

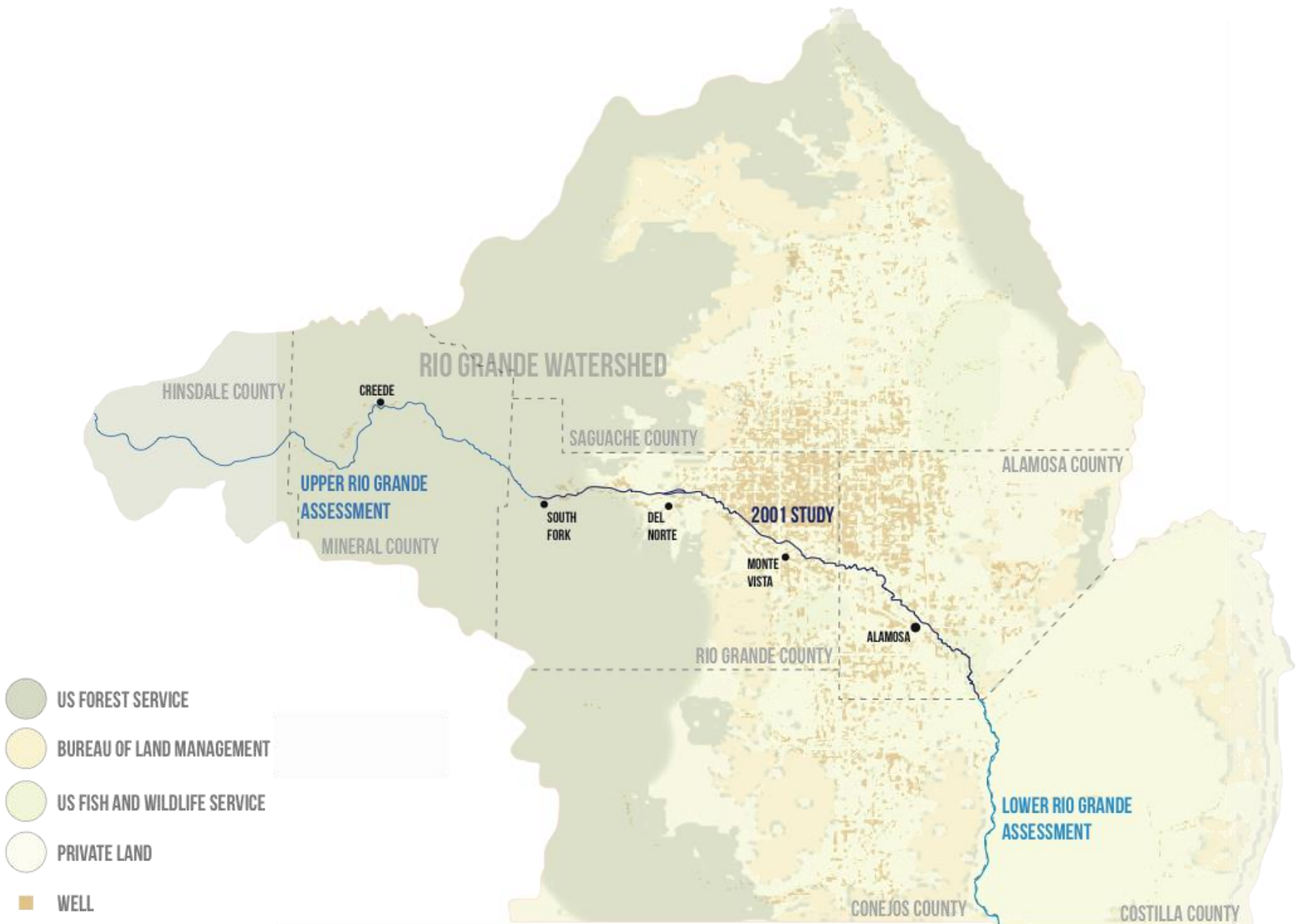
# Improving the Rio Grande for Farmers, Fish, and Families

Heather Dutton

Executive Director

Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project





**RIO GRANDE BASIN**

# About Us

- ◆ Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP)
  - ◆ Outgrowth of 2001 Study - Prompted by Local Stakeholders
  - ◆ Lower Rio Grande Study and Upper Rio Grande Assessment
  - ◆ 200 - mile Project Reach
- ◆ Fiscal Agent: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation



# RGHRP Programs

- 💧 Riparian Restoration Program
- 💧 Irrigation Infrastructure Program
- 💧 Watershed Stewardship Program
- 💧 Outreach and Education Program



# Super Awesome, Hot Off The Press Video!

Christi Bode  
Moxiecran Media



# Streambank Stabilization and Riparian Restoration Program Chefas Site

**Before - June 2009**

**After – August 2014**



# Watershed Stewardship Program



- ◆ RWEACT: Natural Resource Committee
- ◆ Debris Flow Modeling – USGS
- ◆ Flood Modeling – NRCS
- ◆ Water Quality Monitoring
- ◆ Hazard Tree Removal
- ◆ Revegetation Test Plots

# Outreach and Education Program

- 💧 Tours
- 💧 Radio and Newspaper
- 💧 Festivals
- 💧 Meeting Updates
- 💧 Volunteer Events
- 💧 Rio Grande Water Leaders!





# Irrigation Infrastructure Program



Partner with Ditch Companies to  
Find the Collaboration “**Sweet Spot**”

A Healthy River Supports:

- Ecosystems
- Habitat
- Recreation
- Agriculture
- Municipal Uses

# Plaza Project - McDonald Ditch Implementation Project



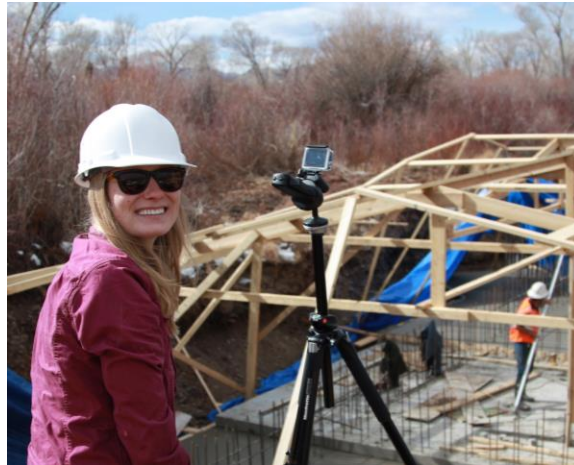
# Plaza Project - McDonald Ditch Implementation Project



# Plaza Project - McDonald Ditch Implementation Project



# Project Evolution



**COLORADO**

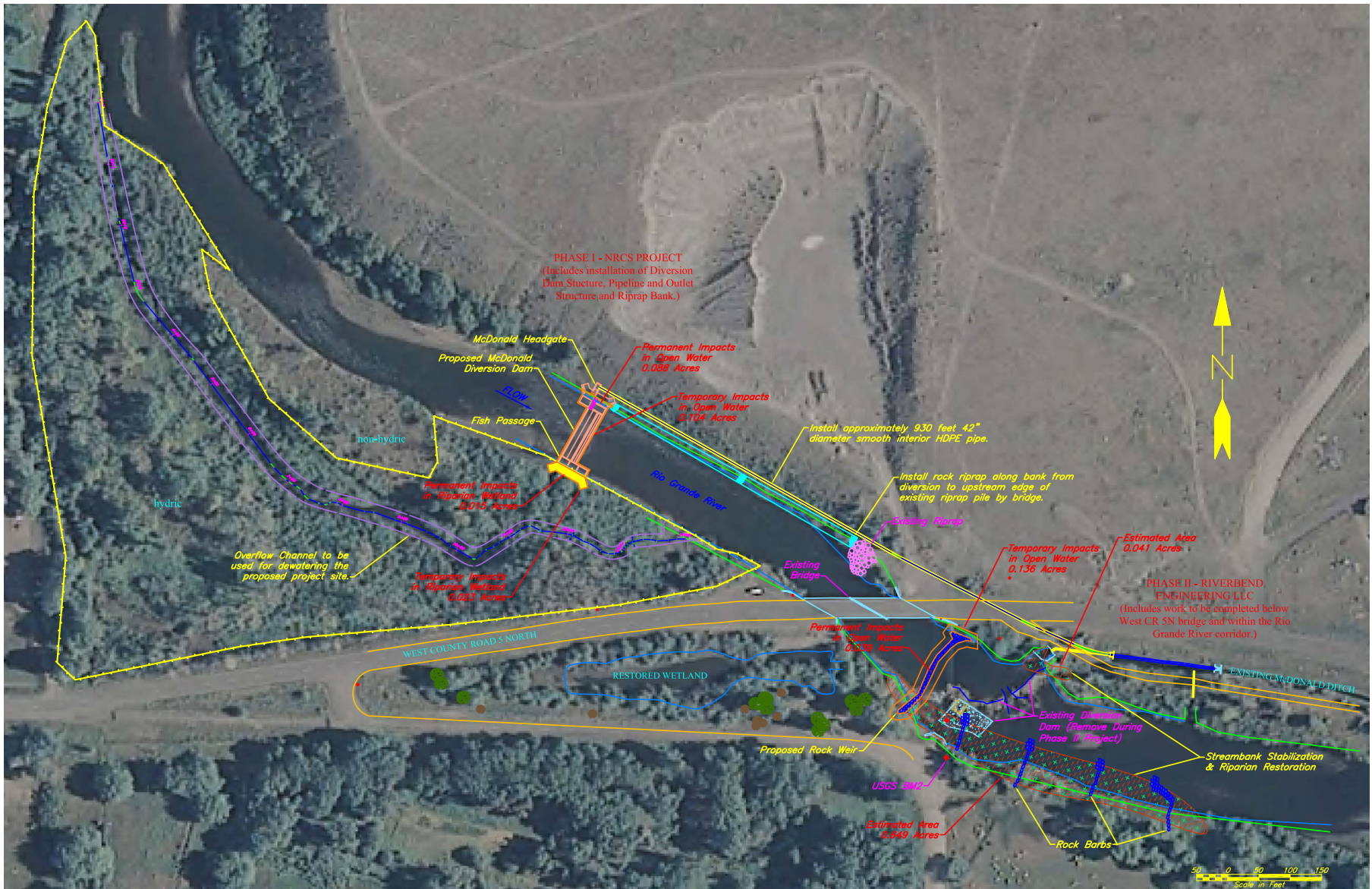
**Colorado Water  
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

# Project Evolution



- 🟢 Years of Planning
- 🟢 Countless Conversations
- 🟢 Extensive Survey and Design
- 🟢 **Maximize Benefits**

















# Plaza Project - McDonald Ditch Implementation Project

- ◆ Floodplain Function
- ◆ Automation
- ◆ Maintenance
- ◆ Fish and Boat Passage
- ◆ Riparian and Wetland Restoration
- ◆ Community Engagement



# Budget

- 💧 CWCB Grant - \$726,000
- 💧 CWCB Landowner Loan - \$100,000
- 💧 NRCS Landowner EQIP - \$150,000
- 💧 NRCS Federal Grants - \$250,000
- 💧 **TOTAL PROJECT - \$1,226,000**

Who assumes  
the burden for  
a project like  
this?

= Healthier Rio Grande for Farmers, Fish, and Families

# Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

- 💧 Partners
- 💧 Board
- 💧 Staff
- 💧 Community
- 💧 Fish and Wildlife....

(not confirmed but we can  
assume they're on  
board)







SAVE THE DATE:

Runoff Runoff

June 11, 2016

Creede, CO

Heather Dutton, Executive Director

Emma Regier, Coordinator

Andréa Bachman, Programs Manager

Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project

(719) 589-2230