

Stream Management Plan Grantee Project Summary

Yampa Integrated Water Management Plan

Geographic Description:

Yampa River Basin:
Segments on the upper, middle and lower Yampa and Elk River Basin

Size:

~300 river miles

Project Homepage:

www.yampawhitegreen.com/water-plans

Primary Contact:

Jaclyn Brown
Basin Roundtable Chair
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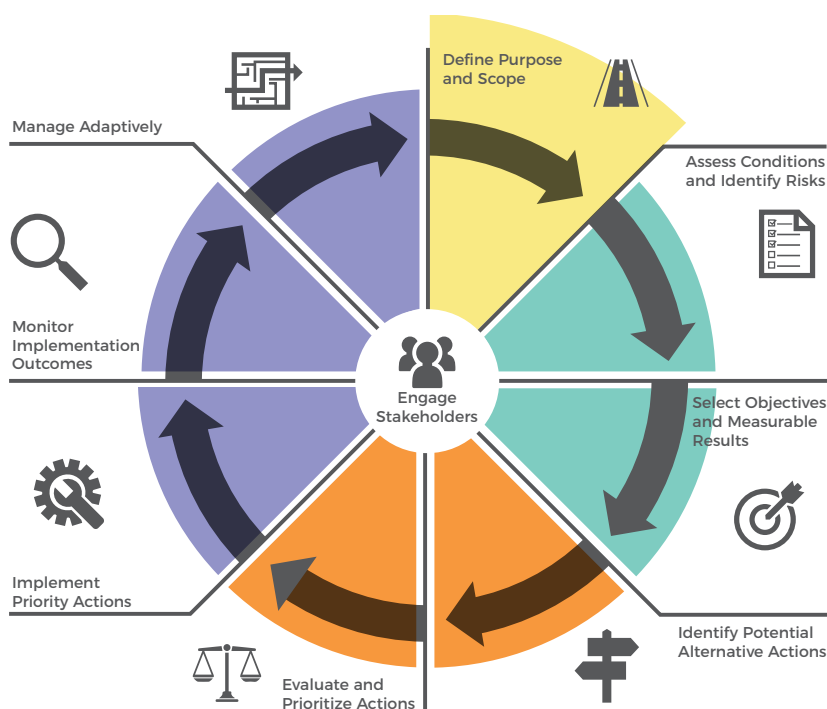
Project Timeline



Stakeholder Groups Involved in Planning Process

●	Agricultural producers
●	Riparian landowners
●	Aquatic and riparian science
●	Environmental advocacy
●	Utilities or other water management
●	Recreation & tourism
●	Local government & land use planners
●	Local water users & community members

Current Planning Phase



Project Goals

- Document existing river health conditions and explore actions to improve or protect it in the future
- Assess irrigation infrastructure and how well it meets water user needs, legal requirements and river health parameters
- Explore opportunities for expanded recreation
- Identify opportunities to use existing or build new storage to meet consumptive and environmental shortages
- Actively engage roundtable members and other stakeholders

Overview

Geography:

This first phase targets four segments of the Yampa River but does not cover the entire river or all tributaries. This effort complements a previously completed plan on the Yampa River through the City of Steamboat Springs and will not duplicate efforts on that reach. Segments covered by this plan are:

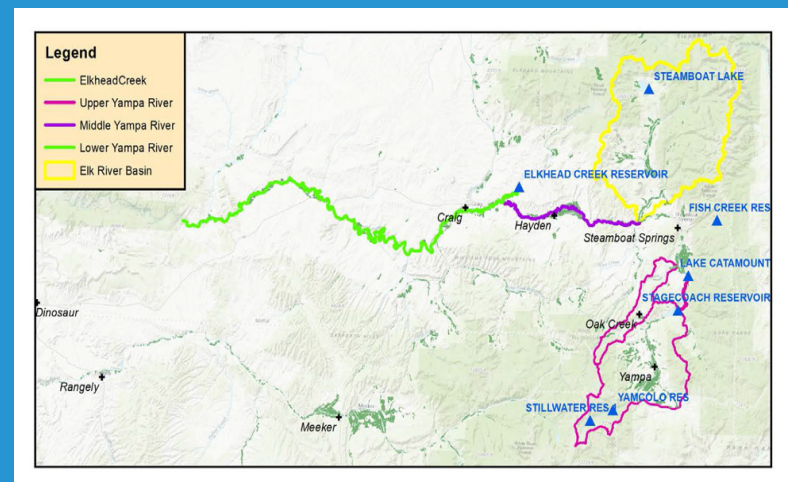
- Upper Yampa River: Yampa headwaters (Bear River and its tributaries) from the Flattops to Stagecoach Reservoir, Yampa mainstem to Lake Catamount, and Oak Creek Basin
- Middle Yampa River: Yampa mainstem from Elk River to Elkhead Creek
- Lower Yampa River: Yampa mainstem and Elkhead Creek from confluence to Deerlodge Park
- Elk River Basin: Elk River and major tributaries

Users:

The basin roundtable (BRT) is committed to protecting and enhancing the Yampa River for agricultural, municipal, industrial, environmental and recreational users.

Need for Planning:

The Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) charts a path forward for the BRT to progress on basin implementation plan (BIP) goals while also building relationships with water users in the basin and responding to their needs; both were key needs found in the scoping process. It will identify actions that users can take to protect existing and future water uses in the Yampa River Basin and support healthy river ecosystems in the face of growing population, changing land uses and climate uncertainty.



Approach

The IWMP will build on the 2015 BIP along with additional planning efforts and studies. Prior to preparing a scope of work, the roundtable conducted extensive stakeholder outreach in 2018, working with the following groups:

- The Consensus Building Institute, Inc. performed one-on-one interviews with about 40 major stakeholders and roundtable members.
- The Community Agricultural Alliance engaged more than 100 agricultural producers in small group meetings.
- Wilson Water Group interviewed Colorado Division of Water Resources staff.
- River Network facilitated three workshops for roundtable members and interested citizens.

That stakeholder outreach helped identify the four river segments that the integrated water management plan will focus on. To implement the plan, the roundtable will take a team approach.

Those involved include Nicole Seltzer with River Network who will provide coordination and project management services throughout the planning process, Patrick Stanko with Community Agriculture Alliance who will advise and implement water user input and education throughout the project, Geoff Blakeslee with The Nature Conservancy who will ensure that assessments are well-designed and lead to implementable

outcomes, and Jaclyn Brown who will coordinate the involvement of the roundtable throughout the project.

However, due to resource constraints, considering the large geography of this project, the plan will be developed in a phased approach. In Phase One, stakeholder engagement will continue, planners will identify and implement demonstration projects and case studies and will assess existing conditions and identify information gaps in all four river segments. In addition, during Phase One, in two of those segments the planning team will perform field assessments and modeling, assess final conditions, develop decision making criteria and create and prioritize action plans. During Phase Two, the remaining two segments will move through the assessment process and eventually have action plans.



Budget

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match
CWCB Watershed Restoration Fund	\$235,000 cash
Yampa-White Basin Roundtable	\$126,750 cash
The Nature Conservancy	\$60,000 cash
Trout Unlimited	\$15,000 cash
River Network	\$10,000 cash
Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District	\$30,000 cash
The Nature Conservancy	\$20,000 in-kind
Trout Unlimited	\$18,000 In-kind
River Network	\$60,000 in-kind
Colorado Division of Water Resources	\$10,000 in-kind
Community Agriculture Alliance	\$50,000 in-kind
Friends of the Yampa	\$20,000 in-kind
Total	\$654,750



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