

# **Ridgway Youth Advisory Council Meeting Agenda**



**Tuesday, March 26, 2024  
201 N. Railroad St. Ridgway, CO 81432**

**3:30 p.m.**

## **CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL**

Riley Burr, Keira DeLuccio, Lauren Mahlin,  
Patrick Megahee and Hannah Freed

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Item 1 – Presentation from Tanya Ishikawa, Uncompahgre  
Watershed Partnership

Item 2 – Presentation of Capstone Project

Item 3 – Discussion regarding presentation to the Town Council

Item 4 – Discussion regarding Town Cleanup Day Event

Item 5 – Approval of Minutes from February 27, 2024 Meeting

Item 6 – Next Meeting Date and Time

## **ADJOURNMENT**

## AGENDA ITEM #1

1. Why care about your watershed
2. What UWP is and who is involved
3. Facts about local water





# What's wrong with this picture?





What's wrong with this picture?





# Resources

- ▣ Upper Uncompahgre Watershed Basics booklet
- ▣ River Watch reports
- ▣ Drinking water supply reports from utilities

## THE UNCOMPAHGRE RIVER WATERSHED IN OURAY COUNTY THE BASICS & A LITTLE BIT MORE

Compiled by the  
**UNCOMPAHGRE WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP**

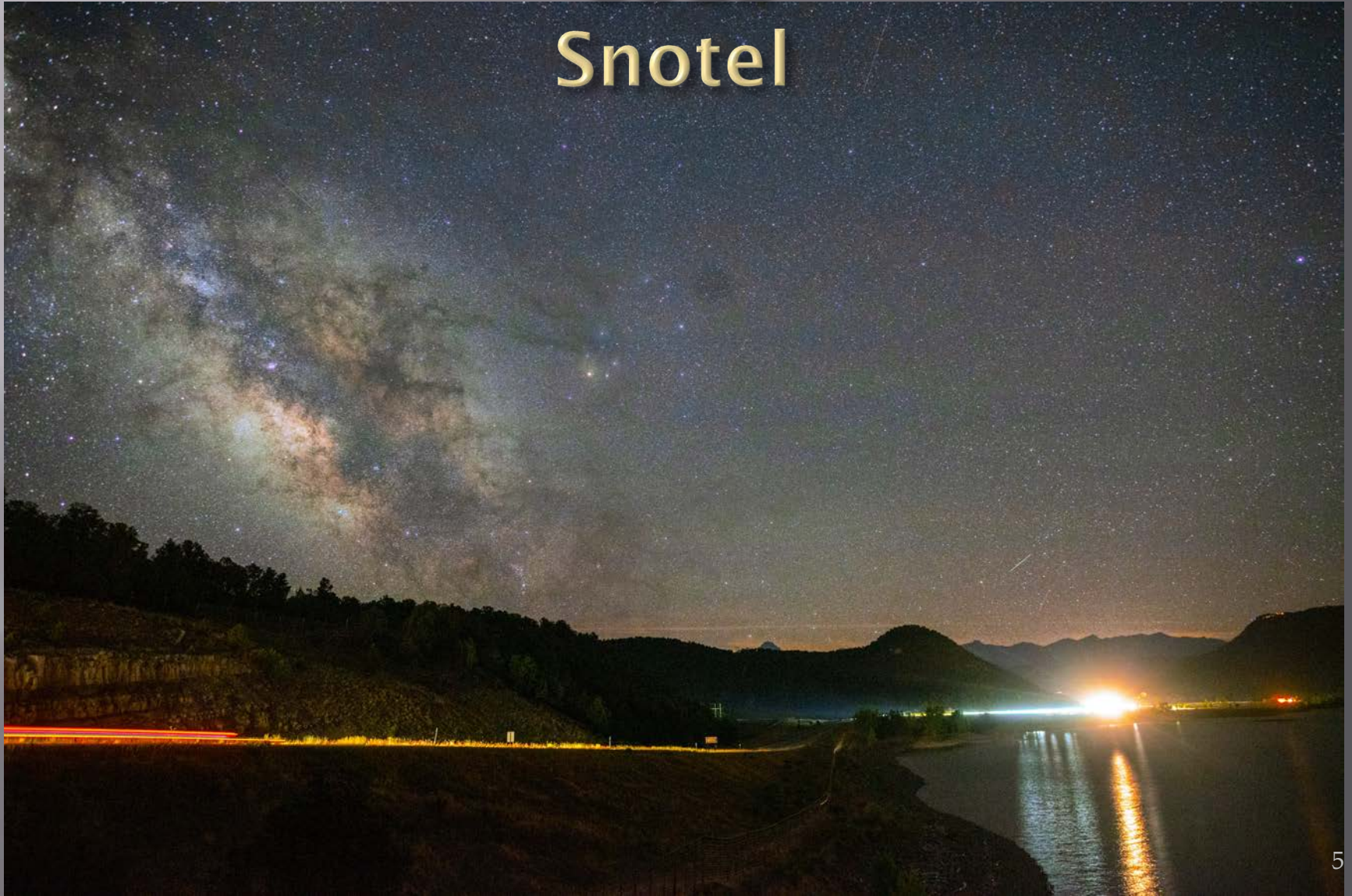
UWP exists to help protect and improve the economic, natural, and scenic values of the Upper Uncompahgre River Watershed. We work to inform and engage all stakeholders and solicit input from diverse interests to ensure collaborative restoration efforts in the watershed.



# Water Supply Info

## USGS

### Snotel



# Uncompahgre Watershed



- ▣ Uncompahgre River
- ▣ many creeks, small lakes and ponds
- ▣ groundwater
- ▣ floodplains
- ▣ wetlands and fens
- ▣ snowpack
- ▣ irrigation ditches





**What are the  
uses of the  
water sources  
in the Upper  
Uncompahgre  
Watershed?**



- ▣ Agriculture: livestock, hay, some vegetable and fruit production
- ▣ Recreation: fishing, boating, & various water sports (as well as scenic assets for hikers, photographers, etc.)
- ▣ Drinking (residential/commercial indoor & outdoor use)
- ▣ Aquatic life and wildlife



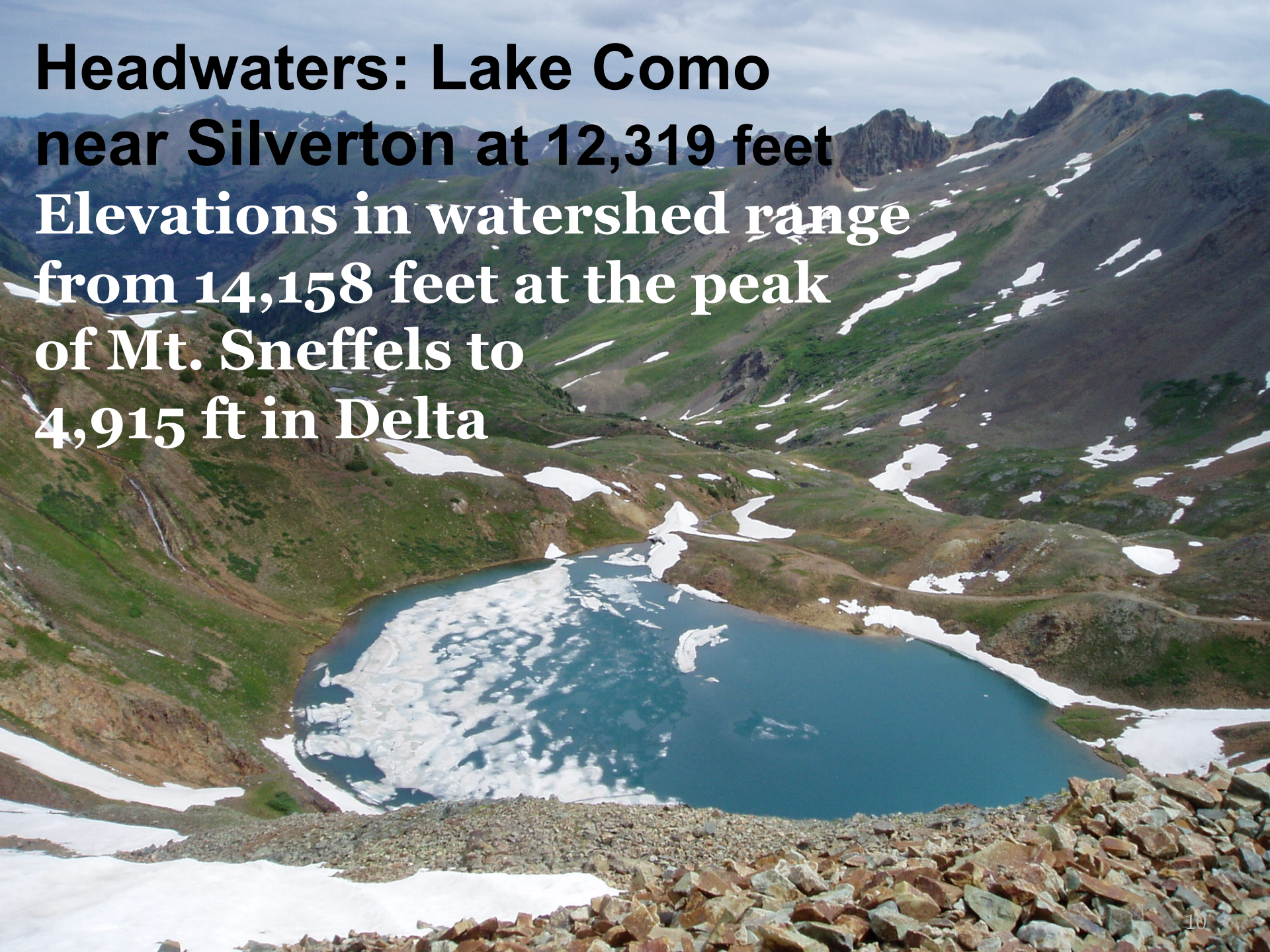


What lake is  
considered the  
headwaters?





**Headwaters: Lake Como**  
**near Silverton at 12,319 feet**  
**Elevations in watershed range**  
**from 14,158 feet at the peak**  
**of Mt. Sneffels to**  
**4,915 ft in Delta**





# Which river is the tributary?







## Uncompahgre River Watershed

DELTA

Watershed  
Protection  
& Flood  
Mitigation  
Section

50

550

Montrose

50

MONTROSE  
OURAY

GUNNISON

Ridgway  
Reservoir

Ridgway

Ouray

HINSDALE

SAN  
MIGUEL

SAN JUAN



0 2.5 5 Miles



## The Uncompahgre River is:

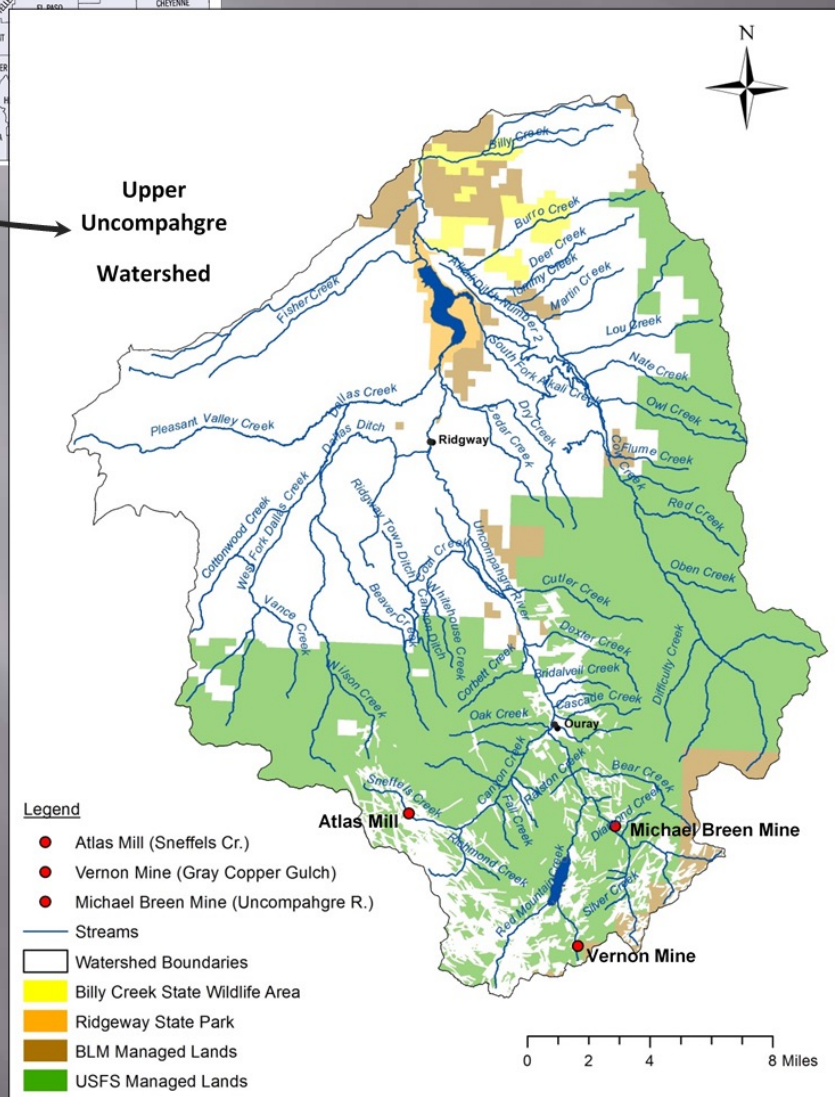
- ▣ a tributary to the upper Colorado River,
- ▣ part of the Gunnison River Basin
- ▣ in southwestern Colorado
- ▣ Flowing through the towns/cities: Ouray, Ridgway, Montrose, & Delta





# Watershed Trivia

- ▣ What seven counties are in the watershed?



- Upper watershed: Hinsdale, San Juan, San Miguel and Ouray counties
- Lower watershed: Montrose, Gunnison and Delta counties



The word Uncompahgre is an English pronunciation of a Ute Indian word roughly meaning "red water spring" or "dirty water" and may be a reference to the abundant series of hot springs and iron rich water in the vicinity of Ouray, Colorado



“On August 26 they descended (easterly) from the Sierra de los Tabehuachis (the Uncompahgre Plateau of today), arriving at the west bank of a river which Escalante wrote, ‘and came upon the banks and meadows of el Rio de San Francisco-among the Utas call Ancapagari (which according to our interpreter, means Red Lake) because they say that near its source is a spring of red-colored water, hot and ill tasting’.” Pg. 29

THE  
DOMÍNGUEZ-ESCALANTE  
JOURNAL

THEIR EXPEDITION THROUGH  
COLORADO, UTAH, ARIZONA,  
AND NEW MEXICO IN 1776

Translated by Fray Angelico Chavez

Edited by Ted J. Warner

Foreword by Robert Himmerich y Valencia

University of Utah Press  
Salt Lake City







Historic mining impacts that have left a majority of water sources contaminated by metals





- population growth
- development
- increased use
- drought
- climate change





# The Ridgway Reservoir effect



MIKE BOESE

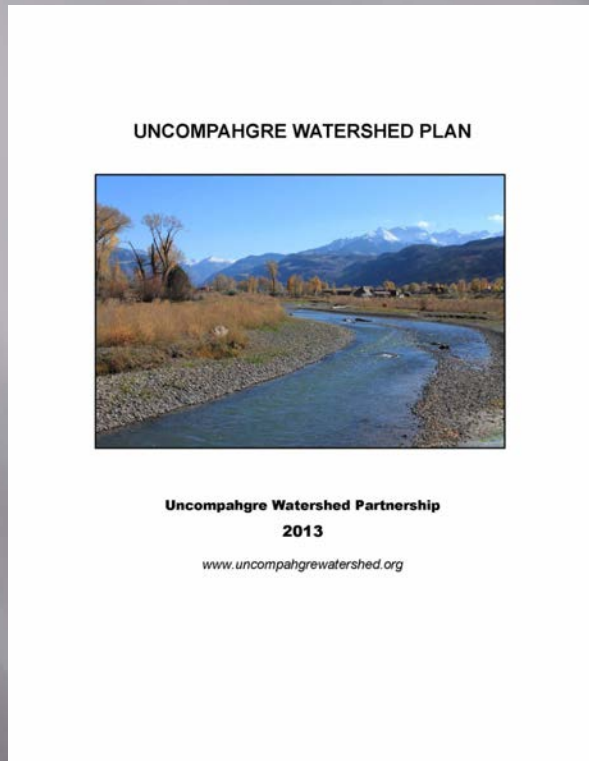


Is the water safe...  
to drink,  
to swim in,  
etc.





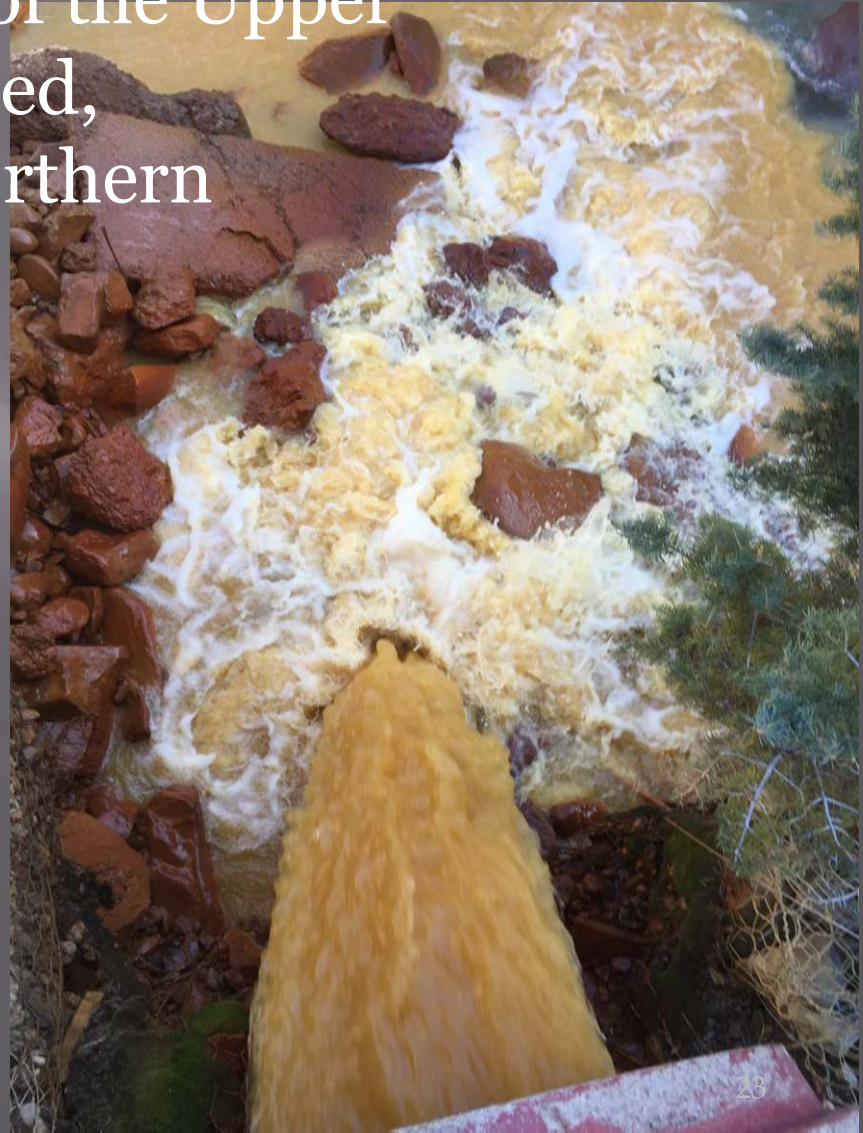
# Uncompahgre Watershed Plan 2012-13 (2018 update)



- ▣ outline issues of concern and the process for seeking out solutions
- ▣ serve as a tool that guides the community through the process of river restoration and protection
- ▣ created through an inclusive approach that supports environmental protection, economic development, and quality of life issues

# Why UWP?

Our nonprofit 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.





Our vision is a healthy watershed,  
restored from past damages and  
adaptable to changing conditions, with  
a knowledgeable community dedicated  
to watershed protection and  
conservation.

(see Values &  
Strategic Plan  
on website)





# Organizational Objective #1

Improve understanding of watershed health and evaluate changes through time by monitoring and analyzing conditions in the watershed.





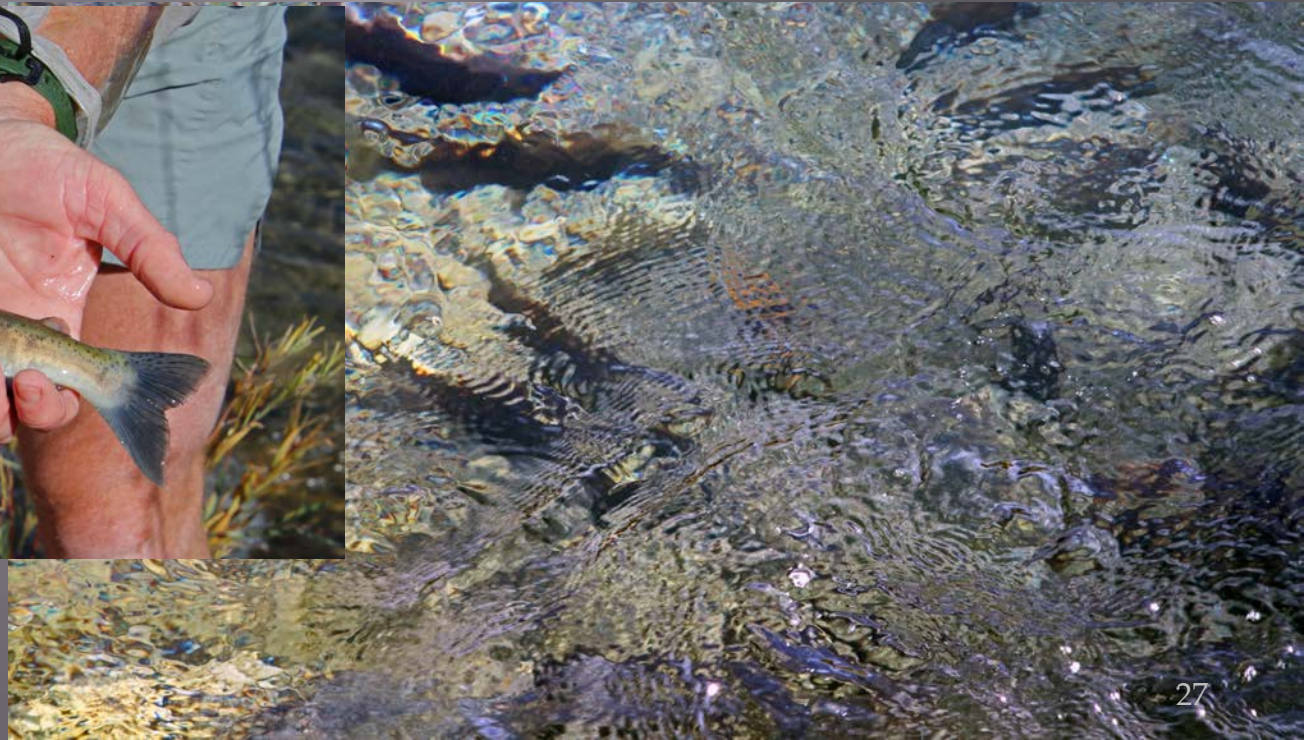
- Colorado River  
Watch water  
quality sampling
- Studies, reports,  
etc.





## Organizational Objective #2

Preserve and restore ecosystem function, water quality, and water quantity necessary for high-quality waterbodies and overall watershed health.





- **Cleanups**
- **Restoration Projects**





# Organizational Objective #3

Ensure ongoing stewardship of the watershed and its many uses by providing robust education about science, watershed conditions, and best practices.





# RIDGWAY RIVERFEST





Organizational Objective #4  
Sustain the organization with a  
diverse and active board and  
ample funding to support projects  
and programs.





# UWP Board & Staff

## Volunteers

FROM THE BOARD & STAFF OF THE  
UNCOMPAHGRE WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP



Dennis Murphy



Amanda Clements



Scott Williams



Mary Menz



Gary Roberts



Arlen Huggins



Jay Montgomery



Phil Harrold



Carl Mackey



Taylor Poyner



Dave Ludwick



Ashley Bembenek



Tanya Ishikawa



Pamela Cannalte



Jake Kurzweil



# Uncompahgre River Benefit



**8th ANNUAL BENEFIT**  
FOR THE **UNCOMPAHGRE RIVER**

**FLY FISHING FILM TOUR 2024**

**MARCH 16th**  
**OURAY 4H EVENT CENTER**



**Alpine Bank**





# Thank you for your support of UWP!

info@uncompahgrewatershed.org | 970-325-3010  
[www.uncompahgrewatershed.org](http://www.uncompahgrewatershed.org) (*watch our video!*)



## AGENDA ITEM #4





## The Town of Ridgway presents Town Clean Up Day!

This is a **FREE** event where Ridgway residents will be able to easily dispose of accumulated trash and scrap metal in dumpsters

**Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

in the lot behind the Ridgway Public Library  
on Railroad Street

***NO DUMPING OF THE  
FOLLOWING MATERIALS:***

*Appliances, furniture,  
hazardous materials, tires, or  
commercial trash*

***NEW THIS YEAR!*** *The Town is offering  
FREE mulch during the event. Bring your  
pick-up truck or open trailer, and bring  
your own shovels, pitchforks, and  
containers to serve yourself. Mulch will be  
available while supplies last!*





## AGENDA ITEM #5



# Ridgway Youth Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

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## 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Riley Burr called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and Youth Advisory members present were Riley Burr, Keira DeLuccio, Hannah Freed, Lauren Mahlin and Patrick Megahee. Also present were John Clark and Preston Neill.

## 2. Discussion regarding YAC activities and projects

The group discussed a wide range of activities and projects to focus on for a “capstone” like organizing a volunteer opportunity and making efforts to enhance the aesthetics of the parks. The group agreed to convene before the next meeting to further the discussion and agree upon a capstone project.

## 3. Update regarding Town Happenings

Preston highlighted several items in the February edition of the Town Manager’s Report.

## 4. Approval of Minutes from January 22, 2024 Meeting

Riley made a motion to approve the minutes. Hannah seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

## 5. Next Meeting Date and Time

After a brief discussion, the group agreed that the best approach to set the next meeting in March would be a Doodle Poll. The meeting will start at 3:30 p.m.

## 6. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Youth Advisory Council, the meeting was adjourned. The time was 4:36 p.m.