It was originally thought that a single owner had 100 percent ownership of the Red Mountain Ditch water rights. This past summer it was revealed that Ouray County owns an interest in the water rights. A purchase or lease agreement will need to be reached between the city and the county before moving forward. Both sides are confident that an agreement will be reached. The permit issued by USFS technically belongs to the current owner even though the City of Ouray will be doing the rehabilitation work. According to city staff, even if a deal is reached immediately, work would not be able to begin until next spring. With the onset of winter looming, it's too late in the year to get started.