



*To promote long-term sustainable use and protection of the Mancos River Watershed. We provide educational, financial and technical assistance to meet these conservation goals.*

October 18, 2024

To the Southwest Basin Roundtable,

Please accept my application as an At-Large Representative for the Southwest Basin Roundtable. My past and current experience, dedication, and passion reflect a deep commitment to enhancing water and natural resources in Montezuma County and, I believe, would make me a strong asset for the Southwest Basin Roundtable.

I grew up in Minnesota and have lived and worked on natural resources issues in Southwest Colorado for the past nine years. My educational background focuses on forest ecology and natural resource management, gaining a Master's in Geography from the University of Minnesota studying the effects of beetle outbreaks on Western forests. I currently live in Mancos and do not own water rights or a share in a ditch or reservoir company.

For five years (2018-2023), I coordinated the Dolores Watersheds Collaborative. During that time, I played a major role in securing significant national and state funding for forestry and wildfire resilience throughout Southwest Colorado, including through the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative, the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, and other programs. Through those collaborative efforts, I worked to incorporate local needs and priorities to improve water and forest resources, strengthen recreation, and enhance community safety through on-the-ground project work. Developing partnerships with local organizations and contractors, I led the creation of a private lands forestry program in Montezuma County, filling an important gap in forest resilience and wildfire risk reduction for our communities. I have invested heavily in advancing local understanding of relationships between forest management and water resources, including initiating snowtopography in our area, which monitors the relationships between altered forest structure through management and snow/soil moisture. I am experienced working with a wide range of land and water managers, public officials, organizations, landowners, and industry to advance the interests and needs of Southwest Colorado and, in particular, Montezuma County.

In January 2024, I became the Executive Director for the Mancos Conservation District (MCD) and continue to advance local natural resource priorities and relationships, focusing on the Mancos River Watershed. I am excited to be building on a decade of successful watershed planning and projects that support agricultural producers, ecosystems, and communities. The MCD is finishing a Stream Management Plan for the Mancos River Watershed and am driven to continue implementing community-identified watershed and water management enhancement projects. The MCD has a diversity of funding for project implementation and this does include contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation.

I am passionate about and believe in MCD's approach to watershed management that incorporates and balances agricultural, ecological, and community priorities. I believe there is strong opportunity to advance regional water interests through collaborative dialogue, prioritization, and decision making and believe my skillset and experience with natural resource management will make a me an asset to the Southwest Basin Roundtable. Thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danny Margoles'.

Danny Margoles  
Executive Director, Mancos Conservation District

Gretchen Rank  
15535 Road 35  
Mancos, CO 81328

10/10/2024

To the Southwest Basin Roundtable,

I am thrilled to offer a letter of support for Danny Margoles as an At-Large Representative for the Southwest Basin Roundtable. His past and current experience, dedication, and passion reflect a deep commitment to enhancing water and natural resources in Montezuma County for future generations.

I have worked with Danny since 2018, during his time as the Coordinator for the Dolores Watersheds Collaborative (DWC). During this time he played a major role in securing significant national funding for forestry and wildfire resilience work in Southwest Colorado. Through collaborations like the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative and the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, he has facilitated integral planning and on-the-ground projects that improve water and forest resources, strengthen recreation opportunities, and work toward enhancing community safety. Danny excels in coordinating and collaborating with natural resource land managers focusing on incorporating local interests and expertise. Under his leadership, Montezuma County partnerships have established a private lands forestry initiative, to minimize wildfire risks to vital water resources and infrastructure through best management practices and cost-share programs.

Danny transitioned to the Executive Director of the Mancos Conservation District (MCD) in early 2024 and has continued to champion programs that promote collaborative discussions to address local environmental and community challenges. Danny has also taken a deeper dive into the world of Colorado water and its role in natural resource conservation for Mancos and surrounding communities.

In his new capacity as Executive Director of the MCD, Danny continues to advocate for the sustainable management and preservation of the Mancos River Watershed. The MCD is finalizing a comprehensive Stream Management Plan for the Mancos River Watershed, aligning with community aspirations for a resilient ecosystem and water management. Danny's exceptional background and knowledge will build on a decade of successful community-driven planning and project execution, addressing agricultural, ecological, and local needs.

The MCD has set a high standard in watershed management that balances agricultural, ecological, and community priorities. Danny's qualifications, abilities, and empathetic approach to every situation were an obvious choice for MCD's next generation of leadership. These qualities will undoubtedly enrich the Southwest Basin Roundtable as well. Thank you for considering his application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gretchen Rank".

Gretchen Rank, Former MCD Executive Director, and SWBRT At-Large Member

Michael Preston, Water Resources Consultant  
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe  
[mpreston833@outlook.com](mailto:mpreston833@outlook.com) Cell: 970-739-4181

To the Southwest Basin Roundtable,

I am pleased to express my support for Danny Margoles' participation on the Southwest Basin Roundtable as an At-Large Representative. I support his application because of his ongoing efforts to strengthen water and natural resources in Montezuma County, his role leading programs as the Executive Director of the Mancos Conservation District (MCD), and his demonstrated commitment multi-party dialogue to meet local natural resource and community needs.

I have known and worked with Danny since 2018, when he was the Coordinator for the Dolores Watersheds Collaborative (DWC). Throughout Danny's tenure at DWC, I served on the group's Coordinating Committee. Danny was instrumental in bringing national-level funding opportunities to Southwest Colorado through the Rocky Mountain Restoration Initiative and Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program for on-the-ground work that enhances water and forest resources, recreation, and community protection. Danny is committed to natural resource management that broadly serves local needs and interests and is experienced at bringing diverse stakeholders together, including agricultural producers, land managers, industry, conservation groups, and local communities. Danny is well versed and focused on science-based management, and coordinated and enabled the development of snowtopography monitoring in SW CO that will help identify important links between snowpack and forest management for water and land managers.

As the Executive Director of the Mancos Conservation District, Danny promotes the long-term sustainable use and protection of the Mancos River Watershed through educational, financial, and technical assistance. The MCD is a leader in community-based planning and project implementation that meets agricultural, ecological, and local needs. With his support and guidance, the MCD developed a private lands forestry program in Montezuma County that reduces wildfire risk to water resources, critical infrastructure, and communities through forest thinning. The MCD is currently finalizing a Stream Management Plan for the Mancos River Watershed that comprehensively reflects community interests for a resilient watershed. With the MCD, Danny is continuing and building on a decade of successful watershed project implementation that includes diversion upgrades that support fisheries and metering.

Danny and the MCD have been a leaders watershed management that meets agricultural, ecological, and community needs, and Danny's active participation will be a benefit to the SWBRT. Thank you for his consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Preston