

Stream Management Plan Grantee Project Summary

Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership Project

Geographic Description:

Southwest Basin:
Upper San Juan Basin

Size:

To be determined

Project Homepage:

www.mountainstudies.org/sanjuan/

Primary Contact:

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Project Timeline

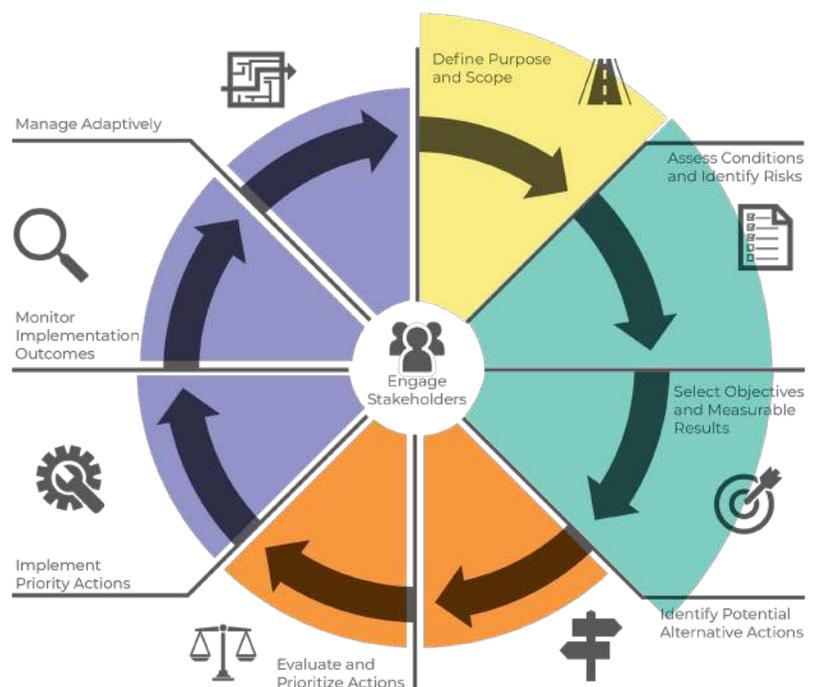


Stakeholder Groups Involved in Planning Process*

●	Agricultural producers
●	Riparian landowners
●	Aquatic and riparian science
●	Conservation
●	Utilities or other water management
●	Recreation & tourism
●	Local government & land use planners
●	State and federal agencies

*Please note, additional stakeholder groups may be added as planning process moves forward.

Current Planning Phase



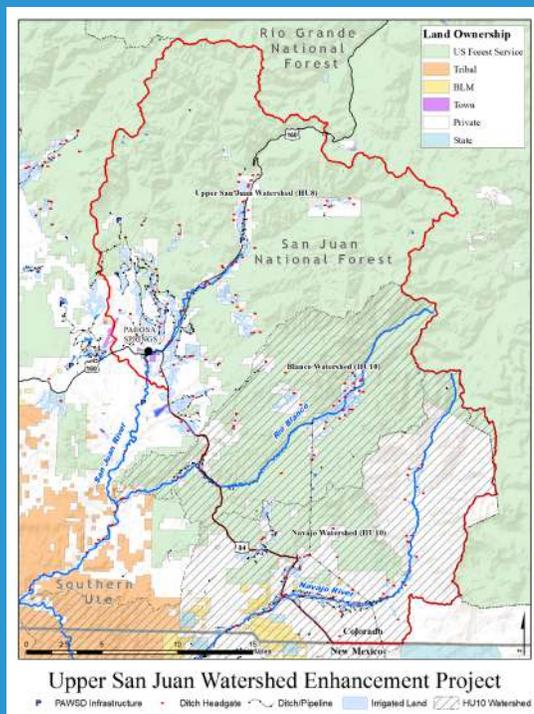
Envisioned as a three-phase process, the ultimate purpose of this project is to implement a SMP/IWMP process that seeks opportunities to conserve San Juan Basin streams and their uses, with wide-ranging community support and decisions based on local input and current scientific analysis.

The Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership aims to convene an active, local stakeholder group that guides and informs a watershed assessment, then works with the community to interpret the findings and identify cooperative projects to benefit agricultural, environmental, municipal, and recreation water users outlined in an integrated water management plan.

Overview

Geography:

The San Juan River originates in the San Juan Mountains of Southwestern Colorado and flows through Pagosa Springs. Streams and waterways proposed for discussion are mostly located in Archuleta County and include the San Juan River mainstem above Navajo Lake, East Fork of the San Juan River, West Fork of the San Juan River, Rio Blanco River, and the Navajo River. The project scope is still under development and other tributaries may be included following consultation with local stakeholders. This area is predominantly managed by the US Forest Service and covers the headwaters region of the San Juan.



Users:

The Upper San Juan River Basin has undergone considerable population growth beginning in the 1970s and is projected to increase over the next 20 years. Water has played an essential role in the history, economy, and culture of the region. The water supplied by the Upper San Juan River Basin supports drinking water for numerous communities, irrigation and agricultural water supplies, and recreational opportunities for thousands of residents and visitors every year. The San Juan River through Pagosa Springs is considered a mainstay of the local tourism economy.

Need for planning:

Wildfire, drought and growing pressure from increased water demands present significant challenges to the Basin's water resources and its various uses. The Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership was initiated as an outgrowth of the Southwest Basin Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan identification that there is a significant gap in information necessary to understand environmental and recreational water supply needs in the context of future supply challenges. However, experience with the San Miguel SMP Pilot project has made it clear that for the effort to result in action, these needs cannot be looked at in a vacuum. Rather, all water supply needs must be discussed with the goal of identifying opportunities that will benefit all users.

Assessments Areas and Inventory Coarseness:

Technical reports will be available at www.mountainstudies.org/sanjuan/smp in June 2021.

Approach

The Upper San Juan is the first effort to apply for CWCB funding to engage stakeholders and develop a scope of work before applying for funding for later planning phases.

Key entities and their roles:



- Fiscal Agent: Mountain Studies Institute (MSI)
- Watershed Group Coordinator: Mountain Studies Institute
- Process and Strategy Advisor: Trout Unlimited (TU)
- Community Liaison and partner: Western Wildscapes (WW)
- Science and data support: Mountain Studies Institute, Western Wildscapes
- Technical analysis, watershed assessment & modeling: Lotic Hydrological
- Agricultural infrastructure inventory & assessment: San Juan Conservation District (SJCD)

The steering committee is actively reaching out to stakeholders, which each bring their own geographic interests to the table. The steering committee is also working with stakeholders to identify how to divide the geographic range into manageable sub-basins. Currently, the main Upper San Juan area is expected to be the initial focus, with the opportunity to phase in other areas, including the regions south of Highway 550. Future project phases will depend upon the success of initial efforts.

The Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership Project will be completed in the following phases:

Phase 1 (completed 2018-2020) – In Phase I, MSI, WW, and TU collaborated to accomplish the following objectives, with MSI serving as the fiscal sponsor and project management.

- Mobilize a local stakeholder group, organized by a steering committee of diverse water users, with the structure, capacity, and collective interest in pursuing a coordinated watershed plan.
- Review existing data and information to build off local efforts and findings.
- Develop a work plan for watershed assessments and project planning.

Phase 2 (May 2020 - May 2021) – In Phase II, MSI, WW, and TU continued coordination and stakeholder engagement. WEP partnered with SJCD and Lotic. SJCD conducted the agricultural infrastructure inventory and Lotic provided technical analysis and modeling to produce a watershed assessment. Primary objectives for Phase II included:

- Develop technical information necessary to identify needs for environmental and recreation water supplies and agricultural irrigation structures.
- Identify opportunities for cooperative projects to address the multiple water needs of the project area.
- Involve and engage the established steering committee and stakeholders throughout the process.

Phase 3 (June 2021-2022):

- Based on community input and scientific analysis, identify projects and processes to develop an Integrated Water Management Plan for multiple water uses in upper San Juan River Basin.
- Use this plan to begin collaborative projects, leverage funding, and explore implementation of identified opportunities.

Budget

SIMPLE BUDGET							
Task	Description	CWCB CWRP Funds	CWCB Statewide WSRF Funds	CWCB Basin WSRF Funds	Other Funding Cash	Other Funding In-Kind	Total
1	Program Coordination & Stakeholder Engagement	\$ 17,375	\$ 7,819	\$ 869	\$ 8,688	\$ 18,206	\$ 52,956
2	Agricultural Infrastructure Analysis	\$ 14,875	\$ 6,694	\$ 744	\$ 7,438	\$ 5,750	\$ 35,500
3	Finalize Integrated Water Management Plan	\$ 12,500	\$ 5,625	\$ 625	\$ 6,250		\$ 25,000
	Subtotal	\$ 44,750	\$ 20,138	\$ 2,238	\$ 22,375	\$ 23,956	\$ 113,456
	Project/Grant Management	\$ 4,475	\$ 2,014	\$ 224	\$ 2,282		\$ 8,995
	TOTAL	\$ 49,225	\$ 22,151	\$ 2,462	\$ 24,657	\$ 23,956	\$ 122,451

WEP Phase III Tasks	Responsible Party	Task Details	Cost	Task Total
1. Project Coordination & Stakeholder Engagement	MSI Program Director	Project Oversight & Coordination	\$ 5,850	\$ 34,750
	MSI Project Lead	Facilitation, Outreach & Education Resources	\$ 15,750	
	MSI Team	Outreach Printing/Publishing Costs	\$ 1,000	
	Western Wildscapes	Community Outreach, Project support, Long Term Plan	\$ 12,150	
2. Agricultural Infrastructure Analysis	SJCD Team	Data Review, Inventory, Prioritize Projects	\$ 22,750	\$ 29,750
	SJCD Team	Data Access & Inventory Oversight	\$ 7,000	
3. Finalize Integrated Water Management Plan	Lotic Team	Develop Management Goals and Objectives	\$ 4,000	\$ 25,000
	Lotic Team	Identify Candidate Actions, Projects and Processes	\$ 4,000	
	Lotic Team	Evaluate and Prioritize Alternatives	\$ 8,500	
	Lotic Team	Plan for Implementation	\$ 5,000	
	Lotic Team	Develop Final Planning Document	\$ 3,500	
			Subtotal	\$ 89,500
Project/Grant Management	MSI Finance Team	Project/Grant Management Indirect Fee	Subtotal x 10%	\$ 8,950
			PROJECT TOTAL	\$ 98,450

Cash Match	Amount	Status
Archuleta County Board of County Commissioners Conservation Trust Funds	\$ 3,600	Committed
Mountain Studies Institute	\$ 500	Committed
Pagosa Tourism Board Infrastructure Funding	\$ 3,600	Committed
San Juan Water Conservancy District	\$ 2,000	Committed
Southwestern Water Conservation District	\$ 8,100	Committed
The Nature Conservancy	\$ 1,000	Committed
Town of Pagosa Springs Service Organization Funding	\$ 3,857	Committed
Trout Unlimited	\$ 2,000	Committed
Cash Match Total	\$ 24,657	

In-kind Match	Amount	Status
Trout Unlimited Advising Services (160 hrs @ \$50/hr)	\$ 8,000	Committed
Steering Committee/Partner Meetings (2 hrs x 28.02 CO volunteer rate = \$56.04 x 12 pax = \$672.48 x 9 meetings)	\$ 6,052	Anticipated
Public meetings (2 hrs x 25.96 volunteer rate = \$51.92 x 20 pax = \$1,038.4 x 4 meetings)	\$ 4,154	Anticipated
San Juan Conservation District Staff Time (50 hrs @ \$35/hr)	\$ 1,750	Committed
Natural Resources Conservation Service Staff Time (100 hrs @ \$40/hr)	\$ 4,000	Committed
In-kind Total	\$ 23,956	