

## Our Watershed Facts

**Name:** Uncompahgre River Watershed

**Location:** Gunnison Basin, southwestern Colorado

**Headwaters:** Lake Como at 12,215 feet in the Uncompahgre National Forest and other tributaries that originate as high as 14,158 feet at the peak of Mt. Sneffels and down to 4,915 feet in Delta



**Area:** 1,115 square miles over seven counties

**Length:** approximately 75 miles, flowing northwest past Ouray, Ridgway, Montrose and Olathe, joining the Gunnison River in Delta

**Topography:** highly varied, ranging from the snow-capped San Juan Mountains to the south, through the Uncompahgre River Valley with the Uncompahgre Plateau to the west and the barren desert lands of the Gunnison uplift and Adobe badlands on the east



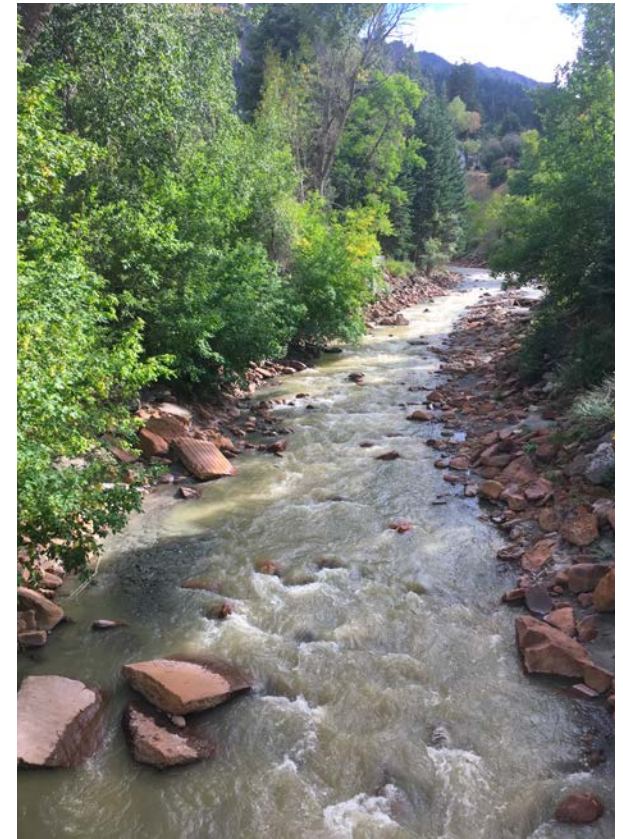
## Last Saturday of June

The annual Ridgway RiverFest is organized by UWP to celebrate our watershed, and bring together our community and visitors for a full day of fun for all ages at the Uncompahgre River in Rollans Park, Ridgway, Colorado. With no entry fee, everyone can enjoy this popular outdoor festival with a wide range of activities from river races and the Junk of the Unc homemade boat competition to live music, Ute cultural presentations, youth entertainment, watershed education, and food and drink.

[www.ridgwayriverfest.org](http://www.ridgwayriverfest.org)



## The Uncompahgre Watershed



The name of the Uncompahgre River comes from the Ute word that means red water, muddy water or a water that is slow moving. The Utes lived along the river since early times because of the water, plants, and wildlife. Flowing from the headwaters in the San Juan Mountains, the river is the artery of a large watershed and one reason many people choose to live here in Ouray County. Whether enjoying recreation on and around the river and the Ridgway Reservoir or using the valuable natural resource for irrigating agricultural fields, we rely on the watershed to support our lifestyles.



## Please Help Protect our Watershed

Our nonprofit works within a modest budget, supported by many volunteer hours and fundraising activities. Grants cover a portion of our expenses, but are limited in scope and duration and cannot be used to cover many ongoing costs. ***That's where you can help! Please consider making a donation or becoming a member.***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State + Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Options

Please check member type & other boxes as preferred.

Individual \$ 36

Family \$ 55

Business \$100

And/or a one-time donation = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I'm giving \$100 or more and would like a Colorado income tax credit, so am providing the last four digits of my tax ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send my receipt by mail  by email .

I give UWP permission to recognize me in publications (online and print).

I do not wish to be recognized.

**Please enclose this form with your check made payable to UWP and send to:**

### Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership

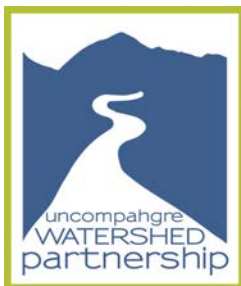
Mail: P.O. Box 392, Ridgway, CO 81432

Office: 133 N. Lena St. #3, Ridgway, CO 81432

970-325-3010 ♦ [uwpcordinator@gmail.com](mailto:uwpcordinator@gmail.com)

You can also donate and join online at

[www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/membership](http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org/membership).



The **Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership** (UWP) exists to help protect the economic, natural, and scenic values of the Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed. The Partnership, overseen by a volunteer board, works to inform and engage

all stakeholders and solicits input from diverse interests to ensure collaborative restoration efforts in the watershed.

UWP was created in the spring of 2007, when regional groups and concerned citizens applied for a watershed-planning grant. Incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2013, our goals and objectives are to improve water quality, riverine ecosystem function, seasonal low flows, and recreation opportunities, as well as to create a stable stakeholder group. To learn more, visit [www.uncompahgrewatershed.org](http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org) and watch <https://youtu.be/NSDmqbIR9Y8>.

**Below:** Metal concentrations in Red Mountain Creek come from abandoned mines as well as the natural geology. **Next page:** UWP is working on a mine remediation project to improve water quality flowing from Governor Basin.



### Our Projects

UWP has many ongoing projects and annual activities aimed at protecting and restoring the watershed. We engage in community outreach and education throughout the year, including the Ridgway RiverFest, field trips into the San Juans, and watershed education in local schools.



### Water Monitoring & Riverside Maintenance

UWP samples water quality at several sites through the statewide River Watch program and with our project partners. We organize annual volunteer work days to pick up litter, weed, and make riparian area improvements along the Uncompahgre River in Ridgway and Ouray.

### Abandoned Mine Site Remediation

UWP brings together experts to remediate environmental damage from legacy mines. Projects have focused on reducing contamination in streams by diverting toxic mine drainage, removing waste rock, minimizing tailings erosion, and vegetating affected areas.

### San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference

UWP is a coordinating partner for the San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference. This annual event brings together non-profit leaders, researchers, industry professionals and government representatives to discuss current and future mining and water quality issues in our mountain region.