

Tom Jankovsky, Chair
District 1

Perry Will, Chair Pro Tem
District 2

Mike Samson
District 3



July 7, 2025

To Partners Working to Restore Rifle Creek:

On behalf of the Garfield County Board of County Commissioners, I write to express the County's support for the Rifle Creek Restoration Implementation Plan as presented by the Middle Colorado Watershed Council on June 16, 2025.

Rifle Creek is a vital shared resource, linking our agricultural heritage, community and natural ecosystems. As a key corridor running from Rifle Gap to the Colorado River, it supports a diverse array of land uses, economic activities and environmental functions—many of which are increasingly under strain due to aging infrastructure, long-term drought conditions and increased variability in water supply.

The Board recognizes the Rifle Creek Restoration Plan as a proactive effort that aligns with the goals of the Colorado Water Plan, particularly the emphasis on *Robust Agriculture* and *Thriving Watersheds*. The plan's focus areas—including agricultural infrastructure upgrades, habitat restoration and improvements to water quality and instream flows—represent high-impact opportunities that directly benefit our residents, landowners and community.

We appreciate the inclusive and collaborative approach being taken by the Council and its partners. As a Board, we are committed to stewarding the health and resilience of Rifle Creek not only for today's needs, but for future generations. This is a unique opportunity to demonstrate local leadership and collective responsibility.

Garfield County understands the importance of being a foundational partner in this work. County supports planning, permitting, design conversations and future funding applications. We look forward to collaborating with the Middle Colorado Watershed Council, the City of Rifle and other stakeholders in identifying shared priorities and delivering on-the-ground outcomes.

Please consider this letter as a statement of Garfield County's support for the Rifle Creek Restoration Implementation Plan, and our intent to participate actively as the project advances.

Sincerely,

Tom Jankovsky, Chair

Perry Will

Mike Samson

cc: Fred Jarman, County Manager