



Post Office Box 4632
Pagosa Springs, CO 81157

WATER *Matters*

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Pagosa Springs, CO
81147
Permit No. 14

WATER *Matters*

Spring, 2009

A newsletter of the



Dry Gulch Reservoir Update

“ Dry Gulch environmental and engineering tasks continue on schedule with no significant findings of archeological or flora/fauna impacts. ”

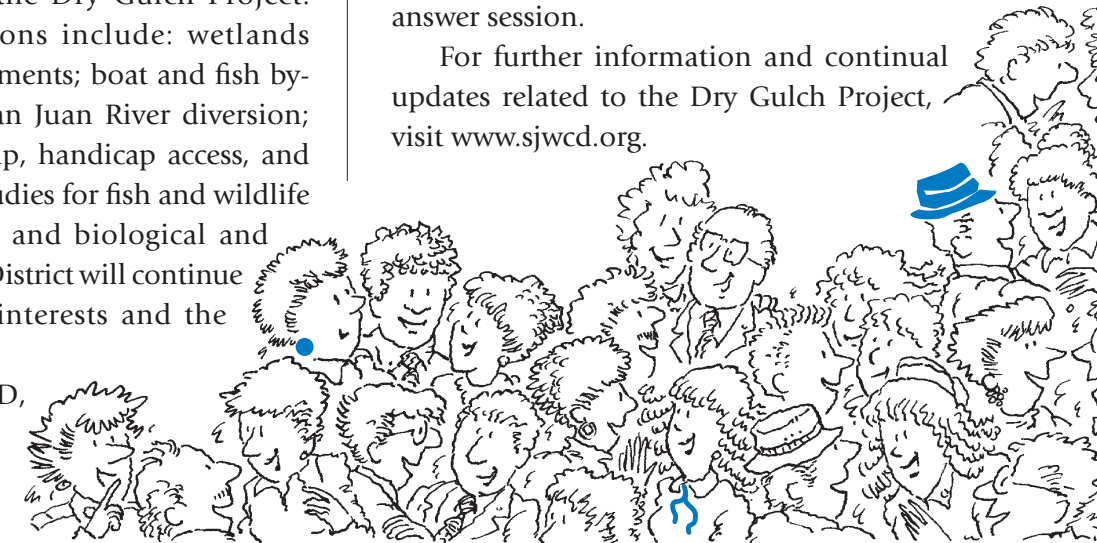
The Dry Gulch Project plays an integral role in the San Juan Water Conservancy District's (SJWCD or District) long-term plans to meet water needs. The reservoir will provide a critical safety storage supply to buffer the community's water users from the effects of severe drought and meet the demands of the growing community. With, among other funding sources, \$1,097,750 received in grants thus far, Dry Gulch environmental and engineering tasks continue on schedule with no significant findings of archeological or flora/fauna impacts.

The District has committed an estimated \$10,027,000, over the build-out of the Project, for "Environmental Accommodations" related to the Dry Gulch Project. Environmental Accommodations include: wetlands development; public access easements; boat and fish bypass accommodations at the San Juan River diversion; studies for a potential boat ramp, handicap access, and other public access amenities; studies for fish and wildlife mitigation and enhancements; and biological and cultural studies. In addition, the District will continue to contribute its water rights interests and the associated legal costs.

On February 23rd, the SJWCD,

in conjunction with the Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District (PAWSD), hosted a public presentation of the Dry Gulch Project. The information session was well-received, with approximately 65 in attendance. The presentation was provided by Sheila Berger-PAWSD Special Projects Manager, Steve Harris-Harris Water Engineering, and Tom Pippin-BBC Research and Consulting. It covered all aspects of the Project, including revised future growth and water demand projections, project infrastructure, planned reservoir size, project financing and Capital Investment Fees, plans for reservoir public use, and a question and answer session.

For further information and continual updates related to the Dry Gulch Project, visit www.sjwcd.org.



Join Us

- ◆ **Southwestern Water Conservation District 27th Annual Seminar**
April 3, 2009 • 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
DoubleTree Hotel, Durango, CO
- ◆ **National Drinking Water Week**
May 3 - 9, 2009
- ◆ **Film Showing - "The American Southwest: Are We Running Dry?"**
May 4, 2009 • 6:00 am - 7:00 pm
Abbey Theatre, Durango, CO
- ◆ **14th Annual Children's Water Festival**
May 6, 2009 • 8:30 am - 3 pm
Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO
- ◆ **Southwest Basin Roundtable Meeting**
May 13, 2009 • 2:30 pm - 6:00 pm (Open to the public)
Dolores Water Conservancy District offices, Cortez, CO

Impact Fees on Hold

In an effort to minimize community economic hardship, the SJWCD Board of Directors voted in January 2009 not to collect impact fees through the Town at this time. It should be emphasized, however, that the

decision is not permanent and will be re-addressed as the economy re-stabilizes. In lieu of impact fees, the District plans to continue to pursue and use various sources of grant funds for the Dry Gulch Project.



"The purpose of the San Juan Water Conservancy District (SJWCD or District) is to conserve, maximize and utilize the water resources of the San Juan River and its tributaries, and that property within the District will be benefited by this purpose."

Another primary function of the SJWCD is to address future water supply needs within the District.

Board of Directors

- Ernie Amos
- Windsor Chacey
- Jack Delange
- Fred Ebeling
- Mark Garcia
- Fred Schmidt
- Harold Slavinski
- Pat Ullrich
- Carrie Weiss
- Karen Wessels

We value your comments and input. Please direct questions and/or suggestions to:
 SJWCD Board of Directors
 Post Office Box 4632
 Pagosa Springs, CO 81157
 www.sjwcd.org

PROJECT
Points

Cloud seeding is the attempt to change the amount or type of precipitation that falls from clouds by dispersing substances into the air that serve to convert cloud droplets to ice particles (i.e., ice nuclei). This increases the number of ice particles within the cloud to increase precipitation. The obvious benefit of more snow in Colorado's high country comes in the form of increased spring runoff, thereby producing more water for the state, as well as other states that rely on Colorado water.

Colorado's cloud seeding program began more than 35 years ago and was delegated to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Director in 1987. At the request of water users, the CWCB initiated a grant program in 2004 to cost-share cloud seeding operations with local

sponsors, including the SJWCD. In an effort to keep costs at a minimum, however, the SJWCD decided at the end of 2008 to participate in the cloud seeding program on a standby basis. In this capacity, a small fee is paid to keep the generators in place, with activation/participation in the program later if the winter does not yield anticipated snow accumulation.

More recently, grants from the three Lower Colorado River Basin States to the Southwestern Water Conservation District initiated a multi-state/multi-year collaborative effort in the Colorado River Basin. The primary goal of the Basin States Program is to increase system water supply in Colorado and the entire Colorado River Basin, as well as to modernize equipment and evaluation techniques. As Joe Busto, with the CWCB Watershed Protection and Flood Mitigation Section, stated, another thrust of the effort is to,

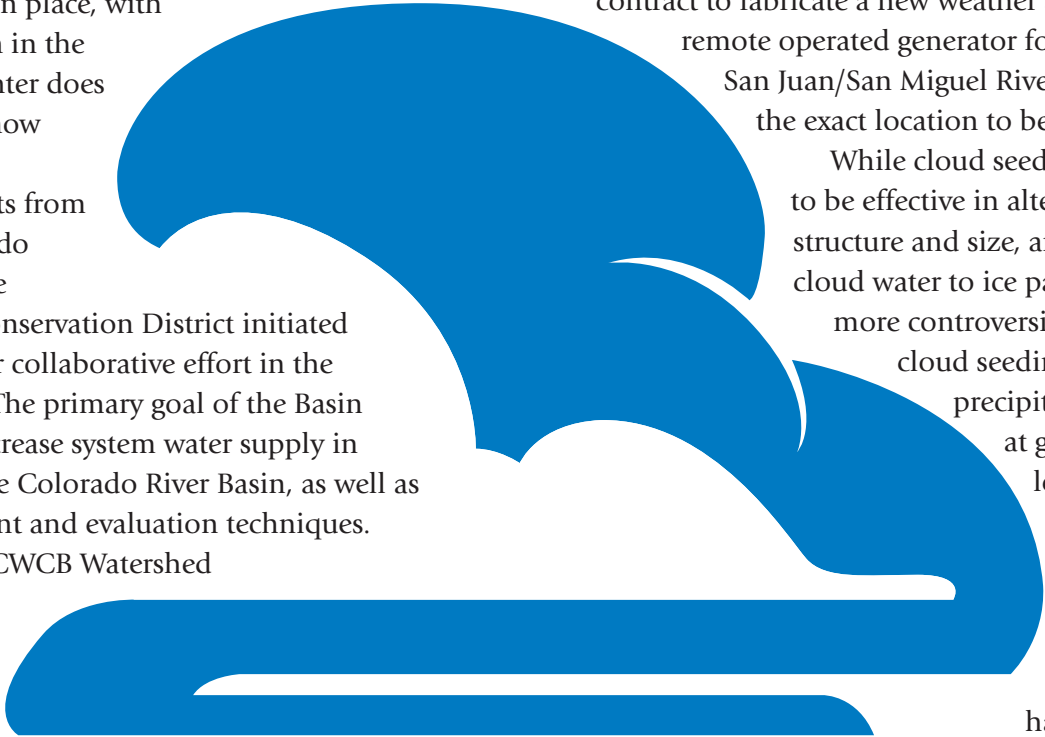
Cloud Seeding on Standby

"Copy the success of other programs and bring them to Colorado." By way of an update, in 2009, as part of the CWCB program to provide grants and technical assistance, Desert Research Institute based in Reno, Nevada is under contract to fabricate a new weather station and remote operated generator for the Dolores/San Juan/San Miguel River Basin, with the exact location to be determined.

While cloud seeding has shown to be effective in altering cloud structure and size, and converting cloud water to ice particles, it is more controversial whether cloud seeding increases precipitation at ground level. New, independent research findings by Dr. Bernie Silverman have indicated

that seeding increases water year streamflow in the range of about 5 to 28 percent. According to his research findings, "It is impressive that there is such strong statistical support for the estimated increases in streamflow due to seeding." The data provides a very highly correlated and statistically significant confirmation from historical stream data of the precipitation increases and now streamflow responses from cloud seeding programs.

For more information on cloud seeding in general and the State Program in particular, contact Joe Busto at (303) 866-3441, ext. 3209 or email him at joe.busto@state.co.us or visit their website at www.cwcb.state.co.us/WatershedProtectionFloodMitigation/WeatherModification.

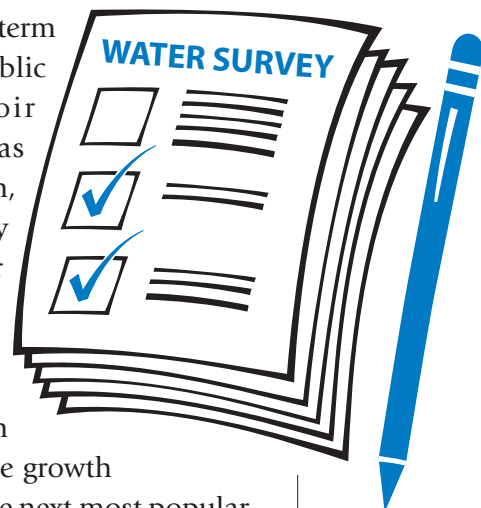


Water Survey Results

Results of a recent survey conducted by Denver pollster Floyd Ciruli indicate that Colorado residents believe a dependable water supply is the most important factor for a strong economy—rating it ahead of schools, highways, and health care. Additional results indicate:

- About three-quarters agree the state needs more water storage.
- Fully 60-70 percent believe we are still in a drought.
- About 65 percent say we are headed for a water shortage.
- Two-thirds have tried to conserve water, with about one-fifth reporting that they have drastically cut their use of water.

For a long-term strategy, the public chose reservoir construction as its top solution, followed by reuse of water on private and public lawns. Household conservation and limiting the growth of cities were the next most popular options, followed by building pipelines and reusing water in homes. Buying and drying farms rated last. "If you work collaboratively, the public is overwhelmingly supportive," Ciruli said. "They value water and are willing to work to conserve and manage it."



Don't Move A Mussel



Don't Move a Mussel! That's the theme of a campaign to prevent the spread of zebra and quagga mussels to Colorado lakes. The goal of the Colorado State Parks and Division of Wildlife is to educate the public about the serious problems caused once mussels get established in lakes and to prevent them from spreading. These nuisance species represent one of the greatest threats to our nations' waterways. Recreational activities are a potential pathway for aquatic nuisance species to spread. The

campaign is designed to inform and educate the public and to encourage recreators to do their part--before leaving a water recreational site, clean all visible plant materials and sediment from boats, waders, fishing gear and other equipment. For more information, visit the Division of Wildlife website at www.wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/Profiles/InvasiveSpecies/ZebraandQuaggaMussels.htm.

