

Stream Management Plan Grantee Project Summary

Clear Creek Integrated Water Management Plan, Phase I

Geographic Description:

South Platte Basin:
Clear Creek from the basin divide to confluence with South Platte

Size:
TBD

Project Homepage:

N/A

Primary Contact:

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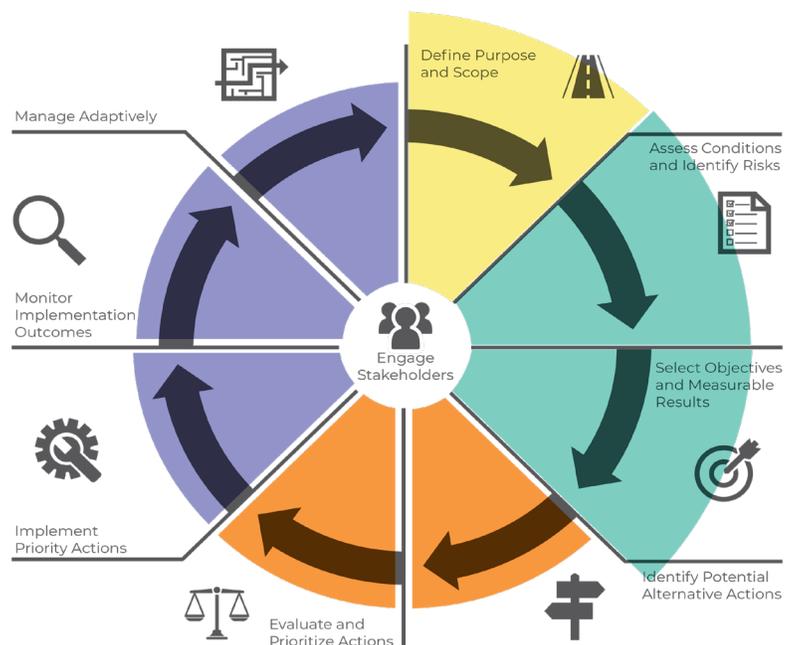
Project Timeline



Stakeholder Groups Involved in Planning Process

●	Agricultural producers (including conservation districts)
●	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

- Outreach to basin stakeholders and general public to gain additional appropriate project participation and to identify stakeholder project expectations and to develop a decision-making structure.
- Develop clear and common project goals and objectives and formalize project understanding and expected outcomes.
- Research, document, and synthesize past and current master plans, resource management plans, and other river management efforts to identify common goals and overlapping themes.
- Inventory and assess current biological, geomorphological, and hydrologic conditions, water rights and infrastructure, river access and other attributes within the project location.

Overview

Geography:

The geographic scope of the Clear Creek IWMP is currently defined as the entire Clear Creek watershed, but may be modified to meet stakeholder involvement and project scope.

Users:

The Clear Creek IWMP is an exploratory 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. Each group will bring focused goals and objectives to the IWMP process to develop a collaborative and inclusive management plan for the Clear Creek basin.

Need for planning:

West Denver Trout Unlimited (WDTU) has had conversations with basin stakeholders and discussed existing master plans, reports and projects to determine if the Clear Creek IWMP will duplicate past or current efforts. While stakeholders recognized similarities which may overlap some individual projects, they felt that the Clear Creek IWMP has merit to move forward and will stand on its own as a comprehensive, collaborative effort encompassing multiple planning boundaries. Based on initial stakeholder conversations, there's a need to focus on wildfire threats to water supply and property, water quality, health of aquatic species, recreation, threats to water rights, forest health, and degradation of the river corridor through the IWMP.

Approach

West Denver Trout Unlimited (WDTU) members began discussing the potential of an IWMP for the Clear Creek basin during the summer of 2020 to address and meet the needs of municipal and agricultural water users. The initial phase of the Clear Creek IWMP will consist of continuing formal dialogue with stakeholders to identify common goals and objectives and discuss appropriate project outcome concepts. A goal of the project is to develop working relationships to build collaborative stakeholder support to enable future basin management actions to improve the health of the watershed.

A professional neutral facilitator will be hired to coordinate, facilitate, and manage stakeholder meetings. Professional facilitation services and volunteer efforts will include: communicating and understanding participant's interests; develop operating protocols and methods of communication; conflict identification and resolution; gathering community input; develop project goals and objectives; discussing key issues and challenges; development of geographic scope; and building project consensus.

A professional engineering firm will be hired to research existing baseline data and parallel efforts to obtain existing information within and possibly upstream of the project location. The desktop analysis will document current hydrologic, geomorphic, riparian corridor, aquatic habitat, and water quality conditions within the project location to provide information that will be utilized in subsequent phases of the project to identify and prioritize reaches and project locations. Existing data may include: hydrologic, geomorphic, and ecologic assessments; aerial imagery; fisheries data; invasive species data; diversion infrastructure conditions; water rights information; stream gauge data; and riparian mapping. Additional information from stakeholder interviews may include dry up points, recreational opportunities, availability of water for irrigation diversions and storage, flood frequency, and others.

Budget from 2021 CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant to support planning:

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match
CWCB Watershed Restoration Fund	\$22,000
CWCB WSRF - Metro RT	\$10,000
West Denver Trout Unlimited	\$7,000 cash
West Denver Trout Unlimited	\$7,000 in-kind
Total	\$44,000

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