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Colorado Stream Mgt. Plan News

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Final SMP Nuts & Bolts Content Now Live!

The final content at CWCB and River Network's [SMP Resource Library](#) is now available! Explore approaches and examples for [setting measurable objectives](#), [evaluating possible actions](#), and [adaptively managing your projects](#).

If you have an approach to share, or want to help improve the existing content, [give us a shout!](#)

SMP Grants in 2020

The Colorado Water Conservation Board approved seven Stream Management Plan grants in January 2020. These seven grants totaled over \$500,000 in grant funds to support \$1.05 million in total project funds.

New SMP Grants

- Purgatoire River (Purgatoire Watershed Partnership)
- Mancos River (Mancos Conservation District)

Grants Supporting Existing SMPs

- Upper Poudre River (Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed)
 - Eagle River (Eagle River Watershed Council)
 - Upper Colorado River (Learning By Doing)
 - South Boulder Creek (Colorado Trout Unlimited)
 - Upper San Juan River (Mountain Studies Institute)
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THE POWER OF OUR NETWORK



River Network is hiring in Colorado!

River Network is hiring a full-time position to support its efforts in Colorado and the West to educate and improve the practice of river conservation planning, expand engagement on environmental water transactions, and grow curiosity regarding how to achieve healthy rivers in agricultural landscapes. The position will support ongoing peer learning initiatives that aim to improve the practice of **environmental water transactions** in the Colorado River Basin, and **river health planning** in the state of Colorado. The work will include deploying a variety of training and education tools, including on-line content, practitioner surveys, in-person workshops, conference presentations and webinars aimed at improving the quality and quantity of environmental flows, river health, fisheries and riparian corridors.

[Learn more here](#)

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RESTORE Colorado is a new partnership among National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Great Outdoors Colorado, the Gates Family Foundation, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

Restoration and Stewardship of Outdoor Resources (RESTORE) Colorado funds at-scale habitat restoration, expansion and improvement projects across priority landscapes including:

- River corridors, riparian areas and wetlands
 - Eastern Colorado grasslands
 - Sagebrush
- Big game winter range and migration routes
- Forestland projects in specific geographies

Up to \$2.5million is available in 2020. Applications are due February 27th. **Read more about it!**

SMPs in Action!

- The Yampa IWMP issued an **RFP for a baseline environmental assessment** that is due February 10th. In addition Water Education Colorado followed the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council as it helped to implement one of the Yampa River Health Assessment and Streamflow Management Plan's recommendations to lower water temperature: tree planting. **Check out the great video!**
- Rio Grande, Conejos River, and Saguache Creek SMPs are currently finalizing goals and objectives as well as priority projects. Several restoration projects, identified in the Conejos SMP, are already being considered on the Conejos River mainstem. A new stream gage will be installed on Saguache Creek this spring to provide much needed surface water data.
- As part of its SMP, the Mancos Conservation District is developing a Riverwatch program at the Mancos High School. District staff are helping the chemistry class prepare materials, sample water from the Mancos River and perform several tests on the sample water. By bringing the Riverwatch program into Mancos High School the students get to see how chemistry is applicable in the real world, while also supporting data collection for the SMP.

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CWCB funding for the consumptive use portion of the plan. The funds will help with analysis of hydrology models and how they represent agricultural practices, as well as public outreach. The Middle Colorado Watershed Council has been awarded funds from the Colorado Nonpoint Source Pollution Program and Colorado Basin Roundtable to produce a River Recreation Guide to: 1) raise public awareness on the value of the river, 2) provide information on safe and responsible recreation practices, 3) inventory available recreational resources, opportunities and constraints, and 4) foster continued coordination among recreational interests.

- On South Boulder Creek, Phase I field work is completed, with a final report coming soon. Funding for Phase II is in the works, which includes final engineering design for low flow and fish passage on East Boulder Ditch.
- Have an update you'd like to share? [Let Nicole Seltzer know.](#)

Learning Opportunities

SMP Practitioner Peer Calls



Are you involved in an SMP? Join River Network's peer learning calls! December's call focused on summarizing and prioritizing existing data and using an assessment framework. Check out a **video segment from the call** featuring Seth Mason of Lotic Hydrological, Claudia Browne of BioHabitats and Daniel Boyes of the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Initiative.

Save the date for the second call, April 1 from 10-11:30. We'll discuss the ins and outs of the **setting objectives phase** including tips and tools for structuring meaningful stakeholder conversations.

Also stay tuned for peer-learning in the field! We're working on planning an early-summer workshop on the Front Range to highlight projects there. Details soon!

Attendance is for those leading the design or implementation of SMPs/IWMPs. Contact **Nicole Seltzer** for sign-up information.

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Join Molly Mugglestone of Business for Water Stewardship to learn about a new study that looks at the full economic impact of the state's rivers. You'll hear updated economic data on river related recreation in all nine of Colorado's river basins. This webinar will be helpful to local leaders, municipalities and water advocates looking to make the argument that healthy rivers are critical to healthy communities and that we must find ways to fully implement and fund the water plan.

Tuesday, March 3rd 12-1 PM [Register here](#)

Ditch & Reservoir Company Alliance

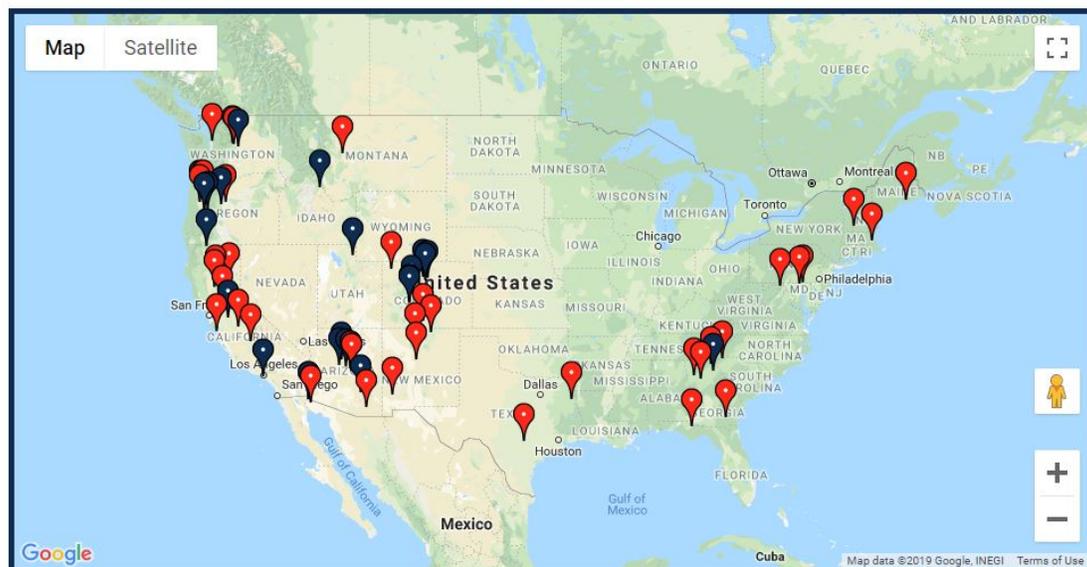
What is Water Worth? March 5-6th, Palisade. Featuring the panel "Is Stream Management Planning Important for Agriculture?" with Greg Peterson, Colorado Ag Water Alliance; Emma Reesor, Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project; Nicole Seltzer, River Network; Tom Alvey, Rogers Mesa Fruit Co. [Register here](#)

River Rally

From May 15-18 in San Antonio, Texas, join your SMP peers and other groups from across the country for information on working with farmers and ranchers, creating resilient communities, protecting drinking water and much more! [Information here](#)

Colorado Ag Water Alliance Videos and Funding Guide

The Colorado Ag Water Alliance has been busy! They **released additional videos** profiling multi-benefit projects, including the Mancos River, Rio Grande River and Middle Colorado. In addition, they recently released a **Guide to Colorado Water Funding** in partnership with the Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance.



 Project Needs Funding  Fully Funded Project

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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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