



Floating the Tough Years

AN AGILE RECREATION ECONOMY

Role of Water



- Colorado's thriving recreation economy
- Impact of drought, floods and fire
- Gold King Mine Spill
- Diverse recreational interests

Missionary Ridge Fire



- 2002 fire consumed 73,000 acres including 56 homes
- Skies were darkened and thick with smoke
- Tourism and outdoor recreation declined

Recreational In-channel Diversion



- 2007 water rights for boating
- Economic impacts of whitewater recreation is over \$19 million annually
- In-stream improvements assist with boating conditions during drought

Gold King Mine Spill



- 2015 event released 3 million gallons of toxic wastewater into Animas River watershed
- River closed to recreation in Durango
- Superfund site

Resilient Recreationalists



- Public education on safe boating practices
- Thrill seeking instead of fear

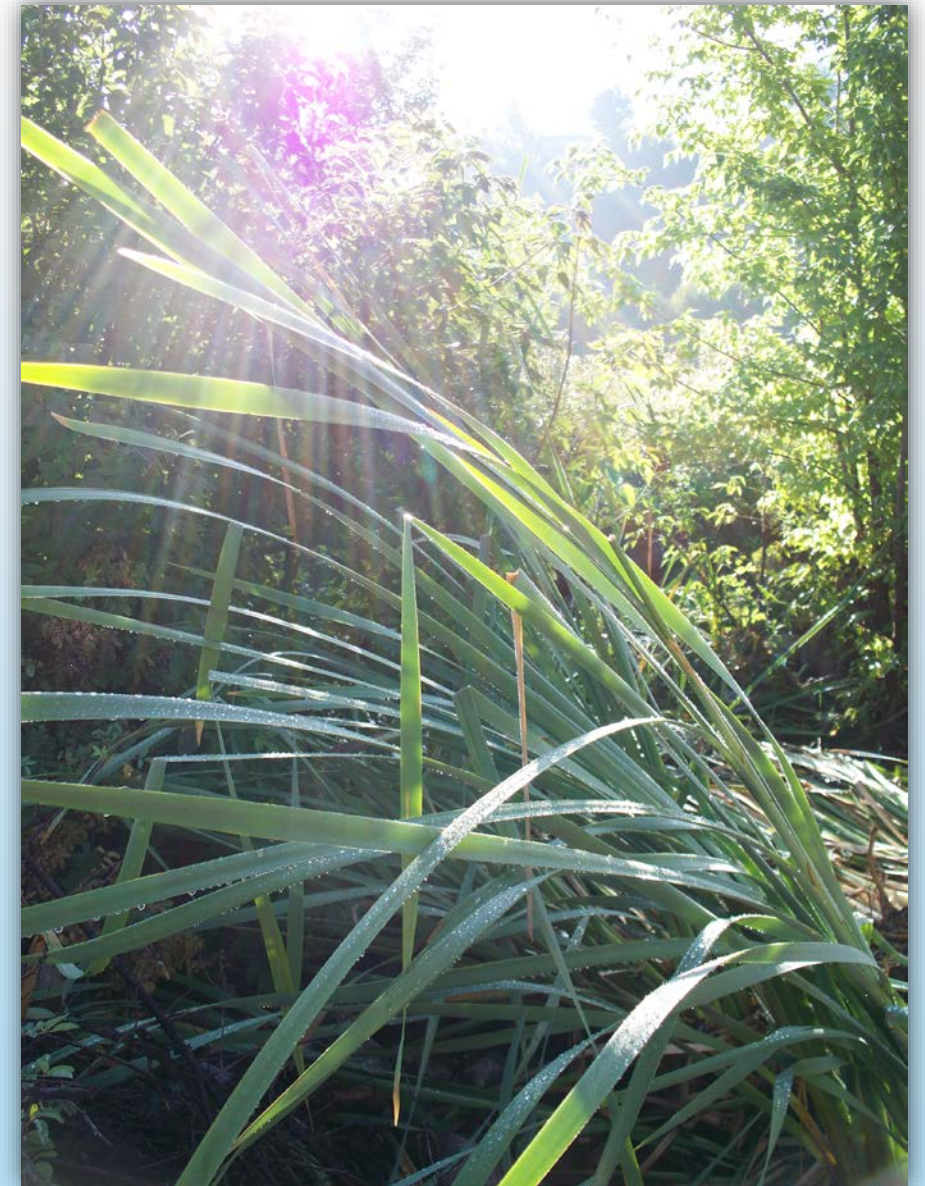
Gold Medal Waters

- Gold medal trout fishery in Durango
- Despite environmental challenges



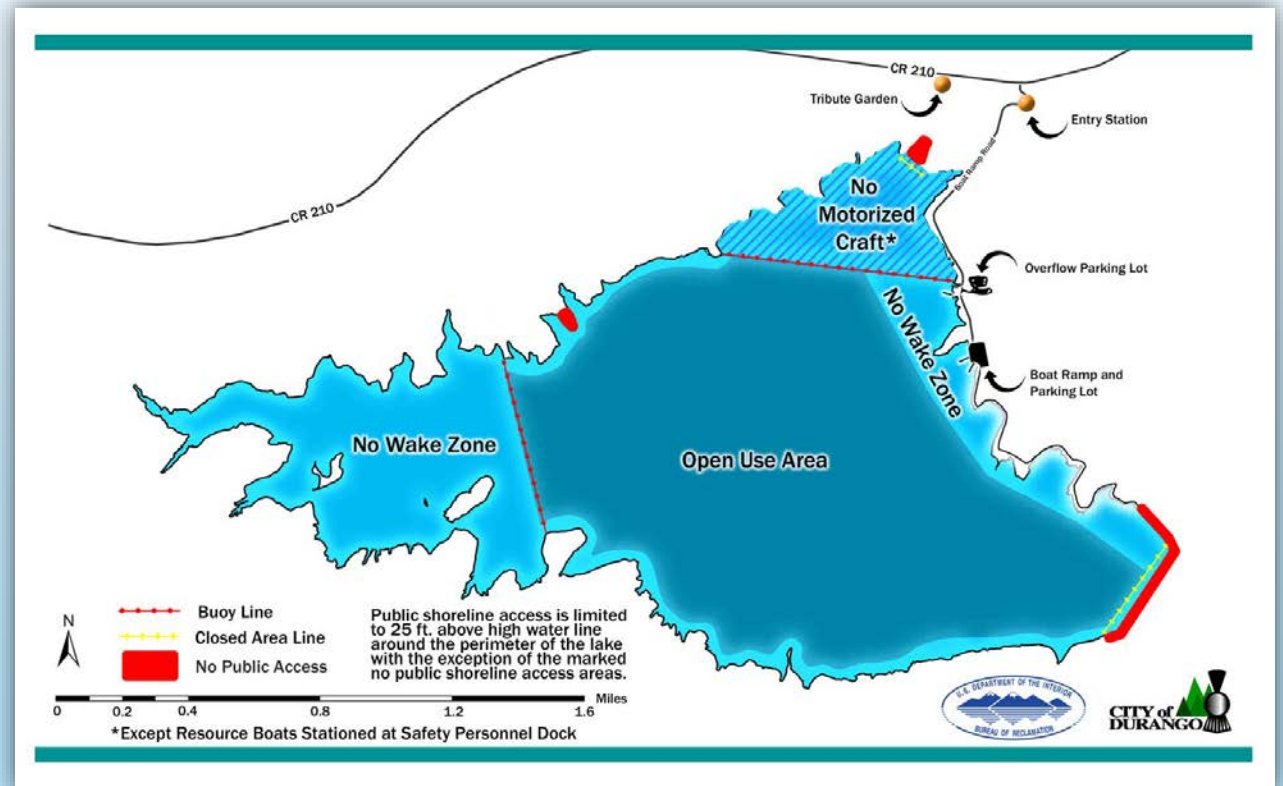
Riparian Habitat

- Cleanses the watershed
- Preservation of natural lands



Lake Nighthorse

- Over \$12 million annual economic impact
- Recreation challenges
- Diplomacy



New Recreation Opportunities

- Within 2 miles of downtown Durango
- Open to the public April 1, 2018



Thank You

- QUESTIONS?

