

River Watch Items for the March 2024 UWP Board Meeting

- River Watch items of interest:
 - Our six lower River Watch sites were successfully sampled in February (2nd – 5th) and March (2nd – 5th). February and March metals samples will be shipped to CPW on March 9th.
 - December River Watch sampling took place on the 1st, 3rd, and 8th.
 - For January four sites were sampled on the 3rd and 7th, and the two remaining sites will be sampled on the 12th.
- Snowpack, Precipitation and Streamflow:
 - As of March 8th, for the 2024 Water Year, the 15 Gunnison Basin SNOTEL sites had an average of 13.0 inches of SWE; 98% of the basin median and up from 73% in January. The basin was also at 100% of its median precipitation, up from 81% in January. In the Uncompahgre watershed the Red Mtn Pass SNOTEL reported 16.4 inches of SWE on March 8th, which was 92% of its median (up from 70% in January).
 - Streamflow on the Uncompahgre at the USGS gauge near Ridgway has been about 40 +/- 5 cfs since 1 January 2024, with the median flow being about 5-7 cfs lower. For the 1 January to 8 March period Cow Creek and Dallas Creek ve also been 4-6 cfs below their median or average flows. Ridgway Reservoir storage has been steadily increasing since the first of the year, and as of 8 March the reservoir was right at its median storage value of 65,730 acre-feet.
- RW issues to be resolved in coming months:
 - Possible addition of more RW sites to aid WQCD TMDL study for 2024-2028. Several upper Unc locations lack data after 2016-17.
 - How to handle request from Uncompahgre Multi-Benefit Project for collection of water quality samples.
 - Coordination of RW sampling with SOF sample collection. Likely resolved with new Riggs board member.
 - Involvement of RW volunteers/sites with CNHP.