

# Volunteers take stock of river

The Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership facilitated its first comprehensive bioassessment of the Uncompahgre River last weekend.

Volunteers from all over the watershed, and beyond, met in Montrose Friday, Oct. 8 to learn how to collect bugs, look at rocks, measure stream velocity and much more before dividing into teams to conquer the river assessment on Saturday.

According to Sarah Sauter, UWP coordinator, "It's a quick and dirty look at the river." Although quick, twenty volunteers dedicated a full eight-hour day to visiting sites along the river in their respective section. "Keeping the river as wild and clean as possible is very important to me," noted one volunteer in her evaluation of the event.

The UWP will now analyze the data and complete a "report card" of the



► UWP volunteers Scott Williams, Brett Fletcher, Ronald Ewing, and Sheelagh Williams worked together to measure the depth and width of the Uncompahgre River in Pa-co-chu-puk State Park. Community photo

river's health – a helpful addition to the Watershed Management Plan that the UWP has been working on for the past two years. Thanks to the diligent work of River Watch water sampling volunteers over the past 10 years,

"We have a good idea what the water chemistry is all about ... now

it's time to see what it physically looks like," said Rachel Boothby, UWP Outreach Coordinator.

For more information about the the Uncompahgre River bioassessment, contact Sauter at [sarah@coloradowater.org](mailto:sarah@coloradowater.org) or 303-408-1312.

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