

# APPENDIX F.

## Community Input Summary

Appendix F summarizes the community engagement activities conducted as part the Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan process and the input received. Table 2 lists the schedule of meetings held during the planning process.

### Advisory Committee

The City convened an Advisory Committee representative of the major stakeholder groups in the plan to provide recommendations, technical expertise, and to evaluate feasible strategies and solutions. The committee met six times between March 2017-April 2018 to review progress on tasks and advise the process. The notes from each Advisory Committee meeting can be found on the plan webpage on the City of Steamboat Springs website at <https://steamboatsprings.net/587/Yampa-River-Health-Streamflow-Management>.

### Community Workshops

The City hosted two workshops during the planning process that were advertised to the public through the Steamboat Pilot & Today newspaper, online and social media, and flyers posted around the city. Additional stakeholders were directly invited through email contact lists.

#### Community Workshop 1: November 6, 2017

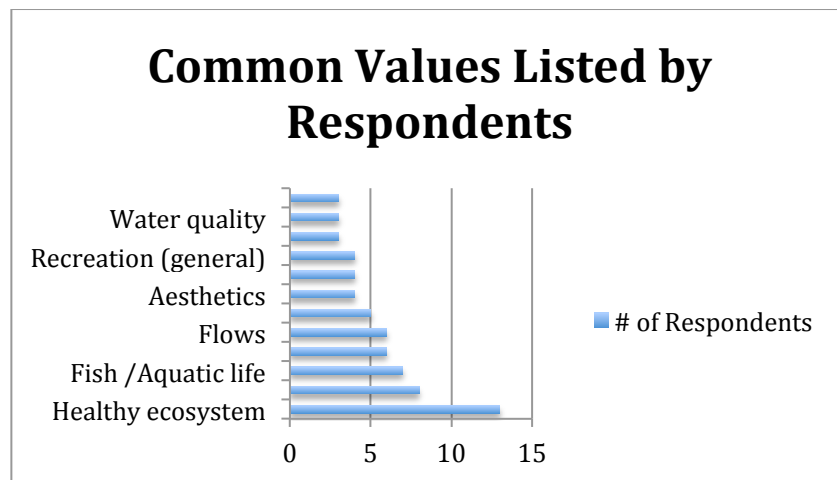
At the first workshop, presenters introduced the planning project to the community and presented information on the findings from the Yampa River Health Assessment, as well as the types of actions and projects the project will explore. Participants provided in input on what they valued about a healthy Yampa River, the most important issues for the plan to address, and on their levels of support for different types of management actions and strategies.

## Notes from Community Workshop 1

Participants were asked to take few minutes to write down their thoughts in response to three questions on a one-page questionnaire. 28 completed questionnaires were returned. Responses are summarized below and provided in full in Appendix A. Please note that the sample size is small and includes those who chose to attend the meeting or complete a questionnaire online. The population sample is not representative of the whole community.

### 1. What is important to you, or what do you value, about a healthy Yampa River?

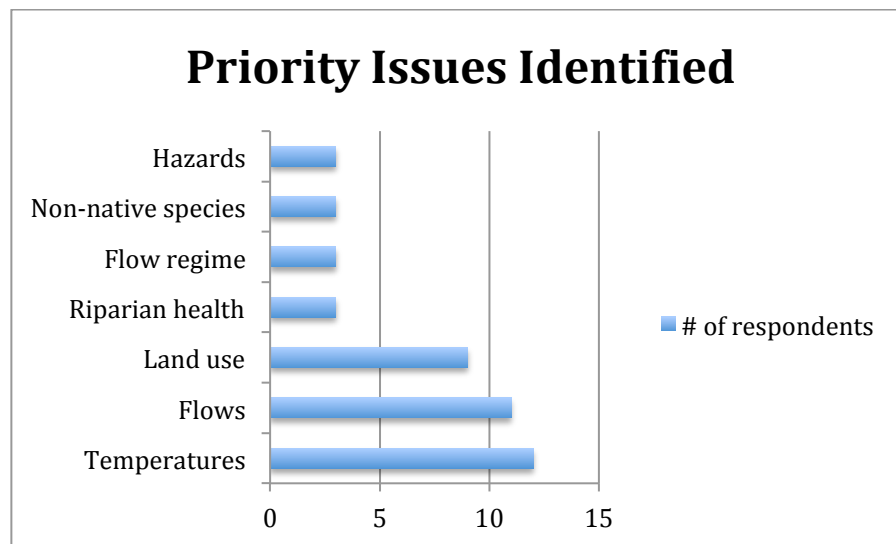
The most common value listed by respondents (50% of all questionnaires) was the overall health of the Yampa River ecosystem. The second most common value mentioned was wildlife. Overall, 23 out of 28 respondents described some element of environmental health; these included wildlife, fish, aquatic life, riparian habitat health, water quality. Flows were also commonly described by respondents. These were characterized as either flows to support temperature and fish conditions or the value of a free-flowing, “unaltered” river. Other types of values mentioned less frequently included recreation, aesthetics, accessibility, and values related to community character and identity. For instance, one respondent described the Yampa River as a “foundation of the community.”



### 2. Based on the health assessment findings, what do you think is a priority issue for the stream management plan to address?

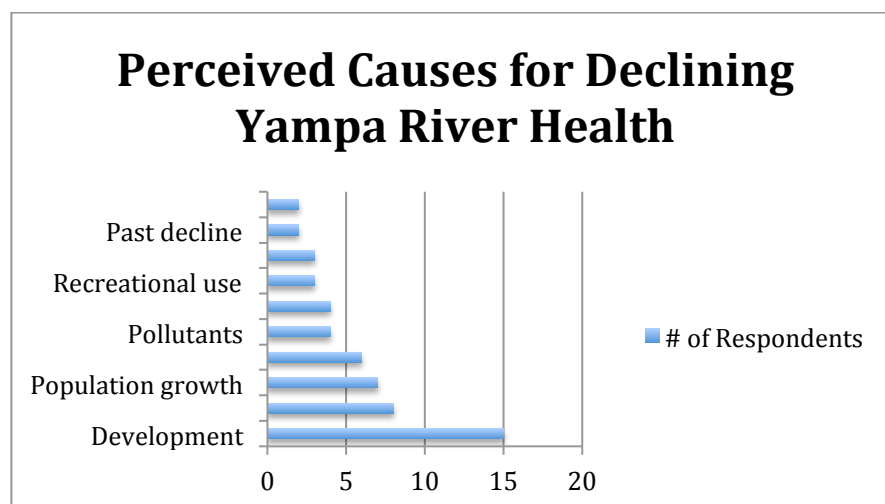
The priority issue listed by the most respondents was temperature impairment. The second most common priority issue was streamflow. Several respondents described land use planning and regulations, particularly waterbody setbacks (strengthening) as a

priority issue. Other issues included river health, flow regime, riparian health, gravel pits, floodplain connectivity, and non-native species.



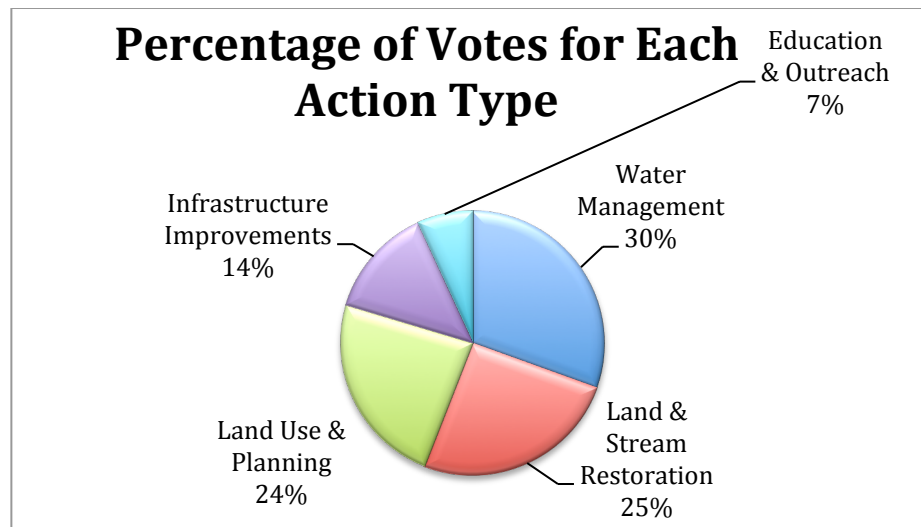
**3. If we stay on the same status quo path without additional planning and action, do you believe the Yampa River's health will be better, worse, or the same in 20 years? Why?**

24 out of 28 respondents (86%) thought that Yampa River health would be worse in 20 years without additional planning and action. Three respondents had no response and one did not know. The most common reason that respondents believed Yampa River health will be worse in the future is development (more than half). The next most commonly described reason was climate change (8/28), followed by population growth (7/28).



## Community Input Summary

Presenters described five types of activities or projects that provide opportunities to address river health objectives. Participants used a dot voting process to indicate the types of activities that they most supported as part of the stream management plan. The Water Management category received one-third of the total votes. Land and Stream Restoration and Land Use and Planning categories each received about one-quarter of the votes.



## Community Workshop 2: April 18, 2018

Presenters in the second workshop updated participants on the key outcomes from each stage of the plan's development thus far. Participants learned about the list of actions being considered for implementation in the short term (2018-2019) and provided input on how they would allocate hypothetical funding resources among these actions. Table 2 shows how participants invested their "Yampa Bucks" among the 14 actions discussed.

**Table 1. Percent of total funding invested in each action.**

Action	% of Total Funding Invested
Water contracts with UYWCD*	23%
Riparian revegetation program	20%
K-12 Yampa River curriculum	10%
Waterbody setback standards	7%
Land protection/conservation	6%
Yampa River Water Fund	6%
Opportunities with willing water users	6%
Education/awareness river health issues	4%
City water diversion structures	4%
City water rights portfolio	4%
Green infrastructure	4%
Exotic fish barriers	2%
Review City plans and regulations	2%
Fish passage on Fish Creek	1%

\*Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District (UYWCD)

## Stakeholder Focus Groups

### City and County Planners Meeting Notes

#### (Land Use and Planning Focus Group)

October 17, 2017

#### Existing Capabilities and Common Objectives

##### Waterbody setback standards

- The County is currently reviewing their ordinance.
  - Pressure to loosen standards for crossings, such a privately owned bridges.
  - Objectives are well written.
- High priority for City to look at their ordinance in the near future.

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- Does not address riparian area.
- Requires 50-foot setback for structures but does not include other types of uses, such as parking lots.
- Objectives could be improved to be clearer.
- Many variances granted.

### Steamboat Springs Area Community Plan

- Sets forth good goals but often does not have enforcing mechanisms.

### City of Steamboat Springs Sustainability Goals – STAR program

- Goal for no net loss of wetlands in City.
- Contract to inventory significant wetlands.

### Routt County Master Plan

- Delineates growth areas; urban growth boundary.
- Goal to preserve County's agricultural lands, critical wildlife areas, and rural character.

### West Steamboat Springs Area Plan

## Opportunities

- Identify parcels most worth protecting from a river/riparian health perspective.
- More creativity than uniform setbacks ordinance; something besides a “one size fits all” approach.
- The health assessment and stream management plan could provide background information that could help identify direction for setback standards.
- Assessment could also help provide measurement of benefits of alternative actions and mitigation efforts.
- County – fluvial hazards zones.
- Work with railroad?

## Challenges

- Framing agricultural impacts in terms of specific practices.
- Educate planning boards and commissions and councils about health issues and ordinances.
- Existing regulations could be more effective. Need to add incentives.

## Friends of the Yampa Meeting Notes

### (Recreation Focus Group)

October 26, 2017

Participants asked questions related to the causes of temperature fluctuations, such as the impacts of reservoirs and irrigation ditches. Comments were related to:

## Community Input Summary

- Need for incentives for agriculture and to keep water in the river. Need to understand agricultural challenges/needs/practices.
- Identify users, such as golf courses, that may have opportunities to improve water conservation practices.
- For success, need buy-in and funding for the plan and its implementation. Important that plan include implementation methods and that there are advocates for the recommendations.
- Lodging tax dollars are a potential source of funding. Important that local match dollars are available for projects.
- Potential actions:
  - Increase education/outreach to agriculture users and irrigators on best practices.
  - Use the ReTree Steamboat program to decrease temperatures through native riparian revegetation projects.
  - Look for ways to keep river flowing without in-stream implications.
  - Improve education and outreach to help people be aware of issues and what they can do.
  - Use community survey in future to gain more feedback.
  - Create pool of potential leases from upstream water rights.

## **Yampa Valley Fly Fishers Meeting Notes (Riparian and Aquatic Health Focus Group)**

December 13, 2017

Discussion was on the areas of greatest concern, the types of actions the community should focus on, and the opportunities and challenges the group sees. Questions and comments were about the potential causes of the temperature impairment, the types of actions/activities the Trout Unlimited chapter could focus on, and next steps in the public engagement process.

## **Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable Meeting Notes (Water Management Focus Group)**

November 8, 2017

Comments and questions were related to the need to protect private property rights in the valley and the nature and causes of the temperature impairment problem. The Upper Yampa River Water Conservancy District representative commented that he does not agree with the health assessment findings.

## Updates to Elected Officials and Commissions

Updates to elected officials and other boards and commissions occurred during regularly scheduled meetings open to the public. Agendas were advertised in advance and meeting notes are available through these entities. See Table 1 on the following page for the dates of these presentations.

## Media Updates

The City used a variety of traditional and social media to provide information on the plan and inform public of the opportunities to be involved.

- City of Steamboat Springs Website - <http://steamboatsprings.net/>
  - Dedicated project webpage for Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan: <http://steamboatsprings.net/587/Yampa-River-Health-Streamflow-Management>
  - Webpage on Engage Steamboat website as an active project: <https://www.engageteamboat.net/yampa-river-health-assessment-streamflow-management-plan>
- Facebook and Twitter - Posted updates along with all press releases.
- Press Releases
  - Plan Aims to Improve Yampa River Health & Resiliency - 5/4/2017
  - Yampa River Health Assessment & Streamflow Management Plan Community Workshop Slated for Nov. 6 - 11/3/2017
  - Yampa River Health Assessment & Streamflow Management Plan Schedules April Community Workshop - 4/12/2018
- Steamboat Pilot & Today newspaper
  - October 28, 2017. “Residents: Care for Yampa ‘essential’ service.”
- Harvey’s Huddle radio program – 11/01/2017



**Table 2. Timeline of community engagement meetings.**

DATE	MEETING	PURPOSE
03/13/17	<b>Advisory Committee Meeting #1</b>	Introduced project purpose and scope, confirmed responsibilities, and identified opportunities and challenges.
04/10/17	<b>Advisory Committee Meeting #2</b>	Reviewed and discussed: 1) the existing data sources and reports for the river health assessment and 2) the draft community engagement plan.
08/31/17	<b>Advisory Committee Meeting #3</b>	Reviewed preliminary findings from the river health assessment and confirmed goals for the streamflow management plan.
10/17/17	City and County Planners	Met with planning staff from the City of Steamboat Springs and Routt County to identify areas of alignment and potential conflicts.
10/26/17	Friends of the Yampa	Friends of the Yampa promoted this special event for members and other interested parties in the recreation community to learn about the Plan.
11/06/17	<b>Community Workshop #1</b>	Introduced project purpose and scope, presented findings from the river health assessment, and collected input on community values.
11/8/17	Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable	Updated the Roundtable on the Plan's progress as part of the agenda of a regularly scheduled meeting.
11/16/17	Routt County Planning Commission	Updated the commission on the Plan's progress as part of the agenda of a regularly scheduled meeting.
12/13/17	Yampa Valley Fly Fishers	Presented information on the Plan at the holiday event for the local Trout Unlimited chapter.
01/16/18	Steamboat Springs City Council	Updated Council on the Plan's progress as part of the agenda of a regularly scheduled meeting.
01/17/18	<b>Advisory Committee Meeting #4</b>	Discussed overall framework for the plan and potential action types. Reviewed key findings from the river health assessment and identified management objectives and targets.
03/13/18	<b>Advisory Committee Meeting #5</b>	Confirmed management objectives, discussed results of opportunities reports, and brainstormed ideas for actions and projects.
04/03/18	<b>Advisory Committee Meeting #6</b>	Determined the framework for implementing the stream management plan and identified the highest priority activities in the short term.
04/18/18	<b>Community Workshop #2</b>	Presented plan outcomes to date and collected information on community support and priorities related to potential actions identified.
06/12/18	Steamboat Springs City Council	Presented the draft final plan for City Council's review and consideration for adoption.