

# Animas River Stream Management Plan Phase I

**Geographic Description:** Animas River Watershed from its headwaters above Silverton, CO to the CO/NM State line.

**Size:** TBD

**Project Homepage:** TBD

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**Planning Phase:** Getting Started, Engage Stakeholders

**Status:** Phase I (of III) underway in Summer 2022

## Project Goals:

- Assemble and coordinate a stream management plan (SMP) working group and stakeholder group to identify water-related values and attributes and identify the geographic scope of future stream management plan efforts.
- Review existing data and information to determine data gaps for subsequent assessment.
- Support the stakeholder group to develop a process and supporting scope of work for an assessment to establish goals for stream management, identify flows and physical conditions needed to support environmental and recreational water needs (Phase II), and prioritize alternative management actions (Phase III).

## Overview:

The purpose of the project is to convene local stakeholders in a community-driven effort to identify priority values for planning and management of streams within the Animas Basin, assess existing data and information, and identify opportunities to address those gaps. This effort will seek to incorporate forest health and climate change considerations in its assessments, expanding on existing community efforts. In so doing, the proposed SMP is likely to serve as a model for incorporating these two critical components in stream management plans elsewhere in Colorado.

## Approach:

The Animas Watershed Partnership, in coordination with the Animas River Community Forum, Mountain Studies Institute, and Strategic by Nature, will facilitate Phase I of a three-phased approach to developing a stream management plan for the Animas River Basin. The Animas Watershed Partnership will convene stakeholders to create an SMP working group and stakeholder group to identify priority values for the Animas River, including environmental and recreational attributes. In the process of identifying values and establishing a collective purpose, outcomes, and priorities, the Animas Watershed Partnership will work with and advise the Mountain Studies Institute in conducting a review of existing data and information. The Animas Watershed Partnership will coordinate stakeholder interests and develop a scope of work and funding proposal for moving forward with subsequent SMP phases.

**Budget: \$82,098**

