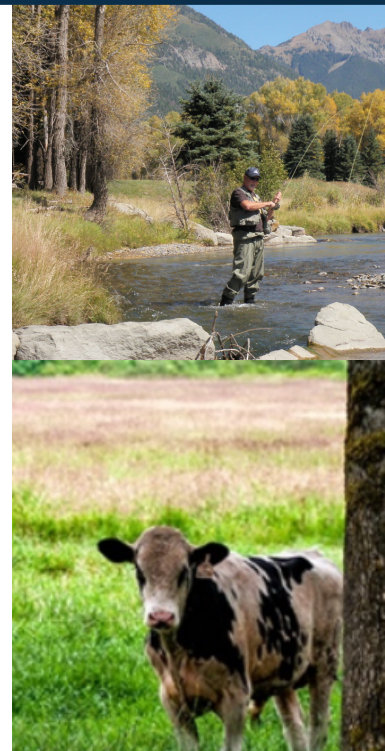


# UPPER SAN JUAN WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT PARTNERSHIP

In the summer of 2018, the Upper San Juan Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP) formed as a community-led, voluntary process to understand local water supply needs in the San Juan River Basin and to identify opportunities to engage in collaborative projects that benefit all water uses, including environmental, agricultural, municipal, and recreation.

## Goals:

1. **Incorporate all values, voices, and interests**
2. **Foster community support, include public into the conversation and planning**
3. **Build from local knowledge and incorporate into decision-making process**
4. **Advance a culture of stewardship**
5. **Respect history, current uses, and water law**
6. **Optimize water resources for all uses in accordance with Colorado water law**
7. **Build strategies around science-based adaptive management**



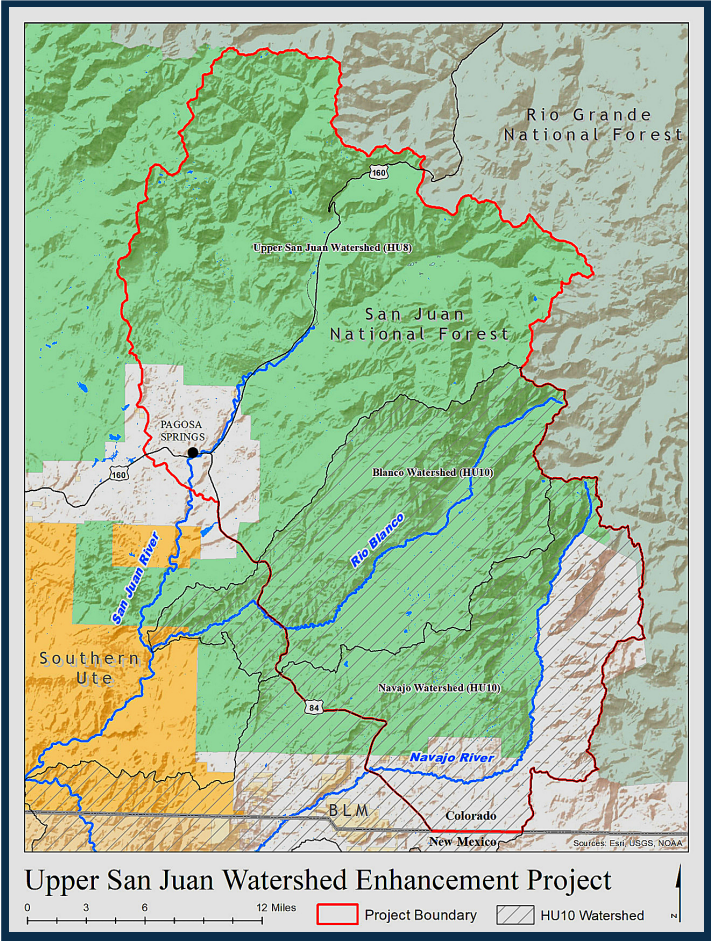
## Stakeholder representatives from:

Banded Peak Ranch, Chama Peak Land Alliance, Colorado Division of Water Resources, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Water Conservation Board, CSU Extension Office, National Resources Conservation Service, Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District, outdoor recreation business owners, public citizens, the Nature Conservancy, Town of Pagosa Springs Planning Department, Trout Unlimited, and the US Forest Service.



# Phase I Objectives:

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



## STAKEHOLDER GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

Community Values, Interests, & Concerns

### SCOPE/SCALE

Focus on Upper San Juan, Navajo and Blanco watersheds, but potential to expand in future.



### ISSUES



- Balancing all water uses and users on private & public lands
- Lack of education/communication on CO water law, water rights, access
- Forest & river systems health—human & biological impacts
- Drought & subsequent restrictions/priorities
- Water conservation/regulation—inefficient infrastructure, monitoring

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Funding for collaborative, multiple-use projects
- Education on water rights/laws, diversion & dam operations, conservation, access
- Improve Collaboration/Communication
- Needs Assessment/Priority Identification
- Drought Planning



### INFORMATION NEEDS



- Balancing all water uses and users on private & public lands
- Lack of education/communication on CO water law, water rights, access
- Forest & river systems health—human & biological impacts
- Drought & subsequent restrictions/priorities
- Water conservation/regulation—inefficient infrastructure, monitoring

# Accomplishments:

- Established local partnership of steering committee members and stakeholders from multiple water interests.
- Identified collective values on geographic scope/scale, issues, opportunities, and information needs (see highlights, right).
- To date, 12 stakeholder meetings have encouraged community learning and regular input throughout process.
- Compiled existing reports and strategies from local efforts as first step towards watershed assessment and priorities.
- Provided variety of outreach opportunities through surveys, public meetings, and site field trips.
- Currently exploring several potential sites for improvements, including a multi-purpose project on the San Juan River that would benefit all uses.