

INTEGRATED WATER PLANNING

STREAM MANAGEMENT PLANNING DISCUSSIONS

NORTH FORK OF THE GUNNISON



Upper Colorado River

Basin Water Forum

Colorado Mesa University, Nov. 2016

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Who is working on the North Fork SMP?

North Fork Water Conservancy District and irrigators are the lead.



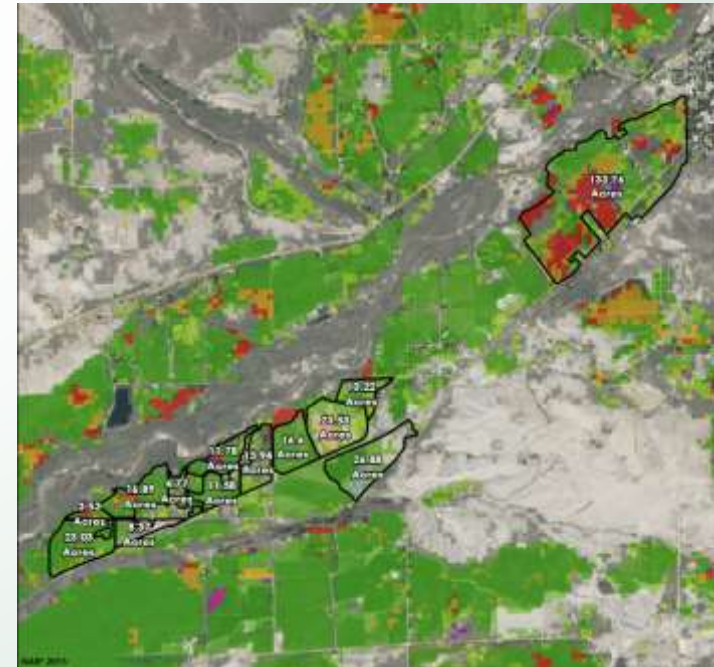
Division 4 has a role as the current “managing entity” of the river. Local water commissioners also have the trust of the community with senior rights.

What are the goals of the SMP?

Still undefined at the moment...

- Broad irrigator acceptance
- A document that defines the diversions and water rights associated with the reach

- Catalogue of infrastructure needs
- Quantification of current ag water use





What are the challenges?

“What are you going to study? They’ve already studied the river.”





What are the challenges?

Negative perception of a “Stream Management Plan”

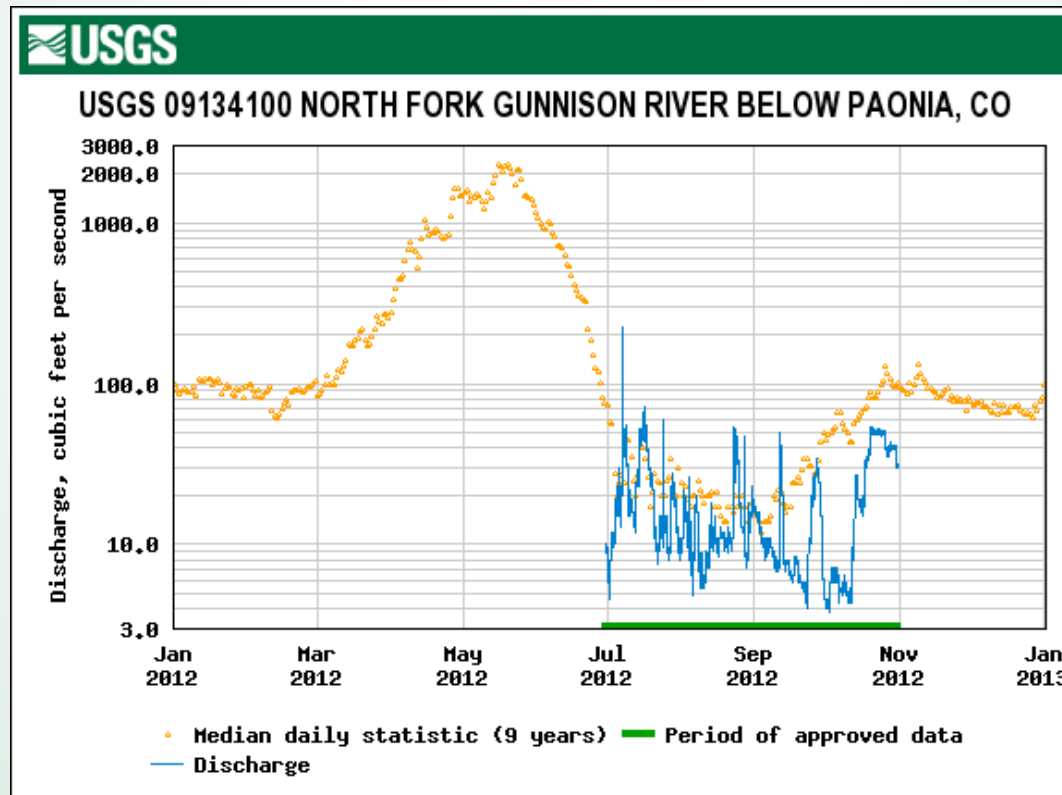
- Biology
- Hydrology
- Channel Morphology
- Alternative water use
- Support for
 - Recreational uses
 - Ecosystem function





What is the strategy for moving forward?

We are viewing this as an “Irrigation Management Plan”... The stream is the nexus between all of the irrigators.





Moving forward

A better understanding of the agricultural water use and the needs of irrigators will allow for increased beneficial use of the resource

- Decreased shortages during dry periods
- Integrated management among diversions





Moving forward

Discussions are on-going with irrigators on making this “Irrigation Management Plan” a useful management tool for them.

There is a recognition amongst irrigators that:

- Infrastructure improvements are a means of protecting agricultural water use
- There is value in the control of the resource
- Integrated management allows for sustained and increased beneficial use of the resource by agriculture



Thank You



Questions?