

Stream Management Plan Grantee Project Summary

Boulder Creek Watershed Plan

Geographic Description:
South Platte River Basin:
Boulder Creek Watershed

Size:
447 miles

Project Homepage:
boulderwatershedcollective.org

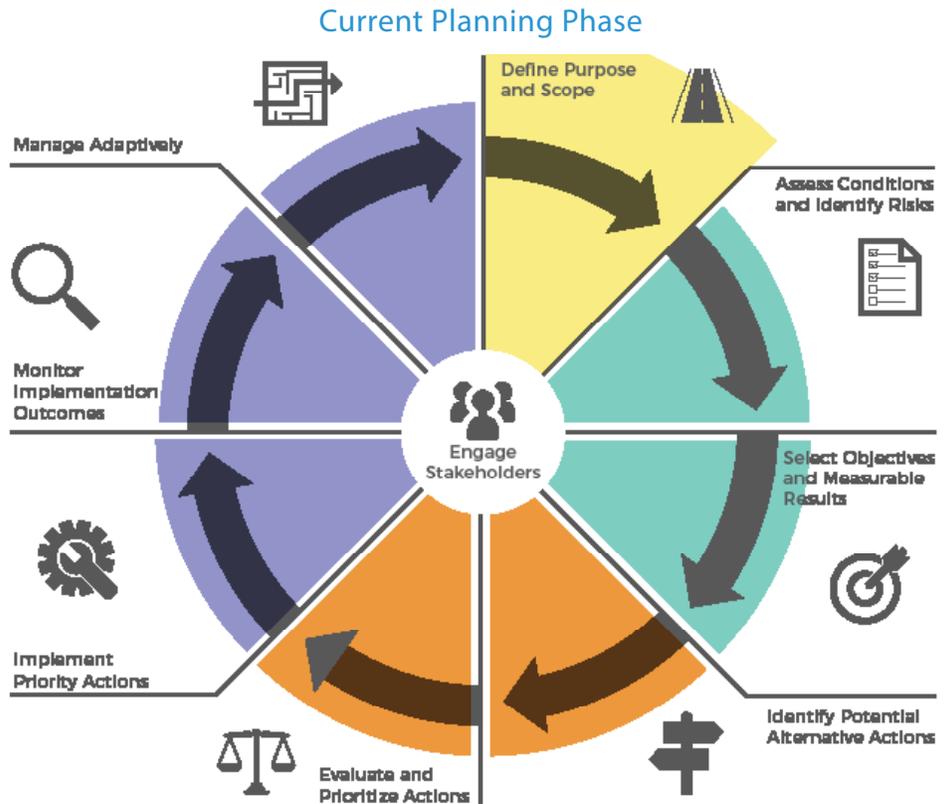
Primary Contact:
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Project Timeline



Stakeholder Groups Involved in Planning Process:

TBD



TBD

Overview

Geography:

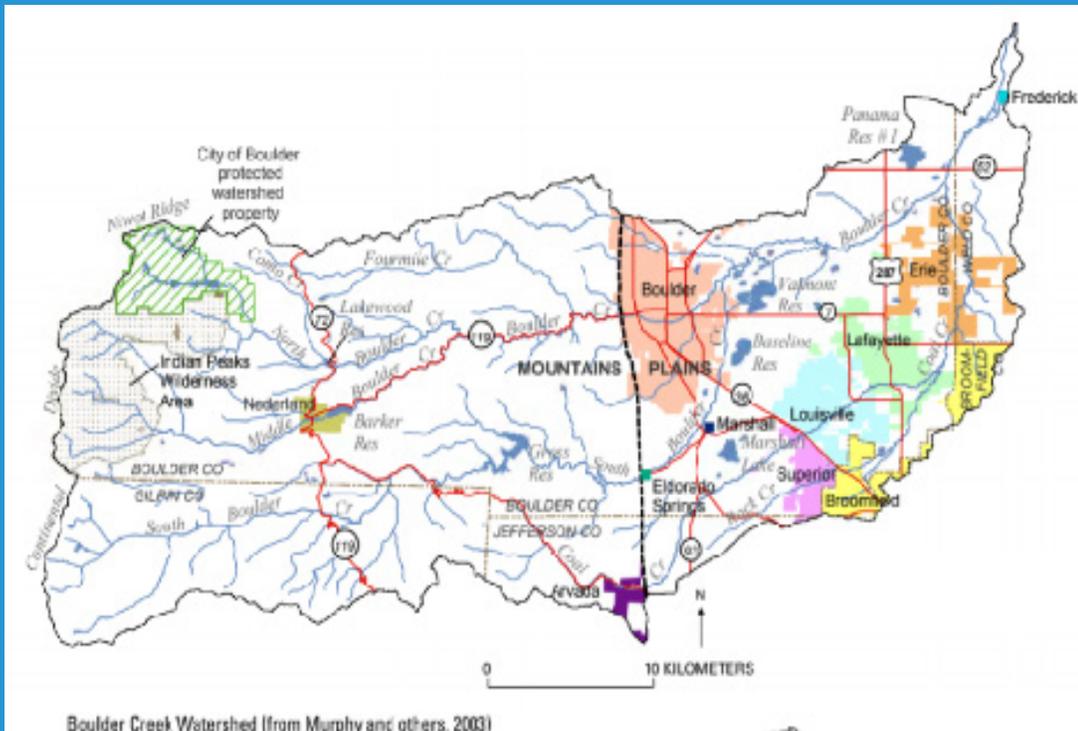
This project focuses on the landscapes and communities within the forested portions of the Boulder Creek Watershed, including South, Middle, and North Boulder creeks.

Users:

The Boulder Creek Watershed is a drinking water source for numerous Front Range municipalities, is a hub of recreational activity, and supports a wide range of ecosystems, habitats and species.

Need for Planning:

This plan is anticipatory in that like many Colorado watersheds, the Boulder Creek Watershed is experiencing an increase in growth and recreation that heavily impacts water and other natural resources. The impacts of climate change, drought and wildfire are heavily affecting human and ecological systems. There are many innovative and effective processes and projects occurring across the landscape. A holistic watershed approach that integrates planning across ecological systems could enhance disparate efforts.



Approach

Forested headwaters are ideal places to evaluate the intersection of aquatic and riparian ecosystems and upland management. Better understanding existing conditions and the nexus of these ecosystems will aid in tracking the effects of climate change in these critical ecosystems. Within the headwaters of Boulder Creek, the Niwot Ridge Long-Term Environmental Research Center research has shown that these headwaters along with other alpine systems are already seeing ecosystem changes due to climate change and warming temperatures.

Within forested headwater regions it is impossible to extract stream characteristics from an evaluation of the holistic system of intermittent and ephemeral tributaries, meadow systems and forested uplands. As such, this task will help define feasible methods to conceptualize, assess and integrate the existing conditions of multiple ecological

systems and their potential management needs into broader landscape sustainability goals. This task will create a foundation for the integration of project outcomes into future watershed or stream management planning.

Alpine areas are often not prioritized for forest restoration treatment because the fire return interval has historically been hundreds of years. 2020 has demonstrated the effects of climate change, the snow-pack melting earlier in the season, drought conditions impacting high elevation fuel moistures and large-scale wildfire that have significant post-fire erosion impacts on drinking water sources. It is imperative that forested headwaters are better understood, better protected and agencies and sectors better coordinate in co-developing management priorities and restoration treatments that are multi-objective.



Budget

| Contributing Entity | Amount and Form of Match |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| CWCB Watershed Restoration Fund | \$28,500 cash |
| Pine Brook Water District | \$15,405 in-kind, \$5,000 cash |
| Coalitions & Collaboratives | \$10,000 cash |
| Total | \$58,905 |

