COLORADO WATER TRUST
Just Add Water

Just Add Water

2024 Annual Report

A Year of Flowing Success: Celebrating Colorado Water Trust's 2024 Accomplishments

Dear Friends of Colorado's Rivers,

Looking back on 2024, Colorado Water Trust is reflecting on a year of remarkable achievements in restoring water to our state's precious rivers. We've made significant strides in ensuring healthy flows for people and the environment. Our team is stronger than ever and we wouldn't be here without your support.

To celebrate all that we've accomplished together I'd like to share some of my favorite highlights from the past year:

- Through innovative projects and strategic partnerships, we returned 2.9 billion gallons of water to Colorado's rivers and streams. This vital flow revitalized critical habitat for fish and wildlife, supported healthy riparian ecosystems, and enhanced recreational opportunities.
- Our restoration efforts spanned 313.4 miles of river, bringing life back to stretches impacted by drought and low flows from other challenges.
- In 2024 we implemented a handful of new projects that demonstrate how flow restoration can benefit multiple users. While it's hard to pick which projects to highlight, our Poudre Flows Project shepherded water donated by the City of Thornton from the foothills through Fort Collins and down to Greeley. Enhancing flows on the Poudre has far reaching benefits and we're grateful for the opportunity to help municipalities meet community needs by partnering on these efforts.
- Our new Jasper Reservoir Project is also a shining new example of the Colorado Water Trust's innovative approach to protecting and restoring Colorado's rivers. This project will bolster flows in Boulder Creek, benefiting 37.5 miles of fish and wildlife habitat and preserving public access to Jasper Reservoir in perpetuity.
- In 2024, our Tributaries program grew, expanding our network of individuals contributing to flow restoration in our rivers every month. This fundamental support enables us to provide sustaining flows while enhancing our own stability, and shows a growing awareness for the importance of protecting our rivers across Colorado.

These successes are a testament to the collective passion and commitment of our staff, board, partners, and supporters like you. As we look ahead to 2025, we are excited by the growing number of project opportunities in front of us.

Thank you for being a part of our journey.

Sincerely,

Julie Nania
Board President
Colorado Water Trust

2024 by the Numbers

In 2024, we restored

2.9 B gallons of water

to

313.4 miles

of Colorado's rivers and streams.

Water Restored in Gallons

Jasper Creek, Middle Boulder Creek, & Boulder Creek: **98.4 million**

Boulder Creek & Blue River: **230 million**

Cache la Poudre: **52.1 million**

Hat Creek & East Brush Creek: **172.7 million**

Maroon Creek: **280.8 million**

Washington Gulch, Slate River: **82.1 million**

Hermosa Creek: **14 million**

Alamosa River: **144.3 million**

Upper Yampa River: **1.7 billon**

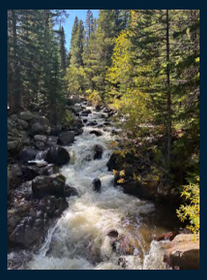
Crystal River: **31 million**

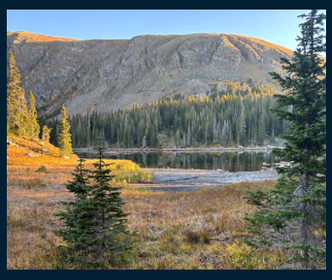
Jim Creek & Fraser River: **16.3 million**

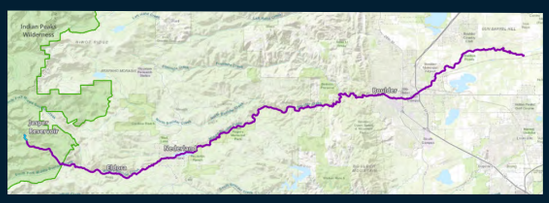
Slater Creek: **97.8 million**

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 2024

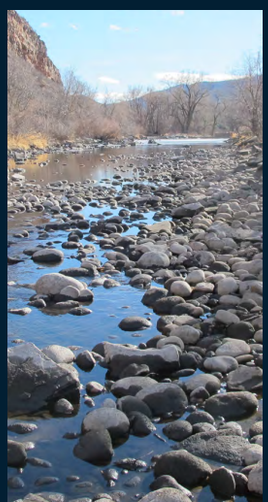


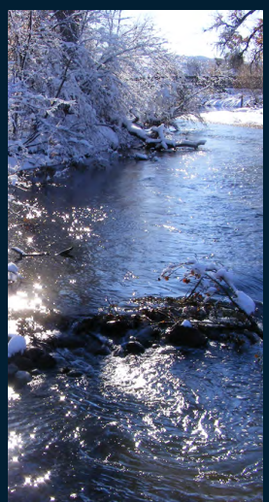




Landmark Agreement to Protect Jasper Reservoir

After several years of planning and innovation, we protected Jasper Reservoir and its waters in the Indian Peaks Wilderness. Colorado Water Trust accepted the donation of Jasper Reservoir from an anonymous donor and transferred ownership to the Tiefel family (a family with agricultural ties downstream in Lafayette, CO) with a permanent set of restrictive covenants and an easement that protect public access and ensure environmental benefits. In the fall of 2024, thanks to the project, flows in Boulder Creek tripled in late September. The collaboration between Colorado Water Trust and the Tiefel family exemplifies a multi-benefit approach to water management, safeguarding the region's water resources from development pressures while maintaining public access, healthy flows in rivers, and agricultural sustainability.

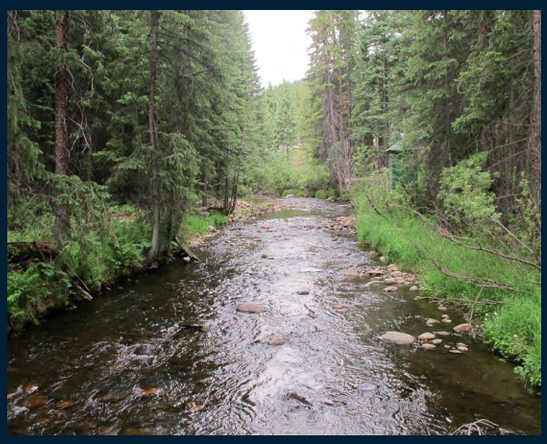




Poudre Flows Pilot— Over a Decade in the Making

In the fall of 2024, we piloted a project that has been over a decade in the making on the Cache la Poudre River where it flows from Fort Collins to Greeley. The Poudre Flows Project is a cross-industry, highly collaborative effort involving cities, water conservancy districts, agriculture, and state agencies to restore flows to the Cache la Poudre River. Between Fort Collins and Greeley, the river dries up in six places across a sixty-mile stretch, no matter the amount of snowpack or rain received. This is largely due to agricultural and industrial diversions, and it's been the norm for decades. This initiative aims to prevent those dry-ups in the river and represents a pioneering approach to reconnecting and revitalizing rivers by retiming flows for environmental needs. As the first such plan in Colorado, the project could serve as a model for other similar river basins, emphasizing collaboration among historically conflicting groups who work

together to reconnect rivers.



Major New Project to Boost Flows in the Upper Fraser Tributaries

For the second year in a row, Colorado Water Trust implemented a major new project to boost flows in the Upper Fraser River tributaries. The Fraser River has been the focus of years long efforts to improve its water quality, aquatic habitat and recreational offerings. In late summer 2023 and 2024, it got yet another boost, benefiting from a collective effort led by Colorado Water Trust and including local irrigators on the Vail Ditch system, Denver Water, the Colorado River District, the Coca-Cola Co., and Learning by Doing, the cooperative group of water stakeholders from both sides of the Continental Divide. Put simply, the project conserves irrigation water and uses an exchange that moves water to boost streamflow on a reach of concern in the Fraser River Basin.

Our Most Impactful Year on the Yampa Yet

We had our most impactful year ever on the Yampa River. By the end of October 2024, we collaborated with the Colorado Water Conservation Board to add well over one billion gallons of water to the Upper Yampa River to supplement low flows in the summer and fall. This project has been ongoing since 2012 and our contributions to the river through the city of Steamboat Springs often accounts for over half the flow in the river during this season. These boosted flows help to keep the river open to recreation for local fly fishing, tubing, and rafting businesses, help mitigate high temperatures in the river which would otherwise be dangerous for fish, and greatly benefit the river's ecosystem as a whole.

Partnerships with Agriculture Continue to Grow in Size and Scale

This year alone, Colorado Water Trust implemented four projects in collaboration with agriculture. Our newest project on Slater Creek, a tributary to the Little Snake River (which feeds into the Yampa River), benefitted 32 miles of the small creek. This project, in partnership with Western Resource Advocates (WRA), includes a water sharing agreement with a rancher who shuts off diversions in the late summer and fall months, as we and WRA pay fair market value for their water and restore it to their local river. The benefits are many. The rancher receives financial compensation, and Slater Creek, which at times experiences localized dry-ups negatively impacting fish migration during the irrigation season, maintains healthy flows.

In addition to this project, we implemented similar projects on the Crystal River near Aspen, the Fraser River tributaries in Grand County, and in the Boulder Creek system in Boulder County. **These projects prove a valuable point – that we don't need to dry up our agricultural economy to protect our rivers.** There are solutions and compromises between agriculture and conservation that work for all stakeholders. We can ensure our local ranches and farms thrive, as well as our rivers and streams.

From the Colorado Water Trust Staff & Board of Directors, thank you for joining us on our mission to

Just Add Water.

2024 Financials

Unaudited

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2024

ASSETS	2023
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	$1,907,907
Accounts, grants and pledges receivable	$300,563
Short-term investments	$1,200,000
Other current assets	$23,544
Total Current Assets	**$3,432,013**
OTHER ASSETS	
Water rights & easements	$4,855,430
Fixed assets, net	$8,005

Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

REVENUE	WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
Contributions	$6,058,631	$126,000	$6,184,631
Foundations and nonprofit organizations	$578,539	$72,183	$650,722
Government and government agencies	$582,379	$100,000	$682,379
Revenue from other sources	$55,300	—	$55,300
Special events income	$97,396	—	$97,396
Less: direct event expenses	($17,125)	—	($17,125)
Released from restriction	$490,459	($490,459)	—
Total Revenue	**$7,845,578**	**($192,276)**	**$7,653,303**

Total Other Assets	**$4,863,435**
Total Assets	**$8,295,448**

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable	$459,072
Refundable advance	$285,445
Total Liabilities	**$744,517**
NET ASSETS	
Without donor restrictions	$7,413,151
With donor restrictions	$137,780
Total Net Assets	**$7,550,931**
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**$8,295,448**

EXPENDITURES

Program services	$1,363,746	—	$1,363,746
Management and general	$216,793	—	$216,793
Fundraising	$201,204	—	$201,204
Total Expenditures	**$1,781,743**	—	**$1,781,743**
Change in net assets	$6,063,835	($192,276)	$5,871,560
Net assets, beginning of year	$1,349,316	$330,055	$1,679,371
Net assets, end of year	**$7,413,151**	**$137,780**	**$7,550,931**

2024 Tributaries

TRIB - U - TAR - Y:

1. A river or stream flowing into a larger river or lake

2. A monthly donor to Colorado Water Trust

When two bodies of water, or tributaries, come together, they transform into something stronger and more powerful.

This is why our monthly donors are our Tributaries, people who come together to make Colorado Water Trust *and* our rivers stronger.

In 2024, we finished the year with:

77
Tributaries
giving
$22,026
annually!

Thank you to everyone who came out for our 2024 Tributaries events!

Happy hour at The Rayback Collective in Boulder

Happy hour at The Stockyard Saloon in Denver

“

Consistent funding of general support dollars that come from the Tributary program are mission critical to Colorado Water Trust. I enjoy knowing that my support enables them to do what they do best – acquire water and use that water to increase flows in our rivers and streams at crucial times of year.

Brad Weinig
Colorado Water Trust Board Vice-President

2024 Flowing Waters

Flowing Waters provides the opportunity for corporations and businesses to give back to local rivers and communities by supporting the work of Colorado Water Trust. Flowing Waters 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.

MAINSTEM MEMBERS ($10,000+)

City of Greeley Colorado
City of Thornton
Coca-Cola
New Belgium
niagara cares
Northern Water
Xcel Energy Foundation
HUGE Fly · Fisherman

CREEK MEMBERS ($1,000+)

AvalonBay Communities
Campfire Analytics
City of Boulder
Coors Brewery Tours
Mountain Crust

BUSINESS PARTNERS

Batu Suci
Berkley Untapped
BBA Water Consultants
Colorado Craft Distributors
Dryland Distillers
Freestone Vintage Tackle
Hala Gear
Honey Stinger
Martin and Wood Water Consultants
Patagonia
Scott's Roofing & Solar
SGM Engineering, Consulting, & Surveying
Spirit Hound Distillery
Woods Boss Brewing

RIVERBANK

Celebrating the Partnerships that Protect Our Rivers

Colorado Water Trust raised over $100,000 at RiverBank in 2024! Thank you to the 240+ community members that attended, and to our volunteers and sponsors, for making it such a fabulous event year after year. And congratulations to Bradley H. Udall for being honored as the 2024 David Getches Flowing Waters Award – we are grateful for his numerous contributions to the health of Colorado's rivers.

2024 PLATINUM SPONSOR

WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION

2023 GOLD SPONSORS

Brownstein

COLORADO Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

CONSCIENCE BAY RESEARCH

DENVER WATER

2023 SILVER SPONSORS

BHGR BERG HILL GREENLEAF RUSCITTI LLP

BERKLEY BANK

COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT

FLYWHEEL CAPITAL

The Colorado Sun

DAVIS GRAHAM

The Drake

FLYWHEEL CAPITAL

MIDFIRST BANK

MONSON, CUMMINS, SHOHET & FARR, LLC WWW.COWATERLAW.COM

SOMACH SIMMONS & DUNN ATTORNEYS AT LAW

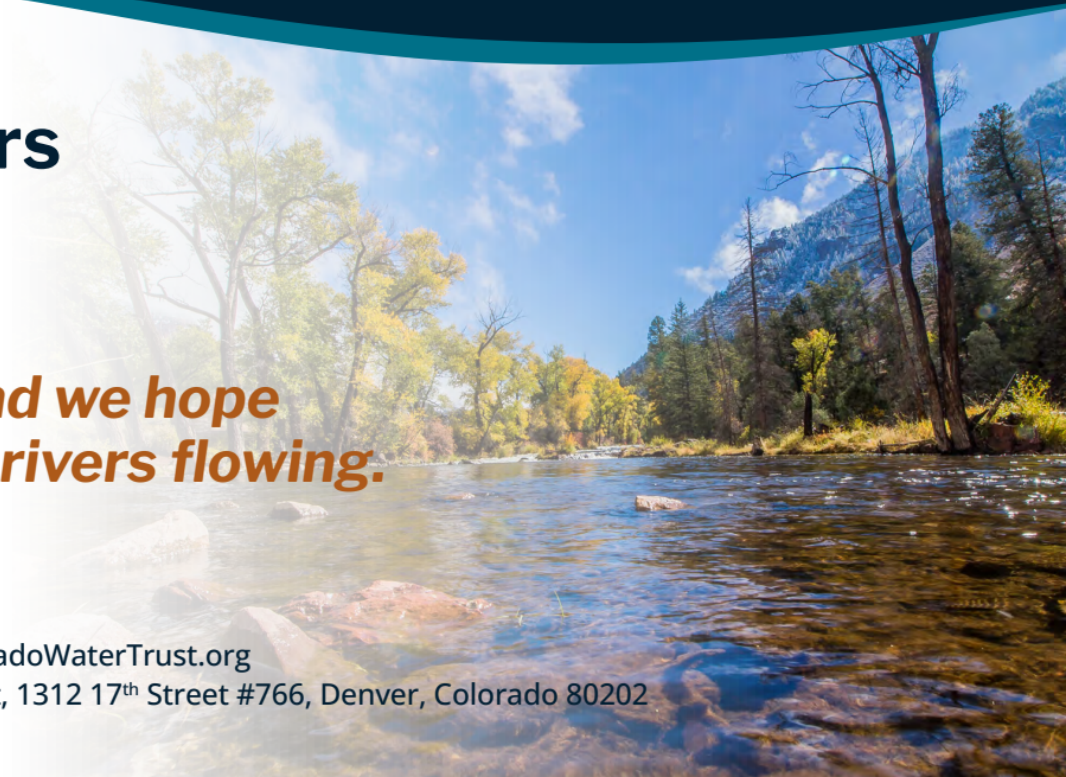
2023 BRONZE SPONSORS

BBA Water Consultants
Bushong & Holleman PC
Carlson, Hammond & Paddock
Colorado Parks & Wildlife
City of Thornton
Cockrel Ela Glesne Greher & Ruhland, P.C.
DiNatale Water Consultants
ERO Resources Corporation
Fairfield & Woods P.C.
Holland & Hart
Holsinger Law
Hydros Consulting
Hydrosource
Lawrence Custer Grasmick Jones & Donovan LLP
LRE Water
Lyons Gaddis
Martin & Wood Water Consultants
Moses, Wittemyer, Harrison and Woodruff, P.C.
The Nature Conservancy
West Sage Water Consultants

Thank You to Our Donors

We could not do our work without the support of our donors. You make it possible!

We have big plans for 2025 and we hope you'll join us! Let's keep those rivers flowing.



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