

Funding the Future of Water
CRWUA Annual Conference
December 15, 2022



Manuel Heart
Chairman, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

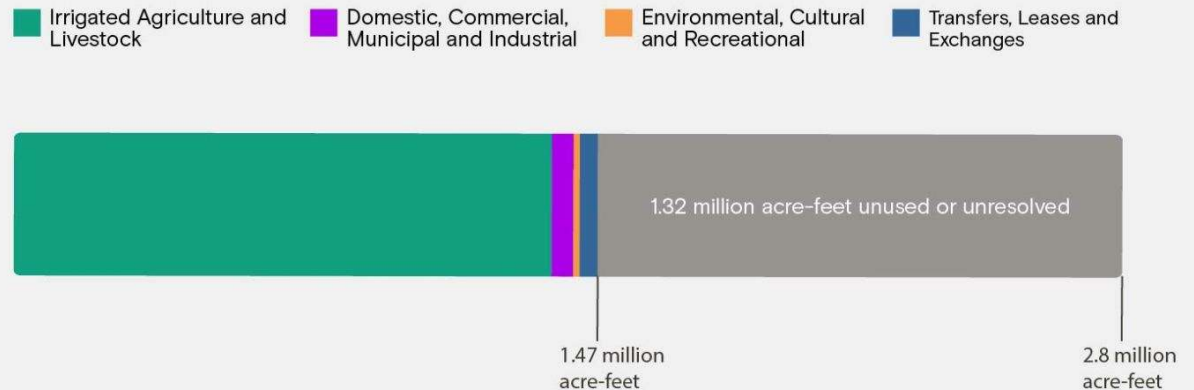
Farm Photos: Eric Whyte, Hay Sales Manager Farm and Ranch Enterprise

10 Tribes Partnership Study

- 25% of Colorado Basin Water Rights are Tribal
- Half of these Rights are Unused or Unresolved
- Clean Drinking Water for Tribal People is an Urgent Priority
- Tribes Also Need Food Security
- Ute Mountain needs clean Drinking water in White Mesa, UT. Our other Water Priorities are Food Security and Renewable Energy.

Colorado River Basin tribes are often unable to access their allotted water

Diversion data from 10 of the tribes show nearly half of the rights aren't being exercised.



Source: Ten Tribes Partnership Tribal Water Study

Data reflects water diversions from 10 tribes in the Colorado River Basin.
Data was largely self-reported and does not reflect annual water-use averages.

Grist | High
Country
News

Colorado Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement: Clean Drinking Water for Towaoc and Water for a 7,600 Acre Tribal Farm

Settlement Provided 1,000AF of M&I Water and Water for a 7,600 Acre Farm from the Dolores Project



The Result: Economic Development and a Highly Efficient, Highly Productive Tribal Farm



Drought Response: Treating Fallowed Pivots for Reconditioning and Replanting as Water Supply Returns

- The Tribe's Dolores Project allocation is based on the 1940s DWCD water right. In 2021 Farm and Ranch was only able to irrigate 10 pivots totaling 800 acres of the total 110 pivots and 7,600 acres.
- By the end of 2022 5,000 acres were under irrigation. Treating Fallowed Fields in 2022 cost \$358 per acre totaling over \$2 million. Reclamation is providing funding to treat fallowed fields.
- When water returns, replanting fallowed acres will cost \$1,085 per acre, or \$6.5 million total. Increased crop income as water and production return will cover an increasing share of replanting costs until the Farm returns to full production, self-sufficiency and profitability.



The Bow an Arrow Cow Herd has wintered on alfalfa aftermath. The Herd has been Cut from 650 head to 500 head as other sources of Forage are pursued.



8 of 10 Pivots Irrigated in 2021 Grew Corn Keeping Bow and Arrow Corn Mill Workers Employed and Protecting Expanding Customer Base



Use of Farm Crews to Improve Efficiency Until Water Returns

- Crews are employed replacing center pivots over 25 years old, and efficiency nozzles with assistance from NRCS.
- Crews are being used to install micro-hydro units in farm laterals to power pivots and headquarters assisted by Colorado Department of Ag Renewable Energy Program.
- Crews will be used to install new sectionalizing valves for better water management with assistance from Reclamation.

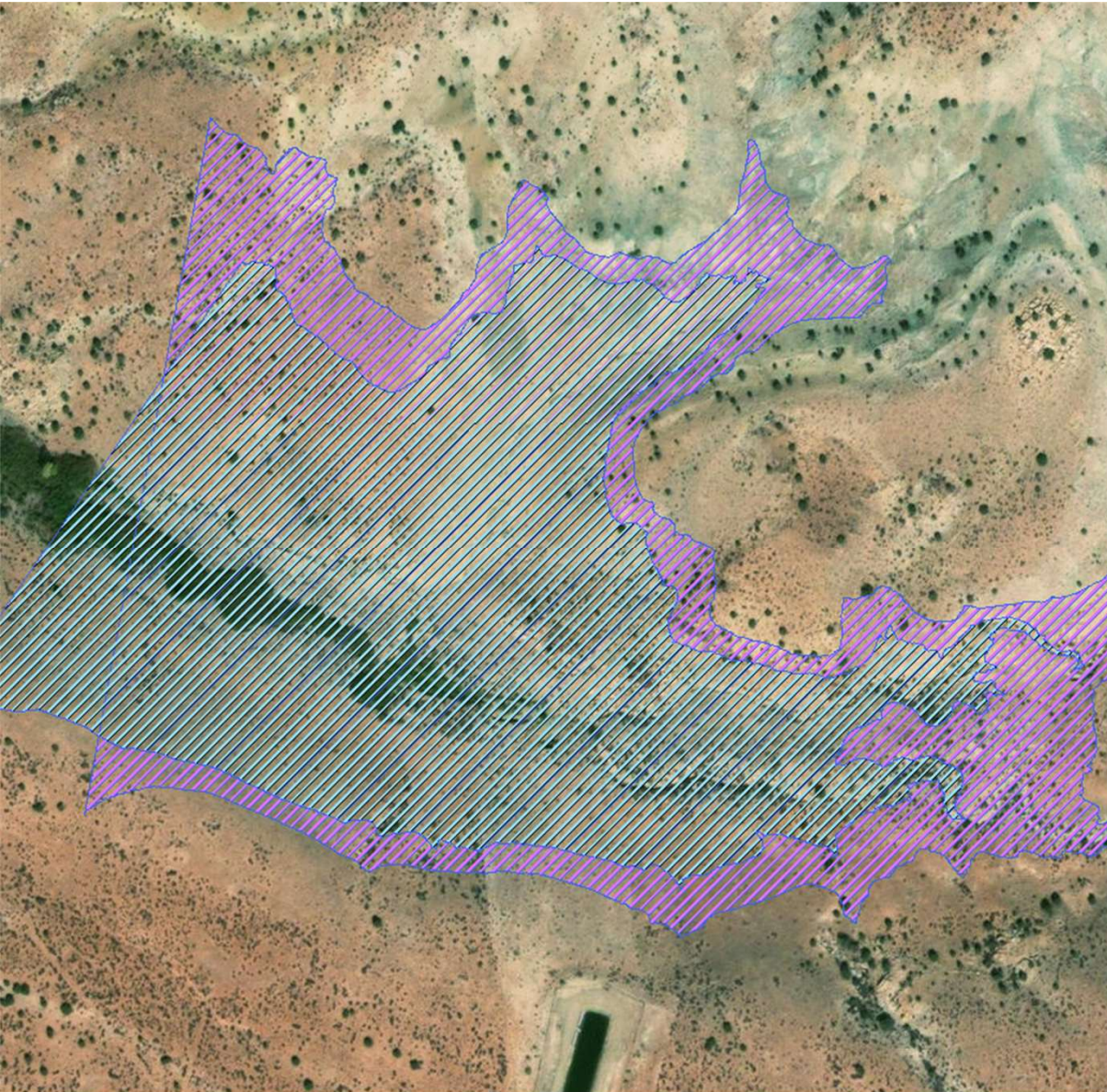


Celebrating the First
Two of Ten Micro-Hydro
Units that will Power
Farm Headquarters,
Corn Mill and Pivots
And
1st Irrigation of one of
the 99 Center Pivots
Fallowed by Drought

Colorado DNR Director
Dan Gibbs, Chairman
Manuel Heart, Ag
Commissioner Kate
Greenberg, Tribal Farm
Manager Simon
Martinez.



- Colorado Department of Ag Energy Office Funded First Micro-Hydro Units (3 of 10 are completed).
- Bureau of Reclamation is Funding Fallowed Field Treatments and Detailed Monitoring of Production Response
- Irrigated Acres increased from 800 acres in 2021 to 5,000 acres by end of 2022



Holding Reservoir at the End of Towaoc Canal ~1000AF

- Winter Water Supply for Cattle.
- Water to be Carried Over in Shortage Years to Supplement Irrigation Allocation.
- Canal Ends at bottom center of image.

Funding Strategies, Successes and Biggest Challenge

- The Tribe is receiving funding support from a combination of Federal, State and NGO Partners:
- End of Canal Holding Reservoir and Newly Irrigated Lands from 1,600AF 1868 San Juan River Ag Water Right Pursued in Partnership with Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA) working with the CWCB Capacity Building Program, Ultimately Utilizing P.L. 566 Funding.
- Continued Micro-Hydro Development - Colo. Dept. Ag Energy Office
- Funds for Fallowed Fields Treatments and Sectionalizing Valves – USBR
- Funds to Replace and Re-Nozzle 25-Year-Old Center Pivots – NRCS
- Funds to Form a Tribal Water Resources Department – Walton Family Foundation, TNC, New Venture Fund
- Biggest Challenge – Meeting Match Requirements. Tribes Need Flexibility in the form of Match Requirement Waivers and/or Leveraging of Multiple Sources.

Thank you for your attention

I would be happy to take
questions and input

We ask our Creator
to Bring Back the
Rain and Snow



