

Navigating Shortage

Wolcott Ranches
Mancos, Colorado



Less Water

- Decreased Water
- Decreased Forage Production
- Stressed Populations
- Reduced Herd Sizes



Water as the limiting resource

Knowing how much water is forecast is
only half the battle: having a plan in
place to act is essential.







Dynamic Watersheds

Active management plays a key roll in successful production.

Observations

- With less “moving parts” the system worked as expected.
 - Less water flowed for longer than it “should have”.
 - Rivers don’t always do what you would think.
- Once the river stops flowing, it takes more water to re-wet than expected.



Effective Management

- Mancos Watershed Stream Management Plan
- Can we better understand the timing and cycles of the river?
- Smart Meter Project - Seeing more at once
- Can we learn from what we don't yet understand and apply it to regular management?

Opportunity

- On our ranch, “navigating shortage” means being willing to try new practices that allow the ranch to stay economically profitable and ecologically beneficial.

