

## River Watch Items for the October 2025 UWP Board Meeting

- River Watch items of interest in September and October 2025:

- In September 2025 River Watch sampling at 10 of 15 sites was concluded by September 9<sup>th</sup>. Due to the lead volunteer being ill, the four sites along Camp Bird Road were not sampled in September. The continuing USFS road closure also prevented the East Fork Dallas Creek site from being sampled in September.

October River Watch sampling includes low flow nutrient sampling at nine higher altitude sites. As of October 11<sup>th</sup>, all nine high altitude sites, including the East Fork Dallas Creek site, had been sampled. Three of the six low altitude sites had been sampled, and the remaining three are expected to be sampled on October 13<sup>th</sup>. At Governor Basin a better site for sampling, about 100 feet above the original site, was found and will be used beginning in 2026.

- In September Virginia Weiskopf (RiverCorps) made streamflow measurements at 7 of the 14 River Watch sites coincident with September sampling events. Table 1 shows June through September streamflow measurements and a comparison with September USGS StreamStat model results at four high altitude sites. The differences between measurements and model results indicate September discharges were well below average. Measurements at several sites had relatively high uncertainties due to the very low flows.

*Table 1. Table 2. June through streamflow measurements using the Tracker 2 Flow Meter. Last two columns show average September streamflow estimates from the USGS StreamStat model and percent difference from September Tracker 2 measurements. Blue shading indicates estimated values.*

	Tracker 2	Tracker 2	Tracker 2	Tracker 2	USGS SteamStat	Percent
RW Site	June Discharge	July Discharge	August Discharge	Sept Discharge	Sept Avg Discharge	Difference
Cow Cr	296.0	48.1	6.4	2.0	-	-
Dallas Cr	51.8	31.1	3.1	18.1	-	-
RM Cr MM81	-	3.8	0.6	0.5	4.5	-884.78%
Commodore Gl	-	2.4	0.3	0.1	3.9	-3750.00%
Gray Copper Gl	21.5	2.3	1.2	0.9	2.3	-146.72%
RM Cr Crystal Res	89.6	17.5	8.5	5.8	17.2	-195.63%
Governor Basin	7.6	4.1	2.5	-	-	-
Sneffels Cr at Atlas	41.8	16.3	3.3	-	-	-
Sneffels Cr at Camp Bird	65.2	25.4	5.0	-	-	-
Imogene Cr	-	15.5	2.8	-	-	-

- Our annual River Watch site visit took place on September 11<sup>th</sup>. All our unknown tests came back with results that were well within percentage recovery limits. A few new procedures were introduced; one being to acid clean of all deionized water containers every three months. We are also being sent a new chemical for use with water hardness tests at sites containing high concentrations of iron. Lastly our old Hanna pH meter is going to be replaced with a new unit.

- Precipitation and Streamflow:

- The USGS stream gauge near Ridgway showed that discharge was well below the median curve for most of the summer. Since early September discharge has increased to values approaching the median, and on October 11<sup>th</sup> discharge was 80.4 cfs compared to the median of 83 cfs.
- The USGS gauge on Dallas Creek indicated that discharge was below the spring/summer CWCB instream flow level of 20 cfs for the entire month of May, and from mid-July through early September. Records indicate CWCB made an ISF call on July 29<sup>th</sup>, but discharge on the creek did not go above 20 cfs until late August. Since about mid-September the discharge on Dallas Creek has been fluctuating above and below the median curve and on October 11<sup>th</sup> discharge and the median value were about the same at 27 cfs.

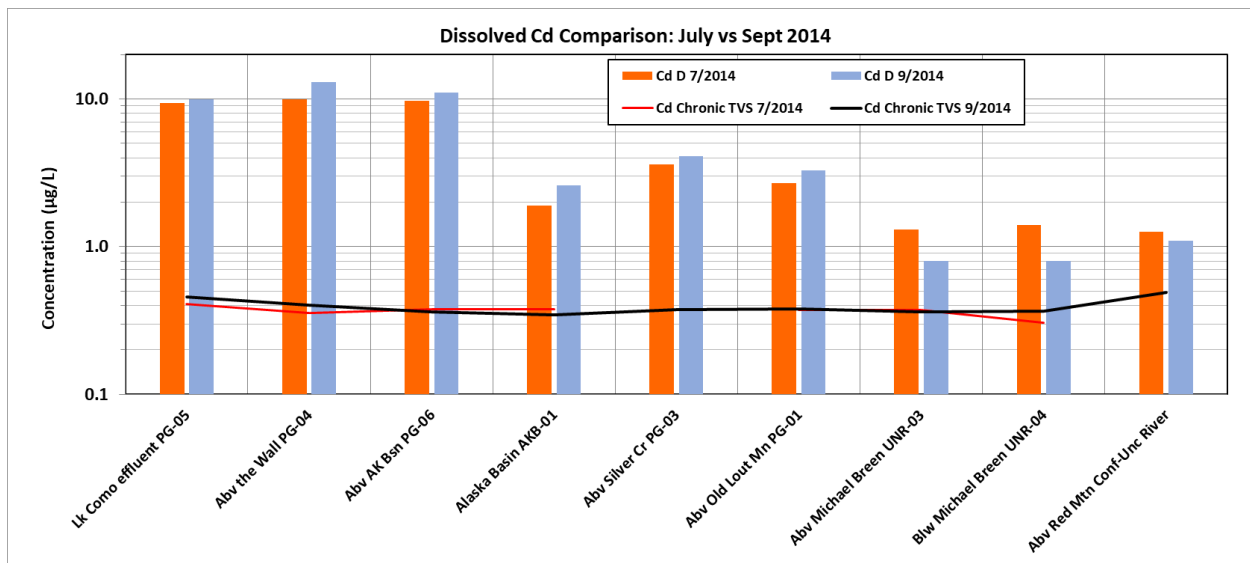
- Streamflow measurements at the Dallas Creek River Watch site have also been made by Virginia Weiskopf on the dates shown in Table 2. Using the average stream velocity from the flow meter data, the flow at the USGS gauge 3.25 miles downstream was estimated for each event. The last column in Table 2 indicates the difference in flow between the two sites. Only in September was the flow at the USGS gauge estimated to be greater than the flow measured at the upstream site. The last three entries in Table 2 show the discharge in the irrigation ditch running through Ridgway, which gradually decreased through the summer.

*Table 3. Comparison of discharge measurements between the Dallas Cr River Watch site and the Dallas Creek USGS site 3.25 miles downstream. The USGS measurement was delayed by a travel time based on stream velocity determined by the Tracker 2 flow meter. The last two rows show discharge in the irrigation ditch in Ridgway near the San Miguel Power building.*

RW Site	Date	Tracker 2 Discharge	USGS Site	USGS Gauge Discharge	CR24 to USGS Difference
Dallas Cr at CR24	04/11/25	13.39	3.25 mi downstream	9.39	-4.0
Dallas Cr at CR24	04/23/25	6.29	3.25 mi downstream	3.45	-2.8
Dallas Cr at CR24	05/04/25	7.14	3.25 mi downstream	0.26	-6.9
Dallas Cr at CR24	06/09/25	52.39	3.25 mi downstream	39.70	-12.7
Dallas Cr at CR24	07/08/25	31.14	3.25 mi downstream	25.80	-5.3
Dallas Cr at CR24	08/09/25	3.12	3.25 mi downstream	1.34	-1.8
Dallas Cr at CR24	09/07/25	18.11	3.25 mi downstream	21.15	3.0
Hyde-Sneva Ditch - Ridgway	07/08/25	2.41			
Hyde-Sneva Ditch - Ridgway	08/09/25	1.37			
Hyde-Sneva Ditch - Ridgway	09/07/25	0.62			

- Upper Uncompahgre Water Quality (2014)

Some background information on water quality in the Upper Uncompahgre River was provided for the UWP field trip on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Figure 1 gives an example of dissolved cadmium concentrations for nine water quality sites between Lake Como and a site just above the confluence of the Uncompahgre River with Red Mtn Creek. For cadmium all sites exceeded the aquatic life Table Value Standard in both July and September of 2014. Other metals like copper and zinc followed a similar upstream to downstream trend, although for copper the lowest three sites did not exceed the copper TVS.



*Figure 1. Dissolved cadmium (Cd) concentrations at nine water quality sites between Lake Como and the Uncompahgre River – Red Mtn Creek confluence collected in July (orange) and September (blue) 2104.*