

River Watch Items for September 2021 UWP Board Meeting

- Ten River Watch sites were sampled between September 1st and 6th. The sample below Blue Lake on the East Fork of Dallas Creek was collected on August 25th.
- Three River Watch volunteers (Arlen, Ronna, and John) conducted water hardness test demonstrations at RiverFest and talked to people about River Watch. We had some interesting discussions with participants and tried to answer their questions. Based on one question about the safety of eating fish from the river and the reservoir, UWP should consider adding this link to its website concerning fish consumption: (<https://coepht.colorado.gov/environmental-data/fish-consumption>). The site covers guidelines for eating fish and also has a link to sample results on metal concentrations in fish tissue.
- Streamflow for August is summarized below.

- The streamflow graph for the USGS gauge near Ridgway is shown in Figure 1. The large increase after August 19th was due to a large rain event with the flow subsiding to a more uniform rate by about the 25th. From then through Sept 5th flow was well below the median of about 100 cfs.

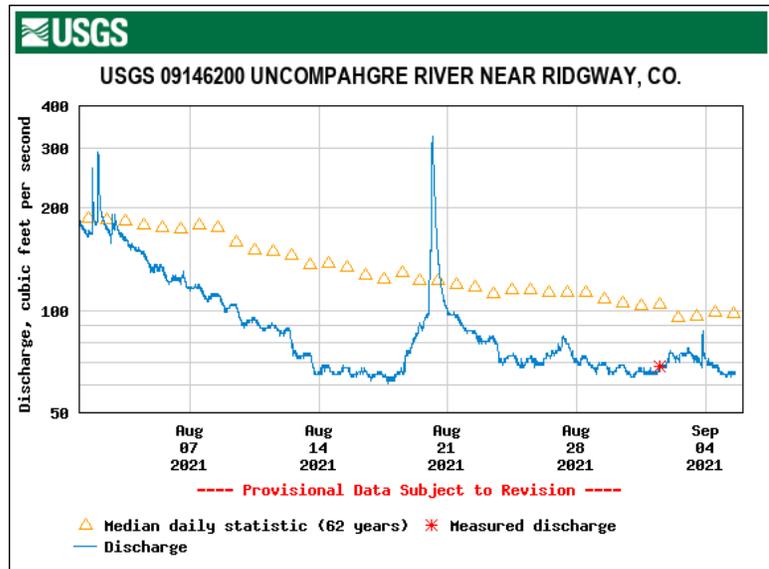


Figure 1. Streamflow graph for the Uncompahgre near Ridgway for the period 8/1/21 to 9/5/21.

- Dallas Creek streamflow for the same period is shown in Figure 2. The large increase after the August 19th rain is obvious, but on Dallas Creek the flow stayed at discharge rates quite close to the median of 30 cfs.

- Cow Creek streamflow followed a similar pattern to the Uncompahgre, settling to a discharge rate below average at the end of August and early September.

- After many months of waiting, I discovered that all the UWP River Watch data for 2019 and 2020, including metals' data, is now in the River Watch database. Data from 2021 is also starting to appear; standard data is available through July and metals' data through March.

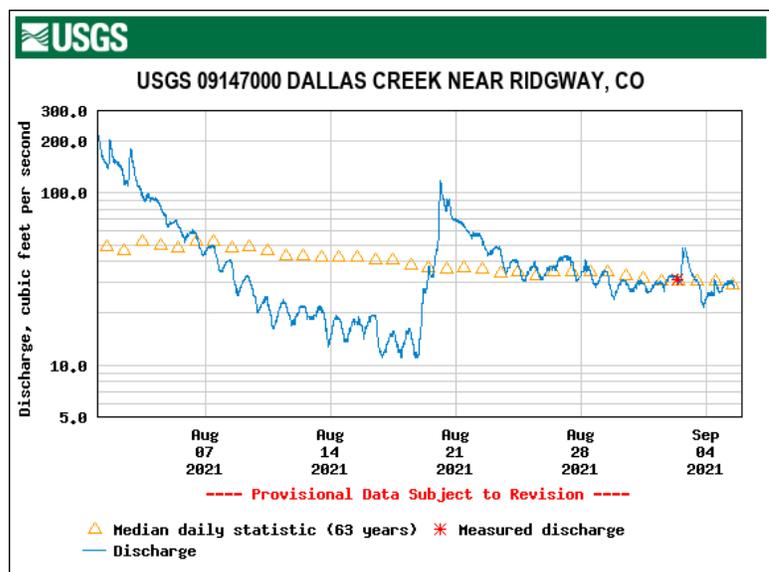


Figure 2. Streamflow graph for Dallas Cr for the period 8/1/21 to 9/5/21.