

Strategy Implementation Work Plan

Supplementary Material Provided in Support of the
Eagle River Community Water Plan



Prepared For:



**EAGLE RIVER
COALITION**

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Eagle River Community Water Plan (ERCWP)
Scope of Work for Identified Strategies
Updated December 13, 2022

Instream Habitat Restoration Strategy				
Project Concept	Timeline & Tasks	Champion & Relevant Stakeholders	Funding/ Resources	Geographic Extent
Install a headgate fish passage structure on Gypsum Creek and Brush Creek and other headgate structures.	-Coordinate with Conservation District to review previously completed irrigation infrastructure assessment report and identify opportunities for fish passage around certain structures -Engage specific water users or ditch companies to assess willingness to complete a project -Secure funding for concept engineering at a specific site -Complete concept engineering and develop budget for full project -Secure full project funding, permits, and implement design	Champion: Eagle River Watershed Council (ERWC) Stakeholders: Eagle County Conservation District, landowners	-Roundtable Water Supply Reserve Account Grant -Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Water Plan Grant -Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Cost-Share Programs -River District Community Funding Partnership (CFP) -Eagle River Fund	-Brush Creek and Gypsum Creek
Study and construct Native Fish Aquatic Organism Passage Projects on Tributaries	-Work with USFS and CPW to map existing and potential native trout habitat on Federal Land in tributary streams -Build upon the 2018 study on diversion infrastructure by ensuring proper fish passage at all diversions in Eagle County (or a select few) with additional studies -Identify AOP barriers and rank them from high to low concern	Champion: ERWC Stakeholders: Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), US Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Trout Unlimited	-CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant -USFS internal project funding -Eagle River Fund	Tributaries to Gore Creek, the Eagle River above Edwards, and upper Brush Creek

Instream Habitat Restoration Strategy					
Project Concept	Timeline & Tasks	Champion & Relevant Stakeholders	Funding/ Resources	Geographic Extent	
	-Secure funding for concept engineering at a specific site -Complete concept engineering and develop budget for full project -Secure full project funding, permits, and implement design				
Improve habitat on the Eagle River below Gypsum	Pending results of conversation on 11/3	Champion: ERWC Stakeholders: CPW, BLM	-CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant -BLM internal project funding -River District CFP	Eagle River below Gypsum flowing through BLM lands	
Reroute Wearyman Road (connector of Shrine Pass and Red Cliff) to reduce sedimentation	-Support the USFS's effort to reroute the road to reduce sedimentation	Champion: USFS Stakeholders: ERWC	-CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant -USFS internal project funding -River District CFP	Wearyman Road, connecting Shrine Pass and Red Cliff	
Conduct Post-Project Monitoring	-Collect any monitoring data collected by CPW and its partners on Abrams Creek following installation of the fish screen and other relevant in-stream habitat restoration projects -Identify critical data gaps -Develop 5-year monitoring plan -Secure funding -Implement plan -Analyze results and report in technical document	Champion: ERWC Stakeholders: CPW, BLM	-CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant -BLM internal project funding -River District CFP	-Abrams Creek -Brush Creek Valley Ranch Open Space -Other in-stream habitat restoration projects	

Management of Instream Flows Strategy				
Project Concept	Timeline & Tasks	Champion & Relevant Stakeholders	Funding/ Resources	Geographic Extent
Evaluate feasibility of mitigating water temperature impacts through streamflow management	-Utilize temperature modeling tools developed in the CWP to assess the effectiveness of flow management at mitigating stream temperatures at specific locations in the network -Construct a mechanistic stream temperature model to provide additional functionality, including the ability to assess effectiveness of riparian restoration and/or channel modification at achieving temperature reduction goals -Report results in a technical document	Champion: ERWC Stakeholders: Eagle River Water and Sanitation District (ERWSD), Homestake Partners, Eagle Park Reservoir Company, Colorado River District	-River District CFP -Eagle River Fund	Eagle River mainstem below Lake Creek
Pilot Water Temperature Reduction Project	-Develop agreements/plan to release water from Homestake Reservoir (i.e., Homestake Exchanges) and/or Eagle Park Reservoir during the late summer period to test the effectiveness of increased releases at buffering, lagging, or cooling water temperatures in the mainstem Eagle River below Lake Creek. -Work with private landowners and/or water right holders to convert unused/unneeded water rights to instream flows (ISF) through the Colorado Water Trust	Champion: Eagle Park Reservoir Company Stakeholders: ERWC, ERWSD, Homestake Partners, Colorado River District	-Eagle River Fund -Colorado River District CFP -Federal Water Release Programs	Eagle River mainstem below Lake Creek

Management of Instream Flows Strategy				
Project Concept	Timeline & Tasks	Champion & Relevant Stakeholders	Funding/ Resources	Geographic Extent
	-Develop a website with information on the program that is accessible to the public -Establish temperature monitoring network on mainstem Eagle River -Implement flow release and monitor outcomes -Report results in technical document			
Secure Shoshone water rights in Glenwood Canyon.	-Monitor ongoing discussions between River District and Xcel Energy -Develop community awareness campaign around the Shoshone Power Plant and accompanying water right -Conduct annual Power Plant tours -Develop short informational video and press releases and distribute to community	Champion: ERWC Stakeholders: River District	-Roundtable Public Education, Participation, and Outreach (PEPO) funds -CWCB Water Plan: Community Outreach Grant -Federal education grant -River District CFP	Entire Eagle River watershed

Climate Studies/Infrastructure Strategy ¹				
Project Concept	Timeline & Tasks	Champion & Relevant Stakeholders	Funding/ Resources	Geographic Extent
Support the Colorado River District regional cloud seeding program	-Support group grant opportunities -Write support letters for cloud seeding initiatives and studies	Champion: Colorado River District Stakeholders: Ski areas	-ERWSD -Upper Eagle Regional Water Authority -Eagle River Fund?	Eagle County
Incentivize installation and use of smart irrigation controls on residential dwellings	-Secure funding to enhance the local CoAgMet network and ensure data is available to smart control networks -Offer water audit and irrigation control system setup for residential property owners -Build program to offer smart controllers for new installations or retrofits at reduced cost or for free -Show homeowners how to properly set up smart irrigation controllers and manage irrigation use	Champions: ERWC and Conservation District Stakeholders: Property owners, water providers	-Partnership with local water providers -CWCB Water Plan Water Conservation Grant -Roundtable	Eagle County

¹ The ERCWP will include a narrative section describing how decision-makers could consider the community objectives outlined in the ERCWP when permitting future reservoir storage projects.

Riparian Habitat Restoration Strategy					
Project Concept	Timeline & Tasks	Champion & Relevant Stakeholders	Funding/ Resources	Geographic Extent	
Update the 2005 Eagle River Inventory and Assessment to better understand riparian and wetland areas that need restoration and protection	-Gather existing information and resources -Inventory reaches on public and private lands -Establish priority reaches for restoration on public and private lands -Establish priority reaches for the protection of wetlands/riparian areas that are intact and functioning	Champion: ERWC Stakeholders: CPW, USFS, BLM, Eagle County, Eagle County Conservation District, Eagle Valley Land Trust	-Eagle River Watershed Council/Eagle River Fund -Great Outdoors Colorado -CWCB	Eagle River Watershed	
Plan and implement riparian habitat restoration projects with private landowners	-Update the 2005 Eagle River Inventory and Assessment to better understand riparian areas that need restoration and protection -Gather existing information and resources -Engage private landowners to obtain permission to access creek reaches on private land (Eagle County Conservation District to lead) -Inventory reaches for improvements on private lands and Identify reaches with higher temperature and more regular fishing closures -Establish priority reaches -Identify entities to support the landowner engagement efforts (e.g, ECCD and CPW) -Develop incentives to increase engagement -Engage private landowners	Champion: ERWC Stakeholders: Eagle County Conservation District (pending Board approval), Eagle Valley Land Trust, Town of Vail	-NRCS Cost-Share Programs	-Gypsum pond holdings towards the west (potentially private) -Eagle River between Gypsum and Eagle (mostly private) -Red Canyon to Diamond Star Ranch -Horn Ranch to Gypsum to the edge of BLM land -South bank across from Gypsum Ponds State Wildlife area	

Riparian Habitat Restoration Strategy					
Project Concept	Timeline & Tasks	Champion & Relevant Stakeholders	Funding/ Resources	Geographic Extent	
Plan and implement riparian habitat restoration projects with public land entities	-Gather existing information and resources -Inventory reaches for improvements on public lands -Establish priority reaches -Develop incentives to increase engagement -Engage public landowners	Champion: ERWC Stakeholders: CPW, USFS, Eagle County Community Wildlife Roundtable	-Resources from rafting, hunting, and fishing groups to improve project areas near recreational access points -Eagle County Open Space Master Plan	- Eagle River on public lands from Wolcott to Dotsero -Gypsum Ponds State Wildlife Area -Public lands around Dowd Junction	
Increase river canopy shading with large trees to address increasing river temperatures	-Gather existing information -Identify low-flow and high-temperature segments of the Eagle River using flow and temperature gauges -Prioritize areas for tree canopy coverage -Identify technical resources for tree planting -Identify potential funding resources from private landowners	Stakeholders: ERWC, CPW, Eagle County Open Space (ECOS), private and public landowners, Eagle Valley Land Trust, Eagle County Conservation District, volunteers for tree planting, BLM	-Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program (CWHP) via CPW -Colorado Water Plan Grants via CWCBC -ECOS Master Plan -Wildfire Prevention Watershed Restoration funding via CWCBC -Eagle River Watershed Council/Eagle River Fund	-Private lands from Eagle to Gypsum -Public lands west of Gypsum impacted by forest fire	
Utilize conservation easements to protect riparian habitat, wetlands, and floodplains	(Public lands) -Identify and prioritize areas, including municipal and county public lands -Review county and municipal priorities for conservation easements for county public lands (Private lands) - Identify and prioritize areas in private lands	-ERWC -Land Trusts (e.g., EVLT, Colorado Open Lands) -Eagle County Conservation District	-Eagle County Open Space funding -Municipal funding -State and federal funding for floodplain connectivity -GOCO and NFWF RESTORE grant -CPW funding for beaver habitat -CWCBC -Colorado River District	-See the geographic extent from the projects to plan and implement riparian habitat restoration projects on public and private lands	

Riparian Habitat Restoration Strategy				
Project Concept	Timeline & Tasks	Champion & Relevant Stakeholders	Funding/ Resources	Geographic Extent
Develop recommendations for riparian setbacks in Eagle County and the towns of Eagle County	-Gathering existing information -Identify opportunities for consistency across policies -Review current regulations for improvement -opportunities (e.g., flood plain requirements) -Review current County and town policies -Review Town of Vail's setback model as a reference -Develop vegetation goals within the policies -Coordinate referrals amongst organizations in Eagle County -Identify community advocates to support the effort -Coordinate amongst appropriate legal departments -Institute the recommendations	Stakeholders: Eagle County, all municipalities in Eagle County, CPW, Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, relevant federal agencies	-Resource: Town of Vail's recently updated setback requirement -Resource: CPW's literature on the topic -Funding: Ducks Unlimited -Potential funding: Leverage the Camp Hale – National Divide National Monument status for federal funding from the USFS and/or the National Park Service (NPS)	Eagle County

Recreation Infrastructure Strategy				
Project Concept	Timeline & Tasks	Champion & Relevant Stakeholders	Funding/ Resources	Geographic Extent
Inventory and upgrade existing boat infrastructure (e.g., hard and soft), river access points, and nearby recreational areas	-Gather existing information and resources -Inventory areas of high recreational use and high-impact boat ramps -Conduct site-by-site planning assessments -Consider infrastructure improvements to benefit social recreational spaces -Reference places like Stephens Park in Vail -Develop public education opportunities (e.g., signage and learning experiences) -Identify geographic constraints and landownership	Stakeholders: Trout Unlimited, commercial rafting companies, CPW, recreational user groups, BLM, Eagle County	-Fishing is Fun Program (CPW) -Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program (CPW) -Blue Trail Program (American Rivers) -ECOS Master Plan	-Official boat ramp areas in Eagle County -Unofficial boat ramp areas in Eagle County

Recreation Use Limits					
Project Concept	Timeline & Tasks	Champion & Relevant Stakeholders	Funding/ Resources	Geographic Extent	
Study recreation stresses on environmental resources	-Identify reaches where environmental resources are stressed by recreation use -Study carrying capacity for fishing (catch-and-release and catch-and-keep) and identify thresholds to not surpass carrying capacity -Conduct a survey of user groups -Review current commercial use data collected by Eagle County	Stakeholders: CPW (for fishing studies), Eagle County, BLM, US Forest Service, municipalities	-American Rivers -American Whitewater -Trout Unlimited -Ducks Unlimited	Eagle County	
Study user pay systems for feasibility and equity	-Identify who is recreating on the Eagle River and when -Research and identify possible management structures -Study fee impacts on recreation use while considering equity concerns associated with implementing a fee-based system -Assess lessons learned from the BLM's implementation of fees to manage recreation -Explore options to develop a residential pass with a lower fee structure than non-residential passes	Stakeholders: CPW, Eagle County, BLM, US Forest Service, municipalities, user groups (e.g., American Whitewater, Trout Unlimited), business community (e.g., Vail Valley Partnership)	-American Rivers -American Whitewater -Trout Unlimited -Ducks Unlimited	Eagle County	

Turf Reduction and Landscaping Strategy				
Project Concept	Timeline & Tasks	Champion & Relevant Stakeholders	Potential Funding/ Resources	Geographic Extent
Implement turf demonstration projects	-Hire a contractor to evaluate opportunities for turf reduction projects in municipal and county parks -Identify and develop demonstration gardens -Solicit landscapers for suggestions -Organize and highlight stormwater demonstration projects -Partner with landscaping services to offer prizes, such as free water-wise landscaping consultations	Champion: ERWC Stakeholders: Eagle County, all municipalities in Eagle County, local landscaping businesses, Colorado State University Eagle County Extension Office, Betty Ford Alpine Gardens	-CWCB funding via House Bill 22-1151 -Colorado River District -Water providers -County and town governments	-Eagle County -Towns of Eagle, Gypsum, and Red Cliff for stormwater demonstration projects
Organize an education and outreach program to promote water-wise landscaping	-Engage with educators to teach students on turf reduction and water-wise landscaping -Show homeowners how to properly set up smart irrigation controllers and manage irrigation use -Establish a turf reduction ambassador program -Develop a certification program for water-wise landscaping	Champion: ERWC Stakeholders: Local schools, local landscaping businesses, Eagle River Water and Sanitation District	Colorado River Basin Roundtable PEPO Workgroup	Eagle County
Establish a local source/nursery for native vegetation	-Engage with local nurseries to provide more opportunities for people to acquire native vegetation -Solicit landscapers for suggestions -Partner with nurseries to develop a messaging/ labeling system to identify plants grown in Eagle County -Partner with nurseries to develop a labeling system to show how much water a potted plant requires -Develop plant palettes for turf replacement -Utilize planselect.org as an educational tool to promote native vegetation	Stakeholders: Eagle County Conservation District, Betty Ford Alpine Garden, local landscape architects, local nurseries, Eagle River Water Sanitation District, Colorado State University Eagle County Extension Program	-CWCB -Colorado State University Extension Program	Eagle County

Turf Reduction and Landscaping Strategy				
Project Concept	Timeline & Tasks	Champion & Relevant Stakeholders	Potential Funding/ Resources	Geographic Extent
Establish landscape guidelines for turf reduction for new developments or rebuilds	-Identify best management practices for land-use policies based on what is working in other cities along the Front Range and arid West -Solicit landscapers for suggestions -Develop an inventory of existing land-use policies to understand current landscape guidelines for new developments or rebuilds -Coordinate with towns and municipalities to implement water-wise landscaping policies and regulations -Engage with homeowner associations to learn more about their turf policies	Champion: Eagle River Watershed Council Stakeholders: Eagle County, water providers, all municipalities in Eagle County, Eagle County Conservation District, Walking Mountains Science Center	-Colorado River District -Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment -CWCB	Eagle County
Develop an incentive program for community members to re-landscape their properties and reduce turf	-Research other cities along the Front Range and in the Arid West to learn more about their turf reduction incentive programs. -Leverage state funding focused on turf reduction incentives to provide financial resources to existing programs -Build off Eagle River Water and Sanitation District's existing turf reduction program -Build off Eagle River Watershed Council's Clean and Flowing Rivers Program to provide turf reduction incentives, particularly for communities outside ERWSD's jurisdiction -Identify other funding opportunities to supplement turf replacement rebate programs	Champion: ERWC Stakeholders: ERWSD, Homeowner Associations, all municipalities in Eagle County	Potential CWCB program funding via House Bill 22-1151	Eagle County

Turf Reduction and Landscaping Strategy				
Project Concept	Timeline & Tasks	Champion & Relevant Stakeholders	Potential Funding/ Resources	Geographic Extent
Establish policies to reduce water use on existing properties	-Establish and enforce limitations on municipal irrigation (e.g., water only "x" amount of days/week, do not water in the heat of the day)	Stakeholders: Eagle County, all municipalities in Eagle County		Eagle County

Water Rate Structure Strategy					
Project Concept	Timeline & Tasks	Champion & Relevant Stakeholders	Funding/ Resources	Geographic Extent	
Translate Eagle River Water and Sanitation District's tiered water rate cost structure to places outside of their jurisdiction	-Develop an inventory of water rate structures used across Eagle County -Engage town councils on the benefits of a tiered water rate structure in reducing consumption -Engage the public on the benefits of a tiered water rate structure in reducing consumption, including landlords and renters	Champion: ERWC Stakeholders: Water providers, Eagle County, all municipalities in Eagle County	-Colorado River Basin Roundtable PEPO Workgroup -Colorado Water Conservation Board -Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment -Colorado River District	Eagle County	
Establish water budgets for properties throughout Eagle County	-Conduct a survey of individual property landscaping and water requirements	Stakeholders: Water providers, Eagle County, all municipalities in Eagle County	-County and town governments -Water Providers -CWCB -Colorado River District	Eagle County	

Education and Community Outreach Strategy ²					
Project Concept	Timeline & Tasks	Champion & Relevant Stakeholders	Funding/ Resources	Geographic Extent	
Establish a long-term stakeholder coalition to implement projects	-Identify who is missing from the stakeholder group -Identify barriers to participating for groups that are not participating	Champion: ERWC Stakeholders: All ERCWP stakeholders	Eagle River Fund	Eagle River Valley	
Engage with homeowners by bringing information to their homes to reduce excessive use of water	-Provide assistance for water audits -Expand the Eagle County Energy Smart Program to include Water Smart objectives -Bring education into homes via new stories (and more) -Include educational information/notices in water bills -Provide educational information on turf replacement/water-wise landscaping and smart irrigation controllers (<i>see Turf Reduction and Landscaping and Climate Studies/Infrastructure strategies</i> respectively for more details)	Stakeholders: ERWC, ERWSD, Eagle County, municipalities	Eagle River Fund	Eagle County	

² Participants discussed that the education and outreach strategy is associated with other projects (e.g., education and outreach on turf reduction), so there was not a need to identify discrete projects for the education and outreach strategy.