (1998) FAO Irrigation and Drainage Paper No. 56. Irrigation and Drainage, 56, No. 97. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome

to compare consumptive use estimates from the Modified Blaney-Criddle Method and the Penman-Monteith Method.

## Methodology

### *Current Methodology*

Currently, the Aspinall Subordination Report prepared by WWG on behalf of UGRWCD and the River District utilizes the Modified Blaney-Criddle method to estimate potential consumptive use from agriculture fields in the Upper Gunnison. The Modified Blaney-Criddle equation requires only monthly air temperature data to estimate potential evapotranspiration (PET). Figure 1 shows a map of the NOAA climate stations that are utilized in the current Aspinall reporting analysis and the 2020 irrigated acreage in the Upper Gunnison. Note that these are the same climate stations used in the State's CDSS basin model. The period of record typically drives the selection of which climate stations to use, as the basin model calculate crop consumptive use starting in 1950.



*Figure 1. NOAA Climate Stations Used in the Current Aspinall Consumptive Use Analysis*

The current analysis utilizes the Denver Water High Altitude (DWHA) crop coefficients. These calibrated coefficients are documented in a report prepared for Denver Water by Walter, Siemer, Quinlan and Burman in 1990 and are based on lysimeter studies that collected data at various times from 1968 through 1979 in South Park. The UGRWCD also sponsored lysimeter studies in the Upper Gunnison from 1999 through 2003 at ten different sites. This study provided calibrated crop coefficients that are almost identical to the Denver Water High Altitude coefficients. Due to the similarities between the calibrated crop coefficients, the

DWHA crop coefficients have been used in the Upper Gunnison for the Aspinall report and in previous Gunnison Basin CDSS models.

#### *Penman-Monteith Methodology*

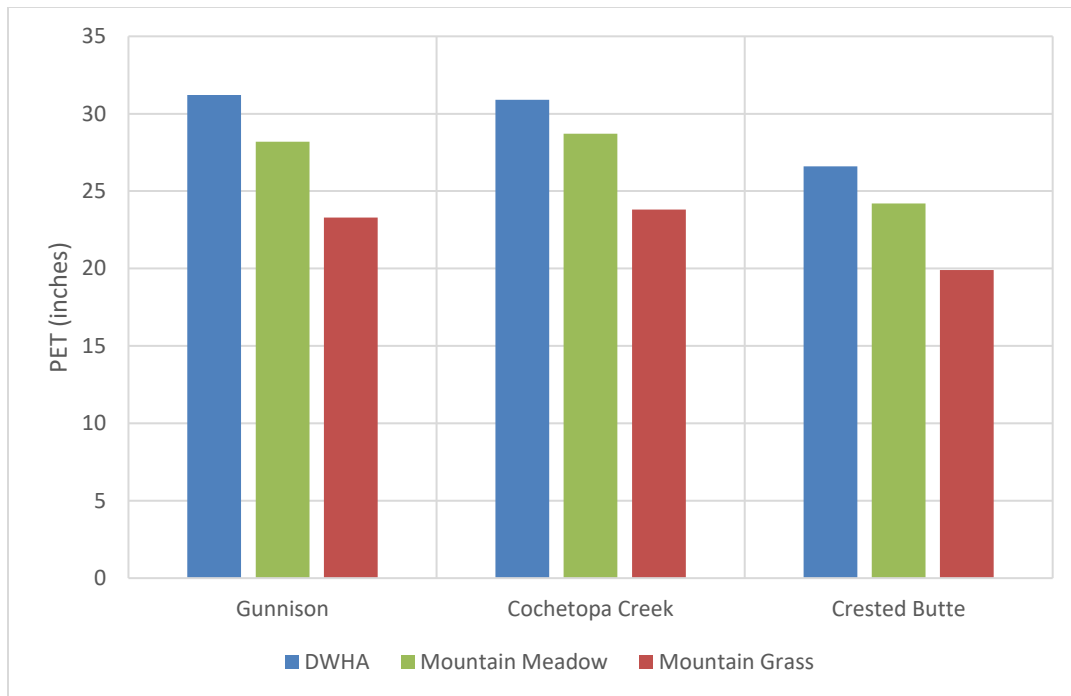
The Colorado Division of Water Resources (CDWR) developed a tool called StateCU ASCEpt, that provides standardized, long-term, and calibrated estimates of PET based on American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Standardized Reference ET equation. This tool was originally developed for use in the Arkansas River Basin and has since been expanded statewide. The tool estimates PET on a four-kilometer grid based on standardized quality-controlled climate data (temperature, solar, wind, precipitation and relative humidity) mainly from NOAA and CoAgMet. As of April 2025, the period of record for the tool is from 1950 to 2023.

The StateCU ASCEpt tool allows the user to identify the location (latitude and longitude) and crop type at which to estimate PET for. WWG used ArcPro to develop the locations by estimating the centroid of the irrigated acreage for structures included in the current Aspinall reporting. The crop type was set based on the CDSS irrigated acreage crop type designation. The StateCU ASCEpt uses the crop type to determine which crop coefficients to use to estimate PET for each structure and crop type. StateCU ASCEpt tool includes two types of crop coefficients for grass hay at high elevations (Mountain Grass and Mountain Meadow). The Mountain Meadow coefficients are recommended for high elevation areas and fields with significant standing water for much of the growing season before the first cutting. WWG selected the Mountain Meadow crop type for water districts 28 and 59. Mountain Grass estimates are recommended for high elevation areas where standing water is not as evident. WWG selected the Mountain Grass crop type in water districts 62 and 40 (see Figure 1 for water district boundaries). Note that the DWHA calibrated crop coefficients were developed for use with the Blaney-Criddle equation and therefore should not be used with the Penman-Monteith equation.

The StateCU ASCEpt documentation<sup>2</sup> discusses the development of the Mountain Grass and Mountain Meadow crop coefficients and compares the resulting PET to results from Modified Blaney-Criddle using the DWHA coefficients. Figure 2 shows the DWHA, Mountain Grass, and Mountain Meadow average PET from 1950 to 2019 from Table A.7 in the StateCU ASCEpt documentation at three climate stations in the Upper Gunnison Basin.

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<sup>2</sup> ArkDSS Report: Development of Arkansas Basin Evapotranspiration (ET) Datasets. December 2021.  
[https://dnrftp.state.co.us/CDSS/ArkDSS/ArkDSS\\_ETdatasets.pdf](https://dnrftp.state.co.us/CDSS/ArkDSS/ArkDSS_ETdatasets.pdf)



*Figure 2. Average Annual PET from 1950 to 2019 at Three NOAA Climate Station Locations in the Upper Gunnison Basin*

Figure 2 shows all three climate stations in the Upper Gunnison Basin had smaller PET with the Penman-Monteith method applied to Mountain Meadow and Mountain Grass crop coefficients than the Modified Blaney Criddle method with DWHA crop coefficients. Therefore, it is expected that the crop consumptive use estimates for the region will decrease.

The StateCU ASCEpt tool allows the user to include year-round ET. Non-growing season ET is due to evaporative losses from the top of the soil. For the CDSS basin models update, year-round ET will not be implemented as the standard. Wintertime ET will be excluded from the planning models. Note that it is WWG's understanding that Reclamation utilizes year-round ET values in the updated CU and Losses Reporting. Most wintertime ET is due to precipitation and therefore does not typically show up as a depletion and therefore will be more apparent in comparisons of PET estimates than in crop consumptive use estimates.

#### *Aspinall Subordination Reporting*

For irrigated acres, the Aspinall Subordination Reporting calculates the volume of consumptive use that is attributable to senior or junior water rights. WWG ran both the Modified-Blaney Criddle PET estimates and the Penman-Monteith PET estimates through the same calculations to determine how differences in crop potential evapotranspiration methods would impact the accounting.

## Results

The results of this analysis are focused on how changes in the crop PET translates into changes to the crop consumptive use attributable to junior water rights. The data and methods used to calculate junior depletions from other water use types included in the Aspinall subordination reporting (such as reservoir evaporation and municipal well consumptive use) will stay the same.

Results are presented from 2017 through 2023, corresponding to the years when WWG prepared the Aspinall Subordination Report. The total PET for all structures in the analysis showed that the Penman-Monteith analysis was not consistently higher or lower than Modified Blaney-Criddle, as shown in Figure 3.

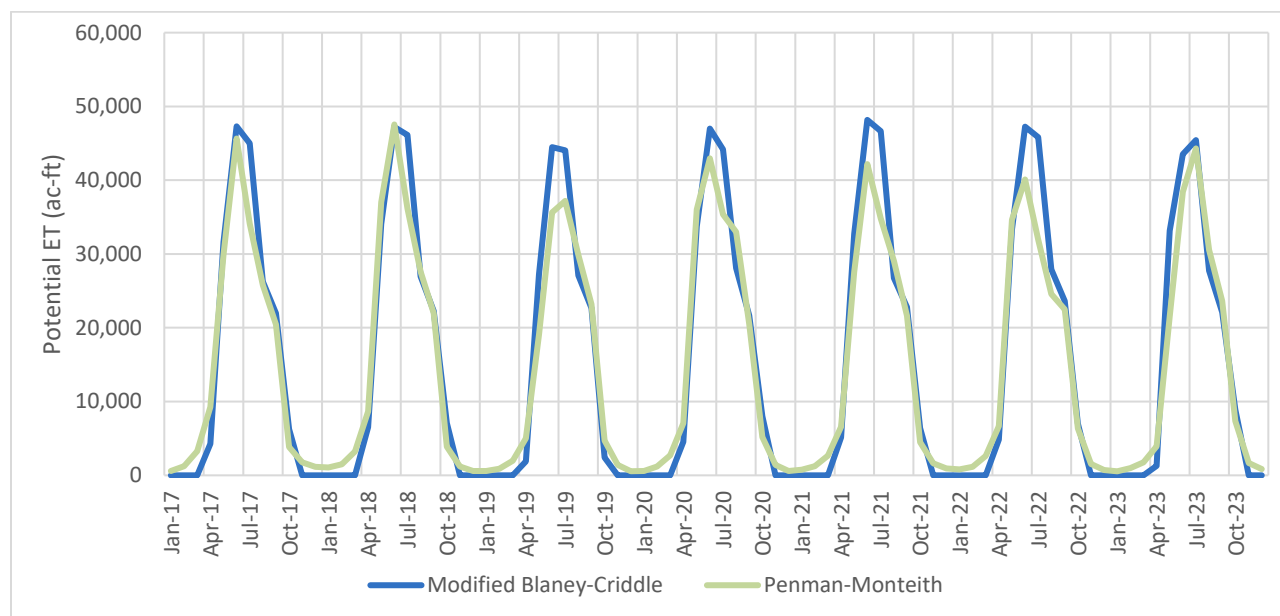


Figure 3. Total PET for all structures in the analysis from both methods.

Note that in Figure 3 the results from the Penman-Monteith analysis do not go to zero in the winter. As discussed above, the Penman-Monteith analysis includes year-round ET, while Modified Blaney-Criddle does not (wintertime ET was assumed to be zero). Table 1 compares the water year type (wet/average/dry/drought) to total PET and the percent difference in PET between the two methods.

Table 1. Total PET for each Method, Percent Difference and Water Year Type for 2017 to 2023

Table 1	Modified Blaney-Criddle (af)	Penman-Monteith (af)	Percent Difference	Water Year Type
2017	182,748	176,949	-3.2%	Wet
2018	190,332	190,560	0.1%	Drought
2019	169,814	160,078	-5.7%	Wet
2020	187,156	186,509	-0.3%	Drought
2021	188,552	173,546	-8.0%	Drought

2022	189,751	173,550	-8.5%	Drought
2023	182,142	175,501	-3.6%	Average

Table 1 shows the change in PET has no correlation between year type and that typically Modified Blaney-Criddle produced larger PET than Penman-Monteith, due to Modified Blaney-Criddle utilizing the high-altitude coefficients.

Table 2 shows the change in PET by moving from Modified Blaney-Criddle to Penman-Monteith by sub-basin. A negative indicates that the PET would go down and a positive indicates PET would go up if Penman-Monteith was used instead of Modified Blaney-Criddle

*Table 2. Resulting Change in PET by Moving to Penman-Monteith*

Year	Change in PET (acre-feet)			
	Above Blue Mesa Dam	Blue Mesa Dam to Morrow Point Dam	Morrow Point Dam to Crystal Dam	Upper Gunnison Basin Total
2017	-10,729	356	4,574	-5,799
2018	-5,561	596	5,193	228
2019	-13,832	333	3,763	-9,736
2020	-5,418	316	4,456	-646
2021	-16,656	-161	1,811	-15,006
2022	-14,893	-658	-649	-16,200
2023	-11,881	650	4,590	-6,641
<b>Average</b>	<b>-11,281</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>3,391</b>	<b>-7,686</b>

PET will decrease for irrigated acreage above Blue Mesa but will on average increase for irrigated structures in the Morrow Point Dam and Crystal Dam sub-basins. Historically, with the Modified Blaney-Criddle approach WWG had to choose which climate stations to use to estimate PET for irrigated acreage. As shown in Figure 1, sometimes the irrigated acreage was not near a climate station. Using the StateCU ASCEpt tool, PET is now calculated using gridded climate data which allows for more local estimates of climate data. The irrigated acreage that is showing higher PET from Penman-Monteith is mainly lower in the basin and may have historically been represented by climate data that wasn't as accurate due to its distance from the acreage.

Crop consumptive use attributable to senior and junior water diversions was also compared as part of this analysis. Figure 4 shows total consumptive use for both methods categories by Senior and Junior.

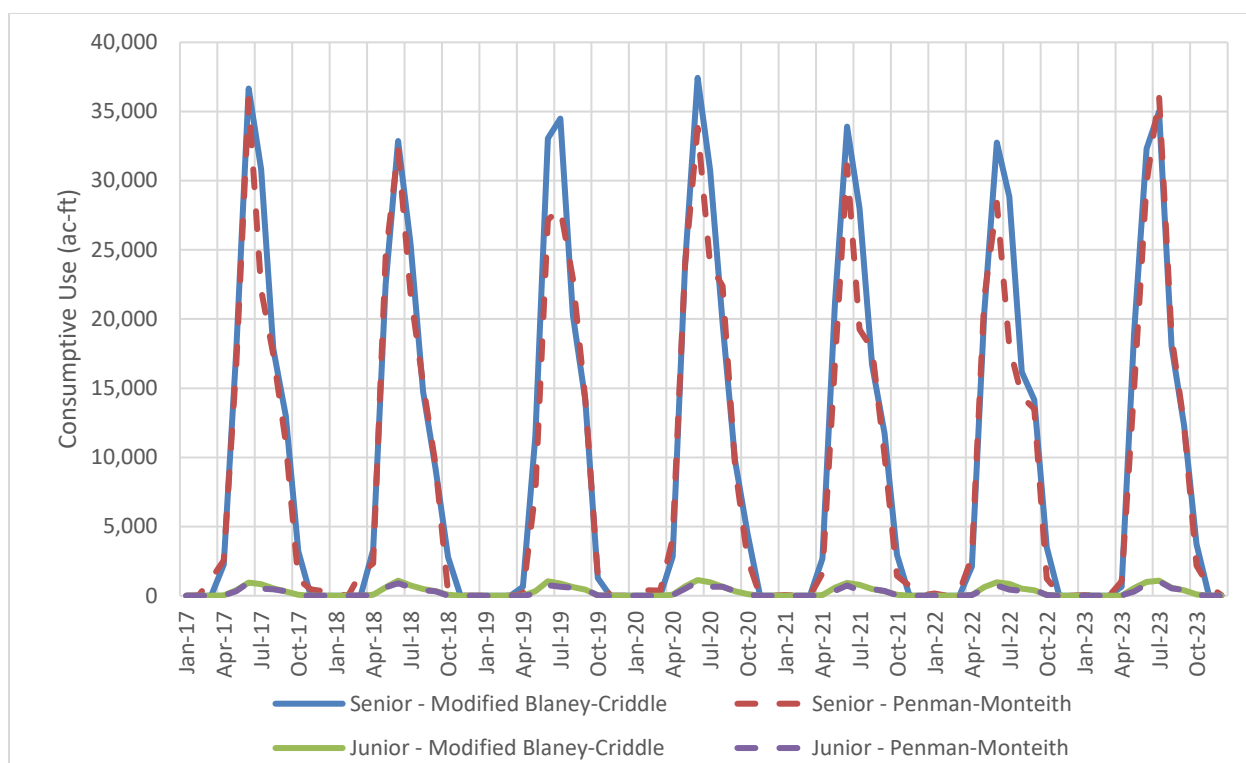


Figure 4. Crop Consumptive Use for Each Method by Senior and Junior Water Rights

As shown in Figure 4, both senior and junior Modified Blaney-Criddle consumptive use tended to be higher, as expected, due to PET from Modified Blaney-Criddle being larger. The drought years of 2021 and 2022 both had the largest difference between the two methods for both senior and junior total basin crop consumptive use. Tables 3 and 4 show the difference between Modified Blaney-Criddle and Penman-Monteith for both senior and junior crop consumptive use, respectively, broken down by sub basin. As above, positive values show that crop consumptive use will increase and negative values show that crop consumptive use will decrease.

Table 3. Resulting Change in Senior Crop Consumptive Use by Moving to Penman-Monteith

Year	Change in Senior Crop Consumptive Use (acre-feet)			Percent Difference of Total Upper Gunnison
	Above Blue Mesa Dam	Blue Mesa Dam to Morrow Point Dam	Morrow Point Dam to Crystal Dam	
2017	-10,439	-734	-1,368	-10.3%
2018	-5,045	438	1,484	-2.8%
2019	-15,364	310	995	-12.2%
2020	-8,783	-124	803	-6.3%
2021	-14,332	-1,299	-2,512	-15.5%
2022	-15,168	-779	-1,582	-14.8%
2023	-10,048	-128	5,195	-4.1%
<b>Average</b>	<b>-11,311</b>	<b>-331</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>-9.4%</b>



*Table 4. Resulting Change in Junior Crop Consumptive Use by Moving to Penman-Monteith*

Year	Change in Junior Crop Consumptive Use (acre-feet)			Percent Difference of Total Upper Gunnison
	Above Blue Mesa Dam	Blue Mesa Dam to Morrow Point Dam	Morrow Point Dam to Crystal Dam	
2017	-561	-7	54	-16.4%
2018	-479	7	-14	-14.4%
2019	-750	2	-1	-22.1%
2020	-644	-2	1	-16.5%
2021	-808	-19	-8	-25.9%
2022	-942	19	-12	-26.8%
2023	-547	0	7	-14.4%
<b>Average</b>	-676	0	4	-19.5%

In both the senior and junior crop consumptive use, the irrigated acreage above Blue Mesa Reservoir will have less consumptive use when using Penman-Monteith. Mainly due to the limited number of diversion structures below Blue Mesa that diverted water from 2017 to 2023, using Penman-Monteith resulted in little change in crop consumptive use, with hardly any change in junior crop consumptive use. Note that in the Aspinall Subordination Report only the junior crop consumptive use is shown.

### Discussion

This analysis shows that if the Aspinall Subordination Report utilized Penman-Monteith in future modeling efforts, a decrease in total basin crop consumptive use would occur. Based on the above results, the total crop consumptive use for the Upper Gunnison basin analysis would be on average roughly 10 percent less than when using the Modified Blaney-Criddle Approach and the crop consumptive use attributable to the junior water rights decreases by 19.5% .

The 2021 StateCU ASCEpt documentation compared PET estimates with different grass crop coefficients, including DWAHA (Table A.7 in the Documentation). This table showed that at Gunnison, Cochetopa Creek, and Crested Butte climate stations in the Gunnison basin that Modified Blaney-Criddle with DWAHA crop coefficients would result in higher PET than other grass crop coefficients utilized by the StateCU ASCEpt tool and Penman-Monteith. These results are consistent with the results in this analysis. Areas where increases in consumptive use occurred are most likely because more accurate climate data is used due to the gridded climate data used by StateCU ASCEpt tool.

Updating the Aspinall Subordination Report to a new methodology has the benefit of aligning the Report with both the State of Colorado's updated CDSS Gunnison basin model and Reclamations CU and Losses Report. Additionally, the volume of junior depletions from agriculture would not increase above Blue Mesa Dam. Minor increases (up to 54 acre-feet) to depletions may occur in the Blue Mesa Dam to Morrow Point Dam or Morrow Point Dam to Crystal Dam subbasins. Each of these sub-basins have a depletion allowance of 10,000 acre-feet. From 2017 through 2023, average annual junior depletion volume for the Blue Mesa Dam

to Morrow Point Dam subbasin was 147 acre-feet and the Morrow Point Dam to Crystal Dam subbasin was 529 acre-feet. These subbasin are not close to hitting the depletion allowance and the small potential increase shown in the results would not cause a large enough increase to reach the depletion allowance. Therefore, WWG recommends updating the methodology used by the Aspinall Subordination Report to ensure it is using a method that has been shown to produce more accurate and consistent results in arid and humid environments<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Allen, R.G. (1998) FAO Irrigation and Drainage Paper No. 56. Irrigation and Drainage, 56, No. 97. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome

# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

## **Staff and Committee Reports**

Date: December 13, 2025

To: UGRWCD Board Members

From: Mark A. Schumacher

Re: Participation in Taylor Local Users Group

Dear Board Members,

Please take into consideration my desire to continue my representation of the boating / rafting use group.

I have participated in the process since its inception in 1992. I have boated the Taylor Reservoir, Taylor River, and Gunnison River since 1972. I currently own and operate Three Rivers Resort and Outfitting, which serves the public through guided kayaking, fishing and rafting. Through my business I talk to thousands of people each summer who boat on the Taylor Reservoir, Taylor River and Gunnison River. These boaters are a mixture of commercial and private users, residents and visitors. I understand what type of experience these boaters desire, whether it's kayaking, canoeing, rafting or fishing.

During my tenure as a board member of the UGRWCD I helped revise and refine the Taylor Dam operating criteria as issues and conditions changed. I have a good understanding of the '75 agreement and the district's "2<sup>nd</sup> fill" water right. For years I represented the district at the "four parties" meeting in Montrose every May.

Having taken time over last 5 years trying to understand the implications and operational changes considering the new operating agreement/stipulation with Taylor Placer Ltd. Understanding the agreement and its impact on the historical operations and interests of other local user groups is a challenge which I enjoy. I continue to learn more about how climate change is impacting our valley.

I am also a private landowner and fisherman on the Taylor River. I have a good understanding of how the operations of Taylor Dam affect all user groups. Because of this understanding I feel that I can give input to the user group to find consensus on operations under all conditions presented.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Schumacher

**From:** [Ryan Birdsey](#)  
**To:** [Sonja Chavez](#)  
**Cc:** [Sue Uerling](#)  
**Subject:** TLUG Representation  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 6, 2026 12:09:44 PM

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Hi Sonja, Sue contacted and informed me that my term was up for designation on 12/31/25 for my representation for flat water interests on the TLUG board. I am writing this to confirm that I would like to continue my representation. I look forward to another great year ahead and hopefully many more in the future.

Kind Regards,  
***Ryan Birdsey***

**C: 970-290-9583**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Sue Uerling, Admin. Assistant./Comm. Support Specialist  
and Jules Iovino, UGRWCD Fellow  
**DATE:** January 20, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Education and Outreach Report

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The following is an update on 2025 Education and Outreach action items completed since the previous report, as well as action items to be completed in the first quarter of 2026.

**2025 Action Items:**

- **ADVERTISING:**

The District ran color display ads in October in the *Gunnison Country Times* and *Crested Butte News* for two weeks at the end of September and beginning of October, advertising that the District could help with pre-engineering and design for District Grant projects. Beginning in December 2025 and concluding in mid-January 2026, the District ran full-color display ads announcing the District grant program in the *Gunnison Country Times*, *Crested Butte News* and *SilverWorld* (Lake City).

The District also ran black and white display ads in the *Gunnison Country Times* and *Crested Butte News* for the Taylor Local Users Group opening for representatives from boating/rafting and flat water recreation interests during December and the first week of January. Current representatives Mark Schumacher and Ryan Birdsey submitted letters of interest to renew their terms.

In addition, a display ad ran in Gunnison and Crested Butte the last two weeks of September for the Wet Meadows Program “Free Landowners Workshop.”

- **SPONSORSHIPS:**

The District sponsored field trips for third and fifth-grade students from Gunnison Elementary School and Lake City School to Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (RMBL) in Gothic. Nearly 200 students took part in the field trips that focused on “Next Generation Science Standards” for environmental science. Katie Lawn of RMBL will give a final report on the 2025 field trips at a future UGRWCD Board meeting.

- **GENERAL OUTREACH**

The District participated in the Headwaters Conference at Western Colorado University in November. The District provided promotional items as prizes for a project funded by the CWCB called “GameOn for Drought Resilience.” Krystal Brown’s GHS Environmental Science co-facilitated a community game afternoon as part of the conference. General Manager Sonja Chavez attended and helped provide a deeper understanding of how water leaders plan for drought resilience.

Sue Uerling and Bev Richards attended the Gunnison Valley Environmental Educators Council meeting at the new Pathways building on the Gunnison High School campus on November 19<sup>th</sup>. A mini-grant from the District funded refreshments for the meeting.

- **FIRST GRADE WATER BOOK**

Staff met with Chris and Kirsten Dickey to review drafts of the first-grade water book with a locally-relevant water theme in December. Staff advised the Dickeyes that they would like to see more character development and further illustrations to enhance the storyline. It was decided that work would continue on the book with a deadline of March 2026 for printing and April 2026 for distribution.

**2026 Action Items (first quarter):**

- **RADIO ADVERTISING:**

The District is currently running two 30-second spots that run in rotation eight times a day on KEJJ and KVLE radio. These include advertisements announcing the 2026 District Grant program and about the District's Mini-Grant program. In addition, there is a general ad about the District's mission that runs during sporting events broadcasted by the radio stations. New ads will be developed and recorded to air beginning on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The District is also running a KBUT underwriting ad in conjunction with the snow report.

- **SPONSORSHIPS**

The District hosted the January 2026 'Mayors & Managers' meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2026. Nearly 20 area leaders attended the luncheon. Kenneth Hurst Williams presented on "A Decade of Discovery in the Upper Gunnison" and Sonja and John provided feedback for questions about the watershed.

The District will serve as the "Coffee Break Sponsor" at the Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention beginning January 28, 2026. The District is provided compostable coffee cups with lids that say "Coffee.....Because it's Too Early for Wine" along with the UGRWCD logo. Nearly 750 attendees are expected.

The District will also sponsor the Ice Masters Fishing Tournament at Taylor Park Reservoir on February 28, 2026. UGRWCD banners will be hung at the registration table and at the weigh-in station. Fishing lures with the UGRWCD logo will be given to all participants and announcements about the sponsorship will be made throughout the day. Board members are welcome to attend the festivities. Registration begins at 6 a.m., and the tournament concludes at 2 p.m.

- **VIDEO PROJECT FOR THE DISTRICT**

Staff met with Hayden Daiber, director of the Gunnison River Festival, to review script ideas and potential video and still photos for videos to be produced in 2026. The District's goal is to have one video ready in time for Cattlemen's Days in July 2026 to run on the scoreboard prior to the rodeo on Thursday, July 9, 2025. The District may be reaching out to some of you to schedule a time when Hayden can use her drone to shoot video footage on your property.

- **SOCIAL MEDIA**

The District has increased its social media presence recently, using platforms such as Instagram and Facebook. Although we had existing accounts, engagement was fairly low. Our Instagram account was only seeing 200-300 visits per month. In the last two months, Jules has increased the amount of content, including sharing recent water articles, recaps of outreach events (Night of Lights), announcements such as the UGRWCD grant program application and the Taylor Park Ice Masters event, and fun quizzes/facts to boost engagement. According to the app insights, we have gained 15 followers and increased our profile views by up to 2,500 views monthly since October. We are hoping to continue to increase engagement to see at least 30 more followers and increase views by up to 500 per month by the next quarter.

- **WEBSITE UPDATE**

Staff will meet with Savannah Nelson of Sunshine Creatives to plan the redesign of the UGRWCD website.

- **RTA BUS WINDOW BANNERS**

OffCenter Designs is finalizing three different perforated banners that will be displayed in three of the RTA buses that run between Gunnison and Crested Butte. The three different banners will read: OUR WATER-OUR VALLEY; WE GO WITH THE FLOW; and WATER YOU WAITING FOR? CONSERVE! They are scheduled to be installed by the end of January.



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Ari Yamaguchi, Water Resources Specialist  
**DATE:** January 26, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Basin Water Quality & Quantity Update

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**Homestake Pitch Uranium Mine**

Homestake has elected to postpone submission of their application for a Discharger-Specific Variance (DSV) to the Water Quality Control Commission; they will appear before the Commission in June 2027 instead of June 2026. Considering the feedback from stakeholder groups (various divisions of CDPHE, UGRWCD, and EPA), there were too many gaps in their application documents to be considered “ripe” for this upcoming hearing. District Staff and other stakeholder agencies generally agree with the decision to postpone this hearing, as it allows for Homestake to generate analyses that cover gaps in DSV request.

Regarding the gaps related to NEPA-dependent alternatives, Staff has been in communication with local U.S. Forest Service representatives to encourage as much engagement as possible, though USFS is limited in its ability to provide significant feedback at this early stage. Homestake has agreed to explore these alternative actions in the next iteration of the Alternatives Analysis.

Representatives from CDPHE have indicated that there is no precedent in Colorado for a DSV process that incorporates a concurrent NEPA application. Therefore, if the DSV is granted in such a way that it is contingent on the approval of a NEPA process, this situation has the potential to serve as a test case for any similar occurrences going forward.

Water Resources Specialist Ari Yamaguchi continues to attend monthly meetings of the larger technical working group and is also in communication with individual agencies.

**Temperature Regulations (Reg. 31)**

In continuation of previously discussed issues regarding water temperature regulations, the Northwest Colorado Council of Governments (NWCCOG) submitted a letter to the Water Quality Control Commission, outlining their intention to propose changes to the relevant regulations. Like the Homestake proposal, UGRWCD and other stakeholders did not feel that the topic had been considered sufficiently enough to be ready for a 2026 hearing and so elected to postpone submission to Fall 2026. District staff support this decision, as it will provide the

consultant and the NWCCOG working group with more time to develop, evaluate, and support attainable alternatives to propose to the Commission.

Staff agree with the philosophical basis, concrete arguments, and future direction discussed in the NWCCOG issue formulation letter and in the working group's meetings.

A letter of support from the District for NWCCOG's issue formulation letter can be found in the October 2025 board packet.

Water Resource Specialist Ari Yamaguchi will continue to participate in meetings for this working group and keep the board apprised of any significant changes.

### **Mt. Emmons Mining Company**

Mt. Emmons Mining Company (MEMC) currently has a Temporary Modification for cadmium on Coal Creek. That is, cadmium in MEMC's effluent was above the standard and they have been working with the Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) to clarify the uncertainty around the source(s) of the cadmium and their ability to mitigate for it. For the June 2026 Rule Making Hearing, and with support from WQCD, they are moving for an early deletion of the Temporary Modification, having met all its requirements. This means that WQCD is confident in MEMC's demonstrated improvements to their effluent quality, so further oversight and formal reporting is no longer necessary regarding their cadmium output.



## MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board of Directors

FROM: Bailey Friedman, Water Resources Project Manager

DATE: January 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Water Resources Report – January 2026

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The following is a memorandum of update to the UGRWCD Board of Directors covering activities completed during the fourth quarter of 2025 as well as activities expected to occur in the first quarter (January – March) of 2026 from the Water Resources Project Manager.

### **1. Watershed Management Plan (WMP)**

#### **a. Previous Quarter**

- i. Review by the General Manager and General Counsel are currently underway. Final Draft will be presented to the WMP Committee for approval before sharing with the public and conducting stakeholder input.
- ii. The final watershed management plan document will consist of individual sub-basin reports highlighting water resource issues of concern, results of assessments, data gaps and most importantly an action plan that recommends activities that can be undertaken to address basin specific issues. There will also be a number of Appendices provided that the public can access to learn more including individual study reports (e.g., geo-fluvial, wetland), summary of the legal and regulatory framework, annual water supply measurement program, general descriptions of water use, etc.

#### **b. Next Quarter**

- i. General Manager, General Counsel and Ms. Friedman will work on finalizing draft reports for WMP Committee review and comment.
- ii. Committee meetings are expected to resume in March.

### **2. UGRWCD Wetland Assessment**

#### **a. Previous Quarter**

- i. Staff have received remote training from GEI on how to use the model interface.
- ii. In creating an interface for staff to utilize the model and increase accuracy with newly collected data each year, GEI discovered the original model had an accuracy of around 30-40% instead of the originally reported mid 80%. This is due to mistakes in the original model coding. This has since been fixed, and instead of using the original style of Machine Learning Model, the new interface incorporates 15 different types of traditional models, which outperformed the original model.
- iii. With the existing training data set, the Gradient Boosting Decision Tree is the best forming model type to use. This type of model works by building a series of simple prediction models sequentially, where each new model

is trained to correct errors made by previous models. The new model interface incorporates a customization option to be able to define the project area. This allows staff the option to focus data collection on smaller, more specific areas, such as subbasins and excluding known upland areas.

- iv. Staff has requested that irrigated agriculture land and a buffer surrounding irrigation ditches be included into the model to classify predictions as “not a wetland”. Since irrigated agricultural land can present as wetlands in several GIS layers such as National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), the model categorizing these areas can serve to bias the data. Irrigated lands serve agricultural purposes and are unlikely to undergo land-use changes. Additionally, by excluding wetlands supported by ditches, we can have the model focus on classifying natural wetlands across the landscape where restoration is more likely to occur.
- v. GEI will provide an updated technical memo with new findings at no cost to the District.
- vi. Staff had a meeting with GEI on January 8, 2026 to discuss finalizing the model coding and making the requested changes.
- b. Next Quarter
  - i. Staff is working to finalize sites for 2026 field data collection. This data will increase the training data set for the model and increase prediction accuracy.
  - ii. Staff will participate in additional remote trainings with GEI as the model interface is finalized.

### **3. Riparian Assessment Project**

- a. Staff has identified a need to conduct riparian assessments across the basin in conjunction with the Wetland Assessments. Staff is working to finalize a Riparian Field Data Assessment Sheet, like the wetland data assessment sheet, to document riparian conditions across the Basin.

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

- a. Previous Quarter
  - i. Submitted a request to the CFP program for \$260,000 for funding for the *Integrated Physical and Geochemical Estimation of Agricultural Return Flows in the Upper Gunnison River Basin* (Ag Return Flow Study).
- b. Next Quarter
  - i. CRWCD staff are recommending full funding for the Ag Return Flow Study and will present the application request to the CRWCD Board of Directors at their January 2026 meeting. General Counsel McClough, USGS staff and Ms. Friedman, will be present in case there are any questions. General Manager Chavez, who also serves as Gunnison County’s CRWCD Director, will recuse herself from this portion of the

CRWCD CFP agenda in order to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest.

**5. Regulation 87**

- a. Previous Quarter
  - i. Virtually attended the Regulation Hearing on December 8-10, 2025.
- b. Next Quarter
  - i. Review the finalized Regulation and advise staff on projects could need permits.

**6. UGRWCD Grant Program**

- a. Next Quarter
  - i. Assist with District Grant Program applications review and formulation of staff recommendations.

**7. Water Resources Infrastructure Assessments**

- a. Continue to coordinate and participate in water resources infrastructure pre-feasibility assessments and cost estimation to facilitate project development and fundraising in support of implementation.

**8. Landscaping (Phase II)**

- a. Over the fall/winter, staff will create signage and other information materials for visitors to learn more about drought-tolerant landscaping, water smart practices, potential associated costs, best practices, and give ideas for local water-wise gardens. This project also includes the installation of a backyard deck off the kitchen area, which will serve as a gathering and relaxing workspace for staff and visitors, as well as a space for board dinners, etc.
- b. In communication with TrueForm Concrete for a concrete table quote that includes embossing of the UGRWCD logo. Ms. Friedman will have concrete color samples present at the meeting if board members are interested.

**9. NFWF RESTORE Grant**

- a. Previous Quarter
  - i. On November 10, 2025, submitted a request to NFWF RESTORE. The project is titled *Enhancing Watershed Resilience & Local Capacity in the Upper Gunnison River Basin (CO)*.
  - ii. The original Total Funding requested for the three-year project is \$554,412.75 as follows:
    - 1. 2026 = \$270,263.66
    - 2. 2027 = 150,021.94
    - 3. 2028 = \$134,127.15

- iii. On January 5, 2025, staff had a meeting with NFWF staff to discuss the application. NFWF staff asked if we would be willing to reduce the budget to \$370,000 with the majority of that funding be dedicated to capacity building. District staff has begun to work with partners to find areas to reduce the original grant budget.
- iv. This application will have projects that fall within three categories (Habitat/Wet Meadows Restoration, Aquatic Habitat Improvement, and Capacity Building). A copy of the application was provided to Directors in the November board packet.
- v. Partners include Trout Unlimited (TU), Gunnison Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Parks Service, Gunnison County, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- b. Next Quarter
  - i. March 2 and 3, 2025 the NFWF Board will review applications and award announcements will follow later in March 2026.

#### **10. Gunnison Basin Roundtable (GBR) – Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Grant Application**

- a. Previous Quarter
  - i. Applied for WSRF funding for multiple agriculture diversion projects titled *UGRB Aquatic Habitat and Irrigation Improvement Projects*.
  - ii. This project proposal is a collaborative effort between the District, TU, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and several agricultural water right holders to design and reconstruct five separate diversion structures that include aquatic organism passage or enhancement in the Upper Gunnison River Basin (UGRB).
  - iii. Total Funding Request is \$85,777.00.
- b. Next Quarter
  - i. Award announcements are expected in March 2026.

#### **11. Penn State – Graduate Certificate in Spatial Data Science**

- a. Classes began on January 7, 2025. This is a graduate certificate program that focus on GIS software and using spatial data and analysis to implement projects and decision making.
- b. GEOG 586 – This course focuses on analytical methods for handling spatial data analysis. This is the first course Ms. Friedman will take in this program.

#### **12. Staff Professional Development**

- a. Colorado Water Congress Annual Convention: January 27-30, 2026, in Aurora, Colorado.

- b. Riparian Restoration Conference – Rivers Edge West: March 3-5, 2026, in Grand Junction, Colorado.
- c. UGRWCD Educational Table and Display at *Water Day at the Capitol* – March 10-11, 2025, in Denver, Colorado.

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** UGRWCD Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Amanda Aulenbach, Wet Meadows Program Director  
**DATE:** 26 January 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Wet Meadows Program Update – January 2026

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Following is a memorandum of update to the UGRWCD Board of Directors on Wet Meadows Program (Program) activities over the past quarter and activities anticipated to happen in the next quarter (January 1 through March 31) of 2026.

**Field Activities:** Program staff assisted Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and US Forest Service (USFS) partners with surveying and spraying a total of 49 acres of cheatgrass at Centennial SWA (CPW) and Woods Gulch (BLM/USFS). Staff built four new structures and did maintenance on six existing structures at Pinecrest Ranch (UMU Tribe); did maintenance on three structures at South Cottonwood (private); and fixed an enclosure fence at Flat Top (USFS). Staff conducted new site assessments at two BLM and USFS project sites, bringing the total number of sites assessed this season to 20. Wet Meadow Technicians, Ryan Outler and Jules Iovino, finished their 25-week field season on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The Program completed its 14<sup>th</sup> year implementing low-tech process-based restoration techniques across the basin to help increase resilience of wet meadow and riparian habitats.

**Education & Outreach:** In collaboration with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and Gunnison Conservation District (GCD), Program staff hosted a Wet Meadow Restoration Landowner Workshop on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The morning workshop was held in the UGRWCD Board Room with presentations from CPW, GCD, UGRWCD, Bird Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, and Partners of Fish and Wildlife Service about wet meadow restoration and funding opportunities. After lunch, participants went on a field trip to the 2 Bar T Ranch (formerly the Redden Ranch) to look at some of the first structures built by the Program in 2012. Ten landowners attended the workshop and two have reached out to discuss restoration opportunities on their property.

Program staff hosted a field trip to Gold Basin (BLM) for a Western Colorado University undergraduate class on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Twelve students attended and had the opportunity to see seven Gunnison Sage-grouse at the restoration site.

Program staff attended the Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference in Avon, CO from October 7-9<sup>th</sup>. This year's conference theme was "20 Years of Community and Hope."

**Funding:** In collaboration with Gunnison County's Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation (STOR) Committee, the Wet Meadows Program was awarded \$20,000 in funding through the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Regional Partnerships Initiative grant. This funding will be used for Staff time, equipment costs (e.g., UTV), and contractual costs across land management boundaries. Funding will be awarded in March 2026.



The Wet Meadows Program Director assisted the Water Resource Project Manager and General Manager with applying for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation RESTORE Colorado grant. Wet Meadows Program funding through this grant would be used for planning and implementing three new projects—Lick Park and Lost Canyon (USFS) and Red Creek (BLM). Awards will be announced in March 2026.

**End of Year Reporting:** Program staff finished writing the end of season report, which summarizes all Program activities conducted in the 2025 season (see attached report). The Program Director submitted the mandatory end-of-year reports for both the US Fish and Wildlife Service Sagebrush Ecosystem grant and BLM L24AC00687 cooperative agreement.

**Anticipated Activities (Jan 1-Mar 31):** Program staff will host the annual partner meeting by early February to start planning for the upcoming field season. During this meeting, partners will discuss funding, monitoring, site assessments, volunteer events, cheatgrass treatments, and the wet meadow prioritization tool. Staff anticipate advertising the announcement for two wet meadow seasonal technicians in March and having candidates selected for interviews by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Staff will attend Colorado Water Congress Convention in Aurora, CO from January 28-30<sup>th</sup>. The Program Director and Water Resources Project Manager will attend the Riparian Restoration Conference in Grand Junction, CO from March 3-5<sup>th</sup>.

The Program Director will give a presentation on the Wet Meadows Program and participate in a panel discussion at the Colorado Chapter of the Wildlife Society Conference in Grand Junction, CO on February 19<sup>th</sup>.



## **Wet Meadow and Riparian Restoration Resiliency Building Project 2025 Field Season Report**

Prepared for the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District  
by

Amanda Aulenbach, Jules Iovino, and Ari Yamaguchi

December 2025



## Wet Meadow and Riparian Restoration Resiliency Building Project

The Wet Meadow and Riparian Restoration Resiliency Building Project (hereafter, Wet Meadows Program (Program)) was initiated in 2012 by the Gunnison Climate Working Group, a public–private partnership formed to help the Upper Gunnison River Basin (Basin) adapt to climate change. Climate change is projected to increase the duration, frequency, and severity of droughts, intensify floods and runoff, and reduce soil moisture (Dai 2011). From 2012–2020, average annual temperatures in the Basin were 0.3°C warmer than the 1971–2000 average, and six of those nine years were classified as drought years (Abatzoglou et al. 2017; Rondeau et al. 2023). In response, the Program implements collaborative, watershed-scale restoration of wet meadows and riparian areas (hereafter, mesic areas) to improve watershed resilience and support wildlife and ranching livelihoods in the Basin.

The Basin contains more than 2.5 million acres of semi-arid sagebrush steppe, and mesic areas occupy less than 2% of the landscape; a rare resource that provides critical habitat. Over 80% of wildlife species, as well as livestock, rely on mesic areas during summer and fall when uplands dry out (Naiman et al. 1986). These areas function as hydrologic “sponges,” absorbing spring runoff, reducing flood impacts, and slowly releasing water to maintain higher water tables through the late growing season (July 15–September 30) (Hunt 2018; Maestas et al. 2018). As a result, mesic areas support high-quality forage and habitat for diverse taxa and are especially important during the brood-rearing season of the federally threatened Gunnison Sage-grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*; GUSG).

Approximately 95% of mesic habitats have been modified or degraded by historical land uses, such as grazing, recreation, water diversions, and fire suppression (Krueper 1995). These impacts cause headcuts, channel incision, wetland vegetation loss, and lowered water tables, and as a result, reduce soil moisture, increase erosion, and facilitate upland shrub encroachment into mesic areas (Hunt 2018). Climate change further exacerbates these stressors. The Basin receives around 90% of its water from spring snowmelt (Gunnison Basin Roundtable 2013), but warming temperatures are shifting precipitation from snow to rain, reducing snowpack, altering runoff timing, and decreasing annual streamflow (Nash et al. 2018). Continued degradation threatens agriculture and wildlife, especially the GUSG, of which over 88% of the global population resides in the Basin. With fewer than 5,000 individuals remaining worldwide, conserving mesic habitats is paramount for GUSG survival.

To address these challenges, the Program uses Zeedyk-style rock structures and other Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration (LTPBR) techniques to restore hydrologic and ecological function of mesic areas (Zeedyk and Clothier 2014). These techniques use natural materials (“sticks and stones”) to stabilize erosion, capture sediment, slow runoff, reconnect floodplains, and raise water tables, thereby increasing infiltration and supporting wetland vegetation. Restoration approaches

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<sup>1</sup> Cover Photo: Program partners and Back Country Hunters and Anglers (BHA) pose after a long day of building LTPBR structures with the District, CPW, and Pact on July 19, 2025, at Centennial State Wildlife Area (CPW).

are adapted to site-specific hydrologic, geomorphic, and ecological conditions across the Basin. This flexible approach promotes long-term resilience to changing temperature and precipitation regimes while providing broad ecological and social benefits.

Monitoring indicates that LTPBR structures installed over the past twelve years are effectively improving mesic habitat condition (Rondeau et al. 2023). One Program objective is to increase soil moisture and wetland plant cover (Table 1). Data from more than 500 monitoring transects show wetland plant cover increased by 39% in mesic habitats following treatment (Rondeau et al. 2023). These improvements enhance GUSG brood-rearing habitat, extend late-season water availability, and increase palatable forage, especially during periods of drought. Through adaptive management, the Program continues to support groundwater recharge, water quality, soil health, wildlife conservation, wildfire mitigation, and agriculture production. The success of mesic restoration in the Basin reflects both ecological outcomes and strong collaboration among stakeholders, contributing to basin-wide climate resilience.

**Table 1.** Wet Meadow Program Goals and Strategies to achieve those goals (v. 04-2022)

<b>Goal</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
<b>Goal 1:</b> Increase ecosystem resistance and resilience to climate change and disturbance by restoring hydrologic function of priority wet meadow and riparian habitat across the Basin	<b>A.</b> Evaluate and prioritize sites needing treatment across the Basin most likely to benefit GUSG, other wildlife species, and ranchers <b>B.</b> Design and implement restoration at priority sites <b>C.</b> Apply restoration treatments as wildfire buffers and to reduce post-wildfire impacts
<b>Goal 2:</b> Build a sustainable and enduring program to increase restoration across the Basin	<b>A.</b> Increase local and stakeholder capacity for restoration efforts through training, outreach events, and educational programs to the agricultural community, private landowners, students, and natural resource managers within and outside the Basin <b>B.</b> Procure sustainable funding for the project
<b>Goal 3:</b> Ensure scientific rigor of project	<b>A.</b> Support a long-term monitoring program to help determine and document restoration treatment efficacy, as well as allow for the Partnership to continually adapt methods and strategies as appropriate
<b>Goal 4.</b> Maximize efficiency and efficacy of the Program over time	<b>A.</b> Develop and evaluate cost-effective tools, methods, and planning
<b>Goal 5.</b> Expand the use of techniques and collaborative approaches to address similar resource issues across the region	<b>A.</b> Share best practices and lessons learned to encourage application of restoration methods within and outside the Basin



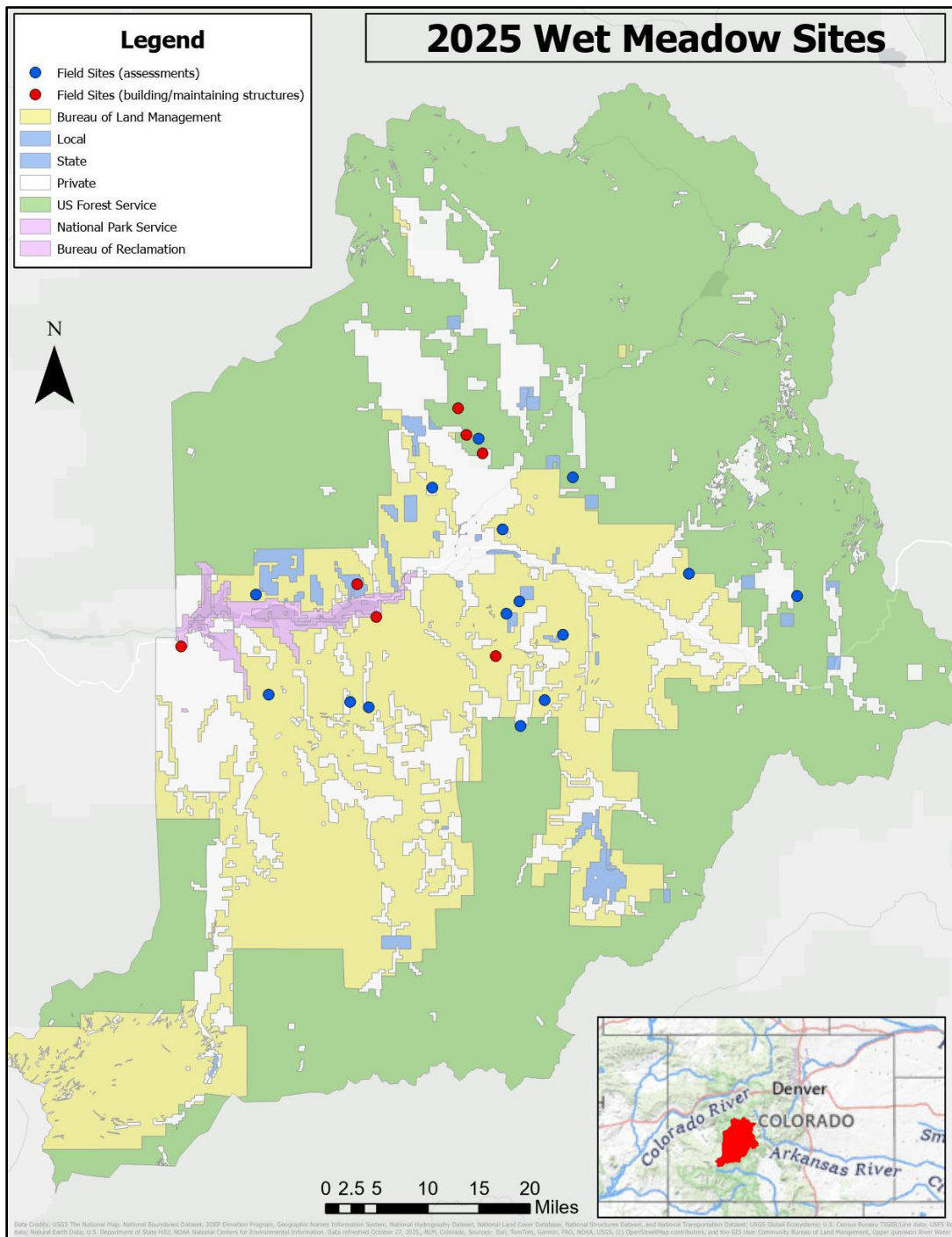
## 2025 Season Summary

In 2025, the Program built 65 structures restoring 2.82 stream miles, 9.72 acres of wetland habitat, and 92.8 acres of GUSG habitat; crews also assessed 2.86 stream miles for new site potential. The 2025 season brings the total amount of work done to 2,738 structures built, 79.5 stream miles assessed, and 51.3 stream miles, 131.3 wetland acres, and over 2,264 acres of GUSG brood-rearing habitat restored. Additionally, maintenance was done on 27 structures maintaining restoration on 1.07 stream miles, 3.89 acres of wetland habitat, and 34.5 acres of GUSG habitat. Work was completed at 22 different sites across land management boundaries with help from the District, BLM, USFS, CPW, NPS, and Tribal staff to ensure successful project implementation throughout the Basin (Figure 2). Volunteers from High Country Conservation Advocates (HCCA), Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA), and Western Colorado University (WCU) contributed greatly to projects as well (Figure 1). The District crew along with CPW, BLM, and USFS staff helped to survey and spot treat 30 acres of cheatgrass at Centennial SWA (CPW) and treat 19 acres at Woods Gulch (USFS/BLM).

The Program completed the 14<sup>th</sup> year of long-term vegetation monitoring with guidance and assistance from Renee Rondeau, Marcella Tarantino (Bird Conservancy), Ben Prior (NRCS/GCD), USFS staff, and District staff. Sites monitored include South Cottonwood (USFS), Chance Gulch (BLM) and Gold Basin (new site, BLM).



**Figure 1.** Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) volunteers posing for a group photo with two wicker weir structures they built.

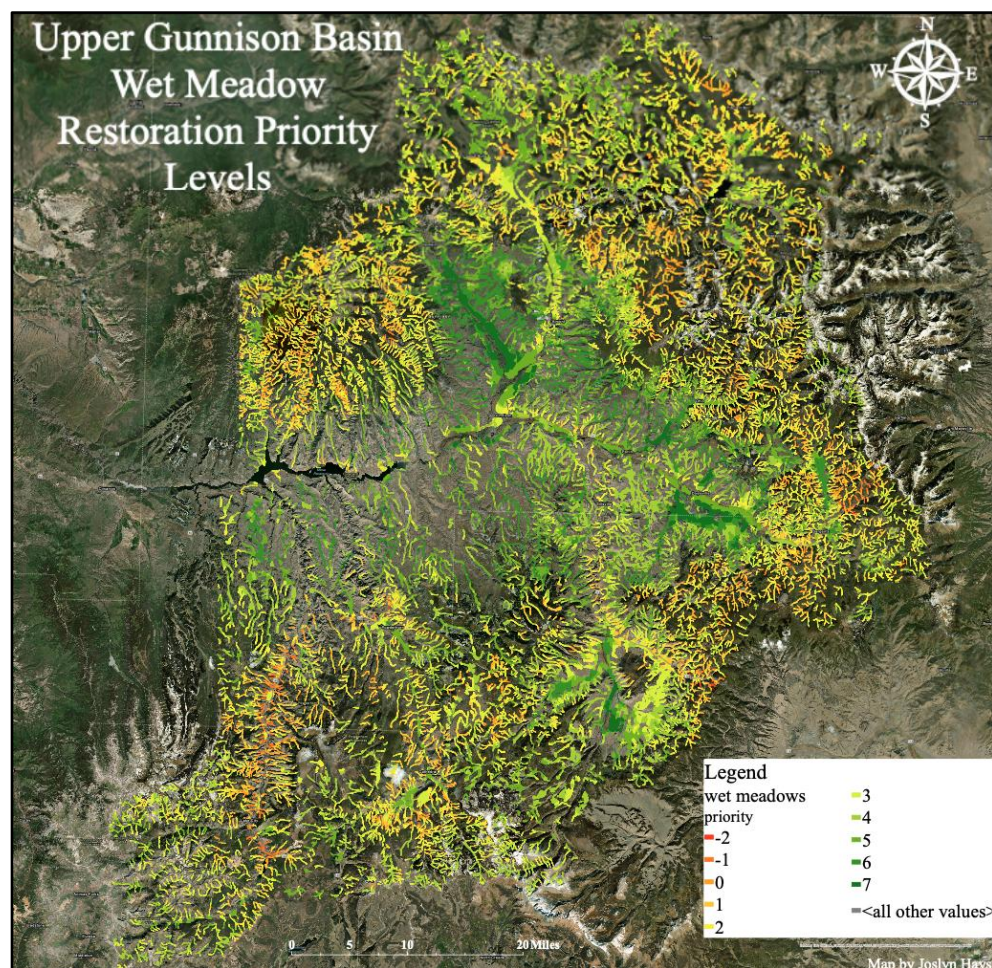


**Figure 2.** 2025 work locations by type of work completed. Blue circles indicate where maintenance or new site assessments occurred and red circles indicate where new structures were built or maintenance on structures was completed. 2025 sites were located on private, Tribal, USFS, BLM, and CPW managed land.



## Wet Meadow Prioritization Tool

In September 2025, University of Denver (DU) graduate researcher Joslyn Hays developed and launched a prioritization model to help inform future Program restoration work (Figure 3). This model is based on the initial model created by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in 2012 (and updated in 2017) but incorporates additional parameters to further refine drainages classified as “high priority,” including slope, channel type, road locations, power line locations, and wildfire hazard zones. Like the TNC model, this model uses the most up-to date GUSG lek locations and NDVI data. This updated and refined model lowered the number of “high priority” acres from 40,768 in the TNC model to 9,891; a quarter of the total acres originally identified. This provides a more realistic outlook on future restoration efforts. This is a dynamic model with a custom interface, allowing the output of “high priority” drainages to be refined according to the specific needs of the agency or grant. This model was created for ephemeral and intermittent drainages (mesic areas) and excludes most perennial drainages.



**Figure 3.** Wet meadow priority rankings in the Upper Gunnison Basin without additional weighting applied (Map by Joslyn Hays). Additional weights to conditions (riparian greenness, riparian sensitivity, roads, conifer cover, mesic resources, lek proximity, and GUSG habitat) can be added to calculate priority levels based on land management objectives. -2 is the lowest priority level and 7 is the highest priority level.

## 2025 Summary Tables of Restoration Structures and Restored Habitat

**Table 2.** Restoration structures built at each restoration site by land manager.  
A total of 65 structures were installed in 2025.

	Land Manager	BLM	BLM Total	USFS	USFS Total	CPW	CPW Total	Tribal	Tribal Total	Private	Private total	Grand Total
	Site Name	Gold Basin		Hinkel		Centennial SWA		Pinecrest Ranch		Woodcock		
Structure Type	ORD	9	9			8	8	10	10	1	1	28
	Rock Armoring											
	Rock Layback							1	1			1
	Rock Mulch					1	1	5	5			6
	Rock Rundown	5	5			13	13	3	3			21
	Wicker Wier							3	3	1	1	4
	Media Luna											
	Zuni Bowl	1	1			1	1					2
	Debris Dam					1	1	1	1			2
	Fence			1	1							1
	<b>Grand Total</b>	15	15	1	1	24	24	23	23	2	2	65



**Table 3.** Restoration structures maintained at each site by land manager. A total of 26 structures had maintenance completed in 2025.

	Land Manager	BLM		BLM Total	USFS			USFS Total	CPW	CPW Total	Tribal	Tribal Total	Private	Private Total	Grand Total
	Site Name	Gold Basin	Sage Hen Gulch		Mules 1	Bebbs Willow	Flat Top		Centennial SWA		Pinecrest Ranch		South Cottonwood		
Structure Type	ORD	3		3	1	1		2	2	2	1	1			8
	Rock Armor										1	1	1	1	2
	Rock Layback	2		2	1			1							3
	Rock Mulch										1	1			1
	Rock Rundown		1	1											1
	Wicker Wier	3		3							2	2			5
	Plug & Spread												2	2	2
	Bank Buster														
	Zuni Bowl						1	1	1	1					2
	Hybrid ORD/RR														
	Rock Pile								1	1					1
	Fence						1	1							1
	<b>Grand Total</b>	8	1	9	2	1	2	5	4	4	5	5	3	3	26

**Table 4.** Stream miles, wetland habitat acres, and GUSG habitat acres restored at each site by land manager. A total of 2.82 stream miles, 9.72 wetland acres, and 92.8 GUSG habitat acres were restored in 2025.

Land Manager	BLM Total	USFS Total	CPW Total	Tribal Total	Private Total	Grand Total
Site Name	Gold Basin	Hinkel	Centennial SWA	Pinecrest Ranch	Woodcock	
<b>Stream Miles Restored</b>	0.54	0.06	0.79	1.27	0.16	<b>2.82</b>
<b>Wetland Habitat Acres Restored</b>	2.89	0.46	1.61	4.39	0.38	<b>9.72</b>
<b>GUSG Habitat Acres Restored</b>	21.0	1.94	28.0	37.5	4.36	<b>92.8</b>

**Table 5.** Restored stream miles, wetland habitat acres, and GUSG habitat acres maintained at each site by land manager. A total of 1.07 restored stream miles, 3.89 restored wetland acres, and 34.5 restored GUSG habitat acres were maintained in 2025.

Land Manager	BLM		BLM Total	USFS			USFS Total	CPW Total	Tribal Total	Private Total	Grand Total
Site Name	Gold Basin	Sage Hen Gulch		Mules 1	Bebbs Willow	Flat Top		Centennial SWA	Pinecrest Ranch	South Cottonwood	
<b>Stream Miles Maintained</b>	0.31	0.03	<b>0.34</b>	0.05	0.06	0.06	<b>0.16</b>	0.1	0.32	0.14	<b>1.07</b>
<b>Wetland Acres Maintained</b>	1.4	1.3	<b>1.53</b>	0.35	0.17	0.18	<b>0.70</b>	0.21	1.02	0.40	<b>3.89</b>
<b>GUSG Habitat Maintained</b>	10.3	1.94	<b>12.2</b>	2.03	1.94	1.94	<b>5.91</b>	3.3	8.16	4.89	<b>34.5</b>

## 2025 Methods for Estimating Stream and Habitat Metrics

A major objective of the Program is to improve brood-rearing habitat for GUSG. Therefore, the project measures the number of acres of GUSG brood-rearing habitat restored by restoration treatments. This metric is based on a broad definition of brood-rearing habitat for GUSG, including various habitat types within and adjacent to restoration reaches. Thus, the estimate of restored habitat includes wet meadows, riparian areas, and some upland habitat that are likely to benefit from restoration. The acres of restored wetland and brood-rearing habitat are calculated separately to distinguish the direct and indirect influence of restoration on wetland species and nearby sagebrush habitat. These analyses were performed in ArcGIS Pro v3.5.4 unless otherwise stated.

*Total New and Maintained Structures:* GPS points were recorded in the field using Esri Field Maps upon the completion of construction or maintenance of structures. The attribute tables were downloaded to an Excel file, which was then used to generate the pivot tables presented above.

*Total GUSG Acres Restored:* On a site-by-site basis, the Points to Line tool was used to connect each newly built structure along the length of the reach. The lines exclude segments where there is a gap between structures greater than 0.25 miles. A 50-meter buffer was then generated on each line (CSGWG 1997; Connelly et al. 2000; GSRSC 2005; GBSSC 2012). This is a slight deviation from past years' methods, wherein buffers were created only on each structure and dissolved by site; this new method increases the estimated acreage by counting more of the distance between structures and is more representative of restoration benefits.

*Total GUSG Acres Maintained:* For all restoration structures on which maintenance work was completed in 2025, a 50-m buffer was generated (CSGWG 1997; Connelly et al. 2000; GSRSC 2005; GBSSC 2012) where dissolve field was set to "Site name" so that each site would have a single polygon associated without double-counting overlapping buffers.

*Stream Miles Restored:* NHD Plus flow paths (Esri 2025; Moore 2019) were clipped by restored site polygons, and the resulting length was reported: i.e., the length reported was the channel distance starting at the up-valley margin of the uppermost structure's 50-m buffer and ending at the down-valley margin of the lowermost structure's 50-m buffer.

*Stream Miles Maintained:* NHD Plus flow paths (Esri 2025; Moore 2019) were clipped by the maintenance polygons and the resulting length was reported.

*Wetland Acres Restored:* The polygons generated in *Total GUSG Acres Restored* (above) were clipped from the USFWS Wetlands layer (USFWS 2024), creating a resulting polygon of those areas where the restored reach polygon and USFWS Wetlands overlapped. Resulting acreages are reported.

*Wetland Acres Maintained:* The polygons generated in *Total GUSG Acres Maintained* (above) were clipped from the USFWS Wetlands layer (USFWS 2024), creating a polygon of those areas where the structure buffers and USFWS Wetlands overlapped. Resulting acreages are reported.

For all the above analyses, overlap analysis was also performed with a Land Management Boundaries layer to output the metrics by agency in addition to solely by site. For more details on the metrics, please contact Ari Yamaguchi at [ayamaguchi@ugrwcd.org](mailto:ayamaguchi@ugrwcd.org).

## 2025 Education, Outreach, and Volunteer Summary

In addition to restoration efforts, the Program successfully connected with over 300 community members and promoted involvement and education of restoration activities. Multiple groups of volunteers from WCU, HCCA, and BHA assisted with building and maintaining restoration structures at three different site locations (Table 6). The Program aimed to educate all volunteers and crew members by beginning each project with a discussion of the causes and types of mesic habitat impairment and how LTPBR techniques address these impairments.

The Program hosted or participated in various site tours, workshops, and other outreach events:

- Thinking Like Water Film Screening and Panel Discussion (80 people), April 18<sup>th</sup>
- LEAD Homeschool Group wet meadow demonstration (35 students), May 15<sup>th</sup>
- Colorado River Water Conservation District site tour (two staff), July 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Northern Water Conservancy District site tour (two staff), August 5-6<sup>th</sup>
- Taylor Challenge wet meadow demonstration (80 students), August 28<sup>th</sup>
- Wet Meadow Restoration Landowner Workshop (10 landowners), October 3<sup>rd</sup>
- WCU Field Trip to Gold Basin (12 students), October 16<sup>th</sup>
- America the Beautiful grant site tour (two staff), October 25<sup>th</sup>
- Night of Lights (>100 people), December 5<sup>th</sup>

Additionally, District staff visited Gunnison High School's environmental science class on five occasions with the water wonder trailer to discuss wet meadow restoration and other water issues. District technicians created a Wet Meadow Program brochure that will be used and handed out at future education and outreach events.

**Table 6.** Summary of total volunteer hours for three volunteer events in 2025. An estimated total of 668 volunteer hours accrued during the 2025 field season.

Site	Date	Volunteer Group	Number of Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Total Hours
Woodcock (private)	May 17 <sup>th</sup>	BHA	13	6	78
Centennial SWA (CPW)	July 19 <sup>th</sup>	BHA	32	5	160
Gold Basin (BLM)	Sept 4 <sup>th</sup>	HCCA	24	10	240
	Sept 5 <sup>th</sup>	HCCA	19	10	190
<b>Totals</b>			<b>88</b>		<b>668</b>

*Scientific Endeavors:* Program partners met multiple times to review and/or provide feedback for Sophia Reggiani's (WCU) research project assessing insect variation at treated vs untreated wet meadow sites, and for Joslyn Hays' (DU) research project developing the Wet Meadow Restoration Prioritization Tool. Both projects are completed as of December 29, 2025.

## 2025 Funding and Partner Contributions

**Table 7.** District wet meadow grants and funding agreements expended through 2025 (as of September 30, 2025).

		<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>EXPENDED</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
<b><u>America the Beautiful</u></b>	\$	80,000.00	\$ 47,121.94	\$ 32,878.94
Travel	\$	3,000.00	\$ 1,567.24	\$ 1,432.76
Supplies & Materials	\$	9,000.00	\$ 6,834.09	\$ 2,165.91
Contractors	\$	61,000.00	\$ 35,841.98	\$ 25,158.02
Staff Time	\$	9,000.00	\$ 8,590.91	\$ 409.09
Administrative	\$	8,000.00	\$ 4,286.84	\$ 3,713.16
<b><u>FWS Sagebrush Ecosystem</u></b>	\$	272,219.00	\$ 195,572.57	\$ 76,646.43
FY22-GIS Modeling	\$	19,500.00	\$ 19,500.00	\$ -
FY22-Planning	\$	75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ -
FY22-Administration	\$	9,450.00	\$ 9,450.00	\$ -
FY23-Planning	\$	30,000.00	\$ 23,903.27	\$ 6,096.73
FY23-Implmentation & Mob.	\$	29,743.00	\$ 19,372.50	\$ 10,370.50
FY23-Outreach & Training	\$	77,500.00	\$ 30,673.18	\$ 46,826.82
FY23-Travel	\$	3,229.32	\$ 1,862.70	\$ 1,366.62
FY23-Equipment	\$	2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -
FY23-Supplies & Materials	\$	9,999.50	\$ 4,981.60	\$ 5,017.90
FY23-Administration	\$	15,297.18	\$ 8,329.32	\$ 6,967.86
<b><u>TNC 2025</u></b>	\$	150,000.00	\$ 34,225.08	\$ 115,774.92
Task 1: Antelope Creek	\$	99,141.60	\$ -	\$ 99,141.60
Task 2: UTV/Trailer	\$	25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -
Task 3: Pinecrest Ranch	\$	25,858.40	\$ 9,225.08	\$ 16,633.32
<b><u>USFS PA22</u></b>	\$	89,000.00	\$ 72,539.74	\$ 16,460.26
Salaries/Labor Coordinator	\$	30,000	\$ 22,695.06	\$ 7,304.94
Supplies/Materials	\$	4,563.64	\$ 4,563.64	\$ -
Other (Initial Agreement)	\$	8,800.00	\$ 8,800.00	\$ -
Contractors	\$	39,363.64	\$ 30,795.61	\$ 8,568.03
Administrative	\$	6,272.72	\$ 5,685.43	\$ 587.29
<b><u>CPW RPI Grant</u></b>	\$	20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00
Personnel Costs	\$	6,000.00	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00
Fringe Benefits	\$	2,005.00	\$ -	\$ 2,005.00
Equipment Costs	\$	780.00	\$ -	\$ 780.00
Contractual Costs	\$	9,396.82	\$ -	\$ 9,396.82
Indirect Costs/Admin	\$	1,818.18	\$ -	\$ 1,818.18
<b><u>BLM L24AC00687</u></b>	\$	629,403.30	\$ 96,508.47	\$ 532,894.83
Personnel Costs	\$	370,610.00	\$ 45,704.98	\$ 324,905.02
Fringe Benefits	\$	97,046.00	\$ 20,335.00	\$ 76,711.00
Travel Costs	\$	28,475.00	\$ 5,695.00	\$ 22,780.00
Supply Costs	\$	2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Contractual Costs	\$	81,209.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 66,209.00
Indirect Costs/Admin	\$	50,063.00	\$ 8,773.49	\$ 41,289.51
	\$	<b>1,240,622.00</b>	<b>\$ 445,967.80</b>	<b>\$ 794,654.20</b>

## 2025 Partners and Crews

**Table 8.** 2025 Program organizations and partners that provided expertise and assistance with funding, planning, coordinating, implementing, and monitoring wet meadow restoration projects.

Organization	Partner
BIO-Logic, Inc.	Shawn Conner
Bureau of Land Management	Andy Stokes
	Brian Brown
	Ryan Romero
	Amy Hammermeister
	2025 Fuels & Watershed Techs: Grace Lindell, Savannah Adkins, Melissa Cox, and Kylie Moorehouse
Bird Conservancy of the Rockies	Marcella Tarantino
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Nathan Seward
	Jerimiah Rummel
	Brooke Vasquez
	Miranda Middleton
	Clayton BonDurant
Contractors	Renee Rondeau
	Rocky Moutain Aggregate – McCabe Quarry
Gunnison County Cheatgrass Coordinator	Sarah Elzay
National Park Service	Jessica Frey
	Morgan Conley
	Dangoule Bockus
	2025 Biological Techs: Sage Bartow, Lili Zertuche, Alexandria Knoell, and Anna Trushenski
Natural Resource Conservation Service	Ben Prior
Partners for Fish and Wildlife (USFWS)	Brandon Miller
Trout Unlimited	Jesse Kruthaupt
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Angela Trnka
	Nathan Darnall
U.S. Forest Service	Matt Vasquez
	Sarah Lowe
	Shannon Muenchow
	Liam Duggan
University of Denver	Joslyn Hays
Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District	Sonja Chavez
	Amanda Aulenbach
	Ari Yamaguchi
	Alana Nichols
	Bailey Friedman
	2025 Wet Meadow Techs: Julia Iovino and Ryan Outler
Volunteers	High Country Conservation Advocates
	Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
	Pact
	Western Colorado University students
Western Colorado University	Briget Eastep
	Sophia Reggiani
	Susan Washko
	Brooke Zanatelle

## Report

This report was written by Amanda Aulenbach, Wet Meadows Program Director for the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District with assistance from Ari Yamaguchi, Water Resources Specialist and Jules Iovino, Water Resources Fellow. For information or questions, please contact Amanda Aulenbach at [aaulenbach@ugrwc.org](mailto:aaulenbach@ugrwc.org).

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Beverly Richards, Grant Program Manager  
**DATE:** January 26, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** Grant Program Update

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Following is a summary of grant program activity including completed projects, projects with extensions, and funding awards which have been returned to the District.

**2023 Grant Program**

To close out the 2023 Grant Program, we had two outstanding grants; Wild Rice Wetland Restoration - \$9,170, and Vader Ranch Improvement - \$5,000 for design only. The Wild Rice applicant notified us that they were declining the grant award as they were unable to complete the project due to issues associated with the removal of the fill dirt and an existing electrical line. The Vader Ranch Improvement project had several obstacles and through discussions with the applicant it was decided to provide funds for the design only which is now complete.

**2024 Grant Program**

The final outstanding grant from the 2024 Grant Program is the *Exploring the Effects of Harmful Algal Blooms* project which was submitted by Western Colorado University. They have submitted their final report, and we are working with the applicant to gather all the information we need to meet the deliverables of the funding agreement.

**2025 Grant Program**

Total awards – 9 awards for a total of \$238,420

As of January 26, 2026, the District has four completed projects under the 2025 Grant Program. There is one completed project which we are waiting for additional information for the reimbursement, and four ongoing projects that will continue into 2026. The amount rolled over into the 2026 budget from the 2025 Grant Program was approximately \$196,420.

**2026 Grant Program**

For the 2026 Grant Program, the budgeted amount is \$250,000. This amount was agreed upon due to staff's on-going pursuit of outside grant resources that can leverage the District's investment in local projects. The 2026 program opened on January 1, 2026, and the application deadline is February 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Advertising for pre-feasibility assessments of proposed projects began in October, and for the actual grant program in December. This will continue into January and will include advertising in the Gunnison Country Times, Crested Butte News, and Silverworld newspapers.



**MEMORANDUM**



**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Beverly Richards, Grant Program Manager  
Sonja Chavez, General Manager

**DATE:** January 26, 2026

**SUBJECT:** Organizational Grant Funding Proposal

---

**Purpose:** Provide information about Executive Management’s recommendation to the Board of Directors to discuss the establishment of a policy around Annual Organizational Grant support that does not require an in-kind match contribution.

**History:** Around approximately 2007, the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (District) began providing specific organizations with annual financial funding to carry out various water related activities without a grant application, scope of work, contract, accountability reporting, or oversight. These entities included the Dust on Snow Program, Coal Creek Watershed Coalition, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, and Lake Fork Valley Conservancy District.

Beginning in 2021, General Manager Chavez began requiring these entities to submit an annual letter of funding request that summarized exactly how District funding would be utilized and required an end of year presentation to the Board regarding accomplishments and deliverables. In addition, the Gunnison Conservation District was added to the above list of entities in 2025 in order to provide support for wildfire community education and programming.

While the Board and General Manager value and emphasize the importance of community partnerships, the management of this funding has become difficult. Concerns include the number of entities seeking annual financial assistance and no clear policy on who should receive funds and why. There has also been inappropriate use of District funds (e.g., public solicitation of funding, disproportionate amounts used to pay for rent and general programming support) with no clear deliverables provided, problems with annual reporting, not carrying out stated project goals and tasks, no communication with the District when issues arise, and requests to roll funds into subsequent years. No current policy exists to direct the management of these funds.

The Board of Directors, through its General Manager, is charged with ensuring the appropriate use of taxpayer funds in the fulfillment of its mission. The General Manager wishes to partner with local non-profits but does not believe it is our District’s mission to help local non-profits “keep their doors open” by paying disproportionate amounts to rent or utilities or general programming without clear deliverables and explanation of how the funded activity) supports our mission.

Executive Management in consultation with Chairwoman Fonken, is proposing that the Board annually consider creating an Organizational Funding Pool which would support requests for funding that fill critical gaps in the District’s programming and which would reside under the District Grant Program umbrella. Under the proposed program, entities can apply for awards of up to a maximum of

\$10,000 annually with no match requirements and a maximum indirect cost recovery of 10% subject to Grant Committee approval for activities that fill critical gaps in accomplishing our mission. To support this recommendation, Executive Management has developed the following for the Boards review, discussion and recommendation for approval:

- A. Organizational Funding Policy; and
- B. Organizational Funding Agreement.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION:** Approve the Organizational Funding Policy and Agreement submitted with this memo.

**POLICY REGARDING  
UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT  
ORGANIZATIONAL FUNDING SUPPORT**

*Adopted \_\_\_\_\_, 2026*

1. The Board of Directors will annually determine the total amount of funding to be made available through the Organizational Funding Program as part of the District's budget planning process and appropriate that amount in the District budget each year.
2. The District will annually accept applications for Organizational Funding from entities within the District's boundaries for activities that fill a critical gap in the District's existing programs and further the District's ability to meet its goals and mission.
3. Organizational Funding does not require a match contribution.
4. Organizational Funding will not exceed \$10,000.00 per entity.
5. All funded activities must include a substantial water nexus.
6. Organizational Funding may not be used to solicit donations.
7. Organizational Funding may not be used for general programming or administrative support.
8. Organizational Funding may be used to support the development of grant applications in support of high-priority projects identified in the District's Watershed & Stream Management Plan, or Drought Resiliency Plan.
9. Indirect cost recovery of up to 10% will be considered by the Grant Committee, depending upon the nature of the activity proposed.
10. Applications, in a form approved by the General Manager, must be received in the District office by September 15 in the year prior to the year the grant is to be disbursed.
11. Applications must include a detailed description of the proposed activity and an explanation of the critical gap that exists within the District's current programs and how the proposed activity fills this gap.
12. Applications must include a detailed scope of work, including the estimated number of hours to complete the activity, hourly rates, interim and final milestones, and deliverables.
13. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the Board's Grant Committee during October.
14. The Grant Committee will present its recommendations to the Board of Directors at the Board's October meeting. Awards of Organizational Funding will be made, in the Board's sole discretion, at that meeting, subject to any conditions that the Board may deem appropriate.
15. Funds will be disbursed after January 1 of the following year according to the schedule approved by the Grant Committee.

16. Before funds are disbursed, entities awarded Organizational Funding will be required to enter into a funding agreement with the District.
17. Funded activities may not commence until the funding agreement is fully executed and must be completed by the end of the calendar year.

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## FUNDING AGREEMENT

This Funding Agreement is made and entered into between the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (District) and (Grantee) effective as of the date of the District's signature on the Agreement.

### RECITALS

- A. The District is a Water Conservancy District created under the Water Conservancy Act, §§ 37-45-101, *et seq.*, Colorado Revised Statutes.
- B. The District was established to conserve the waters within the District to accomplish the greatest possible use for irrigation, domestic, municipal, industrial, mining, and all other beneficial purposes, and to defend and protect the waters of the District.
- C. The District has determined that an appropriate means to effect its purposes and accomplish that mission is to award grants with no match requirement to entities that will conduct activities that fill a critical gap in the District's existing programs and further the District's ability to meet its goals and mission through an Organizational Funding Program.
- D. The District has adopted a policy governing the Organizational Funding Program (Policy). A copy of the Policy is attached to this Agreement as *EXHIBIT B*.
- E. Grantee proposes to perform the activity described in *EXHIBIT A* attached hereto (Activity) and has applied to the District for an award of Organizational Funding.
- F. The District has determined that the Activity is consistent with the Policy, and desires to assist with the funding of the Activity subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
- G. Grantee desires to receive such funding from the District as provided in this Agreement.

## AGREEMENT

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the preceding recitals and the reciprocal promises contained in this Agreement, the District and Grantee agree as follows.

1. Grantee's Activity Plan and Use of Grant Money.

1.1 The Organizational Funding awarded to Grantee by the District is \$000.00. The funds awarded by the District to Grantee must be used only for services, materials, and labor identified for funding by the District in the Activity budget in the Scope of Work attached as *EXHIBIT A* (Funded Work).

1.2 The estimated date for commencement of the Activity is [date]. The Activity must be completed, and a final report submitted to the District, by December 31, \_\_\_\_ .

2. District's Financial Assistance.

2.1 The funds are awarded to Grantee on condition that [GRANT CONDITIONS].

2.2 The grant funds will be paid to Grantee as follows:

2.2.1 . . . . . Request for Payment . . . . . *[The schedule for disbursements and the reporting requirements will be determined by the Grant Committee on a case-by-case basis,]*

2.3 A Request for Payment must include:

2.3.1 All backup supporting documentation, including, but not limited to, photo documentation, interim milestones, timesheets with a detailed description of work completed, and receipts for paid expenses.

2.3.2 A representation and warranty by Grantee that all work done on the Funded Work has been completed in a good and workmanlike manner in accordance with the specifications in *EXHIBIT A*.

2.3.3 All deliverables identified in *EXHIBIT A*.

2.4 After review of a Request for Payment, the District may:

2.4.1 Require such additional documentation as the District deems necessary;

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2.4.2 Review work completed and verify that the Activity is complete in accordance with *EXHIBIT A*;

2.4.3 Make adjustments to the amount of funds requested by Grantee in its sole discretion.

2.5 The District will disburse the grant amount, or so much thereof as is approved, within thirty days after approval of the Request for Payment by the District.

3. Grantee's Additional Responsibilities and Liabilities.

3.1 Grantee is responsible for making all necessary agreements and assuring the acquisition of all interests in property or other rights and all permits or other governmental approvals needed to complete the Activity.

3.2 Grantee is responsible for the acts, errors, and omissions of Grantee and its employees, consultants, agents, and any other persons employed or retained on behalf of Grantee in connection with the Activity and for the acts, errors and omissions of the Activity's owners and users. Grantee agrees to indemnify, hold harmless, and defend the District and its directors, officers, employees, agents, and attorneys for the actions, errors and omissions of Grantee and Grantee's employees, consultants, agents, and any other persons employed or retained on behalf of Grantee in the performance of this Agreement and for the acts, errors, and omissions of the Activity's owners and users.

3.3 Grantee recognizes that the District is a governmental entity under the provisions of the Colorado Governmental Immunity Act, §§ 24-10-101, *et seq.*, Colorado Revised Statutes. The District does not intend to waive, by any provision of this Agreement, any rights, immunities, and protections provided by the Act as currently in effect and as it may be subsequently amended. This immunity continues beyond the termination of this Agreement for the acts or omissions which occurred during the Agreement Term.

3.4 Grantee warrants the performance of this Agreement and the completion of all work required for the Funded Work. Grantee and any persons working on its behalf shall at all times comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Not by way of limitation of the preceding, it is expressly agreed that neither Grantee nor any persons working on its behalf on the Activity shall discriminate against any person because of age, race, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, or religion.

3.5 Grantee agrees to make a presentation of Grantee's final report to the District's Board of Directors. A virtual report is acceptable.

4. Authorized Representatives, Addresses.

4.1 The District designates Beverly Richards, Senior Program Manager, as its representative to act for the District in connection with this Agreement. All communication with the District shall be directed to:

Beverly Richards  
210 West Spencer, Suite A  
Gunnison, CO 81230  
Telephone: (970) 641-6065  
[beverly@ugrwcd.org](mailto:beverly@ugrwcd.org)

4.2 Grantee designates \_\_\_\_\_ as its representative to act for Grantee in connection with this Agreement. All communication with Grantee shall be directed to:

4.3 Grantee represents and warrants to the District that the person executing this Agreement on behalf of Grantee has full power and authority to execute this Agreement on behalf of Grantee.

5. Miscellaneous.

5.1 Assignment. This Agreement involves the grant of public money for public purposes. Consequently, Grantee may not assign this Agreement without the District's prior written approval, which the District may withhold in the District's sole discretion.

5.2 Binding Effect. This Agreement shall be immediately binding upon both parties and their respective successors, if any.

5.3 No Partnership, Joint Venture, or Third Party Beneficiaries. This Agreement is not intended to and does not create any partnership, joint venture, or similar relationship between the District and Grantee or any other persons or entities. The enforcement of the terms and conditions of this Agreement and all rights of action relating to such enforcement shall be strictly reserved to the District and Grantee, and nothing contained in this Agreement shall give or allow any claim or right of action whatsoever by any other or third person or entity. It is the express intent of the parties to this Agreement that any person or entity receiving services or benefits under this Agreement shall be deemed an incidental beneficiary only.

5.4 Additional Limitations on the District's Responsibilities. The District's involvement with the Activity is strictly limited to the payment of the sum stated in Section 1.2



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above as a grant to Grantee. The District is not be responsible for, or in control of, the Activity's feasibility, implementation, operation, maintenance, repair, or replacement.

5.5 Publicity. Grantee agrees that the District may publicize the Activity in local media or otherwise, including, without limitation, photographs, costs, and participants, to promote the District's funding assistance for Activities consistent with the District's mission.. In any description of the Activity by Grantee, the District's financial support must be recognized..

5.6 Remedies. If Grantee is in breach or default of any obligation under this Agreement, the District may give Grantee written notice of such breach or default. Upon receipt of such notice, within thirty days Grantee shall both cure such breach or default and provide the District evidence of such cure. If Grantee fails to cure any such breach or default within thirty days, the District may terminate this Agreement and Grantee shall be required to promptly repay to the District the full amount of any grant funds received. As part of any judgment in an action for breach or for enforcement of this Agreement, the District shall be awarded its attorneys' fees and litigation costs.

5.7 Notices. All notices required or appropriate under this Agreement must be given in writing to the parties' designated representatives at the addresses stated in Section 4 above. Notices shall be deemed received upon hand delivery or three days after first class mailing thereof with return receipt requested or confirmed electronic mail delivery.

5.8 Entire Agreement/Amendments. This Agreement is the complete integrated understanding between the parties. No prior or contemporaneous addition, deletion, or other amendment to this Agreement shall have any force or effect unless stated in writing, approved, and executed by both parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have accepted, made, and executed this Agreement upon the terms, conditions, and provisions stated herein.

Upper Gunnison River  
Water Conservancy District

[GRANTEE]

By: Sonja R. Chavez, General Manager Date

By: Date

[RETURN TO AGENDA](#)

# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

## **Gunnison Basin Roundtable**

RETURN TO AGENDA

# **AGENDA ITEM 9**

## Scientific Endeavors

# **AGENDA ITEM 10**

## **Miscellaneous Matters**

# **AGENDA ITEM 11**

## **Citizen Comments**

[RETURN TO AGENDA](#)

# **AGENDA ITEM 12**

## **Future Meetings**

## FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS

- ▶ Colorado Water Congress Annual Meeting - January 28-30, 2026 in Aurora
- ▶ UGRWCD Finance Committee - Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 10 a.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Legislative Committee (tent.) - Friday, February 6, 2026 at 8 a.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Legislative Committee (tent.) - Friday, February 13, 2026 at 8 a.m.
- ▶ President's Day Holiday - Monday, February 16, 2026 - Offices Closed
- ▶ UGRWCD Legislative Committee (tent.) - Friday, February 20, 2026 at 8 a.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Board of Directors Meeting - Monday, February 23, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Legislative Committee (tent.) - Friday, February 27, 2026 at 8 a.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Legislative Committee (tent.) - Friday, March 6, 2026 at 8 a.m.
- ▶ Capitol Day - Denver - Wednesday, March 11, 2026
- ▶ UGRWCD Legislative Committee (tent.) - Friday, March 13, 2026 at 8 a.m.
- ▶ Taylor Local User's Group - First 2026 Meeting - TBA
- ▶ UGRWCD Legislative Committee (tent.) - Friday, March 20, 2026 at 8 a.m.
- ▶ UGRWCD Board of Directors Meeting - Monday, March 23 at 5:30 p.m.

# **AGENDA ITEM 13**

## **Adjournment**





# Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

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

## **WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING**

**Monday, January 26, 2026 at approximately 8 P.M.**

- |      |      |     |   |
|------|------|-----|---|
| 8:00 | p.m. | 1.  | Call to Order   |
| 8:01 | p.m. | 2.  | Agenda Approval   |
| 8:02 | p.m. | 3.  | Approval of July 29, 2025 WAE Meeting Minutes   |
| 8:04 | p.m. | 4.  | Treasurer's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WAE Profit and Loss Statement for 2025</li><li>• Review of Expenses</li></ul>                |
| 8:05 | p.m. | 5.  | <b>Adoption of Resolution 2026-01 to Set Posting Place</b>  |
| 8:07 | p.m. | 6.  | <b>Adoption of Resolution 2026-02 for Authorized Check Signers</b>  |
| 8:09 | p.m. | 7.  | General Manager's WAE Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mt. Crested Butte Water and Sanitation Report on Meridian Lake Reservoir</li></ul> |
| 8:12 | p.m. | 8.  | <b>Review and Adoption of 2026 UGRWAE Budget</b>  |
| 8:20 | p.m. | 9.  | Miscellaneous Updates   |
| 8:22 | p.m. | 10  | Citizen Comments  |
| 8:24 | p.m. | 11. | Adjournment of UGRWAE Meeting   |

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

RETURN TO WAE AGENDA

**WAE**  
**AGENDA ITEM 2**  
**Agenda Approval**

RETURN TO WAE AGENDA

# **WAE**

## **AGENDA ITEM 3**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**REGULAR SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**July 28, 2025**

The Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Activity Enterprise (WAE) conducted a semi-annual meeting on Monday, July 28, 2025 at 8:05 p.m. in the District offices, 210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite A, Gunnison, CO, 81230 and via Zoom video/teleconference.

Board members present: Rosemary Carroll (via Zoom), Joellen Fonken, Rebie Hazard, John Perusek, Camille Richard, Don Sabrowski, Andy Spann, Brian Stevens, Jeff Writer, and Brooke Zanetell.

Others present:

Amanda, Aulenbach, Wet Meadows Program Director  
Sonja Chavez, UGRWCD General Manager  
John McCLOW, UGRWCD General Counsel  
Alana Nichols, UGRWCD Fellow  
Beverly Richards, UGRWCD Office / Senior Program Manager  
Sue Uerling, UGRWCD Administrative Asst./Communications Specialist  
Katie Walton-Day, U.S. Geological Survey  
Ari Yamaguchi, Water Resources Specialist

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Don Sabrowski called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m.

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

**3. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

**Director Camille Richard moved and Director Joellen Fonken seconded approval of the consent agenda items as presented. The motion carried.**

**4. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 2025-04 CHECK SIGNERS**

It was explained that due to the resignation of Stacy McPhail from the Board, a new check signers' resolution was required for the banks.

**Director Andy Spann moved and Director John Perusek seconded adoption of WAE Resolution 2025-04, Check Signers' Resolution. The motion carried.**

**5. MERIDIAN LAKE RESERVOIR UPDATE**

General Manager Sonja Chavez reported that she and Water Program Manager Bailey Friedman had been up to inspect the reservoir earlier in July to measure content and check the seepage issue. The small leak that has been present for years at the base of the outlet system dam does not appear to have gotten any worse. Video files are being saved as part of the record as suggested by the State of Colorado Dam Safety Engineer. Tom Rozman has also checked reservoir levels on several occasions this year and the reservoir was still close to full. Releases may start soon to fulfill the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) instream flow right on the Slate River. An inspection of the dam by the State of Colorado will be due next year.

**6. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**

Senior Program Manager Beverly Richards reported that the Larkspur development near Brush Creek in Crested Butte had applied for 32 base units of augmentation several years ago for "future use." It has since been discovered that the development has substantially exceeded their augmentation allotment for Larkspur as there are more houses, ponds and irrigation than were noted in the original application. At present, there are not enough base units left for purchase to cover these additional units, so they will either have to scale back on ponds and irrigation or come up with a substitute water supply plan.

Director Joellen Fonken reported that she will be leading a hike up to Meridian Lake Reservoir on the access trail developed by the Crested Butte land Trust.

**8. CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

There were no citizen comments.

**9. ADJOURMENT:**

President Don Sabrowski adjourned the July 29, 2025 Water Activity Enterprise Board meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

---

Rebie Hazard, Secretary

APPROVED:

DRAFT

**WAE**  
**AGENDA ITEM 4**  
**Treasurer's Report**

Upper Gunnison River Water Activity Enterprise  
**Profit & Loss**  
January through December 2025

	Jan - Dec 25
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
91100 · Water Contract Sales	3,500.00
91105 · Annual Assessments	59,080.05
91110 · Interest on Investments	32,193.78
Total Income	94,773.83
Gross Profit	94,773.83
Expense	
Operating Expenses	
Reimbursement Variance	0.00
CAM Expenses	285.26
Vehicle Expense	107.74
Computer Expense	1,502.60
Bank Services Charges	10.00
Administrative Salaries	18,340.08
Staff Salaries	5,892.14
Payroll Taxes	1,729.62
Employee Benefits	3,857.24
Audit & Accounting	2,190.50
Utilities and Cleaning	797.17
Bonding and Insurance	1,150.61
Office Telephone	728.82
Administrative Travel & Expenses	1,097.82
Office Expenses	931.12
Postage	73.06
Legal Publication	196.71
Meeting Expenses	148.17
Board of Directors' Fees	342.02
Board of Directors' Mileage	101.72
Total Operating Expenses	39,482.40
Total Expense	39,482.40
Net Ordinary Income	55,291.43
Other Income/Expense	
Other Income	
Miscellaneous	302.33
Total Other Income	302.33
Net Other Income	302.33
Net Income	55,593.76



RETURN TO WAE AGENDA

**WAE**  
**AGENDA ITEM 5**  
**Resolution to**  
**Set Posting Place**

## **UGRWAE RESOLUTION 2026-01**

### **RESOLUTION DESIGNATING LOCATION TO POST NOTICES**

WHEREAS, Local Public Bodies are required by Section 24-6-402(2)(c)(I), Colorado Revised Statutes, to designate annually at their first regular meeting of each calendar year, the place at which public notice of their meetings will be posted at least 24 hours prior to each meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE (UGWAE):

Notices of meetings of the Upper Gunnison River Water Activity Enterprise and the meeting agenda shall be posted at least 24 hours before each meeting on the District website at: [www.ugrwcd.org/meetings](http://www.ugrwcd.org/meetings).

If the UGRWAE is unable to post a notice online in exigent or emergency circumstances that prevent the public from accessing the notice online, meeting notices and the meeting agenda shall be posted at least 24 hours before each meeting at the UGRWAE Office, 210 West Spencer Avenue, Suite A, Gunnison, Colorado 81230.

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Don Sabrowski, Board President

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Rebie Hazard, Board Secretary

**WAE**  
**AGENDA ITEM 6**  
**Resolution for Authorized**  
**Check Signers**

**Resolution 2026-02**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am duly elected and qualified Secretary of the Upper Gunnison River Water Activity Enterprise and the keeper of the records and seal of said Enterprise 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 Enterprise held on the 26th day of January, 2026.

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

“Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that all the checks, drafts, notes, or orders drawn against the Enterprise’s accounts with said Bank be signed by any two of the following:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>
Don Sabrowski	Board President
Rosemary Carroll	Board Vice-President
Rebie Hazard	Board Secretary
John Perusek	Board Treasurer
Sonja Chavez	General Manager

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

“Be It Further Resolved, that said Bank is 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 January 26, 2026 and will continue in force until further written notification to said Bank.

ADOPTED this 26th day of January, 2026.

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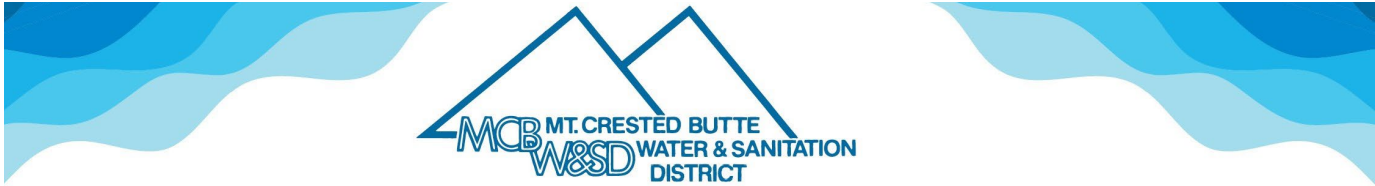
Don Sabrowski, President

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Rebie Hazard, Secretary

RETURN TO WAE AGENDA

# **WAE AGENDA ITEM 7 General Manager's Report**



**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD)  
**Through:** Mike Fabbre, District Manager  
**From:** Nicole Bogenschuetz, P.E., District Engineer  
**Date:** December 30, 2025  
**Subject:** Long Lake Pump Station and Pipeline – Phase 1 Project Updates

Dear UGRWCD,

On March 24, 2025, Mt. Crested Butte Water and Sanitation District (MCBWSD) presented at the monthly Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) Board of Directors Meeting. The purpose of the presentation was to provide design and progress updates on the Long Lake Pump Station and Pipeline Phase 1 Project. The Board requested that MCBWSD provide a written update prior to each of the Water Activity Enterprise Biannual Meetings held in January and July. This memorandum outlines progress updates from July 1, 2025 to December 30, 2025, and is sent in preparation for the January 26, 2026 meeting. MCBWSD appreciates the opportunity to strengthen coordination with the UGRWCD on the Long Lake Pump Station and Pipeline Project and looks forward to continued collaboration as the project advances.

The purpose of the Long Lake Pump Station and Pipeline is to divert spring runoff in Washington Gulch and impound water in Meridian Lake Reservoir (referred to as Long Lake herein), when legally and physically available. The captured water will be stored in Long Lake, under a Junior Storage Right, until it can be used to offset demand shortfalls in the summer and fall. Additionally, Long Lake’s contributing watershed and associated dry year yield is extremely limited, it was estimated that the native inflow originating above the reservoir is slightly less than 50 acre-feet. Thus, native inflow may not refill Long Lake’s active capacity (431.85 acre-feet) in a dry year. Installing the pump station and pipeline to fill Long Lake improves the reliability of the storage supply for all users.

MCBWSD and UGRWCD entered into an Agreement on April 9, 2015. Based on the Agreement, MCBWSD is to fund the design and construction of a pump station and pipeline from Meridian Lake Park No. 1 Reservoir to Long Lake in exchange for 300 acre-feet of storage in Long Lake. The Agreement outlined multiple contingencies, a status update for each contingency is provided below:

- A. System Design and Firm Yield Study (Completed, 12/4/2015)
- B. Fishery Study (Completed, 12/2016)
- C. Geotechnical Considerations (Completed, 6/26/2017)
- D. Alternative Analysis (Completed, 12/4/2015 and 9/24/2018)
- E. Federal/State/County Permitting (Incomplete)

Following the 30% Design, MCBWSD will begin coordination with Division 4, Dam Safety Engineer, Division of Water Resources for state permit requirements. At 90% Design, MCBWSD will begin coordination with Gunnison County for the scope of work in Gunnison County's right-of-way along Pristine Point Drive. A federal land exchange transferred the land along the pipeline alignment from the United States Forest Service to Crested Butte Land Trust (CBLT) in 2018; therefore, no federal permits are required for this project at this time. CBLT and MCBWSD have a Memorandum of Understanding for the current design work and future construction. MCBWSD plans to continue to coordinate the design, easement needs, and schedule with CBLT.

- F. Final Engineering Design (Partially Complete)

MCBWSD signed a Master Service Agreement (Change Order No. 7, dated April 9, 2025) with AECOM, MCBWSD's design engineers, to complete 30% Design. The scope includes a geotechnical investigation, survey, 30% Design, 30% Opinion of Probable Construction Cost, coordination on future permitting requirements, and a presentation of the 30% Design to MCBWSD's Board of Directors.

The geotechnical investigation was completed, in coordination with CBLT, on September 3, 2025. The 30% Design was presented to the MCBWSD Board of Directors at the November 12, 2025 Board Meeting. The 30% Opinion of Probable Construction Cost, Class 3 Cost Estimate is approximately \$3,100,000. The 30% Design Drawings and Basis of Design Report are drafted, and AECOM is currently finalizing the 30% Design Package. Once the 30% Design Package is complete, MCBWSD will share all available information with UGRWCD staff.

The 2026 budget, approved by the MCBWSD Board of Directors, includes both the 60% and 90% Design milestones which involves drafting a specification package, updating the electrical design (coordination with GCEA), finalizing structural design, and collecting updated survey information. The current project schedule includes

completing the design (item F) in early 2027 and commencing construction in the spring of 2027, if grant funding is available.

G. Physical and Legal Feasibility (**Partially Complete**)

The physical feasibility for the inlet and outlet works was completed in the Preliminary Design Report (dated 9/24/2018) and furthered in the current 30% Design by AECOM. MCBWSD will begin coordination for required temporary and permanent easements at 90% Design.

H. Plan Not Feasible (**Plan currently feasible**)

I. Accounting and Operating Agreement (**Incomplete**)

The accounting requirements will be designed as part of the 90% Design.

This memorandum constitutes the second of many progress updates. Please advise if you require the inclusion of additional information in future progress updates. Please let me know if you have any questions at [nbogenschuetz@mcbwsd.com](mailto:nbogenschuetz@mcbwsd.com) or 970-349-7575 x107.

Sincerely,



**Nicole Bogenschuetz, P.E.**

District Engineer

Mt. Crested Butte Water and Sanitation District



**WAE**  
**AGENDA ITEM 8**  
**2026 WAE Budget**

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** UGRWAE Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Beverly Richards, Office Manager  
Sonja Chavez, General Manager  
**DATE:** January 26, 2026  
**SUBJECT:** 2026 Upper Gunnison River Water Activity Enterprise Budget

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**Purpose:** The following information is being provided to the Board of Directors of the Upper Gunnison River Water Activity Enterprise (Enterprise) in order to review, discuss and approve the 2026 Enterprise Budget.

Summary of Information: Attached is a draft of the 2026 Enterprise Budget and associated 2026 Cost Allocation worksheet. The Cost Allocation sheet is used to calculate the Enterprise reimbursement to the District for managing Enterprise activities. The reimbursement rate in 2025 was 4.46 percent of the District's 2025 Operating Expense Budget. This percentage reimbursement has been used since 2012. Information about this set rate of reimbursement was included in the regular meeting minutes from January 30, 2012. These minutes state, *the 4.46% figure has been in effect since 2009. In 2007 and 2008, the cost share was at 15%, when more staff time was being spent on the acquisition of the reservoir and the dam rehabilitation. Actual staff time spent was subsequently tracked, resulting in the figure of 4.46%.*

Enterprise board members will notice that the capital reserve amount at the end of 2025 was \$794,133 which is an increase of \$24,049 over the 2024 end of year reserve balance of \$770,084. This increase is due to our investments for the Water Activity Enterprise. These include estimated interest earnings of \$12,780 on the \$300,000 bond earning 4.4% annual yield with LPL Financial, and interest earned on the WAE ColoTrust account at 4.175%.

For the Meridian Lake Reservoir Augmentation Plan, the recommendation of executive management is that the annual assessment rate for 2026 be set at \$54.18 per base unit. The assessment rate is calculated based on 2025 actual operating and non-operating expenses divided by the number of base units sold to date (739 base units). Given the 2025 end of year actual balance in our reserves of \$794,133, staff is recommending that there be no capital reserve assessment levied in 2026.

**UPPER GUNNISON RIVER WATER ACTIVITY ENTERPRISE**  
**BUDGET January 1 - December 31, 2026 Final Draft**

		2025		2025		2026
		BUDGET		ACTUAL		BUDGET
<b>REVENUE</b>						
1	Water Contract Sales	\$	-	\$	3,500	\$ -
2	Annual Assessments	\$	64,302	\$	59,080	\$ 40,039
3	Interest on Investments	\$	35,129	\$	32,194	\$ 32,000
4	Miscellaneous	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$	<b>99,431</b>	\$	<b>94,774</b>	\$ <b>72,039</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
<b>Operating Expenses</b>						
5	Administrative Salaries	\$	18,505	\$	18,340	\$ 19,650
6	Staff Salaries	\$	5,911	\$	5,892	\$ 6,865
7	Payroll Taxes	\$	1,508	\$	1,730	\$ 3,000
8	Employee Benefits	\$	2,319	\$	3,857	\$ 4,970
9	Audit & Accounting	\$	2,475	\$	2,191	\$ 3,278
10	Utilities and Cleaning	\$	549	\$	797	\$ 803
11	Bonding and Insurance	\$	698	\$	1,151	\$ 1,500
12	Office Telephone	\$	405	\$	729	\$ 300
13	Common Area Maintenance	\$	338	\$	285	\$ 350
14	Computer Expenses	\$	1,449	\$	1,503	\$ 1,800
15	Administrative Travel & Expenses	\$	1,575	\$	1,098	\$ 1,700
16	Office Expenses	\$	765	\$	931	\$ 600
17	Postage	\$	68	\$	73	\$ 90
18	Legal Publication	\$	225	\$	197	\$ 223
19	Board of Directors' Fees	\$	675	\$	342	\$ 705
20	Meeting Expenses	\$	225	\$	148	\$ 223
21	Board of Directors' Mileage	\$	248	\$	102	\$ 260
22	Vehicle Expenses	\$	158	\$	108	\$ 160
23	Reservoir Insurance	\$	563	\$	563	\$ 563
24	General Engineering	\$	2,500	\$	-	\$ 5,000
25	Dam Operations and Maintenance	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 1,500
	<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	\$	<b>41,159</b>	\$	<b>40,035</b>	\$ <b>53,540</b>
<b>Non-operating Expenses</b>						
26	Water Supply Acquisition	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 0.00
27	Capital Improvements	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 0.00
28	Other Miscellaneous	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 0.00
	<b>Total Non-Operating Expenses</b>	\$	<b>-</b>	\$	<b>-</b>	\$ <b>0.00</b>
	<b>Total Operating &amp; Non Operating Expenses</b>	\$	<b>41,159</b>	\$	<b>40,035</b>	\$ <b>53,540</b>
	2026 Assessment			\$	80.55	\$ 54.18
29	Capital Reserve Contribution	\$	5,173	\$	-	\$ -
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$	<b>46,332</b>	\$	<b>40,035</b>	\$ <b>53,540</b>
	<b>Revenue Over (Under) Expenses</b>	\$	<b>53,099</b>	\$	<b>54,738</b>	\$ <b>18,499</b>
	<b>Capital Reserve Balance</b>			\$	<b>794,133</b>	\$ <b>794,133</b>

## Cost Allocation Worksheet: Enterprise Reimbursement to UG Done

UGRWAE Share of Expenses is: 2026  
4.46%

	2026 UGRWCD	2025 UGRWAE
Operating Expenses	Budget	Cost Share
Administrative Travel & Expenses	\$ 36,750	\$ 1,639
Audit & Accounting	73,500	3,278
Bonding & Insurance	30,000	1,338
Board of Directors' Fees	15,750	702
Board of Directors' Mileage	5,775	258
Common Area Maintenance	7,500	335
Computer Expense	40,500	1,806
Legal Publications	5,000	223
Meeting Expenses	5,000	223
Office Expenses	12,000	535
Administrative Salaries	440,525	19,647
Staff Salaries	153,873	6,863
Payroll Taxes	66,170	2,951
Employee Benefits	73,765	3,290
Vehicle Expense	3,500	156
Postage	2,000	89
Office Telephone	6,000	268
Utilities and Cleaning	18,000	803
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 855,358</b>	<b>\$ 44,404</b>

RETURN TO WAE AGENDA

**WAE**  
**AGENDA ITEM 9**  
**Miscellaneous Matters**

RETURN TO WAE AGENDA

**WAE**  
**AGENDA ITEM 10**  
**Citizen's Comments**

RETURN TO WAE AGENDA

**WAE**  
**AGENDA ITEM 11**  
**Adjournment**