



EAGLE RIVER COALITION

Protecting Our Local Watersheds



Impact Report | 2023

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Message from Board President & Executive Director

You may notice that this annual report looks a bit different from past reports - we are thrilled to share with you our new name and branding as the Eagle River Coalition: your local watershed-protecting nonprofit. Our fresh, revitalized identity provides a solid foundation as we continue to seek innovative solutions to protect and restore our rivers.

Current threats to river health, including climate change and population growth, challenge us to face the reality of a dwindling water supply, compromised water quality, and the loss of river-reliant plants and animals. Without the Eagle River Coalition, local watersheds would lack the advocacy and action needed to secure their vibrant future.

We have a new name and logo, and yet we are grounded by our longstanding mission to advocate for the Upper Colorado and Eagle River basins. We protect our community's shared vision of a vibrant future. through monitoring, research, education and restoration projects.

Water demands are anticipated to continue to increase, elevating the importance of local actions, policies and decisions in the headwaters. At the time of writing, we are unveiling the Community Water Plan, which identifies the critical actions to protect shared values in this watershed. The plan has been in development for 6 years, but as you'll see in the plan highlight on page 4, the real work is only just beginning.

Board of Directors

Peter Wadden | *President*
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Staff

James Dilzell | *Executive Director*
Peder Franson | *Restoration Manager*
Melanie Smith | *Development Director*
Rose Sandell | *Education Coordinator*

From tradition-rich and volunteer-dependent events like the annual cleanups to initiatives that empower Spanish-speaking youth with river conservation skills, in 2023 we deepened our commitment to serving as the voice for the Eagle River and connecting our community to our watershed.

The Eagle River Coalition empowers the community to become agents of change to protect local waterways. Together, we can improve river health and safeguard our most essential resource: water.



Peter Wadden
Board President



James Dilzell
Executive Director

Community Engagement & Education

Together, we:



RECREATIONAL BOATING



Doubled capacity of the annual **Community Float**, which allows 90+ Spanish-speaking individuals to learn about river conservation while **rafting the Colorado River**.



General

Coordinated two **county-wide cleanups** that removed a total of more than 22 tons of trash from local roads and rivers with the help of **1200+ volunteers**.



WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY



Connected participants to the **Homestake Valley's rare antique wetlands**, provided Spanish interpretation, and taught species identification skills.



General

Brought together 400+ local 5th-graders to learn about water topics from experts at the annual **Eagle River Water Festival**, and provided interpretation to Spanish-speaking students.



ANGLING



Coordinated with My Future Pathways to connect kids to their river through bug kicking, angling basics, and learning about how **water quality and ecosystem health are connected**.



WILDLIFE AND BIODIVERSITY



Brought hands-on water quality testing experiences, like lessons about dissolved oxygen and temperature, to **Eagle Valley High School students** both in the field and in the laboratory.



MUNICIPAL WATER USE



Launched the **Beyond Lawn Water Efficiency Program**, in partnership with the Eagle County Conservation District. In 2023, the program offered rain barrel workshops, DIY landscape classes and landscape assessments. Planning began for three water wise demonstration gardens as well.



EAGLE
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Protecting Our L

Natural Infrastructure & River Restoration

Project Highlights

In 2023, willows and cottonwoods were harvested and later replanted along Brush Creek in Eagle to help **enhance riparian habitat and prevent future degradation**. Additionally, we partnered with Eagle County Open Space and volunteers to employ **processed-based restoration techniques** by building low-tech structures in and near the stream. These have been installed to help restore stream complexity and the health of this important ecosystem.

WILDLIFE AND
BIODIVERSITY



"The Eagle River Coalition is important because they oversee the health and the welfare of our rivers."

Patti Held, local volunteer



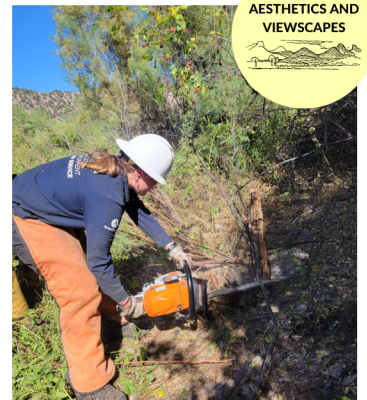
MUNICIPAL
WATER USE



Gore Creek has been listed as a 303(d) impaired waterway for low aquatic life since 2012. The impairment is due in part to a loss of streamside vegetation. This **vegetation stabilizes streambanks, shades waterways, helps supply nutrients** that are essential to aquatic life, and **filters pollutants** from surface and groundwater. In 2023, a total of **82 volunteers** participated in three separate events, planting native riparian vegetation, removing noxious weeds, and closing off several social trails that were contributing to erosion.

Noxious weed mitigation efforts throughout the watershed included the continuation of an effort to stop the upstream spread of tamarisk. Together with the BLM and a crew from the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, **five acres of tamarisk was treated**. Additionally, 94 volunteers participated in three separate smaller-scale noxious weed removal efforts for a total of **178 hours and many bags of weeds removed from sensitive habitats**.

AESTHETICS AND
VIEWSCAPES

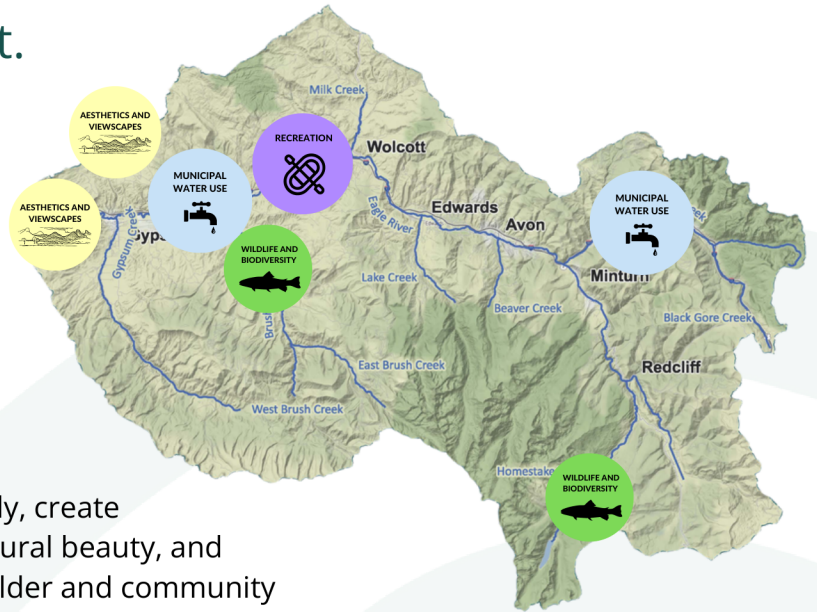


RIVER RESTORATION

Local Watersheds

Protecting what we care about.

The Eagle River Community Water Plan process began in 2017, and is intended to provide a roadmap for our community, our organization and our decision makers to mitigate undesirable future conditions for our rivers. The ultimate goal is to protect and enhance the productive, healthy, and beautiful river systems that sustain our community and its values.



Streams and rivers provide municipal water supply, create vibrant ecosystems, enhance the landscape's natural beauty, and underpin the tourism economy. Through stakeholder and community outreach, the Plan identified river-related values in our community and how water quality and quantity may be at risk in a changing and uncertain world.

Included in this plan are priority actions, such as reducing excessive outdoor water use, continuing to collect water quality data, increasing restoration project opportunities, and more. As ever, our forward-thinking organization of water experts, community leaders and river lovers is bringing to life our shared vision of healthy waterways.

EXPLORE THE PLAN



RIVER-RELATED COMMUNITY VALUES



You can learn more about the Eagle River Community Water Plan by visiting waterplan.eagleriverco.org.

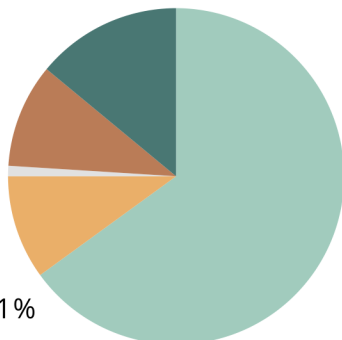
Eagle River Coalition

REVENUE

2023

EXPENSES

- Government | 64%
- Individuals | 15%
- Foundations | 10%
- Businesses | 10%
- Land & Rivers Fund | 1%



- Monitoring & Advocacy | 33%
- Restoration | 28%
- Education & Outreach | 15%
- Operating | 14%
- Fundraising | 10%

