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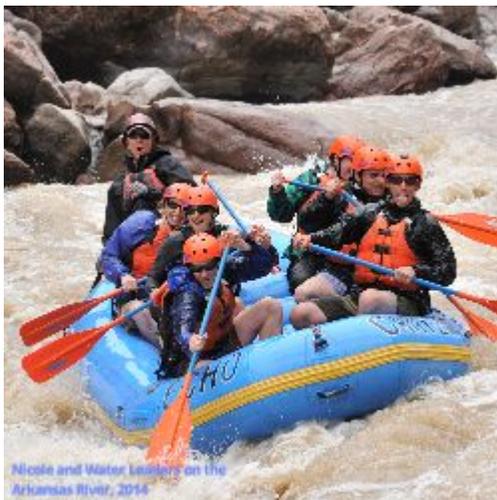
Colorado Stream Mgt. Plan News

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Big Water and Forward Progress



I love big water years! They're a lot of fun, but more importantly they give us all a respite from the low flow, high conflict times of drought. I know all about the dangers of the **hydro-illogical cycle**, but that doesn't mean we can't wish every water year was this great. It just means we need to not become complacent.

And there is no complacency in the world of Stream Management Plans, as you'll see

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agricultural landscapes that brought together **national leaders** in this space to share their work. In Colorado, I've been working with stakeholder groups lead by farmers and ranchers to understand how SMPs can help them meet their goals. Stay tuned for a series of videos and articles on that topic this fall!

Also this fall, River Network will be kicking off expanded efforts to connect SMP practitioners with best practices and each other. Webinars, workshops, tours and written guidance are all in the works.

Of course, none of this matters nearly so much as the individual efforts being made by the twenty recently completed or in-process SMPs across Colorado. There are hundreds of committed volunteers and professionals working to understand the intersection between people and rivers, and the results of that are just starting to become clear.

As always, I want to hear from you on the good ideas and forward progress being made. Feel free to drop me a line, or invite me to visit your favorite river!

Nicole Seltzer



The Yampa Valley Sustainability Council leads volunteer-driven efforts to shade the Yampa River. The City of Steamboat Springs' recently completed SMP suggested more of this work for both water quality and fish habitat benefits.

Announcing Coloradosmp.org

Twenty communities are creating or implementing Stream Management Plans in Colorado

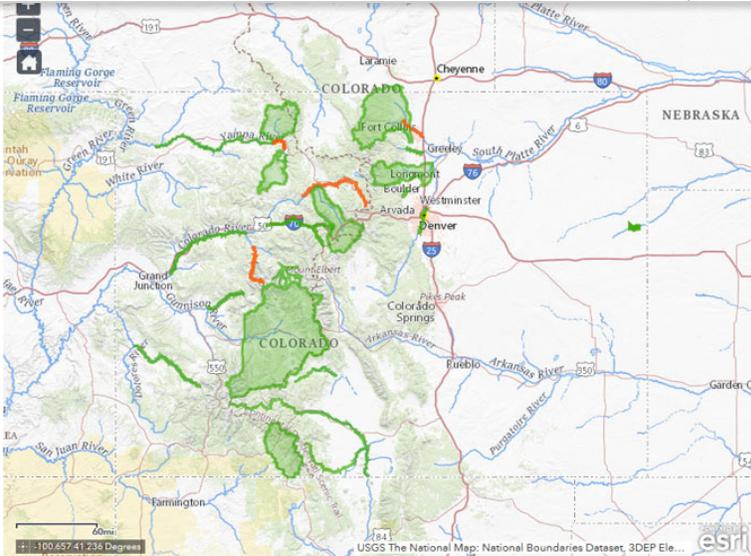
Learn about the plans and the basics of stream management planning at this new online guide.




COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
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Arkansas River Basin

Colorado River Basin

Blue River

Crystal River

Eagle River

Middle Colorado River (Glenwood Springs to De Beque)

San Juan/Dolores River Basin

San Miguel River

Upper San Juan River

South Platte River Basin

Big Thompson River

Cache la Poudre River (Fort Collins)

SMP Resource Guide: New Content Coming Soon!

River Network and CWCB are continuing to build the content on the Resource Guide for developing Stream Management Plans! [Coloradosmp.org](https://coloradosmp.org) currently features a "101" on SMPs to answer basic questions, a [new interactive map](#) and fact sheets on all SMP projects, including those approved in 2019. Coming soon are examples, best practices, and methods to consider to help you develop thorough and rigorous scopes of work, learn from the examples of others, and connect with experts for guidance.

SMPs in Action!

- To help agricultural stakeholders better participate in local stream management plans, the Ag Water NetWORK is holding local trainings. [Contact Phil Brink](#) if you are interested in developing prospective ag-oriented coordinators and volunteers who want to lead and / or actively represent agriculture's interests while engaging with other water stakeholders in local watershed and stream management planning. While you're there, review the recently released [Survey of Colorado Agricultural Producers on Watershed Management Planning](#).
- The Yampa Integrated Water Management Plan is currently [accepting proposals](#) for a Diversion Infrastructure Assessment to identify locations

- The **Big Thompson River Envisioning Project** is soliciting **proposals** for a strategic project design and implementation plan to guide future projects for the long-term benefit of the environment, communities, and water use needs for a section of Big Thompson River.
- In May, scientists working on the **Middle Colorado IWMP** joined Joe Keys, the owner of JetBoat Colorado, who donated his time and jet boat to inspect the river up close and fast! The team inspected a long stretch of river that is otherwise relatively inaccessible because of the distance between public launches. They are also holding a river float from Silt to Rifle in August for anyone who has participated in the IWMP Advisory Committee or any of its Focus Groups.
- In June, the Rio Grande and Conejos SMP held **five community meetings** and had a good turnout at each event. They also created a **Story Map** to explain the project.
- The Blue River Integrated Water Management Plan has **released a stakeholder survey** and will hold its first Advisory Committee meeting in Summit County on August 12th.
- The **Eagle River Community Water Plan** has begun holding monthly meetings for key stakeholders with an added educational component. In July they focused on the impacts of climate change on recreation and the economy, with an emphasis on water/rivers. More to come on Drought Contingency Planning and a bus tour of the watershed to understand the plumbing. They've also designed a community engagement kit to be used by any partner during outreach events to gather input on community members' priority uses of the river and their perceived impacts to the river, which will provide a sense of whether the priorities set in the plan align with broader community values.
- Have an update you'd like to share? **Let Nicole Seltzer know**

News & Learning Opportunities

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released a couple of tools including a [Flow Tool](#) that can help evaluate potential risks to flows and key species.

Heading to the Colorado Nine Roundtables (C-9) Summit? If so, [sign-up for one of the three pre-summit tour options in Winter Park when you register](#). Each watershed health-focused tour runs from 1-4 on September 25th with options for biking, hiking or fishing. Tours include: 1) a chance to learn about research in Winter Park's Experimental Forest, 2) exploring the Headwaters Center's new interactive exhibit for youth, or 3) a first-hand look at the landmark stream enhancements made at Fraser Flats which built on collaborative planning efforts!

Colorado Parks and Wildlife [applications for wetland and riparian restoration, enhancement, and creation](#) are due August 9th. This \$1.3million grant supports projects that improve the distribution and abundance of ducks and opportunities for public waterfowl hunting, or improve the status of declining or at-risk species.

Calling all SMP leads! River Network is hosting its annual workshop for those who are or recently have been working on SMPs/IWMPs in Colorado. We'll spend Monday, Oct 7th in Avon discussing the latest on SMP/IWMP best practices, ways to better involve agricultural producers and riparian landowners, and the pros and cons of different approaches for assessment of hydrology, ecological condition, recreation and irrigation infrastructure. Attendance is for those leading the design or implementation of SMPs/IWMPs. Contact [Nicole Seltzer](#) for information.

The 2019 [Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference](#) has opened registration for its October 8-10, 2019 conference in Avon. A draft agenda is now available.

RiversEdge West's [Riparian Restoration Conference](#) in Grand Junction will be February 4-6, 2020 in partnership with the Hutchin's Water Center at Colorado Mesa University. RiversEdge West is accepting abstracts for full session ideas as well as individual presentations. Abstracts are due October 31, 2019. [View the call for abstracts flyer for more information](#).

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 Project Needs Funding
  Fully Funded Project

Get Your 2019 Project Funded

Would you like the opportunity to share your restoration projects with businesses who may be interested in providing support for your projects? If the answer is “Yes!” be sure to check out the [Business for Water Stewardship Project Bank](#), a new opportunity for **paid members** of River Network to use a national platform to attract funding.



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