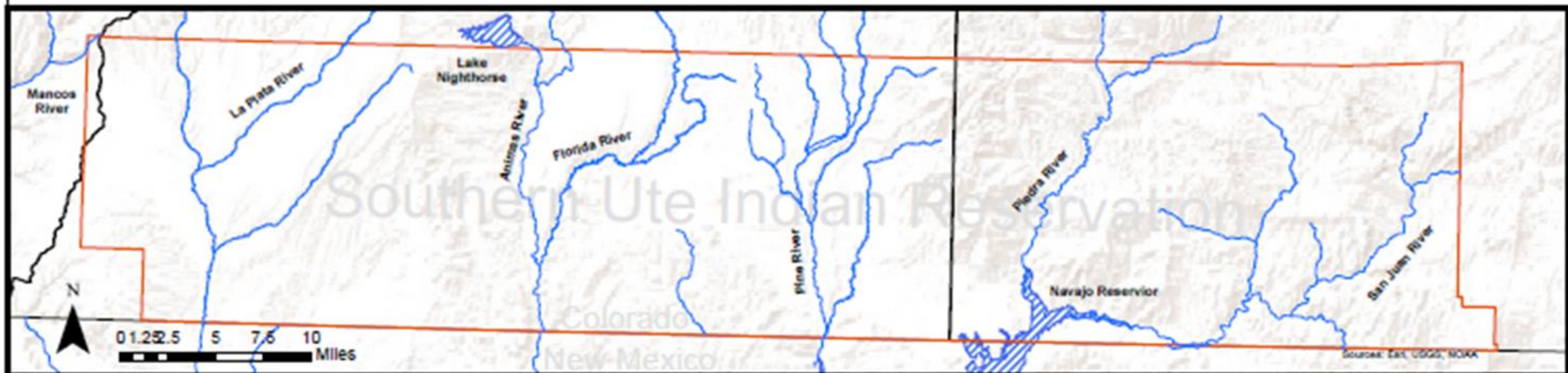


# Southern Ute Indian Tribe CWA Program Overview





# Rivers of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation



Map Layout and Design: Southern Ute Indian Tribe Environmental Programs, MWampler

-  Rivers
-  Southern Ute Indian Reservation Boundary
-  County / State Boundary
-  Reservoirs

Data Source: La Plata Count GIS, Southern Ute GIS, ESRI, USGS, and NOAA

# CWA 106 Water Quality Monitoring Program

- The Tribe has Treatment as a State for implementation for 3 Clean Water Act programs; Section 106, WQS, and 401 Certification
- Monitors 5 major rivers and 42 monitoring locations
- Chemical, physical and biological data collected each location
- Water quality data used to assist the Water Quality Standards Development
- Water Quality Data reported to EPA and available to the general public
- Groundwater Monitoring
- Outreach and Education
- Emergency Response



WQP data documents the progress of recovery,  
from 416 Fire & the Gold King event



# Surface Water Monitoring



# Groundwater Sampling

# WIIN Act Program

## Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act

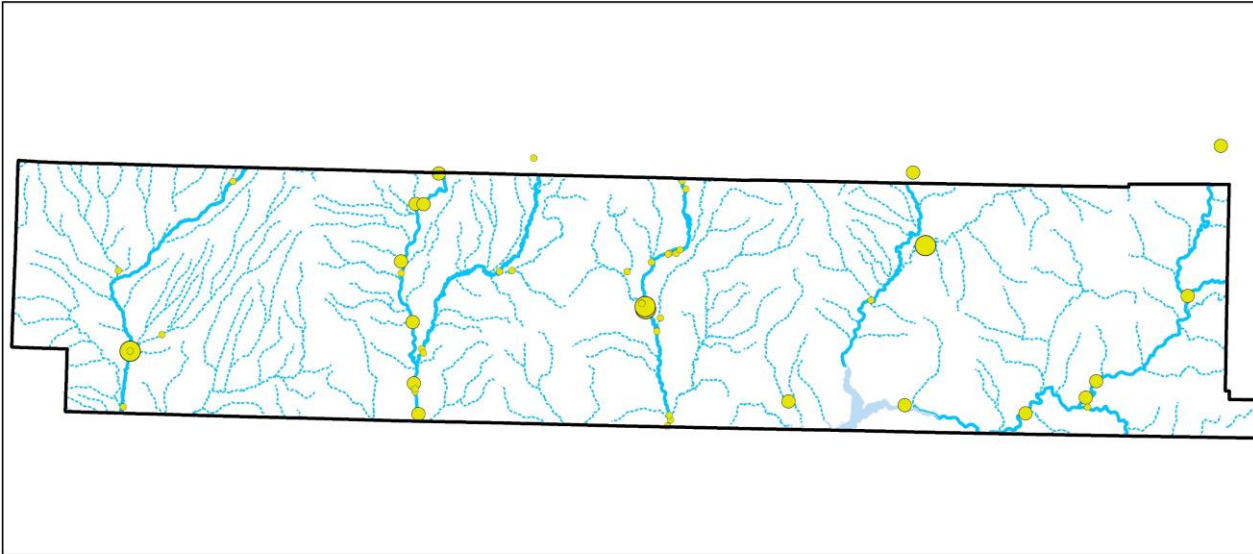
### **FY2018 – FY2023**

- Water quality monitoring on the Animas and Florida Rivers
- Installation of a telemetry unit and real-time publicly available data
- Ethnographic study of cultural uses of plants in the Bonita Peak Mining District
- Plant toxicology study

### **FY2020 – FY2025**

- USGS nutrient and aluminum tracking studies
- Emerging contaminants study: PFAS, personal care products, and pharmaceuticals
- Fish tissue study: trace metals, PCBs, and PAHs

# SUIT 319 Program Focus



Monitoring Stations Average Inorganic Nitrogen  
Concentrations Within The Southern Ute Indian Reservation

Implement BMP's to  
improve water quality  
since Treatment as a  
State (TAS) status in  
1997

Agricultural BMPs

Stream restorations  
projects

Education and outreach  
to tribal membership  
and the community.

***Watershed scale  
planning based on  
guidance from 106  
monitoring***





Pre and post restoration photos – spring creek



# Outreach and Education

# SUIT Water Quality Standards

- ❑ 1992 Water quality program established, and data collection begins
- ❑ 1996 Tribe develops WQS applying to all water bodies on Reservation and submits TAS application and standards to EPA for approval. To avoid a jurisdictional dispute, Tribe agrees to postponement of EPA's consideration
- ❑ 2006-2007 Tribe and State discuss intergovernmental agreement modeled after air quality agreement (a jurisdictional sharing approach)
- ❑ 2008 Tribal Council approves alternative approach
- ❑ 2012-2018 Water quality program revises WQS, refines uses, adds sections, consults with EPA. Draft standards were subject to internal tribal entity review and comment and review and comment by Tribe's water quality standards review team.
- ❑ 2015 Tribe submits TAS application
- ❑ 2018 EPA grants treatment as a state (TAS) authority to Tribe to administer WQS and 401 certification programs.
- ❑ May 22 to June 23, 2020 & August 31 to October 30, 2020: Tribal Member Comment Period
- ❑ November 23, 2020 through January 29, 2021: State of Colorado Comment Period
- ❑ May 3 to June 15, 2021: Treatment-as-a-State Comment Period
- ❑ August 23<sup>rd</sup>- October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021: General Public Comment Period
- ❑ February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022: SUIT Council approval
- ❑ May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022: EPA approval

# Questions

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