

## Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership (UWP) Strategic Plan for 2021 to 2023: progress updated 1/12/23

### 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, Sustainable Recreation Committee, paid contractors, and other partners.
- 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; CWCBC- 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
<b>Ouray Hydromodam Sediment Release Study Report (2-page analysis &amp; summary)</b>	Uncompahgre River, north of Ouray	Goal 4	Primary	2022-11	\$ 500	Town of Ridgway restricted funds (\$220) and UWP General Fund (280)	funds already in account	Lead: Ashley Bembeneck; Partners: Ouray Hydromodam
<b>Colorado River Watch monthly sampling, periodic analysis, and reports</b>	Routine and long-term characterization/ Uncompahgre River, Cow Creek, Dallas Creek	Goal 1	Primary	Monthly	\$3,000	UWP General Fund; Town of Ridgway	(\$1,000/yr) annual requests funded in 2021, 2022 (2023 TBD)	Lead: Arlen; Volunteers: Ronna, Leslie, Amy, John, and summer volunteers; Partners: River Watch, CPW
<b>Governor Basin Restoration Project</b>	Isolate waste and tailings to improve water quality/ Terrible and Virginus mine sites in Canyon Creek headwaters	Goal 1	Primary	2020-2030	\$700,000	NRD, CWCBC, OSMI, and TU.	NRD and CWCBC: invoice monthly	Lead: Ashley; Partners: OSMI, EPA, USFS, DRMS, and TU
<b>Idarado Consent Decree Progress Outreach</b>	Red Mountain Pass; Red Mountain Creek and Uncompahgre River with tributaries	Goal 1	Primary	2022-08 to 2023-08	Amount? USFS? DRMS? CDPHE? Ouray County/	2020 or 2021 Town of Ridgway restricted funds	funds already in account	Lead: Ashley Bembeneck
<b>Post-project monitoring on Atlas Mill Project</b>	Evaluate water quality changes/ Sneffels Creek, above Ouray adjacent to CR361	Goal 1	Primary	2021-2024	\$10,000	SEP funds, OSMI	Managed by TU	Lead: Ashley; Partners: OSMI, Jason/TU

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<b>San Juan Mining &amp; Reclamation Conference (new name 2023: Rocky Mtn. M&amp;R Conference)</b>	Improve and promote reclamation methods to improve water quality/ 2021: Telluride; 2022: Ouray; 2023- TBD	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
<b>Love Your Gorge volunteer event</b>	Improve riparian areas & areas draining into Uncompahgre River/ Uncompahgre Gorge at Ouray Ice Park	Goal 2	Primary	Annually in September	\$4,500	Massard Trust Grant; City of Ouray; Ouray Ice Park; UWP General Fund	(\$1,500/yr) Massard Grant app. Dec. - Jan.; City of Ouray budget req. Sept.-Dec.	Lead: Tanya; Partners: Ouray Ice Park, Ouray Brewery, Ouray Grocery, American Rivers, Int'l Coastal Cleanup, City of Ouray
<b>Rollans Park Adopt-A-Park Cleanup</b>	Improve and maintain riparian area/ Uncompahgre River, Rollans Park, Ridgway	Goal 2	Primary	Annually in June	\$450	Town of Ridgway funds	(\$150/year) annual requests funded in 2021, 2022 (2023 TBD)	Lead: Tanya; Volunteers: board members and others; Partners: Town of Ridgway, Ouray County
<b>Unc River Cleanup at Pa-Co Chu-Puk-Renaming in 2022 to Ridgway State Park Riparian Restoration</b>	Improve and maintain riparian area around Ridgway State Park/Uncompahgre River, north of Ridgway Dam, at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk area of Ridgway State Park	Goal 2	Primary	every October	\$1,050	UWP General Fund or F3T funds (\$350 annually)	funds already in account	Lead: Tanya Ishikawa; Partners: Ridgway State Park staff/CPW, local outfitters
<b>Rollans Park bank stabilization and river restoration</b>	Implement recommendations from 2021 Assessment Report/ Uncompahgre River, Rollans Park, Ridgway	Goal 2 & Goal 5	Primary	2023-2024	TBD	Town of Ridgway, plus additional grant funds- CWCB, GBRT, GOCO.	Apply for grants in 2023	Lead: TBD; Volunteers: Recreation Committee; Partners: Town of Ridgway, DHM Associates
<b>Water conservation education series</b>	2-4 community conversations/works hops about conserving water and water efficiency methods and resources	Goal 3	Primary	2022 Fall	\$1,500	Ouray County, CO River District	County Budget req. approved 12-21; CO River District req. approved 1-22	Lead: Tanya; Volunteers: TBD; Partners: Ouray County, CO River District
<b>Ouray County watershed webinar series</b>	Educate community about water scarcity, conditions & issues/ Zoom, YouTube, UWP website	Goal 4	Primary	2021-04 to 2021-08	\$2,500	CDPHE NPS Mini Grant (2020); in-kind contributions	Grant paid after project completion; winter 2022	Lead: Tanya; Volunteers: 14 Partner organizations, Town of Ridgway, citizens

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<b>Ridgway RiverFest</b>	Educate community about Upper Unc. Watershed; support river recreation uses/ Uncompahgre River in Ridgway	Goal 4	Primary	Annually in June	\$30,000	Sponsorships; drink sales; silent auction sales	(\$10,000/yr) February-July each year	Lead: Tanya, Pamela; Volunteers: board members; Partners: Town of Ridgway & sponsors
<b>RiverFest watershed displays</b>	Develop more interactive, updated & impactful educational tools/ Ridgway RiverFest at Rollans Park plus other education events	Goal 4	Primary	2021-06 to 2021-08	\$3,500	CDPHE NPS Mini Grant (2020); 2020 Telluride Foundation grant; discount from banner maker	Grant paid after project completion; winter 2022	Lead: Tanya; Volunteers: Amanda, Mary, Brad; Partners: RES teacher Christy Sabo, Ashley Bembenek
<b>Establish Sustainable Recreation Committee &amp; Plans</b>	Begin stakeholder outreach, and develop priorities for projects that address committee's mission.	Goal 5	Primary	2021-2023	\$10,000 annually	F3T Funds; state, local and private foundation grants	Film tour fundraiser: money from 2018, 19, 21, 22; possibly in March 2023	Lead: ??; Volunteers: Recreation Committee; Partners: RIGS, TU, CPW, Town of Ridgway, Telluride Outside, BLM, Ouray County
<b>Multi-site EECA</b>	Characterize environmental risks to secure funding to reclaim historic mine sites/ Canyon Creek Watershed	Goal 1	Secondary	2022-2023	TBD	USFS, plus match source.	TBD	Lead: Ashley; Partners: USFS, DRMS
<b>Review proposal for Sneffels Creek temporary modifications</b>	Assure that proposal for temporary modifications in Sneffels Creek is reasonable and protective of water quality.	Goal 1	Secondary	2022 and beyond	\$3,000-\$10,000	TBD		Lead: Ashley; Partners: Technical Committee
<b>Planning for long term objectives</b>	Future mine site reclamation; water conservation education; public access to rivers and streams/ Locations TBD	Goal 1, Goal 3, & Goal 5	Secondary	2021-2031	TBD	Telluride Foundation (water cons. education only); other grants & fundraisers pending	TF grant app. In Oct 2022; Todd Hoffman Found. grant application 11-22	Lead: Ashley, Tanya; Partners: Board, DRMS, CDPHE, USFS, EPA, CPW, local outfitters and governments, etc.
<b>Ramshorn Reservoir Cow Creek water rights application</b>	Provide comments and science-based recommendations to help ensure water quality and wildlife habitat are not negatively impacted/ Cow Creek	Goal 2 & Goal 3	Secondary	TBD by Water Court Referee or Judge	TBD	UWP General Fund; Pro Bono Services from MWHW	TBD	Lead: Jay; Volunteers: Dennis, Mike, Scott; Partners: Cary, WRA, CWCB, CPW
<b>Guided snowshoe &amp; hiking tours with history &amp; ecology presentations</b>	Encourage responsible outdoor activities to minimize negative impacts/ Red Mountain Pass; OC Road 361; etc.	Goal 4	Secondary	Annually in February and July	\$3,000	Tour Fees from guests	(\$1,000/yr) paid on event days	Lead: Tanya, Mary; Volunteers: Steve Boyle, citizens vary annually; Partners: Ouray County Historical Society

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<b>San Juan Mountains watershed curriculum for grades 6 to 12</b>	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	2022-2023	\$4,000	2021-2022 Telluride Foundation Grant plus possible partial fund match from General Funds	Awarded 12-21; payment 4-22	Lead: Mary, Krista; Volunteer: Mary; Staff: Tanya
<b>Lake Como sample collection and data analysis</b>	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
<b>TMDL review and community outreach</b>	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
<b>Support water supply protection planning in the upper Unc. River basin</b>	Help ensure water quantity and quality is protected or improved/ Unc. Watershed in Ouray County	Goal 2 & Goal 3	Tertiary	TBD	TBD	UWP General Fund	TBD	Lead/Volunteers: UWP Board Members (Mike, Scott, Jay); Partners: Ouray County
<b>Billy Creek fish habitat restoration</b>	Improve banks & stream for fish & fishing/ Billy Creek	Goal 2	Zero	DELAYED/ POSSIBLY CANCELLED	N/A	N/A	N/A	CPW may do work on their own or not at all
<b>Attend Gunnison Basin Roundtable meetings</b>	Strengthen relationships and keep informed about needs and plans of water rights holders (esp. ag users)/ Montrose	Goal 3	Zero	3rd Monday of odd months	\$1,000	N/A	N/A	not enough capacity so not happening
<b>Beer2Clear</b>	Efficient reclamation practice using industrial waste stream/ Location TBD (pilot study used Atlas Mill tailings)	Goal 1	Zero	N/A	\$0	N/A	N/A	Company disbanded/UWP Board did not find taking over its work feasible
<b>Watershed education for Conservation Corps at Dennis Weaver Park</b>	Provide watershed knowledge to corps members working around Unc. River; possibly use corps assistance for water sampling activities	Goal 4	Zero	Jun-21	N/A	Town of Ridgway GOCO grant	Town applied in summer 2020; award notification Dec. 2020	Town did not get grant from GOCO so project cancelled