

Stream Management Plan Grantee Project Summary

Purgatoire River Stream Management Plan, Phase I

Geographic Description:
Arkansas Basin:
Purgatoire River Watershed

Size:
196 river miles

Project Homepage:
www.purgatoirepartners.org

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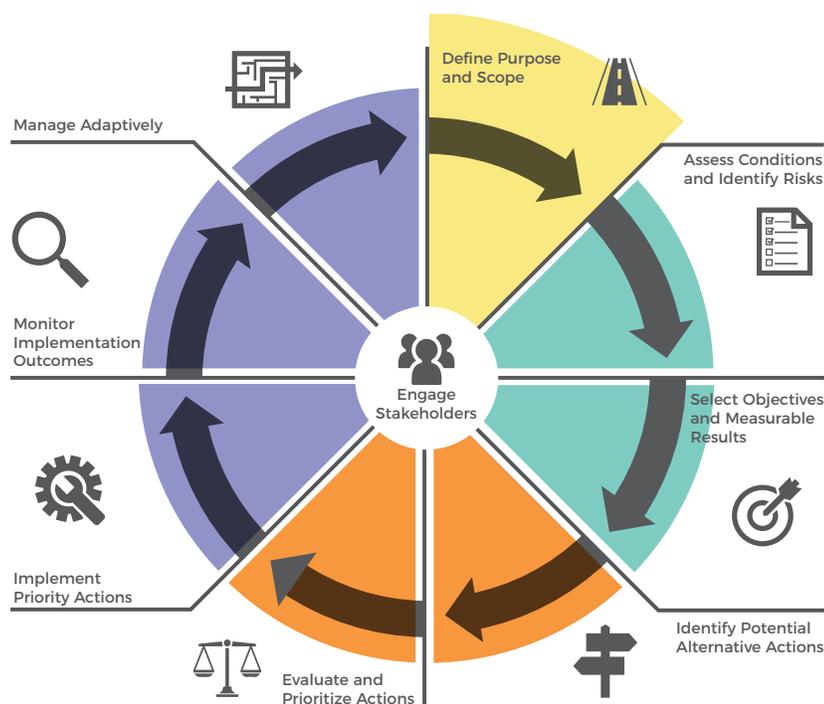
Project Timeline



Stakeholder Groups Involved in Planning Process

●	Agricultural producers
●	Riparian landowners
●	Aquatic and riparian science
●	Environmental advocacy
●	Utilities or other water management
●	Recreation & tourism
●	Local government & land use planners

Current Planning Phase



Project Goals

- Identify water user needs and priorities in the project area and help all stakeholders understand the various components associated with a given stretch of the river.
- Conduct an assessment of all relevant ecological, agricultural, municipal and recreational components associated with the project reaches to determine the current status and gaps in knowledge to be filled in Phase II.
- Determine the level of interest and commitment of stakeholders towards development of a comprehensive Stream Management Plan on the Purgatoire River (Phase II).
- If desired, develop a Phase III work plan.

Overview

Geography:

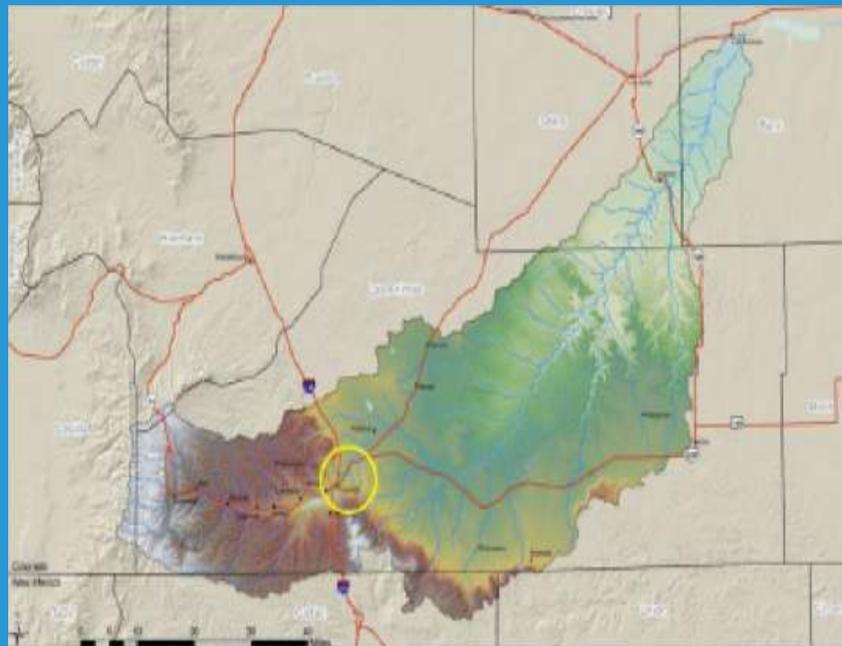
The project will focus on three sections of river: (1) a 4.5 mile-long representative urban river reach running through Trinidad in the Middle Watershed, (2) a representative rural agricultural reach across the Eastern Plains in the Lower Watershed, and (3) a representative high elevation rural agricultural reach in the Upper Watershed near the river headwaters. The exact location and length of the two rural sections will be determined by stakeholders.

Users:

Agriculture accounts for the bulk of water use along the river, however there has been an increase in recreational use over the last few years. In and around the town of Trinidad there is a large diversity of uses of the river, including municipal, industrial, agricultural and recreational.

Need for Planning:

With the growth in demands for recreational uses and the recent announcement of a new state park in the watershed, there is a need for a larger stakeholder planning effort that protects historical water uses, water rights, and ecological assets of the watershed. In addition, the recent wildfires and drought in the region are of concern to community members. It was determined that an SMP effort could be a good fit for addressing these issues.



Approach

The Purgatoire Watershed Partnership (PWP) is leading this effort in partnership with the Spanish Peaks Purgatoire River Conservation District (SPPRCD) and the Purgatoire Watershed Weed Management Collaborative (PWWMC) to determine the level of stakeholder interest, engagement, and commitment to developing a Stream Management Plan (SMP) on the Purgatoire River. Community stakeholders will play a critical role throughout the project. Work will be performed by PWP, SPPRCD, PWWMC, stakeholders and hired consultants to complete community outreach and assessments. Phase I of the SMP will be completed through the following tasks:

· **Stakeholder Identification & Engagement:**

Project partners will develop and implement a stakeholder engagement plan to: (1) identify water user needs and priorities, (2) help all stakeholders gain a better understanding of each other's perspectives, (3) help all stakeholders gain an understanding of the relationships between diverse variables that influence the river corridor's conditions such as water use, riparian vegetation, water quality and flow, and (4) determine the level of stakeholder interest in developing a comprehensive SMP.

· **Preliminary Status Assessments:**

A preliminary assessment of existing data on ecological, agricultural, municipal, and recreational variables to determine current status and determine gaps to be addressed in Phase II.

· **Workplan for Phase II:** Compile the status assessment recommendations into a workplan for Phase II that will: summarize the highlights of the current status and needs of the agricultural, recreational, municipal and ecological components of the project reaches; summarize stakeholder priorities and needs; and identify next steps, methods and costs for addressing the identified gaps and needs.



Budget

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match
CWCB Watershed Restoration Fund	\$61,460 cash
River Network	\$15,000 cash
Other cash contributions	\$15,750 cash
In-kind contributions	\$35,365 in-kind
Total	\$127,575



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