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Lefthand Watershed Center staff monitoring beaver dam analogs on Lefthand Creek

# Colorado Stream Mgt. Plan Updates

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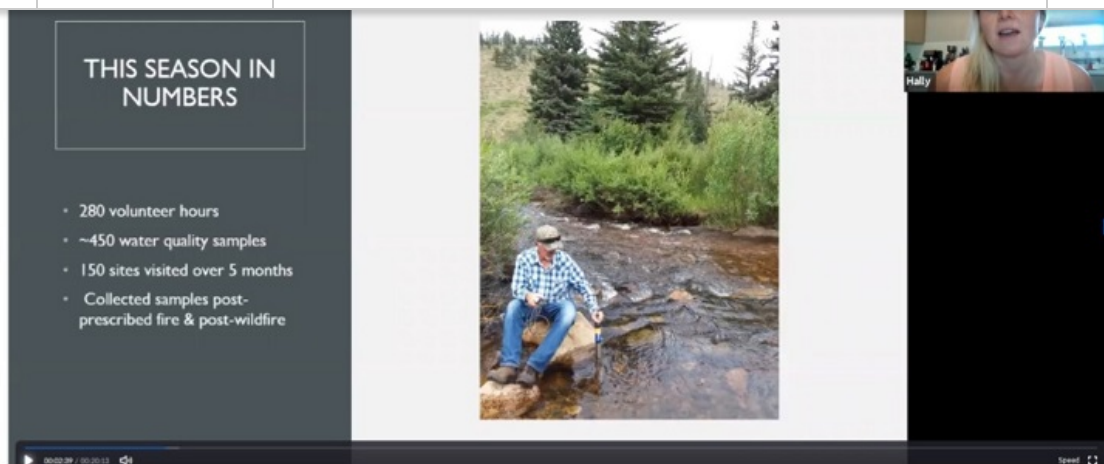
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## Ask A Practitioner Interview: Citizen Science

River Network is committed to connecting you to your peers to share their winning approaches. This month, Hally Strevey, Watershed Program Manager with Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed sat down with us for a **20-minute interview** to talk about the ins and outs of their volunteer citizen science program. Hally has successfully recruited 15 volunteers who visited 150 sites to collect over 450 water samples last season. Listen in as she shares what has made the program so successful and gives advice for how to keep volunteers engaged over a long period of time.

Do you have an approach, strategy or project that you think the SMP community should know about? **Drop us a line!**

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## June 18th SMP Peer Learning Call

In lieu of a field trip this summer, we will host additional peer calls to keep you connected to best practices and new ideas.

Join us on Thursday, June 18th from 10-11:30am  
to discuss

### Planning in a Pandemic

Learn from your peers how to hold efficient and successful virtual meetings, and how SMPs are adapting their stakeholder and field work assessments.

**REGISTER HERE**

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## staff!



Andrea Harbin Monahan is the newest member of the Watershed and Flood Protection Section of the CWCB. She has a Bachelor's degree in Economics from Beloit College and a Master's degree in Watershed Science from Colorado State University. Prior to joining the CWCB, Andrea was in the private sector working on a variety of projects, including TMDL development, watershed plans, and point-source permitting, among other things. Andrea is

very excited about her transition to the CWCB and is looking forward to working with others to successfully implement SMPs and bring Colorado's Water Plan to life. In her new role, she will be assisting in implementing a variety of the CWCB's programs, using her expertise to ensure that projects will be successful and that they are consistent with Colorado's Water Plan. Welcome, Andrea, to the Colorado watershed community!

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## New Resources & Learning Opportunities

Join American Rivers for a two-part miniseries of their podcast series 'We Are Rivers.' The **first episode** features Nicole Seltzer of River Network, Holly Loff of Eagle River Watershed Council, and Chelsea Congdon-Brundige, a watershed consultant on the Crystal River. Episode two will air in June.



Water Education Colorado is sending a new weekly "Six Feet in Solidarity" email. Through this series they're sharing online resources and opportunities to build your water knowledge around different topics for as long as social distancing lasts. **Week 2 focused on Stream Management Plans.**

The Colorado Water Conservation Board is holding four **Colorado Water Plan**

Join the CO Ag Water Alliance to discuss grants and opportunities to fund infrastructure projects. **This program** will feature the Middle Colorado IWMP's Ditch Inventory. June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 1-4pm

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## SMPs In Action

The Lefthand Watershed Center is exploring ways to balance the needs of water users and fish in their Fish Passage and Feasibility Study project. This past year they studied current and potential fish populations throughout Left Hand Creek and assessed all potential barriers. Moving forward they are identifying options for restoring and improving fish passage while meeting the needs of water owners. They are asking local stakeholders to take **this survey**.

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In the past few months, the Blue River IWMP has:

- Worked with the Town of Silverthorne to begin a basic water quality sampling program to inform its stormwater masterplan update;
  - Began macroinvertebrate sampling at ten locations;
  - Launched two online surveys targeted the **general community** and **anglers**.
  - TU's abandoned mines team is developing an inventory of projects over the past decade to inform future mine reclamation efforts;
  - TU and the Blue River Watershed Group are reaching out to agricultural landowners to identify water uses and infrastructure needs.
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The Gunnison Water Management Plan is finalizing the **Phase 1 assessment reports** (East River, Ohio Creek, Lake Fork) and will start reaching out to stakeholders to develop sub-basin action plans. Phase 2 has started, beginning with data-mining and stakeholder interviews for the Taylor River, Gunnison Mainstem, Tomichi Creek, and Cebolla Creek. The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District will host several surveys on its website to help gain insight into key community values.

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The Yampa River Fund, a newly established community-based fund dedicated to protecting the water supply, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities provided by the Yampa River, **granted its first round of funding**. \$30,000 went to the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council to implement a riparian corridor planting project that was identified in the Yampa River Health Assessment & Streamflow Management Plan. The funds will be used for critical irrigation infrastructure to support Yampa River forest restoration efforts.

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The Middle Colorado Watershed Council, with the BLM, is soliciting proposals for engineering design for a fish barrier on Roan Creek. The upper portion of Roan Creek

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downstream. This project is one of many high importance fish passage/barrier projects identified by the Middle Colorado IWMP. Contact **Laurie Rink** for a copy of the solicitation.

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Congratulations to two SMP leaders that received **USBR Cooperative Watershed Management grants!** The Big Thompson Watershed Coalition received \$62k and the Lefthand Watershed Center received \$100k to support their stream health planning processes.

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The **Upper Roaring Fork River Management Plan**, released in 2018, provides an assessment of existing conditions and a decision-making framework for improving or maintaining the ecological health of the upper Roaring Fork River and its tributaries while reflecting local values and priorities and the administrative and legal realities governing the use of water in Colorado.

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RESTORE Colorado, a partnership among National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Great Outdoors Colorado, the Gates Family Foundation, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado Water Conservation Board has announced **its first grant awards**. Over \$2.7million was awarded to 11 grantees, some of which are river-focused.



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