



Gunnison Basin

Gunnison Basin & Grand Valley Selenium Task Forces

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Grand Valley: Mt. Garfield

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Dear Grand Valley & Gunnison Basin Stakeholders,

The purpose of this letter is to notify potential stakeholders that a Watershed Plan for the Grand Valley and Lower Gunnison Basin is being developed by the Grand Valley and Gunnison Basin Selenium Task Forces (Selenium Task Forces). The Selenium Task Forces are a group of private, local, regional, state, and federal interests *committed to finding ways to address elevated selenium concentrations in our local waterways*. Numerous sections of the Colorado and lower Gunnison and Uncompahgre Rivers and their associated tributaries are on the State's 303(d) List of Impaired Waters for elevated selenium concentrations that are above the State standard. As part of our obligations for continuing to be eligible to receive federal funding for selenium remediation and planning projects, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Colorado Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) require that 319 grant recipients develop watershed plans. We are in the early stages of planning and gathering data and would like to invite you to be a part of this process.

The EPA and WQCD watershed plan development guidelines require that all water-quality issues within a watershed be identified, but allows a watershed group to focus on a specific pollutant(s) of concern. The upcoming "*Grand Valley and Lower Gunnison River Basin Watershed Plan*" being developed by the Selenium Task Forces will *identify* all water-quality issues within the basin, **but will focus the watershed remediation planning on selenium only.** The Watershed Plan will be a "living document", such that any organization addressing remediation planning for other water-quality constituents of concern within the watershed may utilize the document for their planning purposes.

Our goal is to have a draft Watershed Plan ready to submit to the WQCD for comment by mid June 2007. If you have information that you believe may be helpful to the development of the Watershed Plan, please contact me as soon as possible. In the future, you can get regular watershed plan updates, obtain copies of the latest drafts of the plan, and/or provide comments to us via our website at: www.seleniumtaskforce.org. Please call or email with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Sonja R. Chavez de Baca, Coordinator
Grand Valley & Gunnison Basin Selenium Task Forces