

# Upper Gunnison Basin Watershed Management Plan

**Geographic Description:** Gunnison Basin – Upper Gunnison and Tributaries

**Size:** 20 miles of mainstem and tributaries

**Project Homepage:** <https://ugrwcd.org/watershed-mgmt/>

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**Planning Phase:** Assess Conditions and Identify Risks, Select Objectives and Measurable Results

**Status:** Phase I complete in 2019; Phase II ongoing –anticipated completion date December 2024.



## Project Goals:

- Understand spatial and temporal water availability gaps both under existing water management conditions and modeling future conditions by sub-basin.
- Increase stakeholder involvement in water resource management.
- Improve storage and percolation and enhance channel stability by implementing riparian habitat improvement projects.
- Improve fisheries to benefit recreation economies on public and private lands.
- Improve watershed health that provides a range of ecosystem services to benefit local communities.

## Overview:

About 95% of the water use in the Upper Gunnison Basin is allocated to agricultural uses for crops and pasture. Water users in the Upper Gunnison Basin face a number of stressors to water supply and demand, including projected population increases over the next 30 years and water supply decreases due to climate change and extended drought. The Upper Gunnison Watershed Assessment and SMP is intended to improve water security for all water uses in the Upper Gunnison Basin in the face of future demand changes and climate uncertainty.

## Approach:

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (UGRWCD) is the fiscal sponsor and project manager for the Upper Gunnison Basin-wide planning effort, providing coordination and oversight for the eight sub-basin efforts and basin-wide representatives from various water user groups. UGRWCD has created a five-phase approach to standardize work between sub-basins. The final deliverable recommended 48 projects, including upgrading irrigation control structures along the Lower May Bohm Ditch and reclamation of the Daisy Mine to target existing water quality and environmental issues associated with it; 8 of these projects have been completed.

## Budget: \$572,800

