



clearcreekpartnership.org

PURPOSE:

Sustain ongoing wildfire planning in the basin, identify viable project sites for mitigation actions, and support project implementation in the watershed.

MISSION:

Engage in collaborative, cross-jurisdictional planning and implementation of wildfire risk mitigation and forest health projects within the Clear Creek watershed.

VISION:

A healthy and resilient Clear Creek watershed.

VALUES: Safety • Resiliency • Feasibility • Environment • Community • Sustainability

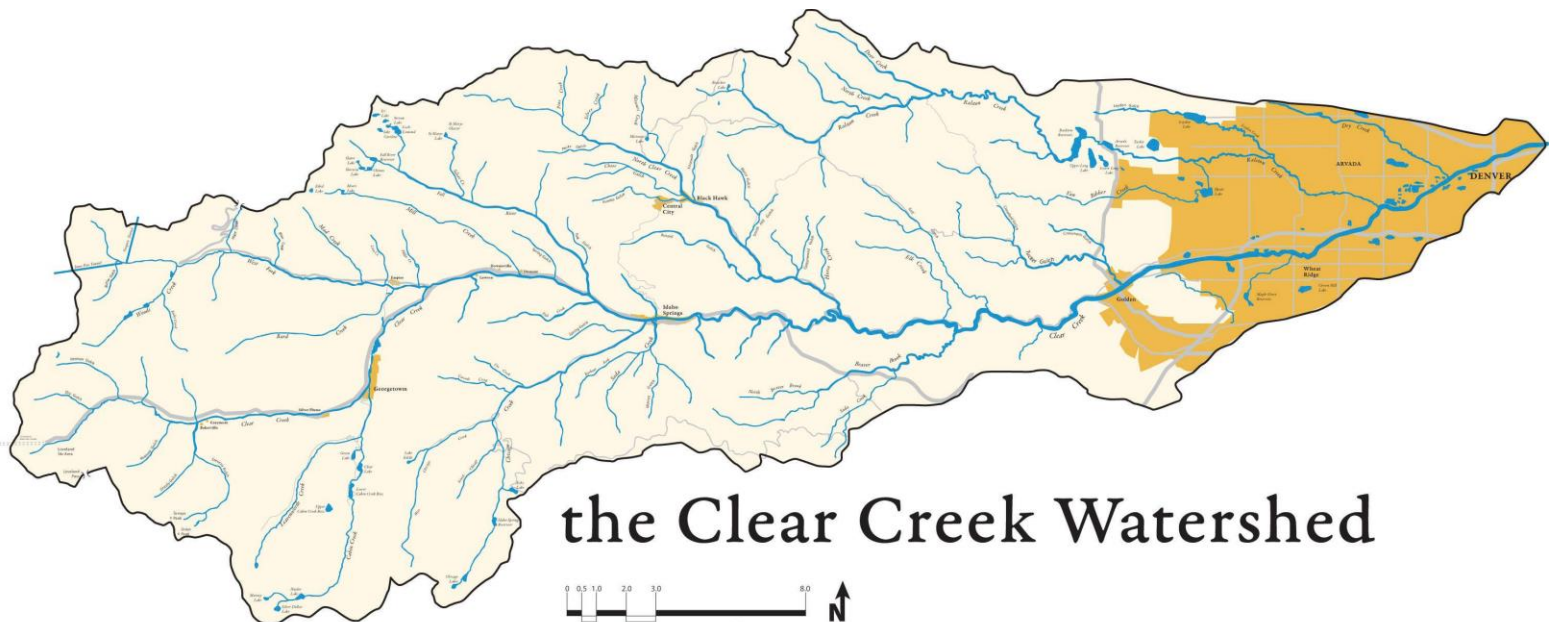
GOALS:

Near-term

- 1) Develop an organizational and financial structure to support and pursue wildfire mitigation projects.
- 2) Facilitate project management and implementation.
- 3) Increase public outreach and education related to watershed health, forest health, and fuels mitigation.
- 4) Develop a partnership response system plan/network for how to respond should a wildfire occur.

Long-term

- 5) Improve the long-term resilience of communities dependent on the Clear Creek watershed.
- 6) Leverage resources, funding, and expertise to accomplish landscape scale projects.
- 7) Engage in mid- and long- term planning for CCWFHP projects and as an organization as a whole.
- 8) Ensure the sustainability of CCWFHP long-term, keeping in mind the time and commitment needed to meet long-term forest health goals.

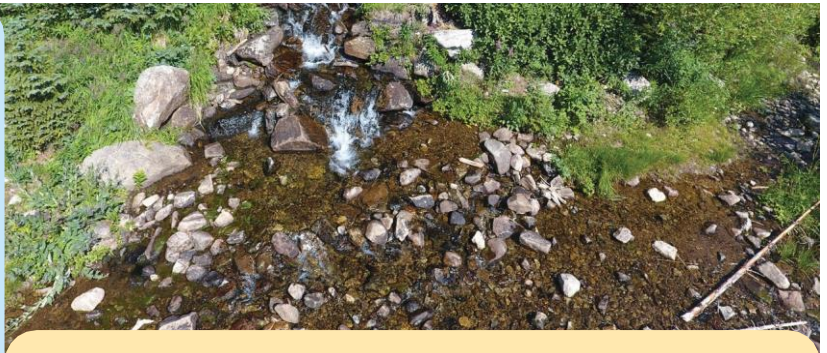


the Clear Creek Watershed

Scale in Miles

INTRO TO THE WATERSHED

The Clear Creek watershed spans three counties covering an area of 575 square miles, with 400 square miles located in the 'upper' watershed in the mountains west of Golden. Nearly two-thirds of the upper Clear Creek watershed lies within the Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests and is administered by the Clear Creek Ranger District. The rest of this mountainous region is covered by a patchwork of private, municipal, county, and state lands. This forested area and the creek corridor act as a critical area for recreation, cultural and historical values, and transportation. Clear Creek and its tributaries serve as the primary drinking water supply for multiple towns and municipalities, serving nearly 450,000 Colorado residents.



WILDFIRE RISK MITIGATION IN THE WATERSHED

With no major fires in the Clear Creek basin over the last 3 decades, the watershed is particularly vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire and post-wildfire flooding and water quality impairments, debris flows, and economic impacts. Communities in the watershed and communities dependent on Clear Creek for water resources face increasing wildfire risk.

To assess risks to residents, water supply, and infrastructure, an engineering study for the upper Clear Creek watershed was conducted in the Fall 2019 through Spring of 2021. The study identified locations where risk-mitigation work would have the highest impact. Mitigation projects include forest management, stream restoration, stream corridor preservation, water quality and debris flow facilities, and flood risk reduction. A stakeholder coalition worked over a series of two meetings during the study to define a desired future of the upper Clear Creek watershed. This future vision also helped stakeholders develop their core values, which included social and political issues along with engineering, environmental, and physical ones.

The Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership (CCWFHP) began to form in late 2020 in response to implementation needs identified in the pre-wildfire risk management study. Any watershed management collaborative must include diverse stakeholder voices. CCWFHP exists to facilitate communications, relationships, and collaboration between these stakeholders and implement projects that will address relevant vulnerabilities in the region.