

# Stream Management Plan Grantee Project Summary

## South Boulder Creek Stream Management Plan (Phase I)

**Geographic Description:**  
South Platte River Basin:  
South Boulder Creek

**Size:**  
9 miles

**Project Homepage:**  
<https://www.boulderflycasters.org/south-boulder-creek/>

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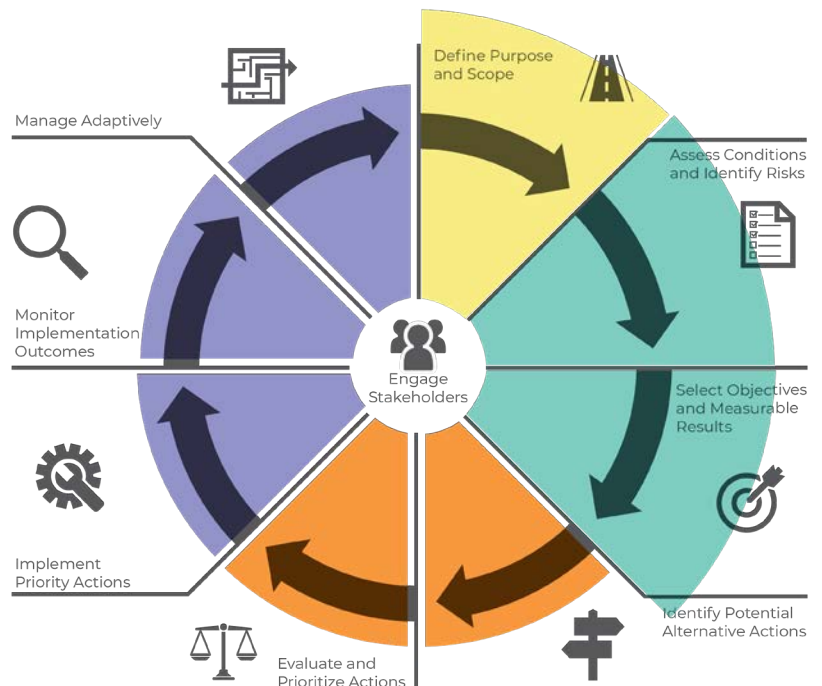
### Project Timeline



### Stakeholder Groups Involved in Planning Process

●	Agricultural producers
●	Riparian landowners
●	Aquatic and riparian science
●	Environmental advocacy
●	Utilities or other water management
●	Recreation & tourism
●	Local government & land use planners

### Current Planning Phase



## Project Goals

- Develop a working collaboration between key stakeholders committed to habitat quality and water quantity and quality
- Improve understanding of the current state, challenges and future opportunities for improvement of the South Boulder Creek watershed
- Prepare for potential operation of the Gross Reservoir Environmental Pool
- Build stakeholder support of Phase II to enable future actions

## Overview

### Geography:

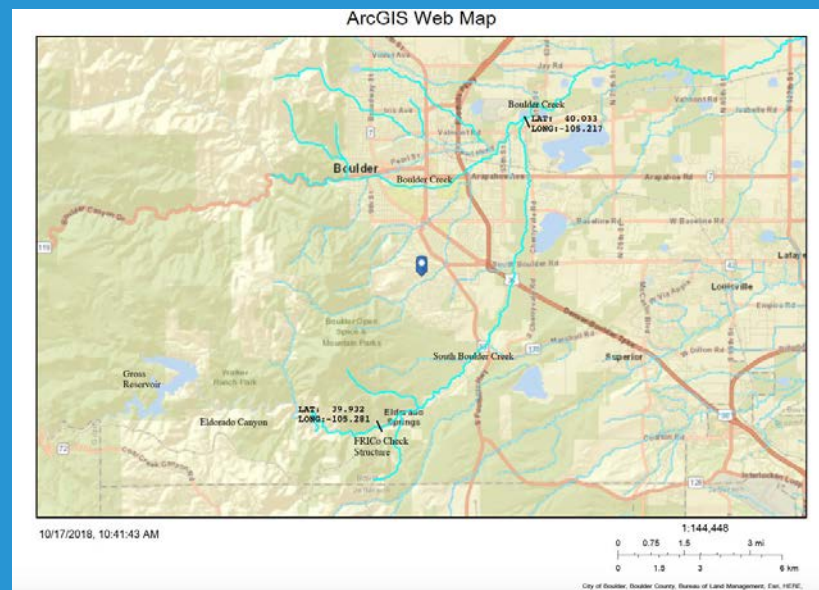
South Boulder Creek (SBC) originates in the mountains above the Moffat Tunnel and flows northeast through mostly public lands before meeting up with Boulder Creek east of Boulder. The stream management plan (SMP) will encompass about nine miles of South Boulder Creek beginning at the FRICo (Community Ditch) check structure at the mouth of Eldorado Canyon to the confluence with Boulder Creek.

### Users:

Current stakeholders include the City of Boulder Water Utilities Division and Open Space & Mountain Parks, City of Lafayette Public Works and Water Utility, Denver Water, Colorado Trout Unlimited, and Boulder Flycasters. Additional stakeholders will be engaged, including ditch companies, commercial and industrial water users, and private landowners.

### Need for Planning:

This SMP is largely driven by Denver Water's proposed expansion of Gross Reservoir. When the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project is constructed, an associated environmental pool will house 5,000 acre-feet of water, provided by Boulder and Lafayette, to augment



streamflows. This SMP focuses on that environmental pool and its ability to increase year-round flows and associated habitat improvement.

In the past, water diversions from the creek, as well as physical impediments to low-flow passage resulted in no or low streamflows throughout the winter. Now, stakeholders aim to maximize the environmental pool and opportunity for overall watershed improvement through the SMP. In the event that the Gross Reservoir Expansion Project does not obtain required permitting, the SMP will still serve as a “master plan” for improving the watershed.



## Approach

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Colorado Trout Unlimited (CTU) and Boulder Flycasters (BFC) are the project sponsors and are supervising consultants, along with partner and volunteer resources. CTU and BFC are responsible for stakeholder communications and engagement, steering committee functions, grant administration and ultimately completing this phase of the plan. A steering committee made up of Denver Water, the City of Boulder Water Utilities Division and Open Space and Mountain Parks, the City of Lafayette Public Works and Water Utility, CTU and BFC will meet bi-monthly throughout 2019.

The committee hired consultants to help with project management, river health assessment and infrastructure assessment. Consultants are led by Biohabitats and includes Wright Water Engineers and GEI.

In addition to BFC volunteers and CTU staff, others will be providing in-kind help including:

- **Colorado School of Mines senior engineering students are assisting in:**
  - Developing an inventory of infrastructure on the stretch.
  - Identifying potential infrastructure modifications for low-flow and fish passage, as well as water use efficiency (under the supervision of contracted consultants).
- **Municipal partners are assisting in:**
  - Identification, collection and distribution of data and scientific/engineering studies and reports from their organizations.
  - Providing scientific or engineering staff in selection and development of assessment methodologies.
  - Participating in on-site examination of South Boulder Creek reaches for habitat or infrastructure assessments.
  - Providing input for and review of deliverables.



## Budget

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match
CWCB Watershed Restoration Fund	\$55,500 cash
Trout Unlimited	\$12,500 cash
Basin Roundtables (Metro and South Platte)	\$27,000 cash
Other funding (yet to be raised)	\$5,000 cash
Colorado Trout Unlimited/Boulder Fly-casters, Municipal partners, and Colorado School of Mines students	\$38,000 in-kind
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$138,000</b>



Photos courtesy of Colorado Trout Unlimited