

UPPER YAMPA WATER  
—CONSERVANCY DISTRICT—

**2022**  
ANNUAL REPORT

# A Letter From Our General Manager

Welcome to the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District's 2022 Annual Report! I hope that all of you are able to fondly reflect upon 2022 despite the challenges you may have faced. Here at the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District (UYWCD), we too, experienced challenges and celebrated successes. I am happy to share those with you in this review of the past year.

Over the last three years, the word "unprecedented" seems to come up all too often and 2022 was no different. Drought conditions continued to plague the Colorado River system causing the two primary system reservoirs, Lake Mead and Lake Powell, to reach historically low levels and put critical infrastructure, including hydropower production, at risk. In June 2022, concerns over the decreasing water supply and increasing demand led the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to order the seven Colorado River Basin states to develop a plan to reduce water use in the basin by two to four million acre-feet in the coming year.

Currently, six of the seven basin states have jointly signed a plan to meet the demands of the Bureau of Reclamation. UYWCD closely follows the negotiations of Colorado River water to monitor and plan for impacts on our own Yampa River Basin. The flows of the Yampa River provide approximately ten percent of the flows in the Colorado River at Lees Ferry, which serves as the delivery point for water from the Upper Colorado River Basin to the Lower Colorado River Basin. The contribution of the Yampa River to this critically important regional resource makes the caretaking of our local water resources all the more important. A healthy and productive Yampa River is an integral part of the health of our local communities and those throughout the Colorado River Basin.

UYWCD is committed to serving our constituents through responsible water resource management that conserves, protects, and enhances the water resources of the Yampa River Basin to ensure a sustainable future for our communities. In 2022, UYWCD increased funding to support projects that assist water users and managers in their decision-making process and to educate community members including future generations on the water matters that impact our most valuable natural resource, the Yampa River.

Thank you for taking the time to review our 2022 Annual Report. As always, please feel free to reach out to UYWCD staff for additional information.

Many thanks,



Andy Rossi  
General Manager  
Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District

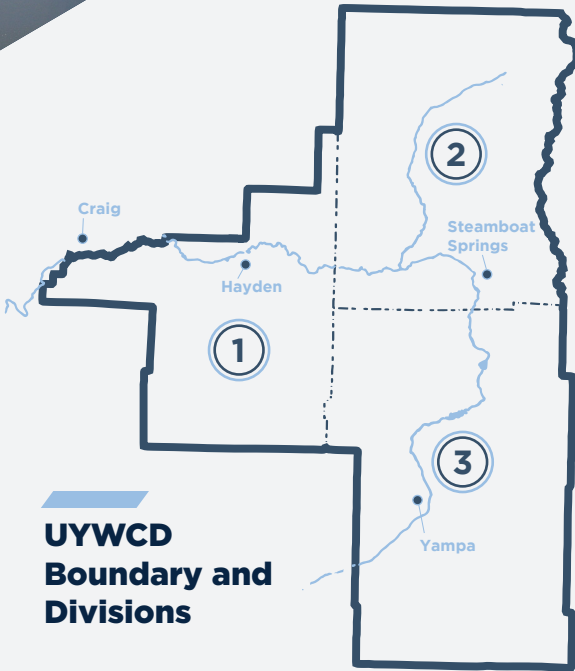


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# Staff and Directors

The Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District is governed by a board of nine directors. The nine member Board of Directors is comprised of three representatives from the three divisions within the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District boundary. Directors are appointed by the District Judge to serve staggered four-year terms and establish policy and strategic direction for the District.



**UYWCD  
Boundary and  
Divisions**

## Directors

**1** **Doug Monger**  
*President*  
**Jim Haskins**  
**Ron Murphy**

**2** **Webster Jones**  
*Vice President*  
**Ken Brenner**  
**Tom Sharp**

**3** **Lyn Halliday**  
**John Redmond**  
**Nicole Seltzer**

## Staff

**Deb Bastian**  
*Business Manager*

**Karina Craig**  
*Finance Manager*

**Holly Kirkpatrick**  
*Public Information and  
External Affairs Manager*

**Emily Lowell**  
*District Engineer*

**John Nelson**  
*Part-Time Facilities  
Operator*

**Neal Obray**  
*Facilities and  
Hydroelectric Power  
Plant Operator*

**Eddie Rogers**  
*Facilities and  
Hydroelectric Power  
Plant Operator*

**Andy Rossi**  
*General Manager*

# Our Mission

**To lead water resource management within the District's boundaries by responsibly conserving, protecting, developing, providing and enhancing the water resources of the Upper Yampa River Basin for the benefit of the Basin.**

# Our Vision

**An Upper Yampa River Basin with safe, secure water storage and supply for its customers that benefits all uses in the Basin.**

## District Goals

The District's Strategic Plan is a living document reviewed regularly by the Board of Directors. It outlines the mission, vision, and goals that serve as the core of the District's work to ensure a robust future for water resources in the Yampa River Basin.

- 1 Protect Upper Yampa Basin water resources and local water uses from trans-basin diversions and Colorado River administration that would adversely impact those uses.
- 2 Ensure the District's infrastructure is safe, maintained, and improved to serve the needs of the District.
- 3 Ensure the District is financially sustainable and able to meet its stated goals.
- 4 Protect all in-Basin beneficial vested water uses in the District, consistent with the policy statements above.
- 5 Represent Upper Yampa Basin water interests at the local, regional and statewide levels on relevant policy, legislative, administrative, regulatory, and judicial matters.
- 6 Provide adequate water supplies within the District in light of changing climate conditions, population shifts, and other changes.
- 7 Promote healthy reservoirs, streams, and watersheds within the District in support of the policy statements above.
- 8 Increase public understanding of water issues in the Upper Yampa Basin and the District's role in addressing them.
- 9 Maintain a robust water rights portfolio for the District.
- 10 Ensure robust staff, legal, and administrative resources to enhance District's viability and capacity to effectively serve its constituents.

# Water Report

Drought conditions in the Colorado River Basin reached unprecedented levels in 2022. Lakes Mead and Powell fell to historically low volumes threatening future hydropower generation at each dam despite releases from Upper Colorado River Basin reservoirs, including Blue Mesa and Flaming Gorge sending nearly 680,000 acre-feet of water downstream to prop up reservoir supplies over the last two years.

Here in the Yampa River Basin, drought conditions prevented both Yamcolo and Stagecoach Reservoirs from reaching the maximum fill capacity in 2022. While summer and fall monsoons assisted stream flows and cooler water temperatures, the Yampa River still experienced periodic recreational closures at the tailwaters of Stagecoach Reservoir and through the City of Steamboat Springs.

A contract between UYWCD and the Colorado Water Trust allowed for up to 5,000 acre-feet of water to be purchased and released to boost flows in the Yampa River in 2022. From Aug. to Oct., over 3,600 acre-feet of water was released from Stagecoach Reservoir - accounting for over half of the daily flow through Steamboat Springs in mid Sept.

Stored water releases and collaboration among water users and managers in the basin are critical to maintaining and improving flows in the Yampa River during hot, dry summer months. As the larger Colorado River Basin faces increasing challenges, UYWCD remains dedicated to responsible reservoir management and collaborative approaches to conserving, protecting, and enhancing water resources in the Yampa River Basin.



# Soil Moisture Monitoring Network

UYWCD has invested \$130,000 in the start-up of a soil moisture monitoring network in the Upper Yampa River Basin. Soil moisture monitoring will help fill a data gap to assist water managers and improve reservoir inflow forecasting during spring run-off by measuring soil moisture content, soil and air temperature, precipitation, and other climatic variables not currently measured in the basin.

In 2021, UYWCD partnered with the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes (CW3E) and the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council to identify critical areas for soil moisture monitoring in the basin. In September 2022, UYWCD funded the installation of the first soil moisture monitoring station near Stagecoach Reservoir and a publicly available online data portal to relay measurements in near real-time.





The logo for the Yampa Youth Water Festival features the word 'Yampa' in a stylized, multi-colored font. The 'Y' is green, 'a' is blue, 'm' is yellow, 'p' is red, and 'a' is purple. To the right of the 'p' are three red water droplets and three blue wavy lines representing water. To the right of the 'a' is a purple triangle with a white wavy line inside. To the right of the logo, the words 'youth water festival' are written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

# Yampa youth water festival

On September 21, 2022, the UYWCD proudly hosted the 1st annual Yampa Youth Water Festival. Held at the Routt County Fairgrounds and Dry Creek Park in Hayden, the festival gathered 415 fifth grade students from Yampa to Maybell, encompassing every fifth grade class in the Yampa Valley.

UYWCD organized the event, recruiting local and regional partners and water professionals who created 26 different learning stations to teach students the importance of water. Students watched a weather balloon launch and participated in a variety of learning stations with topics ranging from weather and the water cycle, endangered fish species and fish anatomy, physics of water and water resource engineering, and water rights just to name a few.



The Yampa Youth Water Festival was a fun and informative event for me and my students. Thank you for putting it together!

Crystal Greenhow (Ridgeview Elementary School 5th Grade Teacher)

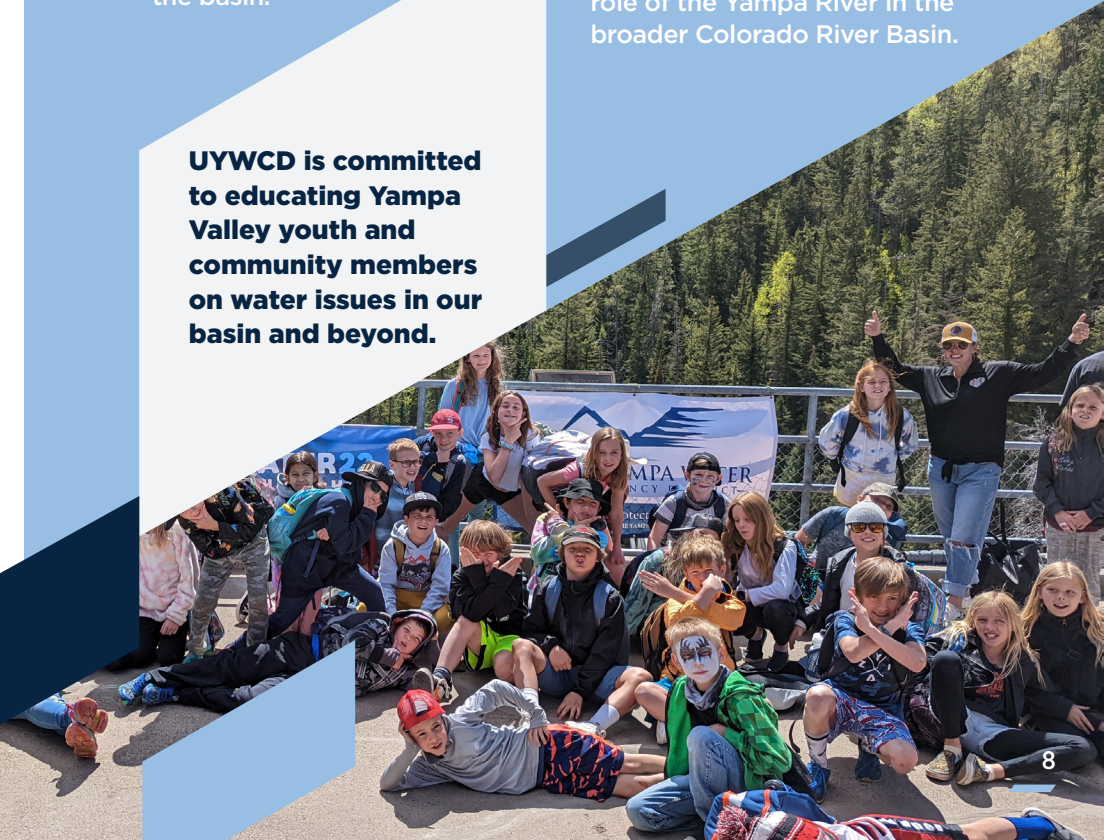
# Community

In addition to hosting every fifth grade class in Routt and Moffat Counties at the inaugural Yampa Youth Water Festival, UYWCD reached over 250 students through facility tours and water-related field trips to Stagecoach Reservoir. Students visiting UYWCD facilities have the opportunity to learn about hydropower generation, dam construction, reservoir history, the water cycle, and water uses throughout the basin.



In collaboration with Water Education Colorado's statewide water awareness campaign, Water '22, UYWCD participated in community events, seminars, and conferences to help spread the word about the importance of water in the headwaters state and the role of the Yampa River in the broader Colorado River Basin.

**UYWCD is committed to educating Yampa Valley youth and community members on water issues in our basin and beyond.**



# Financials

FY 2021

## STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

ASSETS	
Current Assets	\$21,552,564
Non-Current Assets: Capital Assets, Net or Accumulated Depreciation	\$26,503,746
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$48,056,311</b>

LIABILITIES	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$58,094</b>

DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	
<b>Deferred Property Tax Revenues</b>	<b>\$2,715,657</b>

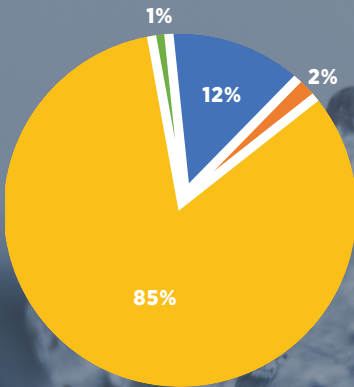
NET POSITION	
<b>Invested in Capital Assets</b>	<b>\$26,503,746</b>
Restricted and Encumbered Funds:	
Emergency Facilities Reserve	\$4,606,931
Capital Maintenance Reserve	\$772,852
Wetlands Mitigation Reserve	\$419,734
Tabor Reserve	\$46,923
<b>Total Restricted and Encumbered Funds</b>	<b>\$5,846,440</b>
<b>Capital Projects Development Fund</b>	<b>\$12,932,374</b>
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$45,282,560</b>

## STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGE IN NET POSITION

OPERATING REVENUES	
Water Sales	\$369,529
Power Revenues	\$58,824
Other Income	\$10,582
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$438,935</b>

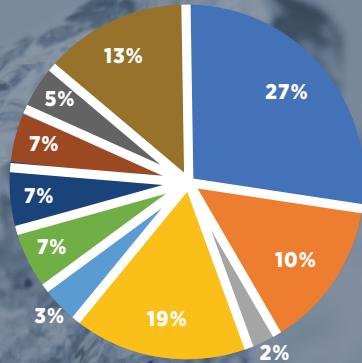
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Facilities	
Stagecoach Reservoir	\$413,488
Yamcolo Reservoir	\$162,948
Stillwater Ditch	\$33,864
Administration	\$297,178
Board of Directors	\$52,669
External Affairs	\$102,876
Finance	\$105,482
Legal	\$107,172
Planning	\$83,816
Grants, Scholarships, and Public Information	\$ 202,455
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,561,947</b>
<b>Operating Loss</b>	<b>(\$1,123,012)</b>

NON-OPERATING REVENUES	
Property Taxes, Net of Collection Fees	\$2,637,170
Pass-through Income	\$63,728
Pass-through Expense	(\$56,629)
Interest Income	\$ 15,204
<b>Net Non-Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 2,659,473</b>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	<b>\$1,536,461</b>
<b>Net Position, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$ 43,746,099</b>
<b>Net Position, End of Year</b>	<b>\$45,282,560</b>



## Revenues

- Water Sales (12%)
- Power Revenues (2%)
- Interest Income (1%)
- Property Taxes, Net of Collection Fees
- Other Income (0%)



## Expenses

- Stagecoach Res.
- Yamcolo Res.
- Stillwater Ditch
- Administration
- External Affairs
- Board of Directors
- Finance
- Legal
- Planning
- Grants, Scholarships and Public Info.

# Community Grant Funding

In 2022, UYWCD awarded \$80,000 in Community Grant Funding. In addition to the community grant funds, UYWCD also awarded special funding in the amount of \$80,000 for engineering and design to improvements for Sheriff’s Reservoir, which serves as the drinking water supply to the Town of Oak Creek.

PROJECT	APPLICANT	AMOUNT APPROVED
Yampatika Water Education Program	Yampatika	\$5,000
Landowner Toolkit for Drought, Wildfire, and Soil Health Resiliency	Routt County Conservation District	\$25,000
Stillwater Reservoir Infrastructure Improvements	Bear River Reservoir Company	\$50,000
<b>Total Approved:</b>		<b>\$80,000</b>



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—CONSERVANCY DISTRICT—

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