



PEAKS TO PEOPLE WATER FUND
FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

*Hello and Happy Fall,
As the vibrant colors of autumn brighten Northern Colorado, we hope you're enjoying the season's mild weather as much as we are. It was a busy and fruitful summer for Peaks to People, filled with meaningful collaboration with our incredible partners. We've also had the pleasure of connecting with community members and funding partners to share our vital work protecting our forests and watersheds.*

While we've had a few years' reprieve from wildfires, this summer reminded us of the ongoing need for vigilance. Larimer County faced two fires—the Alexander Mountain Fire (AMF) in the Big Thompson Watershed and the Pearl Fire in the Poudre River Watershed. These events underscored the urgency of wildfire mitigation in our forested watersheds and the critical role of partnerships in times of crisis. Our director, Julie Dubin, had the unique opportunity to support the Larimer County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during the early days of the AMF. She reflected on her experience:

“Despite the high stakes and complexity of responding to a wildfire near communities and critical infrastructure, the EOC operated seamlessly throughout the process. I was grateful for the chance to play a small role in supporting their essential efforts to meet our community's needs during this challenging time.”

At Peaks to People, we know that protecting our watersheds and communities requires a collaborative and coordinated approach. Thanks to strong, pre-existing relationships, communication between partners during and after the fire was swift and effective, enabling better resource-sharing and a more efficient response. We are proud to play a part in these efforts, and we invite you to read on to learn more about our work.

We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to two outstanding board members. After six remarkable years, we bid farewell to Judy Dorsey, whose forward-thinking insights and encouragement have been invaluable to our growth. Judy has been a true inspiration, and we are deeply grateful for her contributions. We also want to express our appreciation to Rob Addington, who is stepping down as our board chair after five years. Rob's leadership has been instrumental in advocating for Peaks to People and conservation efforts across Colorado. We are truly grateful that Rob is going to continue to serve on our board. As we welcome our new board chair, Lydia Lazar, we are excited about the future ahead.

With the season of giving rapidly approaching, we hope you will consider supporting us. Your contribution will help us build lasting partnerships, advance new, groundbreaking tools, expand the reach of wildfire mitigation projects and increase the scope and impact of local forest health initiatives. Together, we can create a healthier, more resilient Colorado.

*Thank you for your continued support,
The Peaks to People Team*



In the wake of wildfires, the effects linger long after the last embers are extinguished...

In early August 2024, the Alexander Mountain Fire (AMF) scorched nearly 10,000 acres in the Big Thompson watershed, destroying 51 structures, including 26 homes. Many of our partners are now focused on fire recovery, with an emphasis on post-fire mitigation to protect vulnerable areas and support long-term landscape restoration projects.

Peaks to People Water Fund, in collaboration with the Big Thompson Watershed Health Partnership (BTWHP) and other local organizations, is developing a Wildfire Ready Action Plan (WRAP) for the Big Thompson watershed. This plan is designed to strengthen the watershed's resilience by incorporating comprehensive planning and targeted mitigation strategies.

While we're still in the process of finalizing the WRAP, we're already using completed hazard analyses to guide recovery efforts for the AMF. We are working closely with stakeholders to update these analyses based on the fire's real-world impact. Once finalized, these analyses will be available to all stakeholders to aid in recovery planning throughout the watershed—exactly what the WRAP was designed to achieve.

Stay tuned for updates as we move toward completing the WRAP by the end of 2024, boosting our preparedness and ensuring a safer, more resilient future for the Big Thompson watershed.

*Photo: Alexander Mountain Fire August 2024
Credit: Peaks to People Water Fund*





Building Resilience Through Collaboration

At Peaks to People Water Fund, our mission is clear: safeguard Northern Colorado’s water resources by investing in forest health and wildfire mitigation. But we don’t do it alone. Collaboration is at the heart of our work. Our process for identifying and engaging partners is rooted in fostering relationships with organizations committed to protecting forests, watersheds, and communities. Together, we create impactful, large-scale solutions that enhance forest resilience and protect water supplies.

Our partnerships fall into two main categories, each with its own unique focus but united by a shared goal of protecting our watersheds. As we continue to build strong relationships with agencies and stakeholders, we remain committed to leveraging our expertise in project management, grant administration, and collaborative planning.

Learn more about how we select and engage with partners in our blog, [Building Resilience Through Collaboration: Partnering for Wildfire Mitigation and Watershed Health](#).



Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit

During the first week in September, we had the opportunity to attend one of our favorite conferences—the 2024 Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit. Representing Peaks to People Water Fund and the Big Thompson Watershed Health Partnership, we were surrounded by passionate individuals all working toward a common goal: ensuring the long-term health and resilience of Colorado’s forests and watersheds through collaboration.

The summit, held in beautiful Durango Colorado, revolved around a theme that hits close to home: Scaling and Sustaining Local Impact. The focus was clear—how do we bridge the gap between the large-scale initiatives and the vital, on-the-ground work happening in local communities?

Read all about it in our blog, [The 2024 Colorado Forest Collaboratives Summit: A Hub of Connection and Innovation](#)





Front Range Forest and Fire Symposium

We spent a beautiful day last month out in the Northern Front Range, surrounded by a vibrant community of partners, scientists, and land managers working together to build more resilient landscapes. This was the first of two field trips leading up to the 2024 Front Range Forest and Fire Symposium, and it brought together leading experts in forest management, wildfire mitigation, and ecological monitoring to share key insights from ongoing projects.

The field trip focused on a few critical themes:

- How the Cameron Peak Fire increased the urgency and need for landscape-scale collaborative planning and prioritization.
- What we have learned about treatment effectiveness of mechanical thinning at Pole Hill from monitoring, funded by Peaks to People.
- How we can learn from inevitable wildfires like the recent Alexander Mountain Fire to help us better address all three goals of the National Cohesive Wildfire Strategy.
- Past wildfire and treatment interactions, revegetation, and long-term post-fire planning.

This field trip was a powerful reminder of the value of collaboration, science, and adaptive management in our forest management efforts. Peaks to People is proud to be an integral part of these ongoing conversations, providing funding, tools, and support for projects that are making a real difference on the ground.

A special thank you to all the event organizers and speakers who made this day a success, including the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, Colorado State Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Larimer Conservation District, US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, US Forest Service Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland, US Forest Service Pike-San Isabel National Forest & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands.

Read all about it in our blog, [Exploring Collaborative Forest and Fire Management in Northern Colorado.](#)





Society of American Foresters Tour at MacGregor Ranch and Cheley Camps in Estes Park, Colorado

We recently had the opportunity to present alongside partners from the Larimer Conservation District, Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed, U.S. Forest Service, Estes Valley Watershed Coalition, Loveland Fire Rescue Authority, and Northern Colorado Fireshed Collaborative in beautiful Estes Park, Colorado. Our presentation highlighted the Big Thompson Watershed Health Partnership (BTWHP) and the application of the PODs (Potential Operational Delineations) management strategy.

The 50 participants, hailing from across the country, attended to learn about forest restoration, prescribed fire, wildfire impacts, and

the critical role of collaboration in watershed management. They toured the forestry efforts at both MacGregor Ranch and Cheley Camps. These multi-phased projects, led by the Larimer Conservation District and partially funded by Peaks to People, focus on forest thinning and habitat restoration, aimed at enhancing forest resilience and improving conditions for firefighting during wildfires.

Throughout the day, participants engaged in discussions on the technical aspects of forest management, with a special focus on the importance of collaboration and partnerships in advancing fire-adaptive landscapes.

Anheuser-Busch InBev Project Site Visit

Last month Peaks to People, in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and the Larimer Conservation District, organized a field visit for a special team of AB InBev representatives. The visit provided us an opportunity to share the impact of their support through an ongoing partnership with The Nature Conservancy and Peaks to People. Six members of AB InBev's Environmental Committee, along with their Environmental Health and Safety Manager, spent the day learning about the critical connection between wildfire, forest

health, and water, as well as the benefits of forest restoration in preparing landscapes to receive wildfire.

Key highlights of the visit included:

- Touring two treatment areas with the Larimer Conservation District: one site was recently completed, and another had been restored several years earlier, showcasing the landscape's recovery over time.
- Hiking at Ramsay Shockey to view the spot where Colorado-Big Thompson (CBT) water flows into Pinewood Reservoir, underscoring the area's importance for water resources.
- Discussing forest health and wildfire risk, including the characteristics of a healthy forest and the essential role fire plays in maintaining that balance.
- Emphasizing AB InBev's key role in supporting these forest health initiatives and how this work is vital to securing a reliable water supply.





Poudre RiverFest

We had a blast talking with local community members about our work and the importance of healthy, resilient watersheds at this year's Poudre River Fest in early August. This was the 10th year of this free, family-friendly festival celebrating the Poudre River, a vital natural resource in our community.



Fireforest The Film

When forest fire met forest restoration

Learn more, watch the trailer and attend a screening!

<https://www.fireforestphoto.com/film>

Fireforest

Fireforest is a beautiful 16-minute film that tells the story of how proactive fuels reduction and prescribed burning helped firefighters stop a portion of the Cameron Peak Fire in Northern Colorado. It demonstrates the tremendous potential payoff of proactive forest restoration. The film is meant to help build understanding and support for this type of work across Colorado and the West. By shifting the way we perceive fire and actively preparing forests to receive it, we can create hope for living with wildfires.

Peaks to People is very proud to have provided funding for this impactful film.

Embracing Sustainability: A Pathway to Business Success

In today's dynamic marketplace, consumers are not just purchasing products; they are supporting a vision. This vision increasingly includes businesses that prioritize sustainable practices and environmental stewardship. The benefits of adopting sustainable practices extend beyond mere goodwill; they are a cornerstone of modern business strategy. Businesses that integrate sustainability into their core operations are not only mitigating their environmental impact but may also reap significant rewards in terms of brand reputation, customer loyalty, and market differentiation.

As consumers continue to prioritize sustainability in

their purchasing decisions, businesses that embrace this ethos will thrive. Companies that proactively adopt sustainable practices are better positioned to capitalize on emerging market opportunities, reduce operational costs, and enhance their competitiveness.

By integrating sustainable practices into their business models, companies can pave the way for a more prosperous and harmonious future—one where success is measured not only by financial metrics but by the positive impact on people and the planet.

Learn more in our blog [Embracing Sustainability: A Pathway to Business Success](#)



Join the Movement to Make a Lasting Impact in Northern Colorado!

This Colorado Gives Day, you have the power to make a meaningful difference in our community. Mark your calendar for December 10—it's the most impactful day of the year to give back!

Early Giving Starts November 1st!

From November 1 through December 10, your donation will go even further thanks to the \$1M+ Incentive Fund provided by Colorado Gives Foundation and FirstBank. The more we raise, the larger our share of the fund, amplifying the impact of every gift.

And that's not all—when you start a new monthly donation, Colorado Gives Foundation will match your first contribution up to \$100! With \$250,000 available in matching funds across all nonprofits, this is your chance to **double** your impact.

Why Give?

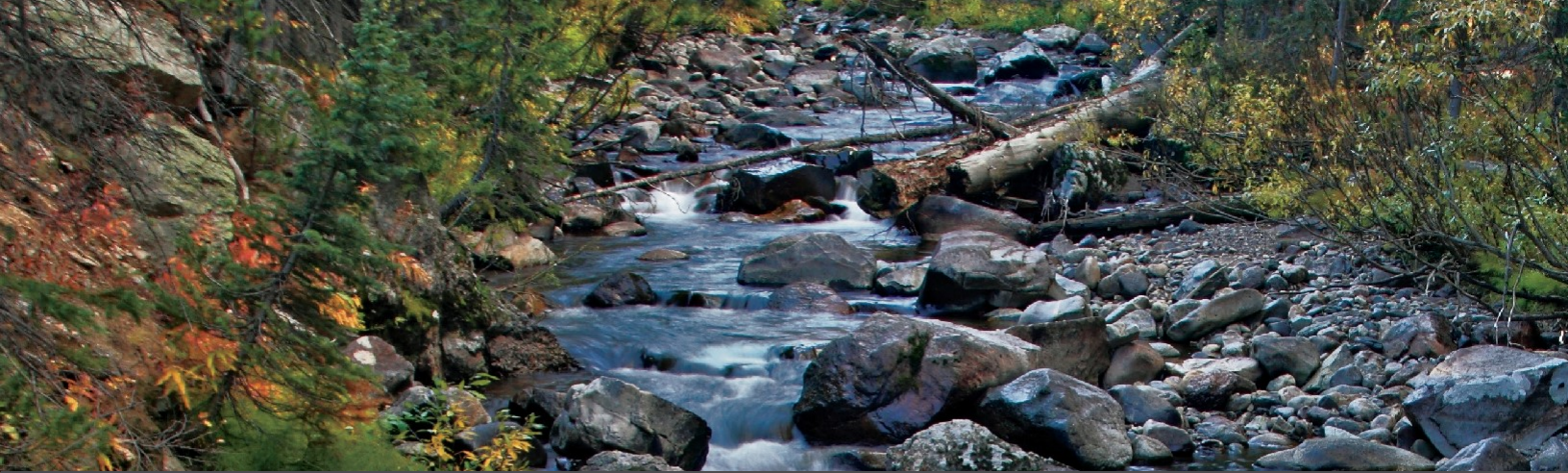
By donating, you're helping us protect the water we rely on, safeguard our communities from wildfire risks, and preserve the natural beauty of Northern Colorado. Your support ensures a healthier, safer future for all of us.

Getting Started is Simple:

1. Visit our donation page at <https://www.coloradogives.org/PeakstoPeopleWaterFund/>.
2. Choose the monthly giving option.
3. Your first donation will be matched automatically!

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we can make this Colorado Gives Day the most successful one yet!





Don't Miss a Drop of Good News

Like and Follow us on Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/peakstopeople/>

We're LinkedIn. Connect with us!

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/peakstopeople/>

Find us on Instagram too.

<https://www.instagram.com/peakstopeoplewaterfund/>



**Peaks to People
Water Fund**

info@peakstopeople.org

970 829 0020

peakstopeople.org

