

Molly Burkesmith
Iffy Effluent

The question is “would the nitrogen levels decrease in the San Juan River if a new water sewage pipeline was built in Pagosa Springs that would lead sewage from downtown to PAWSD (Pagosa Area Water and Sanitation District)?”

The goal of this project is to determine how much the nitrogen and ammonia levels will go down in the San Juan River if a new sewage pipeline was to be built to uptown; and to help influence PAWSD decision if they should build a pipeline to uptown or not.

A brief procedure is as follows. Each day, for three days, at 6:30 am, 12:30 pm, and 6:30 pm gather river water from upstream, effluent, and downstream. While at the effluent test the flow of it following directions in procedure. When back at the lab test the nitrate and ammonia levels of the water following directions in nitrate test kit and ammonia test kit accordingly. Data was taken and recorded. Results show that the river dilutes the effluent so greatly that even over a year the nitrate or ammonia levels do not show greatly downstream.