



TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS

IS YOUR COALITION INTERESTED IN SETTING OR MEETING ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW RECOMMENDATIONS ON YOUR RIVER?

WOULD WORKING ALONGSIDE YOUR PEERS IN A COHORT BE HELPFUL?

River Network, the Colorado Water Trust and Western Resource Advocates are assessing whether there is interest in establishing an **Environmental Flows Cohort** of the [Stream Management Planning Peer Learning Network](#). The Environmental Flows Cohort would receive education and technical assistance to assess flow needs, develop new environmental flow recommendations, or identify strategies to meet existing environmental flow recommendations on their local rivers.

Background

River Network and the Colorado Water Conservation Board co-hosted workshops in 2022 to gain insight on the barriers and opportunities¹ for utilization and/or development of environmental & recreational flow recommendations within the context of stream management planning. Workshop participants agreed an opportunity exists to increase the number of E&R flow recommendations that are produced within individual stream management plans. Among the ideas generated were to:

- **Convene a cohort of river management planning practitioners that are navigating the flows recommendations process**, providing skills growth and a place for peer and technical support as they advance their flow recommendations processes.
- **Bolster education and training resources for coalitions on the technical aspects of the flow needs assessment and recommendations process**
- **Enhance education and resources for coalitions on the stakeholder-driven aspects** of the flow recommendations process to bolster collaboration skills and process design, sharing lessons and experiences gained via the cohort experience.

¹ Final memo and results are available to view here:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/noydmu0tz1i4ymu/Flow_recommendations_opportunity_analysis_FINAL01-13-23.pdf?dl=0



The Opportunity

Through jointly offering training to a cohort to assess flow needs and to develop and meet environmental flow recommendations, River Network, Colorado Water Trust and Western Resource Advocates hope to grow local knowledge and capacity, connect coalitions working on similar challenges, and ultimately increase the number of rivers that have locally-driven environmental flow goals.

The cohort's design would depend upon the number of interested groups and their desired outcomes, but could include:

- Technical assistance to assess flow conditions and the relationships between flows, river health and attributes of interest like sustainable fisheries or boatable days. This could include, for example, assistance performing hydrologic data collection and analysis, and determining associated river health variables.



The Colorado SMP Peer Learning Network received training in R2Cross in 2022

- Technical assistance to develop a flow recommendation, usually stated as a flow minimum, maximum, duration, and/or frequency, in a reach that will support the attributes of interest. This could include, for example, training in R2Cross and/or other environmental flow methodologies.
- Education for your stakeholder group on the array of strategies that can be used to develop and meet environmental flow recommendations.
- Facilitation design assistance to build support amongst stakeholders for development of environmental flow recommendations.
- Semi-regular meetings of the cohort where you can learn and build relationships with other coalitions working on similar issues.



This would be a time-limited cohort of ideally 4-6 coalitions in Colorado. It would likely last between 12-15 months with a target start date of early summer 2023. Participation is free, however you would cover your own time and travel expenses to any in person meetings.

Indication of Interest

Before moving forward, our organizations would like to assess the level of interest.

If this sounds like an opportunity you might be interested in, or at least want to learn more about, please let us know by [FILLING OUT THIS FORM](#).

We will keep your interest confidential! We will **accept indications of interest until Friday, February 10th, 2023**. At that time we will schedule follow up calls to learn more. We will make a go/no go decision on the cohort by the end of February.