WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION
USING THE WATERSHED APPROACH

Middle Colorado Watershed Council
Laurie Rink, Coordinator
Today’s Topics

• About the Council
• Why a Watershed Approach
• Watershed Assessment and Planning
• How Energy Industry Fits In
• Opportunities for Information and Ideas Exchange
The Council

Organizational Statement:

The Middle Colorado Watershed Council represents a strong collective voice to protect and enhance the health of the Middle Colorado River watershed. The Council agreed to work together to identify short and long-term opportunities for collaboration, including all stakeholders in the community.
# Watershed Partners

**Financial Partners**  
Battlement Mesa Metro District  
City of Rifle  
City of Glenwood Springs  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
Colorado River District  
**Garfield County**  

**In-Kind Contributing Partners**  
CSU Extension  
Garfield County RE2 School District  
Sonoran Institute  
West Divide Water Conservancy  

**Cooperating Entities**  
CDOT  
Colorado Watershed Assembly  
NRCS  
Conservation Districts  
Schmueser, Gordon & Meyer  
Tamarisk Coalition  
Town of New Castle  
Town of Silt  
USGS  
Williams Production
Water Quality Focus

Consideration of all Beneficial Uses

- Recreation
- Agriculture
- Industry
- Drinking Water
- Wildlife
Why a Watershed Approach
Collaborative and Inclusive Process

- Encourage involvement from all sectors
- Science based understanding of issues
- Identify and work on common interests
What Can be Achieved

• Creation of partnerships
• Coordination of efforts
• Leveraging resources
• Integration of regulated and voluntary efforts
• Unified voice
Watershed Assessment and Planning
Assessment – What and Why

• Ultimate focus is on water quality
• A comprehensive overview of key conditions and trends
• Other characteristics considered include land use, land cover, soil type, topography, and hydrology
• Seeks to identify pollutants of concern and their origin
• Organizes and analyzes all relevant datasets and maps
• Identifies gaps of information
• Measure for evaluation of progress and success
• **Forms the basis for watershed-wide planning.**
Watershed Planning Process
How Energy Industry Fits In
Oil and gas facilities in the Middle Colorado River Watershed.
WPX Oil and Gas Tour – Water Management
July 2013
Data Assessment

• Piceance Basin Data Repository – USGS
• Additional Data Call

➢ Hydrocarbons (benzene, toluene, BTEX, MTBE)
➢ Salinity, conductivity, selenium, sediment
Opportunities for Information and Ideas Exchange
Public Input

• Assessment Results Late 2013
• Stakeholder Planning Process Starting Early 2014
• Series Public Meetings to
  – Identify issues
  – Identify opportunities
  – Develop projects and strategies
  – Prioritize efforts
Contact Information

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