

Eagle River Watershed Council

Impact Report A Year In Review - 2021



EagleValleyWild.org

EAGLE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL
461 RAILROAD AVENUE, UNIT C
PO BOX 1477 | GYPSUM, CO 81631

ERWC.ORG
970-826-5406
EIN: 20-4448864



A Note About Change

Recent years have introduced immense change throughout the globe. This theme holds true on a smaller scale for Eagle River Watershed Council, with leadership and staffing changes, new board members and a number of program developments that will benefit local rivers and streams.

Early in 2022, Holly Loff, who had served as executive director for 8 years, departed the Watershed Council to pursue grant writing and consulting. Tom Allender, ERWC board chair, said, "Her service to this community, and to the natural rivers and streams that we value so much, cannot be understated."

Holly laid the groundwork for the strong position in which the Watershed Council finds itself today. With James Dilzell now in the role of executive director, the Watershed Council is poised to continue its commitment to local waterways with a slate of innovative and impactful programs, projects and initiatives.

It is the continued support of donors, volunteers, community members, visitors, sponsors and numerous organizational collaborations that allows us to fulfill our mission. Thank you for being part of the Eagle River Watershed Council community.

"When you put your hand in a flowing stream, you touch the last that has gone before and the first of what is still to come." – Leonardo Da Vinci

From our Executive Director



The work we do at the Watershed Council to advocate for the health of our watershed is critical. Rivers are a part of all of our lives in Eagle County, whether we are anglers, rafters, hikers or simply live here. In order to have our vibrant recreational economy, stunning landscapes and diverse aquatic life and wildlife populations, our rivers must be clean and flowing.

As we wrap up a summer of projects and programs, we are reflecting on the positive impact we have made to protect the Eagle and Upper Colorado River watersheds - and thinking about what more we can do moving forward. Our rivers are facing increased stress due to drought, a warming climate and increased wildfire risk, making our role here in the headwaters ever more important. I am hopeful that our strong staff and vibrant community can continue to rise to the challenge of protecting our rivers, together.

We have more exciting and impactful events and projects this fall, and I'd love to see all of you out there helping us meet our mission of advocating for the health of our rivers.

A handwritten signature of James Dilzell in black ink. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Dilzell

Executive Director
dilzell@erwc.org



"We can learn a lot about a society by how it cares for its rivers. Eagle River Watershed Council cares for and protects our local watershed, which shows that this is one of our community's strongest values."

-Tom Boyd, Vice President, Watershed Council Board of Directors



The Watershed Council regularly coordinates restoration work in riparian areas, along streambanks and within the stream channel - places where development, recreation, noxious weed spread and more have impacted ecosystem health and water quality.

In 2021, we coordinated numerous projects, such as native riparian-area plantings in Vail, social trail decommissioning along the river in Edwards and noxious weed removal throughout the county - among many others.

**2021
IMPACT
BY THE
NUMBERS**

1155



Volunteers



212

Native Plantings

22+ tons



Trash Removed



MISSION

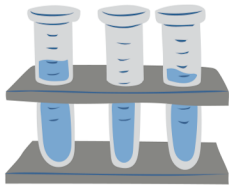
Eagle River Watershed Council advocates for the health of the Upper Colorado and Eagle River watersheds through research, education and projects.

CHALLENGES

From extreme drought & high water temperatures to stormwater runoff & water quality, serious issues continue to threaten the lifeblood of the Eagle Valley.



EagleValleyWild.org



MONITOR

Our team coordinates water quality testing and biological data collection to understand trends in local waterways. Our hydrologists can then define emerging threats to water quality and riparian zone health for future collaborations and projects.

DID YOU KNOW?

Five lab tests are performed on each sample every month, testing for:

- dissolved oxygen
- hardness
- alkalinity
- pH
- metals



EDUCATE

In 2021, more than 1,400 people participated in Watershed Council educational programs and events, with a total of more than 3900 impact hours. We have a program for everyone!

- Signature Watershed Immersion Series
- Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival
- Engaging workshops, tours and events
- Experiential learning through the Eagle River Water Festival
- Annual Bilingual Community Float



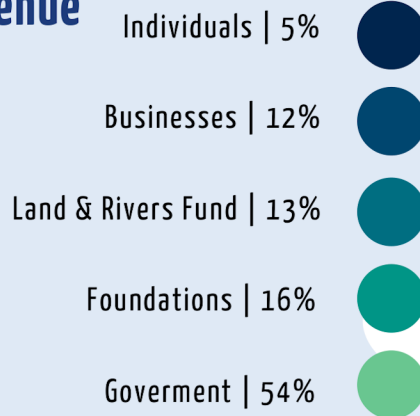
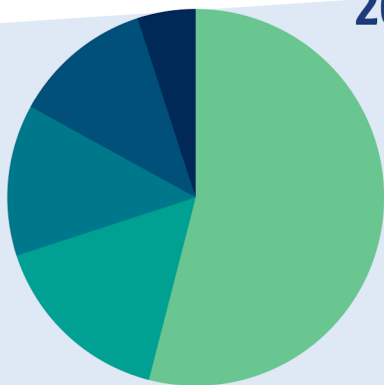
Board of Directors

Tom Allender | President
Tom Boyd | Vice President
Tania Landauer | Treasurer
Kristin Yantis | Secretary
Claudia Bryan
Kate Burchenal
Rose Delles
Jessica DiToro
Fritz Ganz
Bret Hooper
Josh Stepanek
Peter Wadden
Woody Woodruff

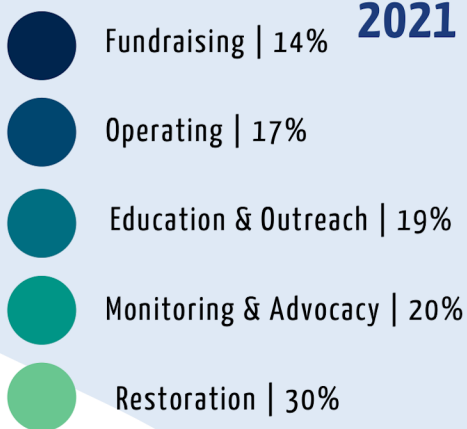
Watershed Council Staff

James Dilzell | dilzell@erwc.org
 Executive Director
Melanie Smith | smith@erwc.org
 Development & Communications Manager
Anna Nakae | nakae@erwc.org
 Projects Coordinator
Rose Sandell | sandell@erwc.org
 Education & Outreach Coordinator
Sue Nikolai | sue@landandrivers.org
 Program Director, Land and Rivers Fund
Kate Berg | berg@erwc.org
 Eagle River Fund Manager

2021 Revenue



2021 Expenses



JOIN US

In order to protect the rivers and streams of our watershed, we need our whole community on board. Learn more about us and get involved at erwc.org.



SUPPORT US

As a community-supported nonprofit, we rely on our generous communities and donations from people like you. To give right now, just use a smartphone to scan the code. **Thank you!**

Situated within the headwaters of the Colorado River, which supplies more than 40 million individuals with water and supports a multi-billion-dollar economy, our work to protect the Eagle River Watershed is critical not only for our community, but for the West as a whole.

Join us in protecting our rivers and beyond. | erwc.org



**PO Box 1477
Gypsum, CO 81637**

