

Yampa Integrated Water Management Plan  
Stakeholder Assessment and Convening  
Interview Topics and Questions  
April 20, 2018

Objectives

1. To interview approximately two dozen stakeholders in the basin, individually and in small groups, with diverse interests in all beneficial uses of water -- agricultural, environmental, industrial, municipal and recreational -- and representing the geographic diversity of the basin. The goal would be to learn about stakeholders' uses of water and to ascertain what they see as the pressing needs and issues they face, they see others facing, and/or see the basin as a whole facing -- and potential opportunities and challenges in exploring those needs and interests through an IWMP process.
2. To explain the integrated planning process, and determine the interest and desire to go forward with a Yampa IWMP.
3. Get views about possible goals, geographic scope, sideboards and what issues could or should be covered under an IWMP.
4. Gauge interest to participate in a 20-25 member stakeholder group which would participate in a stakeholder meeting in May or early June, and would meet this summer to develop a detailed Scope of Work and budget for an IWMP. In all likelihood the stakeholder group would continue to meet and guide development of the actual plan through the course of 2019-2020.

Topics and Questions

1. Describe your primary interests in water. What does it mean to you in terms of your livelihood, your family, your community, your tributary, if applicable?
2. How do you see your uses or interests relating to the Basin as a whole?
3. How do you think your use of water or your interests in water might change in the future? Are there pressures you see mounting?
4. What is your experience seeing shortages to your uses or other uses with which you are aware? What are the ramifications or impacts from those shortages?
5. Do you have any thoughts about how shortages could be met or how the 'system' could be improved or better managed to avoid shortages?
6. What are the pinch points or points of conflict of uses of water you see now and into the future? Are there conflicts between different uses, the same uses, or both?

7. Interviewers talk about IWMPs in general, give examples, relate to the Yampa, and generally how an Integrated Water Management Plan could be developed – see talking points below.
  - a. What, if any, opportunities do you see in conducting an IWMP for the Yampa? Would you have other goals/hopes for the process?
  - b. What about concerns, challenges or other constraints?
  - c. What are the thoughts you have about the geographic scope of an IWMP, what issues could it and should it address, and are there sideboards that should be included, i.e. areas or bounds which the IWMP ought not go into?
  - d. The YWG BRT is exploring whether it should undertake the IWMP. What are your thoughts about that? Is there another entity you feel would be better suited?
8. If the decision is made to go forward with an IWMP, the first step in that process will be the development of a detailed scope of work, including geographic scope. It is envisioned that a 20-25 member - stakeholder group will help develop the SOW over the course of the summer and early fall. This might entail monthly meetings or phone calls. What is your interest in participating in such a group?
9. Do you have any questions you'd like answered or any final thoughts or comments you think ought to be considered?

### *Integrated Water Management Plans Talking Points*

1. *Colorado's Water Plan, adopted in 2015, set goals in nine areas, including water storage, agriculture and watershed health. The plan outlined voluntary ways that water-focused organizations (like the Basin Roundtable) can take to understand and protect the conditions of Colorado's streams, including developing multi-purpose projects that benefit environmental and recreational water needs as they meet the needs of communities or agriculture. "Stream Mgt Plans" are one such method.*
2. *In 2016, CWCB made grant funding available for the study and implementation of "Stream Management Plans" for those communities that want to undertake them. Right now, there are ~15 plans either completed or on-going across the state, including a plan near completion by the City of Steamboat Springs. The purposes of these plans are varied: some focus on enhancing stream conditions through multi-purpose agricultural projects such as headgate reconstruction or riparian corridor protection; others identify flexibility under current water rights and administration schemes to retime water use and/or return flows to alleviate periodic low flow conditions to protect fisheries.*
3. *Some communities are expanding the scope of these "Stream Mgt Plans" beyond just environmental and recreational water uses to include agricultural water and*

- infrastructure needs, municipal water gaps or economic development potential. These are referred to as IWMPs.*
- 4. The YWG Basin Roundtable's 2015 BIP identifies needs and gaps for both consumptive uses of water – agricultural, industrial and municipal, and non-consumptive uses of water – environmental and recreational. Refer to BIP goals handout and review specific goals /projects as examples.*
  - 5. Recent modeling efforts by the BRT ensure that current water operations are reflected accurately in hydrology models. The modeling results reinforced the existence of water supply gaps for municipal, agricultural and environmental needs in the future.*
  - 6. The YWG Basin Roundtable is exploring how and if an IWMP could further characterize water user needs, future gaps, and environmental conditions on the river. The goal would be to identify voluntary, multi-purpose projects that could improve conditions for all users and the river itself through river and riparian restoration opportunities, river infrastructure modernization and upgrades, and changes in water management regimes.*