# **DEAR FRIENDS** OF COLORADO WATER TRUST

I am sometimes asked whether Colorado Water Trust's market-based approach to environmental work really makes a difference.

**My answer: You bet it does!**

The reason why is Colorado's approach to water administration, which allows us to participate in the market just like any other entity with a need for water. **The only difference being we don't consume it, we let it flow.** Because of Colorado's system, in 2022 the Water Trust purchased the right to release enough water from Stagecoach Reservoir to amount to, at times, over half the flow in the Yampa River through Steamboat Springs. We also made a deal with a rancher on the Crystal River to return water to that beautiful stream, and left his ranch financially whole. **All told, we can point to water – real, wet water – flowing in 12 rivers throughout the state and say "we made that happen."**

**During 2022, we "made that happen" to the tune of over 12,000 acre-feet (about 4.02 billion gallons), restoring more water to Colorado's rivers in a single year than ever in our history.** We worked on the main stem of the Colorado River, adding huge volumes of water, especially during the August-September dry period. We impacted over a dozen rivers throughout Colorado, and we set ourselves up for an even bigger 2023 by developing new projects across the state.

But the truth is, YOU made that happen. Colorado Water Trust is a small, but mighty nonprofit, with a core budget of only about $1 million, mostly raised from private donors. We employ eight people whose jobs focus entirely on keeping enough water in streams for them to thrive. **That's it; there is no mission creep. Your gifts traveled far across this state, restoring water to our rivers wherever we could help.**

This year we launched a new way for you to "make it happen": myRiver Balance, **which allows you to purchase an equivalent volume of water to what you use in your household during a year, and return it to a river in need.** This year, myRiver Balance donations were directed to our project on the Crystal River – boosting flows during the dry autumn days of 2022.

Also this year, we completed a five-year strategic plan. We are holding ourselves to ambitious goals that will double the volume of water returned to streams (which means doubling our budget). But our values remain the same: Market-based, nonpolitical, collaborative, innovative, and supportive of Colorado agriculture. **Those are coded in our genes, and we'll never change.**

So thank you for making this powerful organization go. **We have more growth on the horizon, and a great deal more need to address. Let's get back to work for 2023!**

**ANDY SCHULTHEISS**
*Executive Director*
Colorado Water Trust

# **2022** BY THE NUMBERS

*Thank you for helping us restore to Colorado's rivers* ***the most water ever in our 21 year history!***

**In 2022, we restored**

**4.02 B gallons of water**

**to**

**248 miles**

**of Colorado's rivers and streams.**

## 2022 WATER RESTORED IN GALLONS

Alamosa River: **179.2 M**
Boulder Creek/Blue River: **230.4 M**
Colorado River/15-Mile Reach: **1.46 B**
Cottonwood Confluence/Willow Creek: **220.6 M**
Crystal River: **38.8 M**
Fryingpan River: **133.3 M**
Hat Creek/East Brush Creek: **172.8 M**
Hermosa Creek: **14 M**
Maroon Creek: **280.9 M**
Roaring Fork River: **36.5 M**
Upper Yampa River: **1.17 B**
Washington Gulch/Slate River: **82.1 M**

**2022 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.**

# **NOTABLE PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS** IN 2022

### Our largest volume projects continue to make a major difference!

Our projects that involve purchasing water from reservoirs to add to rivers during low flow periods are consistently providing a significant boost during the dry fall months when they're needed most. Our Yampa River project, at times, contributed to over half the flow of the river as it flowed through Steamboat Springs and helped reopen local recreation on the river.

Our project on the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River helped maintain healthy habitat for endangered and threatened native fish. Additionally, thanks in part to a contribution from Colorado Water Trust, the New Vinelands Hydropower Plant finished construction in late 2022, which means we can continue our project on the Colorado River for years to come.

### We are building upon our projects with agricultural producers and learning how to do better.

After restructuring our agreement with Cold Mountain Ranch on the Crystal River, accounting for the changing climatic conditions and needs of the Ranch, we found the right solution and implemented our project for the first time in September of 2022. This highly customized, market-based solution is exactly what the Water Trust is uniquely positioned to accomplish. Together with Cold Mountain Ranch, we restored 38 million gallons of water to the Crystal River for ten days during the hottest and driest time of the year.

Thanks to lessons learned with Cold Mountain Ranch on the Crystal River, with the Kruthaupt family on Tomichi Creek, our ranch partners on the Little Cimarron River, and a developing project with a new ranch partner on Tomichi Creek, we are growing into our role as a resource for agricultural producers. Additionally, in the last two years, we added agricultural representation on our board and staff, and made a commitment in our new five-year strategic plan to bring more science and resources to our projects with agricultural producers across the state.

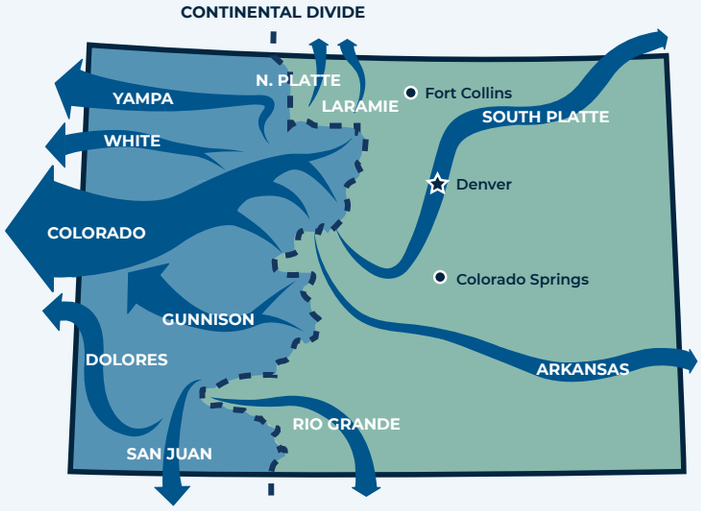
## INTRODUCING...

myRiver Balance

In 2022, Colorado Water Trust launched myRiver Balance, a new donor program for Coloradans to have a direct impact on the rivers that provide them with water, by balancing their annual water use. Participants make a donation based on the amount of water their household uses each year. Then we use the myRiver Balance funds throughout the year to return the equivalent amount of water to low flowing rivers.

**This year, myRiver Balance donors boosted flows in the Crystal River!**

**80%** OF COLORADO'S WATER FALLS ON THE **WESTERN SLOPE**




**85%** OF COLORADO'S PEOPLE LIVE ON THE **FRONT RANGE**

UP TO **50%** OF THE WATER USED ON THE FRONT RANGE COMES FROM THE WESTERN SLOPE

All members receive this cool sticker in the mail and a report at the end of the year about which river(s) their contributions supported.

Looking for a unique gift idea? Balance a friend or family member's water use at **ColoradoWaterTrust.org/myRiverBalance** and we'll send them the myRiver Balance sticker and this beautiful gift card!

# COLORADO WATER TRUST'S **STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2027**

**GOAL #2: Increase Project Impact Goals**

- Double the average annual flow volumes that we return to Colorado's streams and rivers.
- Evaluate the transformative effect of our existing and new projects. We will develop metrics to measure how our present and future projects strengthen the diverse human communities where we work.

**GOAL #3: Set Guardrails for Policy Involvement**

- We will support the enactment of legislation or adoption of policies that will further our work, and will advocate against legislation or policies that defeat our work.

Each year, our impact grows. With numerous tools to keep more water in our rivers, Colorado Water Trust is now poised to improve the future of our natural world at a much greater scale than we have in the past. Our new strategic plan builds upon 21 years of flow restoration work to do just that.

**GOAL #1: Develop and Implement Two New Core Program Areas**

**Community-Based Projects:** The Water Trust has always worked with communities to help restore flows to their local river while protecting livelihoods, and now we are prioritizing that part of our work in our mission. We will identify, develop, and implement at least one significant multi-purpose project each in an urban and rural community. These projects will consider the needs of people that are sometimes forgotten in the design of environmental projects.

**Reservoir Release Program:** By 2024, we will implement a new program centered around existing reservoirs and their potential to provide benefits to downstream rivers and multiple beneficial uses through coordinated efforts. We will aim to find matches between available water or capacity, stream need, and downstream use. We will use various legal mechanisms to make releases, with a pool of resources available for compensation as we move forward.

- Consistent with our non-partisan and non-controversial history, our advocacy efforts will include ensuring that the interests of multiple water-related sectors are considered and balanced.

These are the programmatic elements of our new strategic plan, and this work doesn't occur on its own.

**We will focus on improving our brand and communications, growing our fundraising support, and ensuring we have the right number of talented and fulfilled staff.**

**The Water Trust will focus on doing its part in broadening the racial and ethnic diversity of the water community, and forging connections to organizations active in diverse racial communities in Colorado.**

*Welcome to a new Water Trust: re-engaged with the communities we work in and more impactful across the board. We are the pre-eminent environmental water transactions expert in Colorado, committed to a future where water is used efficiently and shared with ease, allowing rivers and streams to flow more strongly. It is a future that climate change has forced our state to embrace, and we will lead the way.*

# 2022 **FINANCIALS**

Unaudited

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of December 31, 2022

| ASSETS | 2022 |
|---|---|
| CURRENT ASSETS | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | $1,031,857 |
| Accounts, grants and pledges receivable | $69,934 |
| Other current assets | $10,420 |
| **Total Current Assets** | $1,112,211 |
| OTHER ASSETS | |
| Water rights | $684,650 |
| Fixed assets, net | $10,388 |
| **Total Other Assets** | $695,038 |
| **Total Assets** | $1,807,249 |

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended December 31, 2022

| REVENUE | WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS | WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Contributions | $231,433 | $57,500 | $288,933 |
| Foundations and nonprofit organizations | $675,695 | $30,000 | $705,695 |
| Government and government agencies | $217,277 | $40,000 | $257,277 |
| Revenue from other sources | $13,918 | — | $13,918 |
| Special events income | $92,774 | — | $92,774 |
| Less: direct event expenses | ($26,655) | — | ($26,655) |
| Released from restriction | $271,953 | ($271,953) | — |
| **Total Revenue** | $1,476,395 | ($144,453) | $1,331,942 |

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

### LIABILITIES

| | |
|---|---|
| Accounts payable | $67,082 |
| Payroll liabilities | $37,344 |
| Refundable advances and deferred revenue | $174,237 |
| **Total Liabilities** | $278,663 |

### NET ASSETS

| | |
|---|---|
| Without donor restrictions | $1,319,080 |
| With donor restrictions | $209,506 |
| **Total Net Assets** | $1,528,586 |

| | |
|---|---|
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | $1,807,249 |

## EXPENDITURES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Program services | $933,249 | — | $933,249 |
| Management and general | $138,729 | — | $138,729 |
| Fundraising | $307,041 | — | $307,041 |
| **Total Expenditures** | $1,379,019 | — | $1,379,019 |
| Change in net assets | $97,376 | ($144,453) | ($47,077) |
| Net assets, beginning of year | $1,221,704 | $353,959 | $1,575,663 |
| **Net assets, end of year** | $1,319,080 | $209,506 | $1,528,586 |

# **TRIBUTARIES** SUPPORTERS

We are grateful to the following people who gave monthly donations during 2022. Their consistent support provides us with the flexibility and funding to work at our greatest capacity.

Kyle Akin
Dennis Arbogast
Jeff Attig
Emily and Sam Bacon
Michael Barry
Megan and Peter Begley
Laura Belanger
Katie Birch
Andrew Birkholz
Josh Boissevain
Ryan Bouton
Brett Bovee and Lindsay Reynolds
Mike Brown
Susan Brown
Michael Browning and Frances Hartogh
Joan Card
Brian M Carroll
Anne Castle and Frank Daviess
Tim and Carol Cochran
John Covert
Marielle T Cowdin
John Dowling
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Duncan T Eccleston
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Margaret Gambel
Thomas Gougeon
Amber Graves
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Zane Kessler
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Sarah Klahn
David Kueter
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Lindsey Marlow
Melissa McCoy
Jim McDonnell
Bonnie McKenzie
Dawn McKnight
Kay Meyer & Dan Gould
Alyson Meyer Gould
Eric Mischnick
Kristin and Matt Moseley
Julie Nania
Andrew Neely
Virginia Newton
Jill Ozarski
Laila Parker
Jake Prentiss
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Kate Ryan
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Matt Machado
Mad Lemon
Christy and Chris Sanchez
Mollie Schreck
Andy Schultheiss
Nicole Seltzer

Elizabeth Holland Smith
Zach Smith and Liz Scordato
Craig Sommers
Vince Sortman
Laurel Stadjuhar
David and Kim Taussig
Al Tucker
Melissa van der Poel
Taylor VanBerkel
Barbara Vasquez
Shelley Wardwell
Martin and Wood Water Consultants
Scott Waters
Casey Weaver
Brad Weinig and Anne Harrington
Tyson and Ellen Williams
Dick Wolfe
Kristina Wynne
William Zaki Robbins

# FLOWING WATERS PARTNERSHIP

The Flowing Waters Partnership allows corporations and businesses to give back to local rivers and communities by supporting the work of Colorado Water Trust. Flowing Waters Partnership members' 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.**

## PLATINUM SPONSOR

intel

## GOLD SPONSORS

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## BRONZE SPONSORS

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City of Boulder
City of Thornton
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Horse & Dragon Brewing Company
Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association

RIVERBANK
*Celebrating the Partnerships that Protect Our Rivers*

Colorado Water Trust raised $98,000 at RiverBank in 2022 – thank you so much to everyone who participated, to our sponsors and volunteers, and all our silent auction donors!

## PLATINUM SPONSOR

WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION

## GOLD SPONSORS

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Moses Wittemyer Harrison Woodruff P.C.
Northern Water
The Nature Conservancy
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## BEVERAGE SPONSORS

Stem Ciders
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Suerte Tequila
Woods Boss Brewing Company
Upslope Brewing Company
Spirit Hound Distillers

*THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE*
***2022 OUR BIGGEST YEAR YET!***

COLORADO WATER TRUST

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Colorado Water Trust, 1312 17th Street #766, Denver, Colorado 80202

1% FOR THE PLANET
- ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNER -