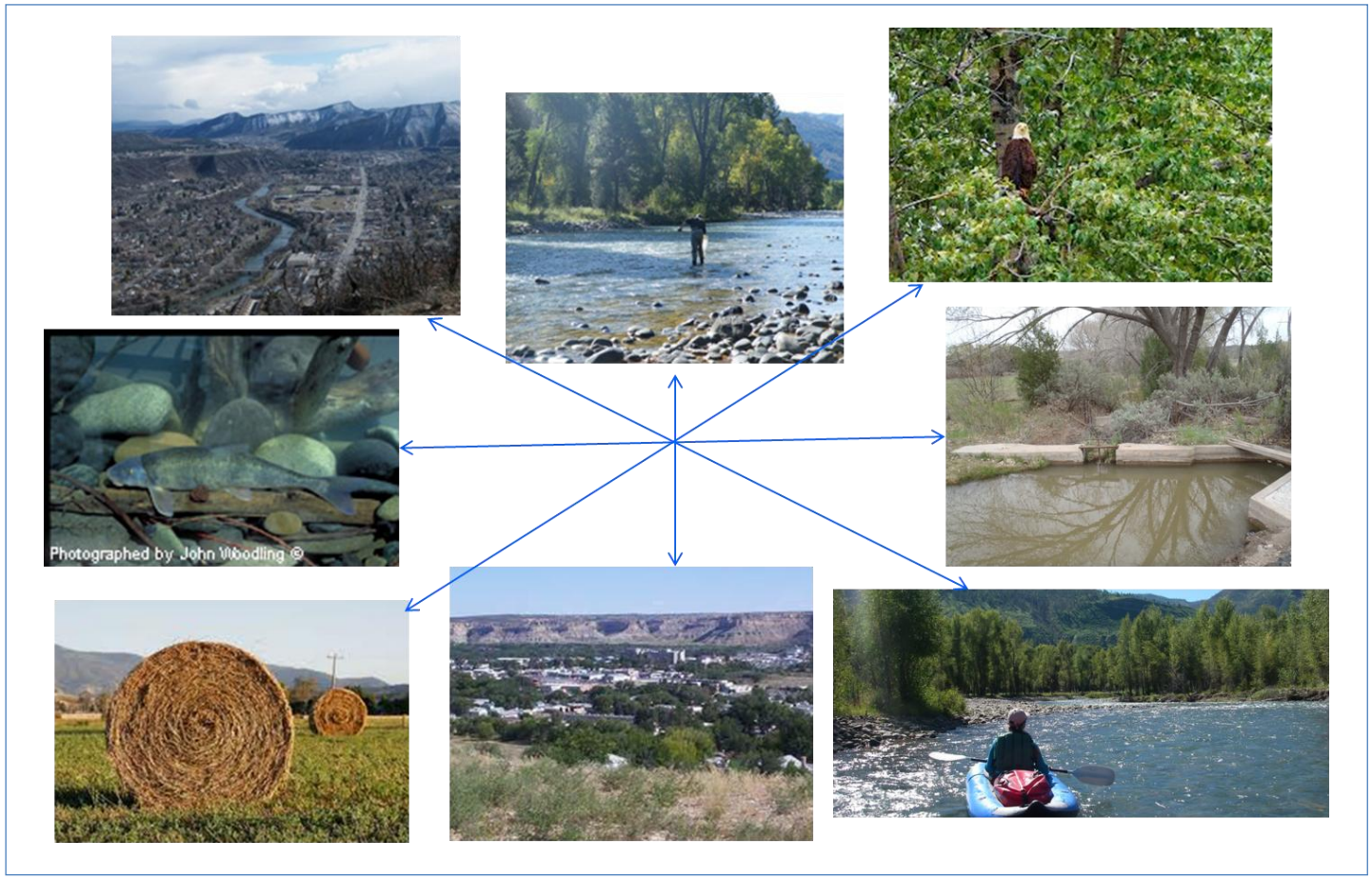
Animas Watershed Partnership
Strategic Action Plan 2013 thru 2016



Approved by the AWP Steering Committee on January 30, 2014

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The Animas Watershed Partnership

Mission Statement

To protect and improve the quality of water resources
To benefit the Animas River, now and in the future.

Operating Principles

The Animas Watershed Partnership's (AWP's) efforts are guided by four operating principles. The Partnership:

- Works toward voluntary, non-regulatory solutions to improve water quality and river health.
- Promotes collaboration across all boundaries.
- Uses data and science to make informed decisions.
- Shares information and efforts openly with people and groups.

Organizational Components and Goals

1. Community Engagement

A. Increase awareness, interest, planning and action on the part of local communities for priority issues affecting the health of the Animas River.

2. Water Quality Projects

A. Work with partners to protect and improve water quality within the Animas River watershed.
B. Collect, compile, analyze, interpret and make accessible reliable data that can support and inform efforts to manage water quality in the Animas River.

3. Capacity Building and Fundraising

A. Define the AWP's organizational goals and corresponding objectives for Water Quality Improvement, Community Engagement and Fundraising.
B. Develop staff and volunteer capacity and momentum to plan for and implement water quality improvement projects for priority areas within the Animas River Watershed and continue to engage the community in the mission and work of the Partnership.

Beginnings and Milestones

The AWP is a stakeholder driven, collaborative, watershed-based group made up of partners representing diverse interests across the watershed in New Mexico, the Southern Ute Tribal Lands and Colorado. Current membership is over 100 individuals and entities. The AWP works together across state and Tribal boundaries to protect and improve the quality of water resources in the Animas River. Our partners include private landowners, environmental groups, municipalities, counties and states, as well as the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe.

The AWP grew out of the Animas River Nutrient Workgroup (ARNW). The ARNW was formed in December 2002, out of concern for high nutrient levels in the Animas River. The ARNW included personnel from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, New Mexico SWQB, State of Colorado WQCD, CPW, and other watershed partners. ARNW designed and tested a nutrient assessment protocol in order to ensure that information collected by different agencies would be comparable. The Workgroup also produced a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) (BUGS Consulting 2003) to guide data collection and analysis.

During the fall low flows of 2003, 2004, and 2005, ARNW quantified periphyton biomass measured as chlorophyll-a and ash-free dry mass at 12 sites in the Animas River from upstream of the City of Durango to the San Juan River confluence in Farmington, NM, as well as at four sites in two reference streams: the Piedra and the San Juan Rivers. The reference stream sampling sites were located at similar latitudes and elevations to those on the Animas. During this same period, ARNW also completed synoptic sampling of macroinvertebrates and total nitrogen and total phosphorus (BUGS Consulting 2008).

To date the AWP has brought stakeholders together across the various jurisdictional boundaries to assess water quality, identify and discuss concerns, and to plan and implement projects. From 2007 through 2010 AWP stakeholders met monthly to draft an Animas

River Watershed-Based Plan (WBP). The plan's development was based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters. The EPA's Handbook details nine minimum elements to be included in a watershed plan. The final first version of the Animas River Watershed-Based Plan was completed in December 2011 (BUGS Consulting 2011) with funding from the New Mexico Environment Department SWQB, CO Nonpoint Source program, Colorado Water Conservation Board and Southwest Basins Roundtable, Southwestern Water Conservation District, Trout Unlimited Five Rivers Chapter and others.

The Animas River Watershed Based Plan (2011) assessed water quality in the mainstem from Baker's Bridge in Colorado, through the Southern Ute Tribal lands, to the confluence of the Animas River with the San Juan River at Farmington, New Mexico. This assessment was based on two synoptic sampling efforts conducted at inflows to the mainstem in New Mexico in 2006 and in Colorado/Southern Ute Lands in 2010. The 2010 sampling was guided by a Sampling and Analysis Project Plan (BUGS Consulting 2009). This comprehensive sampling effort allowed the partners to assess and prioritize the relative contributions from inflows to the mainstem of nutrients (total phosphorus and total nitrogen), as well as to consider the channel and floodplain condition of reaches in Colorado. The plan recommends Best Management Practices (BMPs) for addressing the nutrient and sediment related river health issues identified, and provides implementation milestones, cost estimates and timelines. In conjunction with the development of the plan, BUGS consulting also compiled the Animas GIS Database, a geographical and water quality database focused on water quality and land use issues that can affect water quality.

In order to improve water quality and ecological resiliency, AWP has developed partnerships and secured funding to implement several assessment and management projects in areas prioritized by the Animas River Watershed-Based Plan. One such project was completed in 2010 in New Mexico. The AWP worked with a private landowner, Conoco-Phillips, and the San Juan Watershed Group to restore a single thread channel and vegetation to a reach of Kiffin Creek, New Mexico with the goal of significantly reducing the amount of sediment contributed to the Animas River.

Another partnership project has been focused on reducing sediment and nutrients contributed by Lightner Creek, near Durango, Colorado to the Animas River. Since 2011, AWP has partnered with Basin Hydrology Inc., Mountain Studies Institute, the City of Durango, San Juan Citizens Alliance, San Juan National Forest, the Southwestern Water Conservation District, and the Colorado Water Conservation Board Watershed Restoration Program to identify top source areas for sediment in Lightner Creek (Basin

Hydrology Inc. 2011), and to establish a baseline of the amount of suspended sediment conveyed to the Animas River (Peltz et al 2011; Kimple et al 2013).

The AWP held two technical workshops in 2012. The purpose of these workshops was to identify focal source areas for nutrient loading in Colorado, the Southern Ute Tribal Lands and New Mexico, using the results of the synoptic samples presented in the Animas River Watershed-Based Plan. The partners identified five focal inflows to the Animas River in each state (CO and NM). With pro-bono assistance, the areas tributary to these inflows were mapped. The AWP partnered with the San Juan Watershed Group in 2012 to help sponsor the Four Corners River Health Workshop in Farmington, NM. This well-attended workshop brought together people and entities with diverse water quality interests to discuss what has worked, and what hasn't in improving water quality.

Also in 2012, the AWP secured its first Colorado Non-Point Source 319 Implementation Grant to and partner with a local rancher and the Durango-La Plata County Airport to implement the Animas and Florida Rivers Habitat and Water Quality Improvement Project. Matching funds were contributed by the Southwestern Water Conservation District and Trout Unlimited Five Rivers Chapter. The Project will develop a robust riparian buffer along one mile of the Florida River and will convert about 25 acres of adjacent flood irrigated pasture to gated pipe irrigation in order to decrease runoff of nutrients from these pastures to the Florida River. The project implementation will be completed in 2015, with post-implementation monitoring continuing through 2017.

In October 2013, AWP is beginning the Animas Watershed Partnership Expansion Project to develop new partnerships and new project concepts throughout the basin with financial support from the Bureau of Reclamations Water SMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program. The AWP plans to continue outreach to landowners on the Florida River and of Kiffin Creek, as well as in other priority tributaries to identify willing partners and potential projects of mutual interest and benefit to improve water quality. In order to continue this work to improve water quality and ecological function and resiliency, AWP will develop a funding plan to pursue financial support from both traditional and non-traditional sources.

Organization and Management

Steering Committee

The efforts of the AWP are guided by a 9-seat Steering Committee comprised of two local governmental and two citizen seats each from CO and NM, and 1 Tribal seat. The Steering Committee meets monthly, rotating between Farmington, NM, Ignacio, CO and Durango, CO.

Current (January 2014) members on the Steering Committee represent the City of Farmington, NM, City of Durango, CO, Southwestern Water Conservation District, CO, San Juan Watershed Group, Trout Unlimited 5 Rivers Chapter, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and include two unaffiliated citizens. The NM governmental seat is currently open.

The role of the AWP Steering Committee is to guide the partnership's efforts to safeguard and improve water quality in the Animas River and its tributaries. The Steering Committee is responsible for planning and hosting full partnership meetings, proposing and shepherding the strategic direction of the AWP, approval of grant applications and community engagement and water quality improvement projects.

The Steering Committee is exclusively responsible for the expenditure of AWP funds used to accomplish the mission of the AWP. Decisions made on specific projects are made and decided on a consensus basis by a quorum of the Steering Committee during their monthly meetings. The Steering Committee is also exclusively responsible for any hiring decisions made for the benefit of the AWP regarding staff and/or contractors retained by the AWP. The AWP does not retain any employees but contracts with individual(s) to provide coordination and services for projects. Following review and discussion of qualifications, such decisions will be made on a consensus basis by a quorum of the Steering Committee at a time and place decided on by the Steering Committee.

Coordinator

The role of the Animas Watershed Partnership Coordinator is to coordinate and organize Steering Committee meetings; work with the Steering Committee to develop and maintain partner relations; assist with identification and development of projects that will improve water quality in the Animas River and its tributaries; identify and become familiar with new and existing funding sources; if authorized by the Steering Committee, apply for project funding, and administer the grants for funded projects; work with Steering

Committee to plan, communicate, and coordinate periodic Animas Watershed Partnership Meetings; keep organized records of partnership activities, accomplishments and data; and develop and implement outreach programs as needed.

With respect to hiring contractors, the Coordinator may identify potential contractors for consideration by the Steering Committee, but will not make any hiring or contracting decisions. However, after project contractors have been retained, the AWP Coordinator will manage the successful completion of projects and fulfillment of their contracts in a timely manner.

Partners

The AWP is a grassroots partnership of individuals and entities from Colorado, New Mexico, the Southern Ute Tribe, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe with an interest in the quality of water resources in the Animas River and its tributaries. The AWP is not an IRS identified 501c3 organization, but partners with an existing 501c3, the San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council (SJRC&D), as fiscal sponsor. The purpose of AWP is to collaborate across state and Tribal boundaries to protect and improve the quality of water resources in the Animas Watershed.

The grassroots partners include private landowners, interested individuals, community organizations and governmental agencies. A partial listing of partners who provide their knowledge and resources to the partnership include the Animas River Stakeholders Group; Basin Hydrology, Inc.; BHP/Billiton; BUGS Consulting LLC; the Bureau of Reclamation; Colorado RiverWatch; the City of Aztec, NM; City of Durango, CO; City of Farmington, NM; the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Water Quality Control Division (WQCD); Colorado Non Point Source Program; Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW); Colorado Water Conservation Board; Durango/La Plata County Airport; Ecosphere; La Plata Conservation District in CO; Mountain Studies Institute; the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); the New Mexico Environment Department's Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB); Public Service New Mexico; San Juan Citizens Alliance; San Juan National Forest in CO; San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District in NM; the San Juan Water Commission; the San Juan Watershed Group; Southern Ute Indian Tribe; Southwest Conservation Corps; Southwestern Water Conservation District; the Tres Rios BLM Management Area in CO; Trout Unlimited Five Rivers Chapter; and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

Fiscal Sponsor

The San Juan Resource Conservation and Development Council (SJRC&D) serves as the AWP's Fiscal Sponsor, under an MOU adopted by both groups on June 10, 2013. As the AWP Fiscal Sponsor, the role of the SJRC&D is to serve as an umbrella 501c3 organization, provide accounting, bookkeeping, and oversight of funds and obligations, with an annual review and audit by a CPA specializing in nonprofits. As fiscal agent, the SJRC&D receives donations to AWP and provides receipts to donors, makes payments for invoiced work based on approval and receipt of funds from the grantors' reimbursement, and pays expenses on behalf of AWP with AWP funds upon approval of AWP chair or coordinator, and provides monthly financial statements detailing deposits and expenditures. The SJRC&D maintains AWPs funds in FDIC insured accounts at local financial institutions, and bonds fiscal managers against loss of funds. In addition, the SJRC&D provides Directors and Officers insurance for board members of the Council, developed and maintains AWP's website, and takes meeting notes during monthly Steering Committee meetings. In exchange for providing these services, SJRC&D assess a 5% administration fee when AWP funds are received.

Definition of the Need

Watershed Concerns

The AWP engages partners across the entire area of the Animas River Watershed (Figure 1). The watershed is 1357 square miles in area and has an 8 digit hydrologic unit code (HUC 14080104). Water quality is an issue within the Animas Watershed, and is the primary focus of the AWP. Poor water quality can have consequences for our health, recreation and economy. By working to maintain and improve the quality of our water resources, we hope to protect and enhance the health of our communities and our natural environment, as well the enjoyment of the river by people throughout the watershed.

A compounding factor for the water quality issues facing the Animas River is the complexity of addressing water quality concerns across boundaries and jurisdictions. As it flows from its headwaters to its confluence with the San Juan River in New Mexico, the river passes through three counties, three distinct state and Tribal jurisdictions, three different EPA jurisdictions, three municipalities, as well as BLM, Forest Service and significant reaches of private land.

Some water quality and system health issues identified in the Animas River Watershed include:

- Segments of the Animas River and its headwater tributaries are on the Colorado 303(d) list for heavy metals.
- A segment of the Animas River is on the Colorado 303(d) list for Manganese.
- There are 29 TMDLS established for pollutants including cadmium, aluminum, copper, iron, lead, zinc, and pH in seven segments of the headwaters of the Animas River in Colorado. Segments of the Animas River are on the New Mexico 303(d) list for temperature, Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological Indicators, Total phosphorus, E. coli, turbidity, and sedimentation.
- A TMDL for Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological Indicators has been established for the lowest reach of the Animas River in New Mexico.
- Draft TMDLs for Temperature, E. coli and Total Phosphorus have been developed for one or both segments of the Animas River in New Mexico.
- The State of Colorado will begin adopting new interim table values for nitrogen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll-a as numeric criteria after 2017.
- The State of Colorado has adopted a new regulation that establishes numerical effluent limitations for nitrogen and phosphorus discharged from wastewater treatment plants above a certain size. The City of Durango's plant meets the minimum size.
- There are 35 community water systems that provide groundwater and/or surface water from the Animas Watershed to their customers.
- There are about 22 permitted dischargers (16 sewerage) discharging waste to the Animas River.
- San Juan County, New Mexico is projected to grow by 35% by 2040 (NMBBER 2012).
- La Plata County, Colorado is projected to grow by over 80% by 2040 (CODOLA 2013).
- Drought has been limiting the amount of water stored in Colorado reservoirs within the watershed, and the releases from those reservoirs
- Segments of the Animas headwaters are largely devoid of fish and other aquatic life due to heavy metals.
- Historic gravel and sand mining has impacted a reach of the Animas River between Baker's Bridge and Durango, affecting the quality of the aquatic and riparian habitat, and the stability of the channel.
- Shale and clay soils in the watershed are highly and naturally erosive, contributing abundant fine sediment to the river, particularly during the monsoon season. Development of these lands exacerbates this situation.

- Oil and Gas development in the southern portion of the Animas watershed has resulted in roads, well pads and pipeline corridors with the potential to increase sediment loading to the river and its tributaries.
- The Animas River is habitat for four native fish species of conservation concern. They are the roundtail chub, flannel mouth sucker and bluehead sucker in the lower reaches and the Colorado River cutthroat trout in some headwater tributaries.
- The Southwest Willow Flycatcher, listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act, has been documented to occur within the lower portion of the Animas Watershed. The birds nest in dense riparian shrub vegetation.
- The New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse is a Candidate Species under the Endangered Species Act and has potential to occur in riparian areas along the Animas River.

Historically, gold and silver mining were significant economic activities in the upper portions of the Animas River watershed, upstream of Silverton. In the upper Animas River, acidic runoff and groundwater containing high levels of metals comes from both natural and anthropogenic sources. Ore deposits (both underground and exposed) contain sulfides of iron, copper, cadmium, aluminum, lead, manganese, and zinc. At Bakers Bridge, approximately 27 miles downstream of Silverton and 11 miles upstream of Durango, levels of cadmium, iron, and zinc exceed EPA standards for chronic exposure to sensitive aquatic organisms. However, as the Animas River nears Durango, metal concentrations become diluted and hardness increases lessening the impact of metal concentrations on aquatic life. The only exceedance in the segment from Bakers Bridge to Junction Creek is for Water Supply use for manganese (a secondary standard which is essentially an aesthetic issue).

The two lowest segments of the Animas River, Junction Creek to Southern Ute Indian Tribe (SUIT) Boundary, and SUIT Boundary to the Colorado/New Mexico border in Colorado are not included on Colorado's 303(d) list, nor do they have any Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). However, the latter segment has not been assessed by Colorado, and the Southern Ute Indian Tribe is in the process of developing its water quality standards.

In New Mexico, the segment of the Animas River from the Colorado/New Mexico border to Estes Arroyo is listed on the 303(d) list for E. coli, total phosphorus and temperature. The next segment downstream, from Estes Arroyo to the San Juan River is listed for nutrients, E. coli and temperature. These segments are not in attainment of the following designated uses: cold-water aquatic life and primary contact in the upstream reach, and marginal cold-water aquatic life, warm-water aquatic life, and primary contact in the downstream reach. The State of New Mexico has established Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for fecal coliform, total nitrogen and total phosphorus in the downstream reach. Draft TMDLs for E. coli and temperature in the downstream segment, and for E. coli

and total phosphorus in the upstream segment, are currently undergoing review. A Use Attainability Analysis is planned to evaluate uses related to water temperature.

Wastewater and stormwater discharge permit holders may be affected by TMDLs. A TMDL is the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. TMDLs allocate that load among the various sources of that pollutant. Pollutant sources are either point sources or nonpoint sources. Point sources include all sources subject to regulation under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, e.g. wastewater treatment facilities, some stormwater discharges and concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Nonpoint sources include all remaining sources of the pollutant as well as anthropogenic and natural background sources. (http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl)

High levels of E. coli bacteria in surface water can indicate a risk to human health. E. coli is a type of fecal coliform bacteria that comes from human and animal waste. The Environmental Protection Agency uses E. coli measurements to determine whether fresh water is safe for recreation. Disease-causing bacteria, viruses and protozoans may be present in water that has elevated levels of E. coli. The goal of setting E. coli criteria for surface waters is to provide the public protection from gastrointestinal illness associated with exposure to fecal contamination during water-contact recreation.

High levels of nitrogen and/or phosphorus in surface water can degrade habitat quality for aquatic life, and high levels of nitrates in drinking water can present a risk to human health. Nitrogen and phosphorus are nutrients necessary for growth of all living organisms. In excess amounts, these nutrients in surface water cause an increase in algae growth. Algae can deplete the water of dissolved oxygen and eventually may kill fish and other aquatic life. Sources of nutrients may include human and animal wastes, industrial pollutants and nonpoint-source runoff from heavily fertilized agricultural fields or residential lawns. Under certain conditions high levels of nitrates (10 mg/L or more) in drinking water can be toxic to humans. High levels of nitrates in drinking water have been linked to serious illness and even death in infants (CO RiverWatch 2012).

Organizational Niche

The AWP is one of several citizen groups addressing water quality and river health within the Animas River Watershed. A partial listing of these groups includes the Animas River Stakeholders, Animas River Task Force, Southwest Wetland Focus Area, and the San

Juan Watershed Group. AWP counts each of these groups among its partners, and highly values, respects and seeks to compliment their excellent efforts.

The specific strength and niche of the AWP is captured in its first operating principle and its mission: the AWP works collaboratively across boundaries to benefit the Animas River watershed. River and water management in one part of the watershed effects people and the river in other parts of the watershed. The AWP brings together people from New Mexico, Colorado and the Southern Ute Tribe to gather and consider scientific information collaboratively, to develop a common understanding of this information, and to discuss and collaborate on implementing ways of protecting and improving water quality throughout the Animas River watershed.

2013-2016 Strategic Plan: Components, Goals, Actions, and Tasks

1. Community Engagement Strategy

Background

In their 2013 Steering Committee retreat, the group established a Planning Sub-Committee to develop Strategic, Capacity and Outreach plans. This document is the first iteration of a strategic and capacity planning document for AWP. The anticipated Outreach plan will identify outreach goals and identify and prioritize outreach activities that will be time and cost effective at reaching the diverse key audiences necessary for safeguarding water quality in the Animas River. The AWP holds regular monthly Steering Committee meetings and quarterly Partnership Meetings that are open to all. Partnership Meetings are aimed at informing the general partnership and public of efforts and progress on Animas River water quality. They are advertised to the public in local media outlets (radio and newspaper), with agendas organized around guest speakers and designed to be engaging and informative.

The AWP partnered with the San Juan Watershed Group in 2012 to help host the Four Corners River Health Workshop in Farmington, NM. This well-attended workshop brought together people and entities with diverse water quality interests to discuss what has worked, and what hasn't in improving water quality. The Workshop was well received and successful. It demonstrated a need for this type of conference on a regular basis. The AWP intends to continue to partner and host symposia on a regular basis to focus expertise and attention on water quality in the Animas River.

In 2013 AWP partnered with the Southwest Conservation Corps and the San Juan Watershed Group to develop and implement a "Get to Know the Animas" Float Trip for SCC's summer high school age work programs. SCC hosts two such work programs per summer, drawing high school students mostly from four corners communities. This outreach was successful at developing an understanding of, and interest in, watershed and river health issues. The work program leaders and participants, as well as the rafting guides, enjoyed and learned from the day's activities. AWP and SCC plan to continue this program into the future.

In order to expand its outreach and relationships with private property owners and agricultural producers, AWP plans to partner with the local Conservation Districts (La Plata Conservation District in CO and San Juan Soil and Water Conservation District in NM) to conduct outreach workshops with landowners in these priority tributary areas, focused on sharing AWP data and mapping, learning about landowners problems and needs, and sharing approaches to managing non-point source pollution.

Goals, Actions, Tasks

Component 1: Community Engagement		**Funds Available**			
Goals **, Actions,** Tasks	**Funding Source**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY15**	**FY16**
Goal 2.A Increase awareness, interest, planning and action on the part of local communities for issues affecting the health of the Animas River.					
Action 2.A.1 Complete Education and Outreach actions under the Animas and Florida River Habitat and Water Quality Improvement Project (CO NPS Implementation Grant).					
Task 2.A.1.1 Produce these deliverables:1 press release; 1 article; 1 new website; 6 website updates/yr; 2 Animas Day Camp days/yr; 6 AWP Steering Committee mtgs/yr; 4 AWP mtgs/yr; AWP partners informed and motivated; Additional cash or in-kind support; Additional	CO NPS , OSM/Vista	X	X	X	
Action 2.A.2 Meet with key partners to discuss information, problems and needs related to Animas River water quality, and to develop project concepts.					
Task 2.A.2.1 Meet with municipalities to develop project concepts.	BOR CWMP	X	X		
Task 2.A.2.2 Meet with ditch companies to introduce AWP and discuss concerns/needs.	BOR CWMP	X	X		
Task 2.A.2.3 Meet with permitted dischargers to share data and discuss concerns and needs	BOR CWMP	X	X		
Action 2.A.3 Partner with 2 local conservation districts to conduct 2 outreach workshops with landowners to identify issues and needs relating to nutrient management.					
Task 2.A.3.1 Secure funding.	BOR CWMP	X	X		
Task 2.A.3.2 Work with partners and OSM/Vista Volunteer to plan workshops.	BOR CWMP	X	X		
Task 2.A.3.3 Hold workshops.	BOR CWMP	X	X		
Action 2.A.4 Engage partners to jointly sponsor semi-annual local meeting/seminar focussing on aspects of river health.					
Task 2.A.4.1 Evaluate feasibility/interestwith OSM/Vista Volunteer, SJWG, ARSG and others.	BOR CWMP,	X	X		
Action 2.A.5 Involve volunteers in AWP projects and efforts to monitor and improve the health of the Animas River Watershed.	BOR CWMP				
Task 2.A.5.1 Engage volunteers to cut and plant willow stakes at locations on the Animas and Florida River Habitat and Water Quality Improvement Project site.	BOR CWMP, CO NPS, OSM/Vista		X		
Task 2.A.5.2 Engage volunteers to conduct water quality monitoring at funded locations.	TBD		X		
Action 2.A.5 Develop Community Engagement Plan.	BOR CWMP,				
Task 2.A.5.1 Form outreach committee to work with OSM/Vista Volunteer to develop plan.	BOR CWMP	X	X		
Task 2.A.5.2 OSM/Vista Volunteer drafts plan for review and approval by Steering Committee.	BOR CWMP	X	X		

2. Water Quality Strategy

Background

In December 2011, the AWP completed the first Animas River Watershed-Based Plan (the 2011 Plan). This plan assessed water quality in the mainstem, from below Baker's Bridge in Colorado, through the Southern Ute Tribal lands, to the confluence of the Animas River with the San Juan River at Farmington, New Mexico. Upstream of Baker's Bridge the primary water quality issues are related to historic hardrock mining and background geology and are being addressed by one of our partners, the Animas River Stakeholder's Group. Downstream of Baker's Bridge the primary water quality issues are related to existing landuses (and/or background geology).

This comprehensive sampling effort and assessment allowed the AWP and partners to assess and prioritize the relative contributions from inflows to the Animas River of nutrients (total phosphorus and total nitrogen), as well as to consider the channel condition of reaches in Colorado. The plan recommends Best Management Practices (BMPs) for addressing the river health issues it identifies. Among the list of priority BMPs identified by the 2011 Plan were enhanced stormwater management and working with agricultural producers to implement sprinkler irrigation and develop buffer strips to control runoff.

Based on the 2011 Plan, and as a next step toward refining the needs of the watershed, AWP has identified 10 focal tributaries to the Animas River, five in Colorado and five in New Mexico for focused assessment, partner engagement, and action. These include Junction Creek, Durango Skate Park, Lightner Creek, Trumble Draw, and the Florida River in Colorado, and Cox Canyon, Tucker Canyon, Estes Arroyo, Flora Vista Arroyo, and City of Farmington in New Mexico. Five of the ten focal areas include significant urbanized areas. The remaining five inflows are associated with drainages with significant agricultural land use, as well as oil and gas production.

With these focal nutrient source areas identified, next steps include understanding the relationship between land use and water quality in these areas, and creating beneficial partnerships with landowners, agricultural producers, municipal stormwater managers, permitted dischargers, and oil and gas producers to share data, discuss concerns and develop goals and project concepts for each tributary.

Goals, Actions, Tasks

Component 2: Water Quality Projects		**Funds Available**			
Goals **, Actions,** Tasks	**Funding Source**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY15**	**FY16**
Goal 1.A To protect and improve water quality within the Animas River watershed.					
Action 1.A.1 Complete Florida and Animas River Habitat and Water Quality Improvement Project to reduce nutrient, sediment and bacterial loading along 1 mile of Florida River.		X	X	X	X
Task 1.A.1.1 Install Best Management Practices	CO NPS, TU 5 Rivers	X	X	X	X
Task 1.A.1.2 Monitor and Evaluate Results	CO NPS	X	X	X	X
Task 1.A.1.3 Report Progress and Invoice	CO NPS, SWCD	X	X	X	X
Action 1.A.2 Work with partners to identify, develop and fund new projects to address focal areas within the Animas Watershed.	BOR CWMP	X	X	X	
Task 1.A.2.1 Identify potential project concepts.	BOR CWMP	X	X	X	
Task 1.A.2.2 Develop potential project partners.	BOR CWMP	X	X	X	
Action 1.A.3 Develop new project concept with willing landowners on the Florida River.	BOR CWMP	X	X	X	
Task 1.A.3.1 Explore project concepts with willing landowners on Florida River and Salt Creek.	BOR CWMP	X	X	X	
Goal 1.B To collect, analyze, interpret and make accessible data that can support and inform efforts to manage water quality in the Animas River across jurisdictional boundaries.					
Action 1.B.1 Track and support Microbial Source Tracking Study.					
Task 1.B.1.1 Participate in and support all facets of the MST project.	BHP Billiton/SJSWCD	X	X		
Action 1.B.2 Develop sediment rating curve for Lighter Creek.					
Task 1.B.2.1 Complete data collection.	CWCB Watershed Restoration	X			
Task 1.B.2.2 Write and submit Final Report to CWCB	CWCB Watershed Restoration	X			
Action 1.B.3 Enter AWP data from 2011 Watershed Based Plan into CO Data Sharing Network.					
Task 1.B.3.1 Join CDSN.	CO NPS	X	X	X	X
Task 1.B.3.2 Enter data.	CO NPS	X	X	X	X
Action 1.B.4 Participate in and support Regional GIS Website with San Juan Watershed Group.					
Task 1.B.4.1 Assist in development of RFP and website.	BHP Billiton/SJSWCD	X	X		
Task 1.B.4.2 Contribute AWP data.	BHP Billiton/SJSWCD	X	X		
Action 1.B.5 Identify priority water quality data needs in focal non-point nutrient source areas.					
Task 1.B.5.1 Compile and map existing data.	BOR CWMP	X	X	X	
Task 1.B.5.2 Meet with stakeholders to share data, hear concerns and develop goals for each priority tributary.	BOR CWMP	X	X	X	

Capacity and Fundraising Strategy

Background

In January 2013, the AWP contracted a management consultant/facilitator to guide them through a renewal of their mission statement, clarification of operating principles and a capacity analysis. This two day "retreat" produced a slightly revised mission statement, a refreshed commitment to that mission and the recognition that the group needed to expand its capacity. It also resulted in the formation of the Planning Sub-Committee. This document represents the first draft of a Strategic Plan for the AWP. In addition, the Planning Sub-committee has outlined a draft Budget and Funding Plan. The Budget will outline the operating and project funding needs associated with the strategic plan. The Funding Plan will outline the various sources, including local partners, public and private grants, etc. from which the AWP will raise the budgeted funds. These drafts will be reviewed and updated by the Steering Committee and vetted with the partnership. In 2014, AWP plans to again contract a management consultant/facilitator to guide the development of group by-laws and to refine the Funding Plan.

In 2013 AWP will apply for an OSM/Vista Volunteer who can assist the Coordinator and partners in developing an Outreach Plan, and other tasks under AWP's Community Engagement, Water Quality, and Capacity and Fundraising Strategies.

Goals, Actions, Tasks

Component 3: Capacity and Fundraising		**Funds Available**			
Goals **, Actions,** Tasks	**Funding Source**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY15**	**FY16**
Goal 3.A. Define AWP's organizational goals, and corresponding objectives and prioritize for WQ improvement, Community Engagement and Fundraising.					
Action 3.A.1 Develop the group's vision and by-laws.					
Task 3.A.1.1 Draft strategic plan and capacity plan.	CWCB Watershed Restoration	X			
Task 3.A.1.2 Facilitate review and feedback of drafts by Steering Committee and Partners, and develop group vision and bylaws.	BOR Watersmart	X	X	X	
Action 3.A.2 Update the strategic plan and capacity plan.	BOR Watersmart	X	X	X	
Action 3.A.3 Complete an Outreach Plan to establish broad-based membership.					
Task 3.A.3.1 Draft Community Engagement Plan.	BOR Watersmart	X	X	X	
Task 3.A.3.2 Facilitate review/feedback by Steering Committee and Partners.	BOR Watersmart	X	X	X	
Action 3.A.4 Develop Quantitative Action Tracking tool.					
Task 3.A.4.1 Structure and populate a spreadsheet to track AWP actions and products quantitatively as a tool to track and inform regarding our efforts and success.	BOR Watersmart	X	X	X	
Goal 3.B. B. Develop staff and volunteer capacity and momentum to plan for and implement water quality improvement projects for priority areas within the Animas River Watershed and continue to engage the community in the mission and work of the Partnership.					
Action 3.B.1 Increase the paid hours of the coordinator.					
Task 3.B.1.1 Propose funding to BOR WATERSMART:CWMP 2013.	BOR Watersmart	X	X	X	
Action 3.B.2 Fund and apply for an OSM/Vista Volunteer, and provide Volunteer with office supplies and equipment support.					
Task 3.B.2.1 Propose funding to BOR WATERSMART:CWMP 2013.	BOR Watersmart	X	X	X	
Task 3.B.2.2 Apply for OHM/Vista Volunteer.	BOR Watersmart	X	X	X	
Action 3.B.3 Develop and maintain AWP Funding Plan.	BOR Watersmart	X	X	X	
Action 3.B.4 Engage partners as volunteer capacity in every project.	BOR Watersmart, CO NPS	X	X	X	X

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