

PEAKS TO PEOPLE WATER FUND SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER



Note from the Director

Greetings and well wishes,

A lot has happened in our community and around the world since our last update. It is my sincere hope that you and your loved ones are healthy and have been able to find comfort and clarity during these unprecedented times. While so much has changed, our dependence on healthy forests and the need to protect our vulnerable water supplies from the destructive effects of severe wildfire has not.

While staying safer at home we have been developing some big new initiatives and are excited to be working with the Big Thompson Conservation District and other partners on upcoming projects. In this update we'll be introducing you to Peaks to People board member, Judy Dorsey founding President and Principal Engineer of Brendle Group, sharing news of our current project in the Big Thompson watershed and providing more resources to help landowners be better stewards. We would also like to let you know about some important changes The Nature Conservancy in Colorado has had to make in the face of the Covid crisis.

Please share this with your friends, family and colleagues. Stay connected and current by following us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Feel free to reach out anytime and most importantly stay healthy, stay happy and stay safe.

Heather Schinkel, Director





Board Member Profile



We are very glad to be introducing you to another of our incredible board members, Judy Dorsey. As the founding president and principal engineer of Brendle Group, Judy is a pioneering engineer, entrepreneur, and sustainability business leader with 26 years of executive expertise

in innovation, strategy and risk management. A natural team-builder, she has led the completion of more than 300 sustainability projects for over 150 clients across 30 states. She has coached numerous business leaders and public policy makers in managing the risks and opportunities posed by climate change, energy system transitions and other socio-economic challenges.

Through natural curiosity and engineering problem-solving, Judy distills complex technical problems into policy and strategy actions that solve for both the long and the short term. She is a valued collaborator known for her skilled facilitation in engaging diverse groups of stakeholders seeking to align and execute around a shared purpose. Judy is the recipient of numerous industry awards and is featured in the Smithsonian Institute's Places of Innovation exhibit. She serves as a U.S. C3E Ambassador, a group of distinguished senior leaders who serve as role models and advocates for women in clean energy.

How do you see Peaks to People supporting sustainability solutions in Northern Colorado?

"Efforts that increase community resilience are at the heart of sustainability solutions in Northern Colorado. Peaks to People makes us more resilient to climate change by protecting our water supply through proactive wildfire mitigation. This has cascading co-benefits across sustainability's triple bottom line, such as human health and safety benefits and economic benefits to communities. As we've discovered during past wildfire episodes and even now more starkly with COVID-19, strong social cohesion and inter-agency collaboration are paramount to community resilience. The water fund model employed by Peaks to People is an innovative platform for strategically investing in collaborative multi-stakeholder projects. Teamwork and collaborations at the project level help to build our capacity to manage uncertainty and changing conditions moving forward. Resilience, triple bottom line, social cohesion and positioning for the future are all important concepts of sustainability solutions in Northern Colorado embodied by Peaks to People."

How is working in a collaborative stakeholder environment informed by accurate and meaningful data important to you?

"The challenge with any non-profit is we can't do it all. It's important to use data to drive decisions about where to invest in the watershed for greatest benefit. Our Watershed Investment Tool helps with project selection, but has also helped to form our bigger picture strategy. Our stakeholders and project partners want to know their time and resources are being well spent."



We are excited to report that Peaks to People has been selected as a non-profit partner of 1% for the Planet. 1% for the Planet is a global organization that connects dollars and does to accelerate smart environmental giving. The current level of environmental giving — only 3% of total philanthropy — is not enough to solve the most pressing issues facing our planet. 1% for the

Planet is a global movement inspiring businesses and individuals to support environmental solutions through annual memberships and everyday actions.

1% for the Planet provides two membership programs: business membership and individual membership.

- Business members join the 1% for the Planet network and commit to donate the equivalent of 1% of gross sales through a combination of monetary, in-kind and approved promotional support directly to environmental nonprofits.
- Individual members join the network and pledge to donate 1% of their annual salary to environmental nonprofits through monetary and/or volunteer support.

Started in 2002 by Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia, and Craig Mathews, founder of Blue Ribbon Flies, 1% for the Planet members have given more than \$250 million to environmental nonprofits to date. Today, 1% for the Planet is a network of more than 3,600 member businesses and individuals and more than 4,300 nonprofit partners in more than 40 countries.

Learn more about their approach and how to become a member at [1% for the Planet](https://www.1percentfortheplanet.org/).



Project Update

Peaks to People is pleased to announce that the 250-acre Pole Hill forest health project in the Big Thompson watershed is underway. We are co-funding this project with substantial funds also coming from the Natural Resource Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Northern Water and the Colorado State Forest Service. This project is located in the headwaters of Cottonwood Creek which drains to the Big Thompson River and is headed up by the Big Thompson Conservation District. While there were some Covid and weather-

related delays, 60 acres have been treated to date. The project builds on past and planned fuel treatments in the area. The project area requires heavy tree thinning to restore the forests to a healthy composition and structure. The Colorado Forest Restoration Institute will conduct pre and post treatment monitoring to evaluate results. Targeted Performance Measures, photos and more about this project can be found in our [Watershed Health Outcomes Tracker Project Fact Sheet](#).



Pole Hill Forest Health Project Summer 2019



Pole Hill Forest Health Project Summer 2020

Peaks to People Funded Projects Create Jobs, Boost the Local Economy and Protect our Water Supplies!



We recently caught up with Matt Marshall, Conservation Forester for the Big Thompson Conservation District to learn more about the benefits the Pole Hill and other projects have had on our local economy through job creation. Matt explained, "Roughly 3 years ago the conservation districts on Colorado's northern front range began to implement large-scale forest restoration treatments. After initial project delays, we noticed the area lacked good logging contractors. To combat this issue, the conservation district staff has worked with local business owners and entrepreneurs to establish a reliable contractor list.

With the start of the Pole Hill forest restoration project, Uprooted Artistry was awarded their first big forestry contract. Starting with nothing more than a skid steer, chainsaw, and old truck; owners Tim and Peg Yancey have grown a business specializing in locally sourced wood products. After completing a few smaller jobs, they have been able to hire on 2 new crew members, purchase proper forestry equipment, and boost the local timber market with locally sourced wood.

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After Uprooted Artistry completed a job on one of the Pole Hill properties, landowner Dan Koehmstedt saw an opportunity to build a forestry crew of his own. Dan's past includes experience in engineering, road building, and natural resource management. This experience has led to the creation of Beartooth International and he was able to hit the ground running by procuring equipment and hiring on two additional crew members immediately. Dan has worked hard to complete his first contract with the conservation district and has put himself in an excellent place to succeed by establishing local markets for the forest products that he removed from the project areas.

By keeping work close to home these contractors have been able to keep operating costs low, forest products local, and trust from the communities strong. It has been inspiring and encouraging to see the creation of 2 logging contractors, 6 jobs, and local wood product use come from the 250-acre Pole Hill forestry project. We look for these contractors to continue to boost the local economies and complete forest restoration projects for years to come."



Congratulations to Ben Gannon, Research Associate at the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, for being awarded the Warner College of Natural Resources Outstanding Research Support Award! Ben has been working with CFRI since 2013 and is a PhD candidate in the Department of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship. His primary interests are fire ecology, watershed science, and wildfire risk assessment. He currently works on assessment and spatial planning tools for watershed-wildfire risk reduction and helped develop our Watershed Investment and Co-Benefit Tools. Be on the lookout for a plaque recognizing his achievement in the Natural Resources Building Atrium at CSU in the upcoming school year.

Watershed Health and Colorado Wildlife

The health of our streams and rivers, and the wildlife that depend on them, are directly related to the health of the forests that surround them. Forest structure affects habitat quality for many wildlife species, both terrestrial and aquatic. Projects funded by Peaks to People Water Fund not only protect water from sedimentation and debris, but also improve forest health and wildlife habitat. Learn how our work is helping Colorado wildlife in our blog, [The Importance of Forest Health for Colorado Wildlife](#).



In response to the pandemic, The Nature Conservancy has made the extremely difficult decision to discontinue the Colorado chapter's on-the-ground prescribed fire strategy. While TNC will continue to recognize and support the urgent need for prescribed fire in reducing wildfire risk and improving forest health – and will continue to advocate for this work going forward – they are no longer positioned to maintain their prescribed fire program.

They are currently working with a close partner, the [Forest Stewards Guild](#), to transition their fire program, equipment and associated projects to the Guild. The Forest Stewards Guild practices and promotes responsible forestry as a means of sustaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and the human communities dependent upon them. TNC is committed to ensuring this important work continues and to maintaining the momentum we've all worked so hard to establish.



Conservation Resources for Landowners

The statewide Colorado Wildlife Habitat Program (CWHP) offers opportunities for private landowners to voluntarily protect important wildlife habitat, provide wildlife-related recreational access to the public, and, if appropriate, sell their property to CPW.

Since the program's inception in 2006, CPW has provided millions of dollars to partnering landowners across the state. The CWHP has funded projects that have protected hundreds of thousands of acres of critical wildlife habitat, maintained working lands, and provided public access for wildlife-related recreational opportunities to Colorado residents and nonresidents alike.

Public access is not required for conservation easement projects. However, conservation easement projects that separately convey to CPW public access for wildlife-related recreation may be eligible for access compensation in addition to compensation for the conservation easement. Landowners may also submit proposals to

the CWHP for projects whose sole purpose is to provide hunting or fishing access to the public through a public access easement.

This is an annual program, and applicants are encouraged to reach out to the CPW's Program Manager, **Amanda Nims** at amanda.nims@state.co.us, any time during the year (especially in early January when 2021 priorities are rolled out). Landowners are encouraged to develop a clear vision of the future of their property prior to submitting their Proposal. So start thinking now about the goals you might pursue with next year's funding opportunities!



Funding for qualified projects comes from revenue generated by the sale of [habitat stamps](#) from sportspeople, from revenue generated by the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, from [Great Outdoors Colorado \(GOCO\)](#), and occasionally from federal funding sources. The 2020 program has an \$11million budget.

To learn more about this valuable program and how to apply visit: <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/LandWaterCWHP.aspx>

Board Member Recruitment

We are seeking several additional leaders to serve as Board members.



BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Serve a three-year term of office (minimum).
- Attend bi-monthly board meetings (minimum 75% attendance required) and occasional board retreats.
- Be an advocate for Peaks to People and its mission.
- Secure warm leads to support Peaks to People. Generate awareness and revenue.
- Provide expertise and guidance to the organization.

DESIRED SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

We are recruiting for diverse leaders with expertise in the following areas:

Fundraising, Marketing/Communications, Human Resources, Finance, Business Leaders.

To inquire about opportunities on the Peaks to People Water Fund Board, contact Board President, Rob Addington at Raddington@tnc.org or Executive Director, Heather Schinkel at heather@peakstopeople.org.



We recently earned a 2020 Bronze Seal by adding information to our Nonprofit Profile on GuideStar. Now our community members as well as 10+ million GuideStar users can find out more about our mission and programs. Plus, we've provided fresh information to 200+ charitable websites and applications that use GuideStar data, such as AmazonSmile, Facebook, and Network for Good. What do you think? Check out our profile at <https://www.guidestar.org/profile/82-3779406>

Now Accepting Project Proposals!

Now accepting Project Proposals! We encourage anyone interested in receiving funding from Peaks to People for a current or future project to submit a proposal for review. Working together we will be able to more effectively set goals and track all the work that is being done in Northern Colorado.

[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 Peak's to People
Watershed Health Outcomes Tracker](#)

"Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children's lifetime. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land".

LUNA LEOPOLD, HYDROLOGIST



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