



## Middle Colorado Watershed Council

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Since early 2021, the Middle Colorado Watershed Council (MCWC) coordinated post Grizzly Creek Fire water quality (WQ) monitoring activities with affected water user communities along the Colorado mainstem, including downstream municipalities, the agricultural producers, and recreationists, along with a series of interested cooperating. The first year addressed immediate needs by increasing water quality and precipitation informational networks. Together with the USGS and the River District, MCWC acquired funding for the first year's activities, including the deployment of 7 rain gauges throughout the Grizzly Creek burn area and the addition of a 6-parameter data sonde at the No Name water quality monitoring station.

In the summer of 2021, summer monsoons caused flooding, debris flows and highway damage in Glenwood Canyon as a result of the 2020 Grizzly Creek fire. MCWC expects continued problems with flooding and debris flows from these canyon drainages over the next few years

In 2022-2024, we are expanding data collection and analysis by adding soil moisture sensors and additional in-channel water quality monitors and supporting continued operations of the rain gauge network (which provides data to the NWS for flash flood and potential debris flow conditions). This phase will improve the spatial resolution of water quality monitoring in the watershed by adding an additional monitoring station between South Canyon and Cameo and will improve weather forecasting and early warning systems by co-locating the new soil-moisture network with the existing rain gauge network. This will provide valuable, accurate, and timely data for downstream users' decision-making processes and early-notification of potential debris flow events.

A notification network to downstream impacted municipalities and the agriculture community has been integrated into a state emergency management program for alerts and notifications regarding construction, debris and sediment in the river.

The Middle Colorado Watershed Council still requires funding to set up the Colorado River District as their fiscal agent to work with USGS for placing equipment and continued water quality and rain gauge monitoring. We have found other sources for paying for equipment and project monitoring, but have a shortfall regarding the fee structure needed to pay the River District to help us with the three-year fiscal oversight. The \$5,000 award will take care of the first year's funding for the River District.

We have used similar size grants to cover project oversight and technical support. We supply an annual project report.

Paula Stepp  
Executive Director



