



WHITE RIVER INTEGRATED WATER INITIATIVE

BY:

WHITE RIVER AND DOUGLAS CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CALLIE HENDRICKSON



OVERVIEW

- Who is involved?
- What is the White River Integrated Water Initiative (Initiative)?
 - Mission and Goals
- What is the current status?
- How do I get involved?



Photo Credit: Kendra Young

WHO IS INVOLVED

- The White River and Douglas Creek Conservation District Boards offered to take the lead and coordinate this effort.
- WR Initiative Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) is a diverse group made up of representatives from sixteen entities/organizations/individuals representing agriculture, recreation, environment, municipal, industrial, and local or state government. (see website for specifics)
- Rio Blanco County citizens have been and will continue to be involved in the process.
- www.WhiteRiverCD.com – Click the Integrated Water Initiative Tab

MISSION STATEMENT

- A community-based initiative to identify actions promoting a healthy river that ensures a vibrant agricultural community and maintains healthy fisheries while protecting water rights, quantity, and quality with respect for the local customs, cultures, and property rights.



Photo Credit: Nakayla Lestina

OVERALL RIVER GOALS



Photo Credit: Kendra Young

1. Protect and preserve existing water rights and other beneficial water uses
2. Protect and enhance water quantity and quality through promoting best management practices for:
 - a. Forest health
 - b. Riparian health
 - c. Rangeland health
 - d. Favorable conditions of streamflow

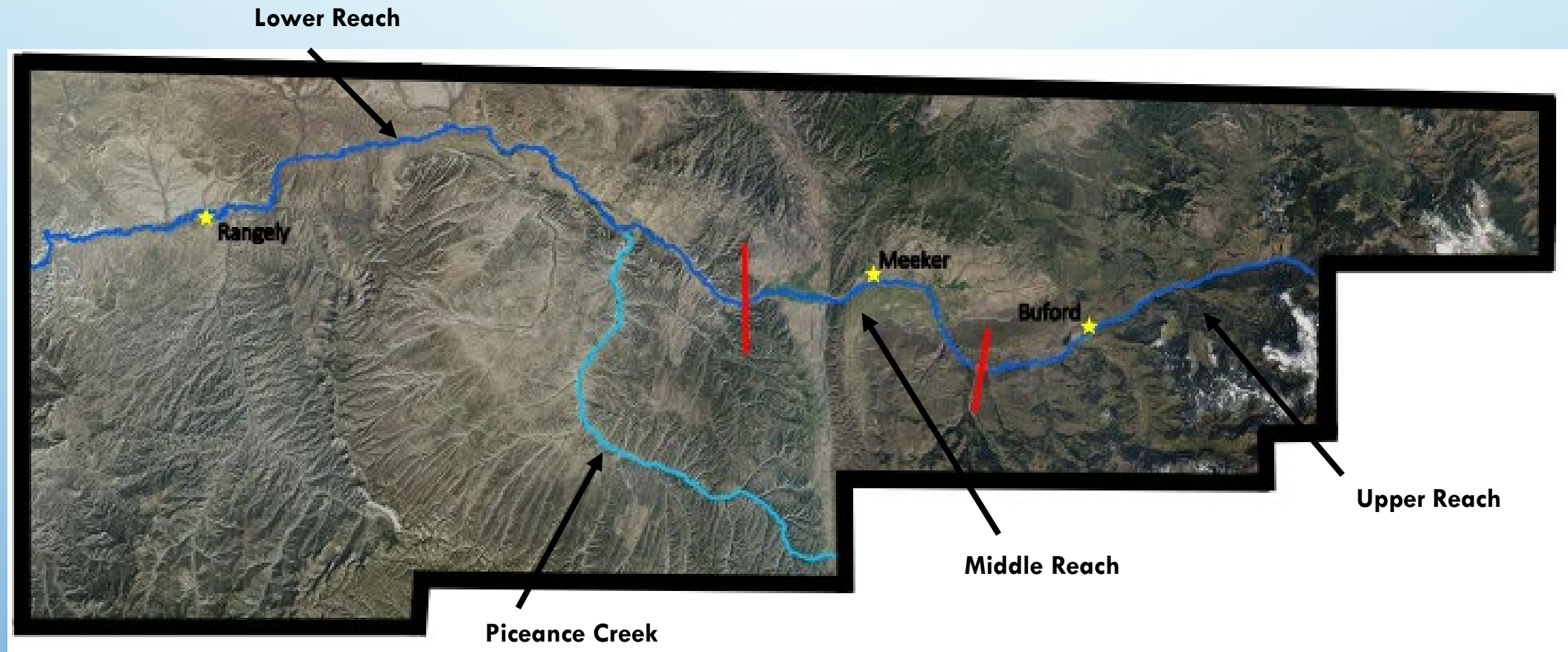
OVERALL RIVER GOALS (CONT.)

3. Identify opportunities for creation or improvement of infrastructure to support efficient consumptive and non-consumptive uses.
4. Support the development and maintenance of efficient and necessary long-term storage solutions that will improve, enhance and ensure irrigation, river health, water quantity, water quality, and native and recreational fisheries.



Photo Credit: Nakayla Lestina

IDENTIFIED SEGMENTS



CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROCESS

1. Over the past two years there have been 30 interviews, four stakeholder input sessions, and public comment period that developed the above noted mission statement and goals.
2. The PAC is in the second phase of the process where they will develop goals and objectives for each identified segment of the river.
3. Coordinators have been hired to facilitate these processes.
 1. Liz Chandler – PAC Coordinator and Report Drafter
 2. Kari Brennan – Project Coordinator focused on coordinating the diversion structure and riparian assessments
4. This phase will be complete by October 2022

Diversion Structure Assessments

Team:

1. Irrigators – Chris Collins, Forrest Nelsen, and water rights holders
2. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)/Conservation Districts – Kendra Young
3. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) – David Graff and Baily Franklin
4. Trout Unlimited (TU) – Ian Wilson

Riparian Health Assessments

Proper Functioning Condition Assessments

Team:

1. Colorado Northwestern Community College - Dr. Mario Sullivan
2. CSU Extension – Linda Masters
3. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – Jon Kaminsky
4. Landowners
5. CPW – David Graff
6. Rivers Edge West (REW) – John Leary

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED

- www.whiterivercd.com
- Rio Blanco Herald Times – “Conservation Corner”, articles, meeting notices
- Contact District Office
 - Whiterivercd@gmail.com
 - 970-878-9838



The background is a light blue gradient. In the top-left corner, there are several water droplets of varying sizes, some overlapping. In the top-right corner, there is one small droplet. In the bottom-right corner, there is a cluster of droplets, including a large one and several smaller ones. In the bottom-center, there are two small droplets.

QUESTIONS?