



Arkansas Headwaters  
Recreational Area

## Arkansas Headwaters, Salida 4/22/2008

**Expectations:** *Entities that did not collect data but needed it came to see if this might fill that need. Many entities mentioned that they wanted access to what was going on and the data in an easy way because they knew there was a lot of work being done. They hoped this effort would help provide easy access to this information and save their resources. Some came to find out what DSN is about and what data they could access from it in order to do their work. Some came to share what they are doing and their concerns regarding the current and future health of the Arkansas River.*

### Watershed SWAP Priorities and Concerns:

#### EVALUATION:

- Content about right (100%) and Overall pace about right (100%)
- All but one participant increased knowledge of DSN and difference between Database and map (100%)
- 44% said would upload data to database and did not need help, 44% needed to evaluate and remaining did not have data.
- 60% said would use the data 40% were not sure and it was function of if their issue required data or not.

#### FREQUENCY:

- Yes, quarterly to stay informed
- Yes, spring and fall related to monitoring season, collaborate before, review and modify after
- Yes, once a year adequate
- Scale is accurate.
- Future topic Swap with local land use decision makers
- Future topic Presentation of completed studies

- About 1/3 of participants generated some data, the remaining participants needed others data. There are data gaps.
- Concern for sediment impacts to fisheries and riparian zones came up more than once, as well as the complexity of how to measure impacts, extent and effects of restoration efforts.
- In recent past flash flood or high volume rain events have been a huge sediment loader to the Arkansas River. These big events need to be weeded out from everyday loads in assessing BMP restoration efforts, weeded from establishing a benchmark for existing conditions. Creative BMP's, relationships and partnerships are needed to address this as well as ways to monitoring and assess. A new 319 NPS project may help provide methods for other areas.
- A Citizen Task Force composed of seven groups, 14 individuals meet to help manage general sedimentation loads in the upper basin.
- Concern about the future of the fishery due to combination of metals loading, competing recreation interests for different flow regimes, and ability to measure, reduce and mitigate impacts. Focusing on fry habitat and limiting factors analyses to rule out each factor, disease included.
- Concern and priority for Leadville that the California Gulch clean up efforts stopped short of reaching any meaningful goals. Solutions are readily available if appropriate entities engage. Data does demonstrate that there still is a serious load to California Gulch for a variety of reasons, but also that there is a solution. Those involved in the Superfund Clean up need to re-engage, reach a real water quality improvement goal and be accountable to their processes.
- Need for baseline data in Canon City to be able to determine impact of City and growth so can manage and reduce impact. Have program in place, data already shows sediment impacts to benthic communities. Working on wet weather data to incorporate into storm permitting processes.
- Resurgence of uranium mining concern for multiple parties, need for baseline data to ensure impacts are accounted for.
- Conducted restoration project on Cottonwood Creek, need to understand value and impact from that effort on fish community.
- Concern and priority to be able to understand existing conditions and changes from that condition in general and in terms of WQCC standards, which are difficult to understand.
- Concern regarding impact from individual gold panning efforts. Have plan in place to check them but not sure of overall impact.
- Need is around management of Forest Service water rights and wells. Over years have seen increase in nitrate/nitrites and algal blooms. Would like to sample for metals too. Concern about decreasing ground water levels with current and planned pumping plans.
- Concern and need to not be a source of pollution at all of the Park Service sites, so priority is working at these sites and with people to keep impact at a minimum.
- Concern about zebra mussel getting into upper Arkansas as it has been found in Pueblo Reservoir.

### Sponsors



## Who attended?

Carolyn Schott  
 Lifezone Ecological, Inc.  
 Craig Barrachlough  
 Park County  
 Crystal Tischler  
 CO State Forest Service  
 Ed Eberle  
 Collegiate Peaks Anglers - Trout Unlimited  
 Greg Policky - CDOW  
 John Nahomenuk - BLM  
 John Smeins - BLM  
 John Segars - USDA/NRCS  
 Ken Olsen - Lake County  
 Nicholas Gerich  
 USDA Forest Service/ Leadville Ranger District  
 Rego Omerigic  
 Lake County Water Advisory Board  
 Rick Gay - City of Canon City  
 Rob White  
 Colorado State Parks - AHRA

## Who was missing?

Local Audubon Society  
 Aurora  
 Colorado Springs  
 Numont  
 Phelps  
 Freeport-McMoran- Gary Slifka  
 CWBC  
 Developers  
 Cripple Cr Victor Gold Mine  
 Monarch Ski Area  
 Lake County Conservation District  
 CUSP, based in Lake George

## Who was invited?

Anglers  
 Ark Headwaters Rec. Area & BLM  
 Ark. Rivers Outfitters Assoc. (AROA)  
 BLM  
 Buena Vista  
 Buena Vista Chamber of Commerce  
 Buena Vista High School  
 CDOW  
 Chaffee County  
 City of Canon City  
 City of Florence - Water Department  
 City of Leadville  
 CO State Forest Service  
 CO State Parks  
 Colleg Pks Anglers Trout Unlimited  
 Collegiate Peaks Anglers - Trout Unlimited



Map created by and donated from USGS

Colorado Division of Wildlife  
 Colorado Mountain College  
 Colorado Rural Water Association  
 Colorado State Forest Service  
 Colorado State Parks - AHRA  
 CSU  
 Culebra Range Community Coalition  
 Custer County  
 Custer-Divide Conservation District  
 East Twin Lakes Ditches/Water Works  
 Environmental Interests  
 Freeport-McMoran  
 Greater Arkansas River Natura Association (GARNA)  
 Lake County  
 Lake County Conservation District

Lake County Water Advisory Board  
 Lake Fork Watershed Work Group  
 Local Gov't  
 Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service  
 NRCS - Cannon City Field Office  
 NRCS - Colorado Springs Field Office  
 NRCS - Salida Field Office  
 NRCS - Trinidad Field Office  
 NRCS - Walsenburg Field Office  
 NRCS District 3  
 NRCS Pueblo Field Office  
 Park County  
 Pitkin Co. Dept. of Environmental Health & Natural  
 Private Boaters