# River Watch Items for February 2022 UWP Board Meeting

- River Watch items of interest as follows:
  - We lost one River Watch volunteer (Diane Spooner) from the UWP team. Her partner, Ronna Edgett-Underwood, has agreed to sample the two sites assigned to them. Ronna also picked up an untrained volunteer to accompany her; an MS student needing to do volunteer work with a citizen science group.
  - River Watch sampling for February 2022 was accomplished between the 3rd and the 6th. No problems were encountered.
  - There is a supply chain issue with syringe filters. Some RW groups are out of filters and have been instructed to continue with unfiltered samples. UWP has enough filters to sample for one more month.
- Streamflow from early January through early February is summarized as follows:
  - On the upper Uncompahgre only two streamflow gauges, Near Ouray and Below Ridgway Reservoir, remained ice-free through the period.
  - At the USGS gauge near Ouray flow was consistent at 22-26 cfs through February 4th. The historical median flow was 24 cfs.
  - The USGS gauge below Ridgway Reservoir had a constant release of 46 cfs, the same as the previous month and slightly lower than the median of 50 cfs.
  - The USGS gauge on Dallas Creek was iced up through the period but had one manual measurement of 10.5 cfs on February 1st. The median was about 17 cfs.
  - The state gauge on Cow Creek reported ice throughout the period. The long-term average was about 30 cfs.
- After a nice start to the water year, the southwest part of the state had a flat snow water curve over the past month. The Gunnison Basin snowpack dropped from 149% of the 30-year median in early January to 117% in early February. The northern part of the basin still has the higher snow totals with Mesa Lakes on Grand Mesa showing 11.9" of SWE, about 121% of its median. The Red Mtn Pass SNOTEL dropped from 119% of its long-term median to 95% and gained only about 0.6" of SWE for the month. Idarado decreased from 95% to 73% (5.7" SWE) of its median, and gained only 0.4" of SWE.