Water Resource Protection using the Watershed Approach

Middle Colorado Watershed Council
Laurie Rink, Coordinator

Today's Topics

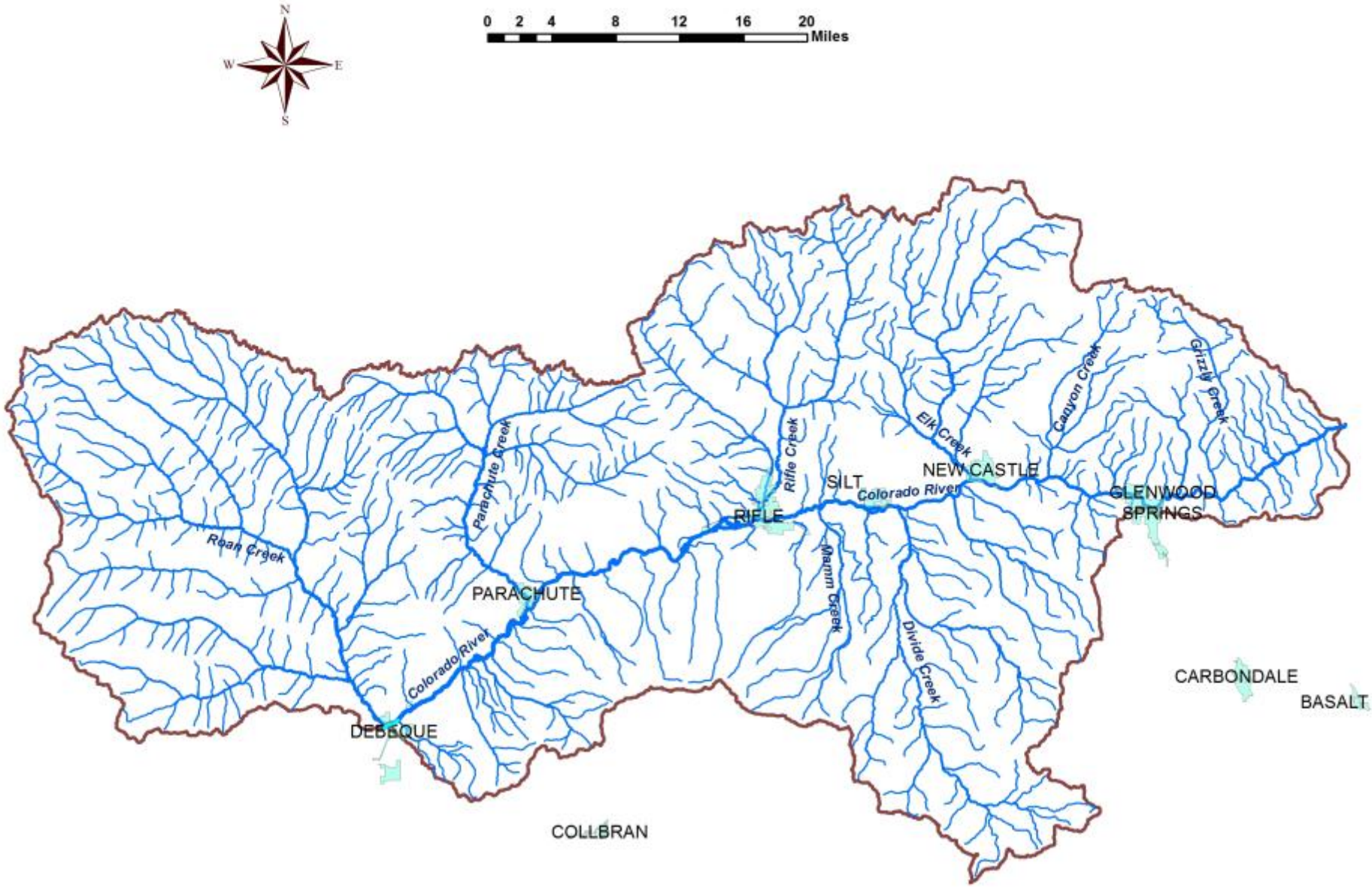
- About the Council
- Why a Watershed Approach
- Watershed Assessment and Planning
- How Energy Industry Fits In
- Opportunities for Information and Ideas Exchange

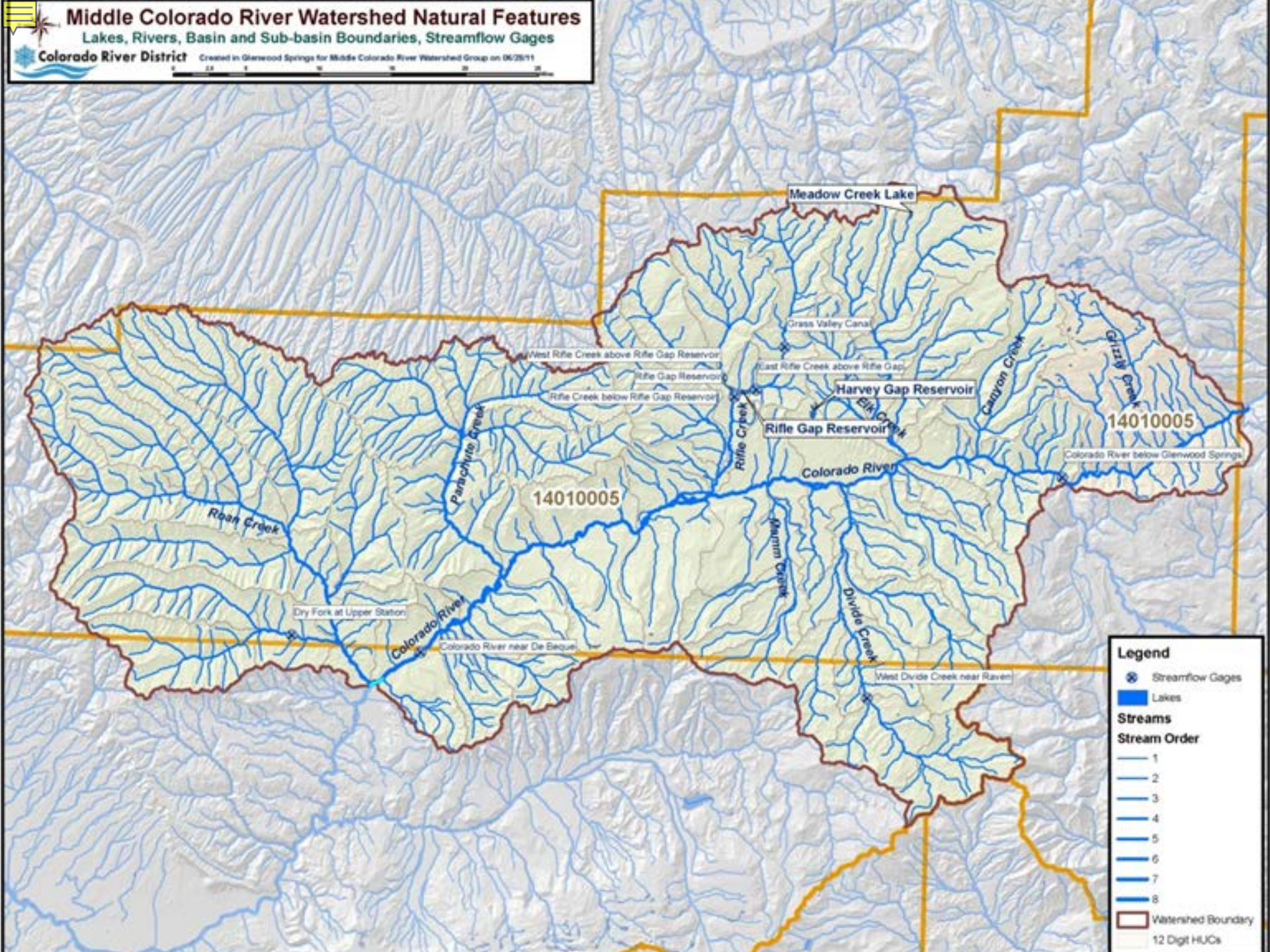
The Council

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.

Middle Colorado River Watershed




Middle Colorado River Watershed Natural Features
Lakes, Rivers, Basin and Sub-basin Boundaries, Streamflow Gages
Colorado River District
Created in Glenwood Springs for Middle Colorado River Watershed Group on 06/28/11
Meadow Creek Lake
Grass Valley Canal
West Rifle Creek above Rifle Gap Reservoir
Rifle Gap Reservoir
East Rifle Creek above Rifle Gap
Rifle Creek below Rifle Gap Reservoir
Harvey Gap Reservoir
Elk Creek
Rifle Gap Reservoir
Canyon Creek
Grizzly Creek
14010005
Colorado River below Glenwood Springs
Colorado River
Parachute Creek
14010005
Rifle Creek
Roan Creek
Alkam Creek
Divide Creek
Dry Fork at Upper Station
Colorado River
Colorado River near De Beque
West Divide Creek near Raven
Legend
Streamflow Gages
Lakes
Streams
Stream Order
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
Watershed Boundary
12 Digit HUCs

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

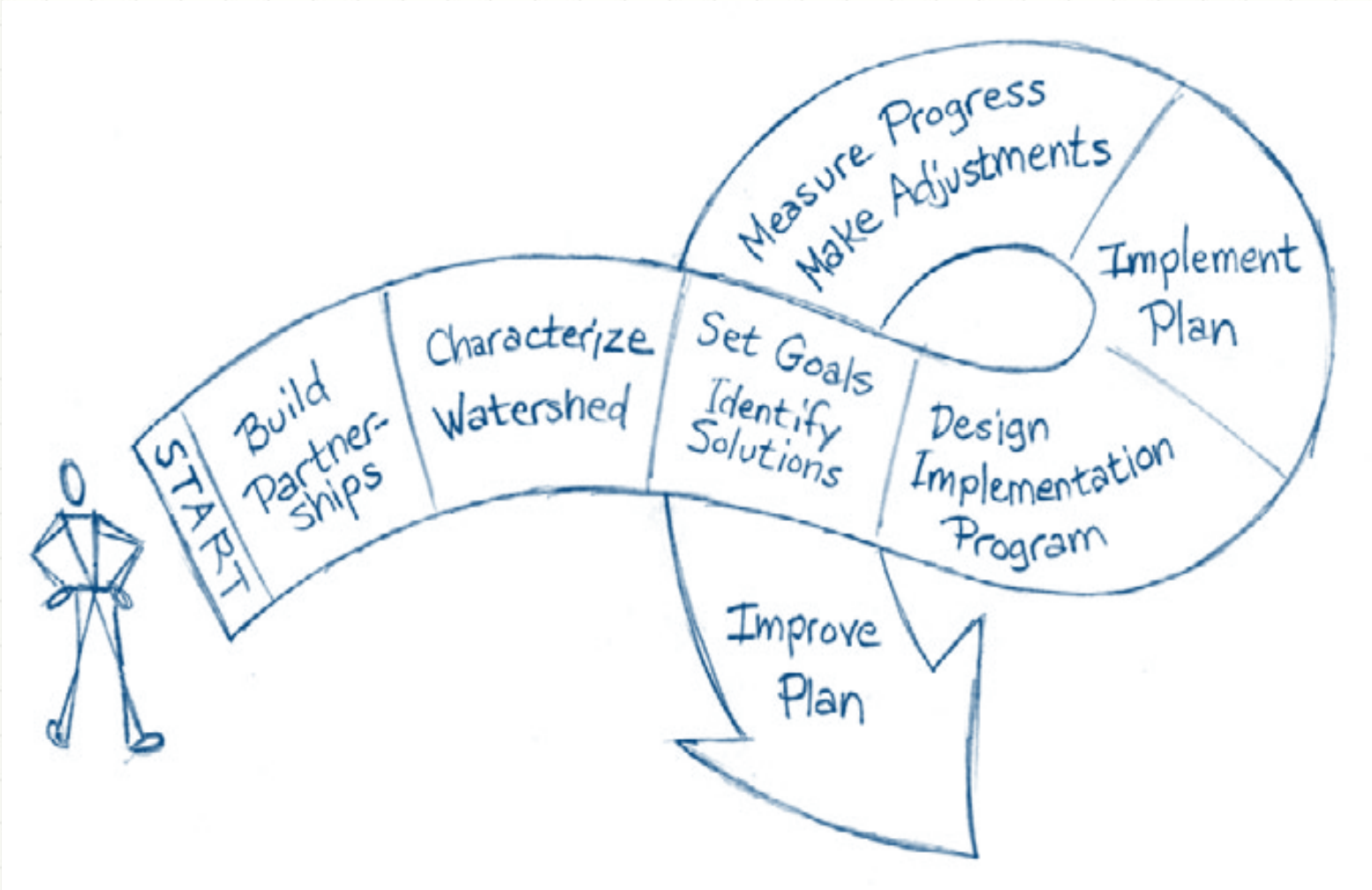
- Creation of partnerships
- Coordination of efforts
- Leveraging resources
- Integration of regulated and voluntary efforts
- Unified voice

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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