

# Stream Management Plan Grantee Project Summary

## Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan, Phase I

**Geographic Description:**  
Arkansas River Basin:  
Upper Arkansas Watershed

**Size:**  
250 square miles

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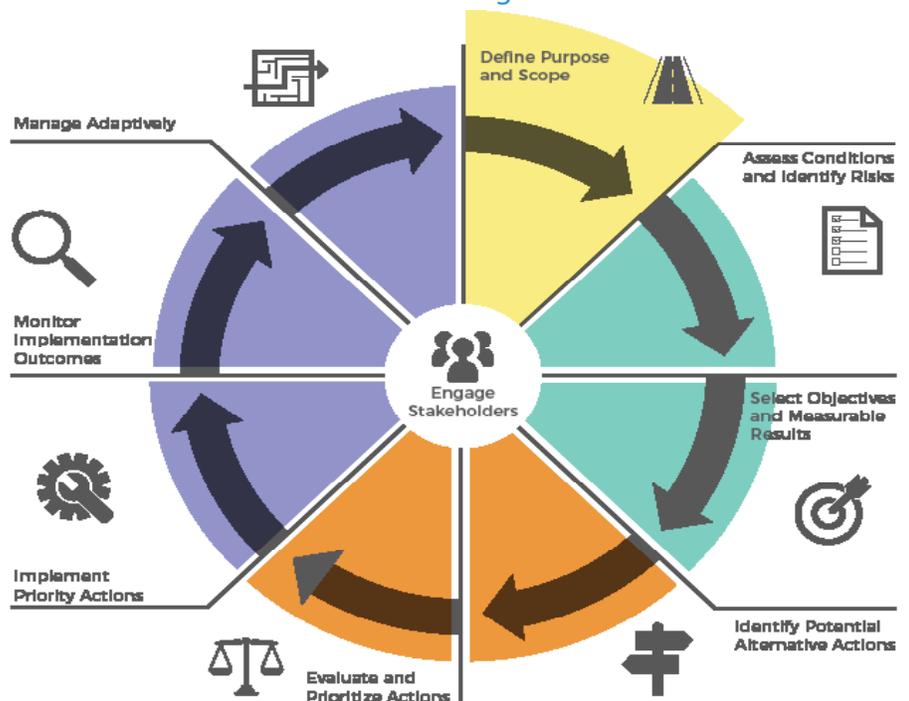
### Project Timeline



### 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

- Increase community understanding of diverse water uses and issues in the basin and leverage local expertise to solve important watershed health and water user challenges.
- Combine and assess existing studies and data related to ecosystem health, hydrology, geomorphology, wetland/riparian condition, water use, storage, and land use planning.
- Assess existing riparian/floodplain condition and identify strategies for increased protection and enhancement to mitigate potential impacts associated with flooding and urban development.
- Provide support for agricultural producers and water users to protect their water rights and identify multi-beneficial opportunities related to storage, conveyance, and application to mitigate impacts of drought, wildfire and urban development.

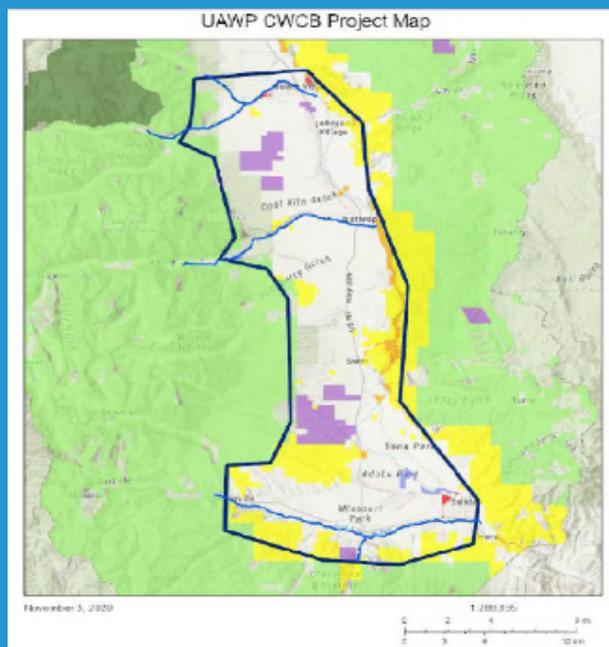
## Overview

### Geography:

Chaffee County, where the Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan, Phase I, is located, is comprised of several rural communities in central Colorado and is known for its longstanding agricultural history and access to recreational opportunities. 83% of land in the county is public, including heavily visited areas like Browns Canyon National Monument and the Collegiate Peak Wilderness.

### Users:

The Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan is a reactionary plan with a diverse stakeholder group representing agricultural users, municipal water use, industry, environmental and recreation, and the general community. The stakeholder group will bring diverse expectations of the plan, which will lead to multi-objective goals and projects.



### Need for Planning:

In response to recreational tourism, agriculture, a growing population, and significant wildfire risk, stakeholders have come together to spearhead efforts to mitigate impacts from these types of catastrophic events. The Watershed Resiliency Plan is designed to build on these plans by integrating floodplain and riparian condition to create a more holistic path toward watershed resiliency. The Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan aims to increase collaboration and community understanding of diverse water issues, develop mutually-beneficial projects, and leverage local, state, and federal funding to enhance watershed health in the Upper Arkansas Basin.

## Approach

The Upper Arkansas Watershed Resiliency Plan (UAWRP) is being developed by several organizations working together under the Upper Arkansas Watershed Partnership (UAWP). The UAWP is a newly formed partnership dedicated to fostering greater collaboration among agencies, organizations, government, and landowners in the upper Arkansas Basin to build a healthy and resilient watershed. Founded in 2020 by members of the Upper Arkansas Conservation District, Central Colorado Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, and the Arkansas River Watershed Collaborative, the group has been engaging diverse stakeholders within Chaffee County to: (1) protect water quality and quantity; (2) support agricultural operators with protection of water rights and improvement of irrigation infrastructure; (3) provide community education about the value of the watershed and ecosystem functions; (4) build watershed resilience to drought, fire, and flooding; and (5) maintain

and restore the health of the Arkansas River, tributaries, and wildlife habitat. The UAWP will complete the following tasks during Phase I:

### Stakeholder Collaboration & Engagement

The UAWP will develop a stakeholder engagement plan, with support from Del Corazon Consulting, throughout Phase I to ensure stakeholder support throughout the project.

### Assessments

Riparian, floodplain, fluvial hazard mapping, and agricultural needs assessments will all be conducted to identify issues, infrastructure needs, and opportunities for future projects.

### Phase II Work plan

The UAWP and Del Corazon Consulting will solicit feedback to establish future priorities and projects for Phase II.



## Budget

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match
CWCB Watershed Restoration Fund	\$99,000
CWCB WPG Funds	\$27,500
Matching cash funds from Central Colorado Conservancy (CCC), Colorado Trout Unlimited (CTU), and Collegiate Peaks Chapter of TU	\$50,000
In-kind funds from UACD, CCC, CTU, and Del Corazon Consulting	\$35,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$211,500</b>

