Impact Report & Highlights

2020 - Summer 2021

From Executive Director Holly Loff:

In 2020, as the world reeled and adjusted to the pandemic and the associated stay-at-home orders, fear, anxiety and boredom, many people turned to natural spaces, including rivers, for relief. The increased use of rivers caused impacts to streambanks, vegetation and more.

Our small staff of four created virtual programs and online resources to reduce these impacts. We also designed small, social-distance-friendly restoration projects and volunteer opportunities.

Now, we’re living with fears surrounding low streamflows, high temperatures and the upcoming fire season. Rest assured, we are hard at work on community education and projects to address those issues, too.

Please take a look at what you helped us accomplish and see a preview of what we have coming up! And thank you for being our partner in river protection.

Holly Loff
Executive Director
loff@erwc.org

Watershed Council Board of Directors

Tom Allender | President
Tom Boyd | Vice President
Tania Landauer | Treasurer
Kristin Yantis | Secretary
Claudia Bryan
Kate Burchenal
Allison Ebbets
Fritz Ganz
Joe Robinson
Josh Stepanek
Pete Wadden
Woody Woodruff

Many thanks to current board members and to Cliff Simonton (previous Board Chair) and Jacque Stevenson, who provided valuable service as members of the Board in 2020.

Watershed Council Staff

Holly Loff | Executive Director
loff@erwc.org
Kate Isaacson | Projects & Events
isaacson@erwc.org
James Dilzell | Education & Outreach
dilzell@erwc.org
Melanie Smith | Development & Communications
smith@erwc.org

2020 Funding Restrictions by % of Total Funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Restrictions</th>
<th>% of Total Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>75.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
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2020 Funding Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Sources</th>
<th>% of Total Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special District</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Businesses</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Municipalities</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land &amp; Rivers Fund</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eagle County</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Quality Monitoring</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>18.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleanups</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
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Eagle River Watershed Council advocates for the health of the Upper Colorado and Eagle River watersheds through research, education and projects.

### Water Quality Monitoring Efforts

5+ Number of lab tests performed on each sample every month, testing for dissolved oxygen content, hardness, alkalinity, pH and the concentrations of certain metals.

**THOUSANDS** of data points are collected and analyzed annually, providing a comprehensive understanding of water quality.

**970** Square miles of watershed monitored.

### Community Pride Highway Cleanup Impact

In 2020, the event was cancelled. In 2021, amidst an outpouring of interest in volunteering to clean the roadways, more than **22 tons** of trash was removed from 140 miles of Eagle County roadways!

### FROM BOARD MEMBER KRISTIN YANTIS:

“When most people are asked about where their water comes from, 'the faucet' often is the natural response. Water is a precious natural resource and I want people to think more about where our water comes from. I wanted to join the board because "water" is one of the most important issues we face in the Western US and I want to do my part to help people better understand this valuable resource.”
Access & Communications

When the world shifted in 2020, the Watershed Council board and staff recognized the role of our waterways as powerful sources of relief for the upheaval in our lives. We encouraged river use, but recognized the likelihood for impacts.

To ensure and promote proper use of our streams, we added resources to our website and prioritized improvements to it and to our communications infrastructure, unveiling a more navigable, attractive and impactful online presence as a result.

Check out our revamped website at erwc.org.

Riparian Restoration & Rehabilitation

As possible, we modified projects to coordinate socially-distant restoration work, as well as mitigate negative impacts of observed increased trail and resource use throughout the summer and fall.

Notable project efforts included:

- tree planting
- noxious weed removal
- erosion-reduction efforts
- spreading native seed
- signage installation
- GIS mapping work

Recent Tamarisk Mitigation Project Efforts

Thanks to the hard work of 25+ individuals, a large area of invasive tamarisk spread was mitigated in a large-scale restoration project in late May 2021 in Dotsero. This is a large effort that will continue into the future. The project brought together Watershed Council staff and volunteers, Eagle County, BLM and USFS staff and local businesses that supported the project with food, supplies and transportation.

It is part of our ongoing effort to protect our local rivers from the immediate threats caused by tamarisk. Thanks to all who helped make this event a success!
First and foremost I want to thank you for organizing the 2020 Community Float last summer. My 13 year old son Jason* and I attended the event. We were so fortunate that the weather was warm and a clear sky. As a single parent this was a wonderful experience for me and Jason. It was a great opportunity for us to bond and create a meaningful memory for Jason. He still talks about the event and how a blast he had and has asked if we could do it again.

We had the opportunity to relax, be present during the float trip, admire the beautiful scenery for the river environment and the red hawks that we saw, and learned their name. Now every time we see a red hawk it reminds us of the float trip and how much fun we had. The water splashing among floats was definitely the highlight of the event for the children...

I would have not been able to expose my son to this experience for being a financial burden and not having the skills to provide it in a safe and secure environment as the event was, we all had life jackets and the knowledgeable floating staff was very assuring. We have been talking about going fishing this summer and enrolling him in some swimming classes too.

Hope you are doing well and definitely looking forward to this summer and that all the pandemic restrictions would be lifted to enjoy the outdoors more freely.

*Names and identifying details have been altered.
WATERSHED COUNCIL PROGRAMS

Education & Outreach | Riparian Restoration Projects | Water Quality Monitoring

By the Numbers

835
Number of participants in our 2020 educational programming.

365
Number of volunteers who completed

1,072
hours of restoration work in 2020.

Your contributions make a difference.

$15,000
Cost of plant material, delivery & crew for half-acre restoration project

$10,000
Average operator & heavy equipment cost for 7 days

$300
50-60 lodgepole & spruce saplings + 10-20 shrubs for revegetation project

$5,000
Quarter-mile of erosion-control matting to restore ~5 acres of disturbed ground

$100
Cost of educational handouts and brochures for event booths

$750
One year subscription of GIS mapping software

$2,500
Lumber & railing material costs for river access staircase

Rental of large tent for use at annual Eagle River Water Festival

APPRECIATE WHAT WE DO?

- Visit our website, erwc.org, and donate online.
- Set up an automatic monthly recurring donation.
- Mail a check to Eagle River Watershed Council, PO Box 1477, Gypsum, CO 81637.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>7/22</td>
<td>Hike at Homestake</td>
<td>Learn from experts about the unique ecology of the area, water rights, the</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>importance of wilderness, possible future dam project and more. Space is</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>limited.</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Family Fly Fishing Clinic</td>
<td>Bilingual guides will teach basic angling skills, such as knots, river</td>
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<td>stewardship and casting at Nottingham Lake in partnership with EVOM.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/9</td>
<td>Community Float</td>
<td>2021 marks the 6th annual event, which is an opportunity for Spanish-speaking</td>
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<td>families to enjoy a float on the Upper Colorado in partnership with EVOM.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/2</td>
<td>Bike &amp; Learn</td>
<td>Enjoy a bike ride along the Glenwood Canyon Trail to the Grizzly Creek TH,</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>where we’ll learn about the impact of fire on hydrology, as well as ongoing</td>
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<td>restoration efforts.</td>
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<td>9/11</td>
<td>Eagle River Cleanup</td>
<td>A much-loved and appreciated community tradition! Join a team and clean up</td>
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<td>a public stretch of local waterways. Don’t forget to photograph your strange</td>
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<td>finds to vie for our coveted Most Unusual Trash Award!</td>
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