

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 three years.
- 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; OC- Ouray County; OSBOR- 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	Objective(s)/ Location	Goal	Priority	Schedule	Estimated Budget	Funding Source(s)	Funding Schedule	Staff, Volunteers & Partners
Colorado River Watch monthly sampling, periodic analysis, and reports	Routine and long-term characterization/ 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	Isolate waste and tailings to improve water quality/ Terrible and Virginius mine sites in Canyon Creek headwaters	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
Post-Project Monitoring on Atlas Mill Project	Evaluate water quality changes/ Sneffels Creek, above Ouray adjacent to CR361	Goal 1	Primary	2021-2024	\$10,000	SEP funds, OSMI	TBD	Lead: Ashley; Partners: OSMI, Jason/TU

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San Juan Mining & Reclamation Conference	Improve and promote reclamation methods to improve water quality/ 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
Love Your Gorge Volunteer Event	Improve riparian areas & areas draining into Uncompahgre River/ 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	Improve and maintain riparian area/ 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
Ouray County Watershed Webinar Series	Educate community about water scarcity, conditions & issues/ 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: Town of Ridgway, TBD
Ridgway RiverFest	Educate community about Upper Unc. Watershed; support river recreation uses/ Uncompahgre River in Ridgway	Goal 4	Primary	Annually in June	\$10,000	Sponsorships; drink sales; silent auction sales	March-July each year	Lead: Tanya; Volunteers: board members; Partners: Town of Ridgway & sponsors
RiverFest Watershed Displays	Develop more interactive, updated & impactful educational tools/ Ridgway RiverFest at Rollans Park plus other education events	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

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Rollans Park Bank Stabilization and River Restoration	Determine and implement plan for longterm bank stabilization/ 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 for grants in 2021; Town of Ridgway 2021 budget (12/9/20 decision)	Lead: Tanya; Volunteers: Recreation Committee, Fred; Partners: Town of Ridgway
Multi-site EECA	Characterize environmental risks to secure funding to reclaim historic mine sites/ Canyon Creek Watershed	Goal 1	Secondary	2021-2022	TBD	USFS, plus match source.	TBD	Lead: Ashley; Partners: USFS, DRMS
Attend GBRT Meetings to strengthen relations with water rights owners	Keep informed about needs and plans of water rights holders (esp. ag users)/ 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 Rts Application	Provide comments and science-based recommendations to help ensure water quality and wildlife habitat are not negatively impacted/ Cow Creek	Goal 3	Secondary	TBD	TBD	UWP General Fund	TBD	Lead: Jay; Volunteers: Dennis, Mike, Scott, Partners: Cary
Guided snowshoe & hiking tours with history & ecology presentations	Encourage responsible outdoor activities to minimize negative impacts/ Red Mountain Pass; OC 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	Gather and develop customized lessons for use by UWP, school teachers and others/ OC schools & other schools in the San Juan Mtns	Goal 4	Secondary	2020-11 to 2021-08	\$7,480	TBD	TBD	Lead: Mary; Volunteer: Brad; Partners: Amber/Treeline Education, Mountain Studies Institute; Ridgway Wastewater plant

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Project Name	Objective(s)/ Location	Goal	Priority	Schedule	Estimated Budget	Funding Source(s)	Funding Schedule	Staff, Volunteers & Partners
Watershed education for Conservation Corps at Dennis Weaver Park	Provide watershed knowledge to corps members working around Unc. River; possibly use corps assistance for water sampling activities	Goal 4	Secondary	Jun-21	TBD (\$90 to \$350)	Town of Ridgway GOCO grant	Town applied in summer 2020; award notification Dec. 2020	Lead: Tanya; Volunteers: Mary, Brad; Partners: Town of Ridgway
Planning for long term objectives	Future mine site reclamation; water conservation education; public access to rivers and streams/ Locations TBD	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.
Beer2Clear	Efficient reclamation practice using industrial waste stream/ Location 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	Gather & analyze water quality data to determine reclamation needs; Lake Como & Upper Unc. Watershed	Goal 1	Tertiary	2022-2023	TBD	TBD	TBD	Lead: Ashley; Partner: Jeff/DRMS
TMDL Review & Community Outreach	Provide local stakeholder & scientific input to process; Unc. Watershed upstream of Ridgway Res.	Goal 1	Tertiary	2023 and beyond	\$1,200-\$5,000	TBD	TBD	Lead: Ashley; Partners: CDPHE, permitted dischargers
Billy Creek Fish Habitat Restoration	Improve banks & stream for fish & fishing/ Billy Creek	Goal 2	Tertiary	TBD	TBD	F3T Funds	Funds already in account	Lead: Dennis; Partners: Cary/TU, CPW
Support Water Supply Protection Planning in the Upper Unc. River Basin	Help ensure water quantity is protected or improved/ Unc. Watershed in Ouray County	Goal 3	Tertiary	TBD	TBD	UWP General Fund	TBD	Lead/Volunteers: UWP Board Members (Mike, Scott, Jay); Partners: Ouray County