



Conservation



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Conservation Efforts Of The San Juan Mountains Rivers

What are the conservation efforts?

Uncompahgre

- Rivers Edge West received funds of \$56,468 to help the riverside habitat along the Uncompahgre River.
- Restoration of the Uncompahgre River will include the removal of invasive tamarisk and Russian olive while replacing them with different plant species that are local to the river.

Animas

- Some of the metals, and pollutants that can pollute the river are, sulfuric acid, iron oxide, rust, and materials from mine drainage such as iron zinc cadmium, lead, copper, arsenic, and silver, are a small amount of the variety of the pollution the forms, of flows into the San Juan River.
- The pollution of the San Juan River is severe, and many, causing unhealthy water for wildlife, and us humans.
- One way to reduce metals in the Animas is to contain and reduce mine spills.
- We are trying to improve the river for the wildlife, and for our benefit. One example of trying to preserve the river is by not using grocery bags from stores as has happened in 2023.

Los Pinos

- The center's buildings were once a Job Corps Conservation Camp and is on U.S. Forest Service property.
- Los Piños Center Corpsmembers work to combat wildfires in Riverside County and across California.
- The Los Pinos River crosses the Colorado-New Mexico Border twice before entering Colorado's scenic San Luis Valley near Antonito.
- On Cumbres Pass, near the Colorado-New Mexico border, the Rio de Los Pinos pauses its rapid descent and slows to a gentle meander, winding through a valley of lush, open meadows nestled between forests of spruce and fir.

Dolores:

- The water in the Dolores is used for a tunnel three miles long which brings water to Cortez, and the Montezuma Valley for irrigation.
- It was organized by the Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company.
- This project was called The Great Cut.
- It started in 1886, and was only used for the Montezuma Valley at that time, but by 1890 it was bringing water to Cortez.
- The Dolores River Water Conservancy District is using the McPhee Reservoir for water distribution.
- Scheduled releases from the reservoir are made to keep the river flowing.
- The McPhee Dam powers the river and provides essential water for irrigation in the town.
- Currently releasing 60 CFS down the channel.

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