



STREAM MANAGEMENT PLANNING PEER-LEARNING VIDEO CALL

June 17th, 2021 | 10:00 – 11:30am

Please [register](#) to receive the Zoom meeting link!

Designing Demonstration Projects for Maximum Impact

Pilot and demonstration projects are often utilized to test or demonstrate an idea’s potential for success. In Stream Management Planning (SMPs) they can be utilized to try out a new or innovative project idea to garner enthusiasm or community support for the SMPs. They can be implemented anytime during the SMP process. What is the best way to design a pilot or demonstration project? Where do you go for funding? How do you measure success? In this call we’ll talk with leadership from the Rio Grande, Conejos, Saguache Creek SMP on their approach to pilot projects and how they have used that momentum to build additional projects.

- Learn from your peers how demonstration and pilot projects can be used to further your SMP.
- Understand the specific components of pilot and demonstration projects and how to build them to maximize their success.
- Connection, learning, and problem-solving with your peers.
- Continue to build a community of practice among SMP leaders, developing relationships and learning to collectively enhance work on SMP/IWMPs throughout the state.

AGENDA

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|---------------------------|--|
| 10 – 10:05 a.m. | Welcome, Agenda Overview and Zoom Logistics
Mikhaela Mullins, River Network |
| 10:05 – 10:10 a.m. | Topic Overview
Stacy Beagh, Strategic by Nature |
| 10:10 – 10:40 a.m. | Conejos River Partnership Project and 5 Ditches Project
Emma Reesor, Executive Director and Daniel Boyes, Program Manager of Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learn more about the Conejos River Partnership here• Learn more about the 5 Ditches Project here |

Daniel and Emma shared an excellent presentation about their pilot and demonstration projects on the Rio Grande and Conejos Rivers, including their process for project prioritization, particularly for selecting pilot and/or demonstration projects. They clearly distinguished between pilot and demonstration projects as follows:

- Pilot project: proof of concept, testing the feasibility or viability of a project idea/plan, e.g., new approach to fish passage, alternative species mix for riparian vegetation
- Demonstration project: demonstrating a particular approach or methodology and showing the benefits illustrated in a pilot project

They shared details about the Five Ditches pilot project and the Rio Grande boat ramps demonstration project.

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The following questions sparked some additional discussion:

- What are your next steps? We are always discussing multiple benefit projects and plan to continue the dialogue and idea sharing with stakeholders. Looking to implement some projects on Saguache Creek next. SMP peer calls have been very helpful. It takes a lot of time for people to be comfortable with new things. Particularly the recreational community in our region; 5-10 years ago the boat ramp project probably would not have happened. We are seeing a ripple effect with other communities as a result of this demonstration project; now Monte Vista is interested in trail projects.
- What kind of lead time is ideal for obtaining funding? Probably about 18 months of project lead time, plus design and permitting. Challenges include obtaining accurate cost estimates and finding match funding.
- Do you have tips on engaging ditch companies? Our demonstration projects really worked for this – they had a snowball effect as neighboring ditches asked about the project and wondered how they could get a similar project on their property. Stakeholders need help, particularly in the realm of technical expertise and project management.
- What are the mechanics of “getting the word out”? Word of mouth between ditch companies was most effective. We also present regularly at forums for irrigators, local agriculture conference, basin roundtable.

10:40 – 11:25 a.m.

Peer-Supported Design

Stacy Beagh, Strategic by Nature

After the presentations attendees will participate in a peer-supported process to design demonstration or pilot projects. Please be prepared to participate by bringing any project ideas you've been mulling over to the meeting.

- 30 min breakout groups
- 15 min share back

Breakout group exercise was successful. Additions were made to factors to consider in the pilot/demonstration project worksheet, which is accessible [here](#).

11:25 - 11:30 a.m.

Wrap-Up/Adjourn

Mikhaela Mullins, River Network

Additional Resources – Check them out!

- [Community and Learning Web Page](#)
- [Ask a Practitioner Video – Citizen Science](#)
- [River Network Rally Workshops Zoom Best Practices Video](#)
- [Join our online community here!](#)