

USGS White River Algae Study Report August 8, 2019

USGS lead hydrologist for the project, Mike Stevens, retired in July. Mark Henneberg will be the temporary lead on the project. Mark is familiar with the sites and has been working on the project since 2018. He has done all the USGS high flow measurements in the spring. USGS Biologist, Natalie Day, who sampled with Mike last year continues to work on the project.

USGS is waiting on the Isotope lab results.

Algae growth is currently being monitored by local volunteers and members of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG). Monitoring consists of multiple photo stations along the study reach that are being used to assess peak algae timing and the associated timing of USGS sampling efforts. So far (as of August 10, 2019) the algae has come on slower and later this year at all monitored sites. Algae levels in Piceance Creek and near Rangely have been reported as being relatively substantial compared to those observed/measure in the study reach (Upstream of Meeker, Colo.). It remains to be seen if the algae will bloom as significantly as in recent years. USGS, with the aid of local volunteers and TAG members, will continue to monitor algae levels and is planning to sample beginning the week of August 18th.

Sampling will include the following parameters all sites:

- Chlorophyll a
- Ash free dry mass
- Salinity (major ions)
- Alkalinity
- Streamflow
- Turbidity
- pH
- Specific Conductance
- Temperature
- Dissolved Oxygen