Little Snake River Watershed tributary to the Yampa, Green, and Colorado Rivers.

- Elevation ranges from 6,000 to 10,000 feet.
- Precipitation ranges from 7 to 55 inches.
- Predominant land use are rangeland agriculture, recreation, and more recently fluid minerals (oil & gas).
- Predominant water use in order of magnitude:
  1. Irrigated agriculture for hay production on 20,000 acres (est. 50,000 ac ft. consumptive use).
  2. Municipal water use via trans-basin diversion (20,000 ac ft).
  3. Environmental & recreational (fisheries & wetlands).
  4. Livestock water (pond, pits, springs, pipelines).
John C. Fremont (1844) on travels through the Little Snake Watershed
“ The country here appeared more variously stocked with game than any part of the Rocky Mountains we had visited: and its abundance is owing to the excellent pasturage and its dangerous character as a war ground”.
By the 1900’s over 300,000 sheep were grazing in the summer mountain ranges, today’s Route – Medicine Bow National Forest.

First territorial irrigation water rights were filed March 1875.

1872 Noah Reader trails first cattle into the Little Snake River Valley.

1873 George Baggs trails cattle from Texas into the valley near the present town that bears his name.
McKinney Creek, 1988 and 2005 below
Muddy Creek @ Doty Mountain 1989 and 2005
Doty Mountain Muddy Creek 1989 and 2005
Creek Wetlands Project began in 1993.
1998 Duck Pond #4 Constructed.
Muddy Creek Wetlands
(Where Deer and Antelope Play)
(Where Pintails, Pronghorns, and Pelicans Play)
Loss of high value Aspen habitat to conifer encroachment.