

Items for the August 2024 WRWG Meeting

- River Watch items of interest:
 - August sampling and lab analysis for 14 UWP River Watch sites, including the Blue Lake site, was completed by 6 August. Shipping of July and August samples to River Watch is expected to occur On 13 August.
 - After August sampling of two new TMDL sites, Governor Basin will have been sampled twice, and Below Atlas Mill on Sneffels Creek will have been sampled three times. I attempted to get to the Mineral Creek site on CR18A on July 30th but found my 4WD pickup is not the best vehicle for this adventure. I turned around at a point just beyond the Michael Breen mine. We will need to look for another vehicle or route for the Mineral Creek site.
- Snowpack, Precipitation and Streamflow:
 - With no significant storms after late June, and no shift to a monsoon pattern in July, streamflow on the Uncompahgre at the USGS gauge near Ridgway was almost entirely below the median curve after July 3rd. Except for a 200 cfs spike in flow after the thunderstorms on August 5th, streamflow has been below 100 cfs since July 29th when the median flow is about 170 cfs.
 - Dallas Creek and Cow Creek also had below median or average streamflow through most of July and early August. Both creeks have median/average flows of about 50 cfs for this period, while actual flow on Dallas Creek dropped from 20 cfs in mid-July to about 8 cfs in early August. Cow Creek flow ranged from 5 to 12 cfs at the end of July and early August.
 - Ridgway Reservoir storage peaked in June at about 83,400 acre-ft, much higher than the median for June 30th which is about 75,000 acre-ft. However, releases after June 28th brought storage down to the median curve by July 21st, and storage has decreased along the median curve since then. As of August 6th, the actual storage and the median were about the same at 69,600 acre-feet.