

Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP) Strategic Plan for 2021 to 2023

Foundation for 2021-2023 Strategic Plan:

- UWP prioritizes projects by feasibility (especially with respect to funding), water quality or watershed health benefits, and public awareness.
- UWP projects are planned and supervised by the volunteer Board of Directors and Technical Committee, paid contractors, and other partners. A Recreation Committee, consisting of paid and volunteer members, has been approved and may begin projects in the next one to
- Although this plan does not include the costs associated with Board and Committee activities, ongoing communications, and fundraising activities, UWP recognizes that these activities require funding and other resources which are incorporated into the budget.
- UWP recognizes that adaptive management is necessary for all projects, as well as projects that have not been identified yet.

UWP's Mission & Goals (updated 2020): The Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership exists to help protect the natural, scenic, and economic values of the Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed, from its headwaters to the northern Ouray county line.

Goal 1) Monitor and improve water quality

Goal 2) Improve and maintain riverine ecosystem function

Goal 3) Improve seasonal low flows and water supply

Goal 4) Promote awareness of watershed science and conditions to diverse stakeholders and the general public

Goal 5) Provide scientific guidance for and support sustainable recreation opportunities

Glossary of Acronyms in Chart: CDPHE- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment; CPW- Colorado Parks & Wildlife; CWCB- Colorado Water Conservation Board; DRMS- Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety; EECA: Engineering Evaluation, Cost Analysis; EPA- Environmental Protection Agency; GBRT- Gunnison Basin Roundtable; NPS- Nonpoint source; NRD- Natural Resource Damages; OSMI- Ouray Silver Mines Inc.; SEP- Supplemental Environmental Project; TBD- To Be Determined; TMDL- Total Maximum Daily Load; TU- Trout Unlimited; USBOR- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; USFS- U.S. Forest Service

2021 to 2023 Projects								
Project Name	Location	Goal	Priority	Schedule	Estimated Budget	Funding Source(s)	Funding Schedule	Staff, Volunteers & Partners
Atlas Mill Post-Project Monitoring	Sneffels Creek, above Ouray adjacent to CR361	Goal 1	Primary	2021-2024	\$10,000	SEP funds, OSMI	TBD	Lead: Ashley; Partners: OSMI, Jason/TU
Colorado River Watch monthly sampling, periodic analysis, and reports	Uncompahgre River, Cow Creek, Dallas Creek	Goal 1	Primary	Monthly	\$1,000	UWP General Fund; Town of Ridgway	Funds already in account	Lead: Arlen; Volunteers: Ronna, Diane, Amy and John; Partners: Ethan, CPW
Governor Basin Restoration Project	Terrible and Virginius mine sites in the headwaters of the Canyon Creek Watershed	Goal 1	Primary	2020-2030	\$225,550	NRD, CWCB, and OSMI in-kind	NRD and CWCB: invoice monthly	Lead: Ashley; Partners: OSMI, EPA, USFS, DRMS, and TU

2021 to 2023 Projects								
Project Name	Location	Goal	Priority	Schedule	Estimated Budget	Funding Source(s)	Funding Schedule	Staff, Volunteers & Partners
San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference	2021: Telluride; 2022: Ouray; 2023: Durango	Goal 1	Primary	Annually	\$2,700	Conference Sponsorships & Registration; CDPHE NPS Mini Grant	Funds paid after event annually	Lead: Tanya; Volunteers: vary annually; Partners: Mountain Studies Institute, San Miguel Watershed Coalition, Headwaters Alliance
Multi-site EECA	Canyon Creek Watershed	Goal 1	Secondary	2021-2022	TBD	USFS, plus match source.	TBD	Lead: Ashley; Partners: USFS, DRMS
Beer2Clear	TBD (pilot study used Atlas Mill tailings)	Goal 1	Tertiary	TBD	\$0	TBD	TBD	Lead: Tanya; Partners: Tahne
Lake Como Sample Collection and Data Analysis	Lake Como & Upper Uncompahgre Watershed	Goal 1	Tertiary	2022-2023	TBD	TBD	TBD	Lead: Ashley; Partner: Jeff/DRMS
TMDL Review & Community Outreach	Uncompahgre Watershed upstream of Ridgway Reservoir	Goal 1	Tertiary	2023 and beyond	\$1,200-\$5,000	TBD	TBD	Lead: Ashley; Partners: CDPHE, permitted dischargers
Love Your Gorge Volunteer Event	Uncompahgre Gorge at Ouray Ice Park	Goal 2	Primary	Annually in September	\$1,500	Massard Trust Grant; Ouray Ice Park; UWP General Fund	Massard Grant application annually in December	Lead: Tanya; Partners: Ouray Ice Park, local businesses; American Rivers; Int'l Coastal Cleanup
Rollans Park Adopt-A-Park Cleanup	Uncompahgre River, Rollans Park, Ridgway	Goal 2	Primary	Annually in June	\$250	Town of Ridgway funds; UWP General Fund	Funds already in account	Lead: Tanya; Volunteers: board members and others
Billy Creek Fish Habitat Restoration	Billy Creek (between Ridgway Reservoir & Colona)	Goal 2	Tertiary	TBD	TBD	F3T Funds	Funds already in account	Lead: Dennis; Partners: Cary/TU, CPW

2021 to 2023 Projects								
Project Name	Location	Goal	Priority	Schedule	Estimated Budget	Funding Source(s)	Funding Schedule	Staff, Volunteers & Partners
Attend GBRT Meetings to improve relations with water rights owners	Montrose	Goal 3	Secondary	3rd Monday of odd months	\$0	Not applicable (volunteer time)	Not applicable	Lead: Identify a board member to attend GBRT meetings
Ramshorn Reservoir Cow Creek Water Rights Application	Cow Creek (applicants: Ouray County, Tri-County, & Ouray County Water Users Association)	Goal 3	Secondary	TBD	TBD	UWP General Fund	TBD	Lead: Jay; Volunteers: Dennis, Mike, Scott, Partners: Cary
Support Water Supply Protection Planning in the Upper Uncompahgre River Basin	Uncompahgre Watershed in Ouray County	Goal 3	Tertiary	TBD	TBD	UWP General Fund	TBD	Lead/Volunteers: UWP Board Members (Mike, Scott, Jay); Partners: Ouray County
Ouray County Watershed Webinar Series	Zoom, YouTube, UWP website	Goal 4	Primary	2021-02 to 2021-04	\$865	CDPHE NPS Mini Grant (2020); in-kind contributions	Grant paid after project completion; spring 2021	Lead: Tanya; Partners: TBD
Ridgway RiverFest	Uncompahgre River in Ridgway	Goal 4	Primary	Annually in June	\$22,000	Sponsorships; drink sales; silent auction sales	March-July each year	Lead: Tanya; Volunteers: board members; Partners: Town of Ridgway & sponsors
RiverFest Watershed Displays	Ridgway RiverFest	Goal 4	Primary	2020-01 to 2020-05	\$3,520	CDPHE NPS Mini Grant (2020); 2020 Telluride Foundation grant; discount from banner maker	Grant paid after project completion; spring 2021	Lead: Tanya; Volunteers: Amanda, Mary, Brad; Partners: TBD

2021 to 2023 Projects								
Project Name	Location	Goal	Priority	Schedule	Estimated Budget	Funding Source(s)	Funding Schedule	Staff, Volunteers & Partners
Guided snowshoe & hiking tours with history & ecology presentations	Red Mountain Pass; Ouray County Road 361; etc.	Goal 4	Secondary	Annually in February and July	\$1,000	Tour Fees from guests; UWP General Fund	Funds already in account	Lead: Tanya, Mary; Volunteers: vary annually; Partners: Ouray County Historical Society
San Juan Mountains Watershed Curriculum for Grades 6 to 12	Ouray County schools, plus other schools in the San Juan Mountains	Goal 4	Secondary	2020-11 to 2021-08	\$7,480	Ouray County Community Foundation Grant (pending); match from multiple UWP accounts	TBD, following grant award	Lead: Mary; Volunteer: Brad; Partners: Amber/Treeline Education, Mountain Studies Institute
Rollans Park Bank Stabilization and River Restoration	Uncompahgre River, Rollans Park, Ridgway	Goal 5	Primary	2021-2023	TBD	Town of Ridgway Possibly: USBOR Water Smart Grant and/or Walton Family Foundation Grant	Apply by Nov. 17, 2020 or next cycle	Lead: Tanya; Volunteers: Recreation Committee, Fred; Partners: Town of Ridgway
Interpretative signs for recreational site	TBD (likely the Uncompahgre River or Cow Creek)	Goal 5	Tertiary	TBD	TBD	F3T Funds	Funds already in account	Lead: Tanya; Volunteers: Recreation Committee; Partners: possibly RIGS, TU or CPW
Planning for long-term objectives	TBD; additional mine site remediation projects; water conservation education; public access to rivers and streams	Goals 1, 3 & 5	Secondary	2021-2031	TBD	TBD	TBD	Lead: Ashley, Tanya, Board; Partners: DRMS, CDPHE, USFS, EPA, CPW, local outfitters and governments, etc.