

# Watershed Plan Summary

## Mancos Watershed Plan (2011)

### **PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS**

Mancos Valley Watershed Group (MVWG)

### **PLAN COVERAGE**

The plan covers the entirety of the Mancos River watershed: the upper watershed, which includes the Mancos Valley and surrounding mountains, and the lower watershed, from Mancos Canyon downstream.

### **PLAN GOALS**

The nine-element watershed plan was developed to support and inform MVWG's goals. As stated in the plan, these goals include:

- Developing a cold water fishery
- Improving diversion structures for agriculture
- Improving the functioning capacity of the river through improving riparian communities and wetlands and meeting the goals of the state's draft total maximum daily load (TMDL) for dissolved copper

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

Completed and planned projects listed below are based solely on the information provided in available documentation.

## COMPLETED PROJECTS

Project Type	Description	Planned Completion Date	Cost	Additional Information
<b>Irrigation</b>	Install on-farm pipelines throughout the year	Not available	Not available	Funding provided by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Basin States Funding Cost Share Programs
<b>Restoration</b>	Implement Diversion Point River stabilization project	Not available	Not available	Funding provided by Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), Southwest Basin Roundtable, and Southwest Water Conservancy District
	Implement additional river restoration projects	Not available	Not available	Funding provided by CWCB, NRCS, and other sources
<b>Monitoring</b>	Monitor water use at Echo Basin Dude Ranch and follow up on compliance with the water decree granted by the state	Not available	Not available	Funding provided by Mancos Conservation District (MCD)
	Conduct sampling of Mancos River	Not available	Not available	Conducted via Colorado RiverWatch
	Conduct sudden aspen decline monitoring	Not available	Not available	Funding provided by National Forest Foundation, Mancos Valley Sustainability Initiative, and MCD
<b>Additional outreach and education</b>	Held Mancos River Day, open to the general public; conduct watershed tour of ongoing projects in the Mancos Valley; conduct lower watershed tour and upper watershed tour	Not available	Not available	Funding provided by private donations, MCD, and Colorado 319 program
	Hold irrigation water management seminars	Not available	Not available	Three seminars were held during the irrigation months and were open to all landowners; funding provided by private donations, MCD, and Colorado 319 program
	Hosted seven watershed stakeholders meetings to include and inform all stakeholders of the progress on projects; hosted Watershed Steering Committee meeting; hosted Diversion Project meetings; hosted East Mancos Task Force meeting; completed draft website and brochures with basic information	Not available	Not available	Funding provided by private donations, MCD, and Colorado 319 program

## PLANNED PROJECTS

Project Type	Description	Planned Completion Date	Cost	Additional Information
<b>Research</b>	Conduct loading study	2012	Not available	Colorado Division of Reclamation and Mining Safety designated as responsible party
	Depending on results of loading study, implement a tracer study	2013	Not available	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment designated as responsible party
<b>Restoration</b>	Restore reaches in valley impacted by historical levees	Complete 1,000 feet per year over 10 years	Not available	MVWG designated as responsible party
	Diversions 1–12 with riparian restoration and improving hydrogeomorphology	Complete one diversion per year over 12 years	Not available	MVWG and MCD designated as responsible parties
<b>Water management</b>	Purchase water for in-stream flows	Obtain funding in 2011–2014 and begin purchasing water in 2014	Not available	MCD designated as responsible party; goal is to purchase water until the river at the confluence of the East Mancos with the West Mancos is sufficiently dilute and dissolved copper concentration is below TMDL levels
<b>Loading reduction</b>	Install a sprinkler system to reduce salinity loads	Replace 20 acres of flood irrigation each year over 10 years	Not available	NRCS designated as responsible party
	Install a sprinkler system to reduce selenium loads, particularly in Navajo Wash tributary	Replace 20 acres of flood irrigation each year over 10 years	Not available	Ute Mountain Ute Tribe and NRCS designated as responsible parties
<b>Land management</b>	Close, improve, and maintain roads in national forest lands	Close or improve 10 miles of degraded road per year over 10 years	Not available	San Juan National Forest designated as responsible party
	Reduce sediment loads from burn areas	Reseed 10 acres per year over 10 years	Not available	Mesa Verde National Park (MVNP) and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe designated as responsible parties
<b>Habitat rehabilitation</b>	Maintain/rebuild/monitor fencing that keeps cattle out of the riparian corridor within MVNP	Not available	Not available	MVNP designated as responsible party

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The watershed plan is available [online](#).