

PEAKS TO PEOPLE WATER FUND SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Note from the Director



Hello and Happy Summer! I hope you have been able to spend quality time with family and friends during this fun time of year. We have some exciting developments and opportunities to share with you!

I'd like to start off by sending a huge, heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Board Chair Dr. Robin Reid. As co-founder of Peaks to People Robin has played an integral role in the development and success of our organization. Her creativity and collaborative mindset have been an incredible asset over the years and for that we are forever grateful. We are very happy to announce our new Board Chair, Rob Addington. Rob

is the Forest/Fire Program Director with the Nature Conservancy's Colorado Chapter and a longtime supporter of Peaks to People. We are confident Rob will continue to take us on the upward trajectory Robin has set us upon. Welcome to your exciting new role Rob!

We are looking to round out our Board of Directors by adding a few new members. Some of the areas/skills we are seeking are business representatives (especially water dependent businesses), fundraising expertise, and a CPA. If you or anyone you know would like to learn more about this wonderful opportunity, please [let me know](#).

In this issue we're pleased to introduce you to our newest board member, Mike Lester. Mike is the Director of the Colorado State Forest Service and he shared with us his thoughts on the value Peaks to People is adding to conservation work in Northern Colorado. To learn more about our important work and why it matters to the health of our two watersheds please read our blog [Restoring Our Forests to Protect Our Water](#).

Our board has committed to helping us meet our short-term goal of raising \$1,000,000 for project implementation by 2020. Thanks to our generous donors we have secured \$527,000 to date. We plan to leverage these funds to treat 1,000 in the Big Thompson and Poudre River Watersheds in Northern Colorado. If you are interested in funding a Watershed Investment Project, please [contact us](#). We pool all donations together to fund local fuels reduction projects on the horizon. We're excited to report that we are funding our next round of projects and invite you to [submit your proposals](#).

Enjoy this update and please share this with others who value forest health and water quality like you do. To stay connected and current don't forget to like and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Tweet](#) us anytime, and connect with us on [LinkedIn](#). Restoring our forested watersheds to a healthy state is a daunting challenge but together we are working towards solutions.

Thank you for your support!

Heather Schinkel, Director





Board Member Profile



We are pleased to introduce you to another one of our amazing board members, Mike Lester. Mike is the Director of the Colorado State Forest Service and has more than 30 years of professional experience in state and private forestry. Prior to being named Colorado state forester in 2013,

he served as assistant state forester for the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry. We met up with Mike recently to discuss the importance of our work here in Northern Colorado.

How do you see Peaks to People's work addressing the complex challenges facing our forested watersheds and the communities that depend on them?

There are several challenges that Peaks to People can impact in a positive way. First, given limited resources, we need to use science and data to focus our efforts on areas of the greatest need.

Second, given the magnitude of the job, no one entity can handle this by themselves. Peaks to People pulls together a partnership that is more powerful than its individual participants. Finally, Coloradans need to understand the importance of investing in their forests and Peak to People reinforces that for the citizens of Northern Colorado.

What benefits do you see our Watershed Investment Tool providing to public and private land managers?

The challenges to forest health can be overwhelming and the available resources underwhelming. The WIT allows us to apply limited resources where they will have the greatest impact on the health of our forests and the subsequent benefits to our watersheds.

How can Peaks to People Water Fund add value to forest restoration efforts already underway in Northern Colorado?

One of the most important contributions of healthy forests is enhancing the quality and quantity of water supplies. The Water Fund allows us to dedicate resources directly to the forests that will have the greatest impact on clean water

Resources for Landowners



Wildfire mitigation actions are on-the-ground treatments of forested properties implemented to reduce the threat of wildfire. These actions can take place before, during or after a wildfire has occurred. The Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) is the lead state agency in fuels mitigation expertise in Colorado and an excellent resource for residents who

want to gain more information and take steps to decrease the threat of wildfire to their property.

<https://csfs.colostate.edu/wildfire-mitigation/>

A variety of programs for homeowners and landowners exist through the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) to assist them in managing their property. The Colorado State Forest Service helps individuals, landowners, community groups and others secure grants and assistance for projects that promote healthy and sustainable forest conditions in Colorado.

Programs Offered through CSFS

- **Forest Ag**
- **Forest Legacy Program** - The program authorizes the CSFS or U.S. Forest Service to purchase permanent conservation easements on private forestlands to prevent those lands from being converted to non-forest uses.
- **Forest Restoration & Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program** - The FRWRM program was established through Senate Bill 17-050 and funded in 2018 by House Bill 18-1338 to provide state support in the form of competitive grant funds to encourage community-level actions across the state to:
 - Reduce the risk of wildfire to people, property, and infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface (WUI)
 - Promote forest health and forest restoration projects
 - Encourage utilization of woody material for traditional forest products and biomass energy
- **Forest Stewardship Program**
- **Homesite Assessments**
- **Tree Farm Program**

The following document outlines forestry/agroforestry and cost-share programs for Colorado landowners and communities.

LANDOWNER & COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR FORESTRY/AGROFORESTRY IN COLORADO



Restoring Our Forests to Protect Our Water



Our Work Matters

Water funds provide a unique opportunity to bring diverse groups of water users together to achieve the common goal of protecting our greatest resource – water. At Peaks to People our goal is to generate sustainable funding from new and

unique sources to proactively increase the pace and scale of forest restoration in the Big Thompson and Poudre River watersheds.

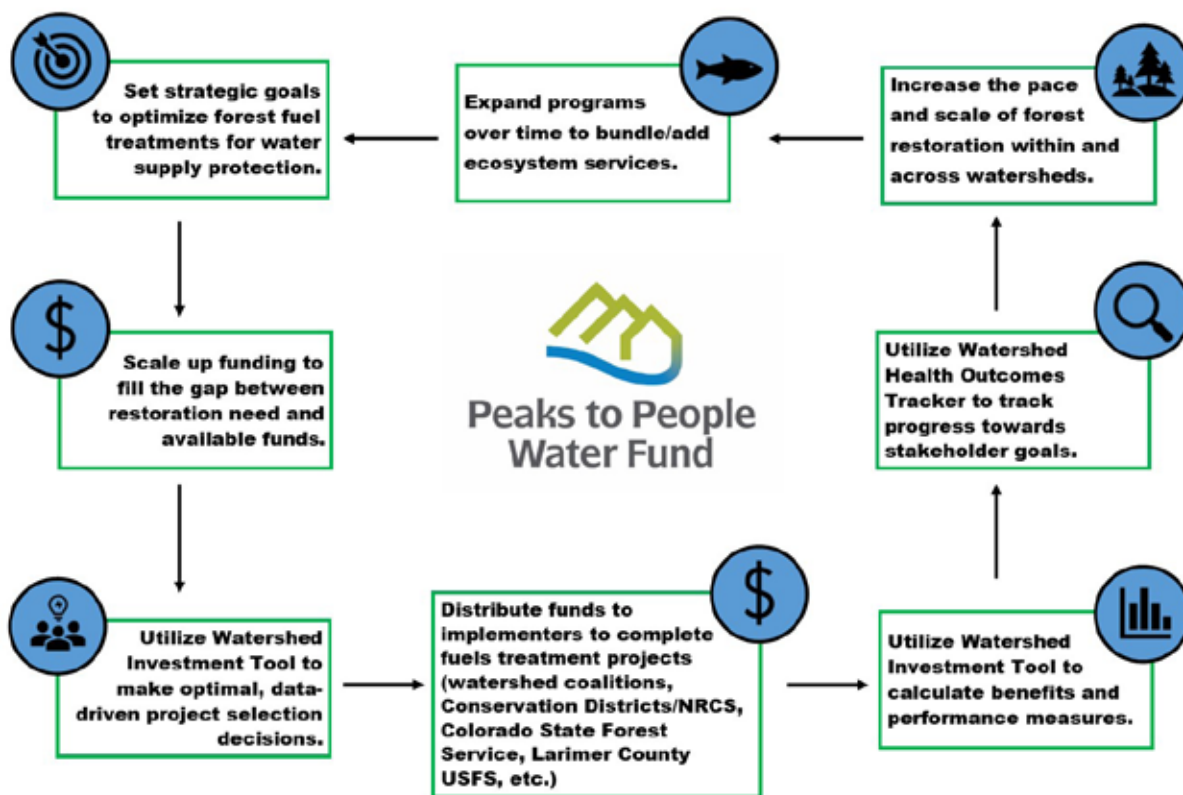
Our Strategy is Unique

We follow a strategic process to ensure we continually add value to the important restoration work already underway in Northern Colorado.

- Connect downstream beneficiaries and stewards (including landowners and others that are involved in natural resource management in the watersheds) to set strategic water supply protection goals.
- Obtain new and significantly scaled sources of funding for forest health treatments.
- Identify priority places for restoration and cost-effective risk reduction treatments.
- Create consistency in monitoring standards and measures of success.
- Track and report on the outcomes of forest health treatments in the watersheds.

Our work matters, our strategy is unique and our innovation benefits everyone. Learn more about our important work in our blog, [Restoring Our Forests to Protect Our Water](#).

Peaks to People Water Fund Process Flow





Lory State Park

Important forest restoration work is continuing this summer in Lory State Park west of Fort Collins. Earlier this month three masticators were brought in for the start of the project. One started working along the hazard tree corridor with the other two working in the Soldier Canyon unit.

These projects aim to decrease hazardous fuels, increase forest health, reduce dwarf mistletoe, improve wildlife habitat, and increase forest resistance to insects, disease, and drought.



[Peaks to People Project Selection Process/
How to Apply for Funding](#)

[How to register for access to the Peaks to People
Watershed Health Outcomes Tracker](#)

[How to add a project to the Peaks to People Watershed
Health Outcomes Tracker](#)

We're excited to report that we are funding our next round of projects and invite you to submit your proposals. Don't miss this great opportunity! We look forward to providing continued support of all the valuable work being done to protect the quality of our water supplies and the health of our forested watersheds

Website Updates

We have added a Frequently Asked Questions page to our website to assist our readers and followers in quickly finding the answers they are looking for about our work and the science behind it with links to more information on most topics. We encourage you to check out all the great information on this page and [please let us know](#) what questions you would like to see answered!

Don't forget to check out our Watershed Investment Tool web page!

Learn all about it in our new video. Then Head on over <http://peakstoppeople.org/watershed-investment-tool/> to try the tool today!

**The return on
this investment
is more valuable
than money.**





Don't Miss a Drop of Good News

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