

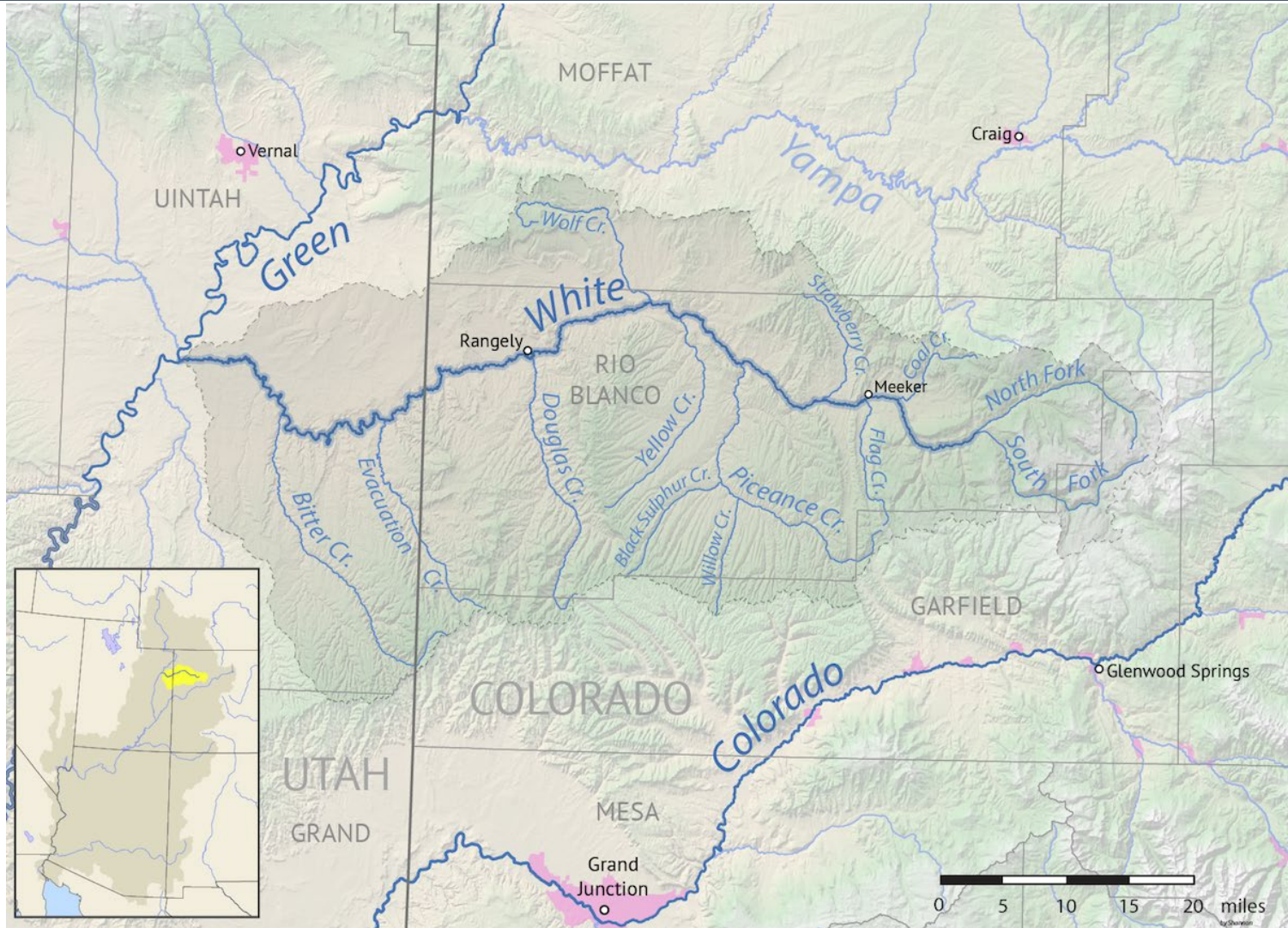


WHITE RIVER

PARTNERSHIP

A Riparian Restoration Partnership at 5 Years

John Leary, RiversEdge West











Funding: BOR WaterSMART Phase I

- Establish a group
- Develop a collaborative riparian restoration plan for the White River watershed





Funding: BOR WaterSMART Phase I

- Works across state boundaries
- Flexible
- Funds capacity, travel, contractor (eg facilitator)
- Eligible for Phase II Implementation funds
- Long application process
- Frequent and detailed reporting (may have changed)





Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- **Non-binding**
- **Narrow focus (riparian restoration)**
- **Broadly defined goals**
 - **Ecological/Geomorphic**
 - **Social**
 - **Cultural**
 - **Management**
 - **Economic**

The Partnership can invite participation to serve as an advisory role. This may include participation from the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Natural Resources Conservation Service, White River and Douglas Creek Conservation Districts, and/or other entities. The advisory role to the Partnership may provide technical, research, and policy information to help the Partnership achieve its stated goals.



Restoration plan

- Outline common goals and objectives
- Provide resources for best management practices
- Explain scientific background supporting riparian restoration
- Site prioritization guide
- List of 10 priority treatment areas



Restoration Plan

Diverse and
unknown goals in
ownership and
management





Restoration Plan

Concurrent planning efforts

Pennock et al. (2022): https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/eco_pubs/136/

Conservation Districts' White River Integrated Water Initiative:
<https://www.whiterivercd.com/white-river-integrated-water-initiative>



Photo from Utah Conservation Corps



5 Years

- 5 years is kind of a short amount of time
 - Relationship development
 - Project timelines
 - Grant timelines



Photo from Rig to Flip



5 Years

- Getting on site is important
- Use the right tool for the job
 - Conservation corps, contractors, volunteers
 - Hand crews and heavy equipment





5 Years

- 5 years is also kind of a long time
 - A lot has been accomplished
 - Can't be done without partners
 - Having a coordinator with capacity funding is important
 - Flexibility
 - Opportunistic



Photo from Utah Conservation Corps



5 Years

- Flexible and opportunistic





Collaborating across jurisdictional boundaries



Photo by Mary Taylor



Takeaways and random thoughts

- Partnerships are constantly evolving
- MOU, Restoration Plan, and Partnerships are important tools for restoration
- A narrower focus can lead to broader support





Takeaways and random thoughts

- Be respectful of partners' time and workloads
- Encourage all levels of support and involvement
 - Capitalize on partners' strengths
- No single organization can do it on its own





Thank you!



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Thank you to WRP partners!