River Watch Items for the August 2022 UWP Board Meeting

- River Watch items of interest are as follows:
  - July River Watch samples were collected between 30 June and 6 July 2022. I collected the first Blue Lake (E. Fork of Dallas Cr) sample on 30 June. Campers were taking up where they left off last season; a tent site right at the edge of the creek and a newly developed fire ring close to where we sample. With the departure of Abe Proffitt USFS has no plans to sample for E. Coli this season.
  - August River Watch samples were collected between 1 and 11 August 2022. The second Blue Lake sample is planned for 11 August. All sampled streams were impacted by the monsoon rains. The Uncompahgre was running quite high for August and carried a lot of sediment. Dallas Creek was similar and had a flow more typical of spring runoff, though a lot muddier. Higher elevation streams generally carried less sediment, although washouts on the Camp Bird Road suggested Canyon Creek, and other creeks, also sporadically carried a lot of debris and sediments.
- Comments on streamflow from 8 June through 7 August:
  - Streamflow from the USGS gauge near Ridgway is shown in Figure 1. Streamflow was below median values for most of June and July, but with numerous short-term peaks from monsoon rains. Stronger monsoon rains brought flow up to and above median values after about 26 July, with several peaks exceeding 300 cfs.
  - The USGS gauge below Ridgway Reservoir indicated releases from the reservoir were below median values throughout the period. Current releases are slightly greater than 200 cfs, while median values are closer to 400 cfs.
  - The USGS gauge on Dallas Creek also showed the impact of monsoon rains in June and July with several peaks above 100 cfs seen in Figure 2. For the last 10 days in Figure 2 streamflow was greater than median values.
  - The Colorado streamflow gauge on Cow Creek showed a pattern like Dallas Creek, with monsoon-impacted flows exceeding averages after about 27 July, and two peaks in July greater than 100 cfs.

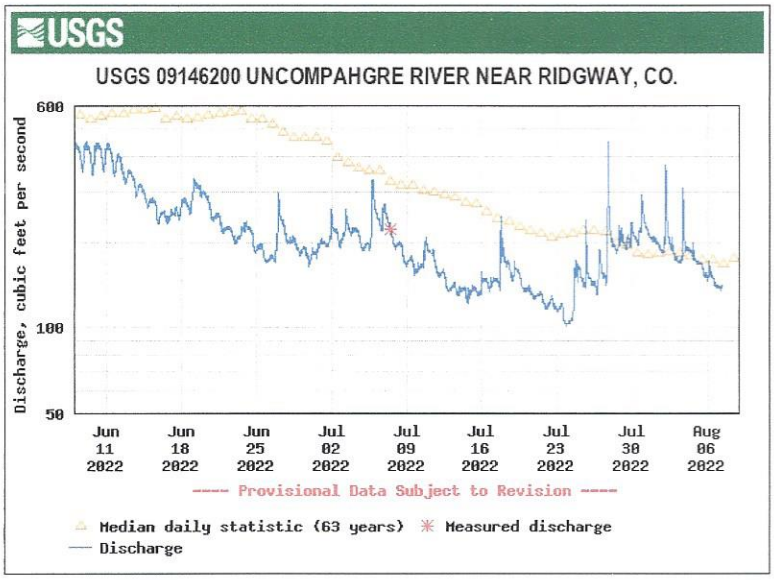

Figure 1. Streamflow graph for the USGS gauge near Ridgway for the period 8 June through 7 August 2022.

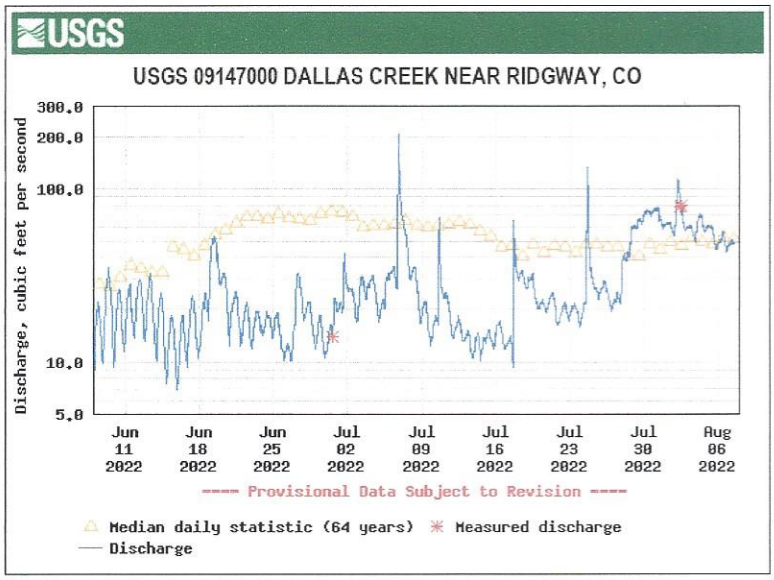

Figure 2. Streamflow graph for the USGS gauge on Dallas Creek for the period 8 June through 7 August 2022.

- Summary of assessment of Segment COGUUN03c_A for the 2022 303(d) List

This segment is the portion of the Uncompahgre River from just above its confluence with Dexter Creek to a point just below its confluence with Dallas Creek. WQCD evaluated the segment using water quality data from 2015 through 2019. The segment contains three of UWP's River Watch sites; Potters Ranch, Ridgway Town and CR24. Fifty-three measurements were used to assess metal concentrations and standards, 50 were from River Watch and three were from USGS (a site near Ridgway, likely the stream gauge site at CR24). The 53 River Watch data points were median values of the 3-6 measurements made on the same date. Note that no 2019 River Watch metals' data were used since the data were not yet available in the database at the time of the data call.

  - **Mainstem of Uncompahgre River, Segment COGUUN03_c**: The use classifications for this segment are: Aquatic Life Cold 1, Water Supply, Agricultural, and Recreation E. The short answer regarding the 2022 303(d) List is that WQCD no longer lists the segment for any impairment for any of its use classifications, and the segment is therefore not found in the current 303(d) List. From a previous 303(d) List WQCD listed this segment as impaired for aquatic life for dissolved Cadmium and Copper and total Iron with an approved TMDL (category 4a) from 2010. None of the three metals exceeded standards using the 2015-2019 data set and are now in category 1b (attained standard with approved TMDL). This category no longer appears in the 303(d) List.

    In the prior 303(d) List dissolved Manganese was on the impaired list for water supply. Using a different standard assessment method based on data from 1995-1999, the current Mn 74th percentile value was found to be less than the applicable assessment standard value, and Mn was delisted for 2022.

    Finally, there was one value (5.2 µg/L) for total Arsenic in the 2015-2019 data set that exceeded the water supply standard of 0.02 µg/L. However, WQCD determined that one value was inadequate to warrant adding As to the 2022 303(d) List. With the upgraded ICP-MS that River Watch will now be using, there should be adequate data for evaluating As in the next assessment cycle.