



PEAKS TO PEOPLE WATER FUND FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER



Note from the Director

Hello and Happy Autumn!

I hope this update finds you well. We are excited to share lots of great news with you. We've recently published our Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report of which you'll find a brief overview and link to the full report below. We have signed agreements with our partners at Big Thompson Conservation District for two more projects to restore 180 acres worth of forest within our Big Thompson Initiative priority areas. We are very pleased to share with you the monitoring report for the Elkhorn 4 Prescribed Burn at the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch. Much thanks to our partners at Colorado Forest Restoration Institute for their amazing work on this report. We're also happy to announce we have provided funding support for Fireforest, a new multimedia project exploring forest fire and restoration in northern Colorado.

The progress we are making in safeguarding Northern Colorado's clean water sources could not have been possible without our supporters, volunteers, and partners. We thank each and every one of you, and look forward to continuing to work together to achieve our goals. We are seeking a few more board members to help us achieve our goals. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more please reach out.

Please share this with your friends, family, and colleagues. Stay up to date on all the great work going on in Northern Colorado to restore forest health and protect our vulnerable water supplies by following us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). As always, feel free to reach out anytime and be well.

As always, feel free to reach out anytime and take care.

Sincerely,

Heather Schinkel, Executive Director





Annual Report Fiscal Year 2021

We are excited to share our 2021 Annual Report with you! During our Fiscal year 2021 Peaks to People Water Fund launched our most important initiative to date, the **Big Thompson Initiative**, a critical collaborative effort between multiple private and public agencies. We invested \$160,000 in new funds for a combined total of \$1,700,000 in leveraged funds towards five new projects within our initiative priority areas to treat more than 560 acres of forest. Together with our initiative partners we are working to restore forest health, prevent catastrophic wildfires and protect water supplies in Northern Colorado.

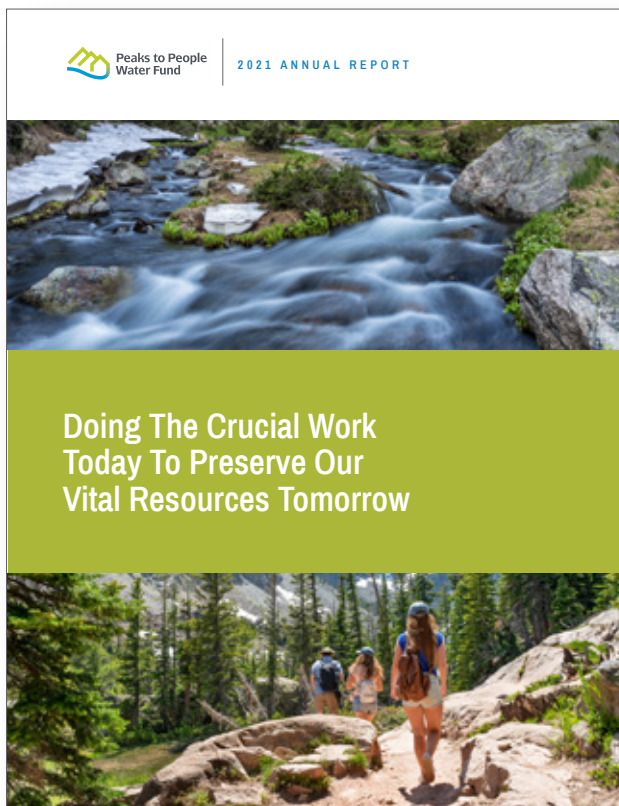
Learn more about our efforts in our [Annual Report](#).

Project Updates

Pole Hill Phase III

Polehill is a community located approximately 15 minutes west of Loveland, Colorado near Pinewood Reservoir in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) adjacent to U.S. Forest Service land. This phase contains 5 different landowners totaling 146 acres and builds upon Polehill projects 1 and 2 (239 acres) for a total footprint of 355 refined acres. The project also has the potential to build on past fuel treatments funded by Peaks to People in the nearby Ramsay-Shockey Open Space.

This area is heavily overgrown with “dog hair” (densely stocked) ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir with a project average of 780 trees per acre with most of the trees being in the 0-10 inch Diameter Base Height (DBH) class. This project, led by our partners at the Big Thompson Conservation District, aims to reduce the density of these small diameter trees to increase resistance to wildfire, pest, and disease, while also increasing understory biodiversity and improving wildlife habitat. View Targeted Performance Measures calculated through our Watershed Investment Tool, Predicted Change in Fire Behavior, Project Budget information and more project facts [HERE](#).



Breakiron Forest Restoration

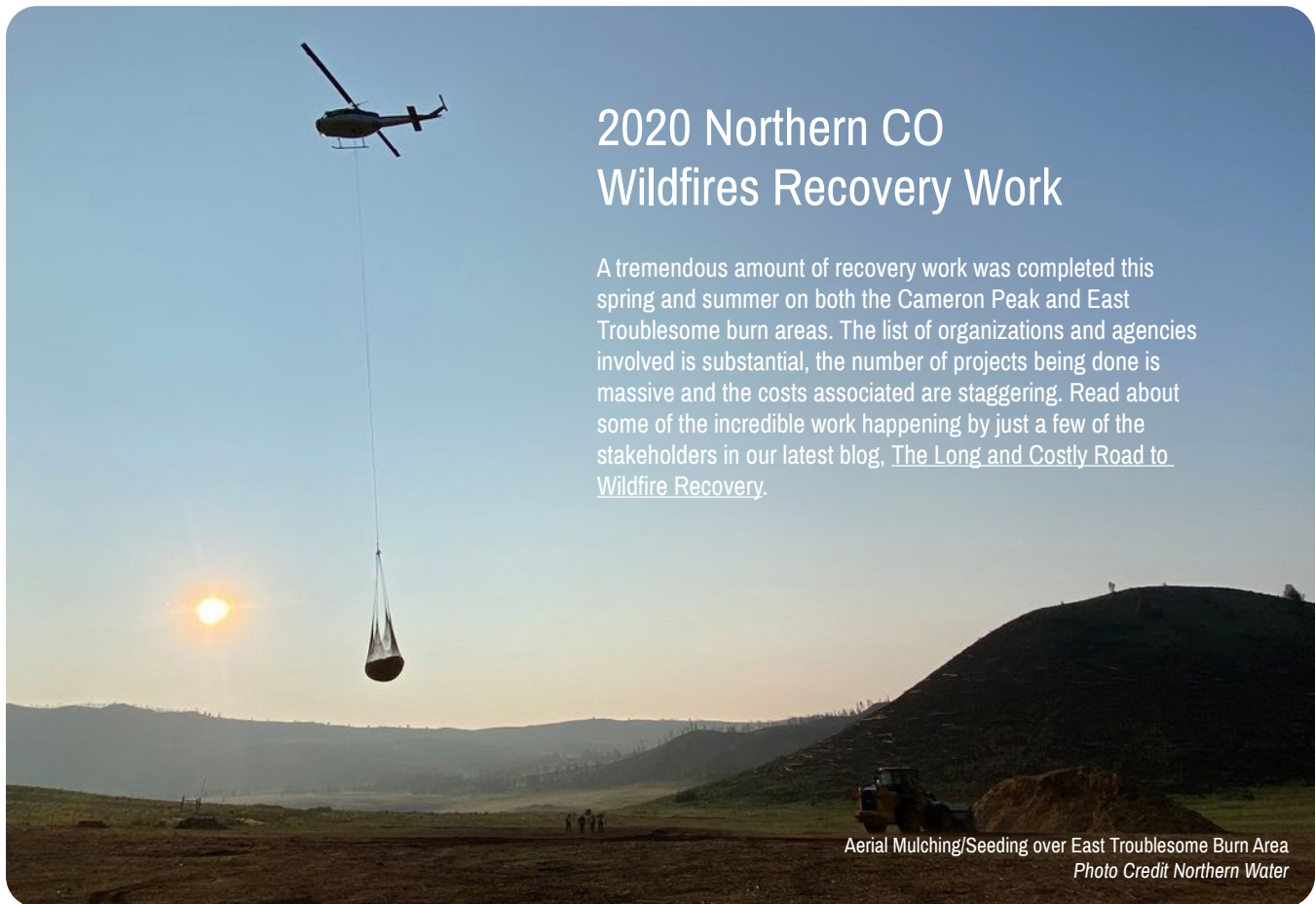
The Breakiron project is located approximately two and a half miles northeast of Drake, CO in the Cedar Park subdrainage which feeds into the Big Thompson. This project consists of a forest restoration treatment of 32 acres that borders the Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest in the Storm Mountain Area. Peaks



Breakiron Restoration Project
Before Photo Spring 2021

to People and The Nature Conservancy are partnering with the Big Thompson Conservation District for this project. Peaks to People is contributing \$45,000 and there is a substantial amount of NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds going towards this project as

well. The treatment is meant to restore forest functionality, species composition, and density as well as reduce wildfire severity. The Forest type is *Pinus ponderosa* at approximately 7,000 ft of elevation. View Targeted Performance Measures calculated through our Watershed Investment Tool, Predicted Change in Fire Behavior, Project Budget information and more project facts [HERE](#).



2020 Northern CO Wildfires Recovery Work

A tremendous amount of recovery work was completed this spring and summer on both the Cameron Peak and East Troublesome burn areas. The list of organizations and agencies involved is substantial, the number of projects being done is massive and the costs associated are staggering. Read about some of the incredible work happening by just a few of the stakeholders in our latest blog, [The Long and Costly Road to Wildfire Recovery](#).

Aerial Mulching/Seeding over East Troublesome Burn Area
Photo Credit Northern Water

Partner Profile

Since 2016 Peaks to People Water Fund and the [Colorado Forest Restoration Institute \(CFRI\)](#) have been working together to assess forest conditions in Northern Colorado to ensure project selection meets the water funds goals and objectives. As a science-based outreach and engagement organization CFRI leads collaborations between researchers, managers, and stakeholders to generate and apply locally-relevant, actionable knowledge to inform forest management strategies. Both Peaks to People and CFRI are committed to conservation that achieves measurable outcomes and is based on strong science.

"Forest management planning and implementation uses a mix of science and art to translate programmatic goals into management actions that are appropriate for the site-specific forest and fuel

conditions. Peaks to People has committed to monitoring the effects of their actions to verify project outcomes, improve effects modeling, and adaptively manage their forest restoration and fuel treatment program." Colorado Forest Restoration Institute Aug 2020



COLORADO FOREST
RESTORATION INSTITUTE

Learn more about our valuable partnership with CFRI in our [Big Thompson Initiative Partner Profile blog](#). Together we are improving the effectiveness of forest management strategies, restoring the health of Northern Colorado's forests and protecting our critical watersheds from severe wildfires.



2021-Elkhorn-4-RX-Monitoring-Report



The monitoring report for the Elkhorn 4 Prescribed Burn at the Ben Delatour Scout Ranch is now complete and available on our website [HERE](#). Thanks to our partners at Colorado Forest Restoration Institute (CFRI) for their excellent work on this project and report. The overarching goals of the Elkhorn 4 prescribed burn were to minimize the potential for high severity wildfire and reintroduce ecologically appropriate fire into the ponderosa pine ecosystem. One year after the prescribed fire, monitoring results show a reduction in shrubs and small trees, an increase in average tree canopy base height, and minimal mortality of larger trees from the fire. The type of fire predicted to occur under severe conditions was moderated from a majority of plots supporting passive crown fire pre-treatment to a majority burning as surface fire post-treatment.

We partner with CFRI to develop and apply monitoring tools that measure outcomes of water fund investments. The aim of this monitoring program is to ensure investments are developed to be strategic and impactful, to measure progress towards achieving project and program goals, and to support continued learning and improvement with Peaks to People stakeholders. This report presents monitoring results to measure how well site level project goals were met, and to compare field-based outcome measures with modeled landscape data inputs for the [Watershed Investment Tool](#).

Conservation Resources for Landowners

Through technical assistance and project management, our partners at Big Thompson Conservation District (BTCD) help private landowners restore the health of the forests on their properties. Conservation Districts provide aid by obtaining funding through grants and/or local partner funding (like Peaks to People). BTCD provides a hands-on management approach by hiring and managing contractors through the entirety of a forest health restoration project.

The ideal property size for BTCD is 35 acres or more and has a grade that allows it to be operable by machine. However, if there are other adjacent properties that can be combined to create a large enough property, BTCD will work with multiple landowners on a project. Landowners do not complete the work themselves. BTCD will arrange and manage all logging operations on your behalf.

By restoring our forests to a state that is more representative of how they were structured over 100 years ago, our forests will be more resilient to wildfire, insects, disease, droughts and floods.

When creating a forest improvement plan, BTCD considers all of these ecosystem impacts to ensure they are providing an all-inclusive and ecology-based management plan. They have a dedicated Conservation Forester who can help you determine if you are a good candidate for their program.

To learn more please [contact the team at BTCD](#) today!



Matt Marshall, BTCD Forest Program Director - Husted Ranch Project Site July 2021



Fireforest: A new multimedia project



Magic Feather Prescribed Burn - Photo Credit: Evan Barrientos

We're proud to announce we have provided funding support for **Fireforest**, a new multimedia project exploring forest fire and restoration in northern Colorado. We all rely on healthy forests for our water, but this year, we saw our waterways turn black with sediment from the Cameron Peak Fire. Our forests have become prone to megafires and desperately need our help to restore their resilience. Fireforest is raising support for those efforts by showing the relationship between water, forests, and fire in new and fascinating ways. Learn more about this exciting project at <https://www.fireforestphoto.com/>.

Board Member Recruitment

Help us safeguard Northern Colorado's clean water sources!
We are seeking 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, Raddington@tnc.org or Executive Director, Heather Schinkel, heather@peakstopeople.org.

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 set goals and track all the work that is being done in Northern Colorado more effectively.

[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](#)



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