

The Southwestern Water Conservation District
The West Building, 841 E Second Avenue
Durango, CO 81301

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
A Regular Board Meeting of the
Southwestern Water Conservation District
will be held **via Zoom for the public** and
in-person for the board at
841 E 2nd Avenue in Durango, Colorado

Wednesday, June 9, 2021
1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 10, 2021
8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Video: [Click here to join Zoom](#)
Phone Number: (346) 248 7799
Meeting ID: 813 5451 4316
Passcode: 316817

Posted and Noticed June 7, 2021

Tentative Agenda

*In adherence with state and local health requirements and recommendations, SWCD board members, along with a limited number of staff and consultants, may meet in person at SWCD's office (841 E 2nd Avenue in Durango, Colorado). **Public participation is available via Zoom only** using the connection information above.*

*Please text 970-901-1388 if you have difficulty joining the meeting. Please raise your hand to be recognized by the chair. To raise your hand by phone, dial *9. To raise your hand by computer, please use Alt+Y (Windows) or Option+Y (Mac). To mute and unmute by phone, dial *6.*

Except the time indicated for when the meeting is scheduled to begin, the times noted for each agenda item are estimates and subject to change. The Board may address and act on agenda items in any order to accommodate the needs of the Board and the audience. Agenda items can also be added during the meeting at the consensus of the Board.

Agenda items may be placed on the Consent Agenda when the recommended action is non-controversial. The Consent Agenda may be voted on without reading or discussing individual items. Any Board member may request clarification about items on the Consent Agenda. The Board may remove items from the Consent Agenda at their discretion for further discussion.

Wednesday, June 9, 2021

Three or more board members may participate in a group lunch (Fur Trappers Steakhouse, 701 E. 2nd Avenue, 12:00 pm).

- 1.0 Call to Order – Roll Call, Verification of Quorum (1:30 p.m.)**
- 2.0 Welcome and Introduction of SWCD’s General Manager, Steve Wolff (1:32 p.m.)**
- 3.0 Review and Approve Agenda (1:39 p.m.)**
- 4.0 Executive Session (1:40 p.m.)**
 - 4.1** Upcoming Diligence for SWCD Water Rights, Case No. 13CW3011, Division 7
 - 4.2** Colorado River Compact, Interstate and Intra-state negotiation matters, including re-negotiation of the interim guidelines
 - 4.3** Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s Proposed Water Quality Standards
- 5.0 Summary and Action Items from Executive Session (2:55 p.m.)**
- 6.0 Outstanding Waters Overview and Candidate Streams in Southwest Colorado (3:00 p.m.)**
Presenters: Garrett Hanks (Trout Unlimited), Mike Fiebig (American Rivers), Carrie Sandstedt (Pew Charitable Trusts), Orla Bannan (Western Resources Advocates), Duncan Rose (Trout Unlimited), Marcel Gaztambide (San Juan Citizens Alliance)
- 7.0 Federal Legislative Update (3:30 p.m.)**

Recess at 4:00 p.m. until Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Three or more board members may participate in a group dinner (Animas River Garden, DoubleTree Patio Restaurant, 501 Camino del Rio, 5:00 pm).

Thursday, June 10, 2021

- 8.0 Call to Order – Roll Call, Verification of Quorum (8:30 a.m.)**
- 9.0 Review and Approve Agenda (8:32 a.m.)**
- 10.0 Approve and/or Remove Consent Agenda Items (8:33 a.m.)**
- 11.0 Consent Agenda (8:35 a.m.)**
 - 11.1** Approval of Minutes (March 25; Apr. 1-2; Apr. 8; Apr. 21; Apr. 28, May 6; May 13; May 20)
 - 11.2** Acceptance of Treasurer’s Report (April 2021)
- 12.0 SWCD Resolution 2021-03 Honoring Doug Stowe (8:40 a.m.)**
- 13.0 Questions and Comments from Audience (8:45 a.m.)**
- 14.0 Reports (8:50 a.m.)**
 - 14.1** Director Reports
 - 14.2** Board Committee Reports
 - 14.3** Water Information Program Report
 - 14.4** Southwest Basins Roundtable Report
 - 14.5** Hydrologic Conditions, including updates from the Division Engineers for Water Divisions 4 and 7 (9:00 a.m.)
Presenters: Rob Genualdi and Bob Hurford
 - 14.6** Staff Report
 - 14.6.1** Colorado River Basin Hydrologic Conditions
 - 14.6.2** Authorize Cashing Out of Certificate of Deposit Maturing July 16, 2021
 - 14.6.3** August SWCD Regular Board Meeting & Tour Logistics

15.0 Old Business (9:45 a.m.)

15.1 Colorado River matters

15.1.1 Discussion of guiding principles for SWCD's exploration and consideration of demand management

15.2 State Legislative Update & Position on Bills

15.3 Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Proposed Water Quality Standards

15.4 Proposed Instream Flow Appropriation on Rincon La Vaca Creek in Water Division 7

15.5 SWCD Personnel Matters

15.5.1 Staff Timekeeping Report – Programs Coordinator

15.5.2 Proposed Updates to SWCD Personnel Policies

16.0 New Business (10:40 a.m.)

16.1 Southwest Colorado Drought – SWCD Education & Outreach Opportunities

16.2 Enhancing River Recreation (Potential Legislation regarding Recreation Water Rights)

Presenters: Hattie Johnson (American Whitewater), John Cyran (Western Resource Advocates), Josh Kuhn (Conservation Colorado)

16.3 Review and Acceptance of FY2020 Audit Report

16.4 Proposed 2022 SWCD Grant Program Guidelines

17.0 Engineering Report (11:40 a.m.)

17.1 Upper Colorado & San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Programs

17.2 CWCBC Instream Flow Investigations

17.2.1 Goat Creek, Division 4

17.2.2 Spring Creek, Division 4

18.0 General Counsel Legal Report (11:55 a.m.)

18.1 April and May Water Court Resume Review (Divisions 3, 4, 7)

18.2 Durango Urban Renewal Authority, Proposed Tax Increment Financing Agreement

19.0 Executive Session (if needed)

20.0 Adjournment (12:00 p.m.)

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, August 11 and Thursday, August 12, 2021

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

Monday, October 4 and Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Regular Board Meeting

Special Board Meeting (Budget)

Regular Board Meeting

June 7, 2021

Board of Directors
Southwestern Water Conservation District

I thought I would take this opportunity to publicly introduce myself to you, as well as the community of District stakeholders attending this meeting. First, I thank the Board of Directors for providing me the opportunity to serve as SWCD's General Manager. I am excited about getting started, though I recognize I have a lot to learn. I plan on beginning that education process immediately. I also want to thank the numerous folks here in southwest Colorado and beyond that have reached out and offered their support.

To the diverse community of stakeholders attending this meeting, I'd like to say a few words about my background and the skills I hope will add to this District. Previous to this position, I served as Administrator for the Interstate Streams Division in the Wyoming State Engineer's Office. The division provides primary oversight for Wyoming's rights and responsibilities relative to the seven interstate water compacts and three interstate water decrees the state is signatory to.

My formal education spans several fields, including fisheries biology, hydrology and public policy. This diversity has allowed me to work in a wide variety of arenas during my career. Most recently I led Wyoming's public outreach effort with water users and other stakeholders relative to the state's participation in a potential Colorado River Demand Management program. I was hired in 2006 by the Wyoming State Engineer's Office to design and implement a consumptive use determination program for the state's portion of the Colorado River Basin. That technical plan, rooted in on-the-ground instrumentation and remote-sensed satellite data, was completed and approved by the State Engineer in 2008, constructed from 2008 through 2010, and fully implemented in 2011. I also spent several years working with representatives of the seven Colorado River Basin states and Mexico, in the design and implementation of the Drought Contingency Plans and portions of Minute 323 to the International Water Treaty with Mexico.

I understand many may be interested in my long-term vision for the District in an introduction such as this. However, that vision must first be informed by spending some time learning the geography, the people and their interests and needs, and must compliment the vision already set by this Board. I hope to spend much of my first months traveling around the District's nine counties, meeting with each respective Board member to discuss and learn about local issues and priorities. I hope each of you can find the time to share the uniqueness of each of your counties, to ensure we can work together to always "protect, conserve, use and develop the water resources of the Southwestern basin."

I look forward to meeting with all of you in southwestern Colorado. Please know my door at the District office is always open, and my cell phone is always on. Please don't hesitate to use either. Also, I enjoy a good cup of coffee most anytime.

With sincere appreciation,

Steve Wolff

Steve Wolff
(970) 247-1302 x21 (office)
(307) 630-1396 (cell)
steview@swwcd.org

COLORADO'S OUTSTANDING WATERS DESIGNATIONS HELP SAFEGUARD WATER QUALITY

Outstanding Waters

Outstanding Waters (OW) is a designation awarded to reaches of streams, rivers or other bodies of water with high water quality and exceptional recreational or ecological significance that are deemed worthy of increased protections by the State of Colorado. The intent of the designation is to preserve the high quality of the designated reaches for future generations. For a stream or part of a stream to qualify, it must meet specific water-quality criteria gathered across a wide range of measures.

Protection of Colorado's highest quality streams is vital to our state and our way of life. Clean water is not only critical for drinking water for our communities, but also for habitat for fish and other wildlife, farming and ranching, recreation and the long-term economic development of Colorado's towns.

A river or water body that is designated as an OW receives special water quality protections within and upstream of the reach, protecting it from long-term degradation, that is, from deterioration of existing water quality conditions.

An OW designation is awarded through the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Designation occurs through a three-year rulemaking hearing process that includes three public hearings.¹

[1] <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/wqcc-public-participation>



How are Outstanding Waters designated?

Any person may nominate any state water for designation as an OW.

OW nominations are evaluated by basin on a rotating triennial (every-three-years) review schedule by the CDPHE's WQCC. The process to propose an OW nomination takes multiple years and includes substantial water sampling across all seasons, rigorous data analysis and evaluation, extensive public outreach, and three public hearings where public comment is encouraged.

Pictured Right: Hermosa Creek – designated OW in 2009



The FAQs

What does an Outstanding Waters designation do?

An OW designation protects a defined reach of a stream, river or lake that has a very high level of existing water quality from future degradation of that water quality. Waters designated as OW have to be maintained and protected at their existing quality. Only short-term degradation of existing quality is allowed and only for activities that result in long-term ecological or water quality benefit or clear public interest.

Does Outstanding Waters Designation Affect Water Rights?

No. OW is about water quality; it does not affect water rights, which are about flow. OWs offer a unique, state-level designation (within the legal framework of the federal Clean Water Act) to protect existing water quality, while allowing for the exercise of valid water rights.

Are Preexisting Activities Such As Grazing Affected?

OW protections only prevent new or increased sources of pollution in designated streams. Preexisting uses, such as grazing and recreation, as well as Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) permitted activities can continue at the levels and intensities in place at the time of designation. In other words, as long as a preexisting use does not increase pollution in a stream, OW would not limit that use. If a use (such as grazing or recreation) does not currently require a permit from WQCD, that would not change under an OW designation – no new permit would be required.

Are New, Long-Term Activities Allowed Near Or Along Outstanding Waters Reaches?

New activities may also take place so long as they do not result in any degradation of the high levels of water quality of the given reach (relative to the quality at the time of OW designation).

Are Short-Term, Temporary Activities Allowed?

Short-term water quality degradation of a waterbody designated as an OW may be allowed to occur for activities that result in long-term ecological or water quality benefit or clear public interest– for example, for restoration of a campground- so long as that degradation is minimized and water quality returns to its prior high-quality condition after the activity is completed.



Can an Outstanding Waters designation go through private land?

Yes. OW designations can go through private land as long as the designation criteria for OW are met. An OW designation prohibits any new activity or any expanded activity that could degrade water quality below designated levels for a given reach, ensuring clean water for rivers flowing through private property.

How are downstream water users affected by an Outstanding Waters designation?

Downstream water users are not impacted by an OW designation other than benefiting from the protection and delivery of high-quality water downstream.

OUTSTANDING WATERS – HOW ARE THEY DESIGNATED?

Outstanding Waters (OW) is a designation awarded to reaches of streams, rivers or other bodies of water with high water quality and exceptional recreational or ecological significance that are deemed worthy of increased protections by the State of Colorado. The intent of the designation is to prevent degradation, thus preserving existing high water quality for future generations.

An OW designation is made through the Water Quality Control Commission (Commission) in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Designations are made as part of the Commission’s triennial rulemakings held on a rotating basis for basins around the state; each basin rulemaking process is spread over three calendar years from scoping, through issues formulation, to final action.

To qualify as an OW, a waterbody must meet three key criteria:

1

Waters must constitute an outstanding natural resource, with “exceptional recreational or ecological significance” and not modified by human activities in ways that substantially detract from their natural resource values. Examples include Gold Medal trout fisheries, native cutthroat trout recovery waters, waters with outstanding opportunities for recreation such as boating, swimming, and fishing, as well as waters within national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas.

2

Waters must require protection in addition to that provided by water quality classifications, standards, and protections from the CDPHE. For example, the Commission has recognized the need for native trout to have water quality maintained at existing high levels in light of those species’ sensitivity to water pollution. Similarly, wilderness areas require protection at their existing high-quality levels to maintain that “untrammelled by man” wilderness quality.



Waters must be equal to or better than the water quality standards for 12 key parameters to support aquatic life, recreation, and/or domestic water supply uses.

These parameters are:

pH affects many chemical and biological processes in surface water. For example, at low pH metals are typically more soluble and more toxic to aquatic life.

E. coli is a group of bacteria that have the potential to cause sickness and disease; excessive E. coli in surface water could harm humans that inadvertently swallow water while recreating.

Dissolved oxygen (DO) is a measure of oxygen available to aquatic organisms; some aquatic organisms require abundant DO while others are adapted to survive with less.

Nutrients are essential for living organisms and exist in different forms that naturally cycle through the atmosphere, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Excess nutrients, however, can adversely affect aquatic habitat and become toxic to sensitive aquatic species. Nutrients used in evaluating potential OWs are:

- chronic ammonia
- nitrate

Metals and other trace elements are found in surface water from natural sources such as the weathering of rock, but can also be elevated due to disturbances such as wildfire or historic mining, causing harmful impacts on aquatic life. Metals measured in evaluating potential OWs are:

- chronic cadmium
- chronic copper
- chronic lead
- chronic manganese
- chronic selenium
- chronic silver
- chronic zinc

Representative data across multiple seasons should be sampled to demonstrate that water quality is indeed equal to or better than these water quality requirements.

Source: 5 CCR 1002-31.8 (2)(a)



Water quality parameters required for Outstanding Waters consideration

Target Analyte	Fraction Evaluated	Use classified by Water Quality Control Division	Water quality standard	Assessment statistic
pH	N/A	Aquatic Life	6.5 - 9.0	15 th – 85 th percentile
Dissolved Oxygen	N/A	Aquatic Life	6.0 / 7.0 mg/l	15 th percentile
<i>E. coli</i>	N/A	Recreation	126 /100ml	Geometric mean
Ammonia	Total	Aquatic Life - Chronic	pH and temperature dependent standard	85 th percentile
Nitrate or Nitrate-Nitrite	Total	Domestic Water Supply Use	10 mg/l	85 th percentile
Cadmium	Dissolved	Aquatic Life - Chronic	Hardness-based standard	85 th percentile or exceedances in less than 15% of samples
Copper	Dissolved	Aquatic Life - Chronic	Hardness-based standard	
Lead	Dissolved	Aquatic Life - Chronic	Hardness-based standard	
Manganese	Dissolved	Aquatic Life - Chronic	Hardness-based standard	
Selenium	Dissolved	Aquatic Life - Chronic	4.6 ug/l	85 th percentile
Silver	Dissolved	Aquatic Life - Chronic	Hardness-based standard	85 th percentile or exceedances in less than 15% of samples
Zinc	Dissolved	Aquatic Life - Chronic	Hardness-based standard	
Additional parameters				
Water temperature	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Calcium	Dissolved	N/A	N/A	N/A
Magnesium	Dissolved	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arsenic	Total	Domestic Water Supply Use	0.02 ug/l	50 th percentile

Reference: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). (2018). Regulation No. 31- The Basic Standards and Methodologies for Surface Water (5 CCR 1002-31), effective 1/31/18.

Initial Water Quality Analysis for OW Candidate Reaches

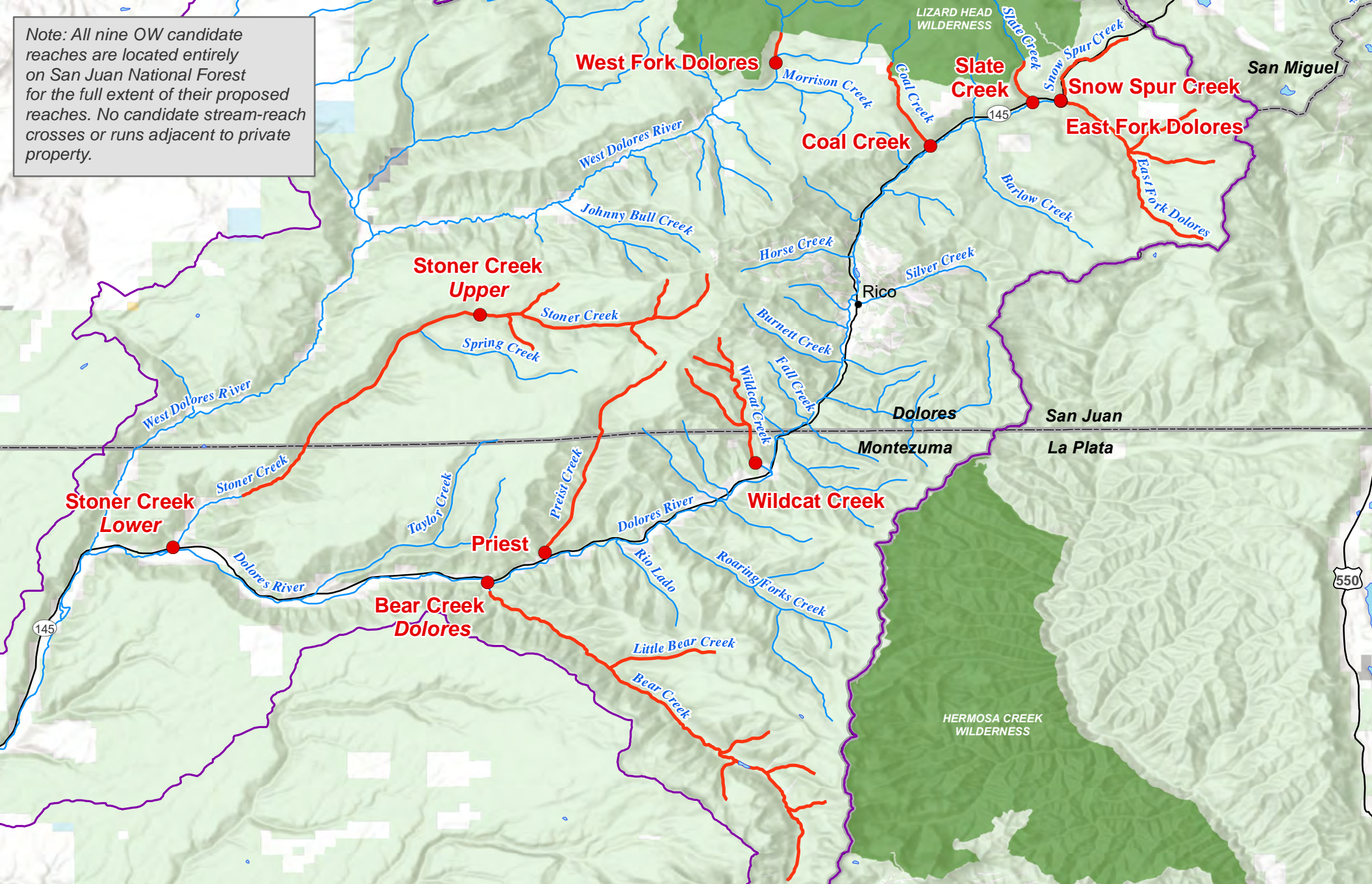
Monitoring Locations in Dolores County

March 2021

This “scorecard” for each location conveys the monitoring and water quality results from each sampling event in a tabular and visual format.

Note – this includes water quality data for Snow Spur Creek, East Fork Dolores, Slate Creek, Coal Creek, West Fork Dolores, Upper Stoner Creek, Wildcat Creek and Priest Creek

Note: All nine OW candidate reaches are located entirely on San Juan National Forest for the full extent of their proposed reaches. No candidate stream-reach crosses or runs adjacent to private property.



Candidate Reaches

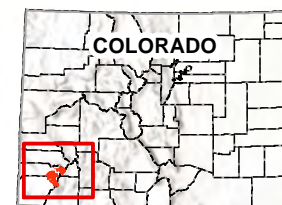
Surface water reaches to be considered for designation as Outstanding Waters in Dolores and Montezuma County, Colorado

- ~~~~~ Outstanding Waters Candidate Reaches
- ~~~~~ NHD Streams
- Water Quality Monitoring Locations
- Wilderness Areas

Land Ownership

- BLM
- State, County, City
- Private
- USFS
- State
- Dolores watershed boundary

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 Mi



Site Name

Sample Periods

River Creek

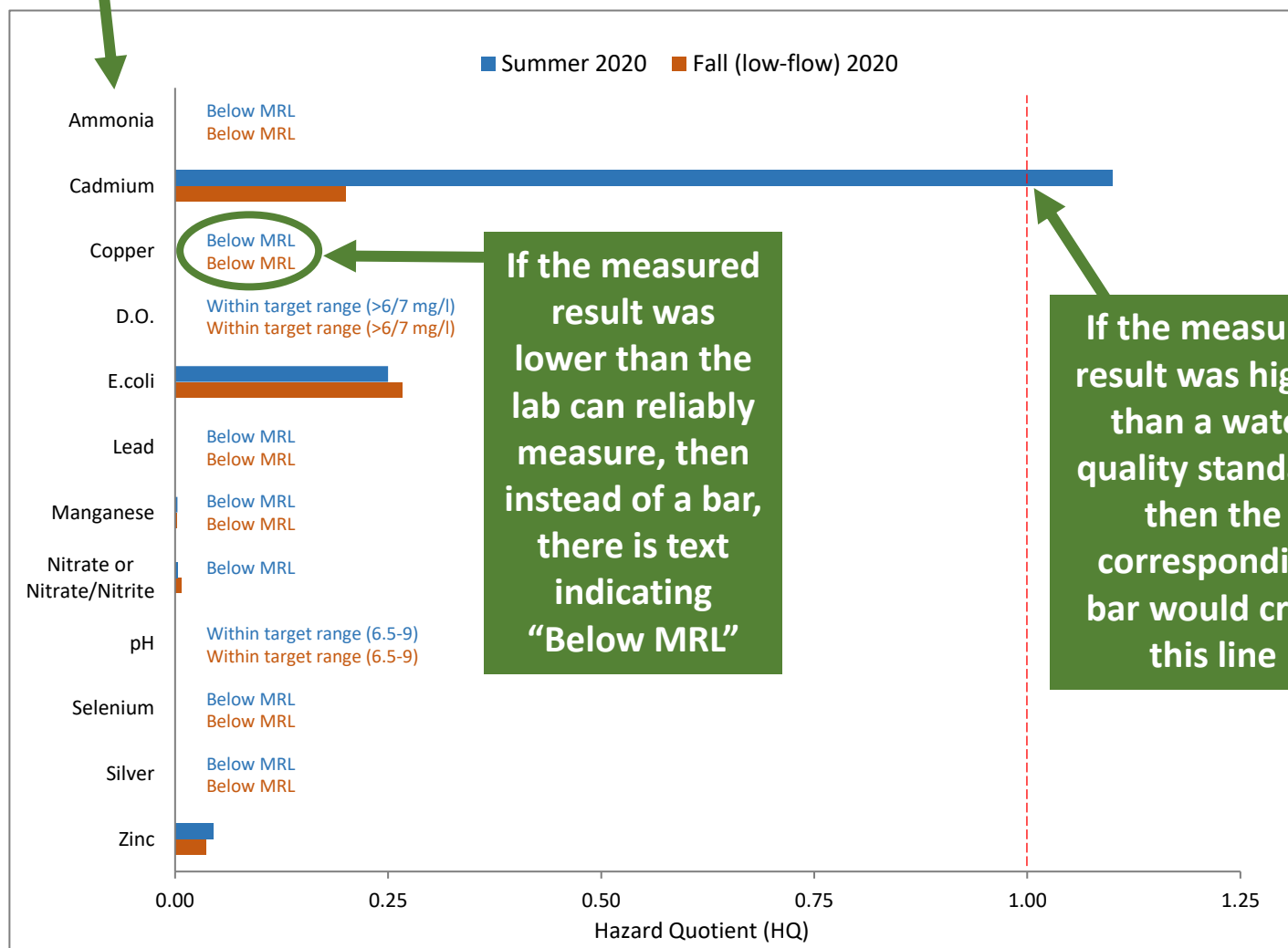
Water Quality Parameters

	Analyte	Unit	Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
			Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
River Creek	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	3.94	<0.1	2.13	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	.7	.62	.26	.62	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	6.77	<0.5	9.15	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	11.5			6.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	2			126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5			2.59	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	1.6			63.26	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l				10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	<0.02				0%
	pH		7.61	>		6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l				0.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l		0.18	<0.2	0.33	0%
	Zinc	ug/l		90.01	2.2	123.95	0%

the water quality standard that we are comparing results to

measured concentration

% of samples that exceed water quality standard

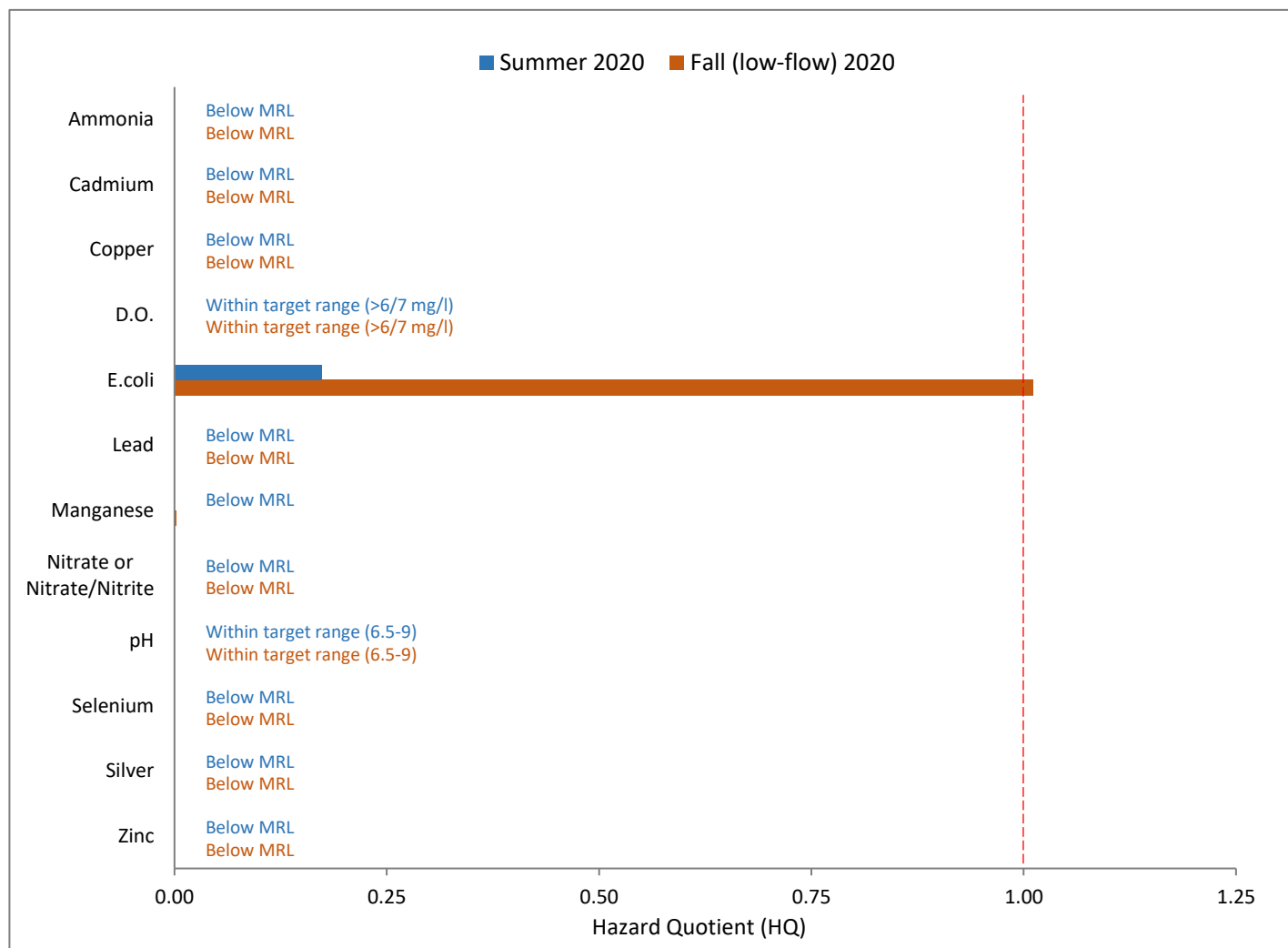


Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.

Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Coal Creek

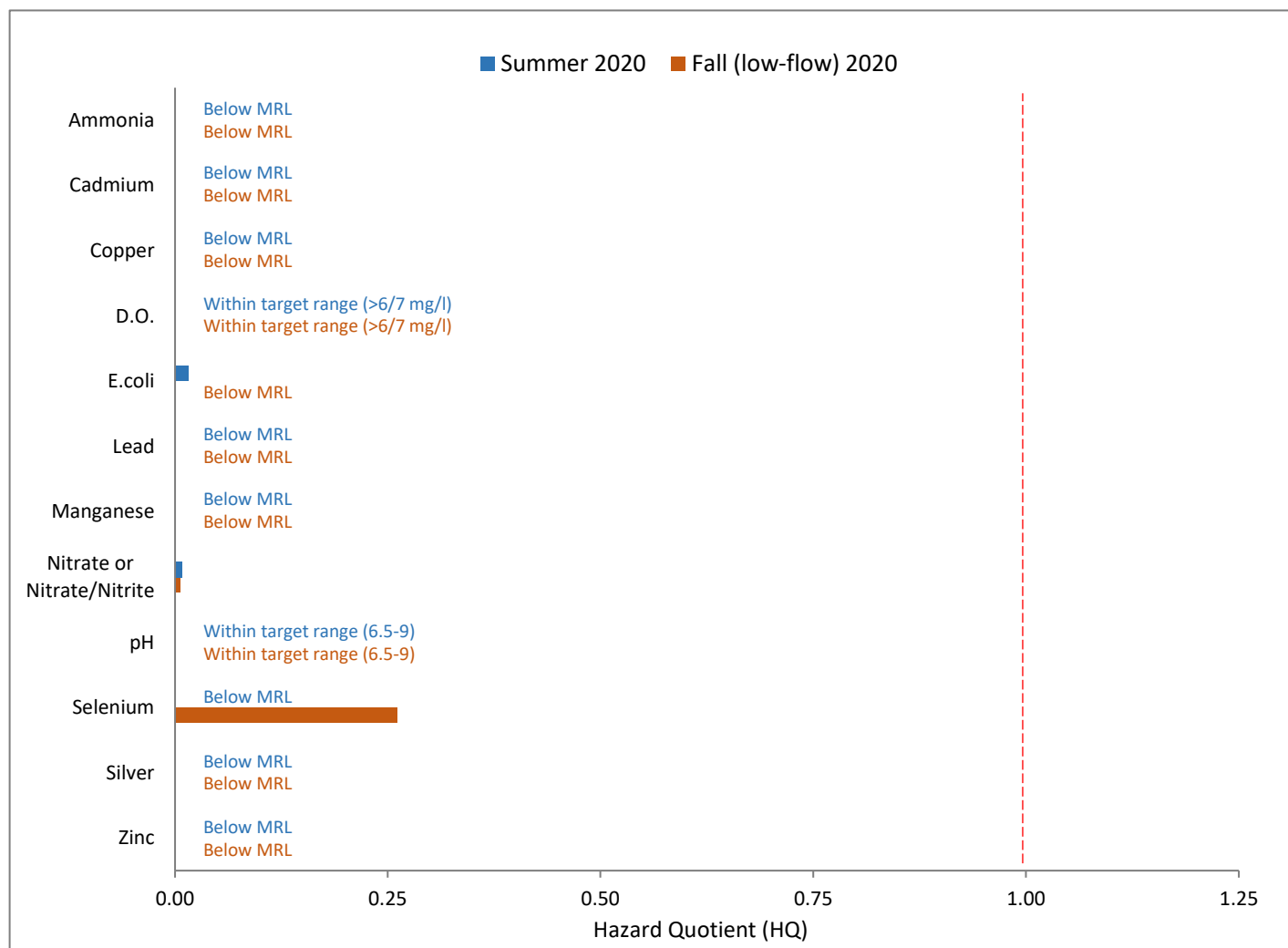
			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Coal Creek	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	0.78	<0.1	0.92	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.47	<0.1	0.65	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	10.01	<0.5	14.41	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	9.3	> 6.0 / 7.0	9.3	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	21.8	126	127.4	126	50%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	2.90	<0.5	4.59	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	<0.5	1723	4	1986	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l	<0.02	10	<0.02	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	<0.02	10			0%
	pH		8.6	>6.5 & <9	8.6	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.40	<0.2	0.83	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	<2	136.5	<2	201.1	0%



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East Fork Dolores River

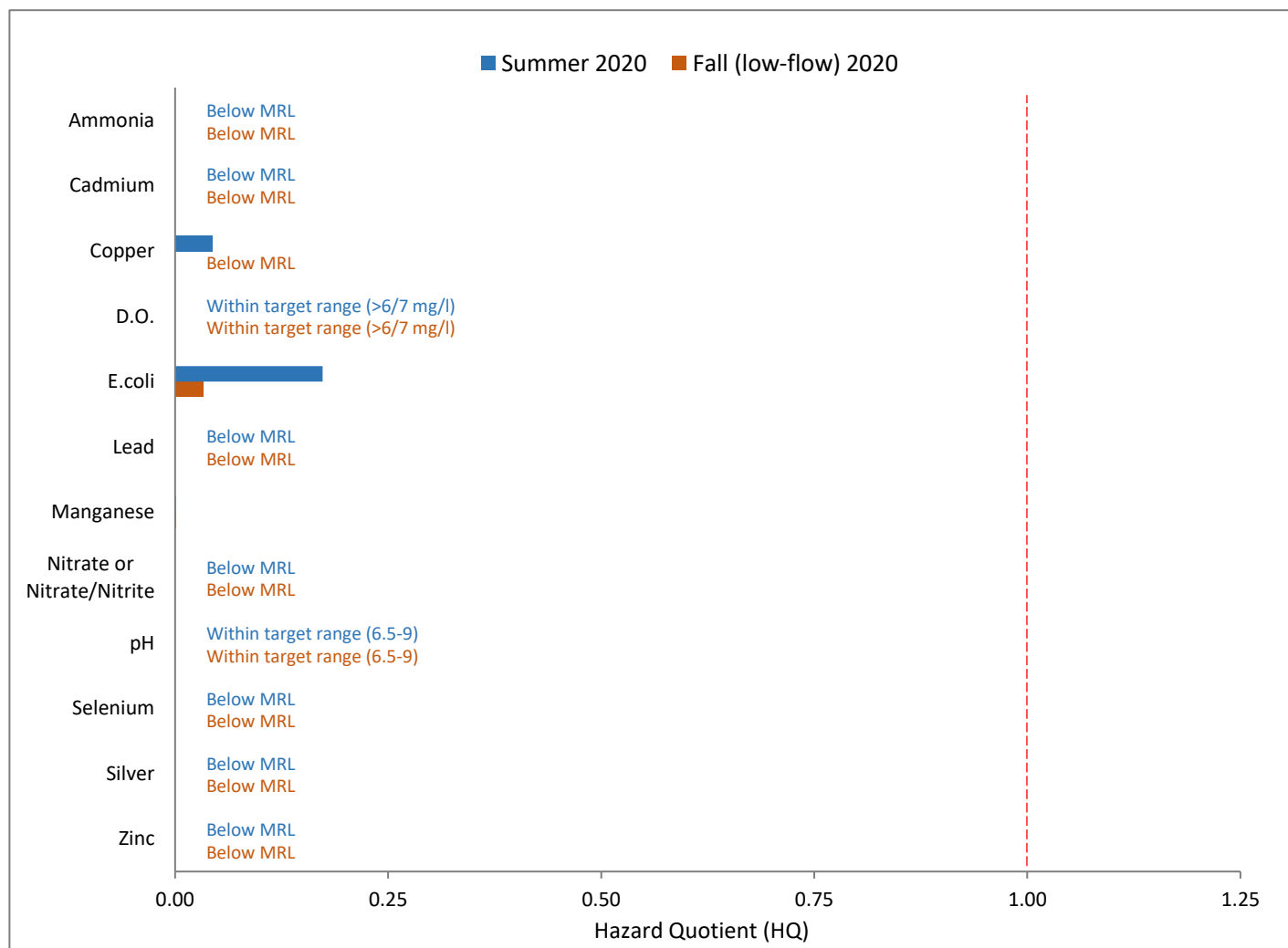
			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
East Fork Dolores	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	1.79	<0.1	1.52	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.50	<0.1	0.60	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	10.85	<0.5	13.34	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	9.9	> 6.0 / 7.0	11	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	<i>E. coli</i>	per 100ml	2	126	<1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	3.21	<0.5	4.16	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	<0.5	1777	<0.5	1927	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l	0.074	10	0.058	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	0.075	10			0%
	pH		8.2	>6.5 & <9	8.3	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	1.2	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.47	<0.2	0.71	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	<2	149	<2	185	0%



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Priest Creek

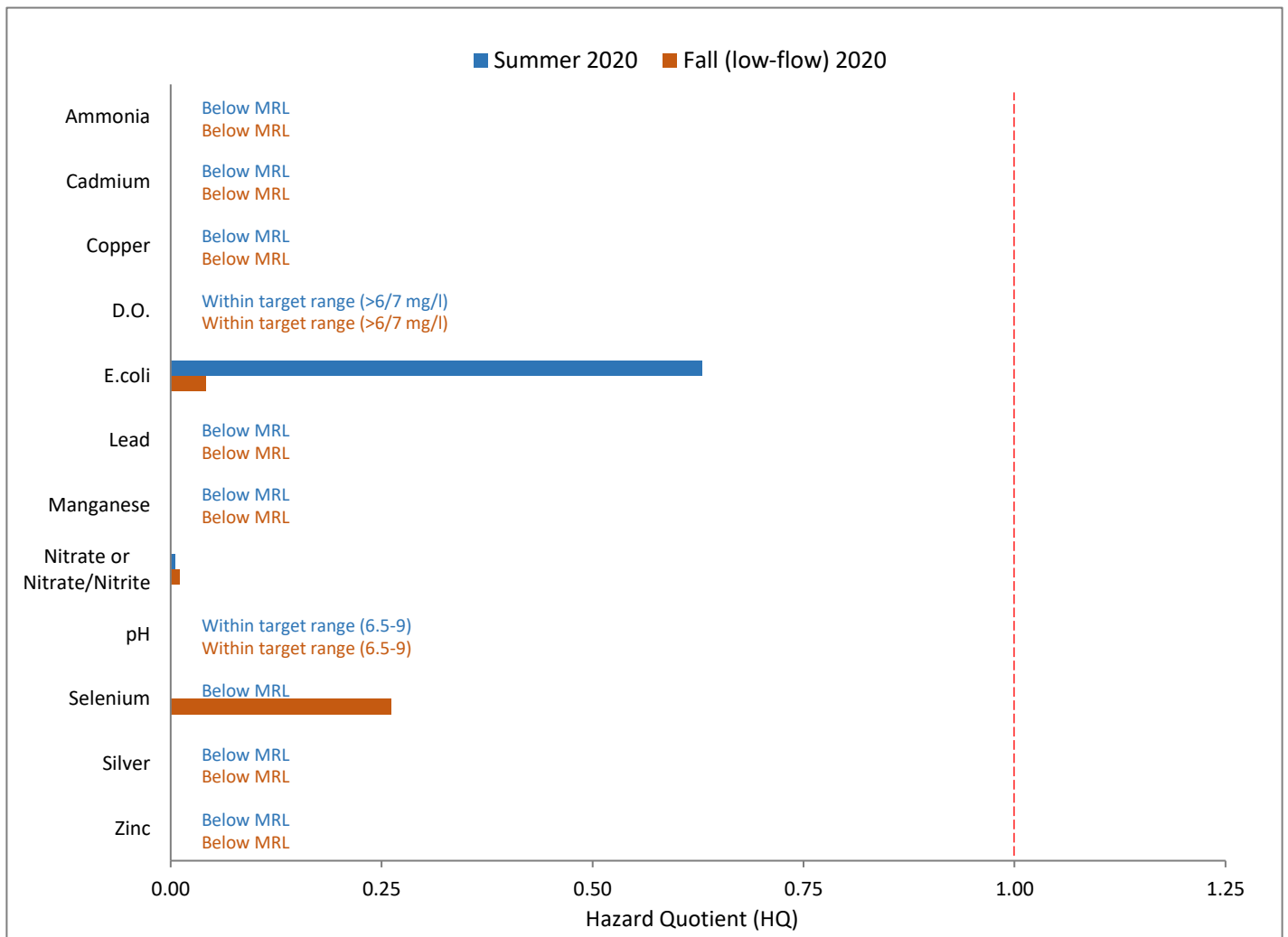
			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Preist Creek	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	1.09	<0.1	0.78	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.62	<0.1	0.69	0%
	Copper	ug/l	0.6	13.88	<0.5	15.55	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	11.2	> 6.0 / 7.0	10	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	21.8	126	4.1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	4.38	<0.5	5.04	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	1.8	1957	1	2045	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l	<0.02	10	<0.02	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	<0.02	10			0%
	pH		8.5	>6.5 & <9	8.7	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.77	<0.2	0.97	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	<2	193	<2	218	0%



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Slate Creek

			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Slate Creek	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	1.79	<0.1	1.09	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.25	<0.1	0.41	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	4.99	<0.5	8.71	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	10.2	> 6.0 / 7.0	9.3	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	<i>E. coli</i>	per 100ml	79.4	126	5.2	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	1.19	<0.5	2.43	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	<0.5	1314	<0.5	1632	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l	0.048	10	0.11	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	0.045	10			0%
	pH		8.2	>6.5 & <9	8.5	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	1.2	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.10	<0.2	0.30	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	<2	65.1	<2	118	0%

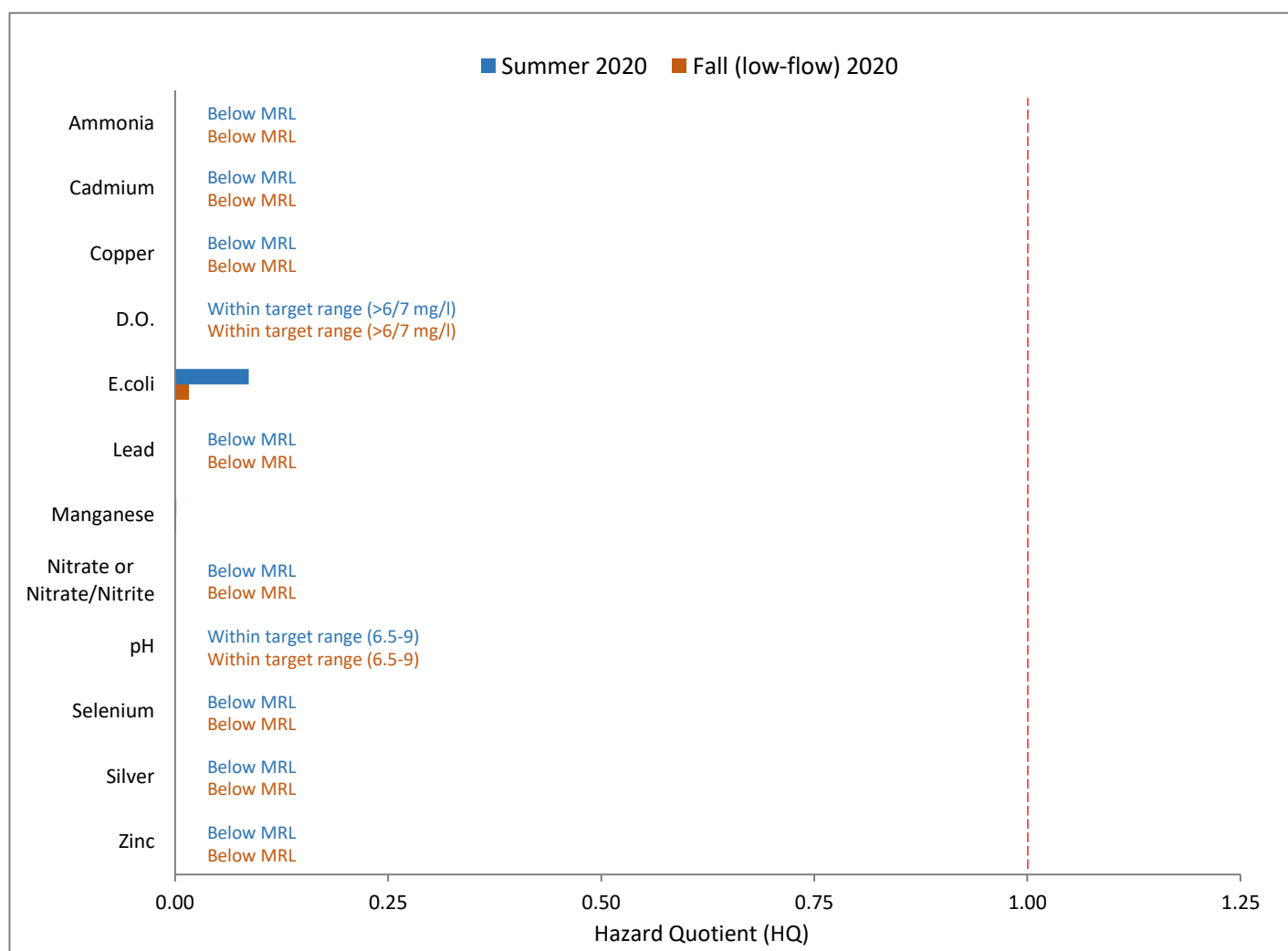


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Snow Spur Creek

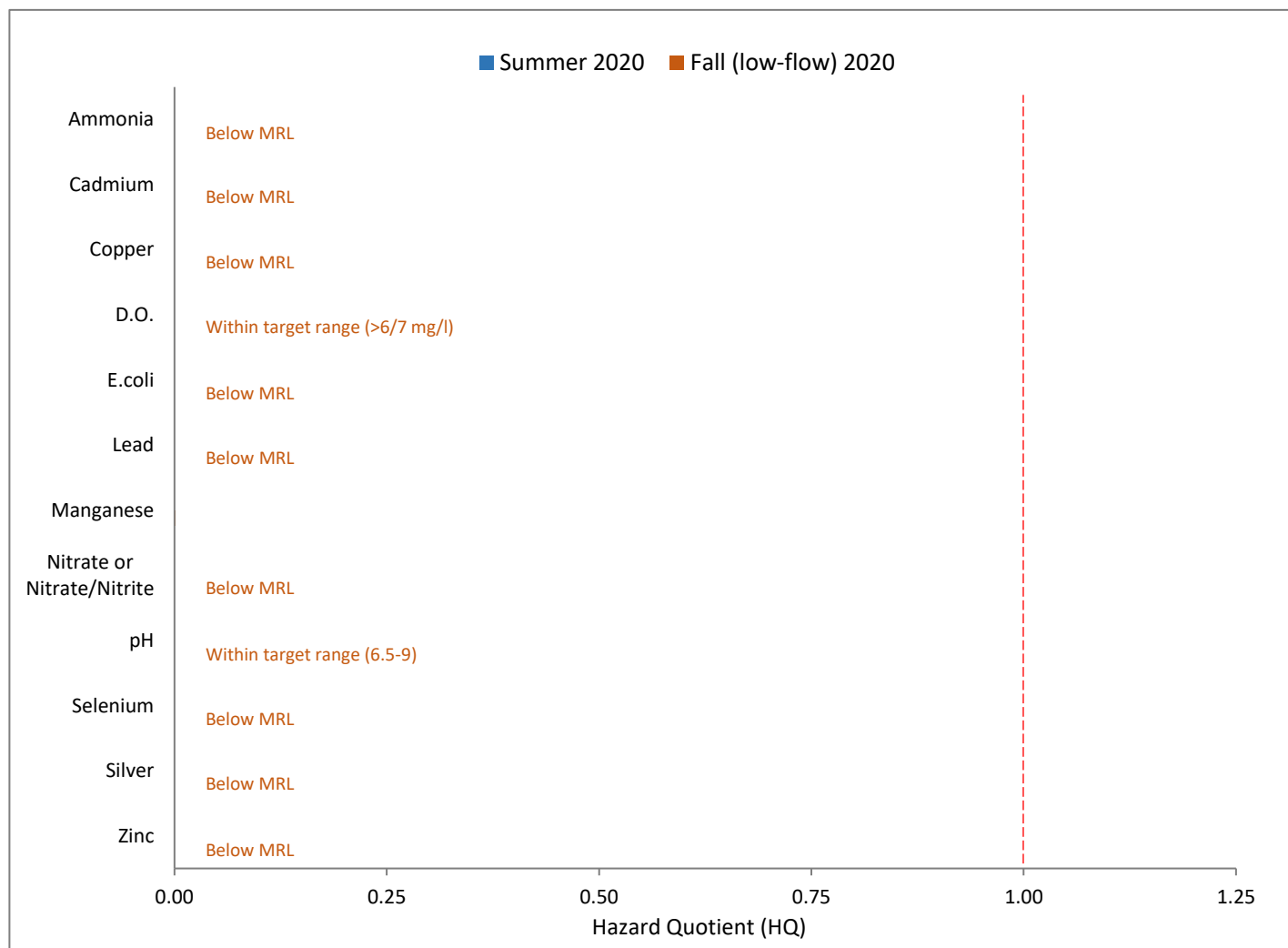
			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Snow Spur Creek	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	1.09	<0.1	1.09	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.44	<0.1	0.49	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	9.31	<0.5	10.50	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	9.8	> 6.0 / 7.0	12	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	10.9	126	2	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	2.64	<0.5	3.08	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	2.3	1675	0.8	1755	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l	<0.02	10	<0.02	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	<0.02	10			0%
	pH		8.5	>6.5 & <9	8.5	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.35	<0.2	0.44	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	<2	126	<2	144	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Stoner - Upper

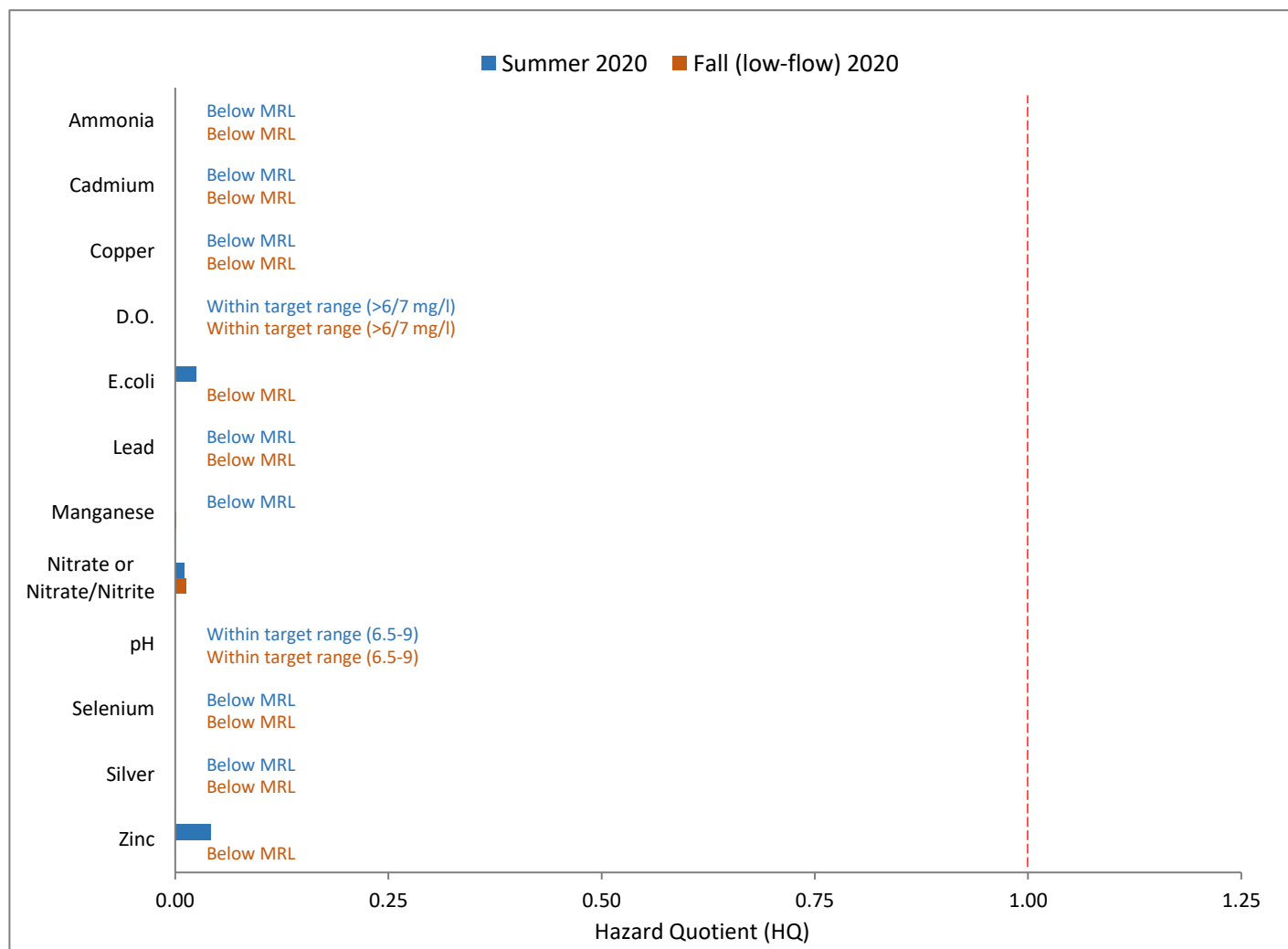
			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Stoner -Upper	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l			<0.1	0.78	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l			<0.1	0.57	0%
	Copper	ug/l			<0.5	12.44	0%
	D.O.	mg/l			10	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	<i>E. coli</i>	per 100ml			<1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l			<0.5	3.82	0%
	Manganese	ug/l			2.4	1875	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l			<0.02	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l					0%
	pH				8.7	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l			<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l			<0.2	0.62	0%
	Zinc	ug/l			<2	172	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

West Fork Dolores

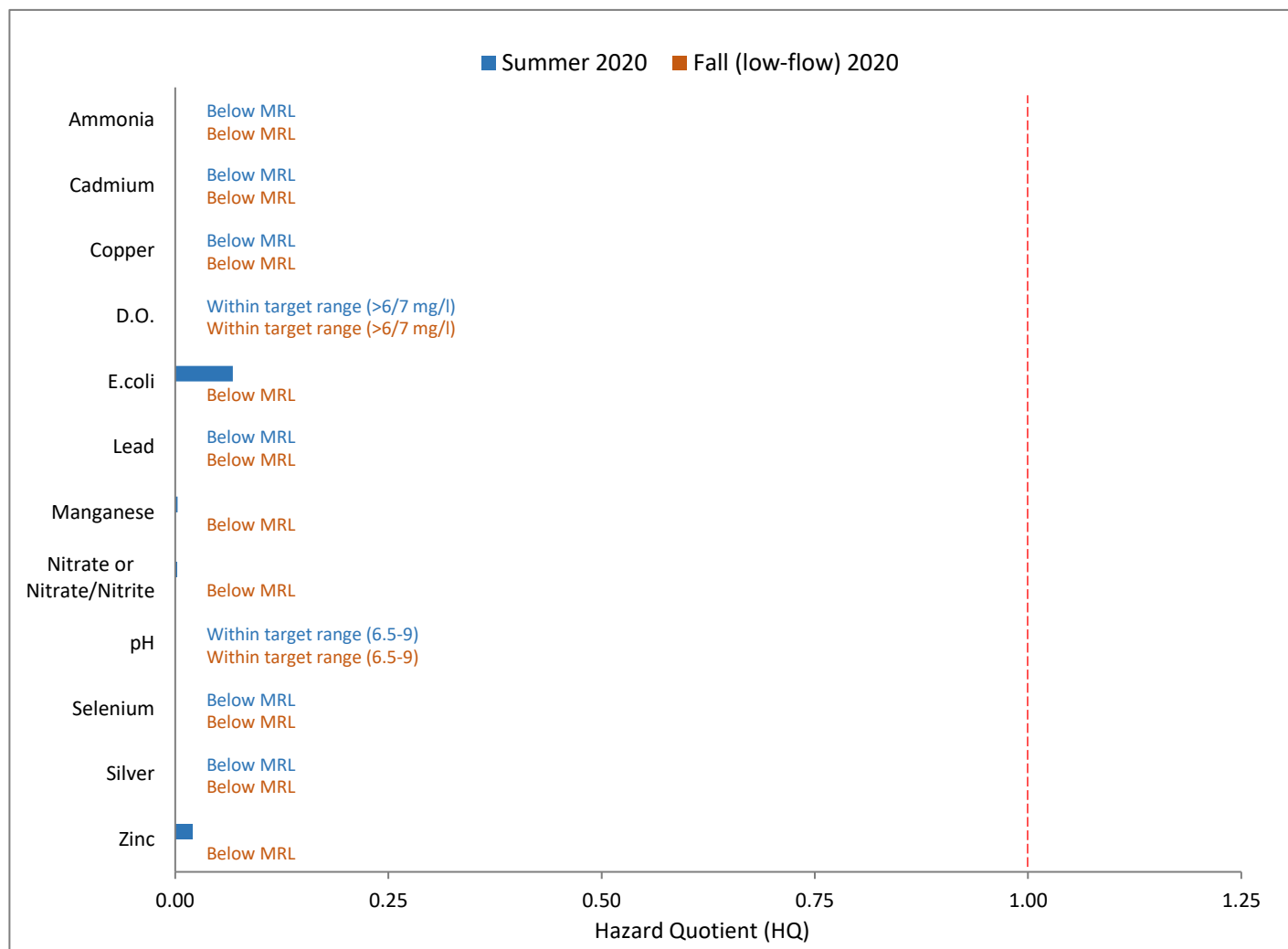
			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
West Fork Dolores	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	2.43	<0.1	1.52	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.26	<0.1	0.40	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	5.13	<0.5	8.48	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	10.8	> 6.0 / 7.0	12	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	<i>E. coli</i>	per 100ml	3.1	126	<1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	1.23	<0.5	2.35	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	<0.5	1328	0.6	1615	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l	0.105	10	0.132	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	0.108	10			0%
	pH		8	>6.5 & <9	8.3	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.10	<0.2	0.29	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	2.8	67	<2	114	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Wildcat Creek

			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Wildcat Creek	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	0.93	<0.1	0.92	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.55	<0.1	0.57	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	12.09	<0.5	12.42	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	8.6	> 6.0 / 7.0	9.1	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	<i>E. coli</i>	per 100ml	8.5	126	<1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	3.68	<0.5	3.81	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	5.3	1854	<0.5	1874	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l	0.025	10	<0.02	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	0.072	10			0%
	pH		8.5	>6.5 & <9	8.6	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.59	<0.2	0.62	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	3.4	167	<2	172	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Initial Water Quality Analysis for OW Candidate Reaches

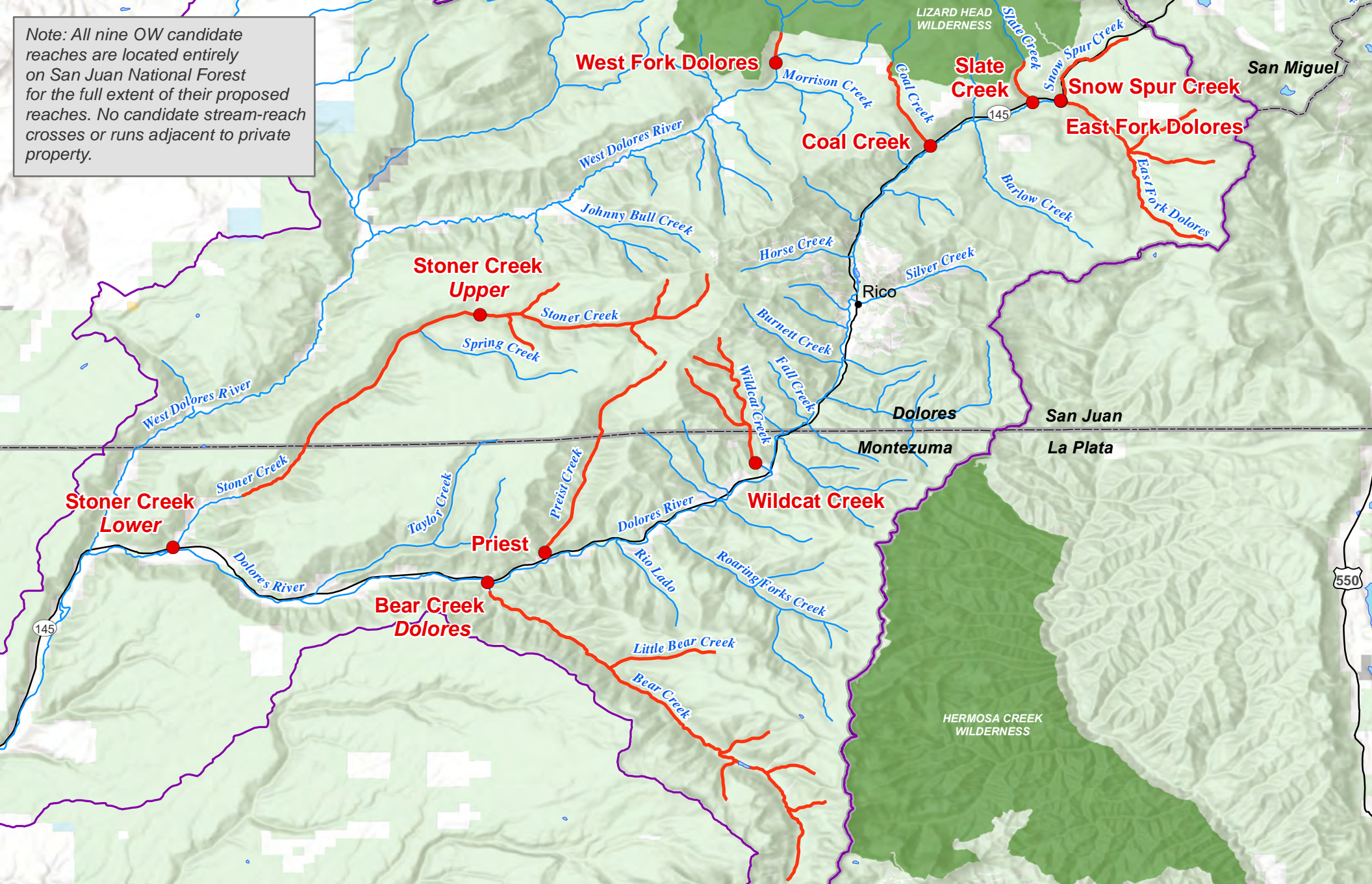
Monitoring Locations in Montezuma County

March 2021

This “scorecard” for each location conveys the monitoring and water quality results from each sampling event in a tabular and visual format.





Note – this includes water quality data for Lower Stoner Creek, Priest Creek,
Bear Creek and Wildcat Creek

Note: All nine OW candidate reaches are located entirely on San Juan National Forest for the full extent of their proposed reaches. No candidate stream-reach crosses or runs adjacent to private property.









Candidate Reaches

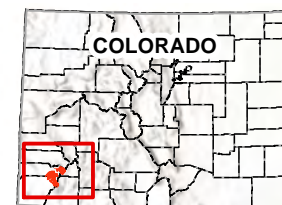
Surface water reaches to be considered for designation as Outstanding Waters in Dolores and Montezuma County, Colorado

-  Outstanding Waters Candidate Reaches
-  NHD Streams
-  Water Quality Monitoring Locations
-  Wilderness Areas

Land Ownership

-  BLM
-  Private
-  State
-  Dolores watershed boundary
-  State, County, City
-  USFS

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 Mi



Site Name

Sample Periods

River Creek

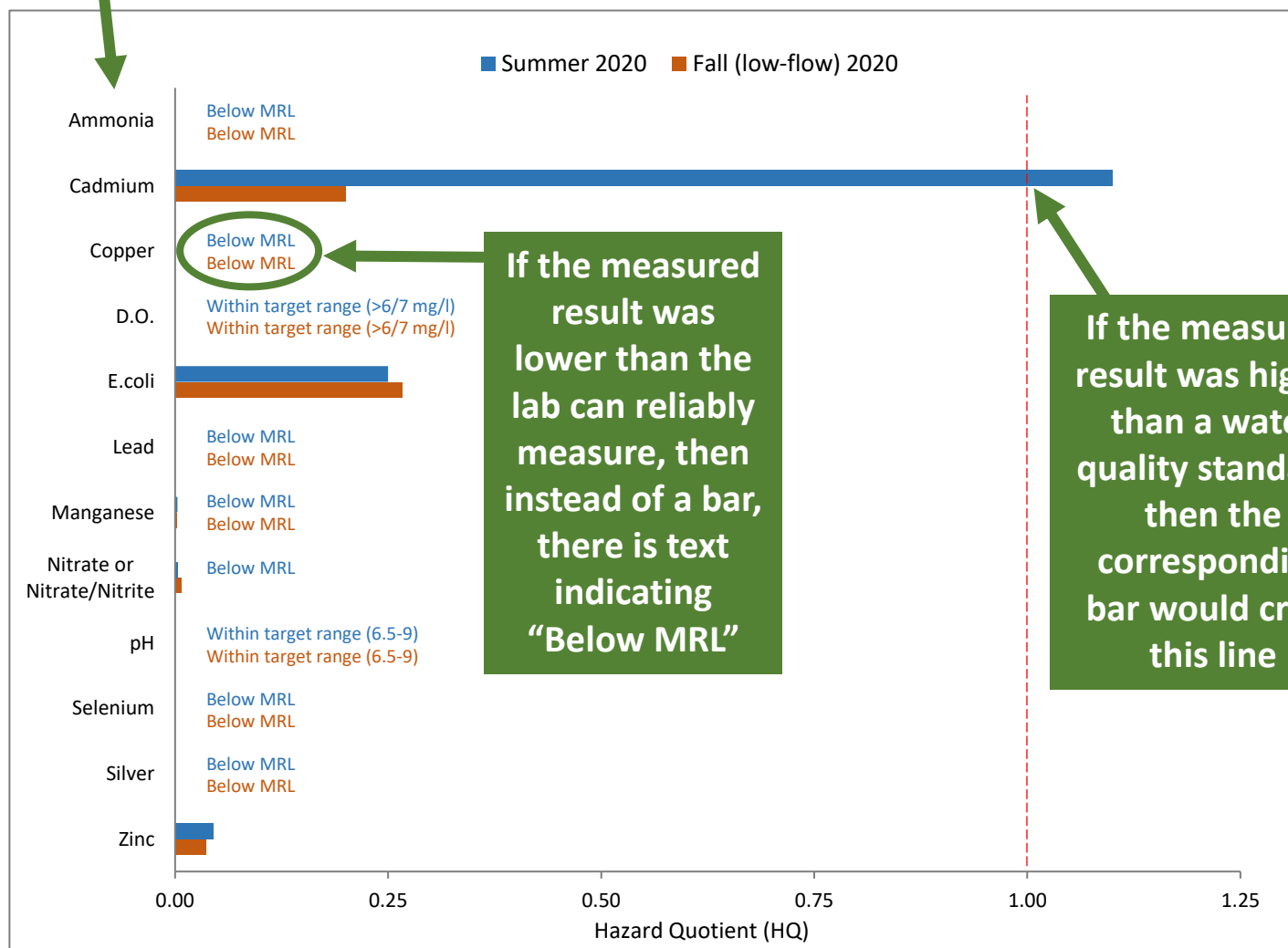
Water Quality Parameters

	Analyte	Unit	Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
			Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
River Creek	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	3.94	<0.1	2.13	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	.7	.62	.26	.62	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	6.77	<0.5	9.15	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	11.5			6.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	2			126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5			2.59	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	1.6			63.26	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l				10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	<0.02				0%
	pH		7.61	>		6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l				0.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l		0.18	<0.2	0.33	0%
	Zinc	ug/l		90.01	2.2	123.95	0%

the water quality standard that we are comparing results to

measured concentration

% of samples that exceed water quality standard

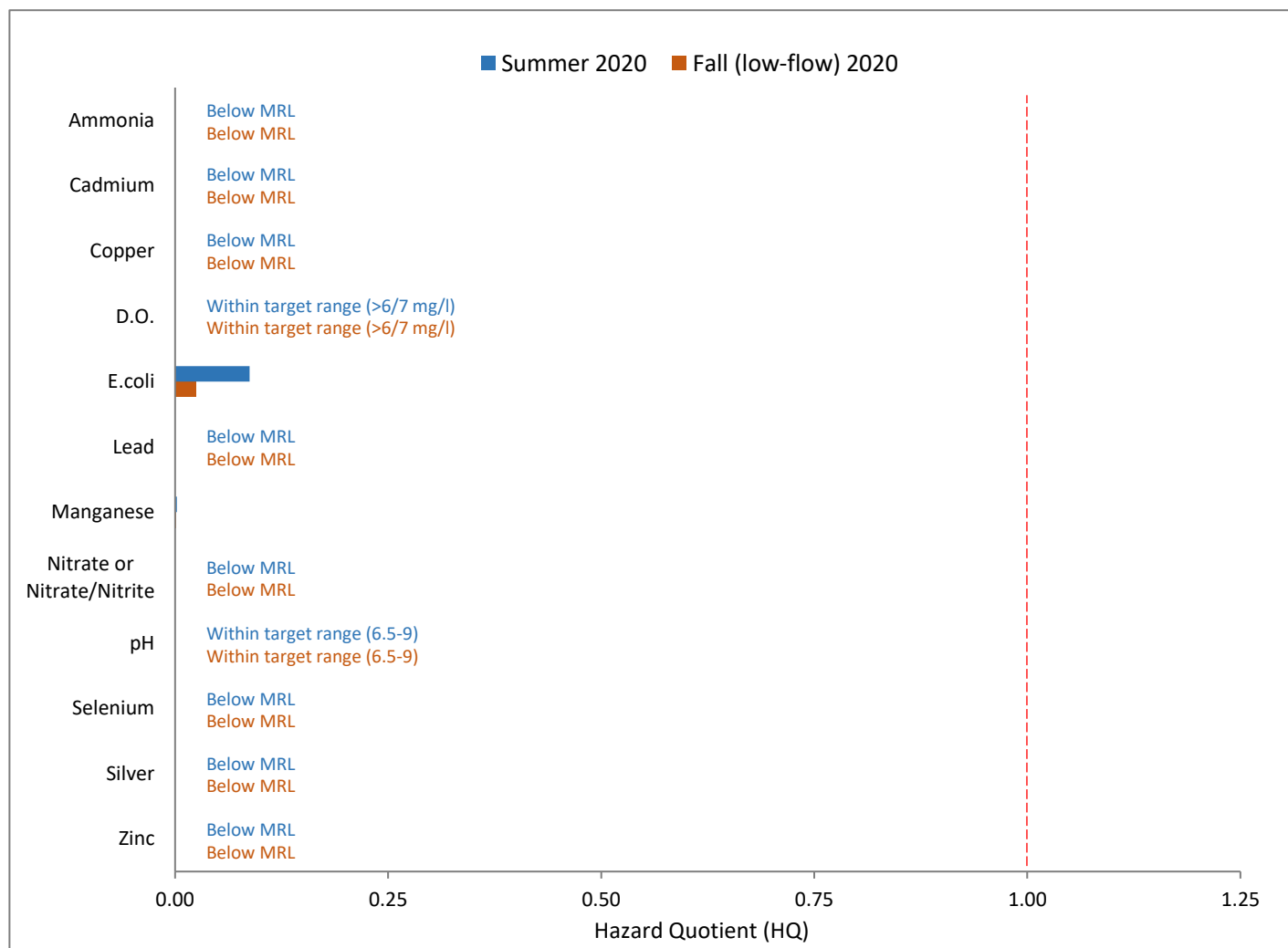


Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.

Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Bear Creek (Dolores)

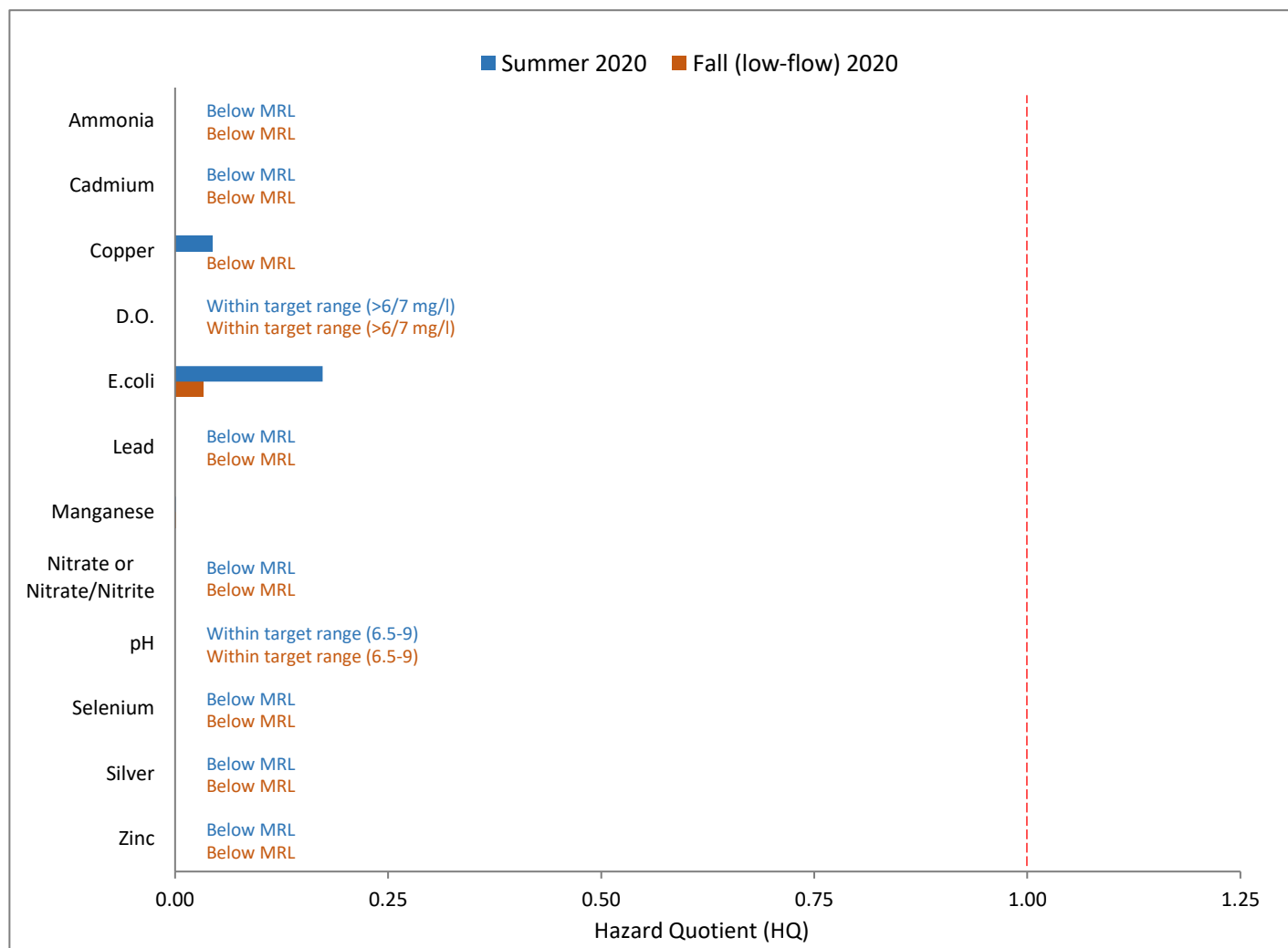
			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Bear Creek (Dolores)	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	1.09	<0.1	0.92	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.42	<0.1	0.49	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	8.94	<0.5	10.53	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	10.5	> 6.0 / 7.0	10	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	<i>E. coli</i>	per 100ml	11	126	3.1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	2.51	<0.5	3.09	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	3.2	1649	2.6	1757	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l	<0.02	10	<0.02	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	<0.02	10			0%
	pH		8.5	>6.5 & <9	8.6	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.32	<0.2	0.44	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	<2	121	<2	144	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Priest Creek

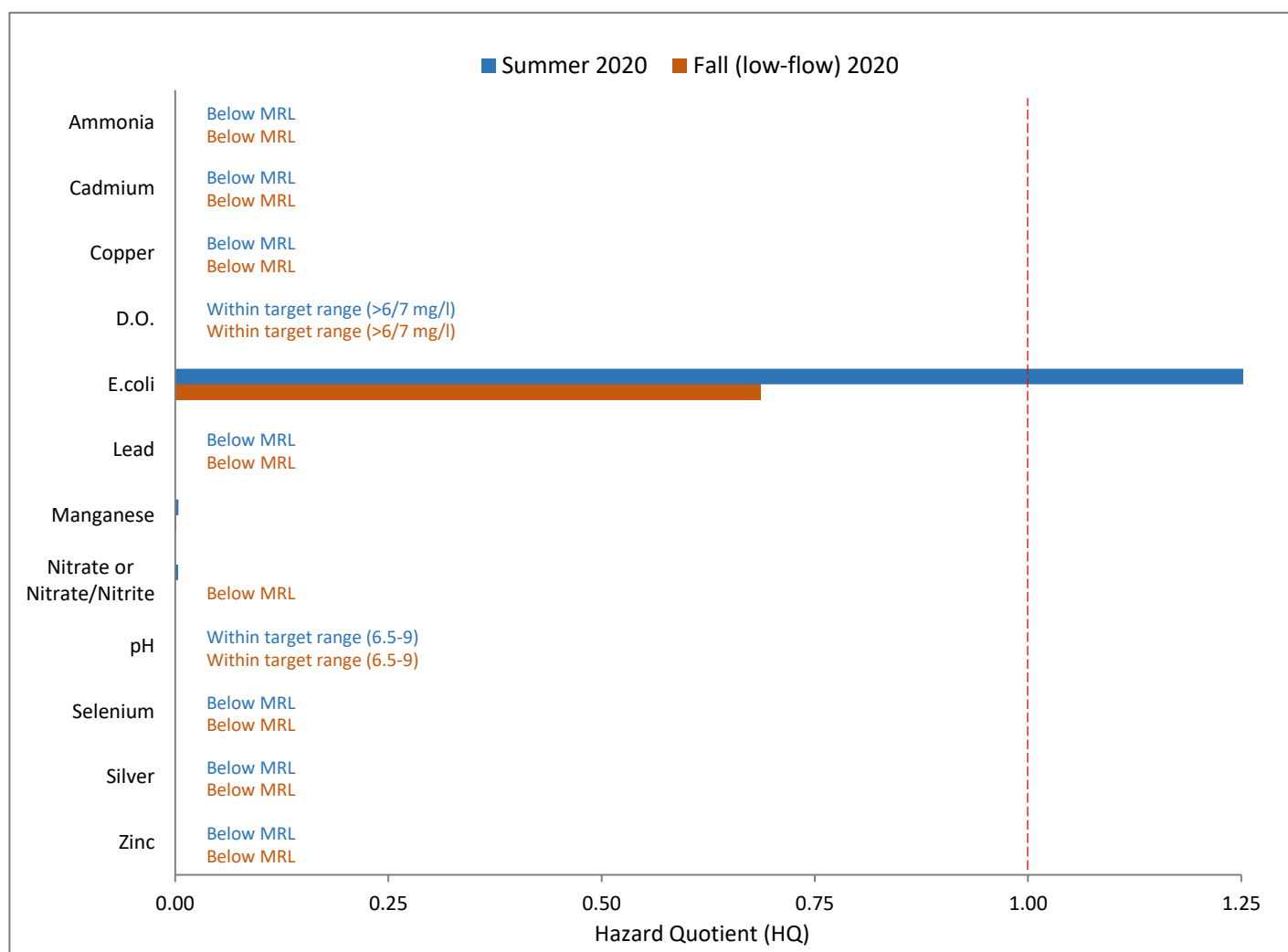
			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Preist Creek	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	1.09	<0.1	0.78	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.62	<0.1	0.69	0%
	Copper	ug/l	0.6	13.88	<0.5	15.55	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	11.2	> 6.0 / 7.0	10	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	21.8	126	4.1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	4.38	<0.5	5.04	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	1.8	1957	1	2045	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l	<0.02	10	<0.02	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	<0.02	10			0%
	pH		8.5	>6.5 & <9	8.7	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.77	<0.2	0.97	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	<2	193	<2	218	0%



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Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Stoner - Lower

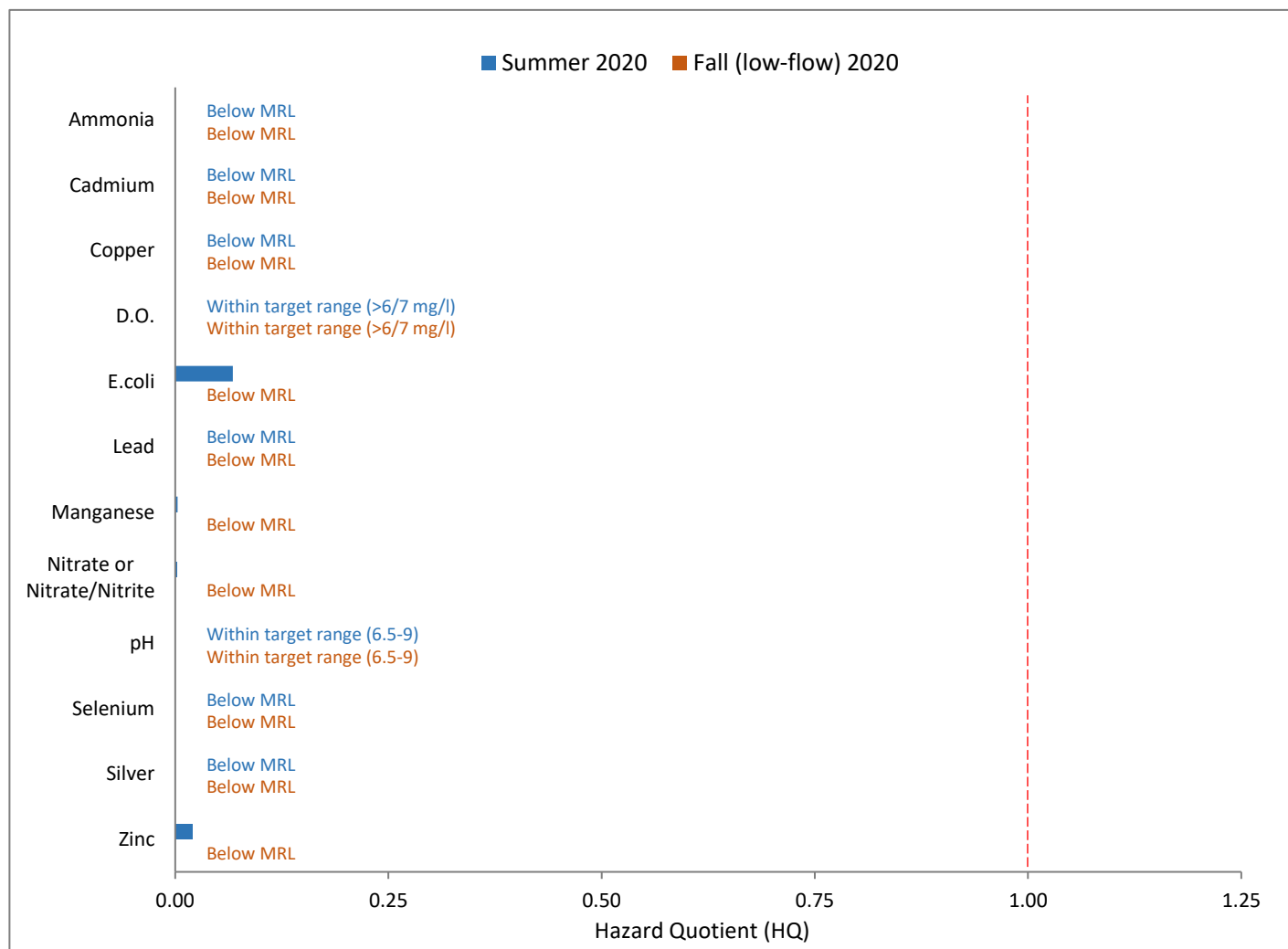
			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Stoner -Lower	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	1.10	<0.1	0.78	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.60	<0.1	0.59	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	13.20	<0.5	12.92	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	10.3	> 6.0 / 7.0	10	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	<i>E. coli</i>	per 100ml	517.2	126	86.5	126	50%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	4.11	<0.5	4.00	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	7.1	1919	2.8	1903	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l	0.03	10	<0.02	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	0.147	10			0%
	pH		8.4	>6.5 & <9	8.7	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.70	<0.2	0.67	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	<2	183	<2	179	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Wildcat Creek

			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Wildcat Creek	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	0.93	<0.1	0.92	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.55	<0.1	0.57	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	12.09	<0.5	12.42	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	8.6	> 6.0 / 7.0	9.1	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	<i>E. coli</i>	per 100ml	8.5	126	<1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	3.68	<0.5	3.81	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	5.3	1854	<0.5	1874	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l	0.025	10	<0.02	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	0.072	10			0%
	pH		8.5	>6.5 & <9	8.6	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.59	<0.2	0.62	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	3.4	167	<2	172	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Initial Water Quality Analysis for OW Candidate Reaches

Monitoring Locations in San Juan County

March 2021

This “scorecard” for each location conveys the monitoring and water quality results from each sampling event in a tabular and visual format.

Note – this includes water quality data for Boulder Creek, Upper Cascade Creek
and Bear Creek



Candidate Reaches

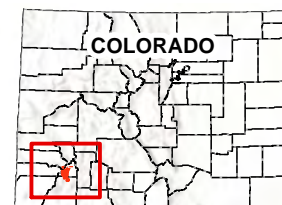
Surface water reaches to be considered for designation as Outstanding Waters in La Plata, San Juan, and San Miguel County, Colorado

- Outstanding Waters Candidate Reaches
- NHD Streams
- Water Quality Monitoring Locations
- Wilderness Areas

Land Ownership

- BLM
- Private
- State
- State, County, City
- USFS

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 Mi



Site Name

Sample Periods

River Creek

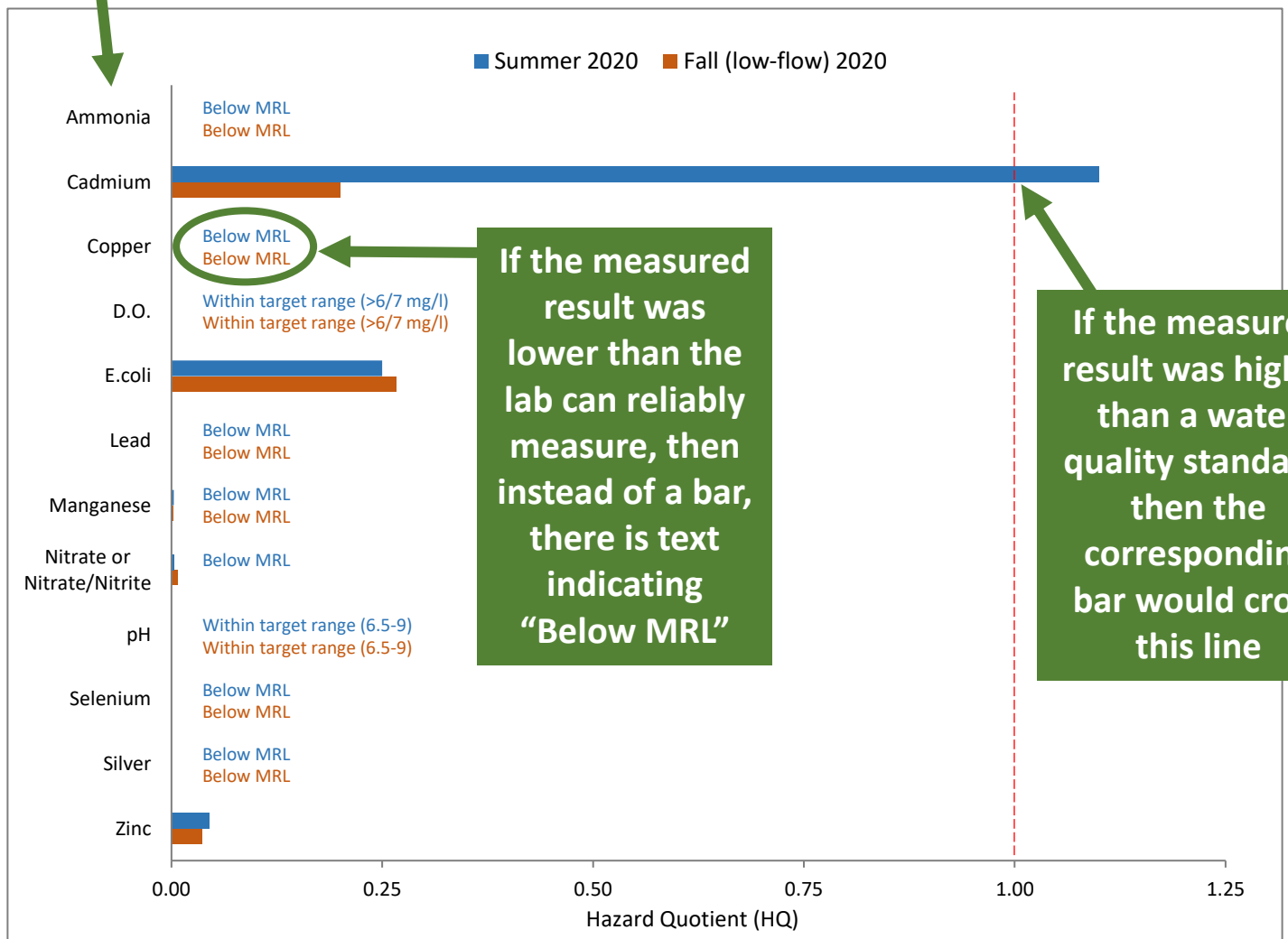
Water Quality Parameters

	Analyte	Unit	Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
			Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
River Creek	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	3.94	<0.1	2.13	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	.7	.62	.26	.62	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	6.77	<0.5	9.15	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	11.5			6.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	2			126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5			2.59	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	1.6			63.26	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l				10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	<0.02				0%
	pH		7.61	>		6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l				0.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l		0.18	<0.2	0.33	0%
	Zinc	ug/l		90.01	2.2	123.95	0%

the water quality standard that we are comparing results to

measured concentration

% of samples that exceed water quality standard

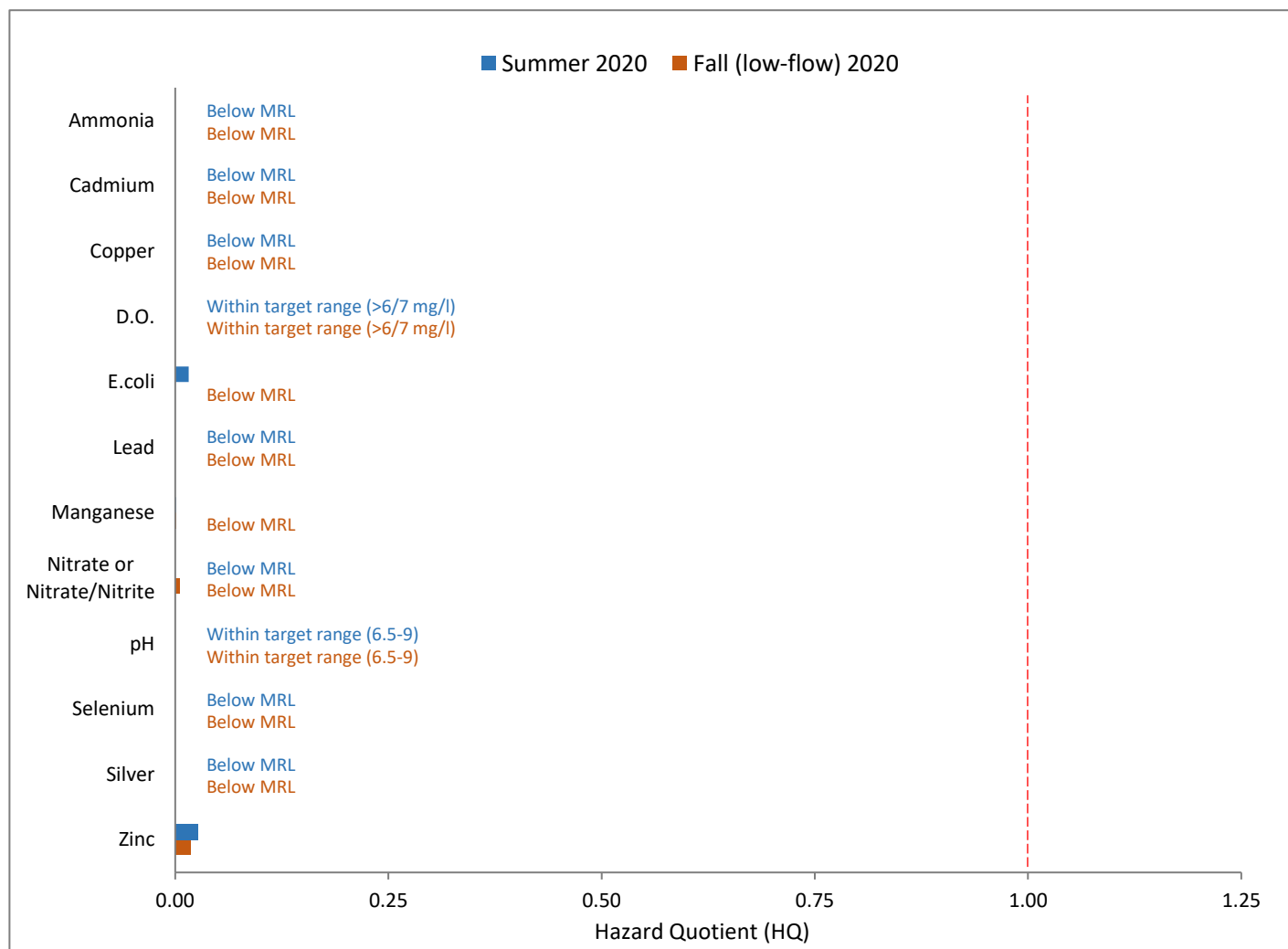


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Bear Creek (Animas)

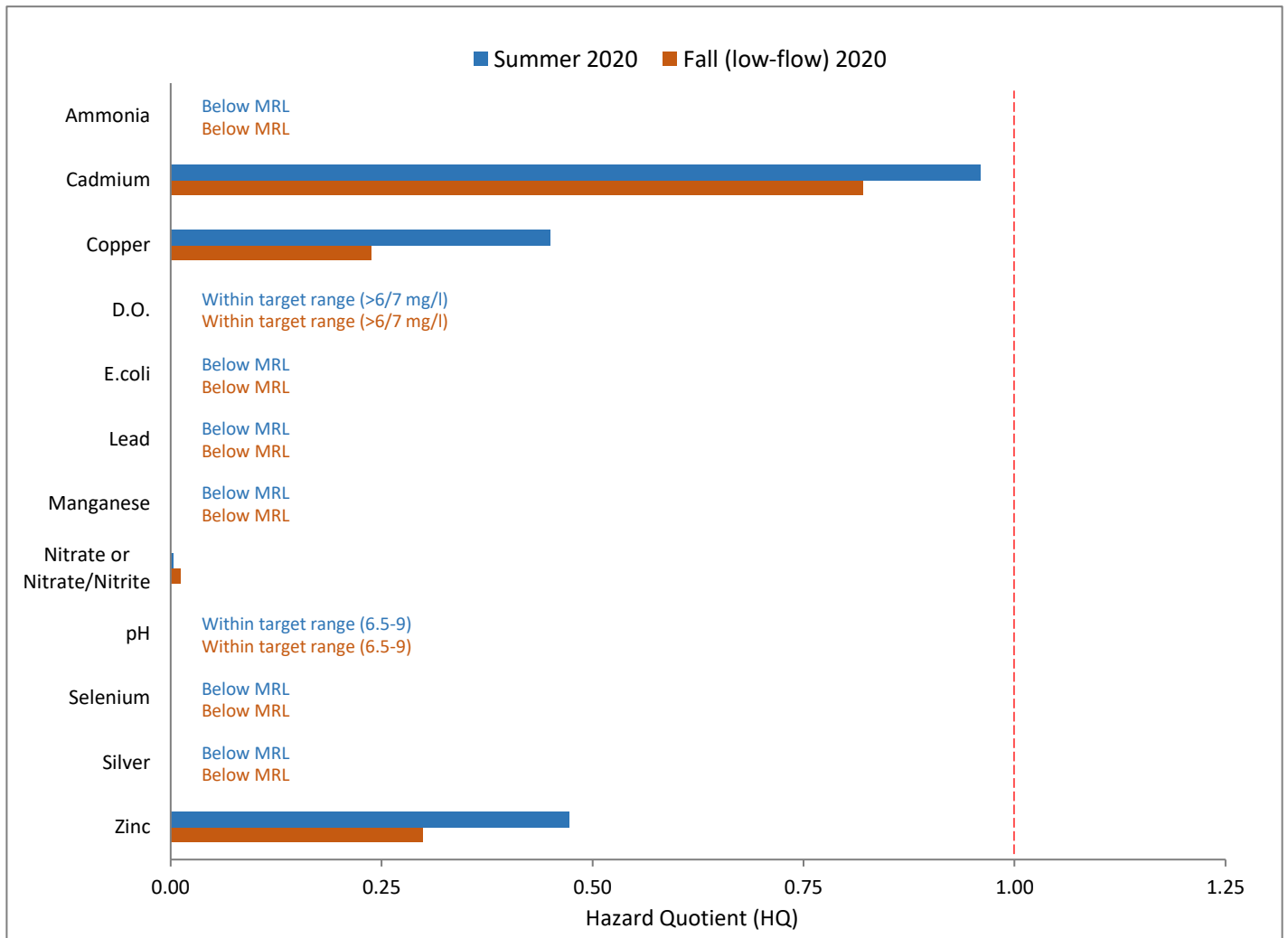
			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Bear - Animas	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	3.94	<0.1	2.13	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.33	<0.1	0.43	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	6.77	<0.5	9.15	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	11.5	> 6.0 / 7.0	12.5	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	<i>E. coli</i>	per 100ml	2	126	<1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	1.76	<0.5	2.59	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	1.6	1479	<0.5	1663	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l			0.053	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	<0.02	10			0%
	pH		7.61	>6.5 & <9	8.09	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.18	<0.2	0.33	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	2.4	90	2.2	124	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Boulder Creek

			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Boulder Creek	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	4.09	<0.1	1.91	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	0.2	0.21	0.3	0.37	0%
	Copper	ug/l	1.8	4.01	1.8	7.57	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	12.7	> 6.0 / 7.0	13.3	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	<1	126	<1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	0.89	<0.5	2.03	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	<0.5	1206	<0.5	1545	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l			0.116	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	0.036	10			0%
	pH		7.57	>6.5 & <9	8.16	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.06	<0.2	0.23	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	24.3	51	30.3	101	0%

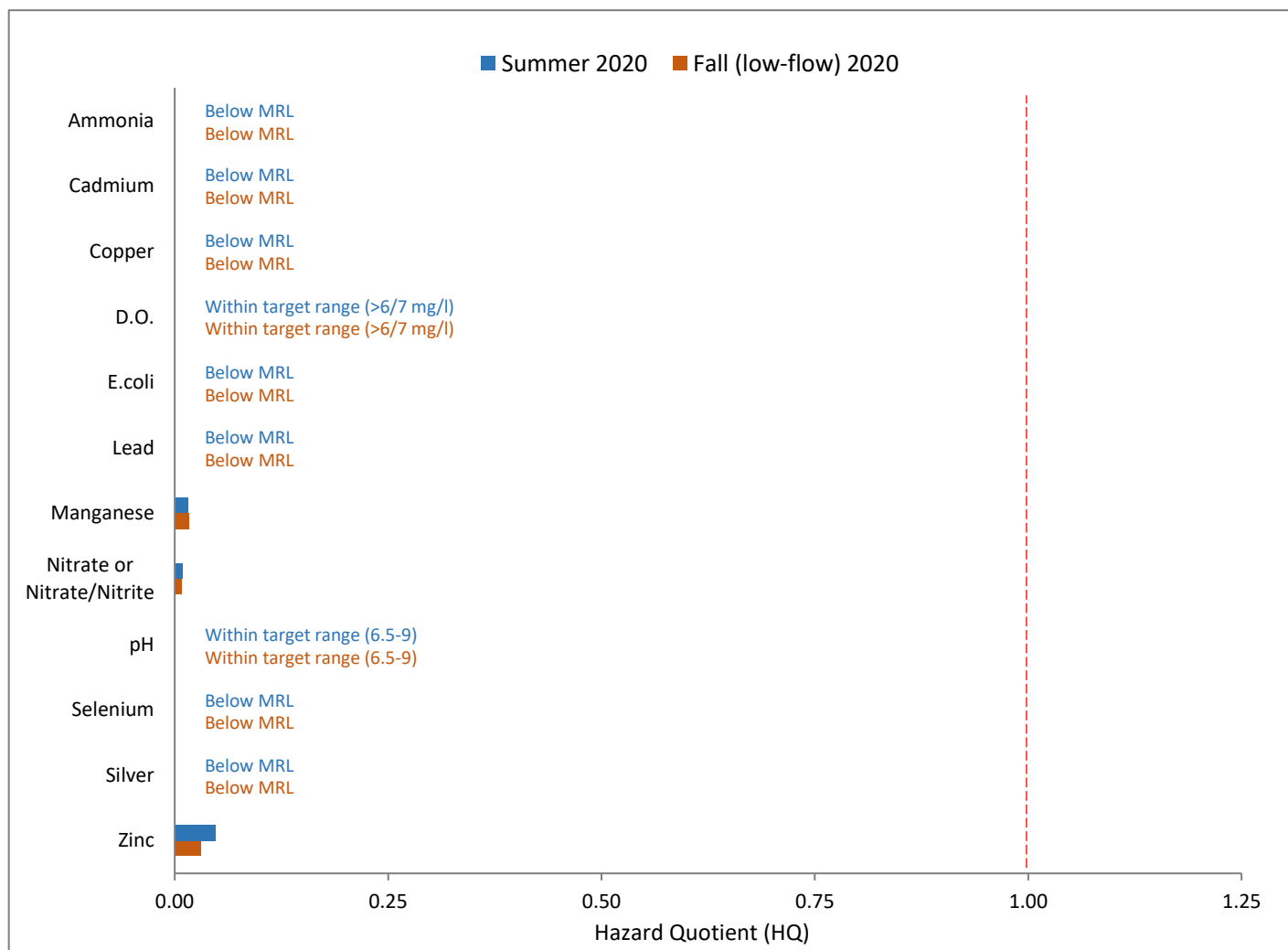


Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.

Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Cascade Creek - Upper

			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Cascade Creek - Upper	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	3.10	<0.1	1.63	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.32	<0.1	0.52	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	6.53	<0.5	11.33	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	12.2	> 6.0 / 7.0	11	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	<1	126	<1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	1.68	<0.5	3.39	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	22.9	1458	31	1808	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l			0.085	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	0.093	10			0%
	pH		7.82	>6.5 & <9	8.26	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.17	<0.2	0.51	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	4.1	86.6	4.8	156	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

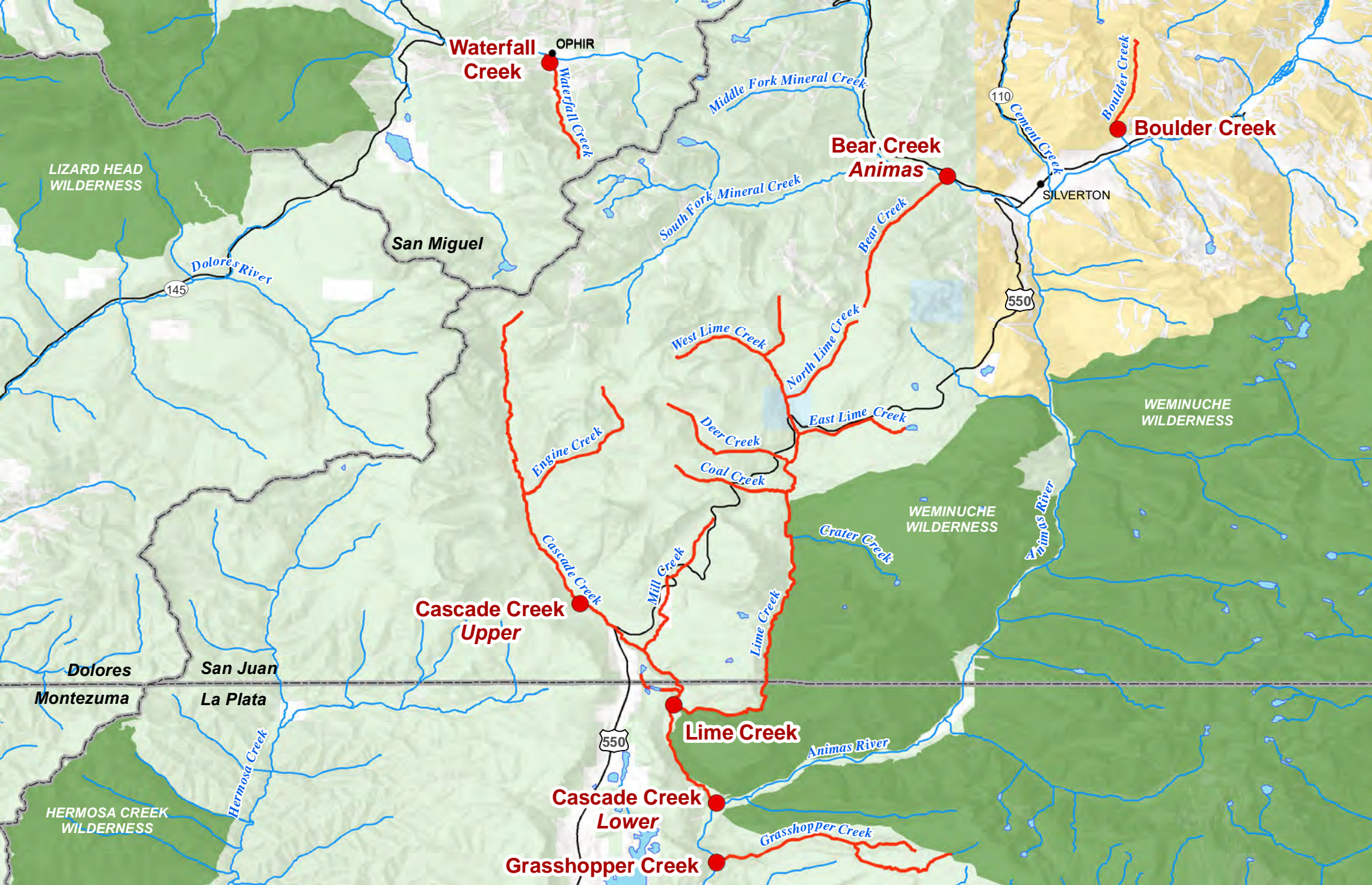
Initial Water Quality Analysis for OW Candidate Reaches

Monitoring Locations in La Plata County

March 2021

This “scorecard” for each location conveys the monitoring and water quality results from each sampling event in a tabular and visual format.

Note – this includes water quality data for Lime Creek, Lower Cascade Creek
and Grasshopper Creek



Candidate Reaches

Surface water reaches to be considered for designation as Outstanding Waters in La Plata, San Juan, and San Miguel County, Colorado

- Outstanding Waters Candidate Reaches
- NHD Streams
- Water Quality Monitoring Locations
- Wilderness Areas

Land Ownership

- BLM
- Private
- State
- State, County, City
- USFS

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 Mi



Site Name

Sample Periods

River Creek

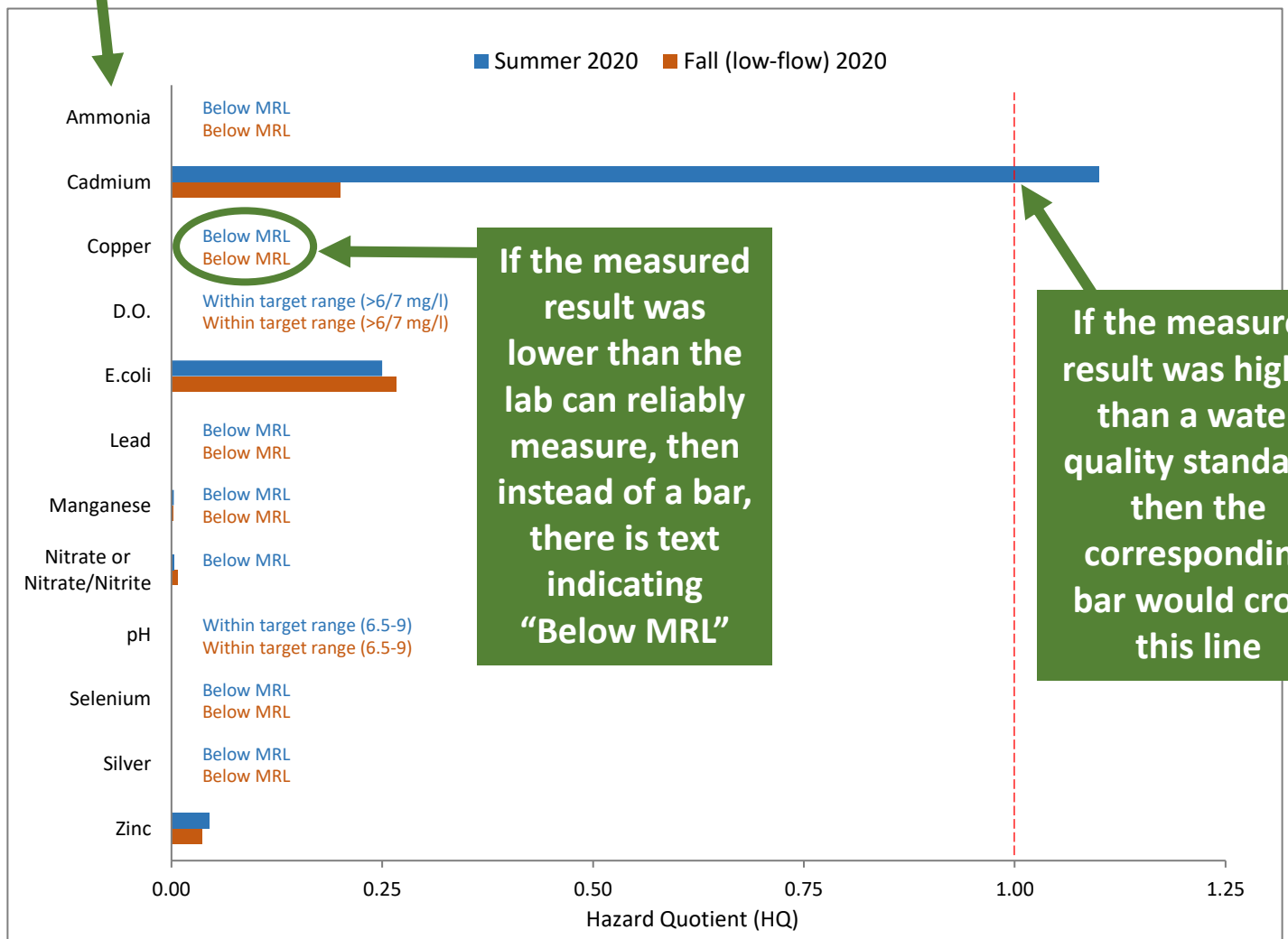
Water Quality Parameters

	Analyte	Unit	Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
			Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
River Creek	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	3.94	<0.1	2.13	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	.7	.62	.26	.62	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	6.77	<0.5	9.15	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	11.5			6.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	2			126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5			2.59	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	1.6			63.26	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l				10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	<0.02				0%
	pH		7.61	>		6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l				0.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l		0.18	<0.2	0.33	0%
	Zinc	ug/l		90.01	2.2	123.95	0%

the water quality standard that we are comparing results to

measured concentration

% of samples that exceed water quality standard

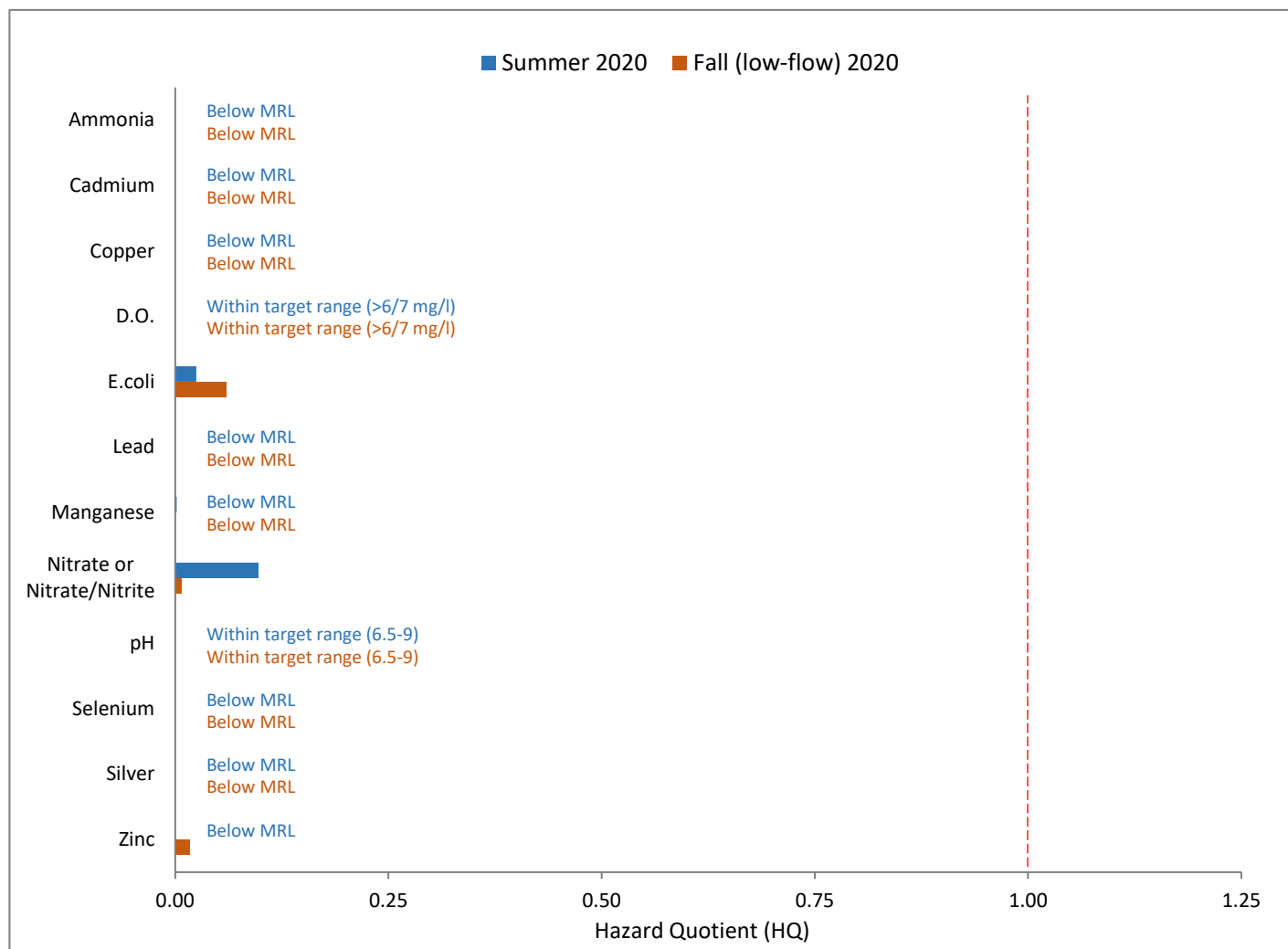


Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.

Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Cascade Creek - Lower

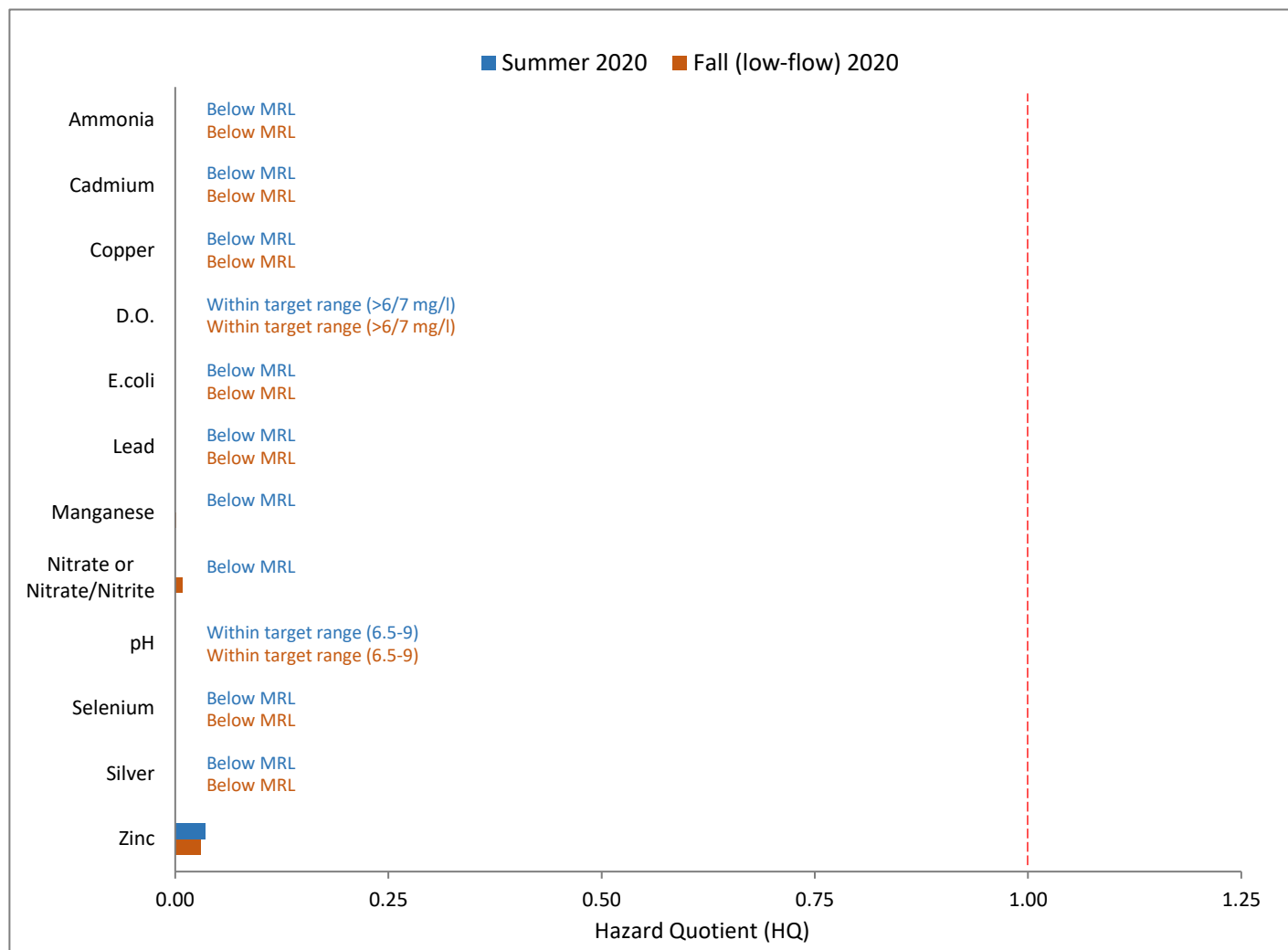
			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Cascade Creek - Lower	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	3.38	<0.1	1.17	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.39	<0.1	0.54	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	8.13	<0.5	11.77	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	12.6	> 6.0 / 7.0	11.3	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	<i>E. coli</i>	per 100ml	3.1	126	7.5	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	2.23	<0.5	3.56	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	2.8	1589	<0.5	1835	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l			0.076	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	0.969	10			0%
	pH		7.75	>6.5 & <9	8.46	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.26	<0.2	0.55	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	<2	109	2.8	162	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Grasshopper Creek

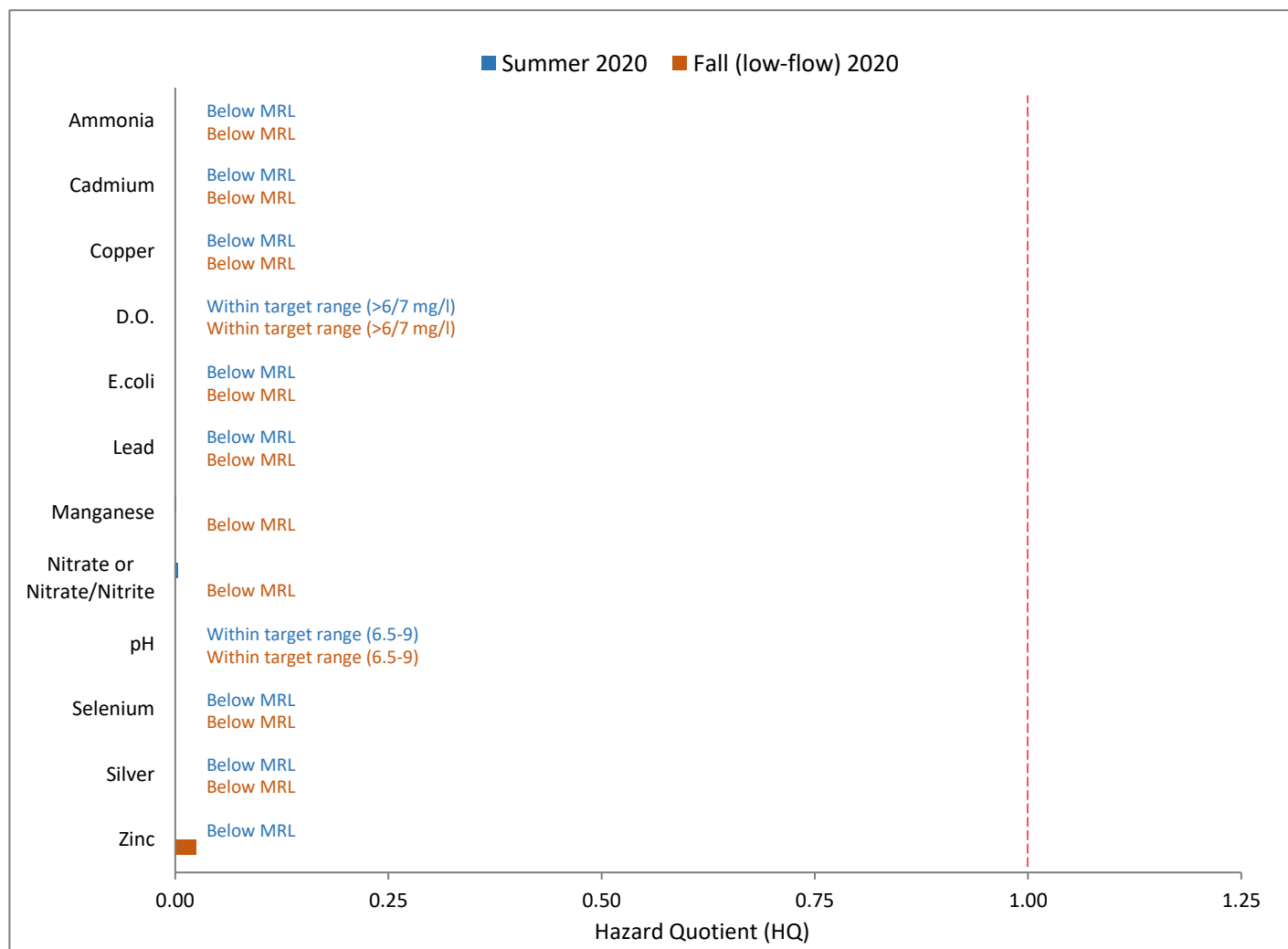
			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Grass-hopper Creek	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	4.13	<0.1	1.79	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.30	<0.1	0.38	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	6.14	<0.5	7.91	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	13.4	> 6.0 / 7.0	11.3	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	<i>E. coli</i>	per 100ml	<1	126	<1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	1.55	<0.5	2.15	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	<0.5	1424	1.7	1571	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l			0.087	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	<0.02	10			0%
	pH		7.56	>6.5 & <9	8.2	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.15	<0.2	0.25	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	2.8	81.1	3.2	106	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Lime Creek

			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Lime Creek	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	3.26	<0.1	0.89	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.34	<0.1	0.38	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	7.00	<0.5	7.96	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	12.4	> 6.0 / 7.0	10.7	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	<i>E. coli</i>	per 100ml	<1	126	<1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	1.84	<0.5	2.17	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	0.7	1499	<0.5	1575	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l			<0.02	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	0.029	10			0%
	pH		7.78	>6.5 & <9	8.62	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.20	<0.2	0.25	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	<2	93.3	2.6	107	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Initial Water Quality Analysis for OW Candidate Reaches

Monitoring Locations in San Miguel County

March 2021

This “scorecard” for each location conveys the monitoring and water quality results from each sampling event in a tabular and visual format.

Note – this includes water quality data for Waterfall Creek



Candidate Reaches

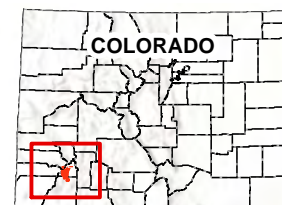
Surface water reaches to be considered for designation as Outstanding Waters in La Plata, San Juan, and San Miguel County, Colorado

- Outstanding Waters Candidate Reaches
- NHD Streams
- Water Quality Monitoring Locations
- Wilderness Areas

Land Ownership

- BLM
- Private
- State
- State, County, City
- USFS

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 5 Mi



Site Name

Sample Periods

River Creek

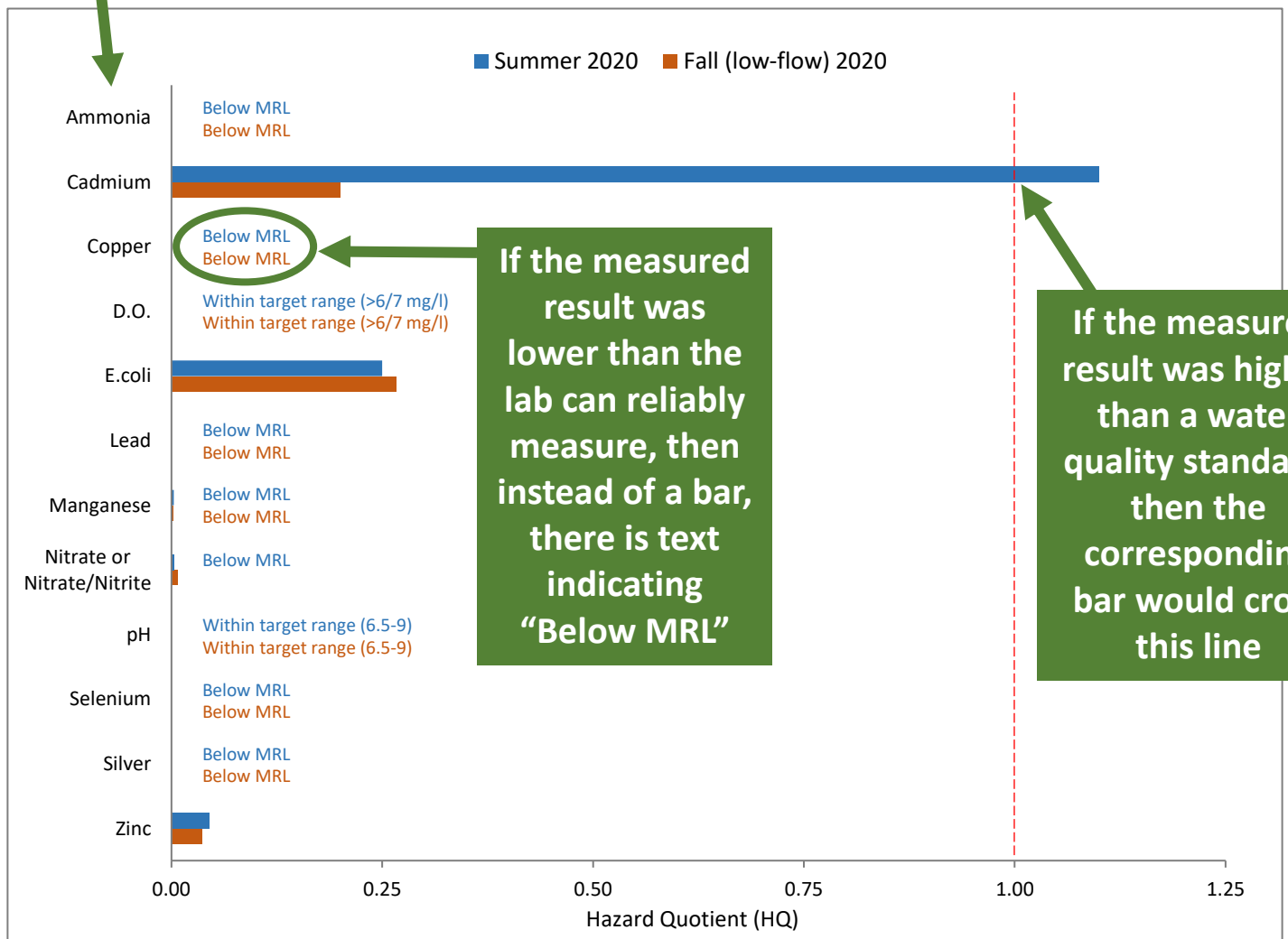
Water Quality Parameters

	Analyte	Unit	Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
			Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
River Creek	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	3.94	<0.1	2.13	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	.7	.62	.26	.62	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	6.77	<0.5	9.15	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	11.5			6.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	2			126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5			2.59	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	1.6			63.26	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l				10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	<0.02				0%
	pH		7.61	>		6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l				0.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l		0.18	<0.2	0.33	0%
	Zinc	ug/l		90.01	2.2	123.95	0%

the water quality standard that we are comparing results to

measured concentration

% of samples that exceed water quality standard

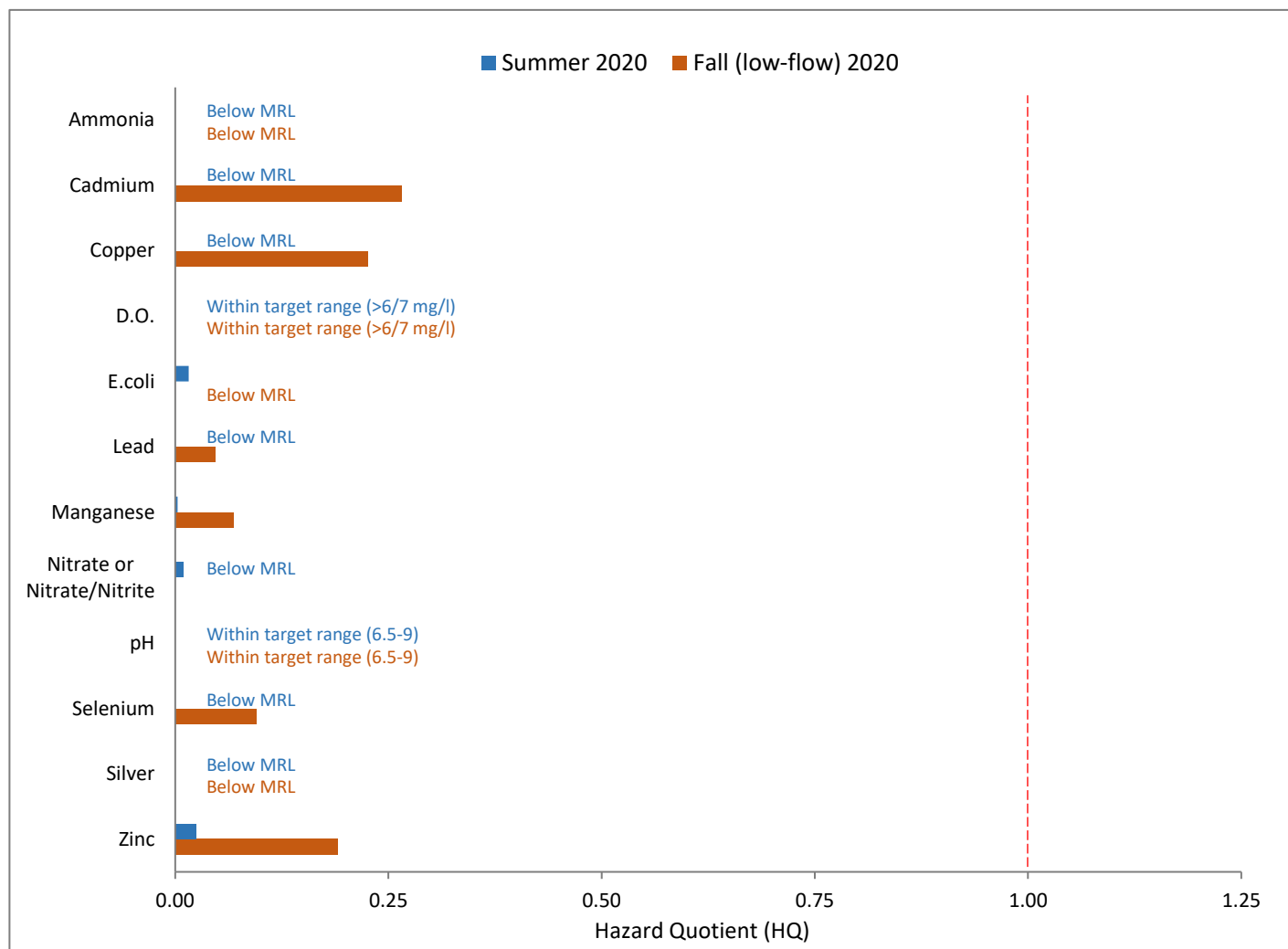


Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.

Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Waterfall Creek

			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Waterfall Creek	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	2.50	<0.2	6.04	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.53	0.319	1.20	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	11.44	6.6	29.28	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	11.4	> 6.0 / 7.0	10.28	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	2	126	<1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	3.43	0.51	10.94	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	5.2	1815	179	2618	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l			<0.1	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	0.095	10	<0.1	10	0%
	pH		7.98	>6.5 & <9	6.94	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	0.44	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.52	<0.5	3.47	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	3.8	157	81.7	428	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

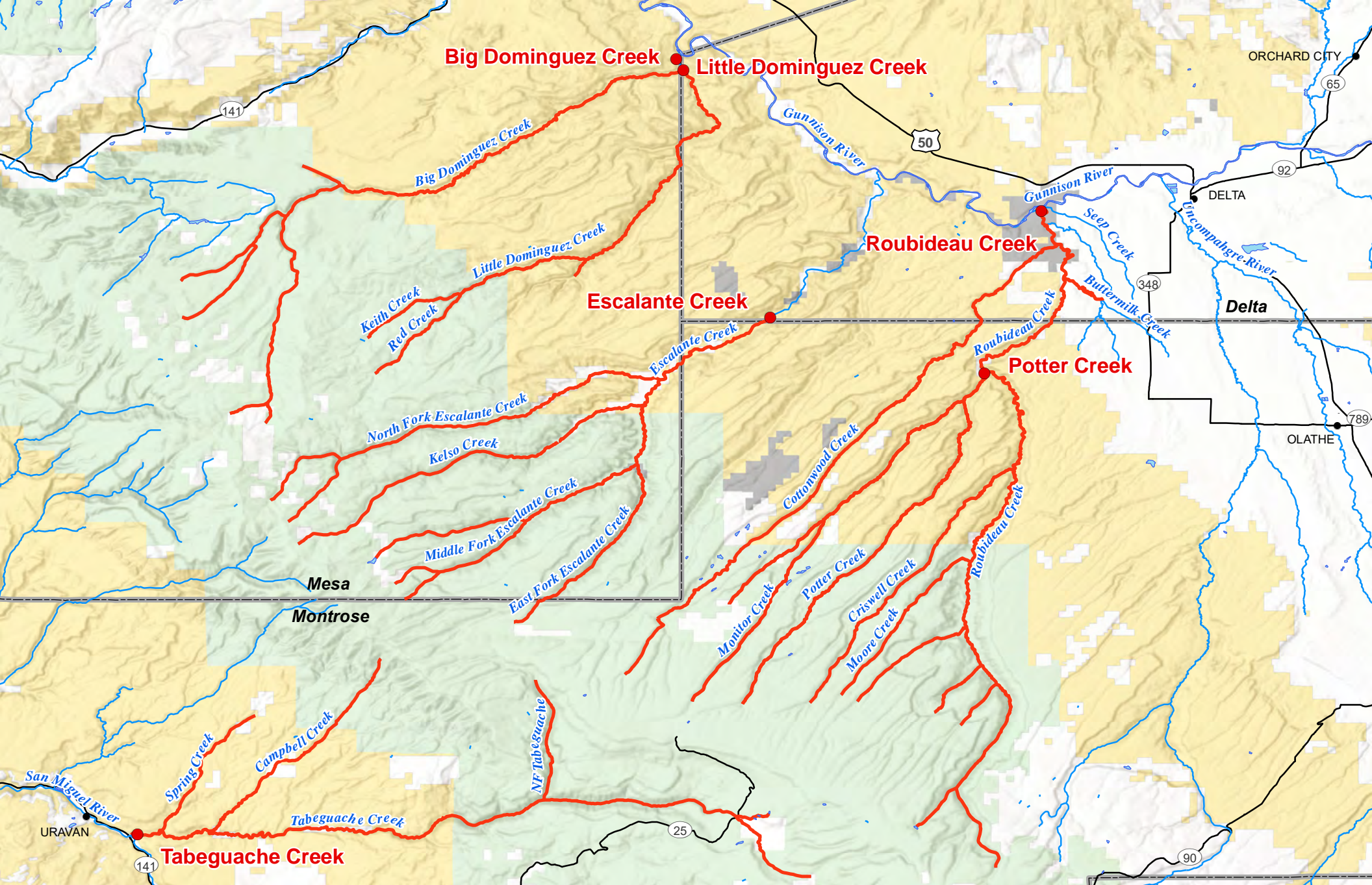
Initial Water Quality Analysis for OW Candidate Reaches

Monitoring Locations in Montrose County

March 2021

This “scorecard” for each location conveys the monitoring and water quality results from each sampling event in a tabular and visual format.

Note – this includes water quality data from Tabeguache Creek. This analysis does not currently include water quality results from Potter Creek. Data from Potter Creek has been collected but is not yet available.

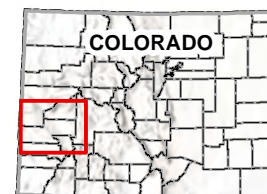
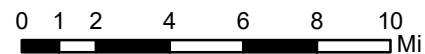


Candidate Reaches
Surface water reaches to be considered for designation as Outstanding Waters in Delta, Mesa, and Montrose County, Colorado

- Outstanding Waters Candidate Reaches
- NHD Streams
- Monitoring Locations
- Wilderness Areas

Land Ownership

- BLM
- State, County, City
- Private
- USFS



Site Name

Sample Periods

River Creek

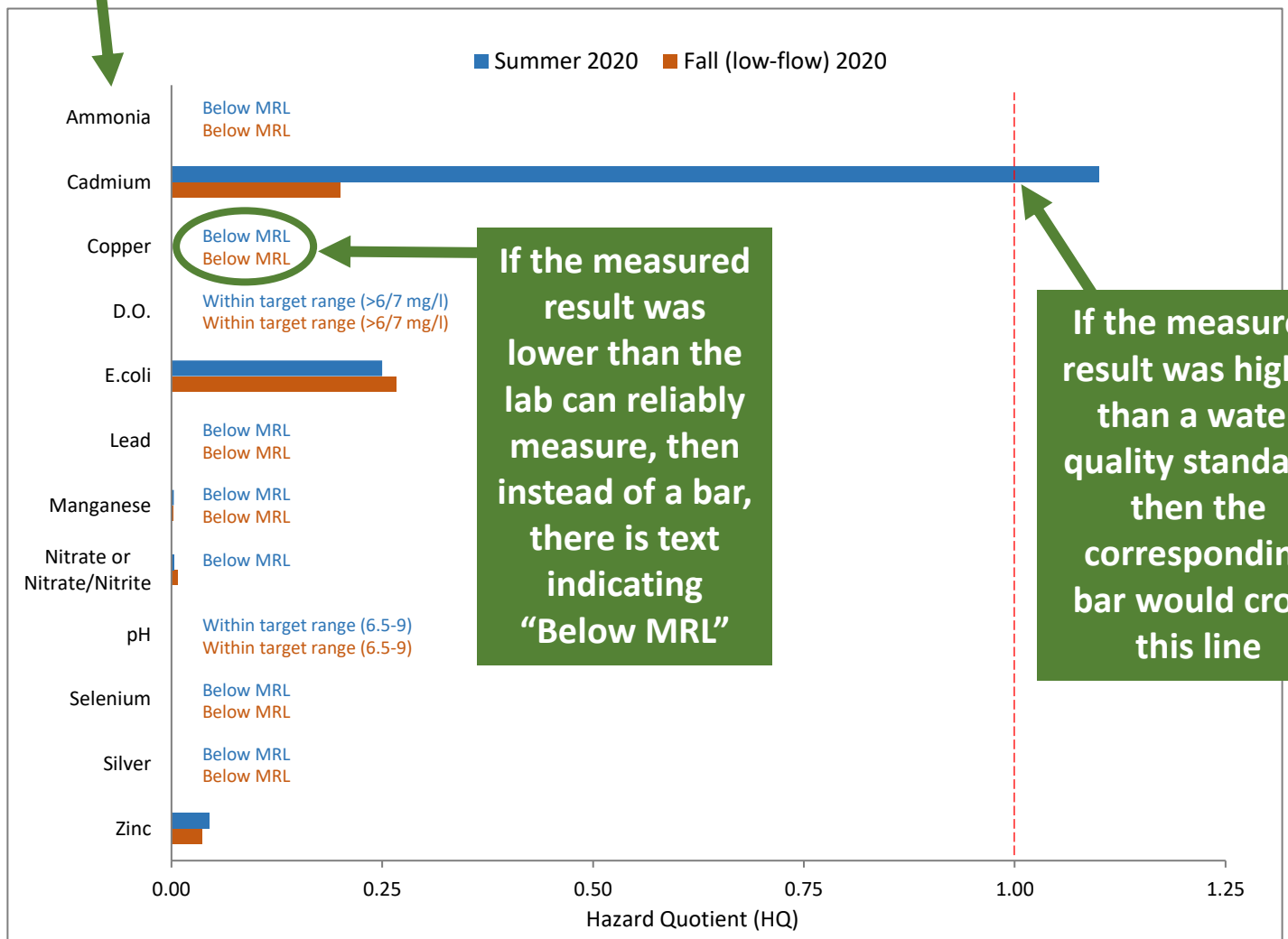
Water Quality Parameters

	Analyte	Unit	Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
			Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
River Creek	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	3.94	<0.1	2.13	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	.7	.62	.26	.62	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	6.77	<0.5	9.15	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	11.5			6.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	2			126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5			2.59	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	1.6			63.26	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l				10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	<0.02				0%
	pH		7.61	>		6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l				0.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l		0.18	<0.2	0.33	0%
	Zinc	ug/l		90.01	2.2	123.95	0%

the water quality standard that we are comparing results to

measured concentration

% of samples that exceed water quality standard

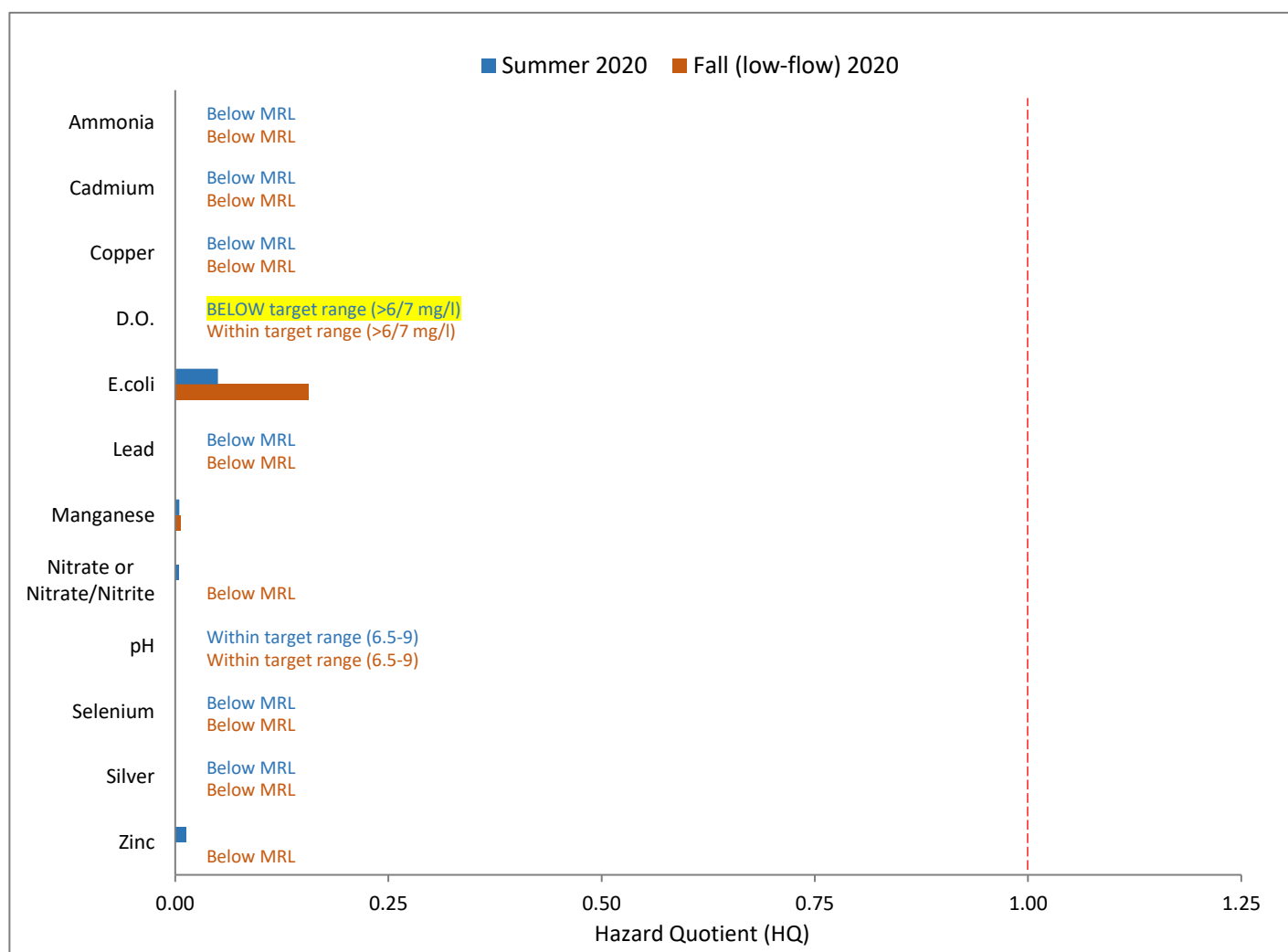


Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.

Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Tabeguache Creek

			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Tabeguache Creek	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	1.15	<0.1	1.15	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.88	<0.1	0.92	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	20.45	<0.5	21.65	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	6.19	> 6.0 / 7.0	7.36	> 6.0 / 7.0	50%
	E. coli	per 100ml	6.3	126	19.7	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	7.08	<0.5	7.59	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	10.7	2276	15.2	2327	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l			<0.02	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	0.037	10			0%
	pH		8.36	>6.5 & <9	8.46	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	1.69	<0.2	1.89	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	3.7	292	<2	310	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Initial Water Quality Analysis for OW Candidate Reaches

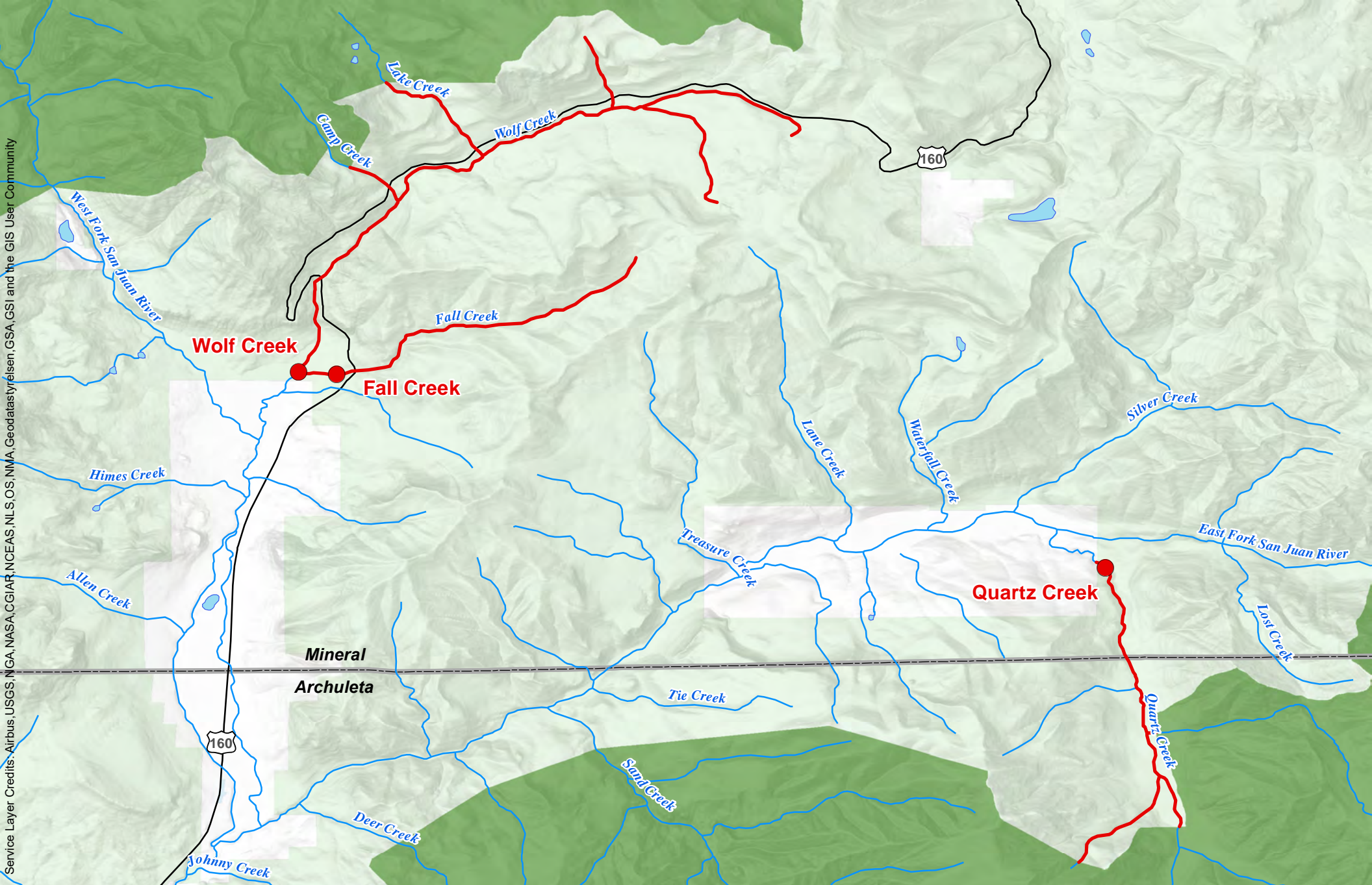
Monitoring Locations in Mineral County

March 2021

This “scorecard” for each location conveys the monitoring and water quality results from each sampling event in a tabular and visual format.

Note – this includes water quality data for Fall Creek, Wolf Creek and Quartz Creek

Service Layer Credits: Airbus, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, NCEAS, NL, S, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, GSA, GSI and the GIS User Community



Candidate Reaches

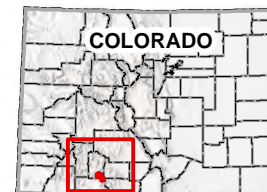
Surface water reaches to be considered for designation as Outstanding Waters in Mineral and Archuleta County, Colorado

- Outstanding Waters Candidate Reaches
- NHD Streams
- Monitoring Locations
- Wilderness Areas

Land Ownership

- Private
- USFS
- State

0 0.5 1 2 3 Mi



Site Name

Sample Periods

River Creek

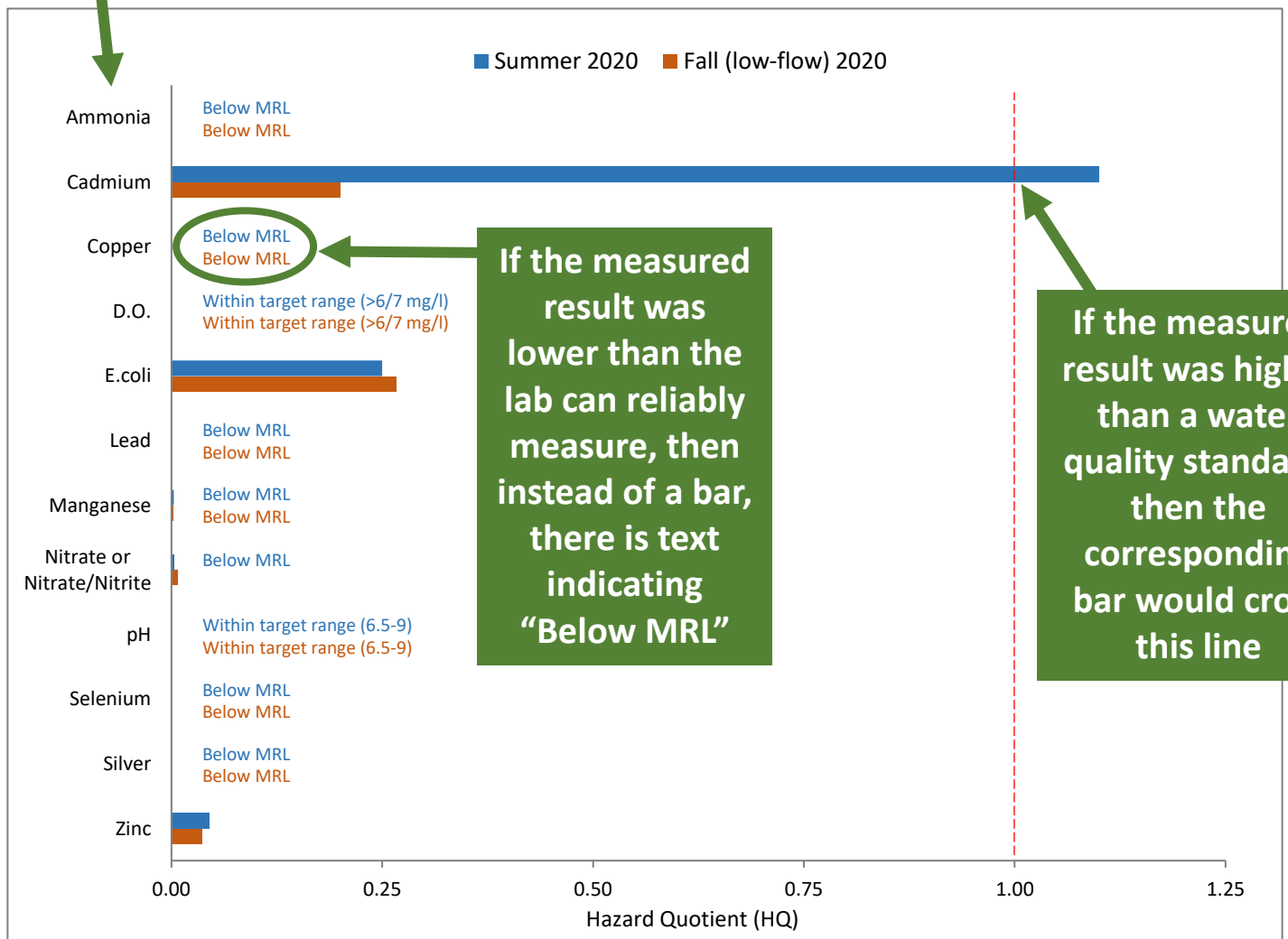
Water Quality Parameters

	Analyte	Unit	Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
			Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
River Creek	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	3.94	<0.1	2.13	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	.7	.62	.26	.62	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	6.77	<0.5	9.15	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	11.5			6.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	2			126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5			2.59	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	1.6			63.26	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l				10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	<0.02				0%
	pH		7.61	>		6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l				0.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l		0.18	<0.2	0.33	0%
	Zinc	ug/l		90.01	2.2	123.95	0%

the water quality standard that we are comparing results to

measured concentration

% of samples that exceed water quality standard

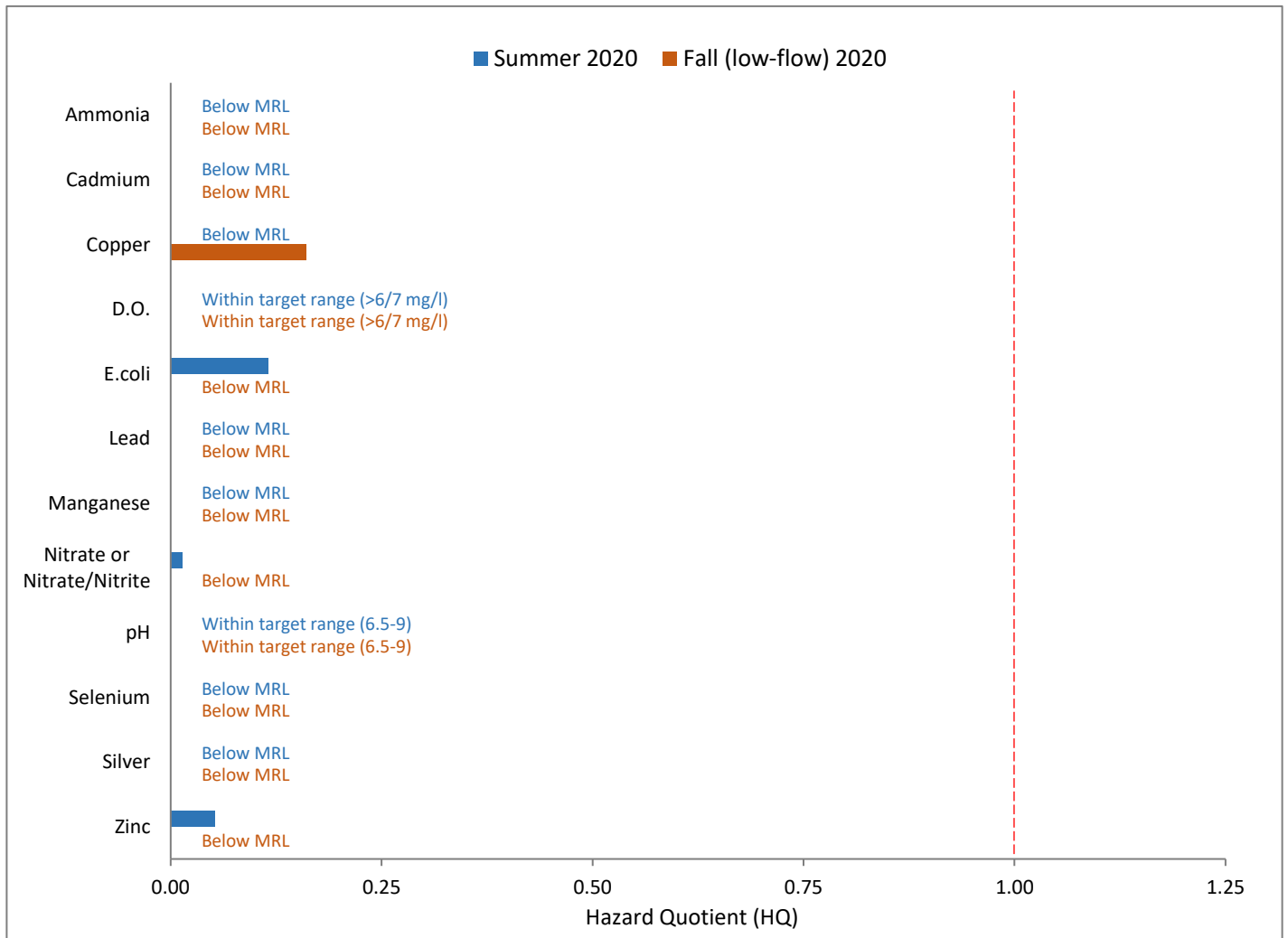


Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.

Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Fall Creek

			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Fall Creek	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	4.63	<0.1	5.04	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.17	<0.1	0.20	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	3.16	0.6	3.73	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	9.6	> 6.0 / 7.0	8.9	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	14.5	126	<1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	0.65	<0.5	0.81	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	<0.5	1098	<0.5	1173	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l			<0.02	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	0.136	10			0%
	pH		7.43	>6.5 & <9	7.31	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.04	<0.2	0.06	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	2.1	39.9	<2	47.8	0%

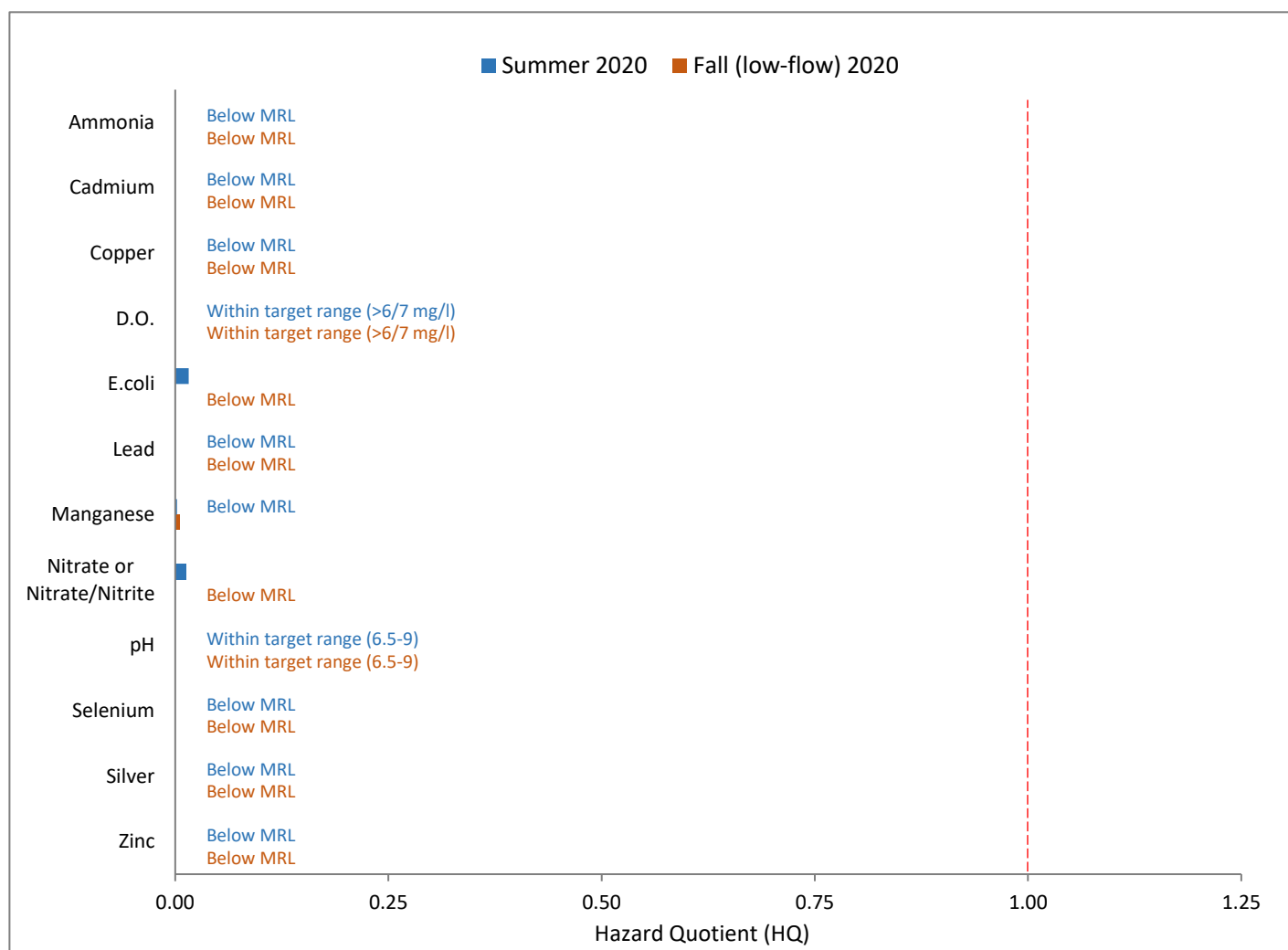


Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.

Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Quartz Creek

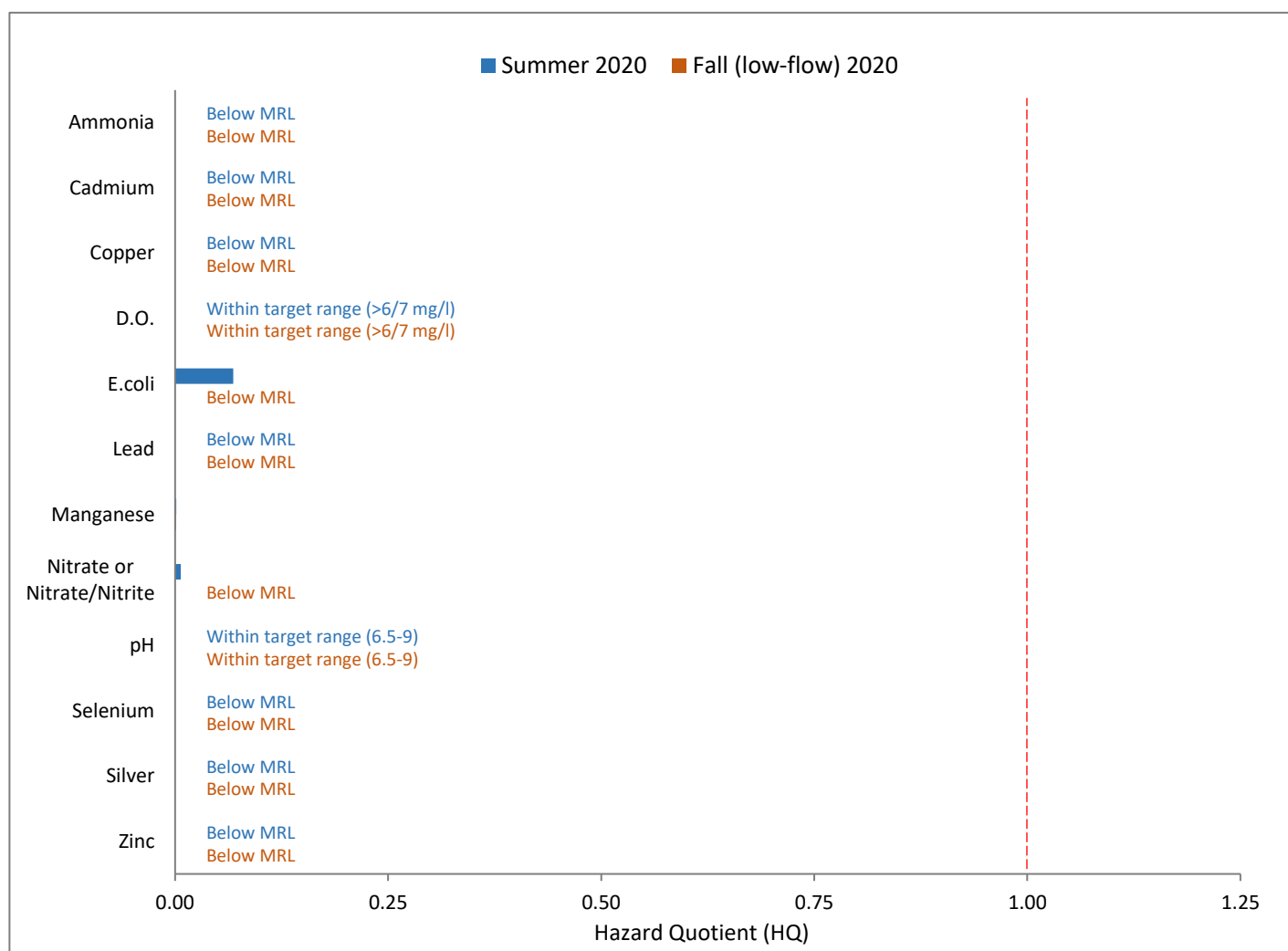
			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Quartz Creek	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	5.78	<0.1	1.71	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.26	<0.1	0.31	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	5.14	<0.5	6.24	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	10.4	> 6.0 / 7.0	10.1	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	2	126	<1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	1.23	<0.5	1.58	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	2.8	1328	7.4	1433	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l			<0.02	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	0.124	10			0%
	pH		6.51	>6.5 & <9	8.23	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.10	<0.2	0.15	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	<2	67.1	<2	82.5	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Wolf Creek

			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Wolf Creek	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	2.33	<0.1	3.14	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.12	<0.1	0.14	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	2.13	<0.5	2.57	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	11.1	> 6.0 / 7.0	10.9	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	8.6	126	<1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	0.39	<0.5	0.50	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	1.2	942	0.7	1014	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l			<0.02	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	0.066	10			0%
	pH		8.03	>6.5 & <9	7.81	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.02	<0.2	0.03	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	<2	26.22	<2	32.10	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Initial Water Quality Analysis for OW Candidate Reaches

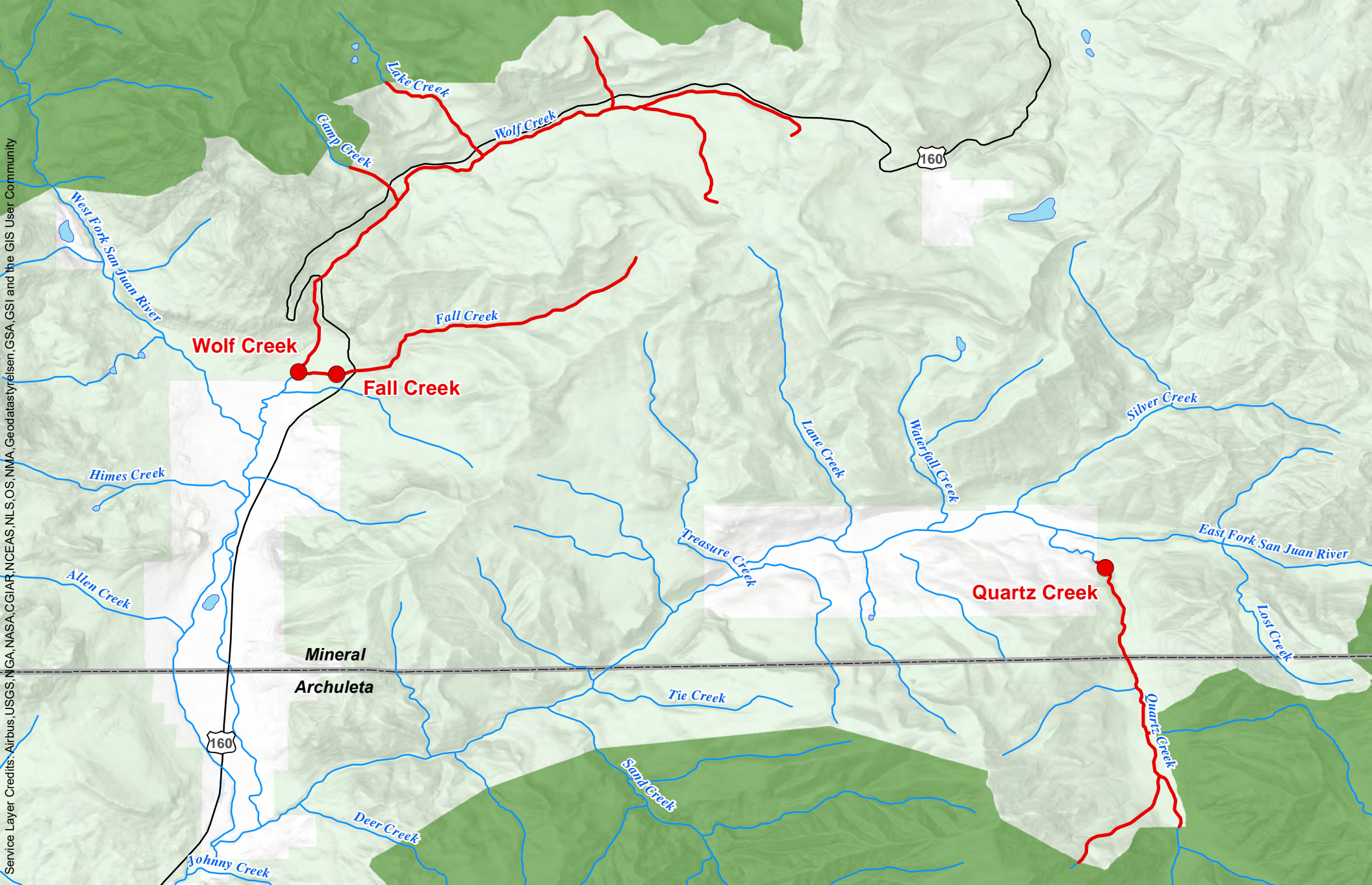
Monitoring Locations in Archuleta County

March 2021

This “scorecard” for each location conveys the monitoring and water quality results from each sampling event in a tabular and visual format.

Note – this includes water quality data for Quartz Creek

Service Layer Credits: Airbus, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, NCEAS, NL, S, OS, NMA, Geodatastyrelsen, GSA, GSI and the GIS User Community



Candidate Reaches

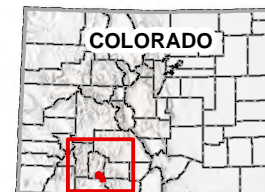
Surface water reaches to be considered for designation as Outstanding Waters in Mineral and Archuleta County, Colorado

- Outstanding Waters Candidate Reaches
- NHD Streams
- Monitoring Locations
- Wilderness Areas

Land Ownership

- Private
- USFS
- State

0 0.5 1 2 3 Mi



Site Name

Sample Periods

River Creek

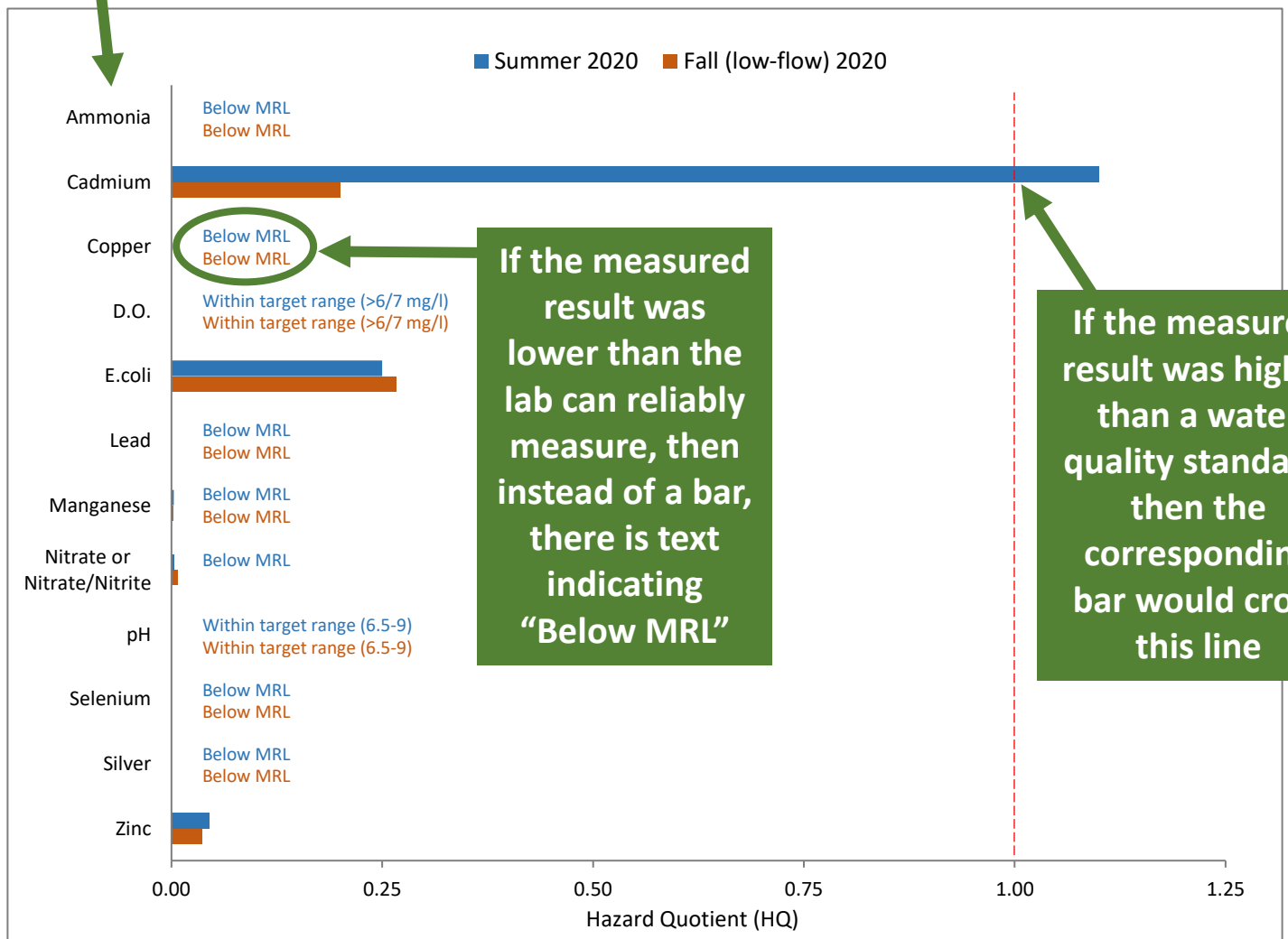
Water Quality Parameters

	Analyte	Unit	Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
			Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
River Creek	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	3.94	<0.1	2.13	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	.7	.62	.26	.62	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	6.77	<0.5	9.15	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	11.5			6.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	2			126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5			2.59	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	1.6			63.26	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l				10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	<0.02				0%
	pH		7.61	>		6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l				0.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l		0.18	<0.2	0.33	0%
	Zinc	ug/l		90.01	2.2	123.95	0%

the water quality standard that we are comparing results to

measured concentration

% of samples that exceed water quality standard

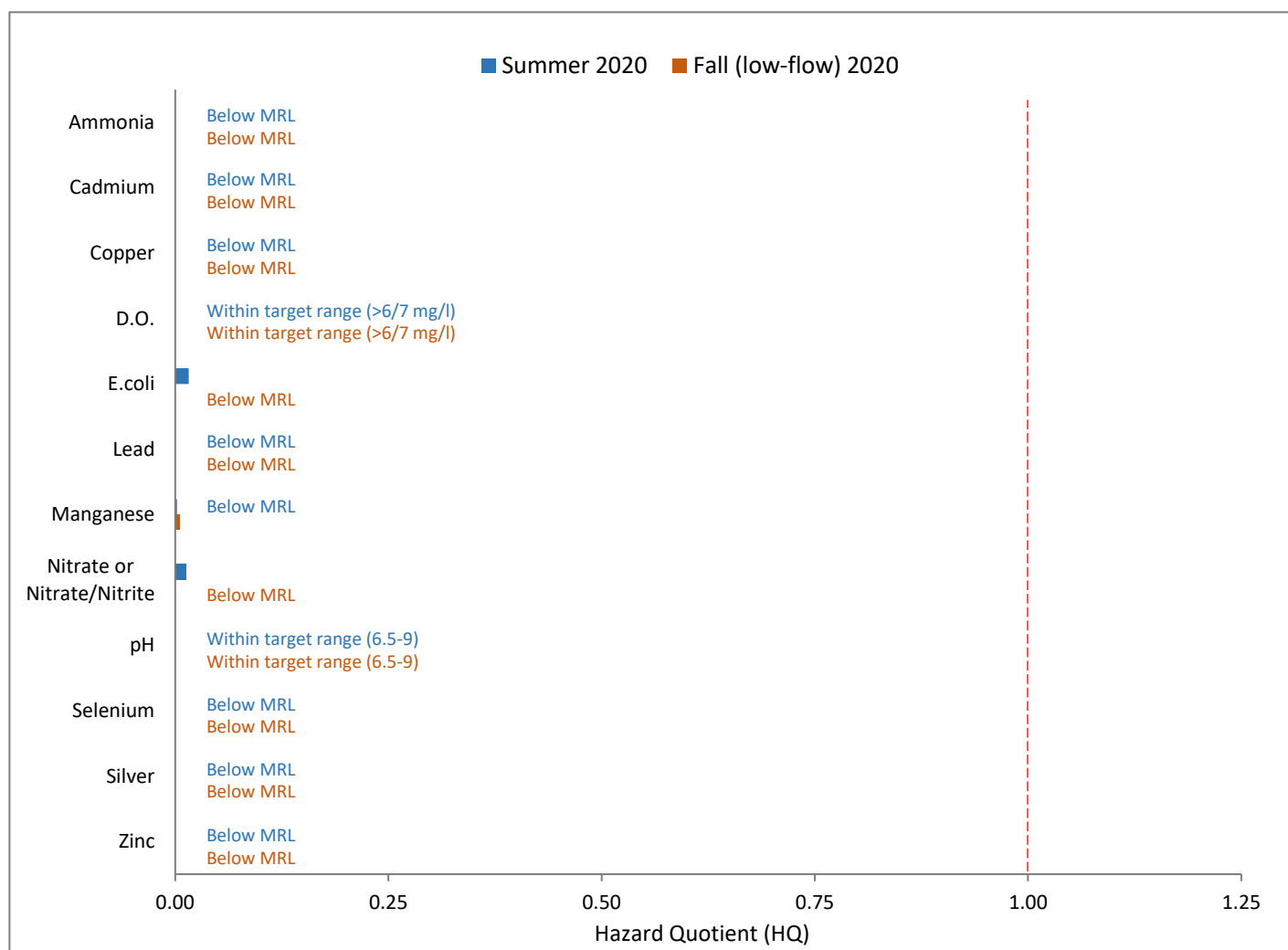


Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.

Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

Quartz Creek

			Summer 2020		Fall (low-flow) 2020		% Exceed
Quartz Creek	Analyte	Unit	Result	Water quality standard	Result	Water quality standard	
	Ammonia	mg/l	<0.1	5.78	<0.1	1.71	0%
	Cadmium	ug/l	<0.1	0.26	<0.1	0.31	0%
	Copper	ug/l	<0.5	5.14	<0.5	6.24	0%
	D.O.	mg/l	10.4	> 6.0 / 7.0	10.1	> 6.0 / 7.0	0%
	E. coli	per 100ml	2	126	<1	126	0%
	Lead	ug/l	<0.5	1.23	<0.5	1.58	0%
	Manganese	ug/l	2.8	1328	7.4	1433	0%
	Nitrate	mg/l			<0.02	10	0%
	Nitrate/Nitrite	mg/l	0.124	10			0%
	pH		6.51	>6.5 & <9	8.23	>6.5 & <9	0%
	Selenium	ug/l	<1	4.60	<1	4.60	0%
	Silver	ug/l	<0.2	0.10	<0.2	0.15	0%
	Zinc	ug/l	<2	67.1	<2	82.5	0%



Minimum Reporting Level (MRL) is smallest measured concentration of a substance that can be reliably measured for the analytical method used.
Hazard Quotient is the ratio of a measured concentration to a water quality standard. Values greater than 1 indicate an exceedance of a water quality standard.

KOGOVSEK & ASSOCIATES, INC.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwestern Water Conservation District Board

FROM: Christine Arbogast

DATE: June 3, 2009

RE: Board report

I regret that I will not be able to join you in person for your upcoming board meeting, but look forward to speaking with you remotely. In the meantime, I hope this written report is helpful.

Now that the Administration's detailed budget has been released, the FY '22 appropriations process is now underway. Appropriations in both the House and the Senate are accepting earmark requests, now officially referred to as congressionally directed spending. The amount of funding available for earmarks is extremely limited (1 percent of the entire federal budget). However, appropriators still have the opportunity to "plus up" of increase spending in certain accounts, including the Bureau of Reclamation.

This "plus up" process is actually part of a two-track strategy of Western water interests to secure a meaningful investment in Western water infrastructure.

A coalition of groups led by the National Water Resources Association and the Family Farm Alliance is working hard to get a Reclamation title in any broader infrastructure package. The prospects for this are very uncertain. Senator Joe Manchin, chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, has yet to ask Senate leadership for such a title. Same holds true of Chairman Grijalva in the House. The Coalition is working on member-to-member meetings with the two Chairmen with the hope that their colleagues can convince them to be more aggressive.

The other hurdle for a broad infrastructure package is how to pay for it. While there is some movement between the White House and congressional Republicans, there is not an agreement on the horizon.

And so, a significant plus up in the appropriations process is an alternative way to obtain infrastructure investment for Reclamation and the West. NWRA has sent a letter asking for a \$1 billion addition to the Administration's budget. While this falls short of the multi-year \$19 billion Coalition request, it would be a meaningful annual addition to the Bureau's budget.

In the meantime, funding measures for clean and safe drinking water programs (the state revolving funds) are seeing good movement. They are expected to ultimately pass with or without the giant infrastructure package. This is good news for smaller communities, who can access loan and/or grants from the revolving funds through our Colorado Water and Power Development Authority.

I will continue to keep you posted as things evolve on infrastructure funding for Reclamation. This is clearly a high priority and is further highlighted by the severe drought conditions, including on Colorado's Western slope.

I am working closing with the Dolores Water Conservancy District as well as the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe on emergency drought relief in that area, including strategy development and initial meetings with BoR area office, which is working on the development of assistance options.

Forest health and management, wildfire suppression and wildfire mitigation funding are also in the infrastructure discussion as well as in the appropriations process. I am working closely with our two Senators and Congressman Joe Neguse, chair of the House public lands subcommittee, on these issues, both short and long term.

On the Administration political appointment front, Tanya Trujillo's nomination to be Assistant Secretary for Water and Science is moving forward. The Energy and Natural Resources Committee in the Senate voted her nomination out favorably on a bipartisan voice vote. When the Senate returns from its recess, her final confirmation is expected on the Senate floor, likely also by a voice vote.

It is expected that the nomination for Commissioner of Reclamation will be announced soon after that. Camille Camlimlum Touton is expected to get that nomination.

Finally, H.R. 803 which contains the DeGette wilderness bill and the CORE Act has still seen no movement in the Senate Committee, although several conservation groups have been asking for action.

I look forward to speaking with you next week.



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters in the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
West Building – 841 East Second Avenue
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
(970) 247-1302

Dear Senators Bennet and Hickenlooper:

The House of Representatives' passage of H.R. 803 prompts us to respectfully request further discussion specifically regarding the provisions of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 2021. H.R. 803, now titled the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act, has been referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Like you, we strongly support measures which protect those most pristine and precious areas of our state that are unique in their character and define Colorado's beauty.

It is important in doing so to give serious consideration to the potential impacts of wilderness designation, as you have done in developing and supporting other public lands protection measures. We ask that you apply that same consideration to the proposed protections in the Colorado Wilderness Act before proceeding to support committee action on H.R. 803 as recently referred to the Senate.

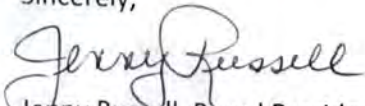
We are among just a handful of stakeholders who would appreciate and benefit from a collaborative approach to the Colorado Wilderness Act title of H.R. 803. A thorough discussion of boundaries, water rights and each area's distinctive characteristics which might call for certain management provisions is warranted and has not occurred in a meaningful way to date.

We will participate in any format you choose for discussion: by individual proposed designation or as a broader look at the proposals, or a combination of both.

It is our hope that input from diverse stakeholders, including the Southwestern Water Conservation District, will result in a legislative product which enjoys broad support and serves Colorado well.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jenny Russell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jenny Russell, Board President
Southwestern Water Conservation District

Southwestern Water Conservation District
Budget Comparison Summary
January through April 2021

	Jan - Apr 21	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
4 · SWCD INCOME				
4.1 · Property Tax	629,183	1,588,850	(959,667)	40%
4.2 · Specific Ownership Tax	36,690	130,000	(93,310)	28%
4.3 · Interest, PILT & Other Taxes	11,832	35,500	(23,668)	33%
4.4 · Other Income				
4.4.1 · Interest Earned	14,500	40,000	(25,500)	36%
4.4.2 · Loan Interest	0	139	(139)	0%
4.4.3 · Miscellaneous Income	0	5,000	(5,000)	0%
4.4.4 · Water Seminar Registration	0	2,000	(2,000)	0%
4.4.5 · ALP/WIP Cost Sharing	390	100	290	390%
4.4.7 · SJRBRIP Water User Committee	50,873	50,873	0	100%
4.4.8 · Stream Gaging Reimbursement	23,418	28,656	(5,238)	82%
4.4.9 · Water Info Program	41,965	35,100	6,865	120%
	WIP workshop revenue- \$9,730			
Total 4.4 · Other Income	131,146	161,868	(30,722)	81%
4.5 · County Treasurer Fees	(18,611)	(52,631)	34,020	35%
Total 4 · SWCD INCOME	790,241	1,863,588	(1,073,347)	42%
Total Income	790,241	1,863,588	(1,073,347)	42%
Gross Profit	790,241	1,863,588	(1,073,347)	42%
Expense				
5 · SWCD EXPENSES				
5.1 · DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION				
5.1.1 · Management				
51101 · Wages - Executive Director	0	0	0	0%
51102 · Wages - General Manager	0	130,000	(130,000)	0%
51103 · Wages - Programs Coordinator	16,302	50,393	(34,091)	32%
51104 · Wages - Overtime, Pgm Coord.	264	0	264	100%
51105 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	1,308	16,235	(14,927)	8%
51106 · Wages - Retirement Benefit	0	9,020	(9,020)	0%
51107 · Wages - Health & Life Insurance	5,246	29,350	(24,104)	18%
51108 · Wages - GM Bonus	0	0	0	0%
51109 · Wages - Coordinator Bonus	0	0	0	0%
Total 5.1.1 · Management	23,119	234,998	(211,879)	10%
5.1.2 · Legal				
51201 · Attorney Fees - General Counsel	56,136	180,000	(123,864)	31%
51202 · Travel Exps - General Counsel	0	15,000	(15,000)	0%
51203 · Litigation - General Counsel	11,253	40,000	(28,747)	28%
51204 · Co River Litigation- General Co	0	40,000	(40,000)	0%
51205 · Attorney Fees - Special Counsel	8,271	45,000	(36,729)	18%
51206 · Attorney Exps - Special Counsel	0	5,000	(5,000)	0%
Total 5.1.2 · Legal	75,660	325,000	(249,340)	23%
5.1.3 · Engineering				
51301 · Engineering - General	5,693	45,000	(39,308)	13%
51302 · Engineering - Special Projects	5,943	25,000	(19,057)	24%
Total 5.1.3 · Engineering	11,636	70,000	(58,364)	17%
5.1.4 · Board of Directors				
51401 · Director Fees	7,550	20,000	(12,450)	38%
51402 · Director Travel	196	11,000	(10,805)	2%
Total 5.1.4 · Board of Directors	7,746	31,000	(23,255)	25%

Southwestern Water Conservation District
Budget Comparison Summary
January through April 2021

	Jan - Apr 21	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
5.1.5 · Office Expenses				
51501 · Accounting	1,903	5,000	(3,097)	38%
51502 · Audit	0	8,600	(8,600)	0%
51503 · Capital Outlay	759	5,000	(4,241)	15%
51504 · Casual Labor	0	200	(200)	0%
51505 · Dues and Memberships	1,238	1,900	(663)	65%
51506 · Equipment Leasing	600	1,800	(1,200)	33%
51507 · Insurance - General Liability	7,577	7,300	277	104%
51508 · Legal Notices	0	600	(600)	0%
51509 · Manager's Discretionary Budget	0	2,000	(2,000)	0%
51510 · Meeting Expenses	0	5,000	(5,000)	0%
51511 · Miscellaneous	18	500	(482)	4%
51512 · Office Exps	1,881	6,000	(4,119)	31%
51513 · Postage	1,306	1,500	(194)	87%
51514 · Registration Fees	2,449	8,500	(6,051)	29%
51515 · Rent	9,956	31,412	(21,456)	32%
51516 · Staff Training/Development	0	2,500	(2,500)	0%
51517 · Staff Travel	44	20,000	(19,956)	0%
51518 · Telecommunication	807	3,500	(2,693)	23%
Total 5.1.5 · Office Expenses	28,537	111,312	(82,775)	26%
Total 5.1 · DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION	146,698	772,310	(625,612)	19%
5.2 · WATER SUPPLY - QUANTITY QUALITY				
5.2.1 · Regional, Interstate Planning				
52101 · SWCD Water Defense	0	0	0	0%
52102 · SWCD Water Development	0	0	0	0%
52103 · Water Bank Working Group	0	0	0	0%
52104 · Technical Other Expenses	28,926	50,000	(21,074)	58%
(see "Technical Other" Detail included in this report)				
Total 5.2.1 · Regional, Interstate Planning	28,926	50,000	(21,074)	58%
5.2.2 · SWCD Project Water Rights	0	10,000	(10,000)	0%
5.2.3 · Data Collection				
52301 · Center for Snow & Avalanche	7,000	7,000	0	100%
52302 · Stream Gaging - Federal	0	99,954	(99,954)	0%
52303 · Stream Gaging - Colorado	0	2,640	(2,640)	0%
52304 · Water Quality Studies	0	13,000	(13,000)	0%
52305 · SW Colorado Permanent Radar	0	10,000	(10,000)	0%
Total 5.2.3 · Data Collection	7,000	132,594	(125,594)	5%
5.2.4 · Supply Augmentation				
52401 · Weather Modification	0	117,000	(117,000)	0%
52402 · Phreatophyte Removal	0	0	0	0%
Total 5.2.4 · Supply Augmentation	0	117,000	(117,000)	0%
5.2.5 · Environmental				
52501 · Bonita Peak CAG	0	5,000	(5,000)	0%
52502 · SJRBRIP Water User Committee	19,765	101,746	(81,981)	19%
Total 5.2.5 · Environmental	19,765	106,746	(86,981)	19%
5.2.6 · Local Financial Support	73,200	230,000	(156,800)	32%
5.2.7 · Previously Committed Support	11,238	91,294	(80,056)	12%
Total 5.2 · WATER SUPPLY - QUANTITY QUALITY	140,129	737,634	(597,505)	19%

Southwestern Water Conservation District
Budget Comparison Summary
January through April 2021

	Jan - Apr 21	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
5.3 · WATER POLICY & LEGISLATION				
5.3.1 · Federal Policy/Legislation				
53101 · Federal Lobbying Fees	25,000	50,000	(25,000)	50%
53102 · Federal Lobbying Expenses	0	5,500	(5,500)	0%
Total 5.3.1 · Federal Policy/Legislation	25,000	55,500	(30,500)	45%
5.3.2 · State Policy/Legislation				
53201 · State Lobbying Fees	4,500	10,000	(5,500)	45%
53202 · State Lobbying Expenses	0	0	0	0%
Total 5.3.2 · State Policy/Legislation	4,500	10,000	(5,500)	45%
5.3.3 · Dues & Memberships	23,388	25,450	(2,062)	92%
Total 5.3 · WATER POLICY & LEGISLATION	52,888	90,950	(38,062)	58%
5.4 · WATER EDUCATION				
5.4.1 · Water Info Program	19,170	72,295	(53,125)	27%
5.4.2 · SWCD Children's Water Festival	0	10,500	(10,500)	0%
5.4.3 · Water Leaders Pgm Scholarship	0	5,000	(5,000)	0%
5.4.4 · Watershed Education Program	0	6,000	(6,000)	0%
5.4.5 · Water Education Colorado	11,000	11,000	0	100%
5.4.6 · SWCD Water Seminar	0	18,000	(18,000)	0%
5.4.7 · Event Sponsorships	0	6,000	(6,000)	0%
5.4.8 · Demo CSU Farm/Water Efficiency	0	10,000	(10,000)	0%
Total 5.4 · WATER EDUCATION	30,170	138,795	(108,625)	22%
5.5 · TABOR Reserve	0	52,191	(52,191)	0%
5.6 · Emergency Contingency Reserve	0	75,000	(75,000)	0%
Total 5 · SWCD EXPENSES	369,886	1,866,880	(1,496,994)	20%
Total Expense	369,886	1,866,880	(1,496,994)	20%
Net Income	420,355	(3,292)	423,647	(12,768)%

11:35 AM

05/13/21

Cash Basis

Southwestern Water Conservation District
Transaction Detail By Account
 January through April 2021

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Paid Amount
5 · SWCD EXPENSES				
5.2 · WATER SUPPLY - QUANTITY QUALITY				
5.2.1 · Regional, Interstate Planning				
52104 · Technical Other Expenses				
03/01/2021	Bill.com	Christopher Treese	January 2021 GM Search	750.00
03/01/2021	Bill.com	Christopher Treese	January 2021 Admn and Policy Support	3,500.00
04/06/2021	Bill.com	Colorado River WCD	Modeling Costshare Jan-Feb 2021	5,953.60
04/06/2021	Bill.com	Wellstone Collaborative Strategies	SWCD Strategic Planning	7,000.00
04/07/2021	Bill.com	Christopher Treese	February 2021 GM Search	1,125.00
04/07/2021	Bill.com	Christopher Treese	February 2021 Admin & Policy Support	3,500.00
04/09/2021	Bill.com	Christopher Treese	March 2021 GM Search	1,275.00
04/09/2021	Bill.com	Christopher Treese	March 2021 Admin & Policy Support	3,500.00
04/22/2021	Bill.com	Colorado River WCD	Modeling Costshare March 2021	2,322.65
Total 52104 · Technical Other Expenses				28,926.25
Total 5.2.1 · Regional, Interstate Planning				28,926.25
Total 5.2 · WATER SUPPLY - QUANTITY QUALITY				28,926.25
Total 5 · SWCD EXPENSES				28,926.25
TOTAL				28,926.25

2021 Budget: \$50,000

11:39 AM
May 13, 2021
Accrual Basis

Southwestern Water Conservation District
Bank Account Summary
As of April 30, 2021

	<u>Apr 30, 21</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
*To take advantage of slightly better interest rates, we transferred funds from COLOTRUST to checking.	
100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)*	863,412.41
101 · SWCD Credit Card	(1,828.15)
102 · Water Info Program Checking	132,104.95
103 · SJRBRIP Water Dev. Cmt Checking	103,092.42
107 · COLOTRUST General (0.0648%)*	1,000.46
166 · 1st SW Bank - CD 1 - July 2021	504,143.95
167 · 1st SW Bank - CD 2 - Jan 2022	1,568,058.46
168 · 1st SW Bank - CD 3 - July 2022	504,711.39
169 · 1st SW Bank - CD 4 - Jan 2023 4	417,948.05
170 · 1st SW Bank - CD 5 - Jan 2023 1	102,563.94
	<hr/>
Total Checking/Savings	4,195,207.88
Other Current Assets	
131 · Bauer Lake Loan	5,573.59
	<hr/>
Total Other Current Assets	5,573.59
	<hr/>
Total Current Assets	4,200,781.47
	<hr/>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>4,200,781.47</u>
	<hr/>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	0.00

11:39 AM
05/13/21

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail

March through April 2021

Num	Date	Name	Memo	Account	Original Amount
Bill.com	03/01/2021	Fort Lewis College	2020 Grant Final Invoice	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-2,061.70
			2020 Grant Final Invoice	200 · Accounts Payable	2,061.70
TOTAL					2,061.70
Bill.com	03/01/2021	Laura Spann-V	20% of 2020 CEBT Dividend	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-117.00
			20% of 2020 CEBT Dividend	51107 · Wages - Health & Life Insurance	117.00
TOTAL					117.00
Bill.com	03/01/2021	Christopher Treese	January 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-5,750.00
			January 2021 GM Search	52104 · Technical Other Expenses	750.00
			January 2021 Admn and Policy Support	52104 · Technical Other Expenses	3,500.00
			January 2021 State Lobbying	53201 · State Lobbying Fees	1,500.00
TOTAL					5,750.00
Bill.com	03/01/2021	The West Building	March 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-2,506.88
			March 2021	51515 · Rent	2,506.88
TOTAL					2,506.88
Bill.com	03/01/2021	J R Ford	Mtg 2-24-21	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-100.00
			Mtg 2-24-21	51401 · Director Fees	100.00
TOTAL					100.00
VISA	03/05/2021	Charter Spectrum	February 2021	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-69.99
			February 2021	51518 · Telecommunication	69.99
TOTAL					69.99
Bill.com	03/05/2021	Aaron Clay	Water Law in a Nutshell	102 · Water Info Program Checking	-570.00
			Water Law in a Nutshell	54113 · WIP Workshops	570.00
TOTAL					570.00
VISA	03/05/2021	ImageNet	March 2021	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-150.00
			March 2021	51506 · Equipment Leasing	150.00
TOTAL					150.00
VISA	03/05/2021	Adobe Acrobat	Feb 2021	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-14.99
			Feb 2021	51512 · Office Exps	14.99
TOTAL					14.99
Bill.com	03/08/2021	Don Schwindt	Mtgs 2/10-24/21	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-300.00
			Mtgs 2/10-24/21	51401 · Director Fees	300.00
TOTAL					300.00
Bill.com	03/08/2021	CO Dept of Public Health & Environm...	2020 Mercury Fish Testing (30 Samples)	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-2,910.00
			2020 Mercury Fish Testing (30 Samples)	200 · Accounts Payable	2,910.00
TOTAL					2,910.00
ACH	03/08/2021	Laura E Spann	2/22-3/7/2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-1,449.36
			2/22-3/7/2021	51103 · Wages - Programs Coordinator	1,938.40
			2/22-3/7/2021	51107 · Wages - Health & Life Insurance	-92.75
			2/22-3/7/2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-167.00
			2/22-3/7/2021	51105 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	120.18
			2/22-3/7/2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.18
			2/22-3/7/2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.18
			2/22-3/7/2021	51105 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	28.11
			2/22-3/7/2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.11
			2/22-3/7/2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.11
			2/22-3/7/2021	216 · State W/H Tax Payable	-81.00
			2/22-3/7/2021	51105 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	5.81
			2/22-3/7/2021	217 · State Unemployment Tax	-5.81
TOTAL					1,449.36

11:39 AM
05/13/21

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail

March through April 2021

Num	Date	Name	Memo	Account	Original Amount
Bill.com	03/08/2021	Blue Channel	WIP website support (post video, etc)	102 · Water Info Program Checking	-76.70
			WIP website support (post video, etc)	54112 · WIP Website/Tech Support	76.70
TOTAL					76.70
ACH	03/09/2021	Bill.com	February 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-131.82
			February 2021	51501 · Accounting	131.82
TOTAL					131.82
VISA	03/09/2021	Fredrick Zink & Associates	Feb 2021	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-275.00
			Feb 2021	51501 · Accounting	275.00
TOTAL					275.00
Bill.com	03/10/2021	Elaine Chick Consulting	February 2021	102 · Water Info Program Checking	-4,120.47
			February 2021	54111 · WIP Contract Coordination	4,120.47
TOTAL					4,120.47
Bill.com	03/11/2021	Aaron Clay	Water Law in a Nutshell #2	102 · Water Info Program Checking	-1,150.00
			Water Law in a Nutshell #2	54113 · WIP Workshops	1,150.00
TOTAL					1,150.00
ACH	03/12/2021	United States Treasury	February 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-1,015.46
			February 2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	382.00
			February 2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	256.70
			February 2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	256.70
			February 2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	60.03
			February 2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	60.03
TOTAL					1,015.46
VISA	03/12/2021	FedEx	Bd Packet Mailing 3-11-21	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-99.30
			Bd Packet Mailing 3-11-21	51513 · Postage	99.30
TOTAL					99.30
VISA	03/16/2021	FedEx	Bd Packet Mailing 3-11-21 Stowe	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-33.10
			Bd Packet Mailing 3-11-21 Stowe	51513 · Postage	33.10
TOTAL					33.10
ACH	03/22/2021	Laura E Spann	03/08-21/2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-1,449.36
			03/08-21/2021	51103 · Wages - Programs Coordinator	1,938.40
			03/08-21/2021	51107 · Wages - Health & Life Insurance	-92.75
			03/08-21/2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-167.00
			03/08-21/2021	51105 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	120.18
			03/08-21/2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.18
			03/08-21/2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.18
			03/08-21/2021	51105 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	28.11
			03/08-21/2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.11
			03/08-21/2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.11
			03/08-21/2021	216 · State W/H Tax Payable	-81.00
			03/08-21/2021	51105 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	5.82
			03/08-21/2021	217 · State Unemployment Tax	-5.82
TOTAL					1,449.36
VISA	03/22/2021	ImageNet	Base 2Q2021, Overage 1Q2021	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-786.75
			Base 2Q2021, Overage 1Q2021	51512 · Office Exps	786.75
TOTAL					786.75
Bill.com	03/23/2021	Colorado Employer Benefit Trust	April 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-1,408.17
			April 2021	51107 · Wages - Health & Life Insurance	1,408.17
TOTAL					1,408.17
Bill.com	03/23/2021	Van Vurst Law	February 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-22,677.00
			February 2021	51201 · Attorney Fees - General Counsel	18,480.00

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Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail

March through April 2021

Num	Date	Name	Memo	Account	Original Amount
			February 2021	51203 · Litigation - General Counsel	4,197.00
					<hr/>
					22,677.00
Bill.com	03/23/2021	J R Ford	Mtg 3-11-21	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-100.00
			Mtg 3-11-21	51401 · Director Fees	100.00
					<hr/>
					100.00
VISA	03/26/2021	Verizon	Feb 2021	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-110.59
			Feb 2021	51518 · Telecommunication	110.59
					<hr/>
					110.59
VISA	03/26/2021	FedEx	Bd Packet Mailing 3-25-21	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-165.50
			Bd Packet Mailing 3-25-21	51513 · Postage	165.50
					<hr/>
					165.50
VISA	03/26/2021	US Postal Service	Packet Mailing 4/1-2/21 (Refund Pending, Sent FedEx)	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-210.80
			Packet Mailing 4/1-2/21 (Refund Pending, Sent FedEx)	51513 · Postage	210.80
					<hr/>
					210.80
Bill.com	03/29/2021	Kogovsek & Associates, Inc.	2Q2021 Retainer	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-12,500.00
			2Q2021 Retainer	53101 · Federal Lobbying Fees	12,500.00
					<hr/>
					12,500.00
VISA	04/01/2021	FedEx	Bd Packet Mailing 4/1-2/21	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-253.90
			Bd Packet Mailing 4/1-2/21	51513 · Postage	253.90
					<hr/>
					253.90
VISA	04/02/2021	FedEx	Bd Packet Mailing 4/1-2/21	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-33.10
			Bd Packet Mailing 4/1-2/21	51513 · Postage	33.10
					<hr/>
					33.10
ACH	04/05/2021	Laura E Spann	03/22-04/04/2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-1,449.37
			03/22-04/04/2021	51103 · Wages - Programs Coordinator	1,938.40
			03/22-04/04/2021	51107 · Wages - Health & Life Insurance	-92.75
			03/22-04/04/2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-167.00
			03/22-04/04/2021	51105 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	120.18
			03/22-04/04/2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.18
			03/22-04/04/2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.18
			03/22-04/04/2021	51105 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	28.10
			03/22-04/04/2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.10
			03/22-04/04/2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.10
			03/22-04/04/2021	216 · State W/H Tax Payable	-81.00
			03/22-04/04/2021	51105 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	2.73
			03/22-04/04/2021	217 · State Unemployment Tax	-2.73
					<hr/>
					1,449.37
Bill.com	04/05/2021	The West Building	April 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-2,498.47
			April 2021	51515 · Rent	2,498.47
					<hr/>
					2,498.47
VISA	04/05/2021	Adobe Acrobat	March 2021	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-14.99
			March 2021	51512 · Office Exps	14.99
					<hr/>
					14.99
Bill.com	04/05/2021	Harris Water Engineering, Inc	March 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-2,790.00
			March 2021	51301 · Engineering - General	2,790.00
					<hr/>
					2,790.00
Bill.com	04/06/2021	Elaine Chick Consulting	March 2021	102 · Water Info Program Checking	-4,408.67
			March 2021	54111 · WIP Contract Coordination	4,408.67
					<hr/>

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Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail

March through April 2021

Num	Date	Name	Memo	Account	Original Amount
TOTAL					4,408.67
Bill.com	04/06/2021	Elaine Chick Consulting	2021 WEco Membership	102 · Water Info Program Checking	-100.00
			2021 WEco Membership	54125 · WIP Memberships	100.00
TOTAL					100.00
Bill.com	04/06/2021	Water Education Colorado	2021 Water Trivia Night Sponsorship	102 · Water Info Program Checking	-100.00
			2021 Water Trivia Night Sponsorship	54118 · WIP Sponsorships	100.00
TOTAL					100.00
Bill.com	04/06/2021	Water Education Colorado	Citizens Guides to Water Law, WIP Course	102 · Water Info Program Checking	-456.00
			Citizens Guides to Water Law, WIP Course	54113 · WIP Workshops	456.00
TOTAL					456.00
Bill.com	04/06/2021	Water Education Colorado	2021 WEco Membership, remainder	102 · Water Info Program Checking	-150.00
			2021 WEco Membership, remainder	54125 · WIP Memberships	150.00
TOTAL					150.00
VISA	04/06/2021	Charter Spectrum	March 2021	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-69.99
			March 2021	51518 · Telecommunication	69.99
TOTAL					69.99
Bill.com	04/06/2021	J R Ford	Mtgs 4/1-2/21	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-200.00
			Mtgs 4/1-2/21	51401 · Director Fees	200.00
TOTAL					200.00
Bill.com	04/06/2021	Colorado River WCD	Modeling Costshare Jan-Feb 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-5,953.60
			Modeling Costshare Jan-Feb 2021	52104 · Technical Other Expenses	5,953.60
TOTAL					5,953.60
Bill.com	04/06/2021	Wellstone Collaborative Strategies	SWCD Strategic Planning	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-7,000.00
			SWCD Strategic Planning	52104 · Technical Other Expenses	7,000.00
TOTAL					7,000.00
Bill.com	04/06/2021	J R Ford	Mtg 3-25-21	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-100.00
			Mtg 3-25-21	51401 · Director Fees	100.00
TOTAL					100.00
VISA	04/07/2021	ImageNet	April 2021	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-150.00
			April 2021	51506 · Equipment Leasing	150.00
TOTAL					150.00
Bill.com	04/07/2021	Bill.com	March 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-127.19
			March 2021	51501 · Accounting	127.19
TOTAL					127.19
Bill.com	04/07/2021	Colorado Employer Benefit Trust	May 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-1,408.17
			May 2021	51107 · Wages - Health & Life Insurance	1,408.17
TOTAL					1,408.17
Bill.com	04/07/2021	Christopher Treese	February 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-6,125.00
			February 2021	53201 · State Lobbying Fees	1,500.00
			February 2021 GM Search	52104 · Technical Other Expenses	1,125.00
			February 2021 Admin & Policy Support	52104 · Technical Other Expenses	3,500.00
TOTAL					6,125.00
Bill.com	04/09/2021	Robinson, Waters & O'Dorisio	March 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-6,390.00

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Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail

March through April 2021

Num	Date	Name	Memo	Account	Original Amount
			March 2021	51205 · Attorney Fees - Special Counsel	6,390.00
TOTAL					6,390.00
Bill.com	04/09/2021	Christopher Treese	March 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-6,275.00
			March 2021	53201 · State Lobbying Fees	1,500.00
			March 2021 GM Search	52104 · Technical Other Expenses	1,275.00
			March 2021 Admin & Policy Support	52104 · Technical Other Expenses	3,500.00
TOTAL					6,275.00
VISA	04/09/2021	FedEx	Bd Packet Mailing 4-8-21	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-165.50
			Bd Packet Mailing 4-8-21	51513 · Postage	165.50
TOTAL					165.50
VISA	04/11/2021	FedEx	Jenny document signing	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-33.10
			Jenny document signing	51513 · Postage	33.10
TOTAL					33.10
ACH	04/14/2021	United States Treasury	March 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-927.16
			March 2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	334.00
			March 2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	240.36
			March 2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	240.36
			March 2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	56.22
			March 2021	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	56.22
TOTAL					927.16
VISA	04/14/2021	Intuit	2021 QuickBooks Subscription	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-299.95
			2021 QuickBooks Subscription	51501 · Accounting	299.95
TOTAL					299.95
VISA	04/15/2021	Intuit	2021 Quickbooks Payroll Subscription	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-500.00
			2021 QuickBooks Subscription	51501 · Accounting	500.00
TOTAL					500.00
Bill.com	04/16/2021	SW Water Conservation District	1Q2021 Copies, Water Law Course Binders	102 · Water Info Program Checking	-390.35
			1Q2021 Copies, Water Law Course Binders	54113 · WIP Workshops	390.35
TOTAL					390.35
ACH	04/19/2021	Laura E Spann	04/05-18/21	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-1,449.36
			04/05-18/21	51103 · Wages - Programs Coordinator	1,938.40
			04/05-18/21	51107 · Wages - Health & Life Insurance	-92.75
			04/05-18/21	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-167.00
			04/05-18/21	51105 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	120.18
			04/05-18/21	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.18
			04/05-18/21	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-120.18
			04/05-18/21	51105 · Wages - Payroll Taxes	28.11
			04/05-18/21	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.11
			04/05-18/21	215 · FICA/Medicare/Fed W/H	-28.11
			04/05-18/21	216 · State W/H Tax Payable	-81.00
TOTAL					1,449.36
Bill.com	04/19/2021	Russell Hinger	Mtgs 2/24-4/8/21	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-600.00
			Mtgs 2/24-4/8/21	51401 · Director Fees	600.00
TOTAL					600.00
Bill.com	04/19/2021	Monte Naslund	Mtgs 10-14-20, Feb 10-11, March 25, April 1-2	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-650.00
			Mtgs 10-14-20	51401 · Director Fees	100.00
			Mtgs Feb 10-11, March 25, April 1-2	51401 · Director Fees	550.00
TOTAL					650.00
Bill.com	04/19/2021	Don Schwindt	Mtgs 2/26-4/2/21	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-400.00
			Mtgs 2/26-4/2/21	51401 · Director Fees	400.00

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Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail

March through April 2021

Num	Date	Name	Memo	Account	Original Amount
TOTAL					400.00
Bill.com	04/19/2021	J R Ford	Mtg 4/8/21	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-100.00
			Mtg 4/8/21	51401 · Director Fees	100.00
TOTAL					100.00
Bill.com	04/19/2021	Trout Raley	March 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-1,131.00
			March 2021	51205 · Attorney Fees - Special Counsel	1,131.00
TOTAL					1,131.00
VISA	04/21/2021	Office Depot	Restock tissues	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-8.68
			Restock tissues	51512 · Office Exps	8.68
TOTAL					8.68
Bill.com	04/22/2021	Blue Channel	WIP website tech support	102 · Water Info Program Checking	-25.00
			WIP website tech support	54112 · WIP Website/Tech Support	25.00
TOTAL					25.00
Bill.com	04/22/2021	Water Education Colorado	2021 Water Fluency Registration - Chick Registration	102 · Water Info Program Checking	-1,395.00
			2021 Water Fluency Registration - Chick Registration	54114 · WIP Conferences/Events	1,395.00
TOTAL					1,395.00
VISA	04/22/2021	Fredrick Zink & Associates	March 2021	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-137.50
			March 2021	51501 · Accounting	137.50
TOTAL					137.50
Bill.com	04/22/2021	J R Ford	Mtg 4-21-21	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-100.00
			Mtg 4-21-21	51401 · Director Fees	100.00
TOTAL					100.00
Bill.com	04/22/2021	Charles Smith	Mtgs 1/4-4/8/21	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-1,000.00
			Mtgs 1/4-4/8/21	51401 · Director Fees	1,000.00
TOTAL					1,000.00
Bill.com	04/22/2021	Jenny Russell	Mtgs 1/4-4/8/21, Mtg mileage, Postage	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-2,403.45
			Mtgs 1/4-4/8/21	51401 · Director Fees	2,200.00
			Mtgs 1/4-4/8/21	51402 · Director Travel	195.50
			Mailing signed docs	51513 · Postage	7.95
TOTAL					2,403.45
Bill.com	04/22/2021	Water Education Colorado	2021 Water Fluency Registration - Charlie Smith	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-1,395.00
			2021 Water Fluency Registration - Charlie Smith	51514 · Registration Fees	1,395.00
TOTAL					1,395.00
Bill.com	04/22/2021	Van Vurst Law	March 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-22,464.00
			March 2021	51201 · Attorney Fees - General Counsel	20,544.00
			March 2021	51203 · Litigation - General Counsel	1,920.00
TOTAL					22,464.00
Bill.com	04/22/2021	Harris Water Engineering, Inc	March 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-1,237.50
			March 2021	51301 · Engineering - General	1,237.50
TOTAL					1,237.50
Bill.com	04/22/2021	Aspen Springs Metro District	2021 Grant - Buttercup Water Depot Well Replacement	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-60,000.00
			2021 Grant - Buttercup Water Depot Well Replacement	5.2.6 · Local Financial Support	60,000.00
TOTAL					60,000.00

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Southwestern Water Conservation District

Check Detail

March through April 2021

Num	Date	Name	Memo	Account	Original Amount
Bill.com	04/22/2021	Wright Water Engineers	February 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-5,157.25
			February 2021	51302 · Engineering - Special Projects	5,157.25
TOTAL					5,157.25
Bill.com	04/22/2021	Wright Water Engineers	January 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-786.00
			January 2021	51302 · Engineering - Special Projects	786.00
TOTAL					786.00
Bill.com	04/22/2021	Colorado River WCD	Modeling Costshare March 2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-2,322.65
			Modeling Costshare March 2021	52104 · Technical Other Expenses	2,322.65
TOTAL					2,322.65
VISA	04/22/2021	FedEx	Bd Packet Mailing 4-22-21	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-165.50
			Bd Packet Mailing 4-22-21	51513 · Postage	165.50
TOTAL					165.50
VISA	04/23/2021	Office Depot	Masks	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-19.99
			masks	51512 · Office Exps	19.99
TOTAL					19.99
Bill.com	04/26/2021	Water Consult	January 2-April 9, 2021	103 · SJRBRIP Water Dev. Cmt Checking	-19,765.13
			January 2-April 9, 2021	52502 · SJRBRIP Water User Committee	19,765.13
TOTAL					19,765.13
Bill.com	04/26/2021	San Juan RC & D	2021 Grant - Bonita Peak CAG (Data, Standards Proposal)	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-13,200.00
			2021 Grant - Bonita Peak CAG (Data, Standards Proposal)	5.2.6 · Local Financial Support	13,200.00
TOTAL					13,200.00
VISA	04/27/2021	City Market	Restock tea, napkins, cream	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-19.22
			Restock tea, napkins, cream	51512 · Office Exps	19.22
TOTAL					19.22
VISA	04/27/2021	Kroegers	Bob resolution frame, restock hand sanitizer	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-28.15
			Restock hand sanitizer	51512 · Office Exps	10.00
			Bob resolution frame	51511 · Miscellaneous	18.15
TOTAL					28.15
VISA	04/27/2021	FedEx	Jenny Document Signing	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-28.19
			Jenny Document Signing	51513 · Postage	28.19
TOTAL					28.19
VISA	04/28/2021	Verizon	March 2021	101 · SWCD Credit Card	-111.19
			March 2021	51518 · Telecommunication	111.19
TOTAL					111.19
ACH	04/29/2021	Colorado Department of Revenue	1Q2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-532.00
			1Q2021	216 · State W/H Tax Payable	532.00
TOTAL					532.00
ACH	04/30/2021	Colorado State Treasurer	1Q2021	100 · SWCD Checking (0.35%)	-38.07
			1Q2021	217 · State Unemployment Tax	38.07
TOTAL					38.07



**RESOLUTION 2021-03
SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
IN REMEMBRANCE OF DOUG STOWE**

WHEREAS, the Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) was established pursuant to C.R.S. 37-47-101 to protect, conserve and develop the water resources of the Dolores and San Juan River Basins across nine counties; and

WHEREAS, as a farmer, veteran, and longtime resident of Dove Creek, Doug Stowe devoted his life to serving his country and community. As Dove Creek's water and wastewater manager for 30 years, Doug was instrumental in the initial construction of the Dove Creek water plant and its later upgrade. He had a keen understanding of Dove Creek's water rights and was a strong advocate for Dolores County's water needs; and

WHEREAS, Doug represented Dolores County on the SWCD board for nearly eight years, three of those years as vice-president; and during his tenure on the Board, Doug's extensive experience with wastewater management and his detailed knowledge of Dolores County were invaluable contributions to the collective strength of the District board; and

WHEREAS, during his eight-year tenure as Dolores County Commissioner, Doug was appointed to represent Dolores County on the Southwest Basins Roundtable and engaged in the Dolores River Dialogue effort and its various sub-groups on behalf of Dolores County, among other water-related responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Doug's passing leaves a deep void at SWCD and in southwest Colorado's water community; his light-hearted nature and calm approach to contentious water challenges will be greatly missed by the District board, staff, and consultants. We extend our deepest condolences to Julie and the family, friends, and community he loved so dearly.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Southwestern Water Conservation District expresses its deepest gratitude and appreciation for Doug Stowe, as he leaves a legacy of protecting southwestern Colorado water user needs with intelligence, open-mindedness, and commitment.

DATED THIS 10TH DAY OF JUNE 2021

By

Attest

Jenny Russell, President

Charles Smith, Secretary-Treasurer

Staff Report June 2021

Southwestern Water Conservation District



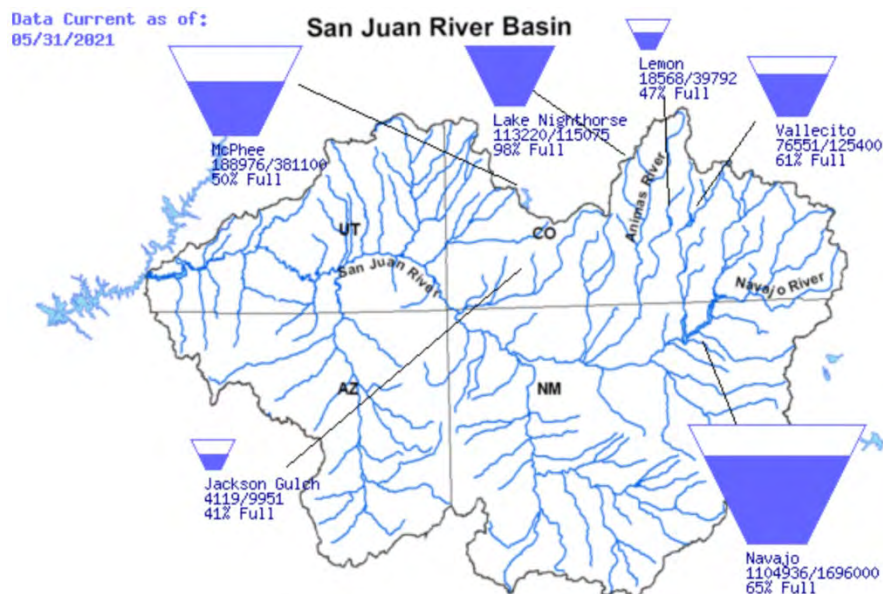
In the opinion of the general assembly of the state of Colorado, the conservation of the water of the San Juan and Dolores rivers and their tributaries for storage, irrigation, mining, and manufacturing purposes and the construction of reservoirs, ditches, and works for the purpose of irrigation and reclamation of additional lands not yet irrigated, as well as to furnish a supplemental supply of water for lands now under irrigation, is of vital importance to the growth and development of the entire district and the welfare of all its inhabitants and that, to promote the health and general welfare of the state of Colorado, an appropriate agency for the conservation, use, and development of the water resources of the San Juan and Dolores rivers and their principal tributaries should be established and given such powers as may be necessary to safeguard for Colorado, all waters to which the state of Colorado is equitably entitled.

HYDROLOGY SNAPSHOT

Local Lowlights. Peak snowpack data for 2021 from the Colorado NRCS showed some promising snowpack conditions elsewhere in the state. The snow water equivalent was at or above 90% of normal in the Yampa, White, Laramie and North Platte and South Platte river basins in late March, the typical peak for snowpack. In the Arkansas and Upper Rio Grande basins, it was 110% of normal. Conditions worsen north to south in the Upper Colorado headwaters, Gunnison, and San Miguel, Dolores, Animas and San Juan basins.

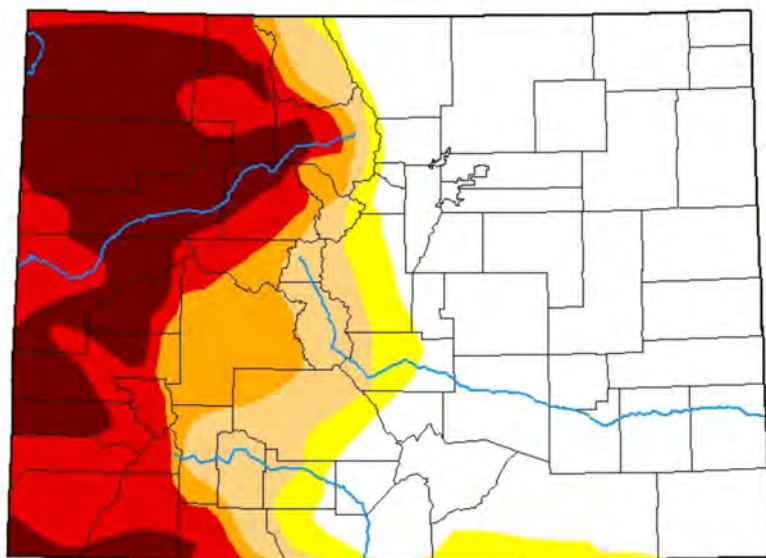
Dolores County and the Ute Mountain Ute tribe have both declared drought emergencies, citing “the seventh worst recorded runoff.” McPhee Reservoir, Colorado’s third largest reservoir, was only able to carryover 4% of last year’s active storage capacity. The Dolores Project has announced there will be no supplemental irrigation supplies available to the senior surface diverters. Irrigators tied to McPhee Reservoir contracts, including the Ute Mountain Ute Farm & Ranch Enterprise, will receive just 5-10% of their normal supply. Trout and native fish below McPhee are also expected to suffer, as the fish pool received just 5,000 acre-feet of its usual 32,000 acre-foot allocation. Ken Curtis in a press release stated that he is working to fulfill municipal supply commitments.

Similarly, the Mancos Project has announced a 0% irrigation supply. All 65 counties in Colorado are currently in USDA drought emergency conditions.









U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado

June 1, 2021
(Released Thursday, Jun. 3, 2021)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

-  None
-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

STREAM FLOWS ON JUNE 1ST

San Juan at Pagosa Springs – 855 cfs

Piedra at Arboles – 728 cfs

Pine near Ignacio – 2.59 cfs

Animas at Durango – 1,490 cfs

La Plata at Hesperus – 49.5 cfs

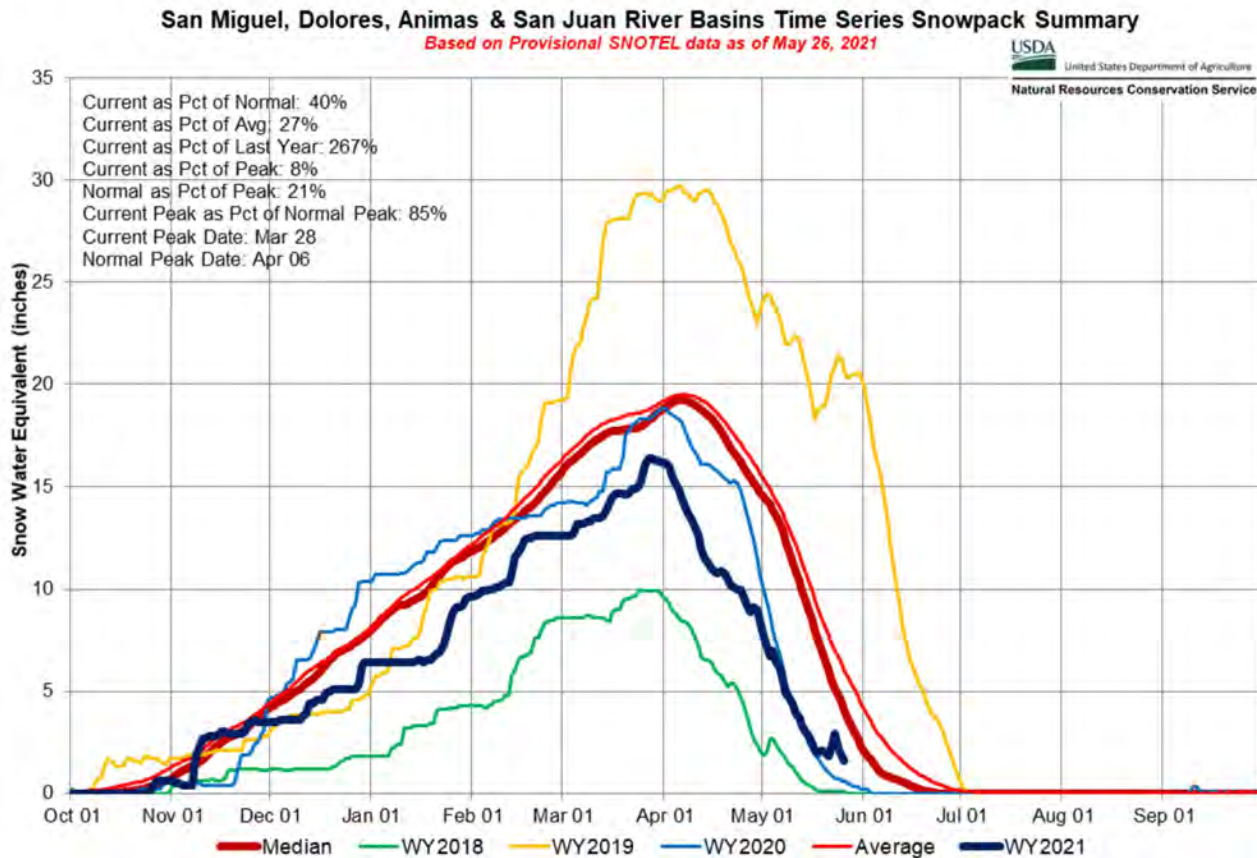
Mancos near Towaoc – 0 cfs

McElmo Creek near Cortez – 27 cfs

Dolores at Dolores – 487 cfs

San Miguel at Placerville – 275 cfs

San Miguel at Uravan – 283 cfs



Good news: Bad News. Yes, there is (some) good news. While this water year is shaping up to be one of the worst in recent Western history and drought conditions worsening every passing week throughout the Western U.S., the Congress, the administration, the Colorado legislature, and the public are taking notice and are working to respond appropriately. The other silver lining in the black cloud of our current drought is the financial resources, both federal and state, being dedicated to drought mitigation, ag sustainability, forest health, aging infrastructure, and a host of related areas. Additionally, after decades of local, state and regional efforts, the public appears to be gaining some understanding of our tenuous hydrology and its broader implications.

NOAA Climate Update. Colorado's previous climate "normal" were based on data from 1981 to 2010. The data just released on May 4 now includes all the weather that occurred during the full decade from 2011 to 2020. Colorado highlights include:

Durango The annual temperature has increased by 0.5° and the annual precipitation has decreased by 0.38 inches.

Denver The annual temperature has warmed by 1.1 degrees and the annual precipitation has decreased by 0.22 inches.

Grand Junction The annual temperature has increased by 0.5 degrees and the annual precipitation has decreased by 0.36 inches.

Only Colorado Springs showed an increase in precipitation despite an increase in average temperature.

THE COLORADO RIVER

Colorado River Hydrology & Storage Conditions

April-July unregulated inflow forecasts for the major reservoirs in the Upper Colorado River Basin include Fontenelle Reservoir 345 KAF (48% average), Flaming Gorge 395 KAF (40%), Blue Mesa Reservoir 340 KAF (50%), McPhee Reservoir 74 KAF (25%), and Navajo Reservoir 310 KAF (42%). The Lake Powell inflow forecast is 1.85 MAF (26% of average), a two percent decrease from the early May forecast.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's recently released its 24-month Colorado River forecast. Water levels in Lake Powell may plummet low enough for the agency to declare an official shortage for the first time. The agency's April models project Lake Mead could fall below 1,075 feet elevation for the first time as early as this month. That's the level that would prompt a shortage declaration for the lower basin. The April projections, however, do not have binding effect. Reclamation uses projections released each August to make decisions (and declarations) about how to allocate river water. If projections don't improve by then, the Bureau of Reclamation will declare a Level 1 shortage condition. The cuts would be implemented in January.

Arizona, Nevada and Mexico have voluntarily given up water under a drought contingency plan for the river under water shortage sharing agreements signed in 2019. A shortage declaration would subject the Arizona and Nevada to their first mandatory reductions.

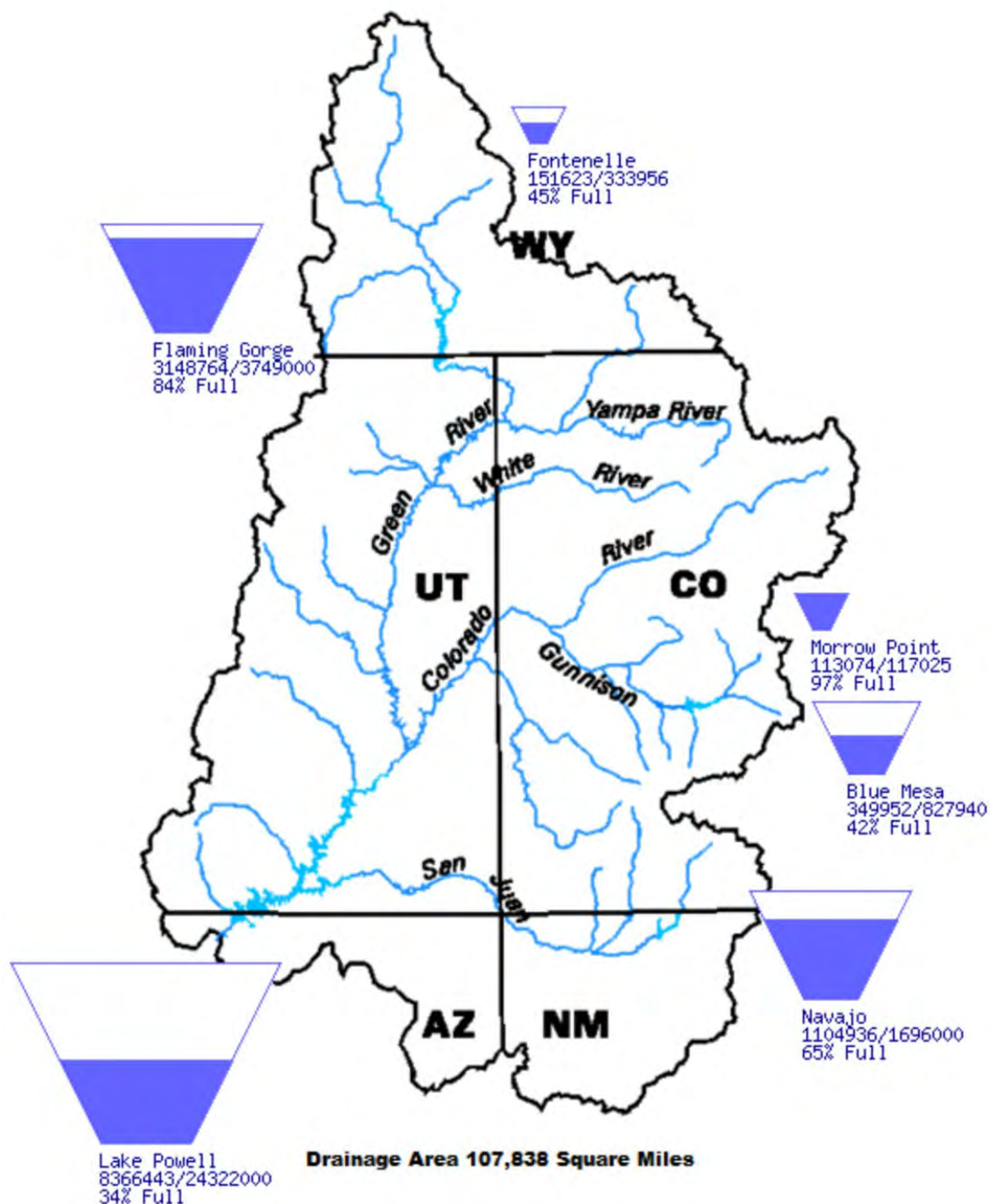
The Bureau of Reclamation also projects that Lake Mead will drop to the point they worried in the past could threaten electricity generation at Hoover Dam.

The US Forest Service recently assessed 63 million acres of the nation's forests as at "high" and "very high" risk of being "consumed by catastrophic fire."

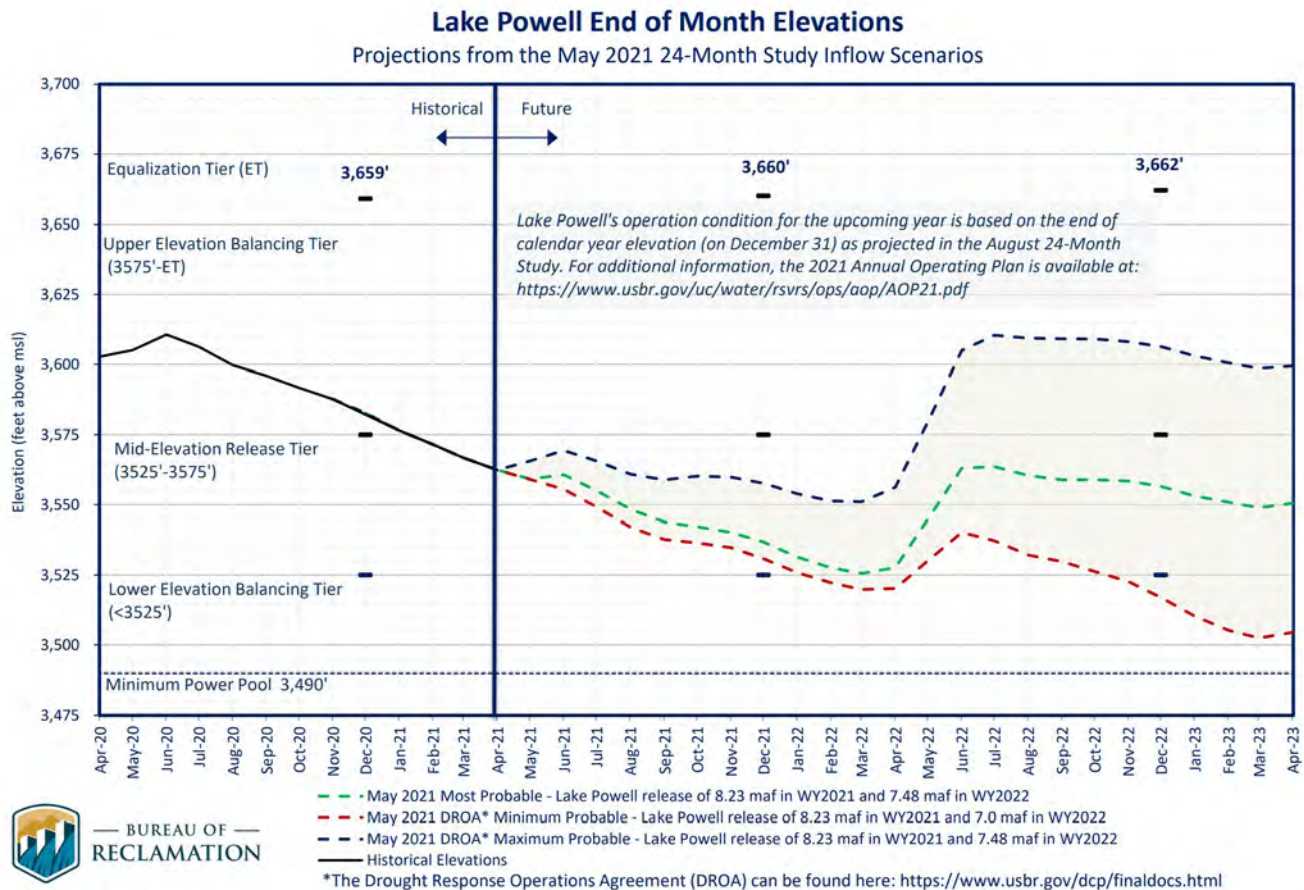
Upper Colorado River Basin. The May Water Supply Forecast from the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center noted below normal snow water equivalent (SWE) conditions have existed throughout the winter and spring over most of the Colorado River and Great Basins. SWE at the majority of SNOTEL stations across the region peaked between 70-85% of the historical normal peak SWE. Since the beginning of May, SWE conditions as a percent of normal have declined across the majority of the region as a result of snowmelt and below average precipitation during the first half of May.

Data Current as of:
05/31/2021

Upper Colorado River Drainage Basin



Lake Powell Operations. The U.S. Geological Survey initiated an 11-day “spring disturbance” flow at the end of March, dropping water levels in the Grand Canyon below Glen Canyon dam. Water released from Glen Canyon Dam dropped to 4,000 cubic feet per second, less than one-third the average rate of water released that time of year. The reduction in streamflow is intended to mimic what Colorado River flows were like before the dam was built. “This combination of low and high flow disturbance is expected to enhance the natural processes that sustain the Colorado River ecosystem by mimicking springtime pre-dam flooding,” according to the USGS.

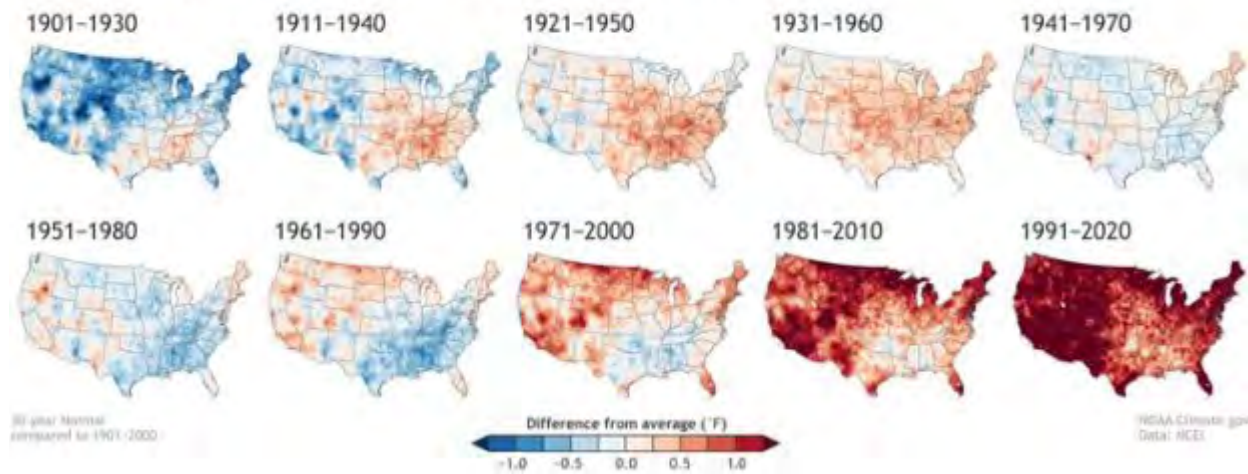


In the News to No One category. A new study from the University of Colorado is the first of its kind to look at historical snowmelt data to understand the long-term impacts of a warming world on alpine snowpack, the water storage of the West. Researchers analyzed decades of snowpack monitoring data across western North America, including many in Colorado. They found that snow at more than a third of the stations melted significantly earlier in the year than it did in the mid- to late-20th century. Snowpack declined about 11% during the study period, but earlier winter runoff was roughly three times as widespread, based on data from 1,065 snow telemetry sites.

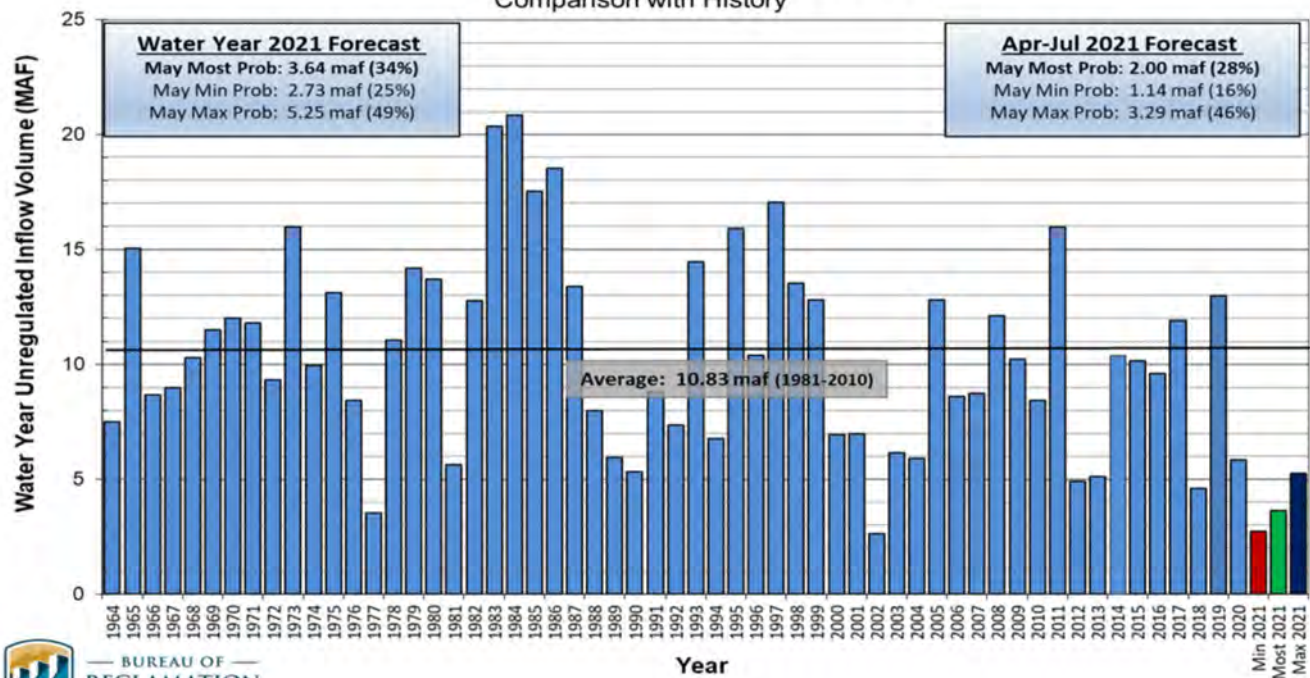
Arizona. State officials in Arizona are putting farmers in south-central Arizona on notice that the continuing drought means a “substantial cut” in deliveries of Colorado River water is expected next year. A statement by the state Department of Water Resources and the Central Arizona Project said an expected shortage declaration “will result in a substantial cut to Arizona’s share of the river, with reductions falling largely to central Arizona agricultural users.” CAP projects a nearly two-thirds reduction of CAP deliveries to Pinal County farmers. CAP deliveries used by the state to store water in the ground for future use by cities and tribes would also be cut.

Climate changes. With the addition of the last decade’s data as noted above, the trends continue and the conclusions worsen. The graphic below provides a dramatic picture of our warming climate over past 120 years. Much of the country has warmed compared to the previous normals with the exception of the far Northern Plains. When looking at precipitation trends (graphic not included), the desert southwest has “dried significantly” since the last update, while much of the rest of the country has seen an increase in precipitation, most notably, again, in the far Northern Plains.

U.S. ANNUAL TEMPERATURE COMPARED TO 20th-CENTURY AVERAGE



Lake Powell Unregulated Inflow Water Year 2021 Forecast (issued May 5) Comparison with History



STAFF/CONTRACTOR DEVELOPMENTS

Steve Wolff accepted the Board's offer of employment and will begin as the Southwestern District's third General Manager on June 7. Between June 7 and the end of the month, Steve will be working half-time and primarily remotely. Steve will be in Durango the week of the June regular board meeting. Steve will assume full-time GM responsibilities on July 1 but will continue to serve virtually until July 6 when he will report to the Durango office.

The Board can look forward to a special meeting sometime in June to, among other agenda items, adopt an updated job description for Steve's position and direct a review of both of SWCD employees' job descriptions. Beth and Chris do not expect significant changes from current descriptions, but these should be reviewed periodically to ensure they are accurate and consistent, and the time seems right for this review.

Chris Treese will conclude his 2021 Personnel Services contract at the end of June but continue to assist the District as Steve and the Board direct under his 2020 contract. The 2020 contract provides for Chris to continue his services to the District on an hourly basis "until three months after SWCD has completed the General Manager hiring process."



To All Media
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Sara Leonard

sara.leonard@state.co.us

303.866.3441 x3242

Commissioner Mitchell Statement on Lake Powell Elevation Forecast

May 20, 2021 (Denver, CO) - On May 14, the Bureau of Reclamation released its [monthly study](#) showing the elevation level in Lake Powell as critically declining.

The study predicts a significant probability that Lake Powell will decline to approximately 3,525.41 feet as early as March 2022. Lake Powell, which currently sits at elevation 3,560.60 feet, is approaching its lowest level since it was filled in the early 1960s.

For more details, read the [Upper Colorado River Commission press release](#).

Statement from Colorado River Commissioner Rebecca Mitchell:

"Our team of Colorado River hydrology experts have been closely monitoring conditions and analyzing the impacts on river operations, and are very aware of the daunting projections. Colorado and all of the Upper Basin states are - and have been - experiencing severe water shortages that affect our industries and our citizens. Colorado stands ready to work with our neighboring Upper Basin states to implement all aspects of the Drought Contingency Plan if conditions warrant. As Colorado River Commissioner tasked with negotiating new river operations on behalf of Colorado, I am mindful of the importance of the Colorado River to more than 40 million people and the \$1.4 trillion annual economy it supports. I am committed to engaging with our partners and stakeholders across the state and the Basin to work as efficiently and effectively as possible in order to make informed decisions."

###

Upper Division States and Reclamation to Begin Development of Drought Response Operations Plan

Upper Colorado River Commission
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE; May 20, 2021

On May 14, 2021, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) released its [May 24-Month Study](#) (and [accompanying narrative](#)) showing the elevation of Lake Powell declining to 3,525.57 feet as early as March 2022 under the Most Probable hydrology forecast. The 24-Month Study is released monthly and projects Lake Powell elevations 24 months into the future. Lake Powell is currently at an elevation of 3,560.60 feet and is approaching its lowest recorded level since the reservoir began filling in the early 1960s.

Maintaining Lake Powell elevations at or above 3,525 feet promotes the compliance of the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming with a century-old compact and preserves regional benefits derived from hydropower production at Glen Canyon Dam.

Under the [2019 Drought Response Operations Agreement](#) between Reclamation and Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, the May 24-Month Study signals the need for the parties to begin the development of a drought response operations plan to reduce the likelihood of Lake Powell dropping below 3,525 feet. Such a plan would first consider the operational flexibilities at Lake Powell, consistent with existing legal and operational constraints.

If those flexibilities are unable to prevent Lake Powell elevations from falling below 3,525 feet, the parties will consider releases of water to Lake Powell from the upstream reservoirs of Flaming Gorge, Blue Mesa, and Navajo ("Initial Units" under the Colorado River Storage Project Act). Releases could be made from some or all of the Initial Units and would likely occur in varying quantities and times but consistent with current legal and operational requirements at the facilities. A plan would also include the recovery of water at the participating Initial Units to restore operating elevations at those facilities to their pre-plan levels.

Currently, the parties are beginning the process of developing a drought response operations plan in accordance with the Agreement. However, such a plan will not be finalized until Reclamation's April 24-Month Study Most Probable forecast shows Lake Powell falling to a target elevation of 3,525 feet or below within a 12-month period and after consultation with the states of Arizona, California, and Nevada. If the Secretary of the Interior determines that there is an imminent need to protect Lake Powell elevations from dropping below 3,525 feet, she has the discretion to take emergency action after consulting with the Colorado River Basin States.

MEMO

Southwestern Water Conservation District

From: Laura Spann
To: SWCD Board of Directors
Date: June 2, 2021
Subject: SWCD Certificate of Deposit Maturing July 16, 2021

SWCD has one certificate of deposit that will mature prior to the August board meeting. See a summary of the CD details below:

Balance: \$504,600
Interest Rate: 1.10%
Maturity Date: July 16, 2021
Location: 1st Southwest Bank

As of June 2nd, 1st Southwest Bank (which consistently offers the best CD rates locally) is offering 0.45% for 12-month and 24-month jumbo CDs. This rate is only slightly higher than that of our current checking account.

Given that interest rates are expected to rise this year, **I recommend that SWCD authorize the signers to cash out this CD in July and deposit the balance in its Bank of Colorado checking account** temporarily until rate increases make seeking another CD opportunity worthwhile.

Public funds in SWCD's checking account are protected by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the Public Deposit Protection Act (PDPA). Please see the attached letter from Bank of Colorado explaining these protections, as well as a factsheet on the PDPA.

For your reference, I've included a summary of June 2nd account balances and interest rates:

SWCD Account Name	Interest Rates	Account Balance
SWCD Checking	0.36%	\$1,219,502.47
SWCD Credit Card		\$(2,307.99)
Water Info Program Checking	0.34%	\$122,000.21
SJRBRIP Water Dev. Cmt Checking	0.34%	\$103,092.42
COLOTRUST General	0.0451%	\$1,000.46
1st SW Bank - CD 1 - July 2021	1.10%	\$504,599.75
1st SW Bank - CD 2 - Jan 2022	2.35%	\$1,571,087.18
1st SW Bank - CD 3 - July 2022	1.25%	\$505,229.93
1st SW Bank - CD 4 - Jan 2023	0.60%	\$418,154.16
1st SW Bank - CD 5 - Jan 2023	0.60%	\$102,614.52
	Total	\$4,544,973.11



August 2, 2019

In regards to: Public Deposit maintained at Bank of Colorado

Southwestern Water Conservation District
841 E Second Ave
Durango, CO 81301

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in response to your request for information regarding your public funds deposited in Bank of Colorado. Bank of Colorado monitors public fund deposit totals daily to maintain adequate coverage from a combination of FDIC insurance and pledged securities. Monthly the individual deposits and individual securities listings are submitted to the State of Colorado Division of Banking who is responsible for enforcing the Public Deposit Protection Act (PDPA). The type of securities we are allowed to pledge as well as the coverage ratios are outlined in section PDP3 of the Act. The Division of Banking then reviews our submission for compliance with the Act. Please feel free to review the Act and other information regarding PDPA at <http://www.dora.state.co.us/banking>.

The Division of Banking can supply information about PDPA and their responsibility to public entities. They can also verify that your accounts are being reported by any bank where deposits are maintained. Bank of Colorado identifies public funds on the account statement to help verify it is being reported.

Bank of Colorado also offers CDARS (Certificate of Deposit Account Registry Service) as an alternative to protect deposits. The State of Colorado has approved CDARS as an investment option for public entities. CDARS protect your deposits by placing individual portions of your totals deposit with as many financial institutions as necessary to maintain the \$250,000 limit for FDIC insurance. For convenience you still only deal with Bank of Colorado that sets the rate and you are provided one statement, the rest is done by us. More information regarding CDARS and public funds can be obtained at <https://www.cdars.com/media/249560/cdars-co-law.pdf>

Bank of Colorado manages its public funds pledging everyday and does it for public entities all across the state. Whether these deposits are maintained within our bank or managed through CDARS, you should feel comfortable that we are doing what the law requires to protect public funds.

Sincerely,

Craig Lichtenwalner
Senior Vice President/ Cashier
Bank of Colorado



MEMBER FDIC

Main Avenue Office 1199 Main Avenue, Durango CO 80301 • 970.247.5151
South City Market Office 9th & Camino Del Rio, Durango CO 80301
North City Market ATM Live 3130 Main Avenue, Durango CO 80301
Drive Up/Walk Up 902 E 2nd Avenue, Durango CO 80301
Bayfield ATM Live 381 E Colorado Drive, Bayfield CO 81122 • bankofcolorado.com



COLORADO

Department of
Regulatory Agencies

Division of Banking

THE PUBLIC DEPOSIT PROTECTION ACT (C.R.S., 11-10.5-101, et. seq.) FACT SHEET

The Colorado Division of Banking, under the authority of the Colorado State Banking Board, oversees Colorado chartered commercial banks, inter-state, and national commercial banks that are certified to hold Colorado public deposits. Public deposits held by Savings and Loan associations are regulated under different statutes and rules. Please contact the Colorado Division of Financial Services (303-894-2336) for information concerning Savings and Loan association public deposit protection.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Public Deposit Protection Act (PDPA) is to ensure that public funds held on deposit in eligible public depositories are protected in the event that the eligible public depository holding the public deposits becomes insolvent. The PDPA protects only public funds placed in deposit accounts at an eligible public depository. Deposit accounts include: Demand Deposit, Negotiable Order of Withdrawal (NOW), Savings, Money Market Deposit, and Time/Certificate of Deposit (CD) accounts.

DEFINITIONS

1. **Public Deposits** – All moneys in deposit accounts at an eligible public depository that either: (1) belong to a public unit or public entity, or (2) are under the control of the Official Custodian of a public unit or entity.
2. **Public Unit** – State of Colorado or any Colorado county, Colorado city or municipality, Colorado city and county, or any political subdivision thereof.

"Political subdivision" includes any subdivision or any principal department of a public unit:

- (I) The creation of which subdivision or principal department has been expressly authorized by state statute;
- (II) To which some functions of government have been delegated by state statute; and
- (III) To which funds have been allocated by ordinance or state statute for its exclusive use and control.

"Political subdivision" also includes drainage, irrigation, navigation, improvement, levee, sanitary, school districts, power districts, bridge and port authorities and any other special district created by state statute or compact between the state of Colorado and one or more states.

"Political subdivision" does not include subordinate or nonautonomous divisions, agencies, or boards within principal departments of a public unit.



3. **Public Entity** – Colorado public entities include: institutions of higher education; institutions, departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or authorities of any Colorado public unit; local government investment pools; public entity insurance pools; any public body corporate created or established under the constitution of the State of Colorado or any state statute; or other entity, organization or corporation formed by intergovernmental agreement or other contract between or among any of the foregoing.
4. **Official Custodian** - A designee with plenary authority, including control over public funds of a public unit which the official custodian is appointed to serve. For purposes of this paragraph, "control" includes possession of public funds, as well as the authority to establish accounts for such public funds in banks and to make deposits, withdrawals, or disbursements of such public funds. If the exercise of plenary authority over the public funds of a public unit requires action by or the consent of two or more putative official custodians, then such official custodians shall be treated as one official custodian with respect to such public funds.

A designee, other than a designee described in the above paragraph, with authority, including control, over public funds of an entity, including the state of Colorado; any institution, agency, instrumentality, authority, county, municipality, city and county, school district, special district, or other political subdivision of the state of Colorado, including any institution of higher education; any institution, department, agency, instrumentality, or authority of any of the foregoing, including any county or municipal housing authority; any local government investment pool organized pursuant to Part 7 of Article 75 of Title 24, C.R.S.; any public entity insurance pool organized pursuant to state statute; any public body corporate created or established under the constitution of the state of Colorado or any state statute; and any other entity, organization, or corporation formed by intergovernmental agreement or other contract between or among any of the foregoing. For purposes of this paragraph, "control" includes possession of public funds, as well as the authority to establish accounts for such public funds in banks and to make deposits, withdrawals, or disbursements of such public funds. If the exercise of authority over such public funds requires action by or the consent of two or more putative official custodians, then such official custodians shall be treated as one official custodian with respect to such public funds.

METHODS OF PROTECTION

1. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) provides deposit insurance protection, up to established thresholds, pursuant to 12 C.F.R. Section 330.15. Each separate public unit's Official Custodian (not each separate deposit account) is insured up to \$250,000 for the aggregate of all time and savings deposit accounts and up to \$250,000 for the aggregate of all demand deposit accounts. These insurance limits are per bank, not per branch of the same bank. In addition, deposit accounts containing qualifying trust, pension, and municipal bond redemption funds are separately insured on a per-beneficiary basis if FDIC requirements are met. Please contact the FDIC Deposit Insurance Call Center with questions concerning FDIC coverage (1- 877-275-3342). If an entity is not a public unit as defined in Section 11-10.5-103(13), C.R.S., but is an entity described in Section 11-10.5-103(9)(b), C.R.S., the entity is insured up to \$250,000 for the aggregate of all demand deposit and time and savings accounts.

2. The PDPA requires each eligible public depository to deliver readily marketable assets (typically securities) to a Division-approved escrow institution to be held in safekeeping, pledged to the Colorado State Banking Board, to secure all uninsured public deposits held by the eligible public depository. In the event that the eligible public depository holding the public deposits becomes insolvent, the Colorado State Banking Board, or a designee (typically the FDIC), will sell the pledged assets of the insolvent bank (if necessary) and distribute the proceeds to the Colorado public unit or entity's Official Custodian requiring reimbursement beyond the amount insured by the FDIC.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OFFICIAL CUSTODIAN

1. If an official custodian chooses to place public funds in a bank deposit account, the custodian must ensure that the bank is one that has been certified by the Colorado State Banking Board to hold public deposits. A list of certified banks, eligible public depositories, is maintained on the Division's website.
2. Maintain records/documents verifying that the custodian qualifies as an "official custodian" and that the funds under the official custodian's control are public funds subject to the provisions of the Public Deposit Protection Act.
3. Register with the Colorado Division of Banking to obtain an Official Custodian Identification Number, if the Official Custodian intends to place public funds in a deposit account at an eligible public depository. The application is available on our website. When the Official Custodian Identification Number(s) have been obtained, the Official Custodian must provide each eligible public depository in which public funds are deposited with the assigned Official Custodian identification numbers.

Any Official Custodian who violates the provisions of the PDPA is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of between \$200 and \$500 and possible removal from public office.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ELIGIBLE PUBLIC DEPOSITORY

1. Obtain certification under the PDPA to hold public deposits. The application is available on the Division's website.
2. Deliver eligible collateral to an approved escrow institution (a list of which is available on the Division's website) and pledge that collateral to the Colorado State Banking Board to protect uninsured public deposits. The total market value of all pledged assets must be, at a minimum, 102% of the bank's aggregate uninsured public deposits at all times. Higher collateral percentages may be required per Banking Board Rule PDP5.
3. Enter into a Deposit/Pledge agreement with an approved escrow institution to maintain pledged collateral in accordance with the requirements of Section 11-10.5-108(2), C.R.S. and the Banking Board's pledging and releasing policies and procedures.

4. Comply with the following reporting requirements:
 - a. Monthly reporting to the Colorado Division of Banking of all public deposit accounts and aggregate market value of pledged assets.
 - b. Arrange to have an annual audit or directors' examination conducted by an independent person for compliance with the PDPA. File a copy of the PDPA audit or directors' examination report with the Colorado Division of Banking within required timelines.
 - c. Make all records available to examiners of the Colorado Division of Banking for periodic inspection for compliance with the PDPA, and pay all associated assessments and examination fees.
5. Do not accept or receive public funds if the bank is not certified to hold public deposits or under verbal or written orders from the Colorado State Banking Board to not accept or receive public funds.

Any director, bank officer, or manager who knowingly violates any PDPA provision is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of between \$200 and \$2,000.

DEMAND MANAGEMENT: Preliminary Guiding Principles

REVISED DRAFT May 30, 2021

The principles outlined below are intended to guide Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) in its evaluation of and input to any Demand Management (DM) program the state of Colorado, in cooperation with the other three Upper Basin states, may advance.

SWCD has not adopted a position of support, opposition or neutrality on the feasibility or development, let alone implementation, of a DM program within the Upper Basin. There are simply too many unknowns at this point. DM is an evolving concept; accordingly, this is a living policy document that will be reviewed periodically to reflect changing program elements, evaluations, and goals of DM in Colorado and the Upper Basin.

SWCD was created by the General Assembly in 1941 to lead in the conservation, use and development of the water resources of the San Juan and Dolores river basins, both of which are tributary to the Colorado River. SWCD's organic act also includes the charge "to safeguard for Colorado, all waters to which the state of Colorado is equitably entitled." Demand management is a novel concept that, if implemented, has the potential to alter water use and administration within the Upper Basin and, on a more local level, within SWCD's boundaries. Accordingly, SWCD will remain involved in the evaluation and potential formation and implementation of any DM program Colorado may pursue.

Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans:

At least since the turn of this century, the security and sustainability of Colorado River water supply has been in question. The basin is currently experiencing one of the worst hydrologic cycles in recorded history. Continuing drought, resulting in worsening water supply and storage conditions, increases the risk of curtailment in the Upper Basin.

To reduce the risk of Lake Powell and Lake Mead declining to critically low levels, the United States Department of the Interior (Interior) and the seven Colorado River basin states agreed to develop and implement plans to overlay the 2007 Interim Guidelines addressing forecasted low reservoir elevations if the drought continued. The resulting Colorado River Drought Contingency Plans (DCP) were submitted to Congress on March 19, 2019. On April 16, 2019, then President Trump signed the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan Authorization Act into law. This bill requires Interior to execute the Colorado River Drought Contingency Plans without delay and to operate applicable Colorado River System reservoirs accordingly.

For its part, the Upper Division states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming committed to three primary strategies to address the impacts of continued drought in the basin. The first strategy, weather modification, was already being implemented across the basin and needed no federal legislation so was not included as part of the legislation passed in the Upper Basin's Drought Contingency Plan (DCP). The other two strategies focus directly on the goal to minimize the risk of water levels at Lake Powell falling below target elevations: an immediate response and a multi-year plan. The second strategy, articulated in the Drought Response Operations Agreement of the Upper Basin's DCP, is an immediate response measure designed to utilize operational adjustments or releases from the Colorado River Storage Project Act (CRSPA) Initial Units to bolster storage levels at Lake Powell when Lake Powell approaches a critical low elevation of 3,525' MSL. The Drought Response Operations Agreement also provides mechanisms for recovering storage at those same CRSPA Initial Units in subsequent years.

The Upper Basin's longer-term strategy is to explore the feasibility of developing and implementing a new demand management program that could generate water savings by either temporarily reducing existing water use within the Upper Basin or augmenting supplies with imported water. Under the Upper Basin's DCP, up to 500,000 acre-feet of DM water savings can be stored in the CRSPA Initial Units to help assure continued compliance with the Colorado River Compact under certain circumstances.

Most of the investigations and discussions pertaining to DM to date, have been focused on generating DM "water savings" through the voluntary, compensated and temporary reduction of historically consumptively used (HCU) water within the Upper Basin in order to assist with Colorado River Compact compliance. As a result, the guiding principles set forth below are based on the assumption that DM water will be generated in this manner.

DRAFT Guiding Principles:

The foundational elements of any DM program must be voluntary, temporary, and compensated reductions in use of water that was being beneficially used under existing rights that otherwise would have depleted Colorado River basin flows within the Upper Basin.

SWCD believes DM is not a panacea. Additional options and alternatives (e.g., forest management, groundwater storage, weather modification, non-native phreatophyte removal, importing water from outside of the Colorado River basin) should be equally and fully explored as we work towards the goal of supply security and sustainability in the Colorado River basin.

Exploration of DM must be just one part of the comprehensive, basin-wide strategy for addressing short- and long-term water supply and demand imbalance that may be included in the next set of Interim Guidelines currently in negotiations regarding the operations of Lake Mead and Lake Powell for future Colorado Compact compliance.

SWCD pledges to evaluate DM as one of many possible strategies to provide flexibility and reduce the risk of curtailment in the Upper Basin.

SWCD will participate in the exploration and potential formation of any Colorado DM program to ensure any proposed program is capable of achieving its stated objectives and that adverse consequences are avoided, minimized, or fully mitigated.

Any DM program must operate within Colorado's Prior Appropriation Doctrine. The creation, storage, delivery and use of DM water must not injure any existing water right within Colorado.

Before deciding whether it would be feasible to adopt, let alone implement, a DM program within Colorado, the State must commit to developing the technical platform necessary to demonstrate that a program can be accomplished without injury to other users within Colorado, at a sufficient scale, and that any conserved water can be conserved, protected, and ultimately delivered for Compact compliance.

Any DM program must ensure equitable and proportional participation from all basins consuming Colorado River water as well as all regions and sectors of Colorado's economy. SWCD acknowledges that "equity" and "proportionality" are critical but undefined terms within the context of demand management. Both are currently the subject of statewide focus.

Transmountain diverters of Colorado River water must participate in DM using water that was historically diverted and beneficially used under decreed transmountain water rights. Transmountain diverters must not be allowed to purchase or otherwise rely upon other water supplies that originate in the Colorado River Basin in order to accomplish their proportional participation in DM.

A successful DM program can help ensure the safety and economic health of all Coloradans. Accordingly, the considerable funding required for DM must not target water right holders, water users, or other specific groups.

Colorado's DM program, if any, must be designed and implemented to support and aid sustaining Colorado's predominantly family- and locally-owned agriculture.

Storage of DM "savings" should be in CRSPA Initial Units that are located as high in the system as practicable.

Releases of DM water from storage should only be made by the Upper Colorado River Commission for the purpose of helping the Upper Division States assure continued compliance with Article III of the Colorado River Compact without impairing the right to exercise existing Upper Basin water rights in the future. Such releases should be timed, to the extent practicable, to provide the greatest economic, environmental, and recreational benefits.

Any DM program must not encourage or reward speculation in Colorado water resources.

Any DM program must recognize there will be impacts resulting from implementation of DM, and that impacts, both positive and negative, will be neither equally nor equitably distributed. Therefore, any DM program must include adequate mitigation for those individuals, water districts and ditch and reservoir companies, and communities impacted by implementation of a DM program. Additionally, DM mitigation should be designed to provide a net benefit to participating individuals, water projects, and their communities.

The evaluation of DM's feasibility, appropriateness, and whether DM is a timely and worthwhile pursuit must be approached without prejudice. In other words, a determination of infeasibility, inappropriateness or unworthiness must be honestly evaluated.

In order to 'test' DM and to allow for incremental implementation and accrual of meaningful DM savings, SWCD recognizes that initial implementation of DM may be required at a pilot or demonstration scale. However, any pilot or demonstration DM program must be conducted in conformance with Colorado water law, without injury to other water users and without prejudice regarding its conclusions or consequences.

As it continues to evaluate the appropriateness of DM, SWCD will remain mindful of the severe consequences of Compact Administration, which could force involuntary, and uncompensated water curtailments that could, in turn, result in disproportionate impacts to certain water users, economic sectors and geographic regions.

SWCD appreciates the CWCB's outreach and inclusivity in its evaluation process to date. SWCD pledges its continued, constructive participation with the state in its DM investigations.

Future Process:

SWCD will continue to explore demand management, including by proactively identifying and communicating its concerns regarding disproportionate and negative impacts potentially resulting from implementation of DM.

SWCD will continue to reach out to water districts, Tribes, and other interested parties in its on-going evaluation and assessment of DM.

SWCD will continue to evaluate water supply, water rights, and water uses and their respective relationships to Compact compliance.

SWCD will collaborate closely with the Colorado River District in order to maintain, to the greatest extent possible, harmony on DM between the two districts.

SWCD will continue to engage in all appropriate Colorado River Compact discussions.



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters in the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
West Building – 841 East Second Avenue
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MEMORANDUM

June 2, 2021

To: Southwestern Board of Directors

From: Chris Treese, Independent Consultant

RE: **Colorado Legislative Report #10**

Action requested: None. As I am writing this a week before the meeting, I may have a request for action update at the meeting.

Waning Days. There have been no water-related bills of consequence introduced in these waning weeks of the legislature. However, the General Assembly has moved into high gear recognizing that they have a limited number of days remaining in the constitutionally-limited 120-day session.

The Colorado General Assembly must, by state constitution, adjourn its regular session no later than midnight Saturday June 12 this year. Previous talk, mostly speculation, that the legislature would recess early in order to “save” a few days for a later return to address allocation of federal stimulus and infrastructure funds and other unfinished business has largely died. However, that planned tolling came with a risk of losing those days if the Governor lifts the public health emergency declaration prior to reconvening. The Governor’s lifting of the emergency declaration appears increasingly likely with the progress of vaccinations, declines, at least in most places, in COVID cases and deaths, and the looming specter of the MLB’s All-Star game in July in Denver.

The House and Senate together have introduced more than 1600 bills to date, and more bills are being introduced almost every day. Several very significant and controversial bills are currently pending before an ever-shortening session. A major transportation funding bill is pending, as is the first significant changes to the Public Schools Finance Act since its passage in 1994. I suspect at least the latter will end up being the subject of a special interim committee.

Up to 100 bills per day are appearing on the House and Senate calendars daily. There will certainly be some bills that “Die on Deadline” that simply don’t make it through the entire legislative

process before final adjournment. Appropriations Committees have been calendaring more than a dozen bills per hearing even though these committees are meeting only an hour before each house convenes daily for floor work.

Long days, late hours and some weekend work will be the norm from now until the end of the session. The House worked well into the evening last Friday even though it was the start of the three-day weekend, and the typical Friday adjournment time is mid-morning.

While a special session is not out of the question, they are wildly unpopular with the 100 part-time legislators. Also pointing to the completion of the 120-day session next weekend and no special session are the three bills just introduced addressing the windfall coming to state and local governments from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. However, none of this is to suggest that the legislature is going to have an easy time getting through all the remaining legislation.

Gap Waters. It now appears clear that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) desired bill addressing so-called "Gap Waters" resulting from the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule will not be introduced. Concerns about the burdens CDPHE's bill would place on both the regulated and unregulated water community were decisive in the department's lack of success in securing late bill permission. Also dimming the department's prospects were the legal and regulatory uncertainties of its proposed approach to the Gap Waters.

If and how the state eventually deals with the Gap Waters is particularly important as Colorado has defined "Waters of the State" and "State Waters" as any and all surface and subsurface waters that are contained in or flow in or through this state but does not include waters in sewage systems, waters in treatment works of disposal systems, waters in potable water distribution systems, and all water withdrawn for use until use and treatment have been completed. (C.R.S. § 25-8-103) Notably, water in irrigation ditches, canals and drains, roadside ditches, and stormwater impoundments and conveyances are not specifically excluded from the definition of Waters of the State. All of which highlights the importance of a careful and well thought out approach to the Gap Waters. This issue will be a significant agenda item on the Interim Water Committee's agenda this summer.

Without legislation it is unclear what authorities CDPHE and the Water Quality Control Division have with respect to permitting or enforcement in Gap Waters. This may cause substantial delay to water projects that are located in Gap Waters.

While I am confident of the legislature sponsoring the Interim Water Committee's meeting this summer, I have to acknowledge that as of this writing, the Executive Committee of the legislature has not set or funded the interim committees for 2021. (The "Interim Water Committee" is

actually a standing committee of the legislature, but it nevertheless relies upon annual Executive Committee funding and approval in order to meet during the off season.)

Water in the Windfall. Yesterday, the Colorado Senate unanimously approved three bills that delineate how the state should spend its portion of federal money from the American Rescue Plan approved by Congress in March. Under the three bills, the \$3.8 billion the state is to receive will go to transportation and infrastructure projects, economic development and a variety of other projects and programs, including education, housing, state parks and agriculture.

The money was part of President Biden's \$1.2 trillion coronavirus relief bill, which included direct payments to individuals and local governments. The legislature has been waiting for direction from the US Treasury regarding restrictions and requirements for how the money could be spent. The money can only be used for such things as paying direct costs due to the pandemic, economic hardship caused by it and projects designed to stimulate the economy.

One of these recently introduced bills, [SB21-289](#), has potential water-related benefits. The bill creates a \$1 billion "Loss Restoration Cash Fund" from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The \$1 billion represents the state's COVID-related revenue loss. SB 289 provides that the General Assembly may appropriate or transfer money from the fund to a state department for a wide variety of government services. Included in the eligibility list is state parks and agriculture, each of which has authority over water and water-related projects and programs. This fund is restricted from transfers to state departments or appropriation until the supplemental appropriation process in 2022. The bill allocates the money over the next three fiscal years as follows:

- \$357 million for fiscal year 2021-22;
- \$333 million for fiscal year 2022-23; and
- \$310 million for fiscal year 2023-24.

Other Bills of Interest.

- SB21-189, the CWCB's annual projects' bill, passed the House unanimously last Friday and now moves to the Governor's desk. SWCD supported.
- SB21-078, the Agriculture Workers' Rights bill, passed the Senate by a two vote margin. It was assigned to the House State Affairs Committee on May 24. It was just calendared today for its first House hearing tomorrow. It will have to pass State Affairs, Appropriations, and the full House prior to adjournment. SWCD is opposed.
- SB21-240, Watershed Restoration Grant bill, is one of the "stimulus bills" allocating federal stimulus funds to needed fire restoration efforts. This bill is currently in House Appropriations. SWCD supports.
- HB21-1226, Aquatic Nuisance Species Control, only awaits the Governor signature to become law. This bill installs a mobile mussel inspection station on highway 160 near the Four Corners, among others. SWCD supports.

- HB21-1260, State Water Plan Funding, provides General Fund monies to the CWCB for Colorado's Water Plan projects and programs, including RoundTable grant funds. HB 1260 is in Senate Appropriations Committee. SWCD supports.
- SWCD successfully advocated for an amendment to HB21-1268, Emerging Technologies in Water, to ensure there was no implied support or endorsement of speculation in the bill. HB 1268, with SWCD's amendment intact, awaits the Governor's signature. SWCD is officially monitoring.

There are numerous other bills of SWCD interest pending and receiving SWCD attention. I will have a week's worth of updates at the Board meeting. Additionally, I'll provide the Board with a final, post mortem memo following adjournment *Sine Die* that covers the full session.



SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2021 State Legislative Update: June 3, 2021

Below is a summary of 2021 water-related legislation under consideration by the Colorado General Assembly. These summaries generally apply to the bills as introduced.

Click on the bill number to view the most recent bill language and other information.

The Colorado Water Congress (CWC) State Affairs Committee met on May 24th and June 1st. Positions taken on bills are in red text for CWC and green text for SWCD.

THE FOLLOWING BILLS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONSIDERED BY SWCD.

SB21-034	Water Resources Financing Enterprise (POSTPONED INDEFINITELY)
SWCD Position:	Monitor
CWC Position:	No Position
Sponsors:	Senate (Coram)
Committee of Reference:	Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources
Bill Status:	Postponed indefinitely by the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.
Title:	Concerning the creation of an enterprise that is exempt from the requirements of section 20 of article X of the state constitution to administer a fee-based water resources financing program.
Summary:	<p>This bill creates the water resources financing enterprise. The board of the enterprise would consist of the combined boards of the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority and the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The enterprise will provide financing (including grants and low interest loans) to drinking water suppliers, wastewater treaters, and raw water suppliers. "Raw water suppliers" are limited to those providing raw water for treatment and use as drinking water.</p> <p>The enterprise would be funded with a \$0.25/1000 gal. fee above 4,000 gal./mo. minimum on drinking water bills. The fee would be collected by drinking water utilities and remitted to the state. As a fee-based enterprise, new revenues collected would not be included in any TABOR calculations for state budget caps. Fees may be adjusted annually for inflation and to address "certain equity concerns."</p> <p>Although clearly established as an enterprise fund, voters will be asked in November 2022 to authorize the creation of the enterprise.</p>
Comments:	
SB21-054	Transfers for Wildfire Mitigation and Response (PASSED & SIGNED BY GOVERNOR)
SWCD Position:	Support
CWC Position:	Support
Sponsors:	Senate (Hansen/Rankin) House (McCluskie)
Committee of Reference:	Senate Appropriations
Bill Status:	Passed and signed into law.

Title: Concerning transfers from the general fund to cash funds to be used to address wildland fires, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

Summary: SB 54 transfers from the General Fund \$13 million to three cash funds for wildfire preparedness and post-fire mitigation.

- Section 1 transfers \$6 million to the forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grant program cash fund.
- Section 2 transfers \$3 million from the general fund to the wildfire preparedness fund. The division of homeland security and emergency management will use these funds as
 - State match for federal hazard mitigation assistance grants to local governments that are used to mitigate wildland fire hazards; and
 - To provide local governments that are eligible to receive the federal grants with strategic planning assistance for wildland fire hazard mitigation.
- Section 3 transfers \$4 million to CWCB construction for the watershed restoration program.

Comments:

SB21-087 **Agricultural Workers' Rights**

SWCD Position: Oppose

CWC Position: Has not discussed

Sponsors: Senate (Danielson), House (McCormick, Caraveo)

Committee of Reference: Senate Business, Labor & Technology; Senate Appropriations

Bill Status: Passed out of Senate as amended; scheduled for consideration by House State, Civic, Military & Veterans Affairs Committee on June 3rd.

Title: Concerning agricultural workers' rights.

Summary: This lengthy and detailed bill removes the historical exemption of agricultural labor from state and local labor and minimum wage laws. It also provides detailed directions and limitations on farm-labor operations including, among others:

- Specifies meal breaks and rest periods,
- Even specifically prohibits use of the short-handled or long-handled hoes,
- Creates an agricultural work advisory committee to study and analyze agricultural wages and working conditions and
- Creates an appeal process and enforcement actions, including minimum penalties, for aggrieved agricultural employees, whistleblowers, and key service providers.

Comments:

SB21-164 **Uniform Easement Relocation Act (POSTPONED INDEFINITELY)**

SWCD Position: Oppose

CWC Position: Oppose

Sponsors: Senate (Gardner)

Committee of Reference: Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

Bill Status: Postponed indefinitely by Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Title: Concerning the "Uniform Easement Relocation Act".

Summary: The bill would enact the "Uniform Easement Relocation Act," drafted by the Uniform Law Commission. The bill sets procedures to relocate most easements. Nearly half of this lengthy bill outlines what must not be done in order to relocate an easement.

Comments:

SB21-189 **Colorado Water Conservation Board Construction Fund Project**
(PASSED & AWAITING GOVERNOR'S CONSIDERATION)

SWCD Position: Support
CWC Position: Support
Sponsors: Senate (Donovan), House (Arndt)
Committee of Reference: Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources

Bill Status: Passed and awaiting the governor's consideration.

Title: Concerning the funding of Colorado Water Conservation Board projects, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

Summary: SB 189 is the annual construction fund bill for CWCB projects' authorizations. In addition to a pared-down list of authorized operations expenditures (e.g., weather modification, flood plain mapping), this year's bill allows a transfer of up to \$2,000,000 to the interstate litigation fund. It also authorizes the CWCB to make a loan up to \$3,000,000 to assist the confined aquifer recovery project in the San Luis Valley. Finally, in a much shorter than normal projects' bill, Section 7 conditionally reinstates funding for the water efficiency grant program with \$550,000 annually if the general assembly chooses not to spend 100% of the money in the operational fund on core departmental programs.

Comments:

SB21-220 **Reverse Transfers from Severance Tax Operational Fund**
(PASSED & SIGNED BY GOVERNOR)

SWCD Position: Support
CWC Position: Discussion
Sponsors: Senate (Hansen, Rankin), House (Herod)
Committee of Reference: Senate Appropriations

Bill Status: Passed and signed into law.

Title: Concerning the stabilization of revenue in the severance tax operational fund by returning money that was transferred to natural resources and energy grant programs.

Summary: Money in the severance tax operational fund is primarily used for two purposes. The General Assembly annually appropriates money from the operational fund for several core departmental programs. If money remains after these core appropriations and the reserve requirement for the core programs is met, then the state treasurer transfers money to several funds that support natural resources and energy grant programs. (These used to be called "Tier II" programs.)

Based on recent forecasts, there will be insufficient revenue in the operational fund for even the core departmental programs. To avoid a fund deficit in the operational fund, this JBC bill reverses five transfers made in the following amounts:

\$1,998,205 for the Species Conservation Trust Fund (SCTF);
\$1,600,964 for CPW's aquatic nuisance species (ANS) fund;
\$219,803 for the CWCB's water efficiency grant program cash fund;
\$297,759 for the Inter-Basin Compact Committee's (IBCC) operating fund; and
\$3,996,410 for the water supply reserve fund (WSRF).

Comments:

SB21-234 General Fund Transfer Agriculture and Drought Resiliency

SWCD Position: Support

CWC Position: Discussion

Sponsors: Senate (Lewis, Sonnenberg), House (Cutter, Holtorf)

Committee of Reference: Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

Bill Status: Scheduled for House Third Reading on June 3rd.

Title: Concerning creation of the agriculture and drought resiliency fund, and, in connection therewith, transferring money from the general fund to the fund and making an appropriation.

Summary: SB 234 creates a short-lived agriculture and drought resiliency fund in the Colorado Department of Agriculture with a one-time \$3 million General Fund transfer from the current fiscal year's budget. The Department of Agriculture would use the fund to anticipate, prepare for, mitigate, adapt to, or respond to events, trends, or climatological disturbances related to drought or climate." The bill directs the development of a "hay bank" to provide "adequate resources for livestock in times of drought" and "supporting recovery of grazing lands following wildfire(s)." The fund is repealed September 1, 2022.

Comments:

SB21-237 Create Forest Health Council in Department of Natural Resources
(PASSED & AWAITING GOVERNOR'S CONSIDERATION)

SWCD Position: Monitor

CWC Position: Discussion

Sponsors: Senate (Donovan), House (McCluskie)

Committee of Reference: Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

Bill Status: Passed and awaiting governor's consideration.

Title: Concerning creation of the Colorado Forest Health Council in the Department of Natural Resources, and, in connection therewith, repealing the forest health advisory council within the state forest service.

Summary: Under current law, the forest health advisory council was created within the state forest service, which is within Colorado state university. Section 4 of the bill repeals the forest health advisory council and section 2 creates the Colorado forest health council within the division of forestry within the department of natural resources and specifies the new council's membership and duties. Section 1 schedules the new council for sunset review in 2026.

Comments:

<u>SB21-240</u>	Watershed Restoration Grant Program Stimulus
SWCD Position:	Support
CWC Position:	Support
Sponsors:	Senate (Danielson, Simpson), House (Kipp, Catlin)
Committee of Reference:	Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources
Bill Status:	Passed out of House Agriculture, Livestock & Water Committee and referred to House Appropriations Committee.
Title:	Concerning the transfer of money from the general fund to the Colorado water conservation board construction fund for watershed protection programs, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.
Summary:	<p>The bill transfers \$15 million from the general fund to the Colorado Water Conservation Board construction fund for use by the Colorado water conservation board (CWCB) to protect watersheds against the impacts of wildfires through the existing watershed restoration grant program and for conducting a statewide watershed analysis to investigate the susceptibility of life, safety, infrastructure, and water supplies to wildfire impacts. The CWCB can use up to 5% of the money to administer the grant program and up to 10% to provide technical engineering services to grantees. The CWCB is directed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spend up to \$500,000 by December 31, 2022, to conduct the analysis; and • Award at least \$10 million dollars in grants under the grant program by July 1, 2022, and award the remaining money, less the money the CWCB uses to administer the grant program and provide technical engineering services, in grants by December 31, 2022. <p><i>(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced.)</i></p>
Comments:	
<u>SB21-248</u>	Loan Program for Colorado Agriculture
SWCD Position:	Monitor
CWC Position:	Discussion
Sponsors:	Senate (Donovan/Simpson), House (McCormick/Holtorf)
Committee of Reference:	Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources
Bill Status:	Scheduled for House Third Reading on June 3 rd .
Title:	Concerning assistance for agriculture in Colorado, and, in connection therewith, establishing a loan program in the Department of Agriculture and transferring money from the general fund to a new agricultural future loan program cash fund to be used for the loan program.
Summary:	<p>The bill creates the Colorado agricultural loan program in the Department of Agriculture to provide: Farm-to-market infrastructure loans to eligible applicants and low-interest loans to eligible farmers or ranchers and eligible ag-related businesses in Colorado. It funds the program with a one-time \$30 million General Fund transfer to the Dept. of Ag. with direction to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ag processor loans; and • Low-interest loans to eligible farmers, ranchers and ag businesses.

The Department is directed to award:

- At least \$5 million but no more than \$10 million in loans to ag processors by June 30, 2022; and
- At least \$10 million but no more than \$20 million in the form of low-interest loans to eligible farmers, ranchers, and ag-related businesses by December 31, 2022.

After January 1, 2023, the Department is directed to prioritize loans to farmers or ranchers who have owned or operated a farm or ranch for less than 10 years or represent a population that is underserved or underrepresented in Colorado agriculture.

Comments:

SB21-258 **Wildfire Risk Mitigation**

SWCD Position: Monitor

CWC Position: Support

Sponsors: Senate (Ginal/Rankin), House (Snyder/Hanks)

Committee of Reference: Senate Local Government

Bill Status: Passed out of House Energy & Environment and House Appropriations Committees.

Title: Concerning the administration of state assistance programs to mitigate the risk of wildfire, and, in connection therewith, creating the wildfire mitigation capacity development fund and the hazard mitigation fund; transferring money into specially designed wildfire funds; and making an appropriation.

Summary: The bill creates two funds. First is the wildfire mitigation capacity development fund. Money for this fund is continuously appropriated to the DNR for a number of wildfire related programs. The second is the hazard mitigation fund to assist local jurisdictions in obtaining the matching funds required for certain federal grants.

The bill directs the following transfers and appropriations:

- \$5 million from the General Fund to the healthy forests and vibrant communities fund;
- \$2.5 million from the General Fund to the wildfire risk mitigation revolving fund for loans issued by the wildfire risk mitigation loan program;
- \$17.5 million from the General Fund to the wildfire mitigation capacity development fund;
- \$3 million from the wildfire preparedness fund to the hazard mitigation fund; and
- \$600,000 from the wildfire preparedness fund and \$1.2 million from the Colorado firefighting air corps fund to the wildfire emergency response fund.

Additionally, the bill allows the state forest service to issue forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grants for projects on federal lands. The bill also generously expands the allowable uses of the forest restoration and wildfire risk mitigation grant program by allowing the program to fund capacity-building efforts for local governments, community groups, and collaborative forestry efforts.

Comments:

HJR21-1002	Water Projects Eligibility Lists (PASSED & SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR)
SWCD Position:	Support
CWC Position:	Support
Sponsors:	House (Arndt), Senate (Donovan)
Committee of Reference:	House Agriculture, Livestock & Water
Bill Status:	Passed and signed into law.
Title:	Concerning approval of water project revolving fund eligibility lists administered by the Colorado water resources and power development authority.
Summary:	See bill text for full fund eligibility lists.
Comments:	
HB21-1008	Forest Health Project Financing (PASSED & SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR)
SWCD Position:	Support as amended
CWC Position:	Support
Sponsors:	House (Arndt/Catlin), Senate (Cooke/Hansen)
Committee of Reference:	House Agriculture, Livestock & Water, House Finance
Bill Status:	Passed and signed into law.
Title:	Concerning increased options for financing forest health projects, and, in connection therewith, financing wildfire mitigation treatments.
Summary:	<p>HB 1008 provides additional options for financing forest health projects by authorizing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of special improvement districts by a combination of local governments, • Special assessments on property specially benefited by the improvement district, including forest health projects, • Specifically authorizing counties, municipalities, special districts, water conservancy districts, the Colorado River District, and the <u>Southwestern Water Conservation District</u> to participate in and finance forest health projects; and • A forest improvement district to use sales tax revenue for forest health projects. <p>The bill also extends the statutory sunset of the Colorado Water Resources Power and Development Authority to issue bonds to fund watershed protection and forest health projects from July 1, 2023, to July 1, 2033.</p>
Comments:	
HB21-1043	Study Underground Water Storage Maximum Beneficial Use
SWCD Position:	Monitor
CWC Position:	Support
Sponsors:	House (Holtorf), Senate (Sonnenberg)
Committee of Reference:	House Agriculture, Livestock & Water
Bill Status:	Passed as amended out of House Agriculture, Livestock and Water Committee and House Finance Committee, and referred to House Appropriations.

Title: Concerning a study of underground water storage to maximize the beneficial use of water within Colorado.

Summary: This bill directs the CWCB, in consultation with the state engineer, to sponsor a study of underground water storage for later recovery. The study must identify:

- Specific aquifers that are hydrologically and legally available to be used for underground storage and subsequent beneficial use;
- Sources of revenue that could be used to pay for underground storage projects;
- Planned, potential or existing underground storage projects that meet the objectives identified in the study; and
- Recommend legislative changes needed to implement underground storage projects.

The bill directs the study be submitted to the Water Resources Review Committee by August 1, 2022, including recommended legislation to implement the study's recommendations

Comments:

HB21-1046 **Water Share Right Mutual Ditch Corporation**
(PASSED & SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR)

SWCD Position: Monitor

CWC Position: Support

Sponsors: House (Arndt/Catlin), Senate (Fields/Sonnenberg)

Committee of Reference: House Agriculture, Livestock & Water

Bill Status: Passed and signed into law.

Title: Concerning the use of a water right obtained through a mutual ditch corporation.

Summary: The House Ag. Committee unanimously voted to adopt the sponsors' amendment rewriting the entirety of HB21-1046. The strike below (SBEC) amendment resulted from extensive stakeholder outreach and collaboration at the State Affairs Committee of CWC. The resulting SBEC amendment reflects a consensus compromise for a workable bill addressing the most troubling elements of recent water court rulings. The amended bill clarifies that, subject to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the corporation:

- When stockholder demand exceeds supply, mutual ditch corporations may limit or otherwise rotate delivery of water ratably among the stockholders;
- When a stockholder is not using some of or all of the available water under the stockholder's shares, the remaining stockholders taking delivery of water through the ditch may use any unused portion of the water that would otherwise have been available to that stockholder's shares, absent certain exceptions; and
- The provision is not intended to prevent a stockholder from changing the use of the water rights represented by the stockholder's shares, create any impediments to changes in use, affect storage water rights, or change the standards for water court approval to change a water right.

Comments:

HB21-1105	Low-Income Utility Payment Assistance Contributions
SWCD Position:	Support
CWC Position:	No action
Sponsors:	House (Kennedy), Senate (Hansen)
Committee of Reference:	House Finance
Bill Status:	Passed House and Senate with amendments; sent back to House for consideration of Senate amendments on June 3 rd .
Title:	Concerning utility customers' financial contributions for low-income utility assistance.
Summary:	This 17-section bill has several water-related elements. Section 1 removes the low-income energy assistance program (LEAP) from the "tier 2" severance tax operational fund money, something the water community has advocated for years. Later sections provide for voluntary, opt-in charges that a water utility may offer its customers to help finance a water utility bill payment assistance program. Alternatively, HB 1105 allows a water utility to implement its own water utility bill payment assistance program.
Comments:	
HB21-1226	More Robust Check Station Aquatic Nuisance Species (PASSED & SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR)
SWCD Position:	Support
CWC Position:	Support
Sponsors:	House (Esgar, Will), Senate (Coram, Donovan)
Committee of Reference:	House Agriculture, Livestock & Water
Bill Status:	Passed and signed into law.
Title:	Concerning additional measures to control aquatic nuisance species, and, in connection therewith, prohibiting a person from refusing to stop at a check station and directing the division of parks and wildlife to report to the general assembly regarding implementation of the act.
Summary:	Current law allows qualified peace officers to stop a conveyance, including a boat trailer and a boat, and inspect the conveyance for the presence of aquatic nuisance species before the boat is launched onto waters of the state and before departing from the waters of the state or a vessel staging area, and to impound and quarantine a conveyance that is contaminated until it is decontaminated. Authorized agents can detain and inspect conveyances but cannot impound or quarantine conveyances. Section 1 of the bill directs the division of parks and wildlife in the department of natural resources to investigate the methods that other states are using with respect to the location and operation of check stations and report regarding its investigation and the operation of check stations pursuant to the bill to the general assembly's committees with jurisdiction over wildlife. Section 2 authorizes a qualified peace officer to stop and inspect for the presence of aquatic nuisance species a conveyance that has encountered an aquatic nuisance species check station. Section 3 prohibits a person who encounters a check station from failing or refusing to stop at the check station while transporting a conveyance during the check station's hours of operation without presenting the conveyance for inspection.

Comments:

[HB21-1233](#) Conservation Easement Tax Credit Modifications

SWCD Position: Monitor

CWC Position: Discussion

Sponsors: House (Roberts, Will), Senate (Donovan, Winter)

Committee of Reference: House Agriculture, Livestock & Water

Bill Status: Passed out of Senate Appropriations and referred to Senate floor.

Title: Concerning modifications to the requirements for claiming an income tax credit for the donation of a perpetual conservation easement.

Summary: HB 1233 makes numerous changes affecting claims for an income tax credit for the donation of a perpetual conservation easement. The proposed changes are generally favorable and clarifying for potential easement donors.

Comments:

[HB21-1260](#) General Fund Transfer Implement State Water Plan

SWCD Position: Support

CWC Position: Support

Sponsors: House (Garnett/Catlin), Senate (Donovan/Simpson)

Committee of Reference: House Agriculture, Livestock & Water

Bill Status: Passed out of Senate Appropriations Committee and referred to Senate floor on Consent Agenda.

Title: Concerning transfers of money from the general fund to implement the state water plan, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation.

Summary: The bill allocates \$20 million from the general fund to the Colorado water conservation board (CWCB) to be spent to implement the state water plan as follows:

- \$15 million, which is transferred to the water plan implementation cash fund for expenditures and grants administered by the CWCB to implement the state water plan; and
- \$5 million, which is transferred to the water supply reserve fund for CWCB to disperse to the basin roundtables.

Comments:

[HB21-1266](#) Environmental Justice Disproportionate Impacted Community

SWCD Position: Monitor

CWC Position: Discussion

Sponsors: House (Jackson), Senate (Winter, Buckner)

Committee of Reference: House Energy & Environment

Bill Status:	Passed out of the House as amended and assigned to the Senate Finance Committee.
Title:	Concerning efforts to redress the effects of environmental injustice on disproportionately impacted communities.
Summary:	<p>Section 3 of the bill defines "disproportionately impacted community". Section 4 requires the air quality control commission to promote outreach to and engage with disproportionately impacted communities by creating new ways to gather input from communities across the state, using multiple languages and multiple formats, and transparently sharing information about adverse effects resulting from its proposed actions. Section 5 creates the environmental justice action task force (task force) in the department of public health and environment (department), the goal of which is to propose recommendations to the general assembly regarding practical means of addressing environmental justice inequities. The task force will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold meetings to solicit public comment concerning the development of a state agency-wide environmental justice strategy and a plan to implement that strategy, including ways to address data gaps and data sharing between state agencies and the engagement of disproportionately impacted communities; • Evaluate and propose recommended revisions to the definition of "disproportionately impacted community" and the state agencies and their proposed actions that are subject to section 3; and • File a final report by November 14, 2022, regarding its recommendations. <p>The department will report on the task force during the department's "SMART Act" presentations.</p> <p><i>(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced.)</i></p>
Comments:	

HB21-1268	Study Emerging Technologies for Water Management (PASSED & AWAITING GOVERNOR'S CONSIDERATION)
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SWCD Position:	Monitor
CWC Position:	Discussion
Sponsors:	House (Titone), Senate (Will)
Committee of Reference:	House Agriculture, Livestock and Water

Bill Status:	Passed and awaiting governor's consideration.
Title:	Concerning a requirement that Colorado institutions of higher education study potential uses of emerging technologies to more effectively manage Colorado's water supply, and, in connection therewith, making an appropriation conditioned on the receipt of matching funds from gifts, grants, and donations.
Summary:	<p>The bill declares that new technologies, such as blockchain, telemetry, improved sensors, and advanced aerial observation platforms, can improve monitoring, management, conservation, and trading of water and enhance confidence in the reliability of data underlying water rights transactions. To advance the potential use of these new technologies, the bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorizes and directs the university of Colorado and Colorado state university, in collaboration with the Colorado water institute at Colorado state university, to conduct feasibility studies and pilot deployments of these new technologies to improve water management in Colorado; and

- Appropriates \$20,000 to each university from the general fund, contingent on the universities' receipt of a matching \$40,000 in gifts, grants, and donations, for the purpose of funding the feasibility studies and pilot deployments.
(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced.)

Comments:

Monitoring legislation is integral to keeping a finger on the pulse of dynamic water policy in the state. On behalf of its diverse constituents in southwestern Colorado, the Southwestern Water Conservation District (SWCD) tracks state water legislation closely. Beth Van Vurst, SWCD General Counsel, and Chris Treese, lobbyist, ensure the views and priorities of southwestern Colorado are considered as the State legislature enacts new laws affecting water resources.

SWCD staff provides this written summary of water-related legislation, updated throughout the session via email to interested stakeholders and public. To be added to the list, please contact lauras@swwcd.org. We hope that you find the updates beneficial and informative.

Colorado Water Congress

2021 Bill Status Sheet

Bill No.	Short Title	CWC Position	Introduced	1st Committee	2nd Committee	2nd Reading	3rd Reading	Introduced	1st Committee	2nd Reading	3rd Reading	First House Repass	Conference Committee	Governor
HB21-1008	Forest Health Project Financing	8-Mar	16-Feb	2/22 Ag	04-Mar F	9-Mar	10-Mar	12-Mar	15-Apr Ag	20-Apr	21-Apr	11-May	11-May	20-May
HB21-1043	Study Underground Water Storage Maximum Beneficial Use	1-Mar	16-Feb	3/1 Ag	01-Apr F									
HB21-1046	Water Share Right Mutual Ditch Corporation	15-Mar	16-Feb	3/17 Ag		22-Mar	23-Mar	24-Mar	15-Apr Ag	21-Apr	21-Apr	11-May	11-May	20-May
HB21-1105	Low-income Utility Payment Assistance Contributions	22-Mar	16-Feb	4/1 F	5/14 Ap	18-May	19-May	19-May	25-May F	28-May				
HB21-1168	Historically Underutilized Businesses Local Government Procurement	29-Mar	4-Mar	3/31 TLG	4/19 F	23-Apr	26-Apr	27-Apr	5-May F	10-May	11-May	27-May	28-May	28-May
HB21-1181	Agricultural Soil Health Program	26-Apr	4-Mar	3/22 Ag	5/4 Ap	7-Apr	8-Apr	9-Apr	13-May Ag	21-May	24-May			
HB21-1226	More Robust Check Station Aquatic Nuisance Species	5-Apr	18-Mar	4/8 Ag		15-Apr	19-Apr	20-Apr	29-Apr Ag	4-May	5-May	11-May	11-May	20-May
HB21-1233	Conservation Easement Tax Credit Modifications		19-Mar	4/5 Ag	4/22 F	19-May	20-May	20-May	25-May F					

Bill No.	Short Title	CWC Position	Introduced	1st Committee	2nd Committee	2nd Reading	3rd Reading	Introduced	1st Committee	2nd Reading	3rd Reading	First House Repass	Conference Committee	Governor
HB21-1242	Create Agricultural Drought and Climate Resilience Office	12-Apr	24-Mar	4/5 Ag		15-Apr	21-Apr	26-Apr	13-May Ag	21-May	24-May			
HB21-1260	General Fund Transfer Implement State Water	19-Apr	6-Apr	4/19 Ag	4/28 Ap	28-Apr	29-Apr	30-Apr	12-May Ag					
HB21-1266	Environmental Justice Disproportionate Impacted Community	3-May	6-Apr	4/22 EE	5/3 F	12-May	13-May	13-May	F					
HB21-1268	Study Emerging Technologies for Water Management	10-May	9-Apr	4/26 Ag	5/11 Ap	11-May	12-May	13-May	19-May Ag	24-May	25-May			
HB21-1292	Report Revenues From Sports Betting Activity	10-May	22-Apr	12-May BAL		18-May	19-May	19-May	24-May F	26-May	27-May			
SB21-028	Promulgation of Public Health Rules and Orders	1-Mar	16-Feb	3/2 SVMA										
SB21-034	Water Resource Financing Enterprise		16-Feb	3/11 Ag										
SB21-054	Transfers for Wildfire Mitigation and Response	1-Mar	16-Feb	2/23 Ap		25-Feb	26-Feb	26-Feb	02-Mar Ap	4-Mar	5-Mar	11-Mar	11-Mar	11-Mar

Bill No.	Short Title	CWC Position	Introduced	1st Committee	2nd Committee	2nd Reading	3rd Reading	Introduced	1st Committee	2nd Reading	3rd Reading	First House Repass	Conference Committee	Governor
SB21-202	Public School Air Quality Improvement Grants	3-May	31-Mar	4/15 E	4/30 Ap	30-Apr	3-May	5-May	5-May Ed	28-May				
SB21-220	Reverse Transfers From Severance Tax Operational Fund		5-Apr	4/6 Ap		8-Apr	9-Apr	9-Apr	13-Apr Ap	15-Apr	19-Apr	21-Apr	21-Apr	22-Apr
SB21-225	Repay Cash Funds for 2020 Transfers		5-Apr	4/6 Ap		8-Apr	9-Apr	9-Apr	13-Apr Ap	15-Apr	15-Apr	20-Apr	20-Apr	29-Apr
SB21-234	General Fund Transfer Agriculture and Drought Resiliency		6-Apr	5/13 Ag	5/21 Ap									
SB21-237	Create Forest Health Council in Department of Natural Resources	3-May	6-Apr	4/28 Ag		3-May	4-May	4-May	10-May LC	27-May	28-May			
SB21-240	Waterwhed Restoration Grant Program Stimulus	26-Apr	12-Apr	4/29 Ag	5/14 Ap	18-May	19-May	19-May	24-May Ag					
SB21-249	Keep Colorado Wild Annual Pass	10-May	23-Apr	5/6 Ag	5/12 F	18-May	19-May	19-May	27-May EE					
SB21-258	Wildfire Risk Mitigation	17-May	29-Apr	5/18 LG	5/24 Ap	24-May	25-May	25-May	EE					
SB21-262	Special District Transparency		5-May	5/13 LG		19-May	20-May	LG						

Bill No.	Short Title	CWC Position	Introduced	1st Committee	2nd Committee	2nd Reading	3rd Reading	Introduced	1st Committee	2nd Reading	3rd Reading	First House Repass	Conference Committee	Governor
SB21-281			19-May	24-May F	26-May Ap	27-May	28-May	28-May	Ap					
HJR21-1002	Water Projects Eligibility Lists	16-Feb	15-Jan	2/18 Ag			24-Feb	23-Feb	04-Mar Ag		10-Mar	11-Mar	11-Mar	21-Mar

BILL STATUS	ABBREVIATIONS
Bill scheduled for action at next SA meeting (yellow)	Ag = Agriculture, Livestock & Water
Bill not calendared (no fill)	Ap = Appropriations Committee
Bill Passed, date of action (green)	BLEW = Business, Labor, Economic and Workforce Development Committee
Bill no longer active (gray)	CC = Conference Committee
Bill did not go to second committee or no action required (black)	F = Finance Committee
<u>CWC POSITION</u>	HIE= Health, Insurance, and Environment

Bill scheduled for activity in CWC State Affairs (yellow)	J = Judiciary
Support (green)	TLG = Transportation & Local Government
Oppose (orange)	SVMA = State, Veterans, and Military Affairs Committee
Amend (blue)	EE = Energy & Environment
Monitor, Neutral, No Position	UA = Upon Adjournment
No Motions Made	UR = Upon Recess
	Ag = Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
	CD = Capital Development
	TE = Transportation & Energy
	E = Education
	BAL = Business Affairs & Labor



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters in the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
West Building – 841 East Second Avenue
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
(970) 247-1302

M E M O R A N D U M

June 2, 2021

To: Southwestern Board of Directors

From: Chris Treese, Independent Consultant

RE: Tracking Employee Time

SWCD currently requires all employees to record their hours worked by category of SWCD-related activity. This can be helpful for personnel management, budgeting, strategic planning and other purposes.

Consistent with the Recording All Hours Worked and Leave policies, I suggest the Board provide the following direction (not policy) to staff regarding completion of employee time tracking by category.

- In addition to 'PTO Leave' and 'Other Leave' categories, 'HFWA Sick Leave' and 'PHE Sick Leave' should be added.
- Work time entries should be tracked in thirty (30) minute or one-half hour increments. (Current direction is for employees to track their work time in fifteen (15) minute increments.)
- The categories of SWCD-related activities into which the one-half hour work increments are recorded are as shown on the attached (presented in red-line for ease of Board review).

The practice of recording hours worked by category in 30-minute increments can be helpful in management and governance. However, if the Board and staff find they are not actually employing this recordation of time to a useful purpose, it should be modified or discontinued. I suggest the Board commit to reviewing the practice, as well as the work-related categories, annually in association with its annual budget workshop.

SWCD TIMESHEET CATEGORIES

District Mission

Strategic Planning

Policy & Advocacy

Federal Affairs, NWRA, Family Farm, Federal/Legislative Policy Matters
State Water Policy, State Legislative/Policy matters, CWC State Affairs, Water Resources
Review Committee, State Affairs Legislative Report, Water Stewardship
Project, Colorado's Water Plan

Water Supply Protection and Planning

General Colorado River Matters, ~~including~~ UCRC , intra-state meetings (CRWCD, FRWC and/or CWCB), internal work on Colorado River issues (such as Risk Study, compact issues, etc)

Demand Management

Instream Flow Program

Regional Water Supply Planning

Water Quality

SJRBRIP Water Development Committee

~~Federal Affairs, NWRA, Family Farm, Federal/Legislative Policy Matters~~
~~State Water Policy, State Legislative/Policy matters, CWC State Affairs, Water Resources~~
~~Review Committee, State Affairs Legislative Report, Water Stewardship~~
~~Project, Colorado's Water Plan~~

SWCD Projects, & Programs & Partnerships

Permanent Radar

Contract Management with Partners

Data Collection

Red Mountain SNOTEL

~~SJRBRIP Water Development Committee~~

Cloud Seeding Programs

SWCD Grant Program

District Outreach, Representation & Education

Roundtable

Water Information Program

Annual Water Seminar

Annual Children's Water Festival

Water Education Colorado

Direct Outreach, Presentations to groups, mtgs with water users, etc.

Direct Outreach (Travel)

Media & Public Inquiries

Materials & Content, Website, press releases, op-eds, brochures, informational materials

General Outreach, Where SWCD primarily attends the mtg for networking or to stay informed on issues, such as River District, CWCB mtgs (most), CRWUA, UCRBF, River District Annual Seminar

Water Court Activity

SWCD Conditional Water Rights

13CW3011 SWCD "Project" Water Rights

05CW88 "San Juan County" Water Rights

06CW127 "Animas Service Area" Water Rights

09CW51-97CW87 La Plata Exchange Plan ~~Water Rights~~

Water Court – Statements of Opposition and Resume Review

Other Legal

Fiscal Management

Accounting/Bookkeeping

Payroll

Reporting & Planning

Budget

Audit

Insurance

Investments

Administration

Operations, Planning, & Coordination

Office Management, Vendor relationships, office supplies, office and file management

Staff Development & Training

Board Support

Personnel & HR, Includes personnel management, job descriptions, timesheet and other personnel related work

Minutes

Board Mtgs & Coordination, Prep for and attendance at SWCD board meetings

Board Committee Mtgs & Coordination

Other Work-related Non-Board Event or Mtg Coordination, _____ IBCC reception, for example

Filing

Other/Unspecified

Press Release: updated May 24, 2021 (original May 21, 2021)

Joint Statement of the
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (UMUT)
and
Dolores Water Conservancy District (DWCD)

The Dolores River is **once again** headed toward record low runoff, on the heels of an abysmal 2020 water year.

The Dolores Water Conservancy District and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, primary users of Dolores water flow, said this circumstance places the **burden** of two horrible years on the Dolores Project users, who will only see a 5 – 10% supply.

The shorted water deliveries will fall on the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Farm and Ranch Enterprise, DWCD full-service irrigators in Montezuma and Dolores Counties, and the downstream fishery, according to Ken Curtis, general manager of DWCD.

Given the natural **precipitation** cycle for Colorado, these conditions **began** forming last fall when the monsoon rains failed to deliver fall moisture to replenish river flows and soil moisture for the 3rd year in a row. “These water deficits dried up smaller tributaries in the upper watershed and sent us into the winter with an **enormous** hole to fill from the first spring snowmelt before starting the runoff. Locally we were lucky to avoid major wild fires last fall in the San Juan Mountains, **Curtis explained**.

The winter likewise failed to deliver at **historical average**, peaking out with only 83% of normal snowpack on April 1st. Another dry windy warm spring further depleted the snowpack to where current forecasts project 25% of the historical average, only 74,000 AF for McPhee that normally runs 250,000 through **its delivery system** to all users. Conditions may continue to degrade given recent weather and current forecasts. That places 2021 dropping towards the 4th worst runoff after 1977, 2018 and 2002.

With 2020 **providing the seventh** worst recorded runoff, McPhee Reservoir carryover was only 4% of the active capacity.

Curtis said the result will be no supplemental irrigation supplies available to the senior water rights. The Project irrigators are cutting back irrigated acres by 90% to most efficiently use the extremely low water supplies and will run partial season irrigation at best on those limited acres. Curtis is also working closely with Dove Creek Mayor Brett Martin to keep their water supply reservoir full from DWCD irrigation canals that won't run all summer.

The downstream fishery will see flows of 10 CFS for a few months that **will then** drop back to a trickle of 5 CFS for the remaining 8 months until next spring. The lower river faces significant trout and native fish populations losses.

“Financial impacts will be hard on all agriculture producers. **The Tribe’s Farm** and Ranch Enterprise **will** limit employment and cut back buying farm supplies drastically, with longer term impacts, **“DWCD Board President Bruce Smart said. “The** recovery for producers, the UMUT, and the District **will take years.** The fishery impacts may not be known until 2022, but the river will **likely** experience flows similar to pre-McPhee.”

Long time farmers have seen this before, after 2002 it took seven years to financially recover and this year looks worse. Farmers expect a significant hit to their pocket books that will trickle through the local economy. It’s too early to tell what crops will make it through the season, but without some rain many farmers expect significant loss to their perennial stands. If next year’s supply doesn’t improve Curtis worries “that multigenerational farm families may face bankruptcy.”

“At stake is the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe’s highly productive and efficient 7,600 acre farm. With a 10% water supply from the Dolores Project this year we are limited to growing corn for our Bow and Arrow Brand, and protecting our highest value alfalfa fields,” according to **Manuel Heart, Chairman of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.** “We have spent 25 years developing productive crops on 109 center pivot fields and a trained workforce of Tribal members. With most of our fields fallowed and very little crop income, everything that we have developed is at risk. We intend to work closely with DWCD and the Bureau of Reclamation to protect the continued viability of our farm. Our participation in the Dolores Project is a result of the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement and we will exercise these Settlement Rights in the fullest to protect our Farm and Ranch Enterprise and keep the Dolores Project viable”, concluded Chairman Heart.

DWCD and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal leadership have discussed the drought impacts with the Bureau of Reclamation, and potential drought impact assistance is being explored.

Both Montezuma and Dolores Counties will be asked to consider emergency drought declarations next to raise these concerns to the State level where the District and the Tribe will also work with the State of Colorado in coordinating any drought response.

Drought saps agricultural economy in Southwest Colorado

Weak snowpack leaves McPhee Reservoir low for season

By Jim Mimiaga, Journal Staff Writer
Tuesday, May. 25, 2021



The grim reality of major irrigation shortages this year in Southwest Colorado is setting in for farmers, water managers and fish habitat.

Irrigators tied to McPhee Reservoir contracts will receive just 5% to 10% of their normal supply, said Ken Curtis, general manager for the Dolores Water Conservancy District.

The shortages affect full-service users in the water district in Montezuma and Dolores counties, the Ute Mountain Ute Farm and Ranch and the downstream fishery.

The water district said no supplemental irrigation supplies will be available to the senior water-rights holders.

Alfalfa farmers are consolidating acreage to try to produce one small crop.

When there is a full irrigation supply in McPhee, Dove Creek farmer Lyle Deremo cultivates alfalfa on 900 acres, with three cuttings, and yields of 5 tons per acre.

This year, he can irrigate 130 acres, with just one cutting.

“It’s marginal, there are a lot of zeros” on his production sheets, Deremo said. “All you can do is use what you have the most efficiently.”

His main alfalfa customers are dairy farms in Texas.



“Financial impacts will be hard on all agriculture producers,” said Dolores Water Conservancy District board president Bruce Smart, in a news release. “The recovery for producers, the Ute Mountain Tribe and the district will take years.”

The tribe’s Farm and Ranch Enterprise reports it will limit employment and cut back on buying

farm supplies.

The 7,600-acre farm will only receive 10% of its normal water supply, tribal officials said.

The tribe will limit operations to growing corn for its Bow and Arrow Brand cornmeal mill, and to protect high-value alfalfa fields, said Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Chairman Manuel Heart.

“We have spent 25 years developing productive crops on 109 center-pivot fields and a trained workforce of tribal members,” Heart said in a news release. “With most of our fields fallowed and very little crop income, everything that we have developed is at risk.”



The tribe intends to work closely with the Dolores Water Conservancy District and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to protect the continued viability of the Ute Farm and Ranch Enterprise.

Heart notes that the tribe’s participation in the Dolores Project is a result of the Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement Act. He said the tribe will exercise the settlement rights “in the fullest to protect our Farm and Ranch Enterprise.”

The economic impact of the irrigation water shortage will be widespread, as farmers expect a significant decrease in revenue that will trickle through the local economy, water officials said.

If next year’s supply doesn’t improve “multigenerational farm families may face bankruptcy,” said Curtis.

Unirrigated alfalfa fields will dominate the landscape this summer. Farmers noted that with some rain, the fallow fields can produce enough forage for cattle grazing. Ranchers have been contacting farmers to take advantage of the option, Deremo said.

Curtailed supply for Dove Creek

The town of Dove Creek depends on McPhee Reservoir water for its domestic water supply. The water is delivered via the Dove Creek Canal and into town reservoirs and a water treatment facility. But because of a shortened irrigation season, the canal will not run all summer, as it does during more normal water years.

The water district is working closely with Dove Creek officials to keep the town's water reservoirs adequately stocked for the winter months, Curtis said.

During normal water years, the Dove Creek Canal runs to the first week in October, allowing Dove Creek to store 100 acre-feet that lasts them until May 1 the next year. This year, the canal is expected to shut off for irrigators before the end of June.

The other large irrigation supplier in the area, Montezuma Valley Irrigation Co., also faces shortages. Customers will receive only half their normal allocation. The irrigation company has the most senior water rights on the Dolores River, and therefore the impact of the water shortage is somewhat less.

Montezuma Valley Irrigation has storage rights in McPhee Reservoir, and owns Narraguinnep and Groundhog reservoirs.

Runoff low in Dolores River

Poor winter snowpack the past two years and no monsoonal rain for the past three years have hurt reservoir levels and depleted soil moisture.

"These water deficits dried up smaller tributaries in the upper watershed and sent us into the winter with an enormous hole to fill from the first spring snowmelt before starting the runoff," Curtis said.

The winter snowpack failed to deliver at historical average, peaking at only 83% of normal snowpack on April 1, then dropping to 25% after another dry, windy and warm spring. Recent

rains and snowfall on the high peaks were helpful, but not enough to significantly improve water supply.

As dry conditions continue, 2021 is shaping up to be the fourth-lowest recorded runoff in the Dolores River, after 1977, 2002 and 2018.

Fish will suffer

As part of the McPhee Reservoir project, the downstream fishery is allocated 32,000 acre-feet of water during normal water years for timed releases downstream to benefit sport and native fish.

This year, the fish pool will receive 5,000 acre-feet of its normal allocation.

The Dolores River below McPhee dam will see flows of 10 cubic feet per second for a few months, then it will drop to a trickle of 5 cfs for eight months until spring.

The river below the dam faces significant trout and native fish population losses, said Jim White, aquatic biologist for Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

“This is going to impact the trout fishery,” White said in an April news release. “I would expect to see about half or more of the trout fishery habitat suffer and lose much of the trout population.”

White suggested that anglers fish early in the day and carry a thermometer to check water temperature. Fishing should stop when the water hits 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

The low flows will also affect native fish in the lower reaches of the Dolores River – the flannelmouth sucker, the bluehead sucker and the roundtail chub. The fish, listed by CPW as species of concern, have adapted to warm water, but they still need pools and flowing water to survive.

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Don't stress the fish

Low flows prompt emergency declaration

By Leslie Vreeland, Contributing Editor, Telluride Daily Planet
May 28, 2021

This weekend marks the unofficial start of the summer season. It's wonderful news for festivalgoers and outdoor recreationists in the high alpine — and terrible news for trout.



Fish are stressed right now: earlier this week, Colorado Parks and Wildlife enacted an emergency fishing closure “due to critically low water flow caused by dry conditions and minimal snowpack levels” on a half-mile stretch of the Yampa River farther north in the western part of the state (near Craig).

Should the flow rate improve “substantially for a continuous period of time” — due to big storms, which are not in the forecast — “CPW will re-evaluate the emergency closure,” Senior Aquatic Biologist Lori Martin said in a press release. “But because of the current conditions, we need to take this action now.” When water flows are minimal, the release noted, “fish become concentrated in residual pool habitat and become stressed due to increased competition for food resources.” That leads to another problem: “The fish become much easier targets for anglers, an added stressor that can result in increased hooking mortality.”

Goose Bennett, the head guide for Telluride Fly Fishers, said local rivers are not as imperiled as that stretch of the Yampa.

“Right now, we’re not in terrible times, but we’re also not in great times,” Bennett said. “A few years ago, when we got very little snow over the winter” (which resulted in very little runoff), “that was terrible.”

Bennett, whose college degree is in fish biology, has been guiding for more than two decades in the mountain west and Alaska, offered a description of what being a stressed fish might feel like when it is caught and released. “Imagine getting the wind knocked out of you” — the catch and release part — “and then putting your mouth into a paper bag and trying to breathe” (as you are returned to oxygen-depleted waters).

“That fish will swim off and look like it will be completely fine,” Bennett went on. “And within an hour, it’s floating down the river.”

Even a small degree difference in altitude, and sun exposure, can make big difference to a fish’s stress. “It’s lower in Placerville” than up-river, Bennett pointed out.

“As the sun hits the water, it warms it. And as the water rolls over sun-exposed rocks,” the warming effect is compounded. Warmer water can be especially deleterious to certain species (“A Brook trout wants cooler water,” Bennett explained, “while a Brown trout can tolerate heat.”)

“In July, we expect thunderstorms. It’ll cool down the river,” Bennett added. “If we get some decent rain,” warmer water and lower flows “won’t be as much of a problem. But if we don’t get more rain, August in particular will be tough. Going into September, it will start to cool off again. It’ll still be low water, but temperatures will go down, so we won’t harm the fish as much.

“It’s fine to go out all day at that point.”

Which implies that right now, it is not.

"I watch the water temperatures," Bennett said simply. "When it starts to get into the high 50s and low 60s, we don't fish. I literally say 'No'" to clients who might ask."

Bennett is happy to take folks fishing (he is a guide, after all) but he offered to a suggestion to those who might want to go alone: purchase a water thermometer. "I can stick my hand in the water and tell what the temperature is," Bennett said, "but for new anglers, my advice is to purchase one of these thermometers. They're encased so they don't break, and you can attach them to stuff." The thermometers cost about \$10.

Bennett offered one more suggestion to catch-and-releasers concerned about not stressing fish: get your catch back in the water quickly. "You don't want to play the fish for too long," he said. "Get it released and back in the water as soon as possible." Indeed, from the moment Bennett pulls a fish out of the water to remove the hook until he releases it again, "I hold my breath, because the fish is, too," he said. "It's only fair, right?"

For more information on fishing Colorado, visit CPW online at tinyurl.com/darjnsdc. Telluride Fly Fishers has been offering guided trips in this region for 30 years. Learn more at tellurideflyfishers.com or by phoning 970-728-4440.

La Plata County farmers tighten belts during dry season

Snow-water equivalent at 31% of historical median

By Shannon Mullane

Tuesday, May. 25, 2021 5:00 **Updated Tuesday, May. 25, 2021 10:38**



Wayne Jefferies, a farmer in La Plata County east of Durango, is expecting a tight year. Low snowpack means less irrigation water and smaller profits for the county's agricultural community. (Shannon Mullane/Durango Herald)

Shannon Mullane/Durango Herald

After a low-snowpack year, La Plata County farmers and ranchers are tightening their belts and praying for rain.

Irrigators who draw from Lemon Reservoir in northeast La Plata County expect less water this season than their neighbors who draw from Vallecito Reservoir, a 13-mile drive to the east. Everyone, however, expects less irrigation water than average and a shorter growing season with fewer crops, higher hay prices and less profit.

“This is a bad year, but it’s not as bad as 2018,” said Wayne Jefferies, who receives water from Lemon Reservoir for hay and pasturing livestock east of Durango.

In Southwest Colorado, the snow-water equivalent – or the amount of liquid water held in snow – was at 31% of its historical median as of Friday, according to Colorado Snotel. The county was in the most severe categories of drought identified by the U.S. Drought Monitor: extreme and exceptional drought.

Lemon Reservoir is expected to fill to 40% to 50% of its overall capacity, 40,146 acre-feet. As of Sunday, it stored 17,867 acre-feet of water.

Vallecito is expected to fill to 65% to 70% of its overall capacity, 129,700 acre-feet, based on U.S. Bureau of Reclamation forecasts. It stored 70,193 acre-feet as of Sunday.

Those who draw from McPhee Reservoir in the Dolores area are facing even less: The reservoir is predicted to fill to 32% of its capacity, 295,000 acre-feet. That’s enough for irrigators to receive just 1 inch per acre of irrigation water, or 4.5% of the 22 inches per acre provided when the reservoir fills.

Jefferies hopes the water will last until mid-July, but he expects to run out of irrigation water by early July.

When the irrigation water is more plentiful, Jefferies might produce 6,000 to 8,000 hay bales. This year, he estimates he’ll produce about 1,500 – and that’s being conservative.

“Knock on wood I’ll get one-fourth to one-third of my normal production,” he said.

His goal is to spend this year managing his land to prepare the soil for next year, 2022. He might rotate the cattle that pastures on his land more frequently to minimize their impact on the soil, or he might do a higher cut of hay. Cutting higher on the stalk leaves more plant matter on the ground to protect soil moisture, he said.

“Everyone plans for the worst and hopes for the best,” Jefferies said. “If we really get into a bad situation, people might have to get a job or sell off assets.”



Wayne Jefferies, a farmer in La Plata County east of Durango, is already focused on preparing his land for next year, 2022, in hopes of a better irrigation season. (Shannon Mullane/Durango Herald)

J. Paul Brown, a rancher in the Ignacio area, takes most of his 1,600 sheep into the high country each year. There, he expects they'll have the water they need.

But at his ranch, which draws irrigation water from Vallecito Reservoir, he's cutting back.

"I'm just praying for rain. I don't know how long the water will last," Brown said. "We're not going to have as much water through the whole season as we usually do, but we're going to try to stretch it out."

He sold off cattle in the fall and winter of 2020 and expects to keep the herd to half of its normal size, 150.

"I think we can get through the summer," he said. "We're cutting back by half, so we should have plenty of feed and water for the cattle and the sheep."

That also means he'll lose half of his normal income for cattle. And if it stays dry, there won't be as much hay feed, and the cattle and lamb won't gain as much weight as they could, he said.

"That has a huge financial impact on us," Brown said. "We've had droughts before and we got through them."

But this is the kind of year when ranchers skimp and depend on "used horse shoes rather than buying new," Brown said.

"There's just a lot of things you won't do just because you don't know exactly what the future's going to hold," he said.

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Despite drought, rafters see strong season ahead



Low snowpack, pandemic not expected to lessen demand in Southwest Colorado

By Patrick Armijo
Saturday, May. 8, 2021 5:00



David Moler, owner of Durango Rivertrippers & Adventure Tours/4 Corners Whitewater, with employees Mollie Moler, center, and Teal Lehto, inspect a raft Tuesday as seasonal business picks up. (Jerry McBride/Durango Herald)

Jerry McBride
✕

Neither low snowpack nor the last chapters of the COVID-19 pandemic will be able to take the wind out of sails of regional rafting companies during the upcoming season, according to the owners of two local rafting companies.

“We’re expecting to have sufficient water to have lots of fun. The real adventurers really love having some really high water, but most of our trips are family-oriented. They’re still lots of fun, but without tons of water,” said Alex Mikel, founder and president of Mild to Wild Rafting & Jeep Tours of Durango. “Most of our customers, they don’t particularly want that high, cold water that some thrill-seekers certainly want. The mainstay of the business here in Durango is family trips.”

Southwest Colorado has the lowest regional snowpack in the state.

The state’s next lowest snowpack is the Gunnison River basin at 66% of average.

While Southwest Colorado has been in a La Niña year, which typically means less snowfall for this corner of the state, Mikel said the snowpack should be enough to meet the needs of its family trips.

“We’ve been really fortunate,” he said. “Although we have not had a real high snowpack, it’s been a nice, cool spring and a lot of the snow we do have is still up there. And we’re expecting to have a good base flow of water well into the summer.”

The Animas River’s flow is expected to be lower than usual through July, possibly with only 45% the volume it normally has during that period, according to Aldis Strautins, hydrologist with the National Weather Service, in an interview late last month.

Dave Moler, owner of Durango Rivertrippers & Adventure Tours and 4 Corners Whitewater in Durango, said the big problem for rafting companies is “a perception problem rather than an actual lack of precipitation.”

“At times, we’ve hit 89% snowpack in our watershed this year,” Moler said.

He added: “Where people get stuck is when they look at the water or the snowpack on a particular day, and it’s 45% and that can sell in a headline. But the reality is, we’re approaching a slightly less-than-average snowpack this year, and we’ve been fortunate that the snow is holding. We’ve had cold evenings in our watershed, and that’s keeping the runoff at bay.”



Mollie Moler, left, and Teal Lehto, with Durango Rivertrippers & Adventure Tours/4 Corners Whitewater, put on a fresh coat of stain Tuesday as they start opening up for business. (Jerry McBride/Durango Herald)

Jerry McBride
✕

Last week, the Colorado River Outfitters Association released its 2020 rating report showing a 21% decline in commercial rating days on 29 stretches of Colorado rivers in 2020 versus 2019.

The economic impact of last year’s 430,175 guided rafters in Colorado was \$148.7 million, down from \$184.9 million in 2019. That economic decline was the worst since the recession-plagued summer of 2008.

Chandler Griffin, interim communications director with San Juan Basin Public Health, said rafting companies and outdoor recreation businesses currently have no restrictions on their outdoor operations, although social distancing and the wearing of face masks is recommended.

When conducting indoor operations, masks are required unless every individual present is vaccinated. Also, while inside, social distancing, providing 6 feet of distance, is required for nonrelated household parties, Griffin said.

Mikel said Mild to Wild has developed a 30-page COVID-19 mitigation plan, and it expects to continue with some self-imposed restrictions to minimize viral transmission during the current season.

One practice adopted for COVID-19 that Mild to Wild will likely continue is socially distancing nonrelated household parties in buses en route to trips.

“This is an evolving process,” Mikel said.

He noted this season many river runners will be vaccinated and the risk of transmission while outside was always low.

“Once we were allowed to begin operations in June, we facilitated river runs for more than 20,000 people between our Durango and Moab operations, and we couldn’t trace one case of transmission to our activities,” Mikel said.

Both Mikel and Moler expect the demand for outdoor recreation witnessed in summer 2020 to continue this year. Both are reporting strong reservations for the season.

“I think if you’re following the health guidelines, I think people are recognizing that outdoor activities are at lower risk to get COVID. Once we were allowed to open, we saw pretty high demand, and I think that will continue,” Moler said.

One benefit of the COVID-19-altered season last year, Moler said, was that it increased the distance people were willing to drive to Durango for a rafting trip.

Customers arriving by car generally come to Durango from about a six-hour or shorter drive, and Moler said last year he saw the length of an acceptable car trip increased to about eight hours.

“We drew people from a bigger radius. People were driving farther,” he said. “I think that really could hold up. I think more and more people are really comfortable hopping into their cars rather than hopping on a plane.”

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Southwestern Water Conservation District

Annual Financial Report

December 31, 2020

DRAFT

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Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants

To the Board of Directors
Southwestern Water Conservation District

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of Southwestern Water Conservation District (the District) as of and for the year ended December 31, 2020 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the major fund of Southwestern Water Conservation District, as of December 31, 2020 and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Southwestern Water Conservation District's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Southwestern Water Conservation District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Southwestern Water Conservation District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that management's discussion and analysis and the budgetary comparison for the general fund, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Haynie & Company

Littleton, Colorado
_____, 2021

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

December 31, 2020

As management of the Southwestern Water Conservation District, we offer readers of the District's financial statements, this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the District for the year ended December 31, 2020.

This discussion and analysis is intended to be an easily readable analysis of the Southwestern Water Conservation District's financial activities based on currently known facts, decisions and conditions. This analysis focuses on current year activities and should be read in conjunction with the financial statements that follow.

Report Layout

Besides this Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A), the report consists of financial statements, the notes to the financial statements, and other supplementary information. Southwestern Water Conservation District was created by the Colorado General Assembly in 1941. The purpose of the District is to protect, conserve, use and develop the water resources of the Southwestern basin for the welfare of the District and to safeguard, for Colorado, all waters of the basin to which the state is entitled. The District is made up of nine counties. They include Archuleta, Dolores, La Plata, Montezuma, San Juan, San Miguel and parts of Hinsdale, Mineral and Montrose. The financial statements of Southwestern Water Conservation District consist of two primary statements: the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position.

The Statement of Net Position reflects the cumulative financial condition of the District on December 31, 2020. Net position reflects the sum total of earnings and contributions to the District over its lifetime, net of any losses incurred.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position shows the change in financial condition from operations and other activities during the calendar year ending December 31, 2020.

This MD&A is intended to explain the significant changes in financial position and differences in operations between the current and prior year. Significant changes from the prior year are explained following the reports.

Statement of Net Position:

	2020	2019	Change
Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 394,568	\$ 518,056	\$ (123,488)
Deferred Property Taxes Receivable	1,588,850	1,620,102	(31,252)
Receivable from other Governmental Entities	5,569	13,564	(7,995)
Investments	3,586,880	2,722,978	863,902
Prepaid Insurance	13,082	50,674	(37,592)
Capital Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	16,272	4,464	11,808
Total Assets	5,605,221	4,929,838	675,383
Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	235,495	85,747	149,748
Accrued Expenses	7,992	17,257	(9,265)
Total Liabilities	243,487	103,004	140,483
Deferred Inflow of Resources			
Property Tax Revenue	1,588,850	1,620,102	(31,252)
Total Deferred Inflow of Resources	1,588,850	1,620,102	(31,252)
Net Position			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	16,272	4,464	11,808
Restricted - Emergency Reserves	84,424	67,757	16,667
Committed grants to be paid	91,294	73,694	17,600
Unrestricted	3,580,894	3,060,842	520,052
Total Net Position	3,772,884	3,206,757	566,127
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflow of Resources & Net Position	\$ 5,605,221	\$ 4,929,863	\$ 675,358

During the year ended December 31, 2020, assets increased by \$675,383, mainly due to the increases in investments, from excess cash and investment earnings. The District collected tax revenue generated by its mill levy of .407.

Statement of Activities:

	2020	2019	Change
Revenues			
Taxes			
Property Taxes Receivable	\$ 1,593,812	\$ 1,539,766	\$ 54,046
Specific Ownership Taxes	147,681	148,587	(906)
Interest & Penalties	36,781	43,078	(6,297)
Interest Income	62,367	41,789	20,578
Water Information Program	36,493	44,152	(7,659)
Cost Sharing Animas La Plata Water Conservancy District	-	39,382	(39,382)
San Juan River Basin - Recovery Implementation Program	50,873	50,873	-
Stream Gaging	18,613	25,706	(7,093)
Other Local Sources	4,878	16,987	(12,109)
Total Revenues	1,951,498	1,950,320	1,178
Expenses			
General Government			
Board Expenses	46,016	52,743	(6,727)
Administration			
Personnel	157,666	174,554	(16,888)
County Treasurers' Fees	46,660	45,302	1,358
Other Services	16,387	39,027	(22,640)
Rent	29,476	29,063	413
Dues & Memberships	22,879	19,300	3,579
Supplies	6,425	8,929	(2,504)
Professional & Technical Services	58,125	8,228	49,897
Capital Outlay	18,712	5,699	13,013
Water Conservation Activities			
Legal	258,123	268,851	(10,728)
Other District Support	251,220	228,827	22,393
San Juan River Basin - Recovery Implementation Program	101,147	102,130	(983)
Engineering	42,691	90,273	(47,582)
Stream Gaging - Federal	97,111	88,315	8,796
Lobbying	50,708	51,469	(761)
Weather Modification	63,200	50,320	12,880
Spring Seminar and Water Festival	1,538	23,376	(21,838)
Water Bank Working Group	11,000	17,000	(6,000)
Demonstration CSU Farm	10,000	10,000	-
Water Leaders Scholarship	3,500	3,250	250
Stream Gaging - Colorado	2,401	2,400	1
Water Education/Data Collection	105,621	98,241	7,380
Total Expenditures	1,400,606	1,417,297	(16,691)
Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures	\$ 550,892	\$ 533,023	\$ 17,869

The District's revenue increased slightly in 2020 from tax revenue generated by the District's .407 mill levy. The District previously shared office and personnel expenses with the Animas La Plata Water Conservancy District and received compensation toward these expenses for a portion of 2019. On October 15, 2019, the cost share between these two Districts was discontinued.

The District's expenses decreased in 2020 mainly due to decreased engineering costs and personnel costs as a result of the executive director position being vacant for half of the year. In addition, the Spring Seminar and Water Festival had to be canceled due to guideline restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Statement of Net Position

December 31, 2020

Assets	Governmental Activities
Cash	\$ 394,568
Investments	3,586,880
Deferred property taxes receivable	1,588,850
Receivable from other governmental entities	5,569
Prepaid insurance	13,082
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	16,272
Total assets	<u>\$ 5,605,221</u>
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$ 235,495
Accrued expenses	7,992
Total liabilities	<u>243,487</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	
Property tax revenue	1,588,850
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>1,588,850</u>
Net Position	
Net investment in capital assets	16,272
Restricted - emergency reserves	84,424
Unrestricted	3,672,188
Total Net Position	<u>3,772,884</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Net Position	<u><u>\$ 5,605,221</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Southwestern Water Conservation District
Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

		Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
Functions/Program Activities	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Governmental activities:		
General government	\$ 46,016	\$ (46,016)
Administration	341,070	(341,070)
Water conservation activities	889,139	(889,139)
Water Information Program	109,121	(109,121)
Total governmental activities	<u>1,385,346</u>	<u>(1,385,346)</u>
General revenues:		
Taxes		
Property taxes		1,593,812
Specific ownership taxes		147,681
Interest and penalties		36,781
Interest income		62,367
Water Information Program		36,400
Cost sharing Animas-La Plata		
Water Conservancy District		93
San Juan River Basin - Recovery Implementation Program		50,873
Stream gaging		18,613
Other local sources		4,878
Total general revenues		<u>1,951,498</u>
Change in net position		<u>566,152</u>
Net position - beginning of year		<u>3,206,732</u>
Net position - end of year		<u><u>\$ 3,772,884</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Southwestern Water Conservation District
Governmental Funds Balance Sheet
and Reconciliation of Fund Balances to Net Position
December 31, 2020

	Total Governmental Funds
Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 394,568
Deferred property taxes receivable	1,588,850
Receivable from other government entity	5,569
Investments	3,586,880
Prepaid expenses	13,082
Total assets	<u>\$ 5,588,949</u>
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$ 235,495
Accrued expenses	7,992
Total liabilities	<u>243,487</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	
Property tax revenue	1,588,850
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>1,588,850</u>
Fund Balances	
Restricted - emergency reserves	84,424
Committed grants to be paid	91,294
Assigned to:	
SWCD Water Defense	1,760,000
SWCD Water Development	1,140,000
Water Information Program	122,000
SJRBRIP Water Development Committee	21,000
Unassigned	537,894
Total Fund Balances	<u>3,756,612</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 5,588,949</u>
Reconciliation of Fund Balances to Net Position	
Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds	\$ 3,756,612
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position excluded from the governmental fund balance because:	
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and are excluded from the funds.	
Governmental capital assets	47,919
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(31,647)</u>
Net position of governmental activities	<u>\$ 3,772,884</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Southwestern Water Conservation District
Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures,
and Changes in Fund Balances
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	<u>Total</u>
Revenues	
Taxes	
Property taxes	\$ 1,593,812
Specific ownership taxes	147,681
Interest and penalties	36,781
Interest income	62,367
Water Information Program	36,400
Cost sharing Animas-La Plata Water Conservancy District	93
San Juan River Basin - Recovery Implementation Program	50,873
Stream gaging	18,613
Other local sources	4,878
Total Revenues	<u>1,951,498</u>
Expenses	
General government	
Board expenses	46,016
Administration	
Personnel	157,666
County treasurers' fees	46,660
Other Services	16,387
Rent	29,476
Dues and subscriptions	22,879
Supplies	6,425
Professional and technical services	58,125
Capital outlay	15,260
Water conservation activities	
Legal	258,123
Other district support	251,220
San Juan River Basin - Recovery Implementation Program	101,147
Engineering	42,691
Stream gaging - Federal	97,111
Lobbying	50,708
Weather modification	63,200
Spring seminar and water festival	1,538
Water Bank Working Group	11,000
Demonstration CSU farm	10,000
Stream gaging - Colorado	2,401
Water information program	109,121
Total Expenditures	<u>1,397,154</u>
Excess of Expenditures over Revenues	554,344
Fund balances:	
Beginning of the year	3,202,268
End of the year	<u><u>\$ 3,756,612</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Southwestern Water Conservation District
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds
to the Statement of Activities
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Net change in fund balance—total governmental funds	\$ 554,344
--	------------

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of those assets is depreciated over their estimated useful lives.

Current year depreciation

(3,452)

Change in net position of governmental activities
--

<u>\$ 566,152</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2020

1. Definition of Reporting Entity

Southwestern Water Conservation District (the District), operates under Colorado statute 37-47, which outlines the District's statutory authority and powers. Southwestern Water Conservation District (the District) was created in 1941 for the protection, conservation, use, and development of the water resources of the San Juan and Dolores Rivers and their principal tributaries. The District is comprised of the counties of San Miguel, Dolores, Montezuma, Archuleta, San Juan, La Plata, and portions of Hinsdale, Mineral, and Montrose counties. The District operates under a Board of Directors form of government and the directors are appointed by County Commissioners of the counties within the District.

The District follows the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) accounting pronouncements which provide guidance for determining which governmental activities, organizations and functions should be included within the financial reporting entity. GASB pronouncements set forth the financial accountability of a governmental organization's elected governing body as the basic criterion for including a possible component governmental organization in a primary government's legal entity. Financial accountability includes, but is not limited to, appointment of a voting majority of the organization's governing body, the District's ability to impose its will on the organization, a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits or burdens and fiscal dependency.

Southwestern Water Conservation District is not financially accountable for any other organization, nor is the District a component unit of any other primary governmental entity.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

This summary of the Southwestern Water Conservation District's significant accounting policies is presented to assist the reader in interpreting the financial statements and other data in this report. The policies are considered essential and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying financial statements.

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Neither fiduciary funds nor component units that are fiduciary in nature are included in the government-wide financial statements. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenues as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2020

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Only current assets and liabilities are included on the balance sheet, and the fund balance includes only spendable resources. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized as soon as they are both "measurable and available." Measurable means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the District considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period.

Expenditures are recorded when a liability is incurred as under accrual accounting. Capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds.

The District has one governmental fund:

General Fund - The general fund is the District's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government.

Budgets

In accordance with the State Budget Law, the District's Board of Directors holds public hearings in the fall each year to approve the budget and appropriate the funds for the ensuing year. The appropriation is at the total fund expenditures level and lapses at year end. The District's Board of Directors can modify the budget by line item within the total appropriation without notification. The appropriation can only be modified upon completion of notification and publication requirements.

On or before October 15, the District manager submits to the Board a proposed budget for the next fiscal year commencing the following January 1. The budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them. Public hearings are conducted by the Board of Directors to obtain taxpayer comments. State law requires that the District adopt a budget prior to the certification of its mill levy to the county and file a certified copy of its budget with the Division of Local Government within 30 days of such adoption. Failure to do so can result in the County Treasurer withholding future property tax revenues pending compliance by the District. The District filed the certified copy of its budget timely for 2020.

Budget appropriations lapse at the end of each year.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The District considers all highly liquid investments (including restricted assets) purchased with a maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2020

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Certificates of Deposit

During the year, the District invested in five certificates of deposits, which are listed at fair stated value as of December 31, 2020.

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include office equipment and other equipment, are reported in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the District as assets with an initial individual cost of more than \$1,000. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend the life of the asset are not capitalized. Improvements are capitalized and depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the related fixed assets, as applicable. Depreciation expense has been computed using the straight line method over the estimated useful lives. Office and other equipment are depreciated over 5 to 15 years.

Allowance for Uncollectibles

No allowance for uncollectibles has been provided because the District's receivables are property taxes, and the County Treasurer is empowered to file liens on properties where delinquencies exist. Accordingly, the District believes any delinquencies will eventually be paid.

Reserves

The District records reserves to indicate that a portion of the fund balance is legally segregated for a specific future use. The following is a list of reserves used by the District and a description of each:

Reserved for Emergencies - An account used to reflect equity of the District which is restricted for emergency purposes by the Tabor Amendment of the State of Colorado Constitution. "Emergency" excludes economic conditions, revenue shortfalls, or District salary and fringe benefit increases.

Revenue Recognition - Property Taxes

In the governmental fund financial statements property tax revenue is accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Property tax receivable is recognized on the levy or lien date. This receivable represents taxes certified by the District to be collected in the next fiscal year for the purposes set out in the budget for the next fiscal year. Although the succeeding year property tax receivable has been recorded, the related revenue is deferred and will not be recognized as revenue until the year for which it is levied in the governmental fund statements.

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2020

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

The District's property taxes, levied by December 15, on assessed valuation as of the preceding January 1, are due and payable in the subsequent calendar year. Assessed values are established by the county assessor. Property taxes attach as an enforceable lien on property as of January 1 of the year in which payable. The taxes are payable under two methods: 1) in full on or before April 30, 2) one-half on or before February 28, and the remaining one-half on or before June 15. All unpaid taxes levied for the preceding year become delinquent June 16.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Fund Equity

Fund balance for governmental funds should be reported in classifications that comprise a hierarchy based on the extent to which the government is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which spending can occur. Governmental funds report up to five classifications of fund balance: nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned. Because circumstances differ among governments, not every government or every governmental fund will present all of these components. The following classifications describe the relative strength of the spending constraints.

- *Nonspendable fund balance* – The portion of fund balance that cannot be spent because it is either not in spendable form (such as prepaid amounts or inventory) or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- *Restricted fund balance* – The portion of fund balance that is constrained to being used for a specific purpose by external parties (such as bondholders), constitutional provisions, or enabling legislation.
- *Committed fund balance* – The portion of fund balance that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the government's highest level of decision-making authority, the Board of Directors. The constraint may be removed or changed only through formal action of the Board of Directors.
- *Assigned fund balance* – The portion of fund balance that is constrained by the government's intent to be used for specific purposes, but is neither restricted nor committed. Intent is expressed by the Board of Directors to be used for a specific purpose. Constraints imposed on the use of assigned amounts are more easily removed or modified than those imposed on amounts that are classified as committed.

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2020

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

- *Unassigned fund balance* – The residual portion of fund balance that does not meet any of the criteria described above.

For the year ended December 31, 2020, \$91,294 of the total fund balance was committed for grant requests approved as of year-end but not yet disbursed.

If more than one classification of fund balance is available for use when an expenditure is incurred, it is the District's policy to use the most restrictive classification first.

Subsequent Events

The District has evaluated subsequent events through _____, 2021, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued.

3. Capital Assets

	December 31, 2019	Additions	Retirements	December 31, 2020
Furniture and equipment	\$ 12,754	\$ 15,260	\$ -	\$ 28,014
Office improvements	19,905	-	-	19,905
Total	<u>32,659</u>	<u>15,260</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,919</u>
Less accumulated depreciation:	<u>(28,195)</u>	<u>(3,452)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(31,647)</u>
Capital assets, net	<u>\$ 4,464</u>	<u>\$ (3,452)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 16,272</u>

Depreciation expense for the year ended December 31, 2020 was \$3,452.

4. Cash and Investments

The Colorado Public Deposit Protection Act (PDPA) requires that all units of local government deposit cash in eligible public depositories. Eligibility is determined by state regulators. Amounts on deposit in excess of federal insurance levels must be collateralized. The eligible collateral is determined by the PDPA. PDPA allows the institution to create a single collateral pool for all public funds. The pool for all the uninsured public deposits as a group is to be maintained by another institution or held in trust. The market value of the collateral must be at least equal to 102% of the aggregate uninsured deposits.

The State Commissioners for banks and financial services are required by statute to monitor the naming of eligible depositories and reporting of the uninsured deposits and assets maintained in the collateral pools.

Southwestern Water Conservation District
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2020

4. Cash and Investments (continued)

At various times throughout 2020 the District held cash deposits with balances in excess of FDIC insured amounts.

Investments

The District has not adopted a formal investment policy, however, the District follows state statutes regarding investments.

The District generally limits its concentration of investments to those noted with an asterisk (*) below, which are believed to have minimal credit risk, minimal interest rate risk and no foreign currency risk. Additionally, the District is not subject to concentration risk disclosure requirements or subject to investment custodial credit risk for investments that are in the possession of another party.

Colorado revised statutes limit investment maturities to five years or less unless formally approved by the Board of Directors. Such actions are generally associated with a debt service reserve or sinking fund requirements.

Colorado statutes specify investment instruments meeting defined rating and risk criteria in which local governments may invest which include:

- Obligations of the United States, certain U.S. government agency securities and the World Bank
- General obligation and revenue bonds of U.S. local government entities
- Bankers acceptances of certain banks
- Commercial paper
- Written repurchase agreements and certain reverse repurchase agreements collateralized by certain authorized securities
- Guaranteed investment contracts
- * Local government investment pools

As of December 31, 2020, the District had the following investments:

<u>Investment</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>2020 Fair Value</u>
COLOTRUST	Weighted average under 60 days	\$ 503,349
Certificates of deposit	Terms ranging from 1-3 years	<u>3,083,531</u>
Investments		<u>\$ 3,586,880</u>

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2020

4. Cash and Investments (continued)

The District invested in the Colorado Local Government Liquid Asset Trust (the Trust), an investment vehicle established for local government entities in Colorado to pool surplus funds. The State Securities Commissioner administers and enforces all State statutes governing the Trust. The Trust operates similarly to a money market fund and each share is equal in value to \$1.00. The Trust offers shares in two portfolios, COLOTRUST PRIME and COLOTRUST PLUS+. Both portfolios may invest in U.S. Treasury securities and repurchase agreements collateralized by U.S. Treasury securities. COLOTRUST PLUS+ may also invest in certain obligations of U.S. government agencies, highest rated commercial paper and repurchase agreements collateralized by certain obligations of U.S. government agencies. A designated custodial bank serves as custodian for the Trust's portfolios pursuant to a custodian agreement. The custodian acts as safekeeping agent for the Trust's investment portfolios and provides services as the depository in connection with direct investments and withdrawals. The custodian's internal records segregate investments owned by the Trust. COLOTRUST is rated AAAM by Standard & Poors. COLOTRUST records its investments at fair value and the District records its investment in COLOTRUST at net asset value as determined by fair value.

Certificates of Deposit

During 2017, through First National Bank of Durango, the District invested in a two year CD for \$817,019 and a two year CD for \$200,000, at a rate of 1.55% per annum maturing in December of 2019, with a penalty of 90 days of interest for early withdrawal. During January 2020 the funds were withdrawn and reinvested in various CDs as identified below.

During January 2020, through 1st Southwest Bank, the District invested in a one year CD for \$100,000, at a rate of 2.35% per annum, maturing in January 2021, a one year CD for \$407,500 at a rate of 2.35% per annum maturing in January 2021, and a two year CD for \$1,522,735 at a rate of 2.35% per annum maturing in January 2022.

During July 2020, through 1st Southwest Bank, the District invested in a one year CD for \$500,000, at a rate of 1.10% per annum maturing in July 2021, and a two year CD for \$500,000 at a rate of 1.25% per annum maturing in July 2022.

All CDs are listed at fair stated value as of December 31, 2020, with a total fair market value of \$3,083,531, at year end.

Interest Rate Risk – In accordance with its investment policy, the District manages its exposure to declines in fair value by limiting investments in U.S. Treasuries and Certificates of Deposit to an original maturity of five years or less.

Credit Risk – The District's investment policy limits investments to U.S. Treasury obligations, Certificates of Deposit, corporate bonds, other investment instruments and local government investment pools approved by the Board of Directors.

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2020

4. Cash and Investments (continued)

Concentration of Credit Risk – It is the policy of the District to diversify its investment portfolio to eliminate risk of loss resulting from over concentration of assets in a specific maturity, a specific class, and specific issuer of securities. The District policy includes cash deposits in the total portfolio when determining concentration of investments.

5. Tax, Spending and Debt Limitations

Colorado voters passed an amendment to the State Constitution, Article X, Section 20, which has several limitations, including revenue raising, spending abilities, and other specific requirements of state and local governments. The amendment is complex and subject to judicial interpretation. The District has made certain interpretations of the amendment's language in order to determine its compliance. The District has established an emergency reserve of 3% of its 2020 fiscal spending in accordance with the provisions of the Amendment. Restricted net position and fund balances consist of amounts restricted for emergency purposes by the Tabor Amendment in the amount of \$84,424.

6. Retirement Plan

The District has a 457b retirement plan for full-time employees. It is a defined contribution plan and is administered by Lincoln Financial Group. The District will match up to 5% of the employee's annual salary to the plan. The contributions into the Plan are fully vested immediately, foregoing any purpose for forfeitures. The Plan can be amended by the Executive Director. For the year ending December 31, 2020, the District contributed \$5,787.

7. Lease Agreements

Occupancy Lease

The District entered into a four year lease commencing November 1, 2009, and a new five year lease commencing November 1, 2018, for the business office in the West Building, located at 835 E 2nd Avenue in Durango. Lease payments are made monthly with a base amount plus their proportionate share of utilities and property taxes. The following is the schedule of payments for the lease:

Period	Monthly Payment	Annual Payment
November 1, 2019 – October 31, 2020	\$1,803	\$21,636
November 1, 2020 – October 31, 2021	\$1,839	\$22,069
November 1, 2021 – October 31, 2022	\$1,876	\$22,510
November 1, 2022 – October 31, 2023	\$1,913	\$22,960

Southwestern Water Conservation District

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

December 31, 2020

7. Lease Agreements (continued)

The District's base rent expense for the lease was \$21,636 in 2020. Total rent expense of \$29,476 included the District's proportionate share of the office's monthly janitorial service, electric, water, sewer, trash, gas charges, storage space, and parking space rentals.

8. Notes Receivable

The District has implemented a program to provide loans to water conservancy districts and other qualified entities in southwest Colorado. Interest is being charged at 2.5 to 4.5%. Interest income received in 2020 was \$275. The outstanding loan balances are as follows:

Bauer Lake Loan	\$ <u>5,569</u>
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9. Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, thefts of, damage to, or destruction of assets; errors or omissions; injuries to employees, or acts of God. Commercial insurance is purchased by the District to cover losses or claims arising from such matters. It is not possible to estimate any losses which would not be covered by the commercial insurance; however, settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the three preceding years.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic. In response, many state and local governments instituted restrictions that substantially limited the operations of non-essential businesses and the activities of individuals. While some of these restrictions have been eased, there is still significant uncertainty around the extent and duration of those still in place and the possibility for restrictions to be increased again in the future. The extent to which the pandemic will impact the District's financial results in the coming periods depends on future developments, including where there are additional outbreaks of COVID-19 and the actions taken to contain or address the virus. However, the District believes it will be able to continue operations under current governmental guidelines while mitigating the impact as much as possible to minimize losses.

10. Joint Venture

The District is a participant in the Colorado Special Districts' Property and Liability Pool. The Pool is a joint venture between the Special Districts' Association of Colorado and various special districts in Colorado. The Pool provides property and general liability, automobile physical damage and liability, public officials' liability, inland marine, money and security and boiler and machinery coverage to its members. The District has not had any significant reductions in coverage or any losses of a material amount in any of the preceding three years.

Southwestern Water Conservation District
Notes to Financial Statements (continued)
December 31, 2020

10. Joint Venture (continued)

The District does not know its percentage share of the joint venture.

The Pool has contracted with other third parties to operate, administer and manage the Pool. The Pool is responsible for its own budgets. In the event aggregated losses incurred by the Pool exceeds amounts recoverable from the reinsurance contracts and capital and surplus accumulated by the Pool, the Pool may require additional contributions from the Pool members. The Pool issues a publicly available annual financial report that includes financial statements and supplementary information. That report may be obtained by calling the Colorado Special District Association at 303-863-1733 in the Denver metro area and 1-800-886-1733 from outside the metro area.

DRAFT

Required Supplementary Information

Southwestern Water Conservation District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
and Changes in Fund Balance—Actual and Budget
Governmental Fund Type—General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	<u>Original & Final Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
Revenues			
Taxes			
Property taxes	\$ 1,620,102	\$ 1,593,812	\$ (26,290)
Specific ownership taxes	100,000	147,681	47,681
Interest and penalties	35,500	36,781	1,281
Total tax revenue	<u>1,755,602</u>	<u>1,778,274</u>	<u>22,672</u>
Other revenue			
Interest earned	40,000	62,092	22,092
Loan interest	275	275	-
Miscellaneous	5,000	4,878	(122)
ALP/WIP cost sharing	200	93	(107)
San Juan River Basin - Recovery Implementation Program	50,873	50,873	-
Water seminar	6,000	-	(6,000)
WIP - participating	37,850	36,400	(1,450)
Stream gaging reimbursement	32,481	18,613	(13,868)
Total other revenue	<u>172,679</u>	<u>173,224</u>	<u>545</u>
Total revenue	<u>1,928,281</u>	<u>1,951,498</u>	<u>23,217</u>
Expenditures:			
General government			
Board expenses	105,500	39,282	66,218
Administration			
Personnel	272,629	157,666	114,963
Other Services	41,000	23,121	17,879
County treasurers' fees	52,668	46,660	6,008
Rent	30,796	29,476	1,320
Dues and subscriptions	22,350	22,879	(529)
Professional and technical services	50,000	58,125	(8,125)
Supplies	8,500	6,425	2,075
Water conservation activities			
Aid to water management and development	1,345,694	247,016	1,098,678
Other district support	58,500	15,204	43,296
Legal	240,000	258,123	(18,123)
Stream gaging - Federal	108,500	97,111	11,389
Weather modification	117,000	63,200	53,800
Lobbying	55,500	50,708	4,792
Engineering	70,000	42,691	27,309

Southwestern Water Conservation District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
and Changes in Fund Balance—Actual and Budget
Governmental Fund Type—General Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

	Original & Final Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
San Juan River Basin - Recovery Implementation Program	101,746	101,147	599
Spring seminar and water festival	27,500	1,538	25,962
Demonstration CSU farm	10,000	10,000	-
Stream gaging - Colorado	2,640	2,401	239
Water Information Program	93,595	109,121	(15,526)
Total Operating Expenditures	2,814,118	1,381,894	1,432,224
Other Expenditures			
Capital Outlay	-	15,260	(15,260)
Contingency	96,414	-	96,414
Emergency Reserves	84,424	-	84,424
Total Other Expenditures	180,838	15,260	165,578
Total Expenditures	2,994,956	1,397,154	1,597,802
Excess Revenue Over (Under)			
Expenditures	(1,066,675)	554,344	1,621,019
Fund Balance—Beginning of year	3,116,867	3,202,268	85,401
Fund Balance—End of Year	<u>\$ 2,050,192</u>	<u>\$ 3,756,612</u>	<u>\$1,706,420</u>



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters of the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
IN SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO

2022 GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

A. BACKGROUND

The Southwestern Water Conservation District (“SWCD”) is a political subdivision of the State that was established by the Colorado General Assembly in 1941 to protect, conserve, use and develop the water resources of the San Juan and Dolores River Basins as well as to safeguard all waters to which the state of Colorado is equitably entitled.¹ SWCD periodically offers financial assistance in the form of grants to “qualified entities,” as that term is defined below in Section C.1, that are carrying out projects consistent with SWCD’s statutory purposes. Funding for this program is subject to SWCD’s discretion as well as its annual budget and appropriation process. The Board retains the right, in its sole discretion, to approve, reduce, or deny any grant request.

B. GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

For the 2022 grant program, applications may be submitted from November 1st through December 13th of 2021. Applicants are encouraged to submit their application as early as possible within the given time frame so that there is adequate time to work with SWCD staff to ensure that the application meets all requirements in advance of the December 13th deadline. Applications received after December 13, 2021 will not be considered. Final decisions will be made by the board no later than March 1, 2022.

The deadlines provided above apply to routine grant requests and may be modified to address emergency situations. SWCD understands that emergency situations may arise from catastrophic or unforeseen events, such as flooding, at other times of the year. The Board endeavors to annually allocate a portion of the grant program funds for emergency requests. Examples of emergency situations include, but are not limited to: flood event causing damage to diversions or measurement structures, catastrophic canal or pipeline failure that prevents the delivery water, spillway or dam failure, regulatory restrictions, wildfire impacts including post-fire runoff and other impacts, and toxic spills. Please contact SWCD staff directly if this occurs to discuss the possibility of submitting an emergency grant application.

¹ See C.R.S. § 37-47-101 through -151.

SWCD annually anticipates receiving grant requests well in excess of the available funds. The maximum amount of money potentially available from SWCD in the 2022 calendar year for all grant recipients is shown on the table below.

Grant Funding Category	Proposed 2022 Funds Available (Total Grant Program \$230,000)
Development or improvement of water supply and watershed restoration or enhancement projects, including related design, engineering and construction	\$92,000
Studies and facilitating stakeholder involvement on water-related matters, including water quality	\$34,500
Educational purposes, including teaching seminars, workshops and related programs	\$11,500
Emergency requests	\$92,000

The maximum amounts for each category may be adjusted on an annual basis after development of the initial budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Prior to submitting an application, please [visit SWCD's website](#).

Any member of SWCD's Board of Directors or Staff with a financial or property interest in a grant request will disclose any such interest or other conflict of interest and recuse themselves from participating in any recommendation, vote or decision-making process related to that grant request.

C. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. ELIGIBILITY

SWCD will consider financial assistance requests from "qualified entities" for grants for: (1) development or improvement of water supply and watershed restoration or enhancement projects, including related design, engineering and construction, (2) studies and facilitating stakeholder involvement on water-related matters, including water quality, and (3) educational purposes, including teaching seminars, workshop, and related programs. "Qualified entities" are defined by statute to include any public entity, non-profit corporation, not-for-profit corporation, carrier ditch company, mutual ditch or reservoir company, unincorporated ditch or reservoir company, or cooperative association within the boundaries of the District.² All projects, studies, and program grants will be limited to "raw" or untreated water supplies, except as provided below.

² C.R.S. § 37-47-107(1)(j.5).

Only projects or portions of projects located within the District's boundaries are eligible for grant funding.

SWCD will not consider grant requests or funding for:

- a. Projects that have already been completed; however, the board may make an exception for projects completed within the past six months arising from the emergency situations described on page one of these guidelines;
- b. Municipal or domestic drinking water projects that do not qualify as a "public water system," which is defined for the purposes of these guidelines to mean any system that does not have a public water system ID number with the state of Colorado;
- c. Any part of a municipal or domestic "public water system" located beyond the permitted or decreed point of diversion (i.e., headgate or well).³ Applications for eligible portions of public water system should include the state ID number for the system;
- d. Wastewater treatment projects;
- e. Legal fees or payroll costs. If your project includes these costs, please identify them as a separate line-item in the proposed budget and explain how you will pay for those costs without using SWCD grant funds;
- f. Grant administration costs; or
- g. Weed management projects, although consideration will be given to programs that specifically remove phreatophytes if the applicant demonstrates it has a plan, including funding, for appropriate revegetation and ongoing maintenance.

2. MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

SWCD will not award a grant for more than 50% of the total project costs,⁴ and Applicants must demonstrate that they are actively contributing to the project for which they are requesting a grant. Any grant approval will be contingent on the recipient demonstrating prior to disbursement of the grant that the Applicant has secured funding for the remaining total project costs.

In addition, Applicants or beneficiaries of the proposed project must also demonstrate that they will provide, through a cash contribution and/or in-kind goods or services, at least 25% of the total project costs (in other words, half of the matching funds). Applications proposing use of in-kind goods and services as all or a portion of the required matching contribution must provide

³ Funding requests for treated water projects can be pursued with the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (<https://www.cwrpd.com>) or the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (<https://www.colorado.gov/dola>).

⁴ For multi-phase projects, "total project costs" shall mean all costs related to the particular phase of the project for which the Applicant is requesting funding.

detailed information identifying time and valuation (at an hourly or total project rate) of in-kind contributions. The Board may, at their option, consider previous expenditures directly related to the proposed project as matching contributions if those expenditures occurred within six months of the grant application deadline.

The Applicant's 25% match cannot be met through a loan from SWCD.

Non-profit, or non-governmental organizations, serving on behalf of a broad group of local constituents that do not receive tax revenues and do not have opportunities for third party contributions for the project, may request a reduction of the match requirement to 10% of the total project cost (subject to approval by the board) by garnering and documenting strong community or watershed support for the project.

3. LIMITS ON GRANT FUNDING

The amount of funding each "qualified entity" may receive from SWCD is further limited to the following:

- a. Recipients of grants for educational purposes may not receive more than \$5,000 in a single year or a total of \$10,000 in any given five (5) year period.
- b. Recipients of grants for development or improvement of water-related projects may not receive more than \$75,000 in a single year or a total of \$150,000 in any given five (5) year period.
- c. Recipients of grants for participation in public forums and the performance of studies may not receive more than \$20,000 in any single year or a total of \$40,000 in any given five (5) year period.

Additional funds, outside of SWCD's grant program, may be available through SWCD's loan program. Please review Section I below or contact SWCD staff to find out more about SWCD's loan program.

4. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND PROCESS

Completion of SWCD's application form is required in order for SWCD to consider requests for financial assistance. The Board will not consider applications that do not meet the minimum requirements. To ensure consideration for funding by SWCD, please apply for a grant before the water project, study or educational program has been initiated. Please use the following application:

[General Application for Financial Assistance 2022](#)

Each Application should be typed or printed legibly and include, at a minimum, the following:

- a. Documentation confirming the applicant is a qualified entity per the definition on page 2 of these guidelines. Examples of proper documentation include (but are not limited to) articles of incorporation and corporate bylaws or certification of registration from the Colorado Secretary of State;
- b. Project type, description and location, including the county or counties within which the grant funds will be applied;
- c. Total grant amount requested;
- d. Total project cost⁵;
- e. Anticipated timeline for the project, study or educational request;
- f. Matching contributions provided by or requested from other funding partners, including the anticipated decision date for those funding requests if not already approved;
- g. Detailed project expense budget, including as a percentage of the total any costs of administering the grant;
- h. Applicant's matching contributions, including a detailed description of in-kind materials and services, if any, to be provided by the applicant should be included with basis for in-kind valuations;
- i. Identification of development, use, or protection of pre-compact water rights;
- j. Identification of project partners and beneficiaries; and
- k. Summary of Applicant's previous funding requests and grant awards from SWCD.

Please attach additional sheets as necessary to fully answer any question in order to assure that all information that might be helpful in evaluating your application is considered. Please return the **signed copy** of the application to Southwestern Water Conservation District and retain a copy for your records. Please submit to the following address or email: Southwestern Water Conservation District, 841 E. 2nd Avenue, Durango, CO 81301 *or* lauras@swgcd.org. Once your grant application is received, it will be reviewed by SWCD staff to ensure that it meets the minimum requirements before consideration by the Board. Staff will endeavor to share its funding recommendation with the applicant prior to the meeting.

The board will hold a meeting in February 2022 to review and consider the applications. Applicants are encouraged to attend the meeting at which the funding requests will be considered, either in person or by phone so that they can provide a brief summary of their grant request and

⁵ If the requested grant will be used to fund part of a multi-phase project, please provide a summary, including a total project cost estimate and anticipated timeline, for completion of the overall project.

answer questions that may arise. The board requests a thorough, completed application form be submitted in lieu of a formal presentation.

For questions about the application or board meeting, please contact SWCD staff by phone (970-247-1302) or e-mail (lauras@swgcd.org). For your reference, agendas are posted to the swgcd.org website one week prior to regular board meetings.

D. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Grant proposals will be evaluated based upon how well the proposed project, study or educational request carries out the purposes of the SWCD. The Board will give special consideration to grant proposals that further the use or protection of pre-compact water rights and the development of Colorado River Compact entitlements as well as educational-related requests that complement or otherwise further SWCD's existing programs.

E. FUNDS DISBURSEMENT

Once a grant application has been reviewed and approved by the Board, a request for the release of grant funds may be made during 2022. If the Applicant will not be able to use the funds in that year, please contact the SWCD office as soon as possible. For grant funds to be released, the Applicant must complete a "Request for Release of Funds" form found on the website and provide written documentation that all committed matching funds have been secured and that the Applicant continues to be a qualified entity. The signature of the Applicant's authorized representative on this form indicates that the funds are needed at that particular time and that the Applicant ensures and verifies that the funds are only being used for the specific purpose(s) described in the application and amount(s) indicated in SWCD's grant approval letter. The Applicant agrees to allow SWCD to display a public notice identifying the project or activity as being partially funded by the SWCD. Additional documentation may be requested at SWCD's discretion.

In the event the project, study, or program for which the grant was awarded ultimately comes in under budget, the grant recipient must return a pro-rata portion of the remaining funds to SWCD within 45 days of completion. For example, if the completed project, study, or program is \$20,000 under budget and SWCD contributed 20% of the total anticipated project costs, then the grant recipient must return \$4,000 (20% of \$20,000) to SWCD.

F. CHANGING THE USE OF FUNDS

If the Board approves funding for the application, and at a future date the intended use of funds changes, please notify staff as soon as possible. Board review and approval of the change is necessary. Otherwise, SWCD requires reimbursement of funds.

G. GRANT EXTENSION REQUESTS

If the Board approves funding for the application, and completion of the project, study, program or other grant-funded task has not occurred in 2022, the Applicant will submit a written grant extension request to SWCD staff describing the progress to date and the projected timeline

for completion. At that time, staff may approve a one-year extension. Grant extensions are usually limited to one year. However, at its option, the Board may approve grant extensions of more than one year, or the Applicant may be required to submit a new application.

H. ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT

If the Board approves funding for the application, the Applicant must provide a written report and/or supporting documentation of the work accomplished no later than December 31st of the year in which the grant is awarded. This written report will include a detailed accounting of the use of funds including supporting documentation for any expenses incurred. Additional documentation may be requested at the discretion of SWCD. See sample final reports at swwcd.org. The Board will not consider future grant requests from Applicants that do not comply with this provision.

I. LOANS

Loans and/or loan-grant packages may be approved for water-related projects or construction, studies, educational programs, and sponsorships. The terms and security for payment will be determined at the time the loan is approved. All documents required by SWCD for the loan shall be executed before SWCD will release the approved loan amount. Documents that SWCD, at its sole discretion, may require include, but may not be limited to, a loan agreement, promissory note, deed of trust for real property, and/or a uniform commercial code financing statement for personal property.



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters of the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
IN SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO

2022 GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

A. BACKGROUND

The Southwestern Water Conservation District (“SWCD” ~~or the “District”~~) is a political subdivision of the State that was established by the Colorado General Assembly in 1941 to protect, conserve, use and develop the water resources of the San Juan and Dolores River Basins as well as to safeguard all waters to which the state of Colorado is equitably entitled.¹ SWCD periodically offers financial assistance in the form of grants to “qualified entities,” as that term is defined below in Section C.1, that are carrying out projects consistent with ~~the District~~SWCD’s statutory purposes. Funding for this program is subject to SWCD’s discretion as well as its annual budget and appropriation process. The Board retains the right, in its sole discretion, to approve, reduce, or deny any grant request.

B. GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

For the 2022 grant program, applications may be submitted from November 1st through December 13th of 2021. Applicants are encouraged to submit their application as early as possible within the given time frame so that there is adequate time to work with SWCD staff to ensure that the application meets all requirements in advance of the December 13th deadline. Applications received after December 13, 2021 will not be considered. Final decisions will be ~~provided to grant applicants~~made by the board no later than March 15, 2022.

The deadlines provided above apply to routine grant requests and may be modified to address emergency situations. SWCD understands that emergency situations may arise from catastrophic or unforeseen events, such as flooding, at other times of the year. The Board endeavors to annually allocate a portion of the grant program funds for emergency requests. Examples of emergency situations ~~may~~ include, but are not limited to: flood event causing damage to diversions or measurement structures, catastrophic canal or pipeline failure ~~leading to no ability to that prevents the delivery~~ water, spillway or dam failure, regulatory restrictions, wildfire impacts including post-fire runoff and other impacts, and toxic spills. Please contact SWCD staff directly if this occurs to discuss the possibility of submitting an emergency grant application.

¹ See C.R.S. § 37-47-101 through -151.

SWCD annually anticipates receiving grant requests well in excess of the available funds. The maximum amount of money potentially available from SWCD in the 2022 calendar year for all grant recipients is shown on the table below.

Grant Funding Category	Proposed 2022 Funds Available (Total Grant Program \$230,000)
Development or improvement of water supply and watershed restoration <u>or enhancement</u> projects, including related design, engineering and construction	\$92,000
Studies and facilitating stakeholder involvement on water-related matters, including water quality	\$34,500
Educational purposes, including teaching seminars, workshops and related programs	\$11,500
Emergency requests	\$92,000

The maximum amounts for each category ~~will~~may be adjusted on an annual basis after development of the initial budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Prior to submitting an application, please visit ~~the District~~SWCD's website.

Any member of ~~the District~~SWCD's Board of Directors or ~~District~~ Staff with a financial or property interest in a grant request will disclose any such interest or other conflict of interest and recuse themselves from participating in any recommendation, vote or decision-making process related to that grant request.

C. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. ELIGIBILITY

SWCD will consider financial assistance requests from “qualified entities” for grants for: (1) development or improvement of water supply and watershed restoration or enhancement projects, including related design, engineering and construction~~water-related projects~~, (2) studies and facilitating stakeholder involvement on water-related matters, including water quality, and (3) ~~water-related educational programs~~educational purposes, including teaching seminars, workshop, and related programs. “Qualified entities” are defined by statute to include any public entity, non-profit corporation, not-for-profit corporation, carrier ditch company, mutual ditch or reservoir company, unincorporated ditch or reservoir company, or cooperative association within the boundaries of the District.² All projects, studies, and program grants will be limited to “raw” or

² C.R.S. § 37-47-107(1)(j.5).

untreated water supplies, except as provided below. Only projects or portions of projects located within the District's boundaries are eligible for grant funding.

SWCD will not consider grant requests or funding for:

- a. Projects that have already been completed; however, the board has the discretion to may make an exception consider funding for projects completed within the past six months arising from the emergency situations as described on page one of these guidelines;
- b. Any part of a mMunicipal or domestic drinking water -projects that do not qualify as a "public water system," which is defined for the purposes of these guidelines to mean any system that does not have a public water system ID number with the state of Colorado;[insert Carrie's definition];
- ~~b.c. Any part of a municipal or domestic- drinking water project "public water system"; located beyond the permitted or decreed point of diversion (i.e., headgate or well), that qualifies as a "public water system." located beyond the decreed point of diversion (i.e., headgate or well) ;³ wells not part of a public water system are not eligible. Applications for eligible portions of public water system should include the state ID number for the system;~~
- ~~e.d. Wastewater treatment projects;~~
- ~~d.e. Legal fees or payroll costs. If your project includes these costs, please identify them as a separate line-item in the proposed budget and explain how you will pay for those costs without using SWCD grant funds;~~
- ~~e.f. Grant administration costs; or~~
- ~~f.g. Weed management projects, although consideration will be given to programs that specifically remove phreatophytes if the applicant can demonstrate it has a plan, including funding, for appropriate revegetation and ongoing maintenance to pay for and perform any necessary ongoing maintenance.~~

~~To ensure consideration for funding by the District, please apply for a grant before the water project, study or educational program has been initiated.~~

2. MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

SWCD will not award a grant for more than 50% of the total project costs,⁴ and Applicants must demonstrate that they are actively contributing to the project for which they are requesting a

³ Funding requests for treated water projects can be pursued with the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (<https://www.cwrpd.com>) or the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (<https://www.colorado.gov/dola>).

⁴ For multi-phase projects, "total project costs" shall mean all costs related to the particular phase of the project for which the Applicant is requesting funding.

grant. Any grant approval ~~disbursement~~ will be contingent on the recipient ~~ultimately~~ demonstrating ~~prior to disbursement of the grant~~ that the ~~Applicant~~ has secured funding ~~for~~ at least the remaining 50% of the total project costs.

In addition, Applicants or beneficiaries of the proposed project must also demonstrate that they will provide, through a cash contribution and/or ~~the performance of~~ in-kind goods or services, at least 25% of the total project costs (in other words, half of the matching funds). Applications proposing use of in-kind goods and services as all or a portion of the required matching contribution must provide detailed information identifying time and valuation (at an hourly or total project rate) of in-kind contributions. The ~~B~~board ~~has the discretion~~ may, at their option, to consider previous expenditures directly related to the proposed project as matching contributions if those expenditures occurred within six months of the grant application deadline.

The Applicant's 25% match cannot be met via through a loan from SWCD.

Non-profit, or non-governmental organizations, serving on behalf of a broad group of local constituents that do not receive tax revenues and do not have opportunities for third party contributions for the project, may request a reduction of the match requirement to 10% of the total project cost (subject to approval by the board) by garnering and documenting strong community or watershed support for the project.

3. LIMITS ON GRANT FUNDING

The amount of funding each “qualified entity” may receive from ~~the District~~ SWCD is further limited to the following:

- a. Recipients of grants for educational purposes may not ~~apply for, or receive,~~ more than \$5,000 in a single year or a total of \$10,000 in any given five (5) year period.
- b. Recipients of grants for development or improvement of water-related projects may not ~~apply for, or receive,~~ more than \$75,000 in a single year or a total of \$150,000 in any given five (5) year period.
- c. Recipients of grants for participation in public forums and the performance of studies may not ~~apply for, or receive,~~ more than \$20,000 in any single year or a total of \$40,000 in any given five (5) year period.

Additional funds, outside of SWCD's grant program, may be available through SWCD's loan program. Please review Section I below or contact SWCD staff ~~in order to~~ to find out more about SWCD's loan program.

4. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND PROCESS

Completion of ~~the SWCD's~~ application form is required in order for ~~the District~~ SWCD to consider requests for financial assistance. The Board will not consider applications that do not meet the

minimum requirements. To ensure consideration for funding by SWCD, please apply for a grant before the water project, study or educational program has been initiated. Please use the following application:

General Application for Financial Assistance 2022

Each Application should be typed or printed legibly and include, at a minimum, the following:

- a. Documentation confirming the applicant is a qualified entity per the definition on page 2-4 of these guidelines. Examples of proper documentation include (but are not limited to) articles of incorporation and corporate bylaws or certification of registration from the Colorado Secretary of State;
- a.b. Project type, description and location, including; please note the the county or counties within which the grant funds will be applied;
- b.c. Total grant amount requested;
- c.d. Total project cost⁵;
- d.e. Anticipated timeline for the project, study or educational request;
- e.f. Matching contributions provided by or requested from other funding partners, including the anticipated decision date for those funding requests if not already approved;
- f.g. Detailed project expense budget, including as a percentage of the total any costs of administering the grant;
- h. Applicant's matching contributions; including a detailed description of in-kind materials and services, if any, to be provided by the applicant should be included with basis for in-kind valuations;
- g.i. Identification of development, use, or protection of pre-compact water rights;
- h.j. Identification of project partners and beneficiaries; and
- i.k. Summary of Applicant's previous funding requests and grant awards from SWCD;

Please attach additional sheets as necessary to fully answer any question in order to assure that all information that might be helpful in evaluating your application is considered. Please return the **signed copy** of the application to Southwestern Water Conservation District and retain a copy for your records. Please submit to the following address or email: Southwestern Water

⁵ If the requested grant will be used to fund part of a multi-phase project, please provide a summary, including a total project cost estimate and anticipated timeline, for completion of the overall project.

Conservation District, 841 E. 2nd Avenue, Durango, CO 81301 or lauras@swgcd.org. Once your grant application is received, it will be reviewed by ~~District~~ SWCD staff to ensure that it meets the minimum requirements before consideration by the Board. Staff will endeavor to share its funding recommendation with the applicant prior to the meeting.

The board will hold ~~a meeting~~ ~~a work session~~ in February 2022~~1~~ to review and consider the applications. Applicants are encouraged to attend the ~~work session~~ meeting at which the funding requests will be considered, either in person or by phone, so that they can provide a brief summary of their grant request and answer questions that may arise ~~and participate in the discussion~~. The board requests a thorough, completed application form be submitted in lieu of a formal presentation.

For questions about the application or board meeting, please contact ~~District~~ SWCD staff by phone (970-247-1302) or e-mail (lauras@swgcd.org). For your reference, agendas are posted to the swgcd.org website one week prior to regular board meetings.

D. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Grant proposals will be evaluated based upon how well the proposed project, study or educational request carries out the purposes of the ~~District~~ SWCD. The Board will give special consideration to grant proposals that further the use or protection of pre-compact water rights and the development of Colorado River Compact entitlements as well as educational-related requests that complement or otherwise further ~~SWCD's~~ ~~the District's~~ existing programs.

E. FUNDS DISBURSEMENT

Once a grant application has been reviewed and approved by the ~~B~~board, a request for the release of grant funds may be made during ~~2022, the calendar year identified in the application as the year when the funds will be used.~~ If ~~the Applicant~~ your entity will not be able to use the funds in that year, please contact the SWCD office as soon as possible. For grant funds to be released, the ~~A~~applicant must complete a "Request for Release of Funds" form found on the website and provide written documentation that all committed matching funds have been secured and that the Applicant continues to be a qualified entity. The signature of the ~~A~~applicant's authorized representative on this form indicates that the funds are needed at that particular time and that the ~~A~~applicant ensures and verifies that the funds are only being used for the specific purpose(s) described in the application and amount(s) indicated ~~in the application~~ in SWCD's grant approval letter. The Applicant agrees to allow the district allow SWCD to display a public notice identifying the project or activity as being partially funded by the SWCD. Additional documentation may be requested at ~~the District's~~ SWCD's discretion.

In the event the project, study, or program for which the grant was awarded ultimately comes in under budget, the grant recipient must return a pro-rata portion of the remaining funds to SWCD within 45 days of completion. ~~In the event the project, study or program ultimately comes in under budget, the prorated contribution of funds must be returned to the District within 45 days of completion.~~ For example, if the completed project, study, or program is \$20,000 under budget, and SWCD contributed 20% of the total anticipated project costs, then the grant recipient ~~shall be required to~~ must return \$4,000 (20% of \$20,000) to SWCD.

F. CHANGING THE USE OF FUNDS

If the Board approves funding for the application, and at a future date the intended use of funds changes, please notify staff as soon as possible. Board review and approval of the change ~~will be is~~ necessary. Otherwise, ~~the DistrictSWCD requires may request~~ reimbursement of funds.

G. GRANT EXTENSION REQUESTS

If the Board approves funding for the application, and ~~progress toward~~ completion of the project, ~~study, program or other grant-funded task~~ has not occurred ~~within a year of the time frame listed in the application in 2022, it may be necessary to request from the Board a grant extension~~ the Applicant will submit a written grant extension request to SWCD staff describing the progress to date and the projected timeline for completion. At that time, staff may approve a one-year extension. Grant extensions are usually limited to one year. However, at its option, the Board may approve grant extensions of more than one year, or the Applicant may be required to submit a new application. ~~Applicants requesting an extension will not be given preferential treatment over other applicants and will be handled on a case by case basis. Grant extensions are usually limited to one year, and any additional extensions may require submittal of a new application.~~

ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENT

If the Board approves funding for the application, the ~~authorized entity will~~ Applicant grantee must provide a written report and/or supporting documentation of the work accomplished ~~by the is Applicant application~~ no later than December 31st of the year in which the grant is awarded. This written report will include a detailed accounting of the use of funds ~~including applicable invoice~~ supporting documentation for any expenses incurred. Additional documentation may be requested at the discretion of ~~the DistrictSWCD~~. See sample final reports at swwcd.org. ~~No additional grant funding will be considered for the applicant without compliance with this provision. The Board will not consider future grant requests from Applicants that do not comply with this provision.~~

H. LOANS

Loans and/or loan-grant packages may be approved for water-related projects or construction, studies, educational programs, and sponsorships. The terms and security for payment will be determined at the time the loan is approved. All documents required by ~~the DistrictSWCD~~ for the loan shall be executed before ~~the DistrictSWCD~~ will release the approved loan amount. Documents that ~~the DistrictSWCD~~, at its sole discretion, may require include, but may not be limited to, a loan agreement, promissory note, deed of trust for real property, and/or a uniform commercial code financing statement for personal property.

HARRIS WATER ENGINEERING, INC.
954 EAST SECOND AVENUE, #202
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
970-259-5322
carrie@durangowater.com

Memorandum
June 3, 2021

To: SWCD Board of Directors
From: Carrie Padgett
Subject: Engineering Report for the June 9 and 10, 2021 Board Meeting

The following is a summary of the topics Carrie Padgett worked on for SWCD since the last Board meeting, during the months of April and May in 2021. For more background and detail please contact me.

San Juan and Upper Basin Endangered Fish Recovery Programs

I participated in multiple committee conference calls, the annual May meeting, and a series of virtual meetings with congressional staff in Washington D.C. the week of April 19. This was the second year the D.C. Briefings were held virtually. This format was successful again and the group met with the majority of congressional staff we would normally see in person. Below is a list of the briefing meetings I participated in.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Rep. Jason Crow | 7. House Appropriations – Interior, Environmental and Related Agencies Sub Committee |
| 2. Rep. Joe Neguse | 8. Senate Energy and Natural Resources – Water and Power Sub Committee |
| 3. Rep. Ken Buck | 9. House Appropriations – Energy and Water Development and Related agencies Sub Committee |
| 4. Sen. Michael Bennet | 10. Senate Appropriations – Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Sub Committee |
| 5. Rep. Diana DeGette | 11. House Natural Resources – Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Sub Committee |
| 6. Rep. Lauren Boebert | |

At each meeting, I introduced myself as a representative of Southwest Colorado, SWCD, and water users of both Programs. The following key talking points were made at each meeting. If you are interested in additional information that we provided the staffers, I am happy to provide you the briefing materials.

- The recovery programs use science-based, cost-effective measures such as re-operating federal reservoirs to create and maintain habitat, working with irrigators to improve their water efficiency, and constructing fish passages to assist in endangered fish recovery.
- The recovery programs' actions provide Endangered Species Act compliance for approximately 2,500 water projects providing water for irrigation, cities, industry, recreation, and tribal uses.

- No lawsuits have been filed on ESA compliance provided by the recovery programs since initiation in 1988 and 1992.
- The programs have been successful and are highly regarded for their collaborative approach among numerous partners to help recover endangered fish while continue to meet the needs of water development in the Upper Colorado River Basin. This has been possible through the established cooperative agreement, program guidance and open communication. Communication is the key to building trust and maintaining the partnerships.
- Participants from both programs-initiated discussions on the future of the programs (termed post-2023). The ultimate result of these discussions will be a report to Congress in FY22 with recommendations on the size and funding sources of the programs moving forward.

Navajo Reservoir

I attended the quarterly Navajo Reservoir Operations on April 20; this meeting was held virtually. Summary points of the meeting are described below. As of May 18, the releases from the reservoir were 300 cfs.

- Drought conditions have remained persistent over the headwaters and the Four Corners this spring and are predicted to remain.
- The April-July runoff most probable forecast for Navajo is 370,000 AF (50% of average). This is similar to the snowpack across the Southwest. One contributing factor to below average runoff is the antecedent soil moisture conditions entering this past winter (it was a record low).
- Based on these forecasts, no spring peak release is planned.
- It is expected reservoir releases will remain low (300 to 500 cfs) throughout runoff season with releases expected to be higher than normal throughout the summer and fall to hit target base flows. Fingers crossed, if we have a wet summer these releases would decrease.
- Currently no shortages are projected for this water year.

Animas Watershed Partnership (AWP)

The steering committee continues to meet monthly. The coordinator will be participating in the upcoming Animas River days on June 5 with an informational booth set up on Saturday. Our goal is to meet new members of the public that are passionate about the river. In addition to this outreach, the coordinate continues to pursue work with a willing landowner on the Florida by pursuing grants for their proposed project. I continue to attend finical subcommittee meetings to help develop strategic and outreach plans for upcoming years once the WaterSmart grants are completed.

Instream Flow Site Visits

I attend an all-day sight visit on May 12 in the San Miguel basin regarding two potential ISF filings. Rob Viehl (CWCB), Roy Smith (BLM), Mark and Sandy Ragsdale (DWR), and I conducted two site visits. First, we meet with water users of Spring Creek. BLM is proposing a seasonal water right on Spring Creek with the purpose of preserving riparian habitat along the creek. The site visit was very productive. The water users had a lot of concerns and questions about how ISFs are proposed, decreed, and operated into the future. We had the right team of people there that the water users trust (i.e. Mark) with the knowledge to answer their questions. The water

users may need assistance in identifying current irrigation practices not included in their decrees. An example of these activities are three ponds currently used for irrigation and stock purposes. If the board supports my time, the water users could use assistance in mapping and quantifying (i.e. volumes and surface area) of these ponds for inclusion in the ISF decree.

The second site visit was with representatives of Gurley Reservoir. The BLM is interested in proposing a future ISF along Goat Creek. This site visit was very information to all of us on Gurley's operations and their historic knowledge of flows available in Goat Creek. I learned BLM is interested in protecting a Colorado cutthroat population in Goat Creek. I assumed they were interested in the headwaters of Goat Creek; however they are actually focused on Goat Creek directly upstream of its confluence with Beaver Creek. Beaver Creek has an existing ISF. It was interesting to see when we were out there how water was flowing in Goat Creek but Beaver Creek was mostly dry. It is expected many springs litter the hillside providing sources of water for the creek. BLM took measurements that day and will be sending others out later this summer to investigate the fish population.

Overall, I think it was valuable for SWCD to participate in these meetings with water users and state representatives. Getting involved at the beginning of the ISF investigation and filing allows us to follow the process while communicating with water users from the start to the finish.