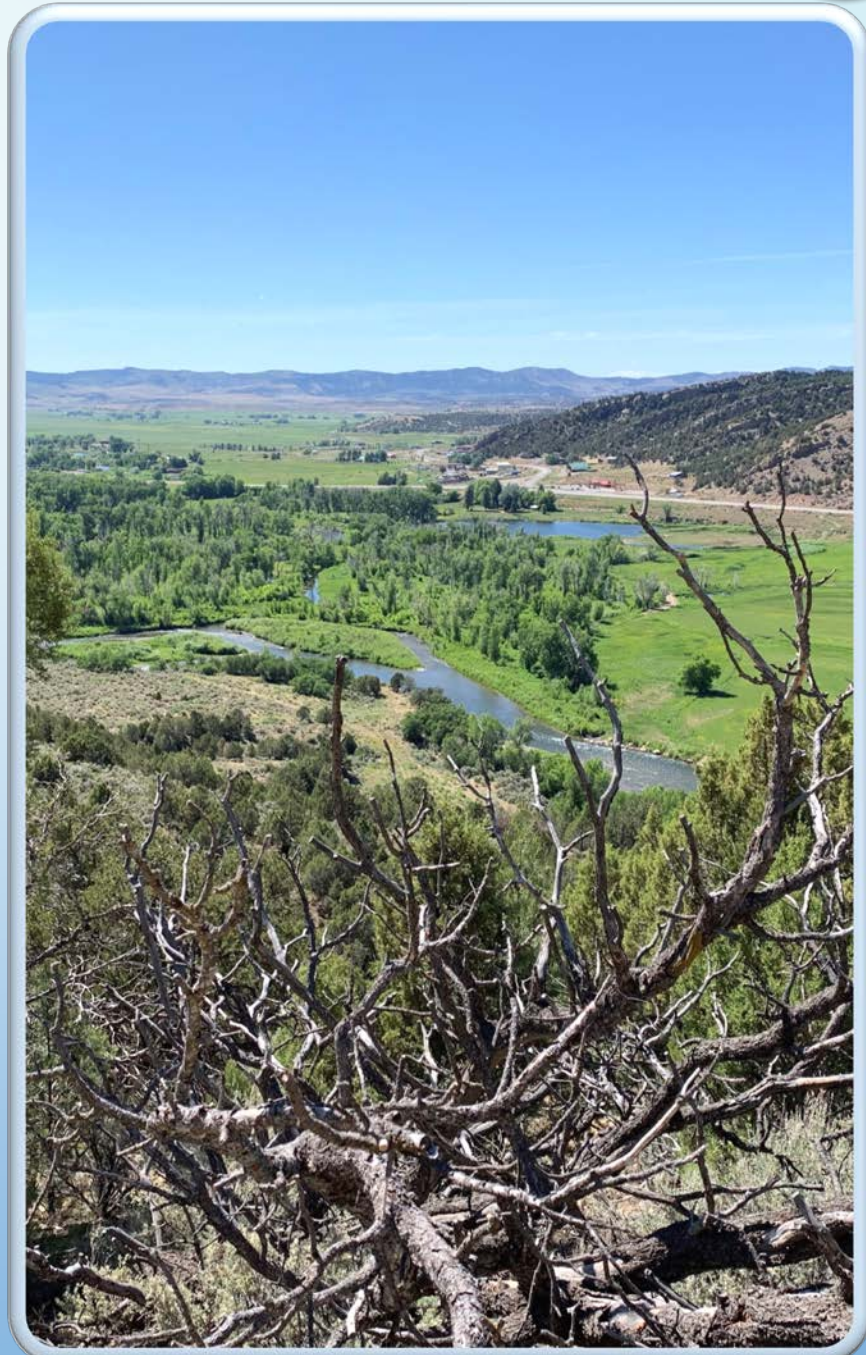


White River Integrated Water Initiative and Algae Study Update

A Locally Driven Processes

**Callie Hendrickson
Executive Director**

**White River and Douglas Creek
Conservation Districts**



Overview

Questions For You

Conservation Districts 101

Why Conservation District Chose to Lead This Effort

Phase I

Phase II (Current)

Algae Study Update

Question

- Over the last month, how much time have you thought about protecting your drinking water, the environment, and ensuring recreation opportunities?
 - < 10%
 - ~ 25%
 - ~ 50%
 - ~ 75%
 - >90%

Question

- Over the last month, How much time have you thought about protecting your food sources and those who produce that food, ensuring you get 3 nutritious meals per day?
 - < 10%
 - ~ 25%
 - ~ 50%
 - ~ 75%
 - >90%

Who Are Those Conservation Districts?

The “Old” Soil Conservation Districts

Local Government - (Political Subdivision Of State)

Board Members Are Landowners Elected By Their Peers

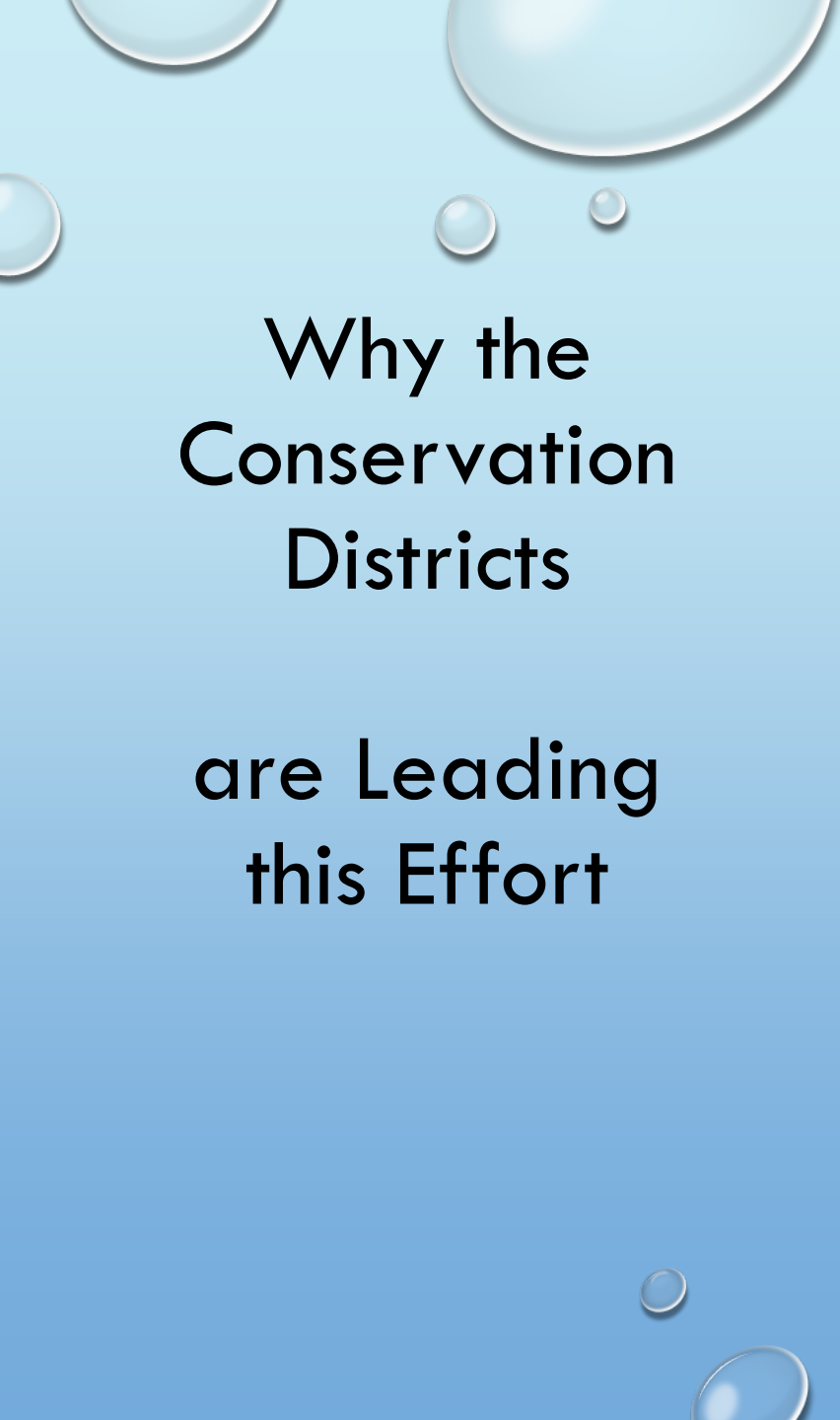
DCCD: Bill Hume, Scott Robertson, Ron Reich, Jason Plummer, Rosaly Coombs

WRCD: Marc Etchart, Bill Lake, Chris Collins, Neil Brennan, Jim Burke

Colorado Statute Requires 66% of Board to Be Agriculture Producers

Landowners and Water Right Holders Along With Their Neighbors

Inherently Integrated Into The Local Customs, Cultures, And Economies



Why the Conservation Districts are Leading this Effort

State Water Plan Provides Direction

Rumors Of The White River Being A Priority

Desire For Local Control Of Our Own Future

- White River and Douglas Creek Conservation District Boards offer to take the lead
- Community support – Annual Meeting of 120 people strongly support Districts

Agriculture Based and Focused on Natural
Resource Conservation

Planning Advisory Committee

Grant From River Network

District Boards Develop The Planning
Advisory Committee (PAC)

- 1/3 Agriculture
- 1/3 Municipal and Industry (M&I)
- 1/3 Environmental and Recreation

PAC Selected Local Leaders To Interview

Info Used To Begin Public Input Process

Progress

Public Input:

- 4 public meetings facilitated by a contractor
- Contractor developed a report from public meetings and website comments

PAC Developed the Mission Statement and Primary Goals Based on Report

Divided River Into 3 Segments, + Piceance Creek

Name: White River Integrated Water Initiative (WRIWI)

Data Gap Assessment Was Conducted

Districts Secured a Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant

Mission Statement



Community based initiative:

To identify actions promoting a healthy river that ensures a vibrant economic community capable of securing the future vitality of agriculture, fisheries, recreation, municipalities, and industry while protecting water rights, quantity, and quality with respect for the local customs, cultures, and property rights.

WRIWI Goals

Protect and Preserve Existing Water Rights and Other Beneficial Water Uses

Protect and Enhance Water Quantity and Quality Through Promoting Best Management Practices For:

Agriculture Enhancements

Favorable Conditions Of Streamflow

Forest Health

Rangeland Health

Riparian Health

WRIWI Goals

(Cont.)

Identify Opportunities For Creation or Improvement of Infrastructure to Support Efficient Consumptive and Non-consumptive Uses.

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.



Phase II

Finalized
Tasks

20+ Diversion
Assessments Completed

20+ Riparian
Assessments Completed

Phase II

In Progress Tasks

Secured CCA Grant for Diversion
Structure Improvements

Working with the top three applicants
to finalize projects and contracts

Working with partners to secure
additional funding



Phase II

Tasks
In Progress

Develop Objectives by
River Segment to Help
Reach the Four Goals

Develop Phase III Scope
of Work (SOW) Action
Items

Reach (Segment)

Meetings

Upper Reach April 19th,

Buford School

Focus on Forestry and Lake Avery
update

Lower Reach April 21st

CNCC Weiss Conf. Rm in Rangely

Focus on sediment and irrigation pond
renovation and rangeland management



Reach
(Segment)

Meetings
(Cont.)

Middle Reach April 25th

Rio Blanco Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall B
Focus on hydrology of the middle reach

Piceance Creek April 27th

Rock School House
Focus on water supply and storage

Staff

Callie Hendrickson

- Program Manager

Liz Chandler

- PAC Coordinator / Facilitator
- Draft Phase III SOW

Kari Brennan

- Assessment Project Coordinator

Dr. Mario Sullivan

- Data Gap Analysis
- Riparian Health Assessment Lead

Next Steps

Consider Diversion Structure and Riparian Health Assessment Data to Help Develop SOW

Reach (Segment) Objectives Finalized and Wrapped Into the SOW

Finalize the SOW to Seek Funding for Phase III

Algae Update

Technical Advisory Group Mission:

To ascertain what is driving the algae growth in the White River to improve the overall health of the watershed.

Four-year study completed by USGS with the final report to be completed within the next several months.

USGS Presentation in late May or Early June