COLORADO WATER TRUST

JUST ADD WATER

2019 ANNUAL UPDATE

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR WATER IN COLORADO

Dear Friends of Colorado Water Trust,

I get it. With climate change, increasing population, potential calls from downriver, and creaky 100 year-old interstate agreements, "bright" isn't the word most people associate with Western water management.

But 2019 showed us – again – that smart people getting together to find solutions can usually find a way. We had an unusual water year. Spring and early Summer were wet and cool, only to give way to hot and dry conditions in late Summer and Fall. Our permanent projects kept water in rivers in 2019, as well as one of our newest and most innovative projects which ran for the first time. In 2019, the Water Trust put in place a creative plan to boost flows in the famous 15-Mile Reach in the Colorado, just east of Grand Junction. We did a trial run and it worked.

We also made progress on our groundbreaking augmentation plan for instream flow on the Cache la Poudre River, and our experimental high-season hay split-season project on the Little Cimarron. All of these projects carry huge potential for the future, not just on their home rivers.

Our vision is that, through creative, win-win ideas like these, we learn to share our water more efficiently, both with each other and with rivers themselves. It takes time and persistence to achieve this vision, which is why we are so grateful for you, our donors, who support us in the long game. Thank you to all our donors, to the many who signed up for our monthly donor program, the Tributaries, which doubled its membership in 2019, and to all who joined us at one of our 24 events around Colorado in 2019 to talk water.

Persistence and vision is why we've gotten this far, but it's not enough. In 2020 and beyond, we're going to take it much farther. Thank you for giving back to your rivers with Colorado Water Trust.

Andy Schultheiss, Executive Director

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

YAMPA RIVER FUND

2019 saw the launch of the Yampa River Fund – an innovative new funding mechanism that will support the health of the Yampa River for years to come. This locally managed endowed fund was launched with over $3.5 million, and the Fund expects to make its first grants in early 2020. The Water Trust staff worked side by side with local stakeholders and The Nature Conservancy to make the water fund idea a reality, and our Staff Attorney, Kate Ryan, serves on the Board.

15-MILE REACH

The Water Trust collaborated with Grand Valley Water Users Association, Orchard Mesa Irrigation District, and the Walton Family Foundation to realize a vision that brings a new and innovative idea into the fold. Our project to support the 15-Mile Reach operated for the first time in 2019. We purchased water from Ruedi Reservoir which flowed over 100 miles downstream to support clean hydropower production as well as endangered warm-water fish in the Colorado River near Grand Junction.

OUR **ONGOING PROJECTS**

OUR 7 PERMANENT PROJECTS

Colorado Water Trust has seven permanent projects that restore flows to rivers and streams across the state, year after year. One of these permanent projects in Southwest Colorado protects critical flows in the upper reaches of the Hermosa Creek watershed. This effort, completed in 2011, supports a healthy environment and native fish in an area impacted by the catastrophic 416 fire in 2018. Our Project Manager, Tony LaGreca, visited the site in 2019, noting "the creek was in wonderful shape, flowing strong!"

COLLECTING MORE DATA

Thanks to a new partnership with National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), we are ramping up efforts to measure the impact of our projects. NFWF has provided funds for monitoring equipment and staff capacity to collect more data and steward our projects across the state. This effort will have us working closely with project partners, state agencies, landowners, and other stakeholders to understand the impacts of flow restoration projects, both direct and indirect. We're excited to share more information about our impact with you in 2020.

2019 FLOW RESTORED IN MILLIONS OF GALLONS

Alamosa River: **264**

Boulder Creek/Blue River: **230**

Colorado River: **107**

Hat Creek/East Brush Creek: **173**

Hermosa Creek: **14**

Maroon Creek/Roaring Fork River: **281**

Washington Gulch/Slate River: **82**

*2019 flow data is provisional and subject to revision

These projects would not be possible without the help of our partners that generously contribute water rights, time, capital, and support.

2019 **NUMBERS**

Thank you for helping us restore

1.15B gallons of water

to

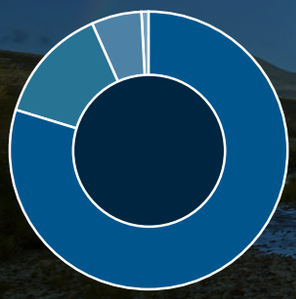
nearly 200 miles

of Colorado's rivers and streams.

2019 **FINANCIALS**

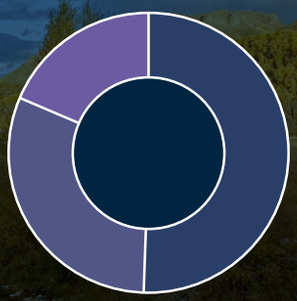
Unaudited

CONTRIBUTIONS



- Foundations and Nonprofit Organizations: $951,165
- Government and Government Agencies: $162,937
- Special Events Income (Net): $71,473
- Revenue from other sources: $6,639

EXPENSES



- Program/Program Management: $428,054
- Core Support Services: $260,249
- Fundraising: $156,192

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2019

ASSETS	2019	2018
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	$1,104,087	$981,237
Accounts, grants and pledges receivable	$393,930	$13,332
Prepaid expenses	$7,365	$11,011
Total Current Assets	$1,505,381	$1,005,580
OTHER ASSETS		
Water rights	$684,650	$684,650
Fixed Assets	$0	$1,562
Total Other Assets	$684,650	$686,212
Total Assets	$2,190,031	$1,691,791

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	$12,661	$9,629
Payroll Liabilities	$23,857	$21,469
Total Liabilities	$36,518	$31,098
NET ASSETS (unrestricted)		
Operating	$961,899	$934,785
Net Investment in Fixed Assets	$0	$1,562
Donor Restricted Net Assets	$1,191,614	$725,777
Total Equity	$2,153,513	$1,662,123
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	$2,190,031	$1,693,221

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

December 31, 2019

REVENUE	TOTAL UNRESTRICTED	DONOR RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Contributions	$83,356	$61,215	$144,571
Foundations and Nonprofit Organizations	$59,332	$891,833	$951,165
Government and Government Agencies	$132,937	$30,000	$162,937
Revenue from other sources	$6,639	$0	$6,639
Special Events Income	$79,277	$13,500	$92,777
Less: direct event expenses	($21,304)	—	($21,304)
Release from Temporary Restriction	$530,711	($530,711)	($0)
Total Revenue	$870,947	$465,837	$1,336,785
EXPENDITURES			
Program/Program Management	$380,912	—	$380,912
Core Support Services	$307,791	—	$307,791
Fundraising	$156,692	—	$156,692
Total Expenditures	$845,395	$0	$845,395
Change in net assets	$25,553	$465,837	$491,390
Net assets, beginning of year	$936,346	$725,777	$1,662,123
Net assets, end of year	$961,899	$1,191,614	$2,153,513

2019 DONOR LIST

We are grateful to the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and agencies for their generous financial contributions to Colorado Water Trust between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019. Their support makes our work possible.

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The Flowing Waters Partnership is a unique giving program for companies to give back to rivers and communities by supporting the work of Colorado Water Trust. Flowing Waters Partnership member's contributions, combined with Colorado Water Trust's experience in flow restoration, creates a powerful partnership. Together we are demonstrating that member organizations are part of the solution for healthy, flowing Colorado rivers and strong local communities. Thank you to our Flowing Waters Partnership members for another great year of support!

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Investing in Colorado's Water Future

Our 2019 RiverBank fundraiser was a record success, raising nearly $75,000 for our work to restore flows to Colorado's rivers in need. A special thank you to our 2019 sponsors.

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3264 Larimer Street, Suite D | Denver, Colorado 80205
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