

Colorado River District
State of the River
May 02, 2023
Glenwood Springs

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Holy Cross Cattlemen Association

Ag Producers Perspective

Upper Basin –Middle Reach

Ranch setting near Carbondale



Long-Term Goals

Continue Ag Production on Western Slope Supporting:

- Contribute to local food production
- Family farm/ranch legacy
- Making a living/showing a profit
- Contribute to sustainability
- Enhance wildlife & habitat
- Manage natural resources & aesthetics

Well Established Directives Necessary for Future Generation's Prosperity:

- Use water wisely
- Adapt to new technologies
- Minimize soil erosion
- Manage flood & drought extremes
- Decision making that supports sustainability

Examples of Benefits Provided by the Ag Producers on the Western Slope:

- Carbon Sequestration
 - Flood risk reduction
 - Wildlife habitat
 - Soil erosion reduction
 - Soil formation
 - Food
 - Recreation
 - Air quality
 - Aesthetics
 - Often a cornerstone to a small community
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- (ref: Colorado Water Plan 2023)

Challenges for the Western Slope Ag Producer:

- Aging/outdated irrigation infrastructure
- Competition with urban expansion
- Educating new ag water users-water rights
- Changing “old school” mind sets
- Cost of inputs
- Finding help/labor, skilled craft

DeBeque area: feeder ditch off River



Ditch beginning stretch



Slope instability



Rock fall-complex removal



Old flume scheduled for replacement 5-23

