

Session 4: Watershed Planning and Implementation in the San Juan River Watershed

Watershed Planning Review

- Original charge from the December 2019 meeting:
 - Scope out a watershed-wide implementation plan
 - Identify pilot/demonstration projects for implementation
- New charge:
 - Identify pilot/demonstration projects for implementation
 - Develop a process for identifying implementation projects to support our “pivot” from research and monitoring to improving water quality (in the context of WIIN funding)

Research

Phase 1, 2, and 3
Projects

Selection Process

Future Projects

Implementation Projects – Phase I

Navajo Nation - well plugging

- San Juan River
- High arsenic



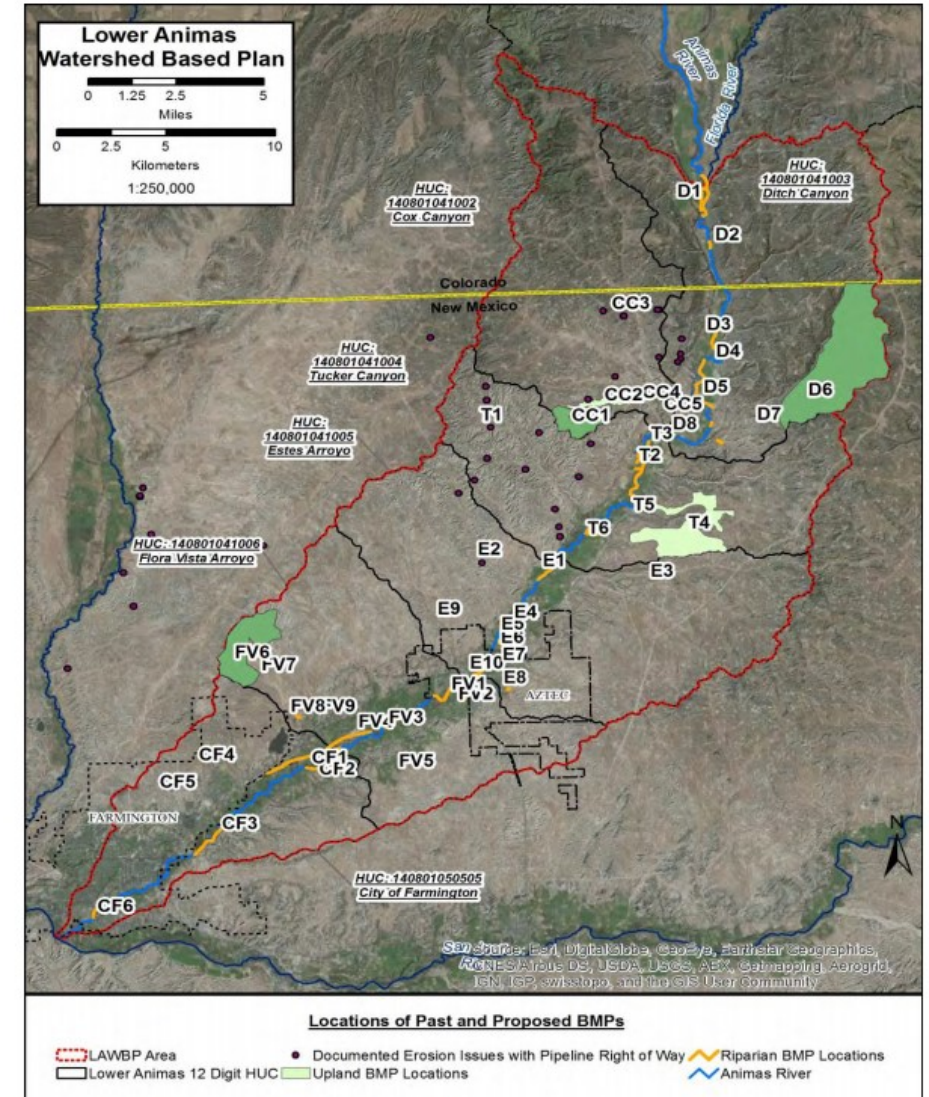
Photo: Steve Austin

Ute Mountain Ute - Cottonwood Wash

- Tributary to the San Juan River
- Addresses gross alpha
- Mix of monitoring and implementation

Implementation Projects – Phase 2

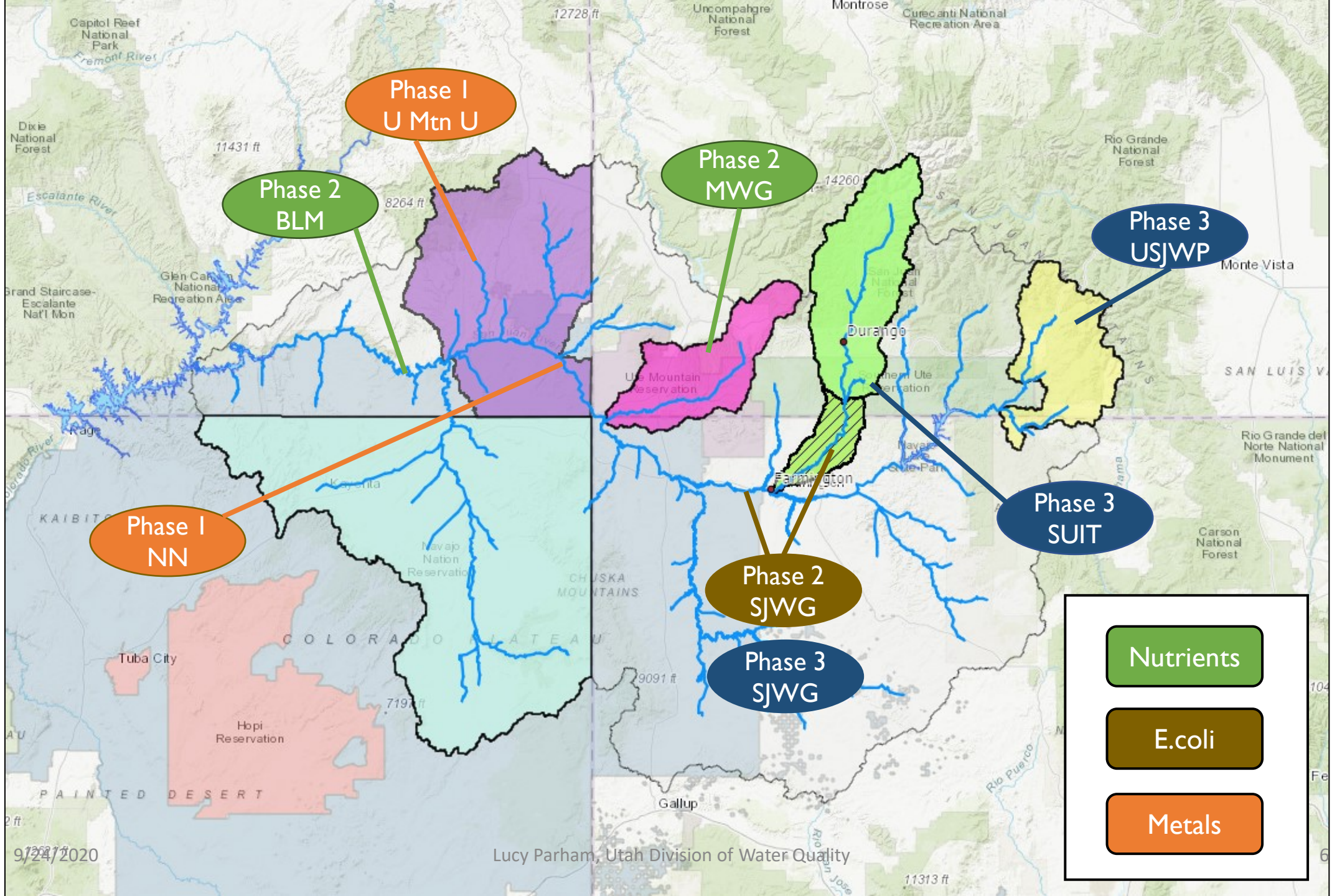
- San Juan Watershed Group
 - Florida River E.coli (Salt Creek – E.coli, TN, TP)
 - SJR between Farmington and Hogsback
 - Septic system mailings
 - Water quantity projects
- Mancos River Watershed Group
 - Copper, sediment, nutrients
 - Mine reclamation
 - Update watershed plan?
- BLM Canyon District – Lower SJR
 - Russian olive removal
 - Livestock watering
 - Trail improvement



Map: Locations of proposed BMP projects

Implementation Projects – Phase 3

- E.coli
 - SJWG San Juan River Watershed Plan
 - Mapping septic systems – San Juan County
- Kate's analysis
 - Southern tributaries (Chaco, Chinle, Montezuma) - nutrients and metals
 - Upper and middle Animas: iron, manganese
 - Lower Animas: cadmium, lead
 - San Juan River: aluminum, lead, iron manganese
- SUIT projects
- Upper San Juan Partnership



Phase I
U Mtn U

Phase 2
BLM

Phase 2
MWG

Phase 3
USJWP

Phase I
NN

Phase 2
SJWG

Phase 3
SUIT

Phase 3
SJWG

Nutrients
E.coli
Metals

Project Selection Criteria

- Is there a current watershed plan in place?
- Are the waters impaired and does the project address that impairment?
- Does the project have a local project partner?
- Is there a public health benefit?
- Ability to provide quantitative estimates of pollutant reductions
- Ability to leverage funds from other sources
- Readiness to proceed (landowner permission, permitting, etc...)

Next Steps

- Project proposal template
- Additional project identification – what is the process?
 - Reach out to federal agencies
 - Reach out to additional watershed groups
 - Re-examine existing watershed plans
 - Develop new watershed plans in areas that lack coverage
 - Put out a call for projects
 - Melissa's additional work on watershed wide E.coli may also offer opportunities for project selection

Considerations

- Do we need to bring in other staff to assist with project selection?
- Contract management
- Funding authorities
- Importance of active watershed planning for determining how this group moves forward with an alliance