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Colorado Stream Mgt. Plan News

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NEW! SMP Nuts & Bolts Content

Just like individuals, each Stream Management Plan is unique. The people involved and location greatly influence its goals and activities. But there is also a blueprint that is common between them. The newest content at CWCB and River Network's **SMP Resource Library** outlines a general approach for SMPs. For each step in the planning process, it presents examples, best practices, online resources, and methods to consider.



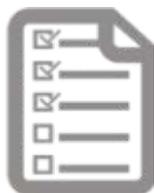
If you are just **Getting Started**, explore the difference between SMPs and IWMPs or begin a review of sources of existing data.



If you'd like ideas on how to successfully **Engage Stakeholders**, take a look at ways to gather input from the broader community, or approaches for engaging agricultural interests.



If you are **Defining the Purpose and Scope**, read about best practice in hiring a technical consultant including standards sections in an RFP, or explore SMPs at the basin, sub-basin and reach scales.



If you are **Assessing Conditions**, visit this section for a wealth of information on selecting an assessment framework and the data sources and approaches you can consider for everything from analyzing hydrology to evaluating consumptive water uses.

SMP Workshop Gathers Practitioners

In October 2019, River Network gathered 30 stream/integrated water management plan leaders before the Sustaining Colorado Watersheds Conference. The group spent the day discussing:

- creative funding sources
- how to gather meaningful community input
- strategies for engaging/communicating with agricultural procurers
- pros and cons of flow assessment methodologies
- determining what baseline should be used for comparison for watershed data
- approaches/considerations for irrigation infrastructure assessments



CAWA videos profile multi-benefit projects

The Colorado Ag Water Alliance (CAWA) has collaborated to produce a video series showcasing how farmers, ranchers, ditch companies, conservancy districts, environmental groups and other entities have come together to improve river health, irrigation efficiency and environmental and recreational use of Colorado's limited water supplies.

The first video is the story of how different users united to restore Left Hand Creek in Boulder County after the 2013 flood. It shows how working together made the creek better for all users, including improvements for irrigators.

To see a short video of the Left Hand Creek restoration project, a fact sheet on this project and other resources, visit <https://www.coagwater.org/stream-management>.

Additional videos will be launched soon!

ADVICE FROM PRACTITIONERS:

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You asked and we delivered! We've had requests for practical advice from SMP practitioners on different subjects. Starting with this issue, we will pass along recommendations and nuggets of advice from SMP leads, contractors, or consultants who specialize in a particular area of SMPs.

This month features a narrated presentation from Seth Mason, a hydrologist with Lotic Hydrological, on assessing flow in data-poor environments and choosing the

right approach for characterizing flow in your watershed. Often, existing data from USGS or Colorado DWR stream gauges are incomplete for a particular location, or output from StateMod models or other hydrological simulation models are inadequate or not well-suited for describing aspects of flow behavior for that particular location. This situation can limit your ability to characterize environmental or recreational flow needs, gaps, or possible outcomes of management actions. In his **narrated presentation**, Seth presents some options for dealing with these data quantity or quality issues.

For more information on this topic, visit **[SMP Nuts and Bolts: Assessing Flow Regime](#)**

SMPs in Action!

- The Yampa IWMP recently released a **radio spot** featuring Advisory Committee members. Get more ideas for communicating with the public at the **[SMP Resource Library](#)**!
- The Blue River Integrated Water Management Advisory Committee has an **open RFP for an aquatic conditions assessment** to analyze environmental factors that may be influencing the declining fishery of the Blue River reach between Dillon and Green Mountain Reservoirs. Due by November 26, 2019. Learn more about assessing Aquatic Biota at the **[SMP Resource Library](#)**!

and Streamflow Management Plan in 2018.

- The Eagle River Community Water Plan is defining user preferences for the streamflows that support recreational opportunities in the Eagle River watershed with a [community survey](#). The input will help identify the full range of flows necessary to support activities like kayaking, rafting, float-fishing, tubing, and stand-up paddle boarding for novice, intermediate, and expert users alike. You can see more approaches at the [SMP Resource Library](#)!
- Have an update you'd like to share? [Let Nicole Seltzer know](#).

Learning Opportunities

SMP Practitioner Peer Call/Webinar

Are you involved in an SMP? River Network is building upon the annual workshop by starting regular peer calls/webinars. The first one will be on **December 13 from 10 – 11:30 a.m.** We'll focus on three items:

- 1) Hearing from attendees what their biggest challenge is
- 2) Discussing methods of summarizing and prioritizing existing data and determining what is relevant, and
- 3) Using an assessment framework to know if you have enough data to characterize conditions and recommend projects or solutions.

Attendance is for those leading the design or implementation of SMPs/IWMPs. Contact [Nicole Seltzer](#) for information.

CAWA Ag Water Summit

On December 2-3 in Loveland, join the Colorado Ag Water Alliance as they explore progress implementing Colorado's Water Plan. **Topics to be covered** include "What do Producers Think of Stream and Watershed Planning?" with Phil Brink from the Colorado Cattlemen's Ag Water NetWORK and "Healthy Rivers & Streams & Ag" with a panel of SMP Practitioners.

CWC workshop on SMPs

On Wednesday, Jan 29th, join your SMP peers for a pre-conference workshop at [Colorado](#)

Ag Water Network articles

Colorado Cattleman's Association's Ag Water NetWORK has produced a **series of articles** on what agricultural producers think about watershed planning, and the best ways to engage them. Take a look!



📍 Project Needs Funding 📍 Fully Funded Project

Get Your 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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